



Transforming Sydney & Prayer Strategy for the Spheres of Influence



This year, the Newsletter has a National & Global focus
and mission for the spheres of influence in Family, Church, and the Marketplace.

TRANSFORMING
SYDNEY

Contact us: Bjorn & Lilian Schmid - info@transformingsydney.org

Note: articles in this Newsletter reflect the opinion and witness of the respective authors,
which may or may not align with your own; consider this with Ephesians 4:1-7 in mind.

Prayer Calendar 2015

See the daily prayer points on the 2015 Prayer Calendar - www.transformingsydney.org/TSPayerCalendar.html

Note also on pages 36 and 37 is a **Daily Prayer Calendar for September to pray for the sphere of Charity and Not for Profit Welfare.**

(In the July newsletter is a Daily Prayer Calendar for August to pray for Education - see also prayerstrategy.org)

Marriage Week

Don't forget Marriage Week - Australia; 13-19 September 2015. Go to marriageweek.org.au for details and suggestions on how you and your church can participate.

In the August edition - focus on Education

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From the Convenor

Dear pastors, church leaders, brothers and sisters,

We are receiving a huge amount of emails every day to sign petitions or forward particular emails to our network. It is becoming a mess and unhelpful.

We through Transforming Sydney respect the role of clergy so we have decided to encourage people to follow the instructions of their pastors, bishops and archbishops and do what their churches recommend to do.

We respect the role of the elders and we continue to have good relationship with the church in Australia.

Also please continue to pray for our nation.

As you are aware a private members bill to legalise same sex marriage is being debated in Federal Parliament. In response to this we are calling all priests, pastors, prayer leaders, intercessors to come together in Unity to pray asking God to stop the SSM Bill. If you are outside Australia join us in the Spirit to pray for our Nation's Destiny.

Where does Pope Francis stand on same-sex? Read this report <http://irishcatholic.ie/article/same-sex-marriage-debate-5>



"...the state is not discriminating when it requires there to be a man and a woman for a marriage contract: "it merely recognises a natural reality... A marriage (made up of man and woman) is not the same as the union of two people of the same sex. To distinguish is not to discriminate but to respect differences... At a time when we place emphasis on the richness of pluralism and social and cultural diversity, it is a contradiction to minimise fundamental human differences. A father is not the same as a mother. We cannot teach future generations that preparing yourself for planning a family based on the stable relationship between a man and a woman is the same as living with a person of the same sex."

God bless

Lilian Schmid

www.prayerstrategy.org

www.businesswomenhealingministry.org

www.transformingsydney.org

From the Editor

People may be born into rich or poor circumstances, and swap these several times during the years of their life as challenges and opportunities change their 'fortunes'. People in countries like Lebanon and Syria are all too aware of this: you may have a successful job or business, a great house and life, and then within 24 hours everything is rubble and you are desperately seeking a way for yourself and your remaining family to survive with little more than the clothes on your back.

But, there is one thing that can't be stolen or destroyed by circumstances: *your Education*.

Watching a recent documentary about the largest corporation in history - the East India Company; how it grew from a small but enthusiastic trading station, bloated into a demi-government with it's own army, and then declined through corruption and greed, but it left behind notable legacy. Despite the loss of so many human lives caused directly or indirectly through it's actions, the Company educated many Indians in English and European knowledge. This legacy has positioned one of the largest nations and economies on Earth so that it is competing confidently on the world stage. This is thanks in great part to the ability of most Indians to speak English.

'*Knowledge is power*' as the saying goes, and with knowledge and particularly the will and ability to learn, you can re-establish a life wherever you go and with whatever you have. Australia was and is being built by people with this.

Who's Flying the Plane?

Many want to be a part of the cabin crew in God's airplane. It occurred to me earlier this month that the cockpit is already full with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, so... what's our role? Then I realised - it's to serve the needs of the passengers.

Of course we are privileged to consult with the Captain at any time, and to introduce passengers to Him!

Grace,

Bjorn Schmid

Transforming Education

to allow each person to achieve their God given potential

By Martin Allan

Have you ever reflected on your own experience of the education you received as a child and found it wanting? Not necessarily in all areas but certainly in some.

Particularly if, like me, you had the conventional teacher and classroom approach which has been common place in the west for several centuries. I certainly have and whilst I finished my formal education nearly 30 years ago with a University degree in Accounting I believe the process and outcomes could be greatly improved.

Certainly how good an education one receives does undoubtedly depend on how much it is valued within each family and the socio-economic background that one can find themselves in which is outside the child's control. Whilst it may be highly valued by a family the affordability factor can impose limitations on how far one goes academically. I count myself to be one of the more fortunate having had parents who valued education and sacrificed so that each of their children attended a private high school in Sydney.

The main goal of the education that I received was to be well rounded academically and to encourage participation in various extra-curricular activities such as school plays and sport amongst others. At the same time this is a predominantly one size fits all approach where the extra-curricular activities can allow a student to explore an interest they have.

I remember one of my school reports when I was in Year 7. My school had us do 2 years in early high school of French and Latin, Commerce and Geography, Art and Woodwork. Maths, English, History and Science were compulsory. I really enjoyed the foreign languages and Commerce. I did reasonably well in most subjects apart from Woodwork which in those 2 years I only passed once in 6 terms and then just barely.

The comments on my report was that I could improve in Woodwork. I knew that wouldn't happen because I had no aptitude for the subject as well as little interest.

There were 4 projects in Woodwork to complete in those 2 years. A bowl, a jewellery box, a cheeseboard and a step ladder. I only completed the cheeseboard and it was probably the lightest in the class because I over planed the wood. The bowl was thrown out after I chiselled through too far twice. When I did it the first time my teacher glued another piece of wood together but I repeated the same mistake. If he had continued to glue more wood I probably would have made a jug instead. The jewellery box never got

finished and I never began the step ladder.

I'm sure that many of you had similar experiences to mine where you excelled at subjects you had an interest and aptitude in and struggled in others because both the interest and aptitude were lacking. We all have natural gifts but they are as varied amongst us in numerous ways. Certain natural gifts such as athletic or musical ability are often nurtured and encouraged in a child. If each child who showed other natural abilities were nurtured as well how different would our lives be as adults. I remember one of my primary school friends who enjoyed pulling apart electrical and mechanical toys and put them back together. He became an engineer. However this wasn't encouraged or nurtured by the school but his parents certainly did.

If we read Psalm 139 in full to understand the context we realise like David how the Lord knows us each individually and intimately and we are incapable of escaping from Him. Whilst we can all acknowledge that the human body is an intricate and complicated work of art there is more to us than that. Our soul and spirit makes us who we are. We aren't made in a factory where everyone comes out of the same mould.

Clearly this is reflected in Jeremiah 18 when Jeremiah was told to go to the potter's house and observe him. The context is in terms of Israel and her obedience to the Lord and His Sovereignty. However He also moulds us for His purposes.

If we all were functioning in our gifts both natural and spiritual under the Lord as the head as described by Paul in 1 Corinthians 12 how different would our neighbourhoods, towns, cities and nations be!

The first point in the Bible where the Holy Spirit anoints someone with understanding is when the tabernacle was built in Exodus 35:30-34. This passage deals with the calling of Bezalel and Aholiab who were anointed to build it and teach others too.

The Lord does call some very young as we recall Samuel, David, Jeremiah and Mary. Moses was saved early but his destiny took a long time to play out. How great would it be to know the truth in Jeremiah 39:11 at a young age and not in middle age!

I think if we had that understanding the problem of unemployment would be greatly diminished. If we all were functioning in our gifts both natural and spiritual under the Lord as the head as described by Paul in 1 Corinthians 12 how different would our neighbourhoods, towns, cities and nations be!

This is merely a starting point to create a forum to join in bringing your ideas that also have the goal of transforming education so that everybody fulfils their God given potential.

Martin Allan is a degree qualified accountant who has worked in small business bookkeeping for over two decades. He has a particular interest in integrating innovation across a number of fields.

Is Australian Christian Schooling still transformative in 2015?

In my recent trip to Uganda, in the midst of extreme poverty, I encountered a virulent vision for the transformation of the Ugandan community and nation through the work of Christian schooling.

The people expressing this optimistic passion for transformation were leaders and teachers in little Christian village schools with buildings made of saplings, dirt floors and grass roofs, often with little or no equipment or books, and working with 40 - 50 mixed grade students per class (many of the students were orphans or their parents had no family income). These inspiring people were passionately articulating that they would transform their corruption and poverty-stricken nation by educating the next generation of young people in God's ways. It seemed that they could see past their difficult (some would say impossible!) circumstances and dream with conviction of a nation that in time could become economically capable and prosperous, its people living in peace and security, its health care, aged care, and disease control equal to the western world, and its justice and political systems effective and free of corruption.

The reason for this passionate optimism is their unwavering confidence in the power of the gospel to transform life, community and nation – “If we teach our young people to understand the ways of God's Kingdom and live by them, they will transform our nation in their generation!”

For me, the passion, vision and courage of these current day pioneer African Christian educators is reminiscent of the Christian schools movement that burgeoned in the 1980's in Australia. Over a decade, hundreds of new Christian schools were developed all over our nation “out of nothing” by radical, passionate, visionary, sacrificial Australian Christian school pioneers.

I remember these church and school leaders (I was one of them!) having a clear and urgent sense of the need to develop Christian schools that would address the increasingly evident decline of the moral, spiritual and cultural condition of the Australian nation. Our perception was that Australian public life was

disengaging from its Christian roots and plunging into the “brave new world” of humanism and secular post modernism, embracing an identity as a “multicultural” community that is inclusive of all faiths and cultures and holding no common cultural foundation except our rationally and pragmatically derived “core democratic values”. Our fear was that, left to continue down this path, the Australian community would corrupt its cultural heart and lose the social, cultural, economic, political and jurisprudential wholesomeness that was developing in Australia out of dozens of generations of our Judeo-Christian heritage.

... the passion, vision and courage of these current day pioneer African Christian educators is reminiscent of the Christian schools movement that burgeoned in the 1980's in Australia ... having a clear and urgent sense of the need to develop Christian schools that would address the increasingly evident decline of the moral, spiritual and cultural condition of the Australian nation.

The Christian schooling pioneers of the 1980's, sometimes suffering the misunderstanding and opposition of the broader community and governments, sought to reverse the cultural decline and transform our nation by educating the next generation in a way that helps them to understand life and community in the context of a biblical Christian worldview. Our hope was that, as well educated and committed Christian young people, they would bring the grace and wisdom of God to transform the communities of tomorrow.

Fast-forward 30 years to 2015 ...and this wave of Christian schools has become numerous and, as an emerging sector, it is now well established as a significant contributor to Australian education. This, and the success of thousands of Christian school graduates, is something of a success story. And

there have been many positive benefits to people and the community from some key positive features of most Christian schools:

1. They are almost always staffed entirely by practicing Christians who want to express their faith through their teaching and school culture.
2. Because of this, Christian schools are usually places of care and nurture for young people, with a high level of capability for giving students a positive and well-disciplined environment for growth and learning.

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Is Australian Christian Schooling still transformative (...continued)

3. The school programs and curriculum are favourable to the expression of Christian truth through their curriculum and programs.
4. Increasingly, Christian schools have achieved high standards in academics and in the development of wholesome arts and culture programs.

However, as good as all this might be, I am concerned that many Christian schools may be falling short of what we believe God called us to do in this nation.

I feel that this may sound a bit pedantic, but I do not believe that the vision God gave us for Christian schooling in Australia was only about high standards, nurturing environments and wholesome school culture. I think God also called us to purposefully and systematically educate students with a clearly focussed biblical Christian worldview and character that will equip them to transform our communities and nation.

I believe that there a few factors that have caused this “mission drift” in some Christian schools:

1. I think that many Christian schools no longer place the transformation of the community at the core of their mission and vision. It is more common for many Christian schools to have the view that our role is to bring Christian grace to bless and influence a pluralist multicultural community for good, but that we have no right to expect that Christ or Christianity will have any more influence on our nation’s values, laws and culture than does Islam, Buddhism or atheism. So for many Christian schools, their perceived role has subtly shifted from transforming community to blessing it. Please don’t get me wrong; blessing the community with God’s grace and wholesomeness is a very good thing. But I do propose that it falls short of preparing young people to transform our community and nation so that it submits itself to and is transformed by the Kingdom of God.
2. Along with this fundamental mission shift (and

maybe partly because of it), I think many Christian schools are showing the effects of subtly and slowly losing the battle with the culture-changing effects of wealth, generational change, and the crisis of confidence in the authority of scriptures. Let me explain:

- a. Compared to our struggling beginnings, most Christian schools have become relatively well resourced, well-staffed, and enjoying great facilities. Much of this provision has come from government support accompanied by increasing compliance requirements. It is now much easier to be less radical and flow with mainstream schooling values, resources, and practices. It is still eminently possible in this context to develop school culture and curriculum that is distinctively Christian and even transformative, but to do so requires strenuous intentional and mission-driven “across the flow” effort by boards and school leaders. It seems to me that not many boards and leaders are motivated that way – it is easy to become addicted to the approval of society, government, and the media and soften the radical confrontation implicit in transformation! If my observations are correct, we will see over the next 20 years a strong convergence of many of the Christian schools with the mission and culture of the independent “elite” schools.

- b. Over the 30 or so years of the life of many Christian schools we have seen generational change. Old founding board members and school leaders have moved aside for new and younger ones. This, of course, is absolutely necessary and should be a refreshing and growing process. But my observation is that in this generational change, many schools have that way lost the “vision carriers” and have failed to transmit the “DNA” of their mission to the new governors and leaders. I have worked with a number of school communities whose key stakeholders express bewilderment and grief regarding this shift - “our school seems to

(continued next page)

Is Australian Christian Schooling still transformative (...continued)

have lost its way in the important things God called us to do ...”

- c. Broadly speaking, it seems to me that much of the Christian church (and with it much of Christian schooling) has drifted from the embrace of the authority of God’s word for living life right. The raging social debates over the acceptability of homosexuality and “same-sex marriage” have exposed the lack of confidence that many of today’s Christian leaders have in the legitimacy of saying “God clearly indicates in the scriptures that xxxx is right or wrong”. This partial abandonment of the authority of scripture has led to an uncertainty or ambivalence in the moral teaching and leadership of some Christian schools’ students, and a lack of robust Christian presuppositions in the curriculum. Without that, these schools have absolutely no hope of building in their students’ lives the understanding and value foundations that will equip them to confidently bring God’s transforming influence to their community.

**My prayer is that,
through Christian
schools and the work of
God’s people, we can,
along with our Ugandan
brethren, regain an
unwavering confidence
in the power of the
gospel to transform life,
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I think that the governors and leaders of many Christian schools who have shifted from a “transformation” mission to a “quality education with Christian blessing” mission may well be very happy to be where they are. And they should be congratulated and honoured for the good work that they continue to do. Australia will undoubtedly be a better place for what they contribute.

However, some governors, leaders, staff, and parents in some other Christian schools may read this article and agree that they feel some grief for the “mission drift” of their school, and some anxiety about not being effective in pursuing the transformation mission that is in their “DNA”. I advise these schools engage in a deliberate process to refocus their core mission, evaluate their performance with respect to the mission, and plan strategically for improvement.

My prayer is that, through Christian schools and the work of God’s people, we can, along with our Ugandan brethren, regain an unwavering confidence in the power of the gospel to transform life, community and

nation – “If we teach our young people to understand the ways of God’s Kingdom and live by them, they will transform our nation in their generation!”

Ray Tiller
Equipping Christian Schools
www.equipping.com.au

So what should we do?

Ray Tiller currently live in Melbourne. He is married to Libby and they have a growing family of 5 children and 8 grandchildren.

Ray has been an educational leader in Australian schools since the 1970's, serving in both government and private schools in SA, NSW, Queensland and Victoria. He has over 3 decades of experience in pioneering and leading Australian Christian schools with the vision to educate generations of young people to equip them to embody the wisdom and grace of God to bring a transforming influence to their communities.

Ray is currently running a service called Equipping Christian Schools which involves advising Christian school boards and leaders, facilitating school strategic development and restructuring, running training seminars in Christian curriculum development and leadership, and developing professional learning programs for teachers and leaders in Christian schools.

Ray is the author of several publications for Christian educators including Rubber on the Road Christian Thinking; the Creating a Consistently Christian Curriculum program; the Avenues to Teaching Excellence professional development series for teachers and leaders; The Genius of Jesus in Leadership seminar/workshop series; the Mission-Vision-Strategy process for Christian boards and leaders; and assessment tools for Christian school boards.

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Australia's Heritage

What does a person do when they see society turn its back on God – forgetting the huge dynamic impact of Christianity since the settlement of Australia? Remind it, of course!

In the face of such vicious opposition from anti-Christian groups, many Christians and indeed Australians are unaware of the significance of the impact Christianity has had on Australian culture and bought into the lie that “Australia isn’t a Christian nation”. Well we are.

In the last census the majority of Australians said they were Christian. Despite the strong push from many sectors to diminish and taint the Christian reputation within our community, we are still a huge (but often silent) force to be reckoned with. We’ve lost our voice and aren’t sure how to answer those who provide some rather strange concepts at the best of times.

See the video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFFBYcugELw>

This video was produced by a group of volunteers to address some of the myths and remind Australians of who we really are – and to have the courage to address those who are discriminating against Christians. Originally formed as a 3 minute “infomercial” for TV, it was transferred to YouTube after one of the TV stations “lost” the original. It now awaits funding so it can be shortened into a 30 second and 60 second version. Our vision is that we can transform Australians from the grassroots by reminding this generation of how we got to where we are. Let’s give credit where credit is due!

Please watch and distribute amongst your friends. This is a free resource for all Christian organisations to use as they see fit.

Katie Morris



Broken Bay Bible Conference 18-19 September

This year’s Conference will be held on Friday and Saturday 18-19 September at the **Caroline Chisholm Centre, Pennant Hills**. The topic is “**God in Narrative and Poetry: Genesis and Psalms**”, presented by Australian biblical scholars and educators Fr Mark O’Brien op and Sr Mary Reaburn nds, as well as a presentation by Bishop David Walker and participation by Bishop Peter Comensoli.

This will also be an opportunity to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Dei Verbum. The cost of the Conference is \$55, which includes lunch and morning / afternoon tea. Day-rates are also available. The brochure is attached to this email. For all details and to register please visit the Event Page

<http://www.dbb.org.au/news/dsp-events.cfm?loadref=368&id=217>

or go to www.dbb.org.au and look under the ‘Calendar of Events’ in ‘News & Events’.

“These same books, then, give expression to a lively sense of God, contain a store of sublime teachings about God, sound wisdom about human life, and a wonderful treasury of prayers ... Christians should receive them with reverence.” Dei Verbum #15 on the Old Testament



The Coal Face of Education - Thomas Shadrach James

WORLD TEACHER'S DAY and the Christian Connection

Another in the series of "and the Christian Connection."

A most unlikely man was engaged in education in the early days of Australian schooling. Even more improbable is the fact that he said he went into teaching because 'God spoke' to him.

Thomas Shadrach James was born into a Tamil speaking Indian family on the island of Mauritius in 1859. He immigrated to Australia as a young man, after his mother died and his father remarried. His dream was to be a surgeon so he started studying Medicine at Melbourne University but became very ill with typhoid and had to stop his studies. He recovered, but the typhoid left him with shaky hands and he realised they would never be steady enough for him to operate. What was he going to do? His dream was crushed. He was a sad and disappointed young man, a stranger in a strange country.



Thomas found himself at a Christian meeting attended by both white and Aboriginal people. It was held in a marquee in a paddock near the beach. "God spoke to me at that meeting," he told people and his life changed direction.

It was also at that meeting that he met Janet and Daniel Matthews. They ran an Aboriginal mission at Maloga on the Murray River. Thomas believed that God told him to go and teach these children at the Maloga mission. The Matthews were delighted to hear this news that Thomas wanted to join the mission, but they couldn't afford to pay a teacher. That didn't deter Thomas! Knowing that it was what God wanted for his life, Thomas said he'd teach without being paid.

He turned out to be a very successful teacher! He established an education program attended by both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children. The school flourished with Thomas leading it, and after two years, in 1883, the NSW Education Department officially appointed James as the salaried head teacher of the Maloga school.

The children and the community looked up to Thomas and he was very popular. When he married a Yorta Yorta woman from the mission he became accepted ever after by the Aboriginal people as one of them. As an outstanding educator, Thomas was concerned for the community and for all aspects of his pupils' lives, including their spiritual and moral education. Thomas advocated strongly for equality for all people: he petitioned the government for full education for all children at a time when Aboriginal children were second class citizens in their own country.

Thomas inspired his students. Many of them caught his passion for fairness and he taught and guided them to achieve justice and equality for Aboriginal people. William Cooper, the instigator of what is now called NAIDOC WEEK, was a pupil of his. So was Sir Douglas Nicholls, the Aboriginal activist who later became the first Aboriginal governor of South Australia. His own son, Shadrach James trained as a teacher and became his father's assistant.

Thomas was known and loved as 'Grandfather James', a strong role model and an outstanding educator who taught people far more than the school curriculum.

How prepared are you to listen to the voice of God and obey? Do you want to live an inspirational life? Are you willing to obey the word of God? You just never know what God could do through you when you obey God's calling on your life.

How prepared are you to listen to the voice of God, and to obey? God does have a plan for your life that is fulfilling and worthwhile to society – are you willing to follow His leading?

Graham McDonald
Executive Officer
The DIDUNO Network
diduno.info

"Australia's Christian heritage has not been forgotten. It has never been known."

Dr. Stuart Piggin, Associate Professor & Director, Centre for the History of Christian Thought and Experience.
Macquarie University. Australia

Biography

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/james-thomas-shadrach-10610>

You're On My List!

One Instructor's Experience of Prayer

Sitting here this morning enjoying my cup of coffee and loving this wonderful summer break from school, my thoughts turned to how God could use me this coming school year.

As an educator for 30 years, I think back to my first years as a public grade school teacher, and how we always prayed before eating lunch. My, how things have changed! Obviously, this is no longer allowed. Yet, I have been blessed to continue to minister to my students in other ways.

Now, as a college art professor at a community college, my calling from God has not changed. Teaching has allowed me to use my gifts and talents in many ways. My desire is to be an encourager, and pray my students will see Jesus through me. I believe that praying for my students is one way to do exactly that.

With each semester we have our list of students for each class. Most of my students are new to me, and I know nothing about them. Since putting something tactile in front of me helps me to stay focused, I write each name on an index card, and through the week my goal is to lift each student up in prayer. Sometimes a need arises that I'm aware of and sometimes not. I search through the scriptures finding ones that apply to certain situations. Before classes begin each semester I also go through my classroom and stop at each desk and pray for the students that will be sitting there during the day.

It lays heavy on my heart to think how many young students that I interact with on campus have no one to pray for them. Many come to class each day with struggles: a single mom balancing a job, children and school, a young man coming into my 8 o'clock class after working a job all night, a student struggling with an addiction, or another trying to find their way, wondering why they even bother to come to class. As the semester progresses, relationships grow, and many feel comfortable enough to share what's on their heart. I then have the opportunity to pray specifically for them.

One story is of a young nursing student who shared she was always so stressed over testing that she would become physically ill. She knew the material, but couldn't calm herself enough to put the information on her exams. We discussed this quite a few times and knowing that she was a Christian, I asked her if she would like to pray together before her next exam. We did, and after that we met several times during the semester before her other exams on campus. Truthfully, it was me who received the blessing.

As I finish this morning cup of coffee and contemplate this new semester about to begin, I pray that God will refresh my vision and allow me through prayer to uplift those students He has entrusted to me this coming school year. It is not by chance that our paths cross. I am reminded of Colossians 3:17 that in whatever I do whether word or deed, I should give thanks for all things in the name of Lord Jesus Christ. (Paraphrased)

Ann Boland

It lays heavy on my heart to think how many young students that I interact with on campus have no one to pray for them

SAVE THE DATE

GLOBAL FORUM

FOR A WORLD WITHOUT ORPHANS







FEB 11-14, 2016

CHIANG MAI, THAILAND

For more information and to fill out the application to attend please visit www.wwoforum.org

Honouring Marriage

In the article “The Importance of Marriage” [*see the July edition of this newsletter - Ed*] it was said that the Church was the “Training or Equipping Centre”. Ephesians 4.11 says “..for the training of the saints in the work of ministry to build up the body of Christ.” (HCSB) or “is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the Church, the body of Christ.” (NLT). Within marriage both husband and wife are in ministry – their marriage, likewise where there are children, parent(s) are in ministry. Outside of the home what ever our ‘status’, we are all in ministry - to build up the body of Christ, and in mission - to be that light in the world.

It is suggested that the ministry to marriage extends beyond running Marriage or Marriage Preparation programs and should become an integral part of the dna of the Church. We need to seek to turn families to God-prescribed patterns (Ephesians 5:22 -6.4 and Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

It was a blessing recently to be in the presence of a grandmother telling of her greatest joy – telling stories from scripture and speaking out scripture to her children and grandchildren sitting around her, she was ‘glowing’ as she spoke. We need more mothers and grandmothers like that and more so fathers and grandfathers! But we in the Church leadership need to be able educate the body of the Church as to their responsibilities to each other and to their families. All are clearly laid out for us in the Bible or as some have called it “The Makers Manual”. The trouble is that in some families the Bible seems to be treated lightly like some other manuals are eg how much is really read in a the manual provided with say a new television or car!

Many who are in employment will have a written job description which describes their job and function in detail. Often performance is judged against this. The job descriptions for husbands and wives are spelled out for us in Ephesians 5 22-30 and what a challenge for men “...and gave Himself for her to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word. He did this to present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless” (Eph. 25-27). Then there are the wonderful verses (32-33) which close Ephesians 5 “This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church. To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband.”

As with employment the body of the Church needs on the job training to undertake their individual and team roles. The Church is there to provide this. There are great potential rewards for a Church that boldly invests into teaching through all age groups what marriage is, and what it is not, and then equipping for all stages of life within family.

Be part of Marriage Week and honour and celebrate marriage within the Church family and the wider community. Invite local officials - councillors, the mayor, local MP or Senator to a service celebrating marriage or an event; seek out and honour longevity of marriage within the Church and wider community.

Promote to married couples the Great Aussie Date Nite – Saturday 19th September

Dennis & Ann Outred - marriageweek.org.au



Prayer for Marriages

Dennis & Ann Outred, Marriage Week ~ Australia, 13-19 September 2015 - marriageweek.org.au

1. That society – the nation & it's government - would understand that marriage has been the foundation of families & strong societies throughout the age & should remain so.
2. For the traditional marriages of members of the Federal government.
3. For the traditional marriages of members of State & Territory parliaments.
4. That the Christian church teaches & understands that the primary purpose of marriage is to model God's love & to please God.
5. That the Christian church would work together to ensure that those married couples in their churches reflect the love of God, allowing God to use those marriages as a means for telling others about His love (a mission field).
6. For the traditional marriages of Christian church leaders.
7. That marriage enrichment programmes/courses/ events would be a regular feature of every church ministry.
8. That there would be financial stewardship programmes run in every church, which would include a stream for married partners.
9. For the traditional marriages of those experiencing financial hardship.
10. That husbands & wives would understand that they were made to complement each other mentally & physically in a way that no other relationship can equal.
11. That marriage partners would be 100% concerned about the wellbeing of their spouse first & be totally committed to each other – their marriages being a place of openness, honesty, safety and trust.
12. That there would be a culture of respect between married partners & they would not dishonour one another either in private or in public.
13. That married partners would have an attitude of gratitude, focussing on the positives in each other, not the negatives.
14. That Christian marriage partners would pray together for each other & their marriage every day, as a priority.
15. That the nation's married couples (& everyone else) would repent & cleanse themselves of toleration of sexual immorality, pornography & materialism, & switch off that ungodly entertainment.
16. For the traditional marriages of those in the sport & entertainment industries.
17. For the traditional marriages of those working in the media.
18. That husbands & wives would each 'draw a line' that protects them when they are away from each other, from having inappropriate relationships.
19. For the traditional marriages of members of the Defence Force.
20. For the traditional marriages of those working for NGO's.
21. That the young & yet to be marrieds in churches would be taught about the sacrament of marriage and, by both word & deed, that their gender is a precious God given gift & sexual purity is important.
22. For the traditional marriages of those engaged in the field of education.
23. That no unwholesome talk comes from the husband or the wife, but only what is helpful for building each other & any children up, rather than tearing them down.
24. Lord, help married partners to remember when they first met and the strong love that grew between them. To work that love into practical things so nothing can divide them. May they have hearts always ready to ask forgiveness as well as to forgive. Amen. – author unknown.
25. For marriages in crisis - for hearts to be softened, for healing and restoration - the rekindling of romance and renewing of relationship. May they know that 'to love' is a choice, & daily commit to making that choice to love their spouse.
26. For protection & wisdom for all in an abusive marriage relationship.
27. For the traditional marriages of those engaged in maintaining law & order.
28. That married partners would have fun together often.
29. That married couples would put each other first, any children next, their work next, then finally everything else.
30. For the traditional marriages of those in employment – bosses & employees.

TESOL – a growing church ministry

by Julie Belding

Windsor Park Baptist Church, in Mairangi Bay, Auckland, is New Zealand's largest Baptist church. With an attendance of almost 1000 across four Sunday services, and 200 children in Sunday school, it attracts members from a wide area of Auckland's North Shore.

Demographics Challenge

But Windsor Park is not the church it was a decade ago. Once a solidly white middle class church in one of Auckland's most affluent neighbourhoods, its demographics are changing, thanks to an influx of Asian immigrants to the North Shore. Our members, like our mission strategies, are new and different.

While for many years New Zealand has accepted an annual quota of refugees from troubled countries around the world, almost all immigrants to New Zealand normally came from Commonwealth countries, where English was already spoken. When New Zealand relaxed its stringent immigration laws in the late 1980s, Auckland in particular began to receive more and more people from Asia who wanted to begin new lives here. In 1991 the New Zealand government introduced a new "points" system for professional and business migrants, which meant people could immigrate here from just about any country if they had enough "points." These were based on particular skill sets (especially skills of which New Zealand had a shortage), job offers, work experience, educational qualifications and age (being under 30 was a plus.) Whereas formerly a minimum standard of English was a prerequisite for immigration, many Asian immigrants were now granted permanent residency on the basis of other considerations. And so many began to arrive from China and Korea who had plenty of money and education but little or no English.

Chinese began to immigrate to New Zealand in large numbers from the early 1990s. Most were business people, investors and professionals, particularly from Taiwan and Hong Kong. Then from the late 1990s large numbers of skilled migrants began to arrive from mainland China. By 2013 there were about 171,000 people of Chinese descent in New Zealand, and Chinese now comprise about four percent of our total population of 4.1 million.

It is a similar story with Koreans. In 1986 there were only 426 Koreans in New Zealand. Within four years the number had quadrupled to 2,657 individuals. By 2013, thirty thousand Korean people were living in New Zealand. This makes them our fastest growing population group, and they are now the third largest Asian population in New Zealand, after Chinese and Indian. About 73 percent of these Korean immigrants have settled in the Auckland region, the vast majority of them on the North Shore.

English Conversation Classes

As a result of Asian immigration, the demand for English teaching has grown, and many language schools have sprung up in our major cities to meet this need. TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) is a growth industry in New Zealand, particularly in Auckland where most new immigrants choose to settle. And so it seems God is leading our church into brand new and exciting mission opportunities.

About five years ago a British couple in our church with a heart for the Chinese people, Mike and Sue Blanchard, had the vision to begin a new ministry for immigrants. They began to hold a Tuesday morning conversation class to give these learners, and others from different ethnicities, opportunities to practise their English. Most of the learners were either Chinese or Korean, and most were female.

The class soon grew so big that it had to be divided into an intermediate-level group and a beginners' group. All of the helpers, along with Sue and Mike, were volunteers, and the class was fairly informal. Sue and Mike had to give up the work at the end of 2013 for health reasons, and another fine Christian man, John, was brought in to lead it. John was popular but he was in his late seventies, his wife had health issues, and before long he was looking for someone to whom he could pass the baton.

I had always been interested in English (being an editor by profession) and I had joined the intermediate class as a helper in May 2014. From the word go I loved it, and John apparently saw in me the potential to be a future leader.

So towards the end of that year he asked me if I would take over the class from the beginning of 2015.

With some trepidation I said "yes," aware of the responsibilities that would entail. I knew the role would suit my personality and experience, but I felt the need to be better qualified as an ESOL teacher. So in October 2014 I signed up with English Language Partners to do a three-day training course. (This brilliant nation-wide organisation trains people to teach English to immigrants, one-on-one, in their homes, and each person who completes their training must commit to working with



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TESOL – a growing church ministry (...continued)

a learner, 90 minutes a week, for a minimum of six months.)

This short course pushed all the right buttons for me, and I was keen to learn more! Therefore in November 2014 I embarked on an intensive, month-long course from Auckland University's English Language Academy, to study for a Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA). It was exhausting, but I passed.

Thus I find myself today in charge of the English Conversation class at Windsor Park Baptist Church. With some helpful training under my belt I've tried to put a professional stamp on the ministry.

What We Do

Every Tuesday morning, from 10 am to noon, between fifty and fifty-five immigrants now meet at our church for the class. Thirty to thirty-five of these learners are in the beginners' group, which is led by Mandy, another woman from the church. (These beginners are further divided into seven small groups, each with a volunteer helper, as they need more individualised attention.) Mandy supplies photocopied teaching materials for all her learners, who sit around small tables. They talk about simple things — introductions, parts of the body, shopping, going to the doctor, and so on.

The remaining 20 or so learners are in the intermediate group which I lead with the help of three or four volunteers. For this group I prepare a new lesson each week. The first 45 minutes have a traditional classroom format, in which I teach from the front with the help of a power point. We do some reading aloud, and revise some grammar. Then after morning tea the class breaks into four small groups, each led by a helper who tries to encourage discussion so they can practise speaking English.

I try to give each lesson the fragrance of New Zealand. We have talked about the people who feature on our banknotes – Sir Edmund Hillary, the mountaineer; Kate Sheppard, who brought New Zealand women the vote; Sir Ernest Rutherford, the physicist whose work led to the splitting of the atom; and Sir Apirana Ngata, New Zealand's first Maori member of parliament. We've talked about Kiri Te Kanawa, our world-famous soprano, and Queen Elizabeth II. We did lessons on Anzac Day, the meaning of Easter, and Chinese New Year. We've discussed the Maori people; immigrants in general, cricket, and conservation. Almost any subject that has a link to New Zealand is open to us.

We introduce a few idioms each week – colloquial sayings that all native English speakers would understand but non-English speakers wouldn't. (To “beat around the bush,” to “have a green thumb,” to “pop the question,” etc.) I also love to introduce our learners to “kiwiana,” aspects of our New Zealand culture such as kiwis and cabbage trees, silver ferns and hokey pokey icecream, baches, marching girls, jandals, Weetbix, Marmite and gumboots.

Every attender is asked to pay a donation of \$2. This covers the biscuits we have with morning tea, and pays for other miscellaneous supplies such as sticky name labels and white board markers. But we do make a slight profit, which we happily pass on to the church.

Each learner is put on a register (some are able or choose to provide only a few details, so our roll includes “Flower” from Korea, and “Cindy” from China) and the volunteer receptionist marks them off as they arrive. I felt it was important to keep this record, to show, among other things, that each learner is valuable to us. It also tells us who comes regularly, who comes sporadically, and who has dropped out. We now have about 100 names on the roll, but only half of them come on any given Tuesday.

I love these learners! Are we leading them closer to Jesus? I hope so, and I pray there will be opportunities to witness to them quietly in our small groups. We always write a Bible Verse of the Week on the whiteboard, and we regularly promote a Bible Study in Simple English which is held on Wednesday mornings for anyone who is interested. Some of our learners are Christians already, especially the Koreans. What a wonderful opportunity to encourage them in their faith!

Can You Do This?

If all this has inspired you and you're wondering if you might begin a similar group in your own church, may I encourage you to go for it! It's hard work, and you need to be flexible, as volunteer helpers come and go. Naturally we all need a break from time to time, which is why we hold classes only during the school terms. But it is so worthwhile! I'd love to encourage you and give you more tips about starting such a ministry.

Feel free to contact me on julie@belding.co.nz



God's Word as Absolute Truth

by Michael Mullen

The hope for an abundant life is realised through **education**. Education, I believe, needs to be built on a solid foundation; **truth**. But how do we discern the truth? Does it alter in different cultures and socioeconomic groups?

For me, two types of truth exist; 'worldly truth', encouraging the pursuit of a life abundant in beauty, wealth, power and fame, and 'the truth' found in God's Word in the Holy Bible. Most people would agree that to find the truth, you need to trust the source. So ask yourselves: can you trust the source if the source is 'of the world', people, just like you and me, whose human nature, is sadly prone to faults, deception and failure? *"But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags, and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away"* (Isaiah 64:6). Not one is righteous, no not one!

My truth, my God, has me finishing this article in Melbourne while visiting my son, Jesse. He writes and performs his own music, and I guess, is subconsciously pursuing an abundant life built on the 'truth' of the world. But who am I to judge? He is acting out the 'worldly truth' as modelled by me, his father, up until four years ago. That is when I realised; Jesus was 'the truth'. I no longer desire acknowledgment for my two University degrees and years of hard work and dedication in supporting the raising of my three children. This was all based on 'worldly truth'. He won't read the Bible, but he can see the difference in me. I think

As Christians we believe that every word in the Bible is true; this is the foundation ... Knowing what the Bible says about truth and hiding God's word in our heart helps us to know when we are listening to the Voice of Truth

I was a good father, but now I know I am a better one.

As Christians, we believe **Truth** is defined by one source as *"sincerity in action, character, and utterance"*. Perhaps the most famous verse about truth in the Bible is what Jesus said *"... I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* (John 14:6) So Jesus is truth and Jesus is also the Word (John 1:1, 14). As Christians we believe that every word in the Bible is true; this is the foundation upon which we live our lives. Knowing what the Bible says about truth and hiding God's word in our heart helps us to know when we are listening to the Voice of Truth.

I have been busy teaching recently at Gympie High School, near the Sunshine Coast, Queensland. I love my job, because I love my boss; the Creator of the Universe.

As a teacher, the Education department expect me to impart 'worldly' knowledge (truth), through "the process of facilitating learning, whereby knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits of a group of people are transferred to other people, through storytelling, discussion, teaching, training, or research (Wikipedia, 2015). As a Christian, I am commanded to spread the Gospel; my 'true' Commission, the 'real' truth. A very delicate balance, given that I am not employed to push any 'Religion'. I know religion is man-made! A restored relationship with God through Jesus is the foundation of all things.

"Today not only in philosophy but in politics, government, and individual morality, our generation sees solutions in terms of synthesis and not absolutes. When this happens, truth, as people have always thought of truth, has died." ~ Francis Schaeffer

The Holy Bible says education has to do with the role of the parent. The parent is the God-appointed leader and teacher of a child. This should come as no surprise to anyone, including a non-Christian. The overwhelming task of raising a child is in the hands of the parents. *"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."* (Ephesians 6:4). But teach them what? Clearly, God has a great deal to say about this. And before that question is answered, another must be dealt with: "What or who is the most important thing or person for the child to know?" The answer is, "God is the most important person for a child to know." The goal of Christian parents is for their child to know God in a personal way and to know all about God. Nothing could be more important.

The parent is the God-appointed leader and teacher of a child. This should come as no surprise to anyone, including a non-Christian

As a teacher, however, I find maybe one in 30 students who identify as a Christian (I am taking a risk even asking). Most parents are clearly not educating their children about God because they themselves were not educated about God. I spoke to a student from a troubled home and she said she believed in God. Not through her parents, but somehow, somewhere; how wonderful! I wanted to give her a Bible and fellowship, but that is inappropriate in my position with the department. But Jesus lives in me and I feel she could see it. I believe I was encouraging to her; my job at that point was done.

God says that the education of children and youth is a 24

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God's Word as Absolute Truth (...continued)

-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week process that must take place from birth through maturity. Note the Deuteronomy passage below and the context. God is instructing His people how to live as they prepare to go into the Promised Land. Critical to the life and health of His people is the teaching of the Word of God by parents on a daily basis in every situation. *“Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.”* Deuteronomy 11:18-21

If, like me, you prefer to stick to the Proverbs, Psalms and New Testament as part of your daily meditations; I have included just a few more. *“Train a child in the way*

he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6). *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”* (Matthew 24:35). *“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ”* (Colossians 2:8). *“And be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”* (Romans 12:2).

The education of children and youth must be based on God's Word as absolute truth.

Remember, Jesus lives in us by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are his agents on the ground. So when you see a need for love, food, shelter, clothing, comfort, compassion, encouragement or education, just to name a few; ask yourselves: What would Jesus do? And just do it!

christaidministries@yahoo.com

Transforming Sydney – A city for Christ – One suburb at a time...

From C3 Church, Silverwater

It is late afternoon as our team wanders the streets of Auburn. The diverse demographic of this one small suburb in the heart of western Sydney is spectacular. There is an Asian grocer next to a halal butcher, a Korean bbq place next to a Salvos office, people in traditional Sudanese attire and young men and women in high top sneakers. The essence of the multi dimensional multi cultural heart of Sydney.

The team starts setting up the venue for the evening. Volunteers set abundant food on tables; street teams hand out flyers about a free dinner, grocery hampers and a message of hope. Families with children, youth, the elderly, those have been isolated the whole week, recent refugees, all come in. They are seeking kindness, friendship and a sense of belonging perhaps. During the evening, while sharing a meal and a message of hope together, they share of their losses, families left behind overseas, struggles with finding work, issues of integrating into the community, issues at school, broken relationships and loneliness.

C3 Cares has been established to reach out into the very heart of Sydney, to those who are lonely and isolated, struggling with financial and relational issues, single mums struggling to bring up young kids, new migrants and refugees and others on the fringe waiting for the love and compassion of Christ to touch them in a tangible and practical way. Teams of volunteers and staff organise regular outreaches at different venues in the heart of communities in suburbs such as Silverwater, Auburn, Merrylands, Parramatta, Darlinghurst and Penrith. They serve hot meals, followed by a message of hope in Christ and then spend time interacting with those who visit. They build relationships and follow up with prayer and practical assistance such as free grocery hampers, free debt counselling and provision of clothing and home wares etc.

Many of the regular visitors to the Care Centre services would never enter a mainstream church service. It would be too formal and too intimidating for them. But in the warm gentle and welcoming environment of their local neighbourhood care centre, they are free to express themselves and feel part of an encouraging and hopeful community. Several of our current volunteers first came to the care centres as visitors, curious or just needing a warm meal and a friendly face to talk to. To now see them serving others, growing in the Word of God and being Jesus like ambassadors to those in need is a testament of the transforming power of Christ in Sydney – one local suburb at a time...

Hope Has Many Names - Gospel for Asia's Bridge of Hope

Before the second half of the 1980s rolled around, most evangelical Christians in Western countries tended to view mission history in terms of only two great waves of activity. The first wave broke over the New Testament world in the first century as the apostles obeyed the Great Commission. It swept through the Jewish and pagan communities of the Roman Empire, bringing the message of salvation to the entire Mediterranean world, much of southern Europe and even some parts of Asia.



The second wave was most often dated from William Carey's pioneer work in 18th-century India. It began a flood of 19th and 20th -century missions to the colonies of the great European powers. Although World War II marked the end of this colonial era, it still frequently defines the image of missions for many Western Christians.

But around the world today, the Holy Spirit is breaking over Asian nations, raising up thousands of dedicated men and women who are bringing the salvation story to their own people. And millions of lost souls in closed countries would probably never learn about the love of God by any other means. These national Christians—humble, obscure pioneers of the Gospel—are taking up the banner of the cross where colonial-era missions left off. They are the third wave of mission history—the native missionary movement.

Gospel for Asia (GFA) is one of these ministries reaching out to the 300 million 'Dalits' and 400 million other backward caste peoples of Asia. An estimated 100 million Dalit ("Untouchable") children live trapped in a world of extreme poverty in the nation of India. These children are destined from birth for a life of illiteracy, sickness and hunger with little hope of breaking the poverty cycle. The children are viewed as worthy only if they are working or exploited.

The question is, what does the Bible say about social justice and compassion? What is the Church's role in these matters? Clearly, by simply looking at Christ's example of how He lived on this earth, we are not to neglect the needs of suffering humanity. When Jesus came, He not only fed people's souls with the truths of heaven and Him as the Bread of Life, but He filled their stomachs with fish and bread and wine as well. He opened not only the eyes of people's hearts to see the truth, but also their physical eyes, restoring their sight so they could see the world around them. He strengthened the faith of the weak, while strengthening the legs of the lame. He who came to breathe eternal life into a valley of dry, dead souls also breathed life into the widow's son, raising him up once more (see Luke 7:11–15). It was not one or the other—it was both, and both for the glory of God. We must not misunderstand (or replace) evangelism for social action. The Great Commission is not a mandate for political liberation. Many who are familiar with the ministry of Gospel for Asia know that first and foremost they are committed to planting churches and making new disciples. Their concern has always been evangelism and church planting, never to be replaced by social work alone. The salvation of souls and making of disciples have been Gospel for Asia's aim and goal in all things, the ruler by which all ministry opportunities are measured. But this in no way means that they do not care about the physical suffering of those to whom they seek to minister. Throughout the Scripture, we see that God used the felt needs of the body to draw people to Himself. Truly, the needs of suffering men, women and children in this world are great—especially in the 10/40 Window.

Calcutta alone is home to more than 100,000 street children who know neither mother nor father, love nor care. They are not just numbers or statistics—they are real children. Though nameless and faceless on the streets where they live, each one was created with love and is known by God. It is doubtful they've ever held a toothbrush or a bar of soap; they've never eaten an ice-cream cone or cradled a doll. The child labourers of South Asia toil in fireworks, carpet and match factories; quarries and coal mines; rice fields, tea plantations and pastures. Because they are exposed to dust, toxic fumes and pesticides, their health is compromised; their bodies are crippled from carrying heavy weights. Some are bonded labourers, enslaved to their tasks by family poverty. According to the Human Rights Watch, this is life for 60 to 115 million children in South Asia.

In the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, nine-year-old Lakshmi works in a factory as a cigarette roller. She tells her sister's story, giving us a glimpse into their world: My sister is ten years old. Every morning at seven she goes to the bonded labour man,



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Gospel for Asia's Bridge of Hope (...continued)

and every night at nine she comes home. He treats her badly; he hits her if he thinks she is working slowly or if she talks to the other children, he yells at her, he comes looking for her if she is sick and cannot go to work. I feel this is very difficult for her. I don't care about school or playing. I don't care about any of that. All I want is to bring my sister home from the bonded labour man. For 600 rupees I can bring her home—that is our only chance to get her back. We don't have 600 rupees . . . we will never have 600 rupees [the equivalent of \$16]

These whom Christ thought of while dying on the cross must not be forgotten by His Body today. These for whom Christ suffered then must not be forsaken by us, His hands and feet, now. In the midst of advancing world evangelism, we cannot hold back the healing embrace with which to care and provide for these who are precious in the sight of God. We are particularly talking about the Dalits, also known as the “Untouchables”—the lowest caste of Hinduism. For 3,000 years, hundreds of millions of India's Untouchables have suffered oppression, slavery and countless atrocities. They are trapped in a caste system that denies them adequate education, safe drinking water, decent-paying jobs and the right to own land or a home. Segregated and oppressed, Dalits are frequently the victims of violent crime. And just as the need is great, so is the possibility for Christ's power and love to be known. In recent years, the door to these possibilities has been flung wide open. Among Dalits and other low-caste groups that face similar repressive treatment, there has been a growing desire for freedom. Leaders representing approximately 700 million of these people have come forth demanding justice and freedom from caste slavery and persecution. The turning point came on November 4, 2001, when tens of thousands of Dalits gathered for one of the most historic meetings of the 21st century, publicly declaring their desire to “quit Hinduism” and follow a faith of their own choosing.



Since that event, the Lord has led Gospel for Asia to tangibly express His love to Dalit, low-caste and tribal families in a unique way: *by reaching out to their children*. Bridge of Hope, their children's outreach program, is designed to rescue thousands of children in Asia from a life of poverty and hopelessness by giving them an education and introducing them to the love of God through its sponsorship programme. The monthly child sponsorship covers the cost of one child's tuition, books, uniforms, one or two meals a day and a yearly medical check-up. 73,000 of India's Dalit children currently receive food, clothing, health services and an education at these centres - but Gospel for Asia's goal is to see that number grow to 500,000. Gospel for Asia started its first Bridge of Hope School in 2002.

Who are the Dalits: Where and how do they live.

To grow up as a Dalit (“Untouchable”) is to be told every day in a thousand different ways that you are worthless. Polluted. Inferior. And as life goes on, you may begin to believe that it would have been better if you were never born. Under the subjugation

of higher-caste people, you are forced to believe that it is your birthright to suffer prejudice, abuse and mistreatment until you're dying breath. India is not the only nation in which caste discrimination takes place. It also extends to Nepal, Sri Lanka and other countries where Hinduism is present. “Dalit” can also be translated “oppressed,” and this is a fitting description of both Dalits as well as members of the other lower caste groups. The word “Dalit” literally means “broken” or “crushed.”

Dalits and the Caste System

The reason the Dalits are kept in virtual slavery is that they live at the bottom of the Hindu caste system. They are considered by upper castes to be repulsive and subhuman. They are, by definition, “Outcastes.”

To read more about the work of Gospel for Asia go to www.gospelforasia.org.au and request a copy of their free book “*Revolution in World Missions*”

“Gospel for Asia has become one of the more significant pioneer missionary agencies, with a good accountability structure. . . . They are doing an excellent job.”

—Patrick Johnstone, Author, *Operation World*

“*Revolution in World Missions*” is one of the great classics of Christian literature. It is essential reading for those who desire to obey the mission of Jesus Christ. We get so used to apathetic and half hearted ideas about missions . . . and then K.P.'s book turns our world upside down!”

—Paul Blackham, Associate Minister, All Souls Church, Langham Place, London



Amnesty International - how their new policy devalues the rights of vulnerable women and girls globally

By Andrea Tokaji, Fighting for Justice Foundation - andreatokaji.com - August 2015

I used to be a member of Amnesty International - an active member, who went along to meetings and AGMs, who donated monthly, and who contributed to human rights debates. As an international human rights advocate, this was an important contribution for me.

I have now withdrawn my membership, my regular financial giving and my support for Amnesty International for their recent amended policy approach to prostitution.

At the Amnesty International 2014 Canberra AGM - where the resolution calling for the global legalisation of prostitution was to be discussed - a member of Scarlet Alliance - which is a lobby group for sex workers - spoke to the benefits of being a stay-at home single mother to a toddler while working from home as a prostitute as a reason for endorsing the resolution. These prostitutes are referred to as 'sole operators' under the ACT Prostitution Act (1992).¹

Besides being terribly worried about the best interest of the child in this scenario, I was also worried about the safety and wellbeing of women being exploited or abused in such unregulated environments.

It was also concerning to me that Amnesty International simply arranged for a representative from Scarlet Alliance - who is a lobby group for sex workers - to speak on the benefits of the legalisation of prostitution, without hearing from anyone from the other side, and without considering all of the facts in the debate.

I was not the only one who questioned the procedural integrity of the resolution.

Amnesty's Secretary General Salil Shetty received a complaint about the conduct of the International Secretariat (IS) and the International Board of Amnesty International regarding the fast tracking of the development and consultation process for the Sex Work Policy discussion paper.

Salil Shetty has been requested to establish an independent

investigation into the role of the IS and the Board during the development of the Sex Work Policy discussion paper and the consultation process. In an internal document sent to Sections, Structure Chairs and Directors and the International Board, the International Secretariat admitted that.... 'There is no question that the consultation process could have been handled much better.'

As a long term supporter of the Nordic approach to curb human trafficking - which is now recognised as the international best practice model to curb human trafficking, I am appalled that a donor-based organisation, such as Amnesty International, who seeks the good will of citizens to support them financially as well as supporting their campaigns, would violate procedural protocol in such a profane way.

At the meeting, I raised some concerns about such a proposal from the floor, quoting statistics, facts and case studies on the prevalence of human trafficking and sexual slavery and servitude that existed in Australia as a result of laws that facilitated such exploitation of vulnerable women and girls.

I then proceeded to write a Submission to the Amnesty International Headquarters in London on the pitfalls of the legalised model of prostitution, and the evidence for the international best practice model for curbing human trafficking, known as the Nordic Model, which was considered in France, Canada and

Ireland just last year by their parliaments.

So, what's wrong with Amnesty International's now passed resolution and proposed global policy approach to the legalisation of prostitution?

Amnesty International's resolution in favor of the legalisation of prostitution globally favours pimps and Johns (men who purchase sex) over and above the victims of prostitution through human trafficking, sexual servitude and debt bondage.

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Amnesty International simply arranged for a representative from Scarlet Alliance to speak on the benefits of the legalization of prostitution, without hearing from anyone from the other side

¹ <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/1992-64/current/pdf/1992-64.pdf>

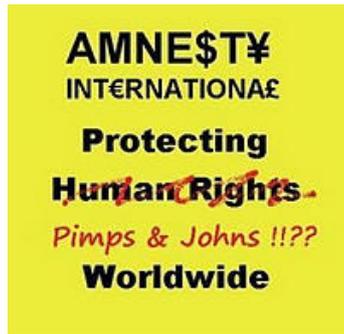


A 2012 International based study with a collective of Universities have concluded that there is an undeniable link between the legalisation of prostitution and human trafficking. The legalization model creates social norms that raises the demand for such a service, which in turn raises the demand for trafficked persons.

We believe that in order to reduce the demand for trafficked persons, the demand for such services needs to be reduced.

How Amnesty International devalues women and girls (...continued)

The proposed Amnesty International global policy on prostitution fights for the rights of men to purchase sex off women, stating that a man's access to prostituted women is their fundamental human right, and that criminalising a prostitute's client is an attack against both privacy and an individual's free choice.



The Amnesty International resolution passed just this month recommending that:

'Amnesty International develop a policy that supports the full decriminalization of all aspects of consensual sex work. The policy will also call on states to ensure that sex workers enjoy full and equal legal protection from exploitation, trafficking and violence.' (Amnesty International, 2015)

You might think that this sounds reasonable and fair.

Let's look at this issue more closely:

Douglas Fox has been campaigning for decriminalisation of prostitution in Amnesty International from within the organisation since 2008 and was in fact the author of the resolution.

The Amnesty International resolution was written by Douglas Fox, an Amnesty International employee, and former pimp, who defines himself as "sex worker" for owning a British escort agency², and is also spokesman of an association of "sex workers"³. He proudly claims authorship of Amnesty's internet document⁴, and is not shy about admitting that he asked 'associates to join Amnesty International in order to press for decriminalisation from within.

In effect, Amnesty International have just this month passed a resolution, making a global stand for the legalization of prostitution penned by those who have a vested financial interest in ensuring that prostitution is legalised for business purposes. What other reason would a pimp have to join an international human rights organisation?

For an organisation that was founded in 1961 by Peter Benenson, a British lawyer with the aim of obtaining an amnesty for prisoners of conscience - working for the release of women and men who have been arrested for their convictions, the question of the intent of Amnesty

International's involvement in prostitution laws globally also has to be raised.

So, let's look at who works in prostitution:

It is estimated that 50 to 90% of prostitutes do not practice the profession voluntarily (SPIEGEL, 2013) and those who do have come into it as a last resort.

Dr Melissa Farley⁵ has written over 35 books on prostitution across 40 years of research and activism with persons in prostitution. Some of Dr. Farley's statistics on prostitution are compiled below:

- ◆ the average entry age into prostitution is 13;
- ◆ over a third of runaway minors turn to prostitution to survive⁶ - referred to as survival prostitution;
- ◆ a third of runaway minors will be recruited by a pimp within 48 hours;⁷
- ◆ 65% to 95% of prostituted women have been sexually assaulted or raped before they entered prostitution;
- ◆ nearly half of prostitutes were victims of incest;
 - ◆ 83% of prostituted women are addicted to substances such as heroin, cocaine, cannabis and alcohol;
 - ◆ 54% of prostitutes suffer from very severe depression;
 - ◆ 42% of prostitutes had at least committed one suicide attempt, many suffering from psychological disorders;
 - ◆ 75% of women in prostitution are or have been homeless at some point in their lives;
- ◆ 70% to 95% of women in prostitution working in the street have been physically assaulted during the exercise of prostitution;
- ◆ 41% of women were attacked in brothels;
- ◆ 60% to 75% of people were raped while in prostitution; and
- ◆ 85% and 95% want to leave prostitution, but have no other means of survival.

In a study conducted on 859 people in 9 countries, over 68% of women working in strip clubs, massage parlors and street suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) comparable to war veterans, rape victims and survivors of state torture.

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² <http://www.theguardian.com/profile/douglas-fox>

³ <http://toomuchtosayformyself.com/2009/01/09/the-great-iusw-con/>

⁴ <http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/sex-trade-was-asked-to-join-amnesty-and-lobby-internally-1-5854040>

⁵ <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/MFarley CV.pdf>

⁶ http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/27/us/27runaways.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

⁷ <http://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/domesticviolence/prostitutedyouth/nationalperspective.htm>

How Amnesty International devalues women and girls (...continued)

According to the American Journal of Epidemiology,⁸ the murder rate of prostitutes is 12 times that of the general population, and the general risk of premature death for a prostitute, including illness, or overdose, is 77 times higher.

These statistics brings into question the voluntariness or choice a person has to becoming a prostitute.

Prostitution allows the commodification of women's bodies, reinforced gender based violence, and endorses the legalised victimisation of trafficked persons within the industry.

Legalised prostitution increases tolerance for violence against women and children, including sexual violence, and increases child prostitution⁹ and creates a demand for human trafficking.

I wonder if Amnesty International had considered the fundamental human right of women not be exploited, not to be commodified, and not to be subject to slavery, abuse or rape when considering the resolution to legalise prostitution.

Article 6 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, signed in 1979 by the United Nations states:

State Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women¹⁰

The Universal Declaration of Human Right's Articles 4 and 5¹¹ are also relevant here, which call for the prohibition of all forms of slavery and servitude, declaring that no one is to be subject to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

So, can human trafficking be linked to legalised prostitution?

Contrary to Amnesty International's statement¹² that there is no evidence as to the links between the legalisation of prostitution and the trafficking of persons, this exact fact has been established in an international academic research study that concludes that the legalisation of prostitution leads to a rise in the exploitation of vulnerable women and girls through human trafficking.

The 2012 study published in 'World Development' titled:

Legalised prostitution increases tolerance for violence against women and children, including sexual violence, and increases child prostitution and creates a demand for human trafficking

"Does Legalized Prostitution Increase Human Trafficking?"¹³ investigates the effect of legalised prostitution on human trafficking inflows into high-income countries.

The study's findings concluded that countries with legalised prostitution are associated with higher human trafficking inflows than countries where prostitution is prohibited.

The study also concluded that the type of legalisation of prostitution does not matter — it only matters whether prostitution is legal or not, and that there is a 13.4% higher probability of receiving higher inflows in a democratic country than otherwise.

Human trafficking is fuelled by a demand for prostitution - it works on the simple economic principle of supply and demand, and as a former victim put it: men paying for sex are addicts using women's bodies as drugs, and that men believe the time they have purchased to be with a woman puts them completely in control, which makes the woman vulnerable to abuse – and worse.

The Trafficking Protocol¹⁴ is our reference point for the criminalisation of human trafficking, in all its forms globally.

So, how prevalent is human trafficking in our world today?

In a world where no country is immune to human trafficking according to the UN, and where the trafficking of children is on the rise according to the United Nations,¹⁵ there are at least 152 countries of origin and 124 countries of destination affected by trafficking in

persons, and over 510 trafficking flows criss-crossing the world.

There is no place in the world where children, women or men are safe from human trafficking as stated by the UNODC Executive Director, Yury Fedotov.¹⁶

According to the Global Slavery Index,¹⁷ there are 36 million known slaves in the world today.

Every year, 1.2 million children are being trafficked according to the International Labor Organization's 2002

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⁸ <http://aje.oxfordjournals.org/content/159/8/778.full>

⁹ <http://www.france24.com/fr/20140629-bresil-mondial-aggrave-prostitution-mineurs-coupe-du-monde/>

¹⁰ <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm>

¹¹ <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

¹² <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/research/2015/08/human-rights-for-sex-workers/>

¹³ http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1986065

¹⁴ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ProtocolTraffickingInPersons.aspx>

¹⁵ <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49423%23.VdFaU0JLrzL>

¹⁶ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2014/November/trafficking-in-children-on-the-increase--according-to-latest-unodc-report.html?ref=fs2>

¹⁷ <http://www.globallslaveryindex.org/>

How Amnesty International devalues women and girls (...continued)

estimation in the Every Child Counts, New Global estimate on Child Labour Report.¹⁸

Do we need any more evidence that human trafficking of vulnerable women and children is on the rise, and that the legalisation of prostitution is creating a demand for the trafficking of such persons?

So, why is Amnesty international endorsing the legalised policy approach to prostitution, which is known to:

- ◆ increase trafficking and violence against prostitutes;
- ◆ lead to a cheaper, more widely available “commodified trade” - the price per act decreases-devaluing the person as a prostitute and as a human being;
- ◆ give law enforcement permission to turn their backs on this issue, making it is extremely hard to regulate the sex trade;
- ◆ give pimps and johns free reign over their victims and almost no legal recourse for the exploited; and
- ◆ give traffickers more legal ways to exploit women and children - including exploiting the vulnerable so that they live without any enforceable housing standards, proper healthcare, wages – without basic rights for personal subsistence.

So, who gets caught up in human trafficking?

According to the United Nations Office of Drug and Crime, trafficking often occurs from less developed countries to more developed countries, where people are rendered vulnerable to trafficking by virtue of poverty, conflict or other conditions.

Vulnerable women and children are the easiest targets for traffickers, and indeed, make up the majority of the world’s known slaves today.

Vulnerable victims are exploited in the sex trade on a daily basis across the world.

According to a United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime Report,¹⁹ the crime of trafficking in persons affects virtually every country in every region of the world. Most victims of trafficking in persons are foreigners in the country where they are identified as victims - more than 6 in 10 of all victims - have been trafficked across at least one national border.

The majority of trafficking victims are subjected to sexual exploitation.

The UNODC Report goes on to reveal that approximately half of all detected trafficking victims are adult women.

Women comprise the vast majority of the detected victims who were trafficked for sexual exploitation. In some regions, particularly in Asia, most of the victims of trafficking for forced labour were women.

Since UNODC started to collect information on the age profile of detected trafficking victims, the share of children among the detected victims has been increasing. Globally, children now comprise nearly one third of all detected trafficking victims. Out of every three child victims, two are girls and one is a boy.

The UNODC Report also revealed that for nearly all crimes, male offenders vastly outnumber females.

Human Trafficking starts with Pornography.

The exploitation of a woman or a girl through sex trafficking begins with the download of pornography - in turn creating a demand for trafficked persons through prostitution.

Porn has been referred to as the industry of torture and greed,²⁰ and is worth about 100 billion dollars per annum.

Porn glorifies the abuse, degradation and the violence of women, most of them very very young.

Mainstream porn would be impossible without a massive exploitation, violence and abuse of women. Porn star deaths - videos from Ms. Shelley Lubben - available on her website.²¹

Amnesty defends porn as art, in the name of freedom of expression, once again disregarding the victims of this

horrific industry that preys on vulnerable girls.

But, I digress.

The fact is, decriminalising ‘sex work’ will make it easier to exploit women and children.

This is a setback for those of us who oppose exploitation.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter wrote an open letter²² to Amnesty, because such a policy is destroying years of progress in the fight against sexual exploitation.

Amnesty’s advocacy for the right of men to purchase sex places the victims of human trafficking, sexual servitude and debt bondage in danger: making a conscientious stance against the criminalisation of the purchase of sex – often referred to as the Nordic Model policy approach to curbing the demand for human trafficking.

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¹⁸ <http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/viewProduct.do?productId=742>

¹⁹ http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/GLOTIP14_ExSum_english.pdf

²⁰ <http://sisyphe.org/spip.php?article4145>

²¹ <https://www.shelleylubben.com/>

²² <http://abolishprostitutionnow.files.wordpress.com/2014/05/carter.jpg>

How Amnesty International devalues women and girls (...continued)

Under the Nordic Model, violence against women decreased substantially.²³

Many reviews of the Nordic System are available, including an analysis of its success and revealing its limitations here:

1. Coalition Against Trafficking in Women Australia²⁴
2. The official report from the Swedish government,²⁵ or
3. Abolish Now blog.²⁶

The Nordic Model, or the criminalisation of buyers allows women to seek care, support, and report if a client is violent. 60% of women who enrolled in the Swedish social programs – where the Nordic Model originated - were able to leave prostitution, and the stigma was shifted from the act of selling sex to the act of buying sex.

This shift in social norms in our society away from seeing the victims of trafficking as criminals, but rather criminalizing the demand for the commodification of women and girls is key if we want to curb human trafficking and reduce the prevalence of sexual violence against women.

Thank goodness the survivors of sexual slavery and human trafficking are speaking out about this ridiculous international policy position that Amnesty International has taken without thorough research, consultation or consideration given to the matter.

Women rescued from prostitution have criticised UN agencies and Amnesty International for trying to legalise prostitution insisting legalisation would lead to more girls being trafficked, and transform pimps into legitimate businessmen.

“What the hell are they [Amnesty International] thinking,” said Rachel Moran, a former prostituted woman from Ireland.

Rachel Moran is the author of 'Paid For: My Journey Through Prostitution'.

UN agencies recently released reports telling countries to decriminalise all aspects of prostitution to reduce HIV/AIDS and promote human rights. A UN Development Program (UNDP) report on HIV and the Law and Sex Work and the Law in Asia and the Pacific, a UNDP, UN Population Fund and UNAIDS-backed report, called for the decriminalisation of prostitution.

At a recent UN event in New York,²⁷ women rescued from prostitution criticised UN agencies and Amnesty International for trying to legalize prostitution insisting legalisation would lead to more girls being trafficked, and

transform pimps into legitimate businessmen.

The UN reports imply prostituted women “work” by choice. In response to this statement, Natasha Falle, who is a Canadian sex trafficking survivor and founder of SEXTRADE 101 who has helped hundreds of women escape prostitution said upwards of 95% of women working in prostitution want to exit but need assistance.

The UN reports suggest legalization provides safeguards for prostituted women.

In response to this statement, survivors of the industry insisted that men paying for sex are addicts using women’s bodies as drugs, and that men believe the time they have purchased to be with a woman puts them completely in control.

I hope that the above evidence has led you to conclude that if we are to stand up for the rights of women and children, that if we are to achieve gender equality, and if we are to curb human trafficking and put a stop to sexual violence against women in our generation, we need to address the demand that is created through pornography and prostitution in the ‘adult industry’, calling for the criminalisation of the buyer of such services.

I also hope that the above evidence has made you start thinking about this issue in greater depth, has urged you to do your own research, and moves you to discuss this issue with someone, or moves you to advocacy for the many victims of sexual violence.

If you want to stand against gender violence, against the trafficking and sexual slavery of women and girls, and if you want to tell Amnesty International that it is not ok to legalise the abuse of women through prostitution laws, please sign the petition.²⁸

You can write to Amnesty International at contactus@amnesty.org or Tweet them @[amnestyonline](https://twitter.com/amnestyonline) - to let them know the stand that you have taken.

Thank you.

Andrea Tokaji

International Human Rights Advocate

Fighting for Justice Foundation www.andreatokaji.com

FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE FOUNDATION
is focused on the eradication of the
trafficking of persons and the
international crime behind this
modern day slavery, by targeting
the demand for trafficked persons



²³ <http://feministcurrent.com/7038/new-research-shows-violence-decreases-under-nordic-model-why-the-radio-silence/>

²⁴ http://www.catwa.org.au/files/images/Nordic_Model_Pamphlet.pdf

²⁵ <http://projectrespect.org.au/system/files/Targeting+the+sex+buyer.pdf>

²⁶ <http://abolishprostitutionnow.wordpress.com/>

²⁷ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/ex-prostituted-women-blast-un-and-amnesty-international-for-trying-to-legal/>

²⁸ <https://www.change.org/p/amnesty-international-listen-to-survivors-reject-the-proposal-to-decriminalize-all-aspects-of-prostitution>

Why talking with God will make you question everything

It was financial stress that started it. I was yelling at God and God was not answering. Not that I was expecting an answer. I don't really know what I was expecting. I just wanted 'out' of the mess I was in. Somehow it felt better to yell. I was so angry. Why would God let me get into this state? I was a minister and a good Christian, doing all I could for God. Why wouldn't God answer my prayers!?

There I was, in my lounge room, in the middle of the night, a sad and sorry sight, when suddenly a voice stopped my self-pity. Where did that come from? Who spoke?

It was not a loud voice, but it was definitely a voice. I didn't hear it with my ears. It seemed to be coming from inside me! I must have finally cracked. "Too much stress can do that to you", I told myself. I couldn't yell any more.

"Who are you", I asked?

"I'm God", the voice answered.

"Well, if you're God then why is all this happening?"

...And so began my intimate encounter with the Divine.

In the beginning I didn't tell anyone because they'd think I was crazy. But, my experience was so wonderful; I kept meeting with God every night to discuss what I needed to do to get out of the mess. To be honest, for a while, although I was chatting away, I wasn't really sure that it was God I was hearing. But I didn't care. I was enjoying every wonderful moment. The voice (God) taught me bit by bit, through the bible, how biblically correct it was to expect to hear God. As I heard more and learnt more and applied the wisdom, my financial crisis turned around and I was saved from financial ruin. And gradually I gained confidence that the voice really was God.

I noticed that the voice never ridiculed me. It always encouraged, directed, reassured and cheered me up. Not only that...it also taught me about others in the bible who had heard God speak to them. This was it! A major break-through! Surely everyone would want this intimacy with God!?

So, I gathered my courage and told my husband... thinking he might laugh. But he didn't. He wanted to hear God too. So I taught him. Wow! This was not just for me, it was for everybody!

My husband was bolder and quicker to action than me. He told others. And soon people from all over Australia wanted to learn how to hear God. As they asked I taught them. And this is happening still to this day.

After a few years, I was led to write a book explaining the biblical accuracy of hearing God. God is passionately interested in you and wants to discuss all manner of things with you. All you need to do is learn to ask and listen.

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me;" John 10:27

May God speak with you, and may you have ears to hear.

With love and blessings,
Cherie Strudwick

The book, "Hear God Speak" is available to purchase simply by emailing me at cherie@uniquelyu.com.au

I also run workshops to teach people how easy it is to hear God speak. If you'd like a workshop, email me on the above address.

Cherie is a well-respected Pastor with the Uniting Church in Australia and has been in ministry for over 30 years.

Sons of Abraham conference 19-22 Sept 2015

From around the world, believers are converging on Sydney for the Sons of Abraham conference 19-22 Sept 2015.

As well as hearing from key leaders of the Christian Arabic and Messianic Jewish community in Australia, we have Ps Bassem Adranly, a Christian Arab from Jerusalem and Ps Shelley and June Volks, Messianic Jews from the USA accompanied by their adult granddaughter who is both Jew and Arab.

God called Abraham to birth a people who would worship Him and from whom the Messiah would come. The division between the descendants of Isaac and Ishmael brings pain to the Lord's heart and He wants to see healing of this division. Jesus broke down the dividing walls between Jew and Gentile so that all who believe in Him would be sons of God and sons of Abraham (daughters included).

Don't miss out on this ground-breaking conference hosted by Ps Norman and Barbara Miller and the Centre for International Reconciliation and Peace and held at the Padstow Baptist Church in Sydney in the heart of the Arabic community

www.reconciliationandpeace.org



Steps to Marketing Success

By Peter Irvine - co-Founder of Gloria Jean's Coffees Australia, author of 'Win In Business' and 'Building your Business, your People, your Life' and keynote speaker.

Marketing – KEEP IT SIMPLE & DON'T STOP

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Know your customers and how best to reach them.

Your marketing needs to be simple, appealing to your customer base and communicate well.

So many signs, ads, and even sales talk complicate the message and confuse people. Simple images and messages communicate best.

EG. The simple Gloria Jean's Coffees drink posters have such a dramatic impact that occasionally stock will run out. If the poster is changed, the new drink displayed quickly becomes a high seller.



CATCH PEOPLE'S ATTENTION

Down-to-earth simple things work well – the best advertising is always word of mouth - it's free!

I often glance at outdoor advertising posters – roadside, railways, street & bus stop posters. The ones that catch my attention are ones with few words, sometimes clever or arresting images where the company or service is easily identified. The Virgin airline ads come to mind – bold red writing with catchy lines, easily identified and simple.

GET BACK TO BASICS AND DO WHAT WORKS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

For example:

Sample product – get out there and give stuff away, making sure you always direct people to the store or company.

Ring people back – follow up promptly, it's amazing how many businesses don't!

Clean up your website – simplify and make it fun (many first enquiries are now online) and answer all enquiries here daily at least.

Make sure you have the right receptionist – one who has a can-do attitude, loves engaging people and knows the latest deals or offers.

Follow through with staff phone training – how many have been greeted by a great receptionist only to be challenged by a depressing, uncooperative accounts person.

What are the basics for your business?

AND DON'T STOP! - ESPECIALLY DURING TOUGH TIMES

One franchisee I spoke to thought there was little point in actively promoting his store while the shopping centre had renovations in progress and there were so few people coming to the centre (customer count was down 20%). We both stood at the store entry point watching people pass by and I asked 'Then what are all these people doing here? Why not start sampling now? You have 80% of potential customers still coming!'

DON'T GIVE UP

Just because results seem harder to achieve – break the mindset that says 'marketing now is a waste of time'.

FOCUS

Tough times force us to re-evaluate how we are marketing our businesses.

(continued next page)

Steps to Marketing Success (...continued)

INVEST IN YOUR REGULARS

This is the time to build on your regular customer base. Don't be tempted to take your regulars for granted, look at investing greater value into any loyalty programs you may have.

STRATEGISE WITH YOUR TEAM

Now is the time to keep your staff motivated and enthusiastic. Give them reasons to achieve results as well as have fun on the journey. When they enjoy the job it will reflect to customers.

Marketing - HIT OR MISS

CORE IDEA

The 'Core Idea' principle is the most efficient way to market – *your money is not wasted saying different things in different places*. A simple statement or promise that encapsulates and defines who you are & what you do, or even a style, an ethos reflected through everything you do.

IT MUST REFLECT WHO & WHAT YOU ARE

Think through what your business is about. For example:

- ◆ How do you want your product or service to make people feel?
- ◆ How is it going to benefit their lifestyle?
- ◆ How often do you want them to purchase?
- ◆ What quality and value do you offer that others may not?

Then write a simple line that makes sense and appeals to others.

Examples:

An Australian supermarket chain has used 'Woolworths, The fresh food people' for many years.

OTHER EXAMPLES??

Look at the Baker's Delight style – fresh, fun handmade handwritten signs, bakers enjoying their work, unskilled in TV presentation but dedicated to baking great bread. Carried through (in most stores) with enthusiastic staff who know their product, signage and fresh display all work together to say 'This is great, fresh bread & a fun place to shop'.

You may want to involve your team & others to help you formulate that core idea.

MARKETING INVOLVES ALL THE AREAS OF YOUR BUSINESS

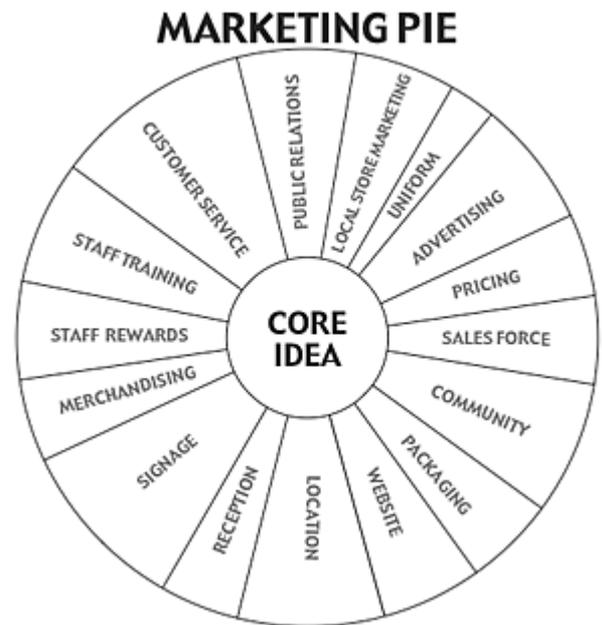
Most people don't realize that ALL areas of the business need to work together to market successfully.

From print ads and phone listings to the receptionist the way you package, price or present your service, the signs you display, your website, how your staff dress, their training and motivation, your community involvement and charity support, where you are located, your delivery service and (very importantly) after-sales service where it applies.

My experience with a particular hot water company is that tradespeople do not make good receptionists. The product and installation was efficient and clean, their workers were polite and punctual however, when problems arose later, it was very difficult to communicate with the disinterested tradesman over the phone.

We have all been through similar experiences.

Make sure ALL your team are marketing your company in a positive way, ALL areas of your business are expressing the Core Idea - eg. 'we care about your needs' 'we enjoy what we do' 'we are all about quality'. This is not just on printed material or in radio advertising but how the business operates and communicates day to day.



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Steps to Marketing Success (...continued)

TIP: Provide customer service training to your receptionist, accounting and general office staff. You will be surprised how key these people unintentionally are in the marketing process.

Marketing – EVEN IN TOUGH TIMES

DON'T ELIMINATE YOUR MARKETING BUDGET

In a tough business market, you don't eliminate your marketing budget, but you look at different and new ways of standing out. Too many people are doing the same thing as everyone in their business category and are not standing out.

I recommend buying the book by Seth Godin, called "Purple Cow". He talks about being remarkable in our businesses.

STAND OUT: BE REMARKABLE

There are many creative ways to stand out – including unique selling strategies, advertising concepts and plain simple genuinely helpful customer service.

Here is a list of great ideas that companies have utilized in the last few months to stand out, and be different WITHOUT DISCOUNTING

Freedom Furniture stores - In the local newspaper offered a **decorator seminar**, with a note that bookings are essential and the cost is \$10. How about that, you actually pay to go to a retail store to get ideas? I imagine that the ideas center around the product that is available throughout that store. They also provide a delicious "high tea" and prizes.

Kia car company - have launched their Kia Assurance. In these tough times, they say, you **buy a new Kia and if you lose your job in the next 12 months you can return the car no worries**. What a great way to take away the fear of taking the car away from the purchaser. Most people do not like providing a guarantee of this nature, but history shows few people return the cars, and probably they can cover it by insurance anyway. Few people ever return products that have a guarantee.

Super Cheap Auto - I noticed a television commercial offering customers who came and bought a car light bulb -that they would **install it for free**. They would probably send one of the young guys out to replace the bulb while you go inside and relax. Obviously while you are inside a mega store you will be tempted to buy all types of things for your car.

Heinz foods - an Ad recently running in the newspapers, shows two cans of Heinz product - one of baked beans and one of tomato soup. Two very economical and traditional food products. The headline: **Experts agree, now is a great time to invest in spoons**. This is a clever and fun way to catch customers' attention in the current market!

Local Plumber - I noticed before Christmas, a young man (probably a student) was standing with a sandwich board on a major roundabout. His board advertised a plumber's service - to get those leaking taps fixed. The key line was **"no call out fee - have your leaking taps fixed for Christmas"**. Imagine what other plumbing jobs they would gain as a result!

Frontline flea and tick treatment for cats and dogs – This is a commercial that runs regularly on television featuring well known vet, Dr Harry. Every month you can receive a **text message on your mobile reminding you to use frontline** tick and flea treatment so that your dogs and cats never have the problem again. What a great way to get people to not only buy, but be reminded to use your product every month.

Lexus Motor cars - In recent times Lexus have offered **finance at 0% interest rate**. I know of one dealer in November 2008 that sold 63 Lexus in that month, based on that particular offer. I believe it was so successful that Lexus extended the offer.

Gloria Jean's Coffees – I have always encouraged franchisees when I visit the stores to have either a **coffee appreciation night** or bring your coffee equipment from home and learn how to use it. You can provide a limit to the number of people to this program and you can even suggest that they pay \$10 or \$20 as a

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Steps to Marketing Success (...continued)

commitment, which could be donated to a local charity. A coffee appreciation night allows people to come and taste the coffees from various parts of the world. They then see what the offering is available in terms of merchandise and coffee and they become regular customers. The other option is to come and **learn how to use your coffee equipment at home**. Most people have a piece of coffee equipment at home, a plunger, a filter machine, or an espresso machine sitting idle in a cupboard. Although simple to use, the instructions are not always clear and many people want to be able to make a good cup of coffee at home. We get customers who regularly buy from our bean selection from that point onwards.

Bunnings Warehouse – Now offer **free BBQ's for tradies** at 7am every Friday. What a great way to bring trades people into the store, and while they're there....!

Haircuts – I recently heard the story of a hairdresser who was doing \$20 haircuts and doing a roaring trade. Sometime later, a new hairdresser opened on the opposite side of the road, and offered \$6 haircuts. The first hairdresser, rather than discounting put up a sign that said **“Haircuts \$20, we fix \$6 haircuts”**

Cosco – Before they started up in Australia I was down near the new store site and noticed that they already had a stand and were signing up people for approx. \$55/year to become a member - just for the privilege to go and shop! Already they had 1,000 people signed up with more coming all the time.

NO NEED TO DISCOUNT

Notice that none of these examples discount their products. They are maintaining and even adding to the value of the product or service for their customers.

You just need a different mindset - provide something that excites and gets your customers passionately involved, then price is not always an issue. So go out there and think differently about your product, your company or your service.

Marketing - THE SAME-SAME TRAP

There can be many things that hold our business back. Marketing is certainly one of these areas.

Are you falling into the 'SameTrap'?

- ◆ **Is your marketing the same year after year?**
- ◆ **Are you measuring it?**
- ◆ **Do you know what's working?**
- ◆ **Do you continue to market the same way that your competition does?**
- ◆ **Is your only reason because that's what they are doing?**
- ◆ **Do you feel you don't have the ability or contacts or where-with-all to actually do something different that will make you stand out?**

All these things will happen at some point in your business. But I am continually discovering that many people do not do things differently because they don't know what to do.

BURY THE 'CAN'T DO' THINKING

Let me tell you a story. At the beginning of one school year, a teacher asked the children to write a list of things that they believed the kids could not do. The list could include activities such as swimming, mathematics, and other things like talking in front of the class. When each of the children had written their lists, the teacher collected them all and put them in a box then took them outdoors to have a ceremony to bury the box. "This class," she announced, "is going to be a 'Can-Do Class'."

Not surprisingly, many of the children made more progress in that class than in any year previously.

So when you are feeling that you are struggling to believe that you can do things differently or when you can't come up with different ideas, identify your list of limitations or reasons why you can't, write them out, put them in a box and bury them. Now - start writing a list of some of the 'Can-Do' things.

(continued next page)

Steps to Marketing Success (...continued)

I have a friend who visits a unique Italian restaurant in New York. They have no set menu, and no price list – you order what you would like, and based on the service and quality of the food, you decide what to pay! That certainly buries old ideas and stands out. Not surprisingly their business is booming.

GET OTHERS TO HELP

I also recommend you get some friends, or talk to someone you admire to get ideas that will stimulate your thinking.

Write out a list of the things you have done previously, and that haven't worked, and put them in the box for burial. If you can't think of new ideas yourself, find someone who is going to be able to challenge your thinking, provide good marketing advice and encourage you to stretch beyond your comfortable zone.

Even odd ideas break people's thinking – during the worst of the GFC, Mitsubishi with their 'Hi Ace' targeted farmers in New Zealand. The offer – 'Buy a High Ace and get a goat for free'! This, as expected, attracted media interest and the story ran nationally – I found it in a Sydney newspaper.

Many companies advertise and market to their potential customers with comfortable copy and headlines and nice looking pictures when there are times they need to be radically different, where they place their media, how they use the social media, and what form their advertising takes. Why not be one of those and attract attention and start to see your business grow?

Marketing – the creative brief

CLARIFY YOUR THINKING

When you are ready to advertise, to have a website created or to produce leaflets or posters this template is invaluable. It helps you communicate with whoever is creating what you need. It clarifies your own thinking as well.

DON'T IGNORE THIS KEY SLICE OF YOUR MARKETING PIE

Marketing includes all these elements and more, but a key slice, often left till last is:

COMMUNITY

There are so many needs you can end up giving small amounts, or products & services all over the place without a good strategy or results for the charities or your business.

Learn to focus:

- ♦ Generosity sets you apart so don't stop giving locally to a series of initiatives – especially if your prime business is in the local area – just be strategic and ask for positive recognition.

Client:	Brand:	Date:
Role for Advertising What in one sentence is the advertising trying to do for the brand?		
Target Market Describe typical person we are talking to.		
Consumer insight How do they currently feel about the brand/category?		
Advertising Opportunity In light of the above, how can advertising make the brand more desirable?		
Promise What is the one single thought or idea that the creative should start from?		
Support What emotional or rational support can help make the promise believable?		
Desired Consumer Result How do we want people to think/feel as a result of the advertising? You should write this in plain language in the first person.		
Mandatories Are there any musts or must-nots?		



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Steps to Marketing Success (...continued)

- ◆ Partner long-term with at least one organisation that helps people. Your efforts can build something significant for the charity and your business alike.

Checklist for partnering with an organisation:

- ◆ Choose what you are passionate about
- ◆ Have meetings with the organisation to establish synergy
- ◆ Find something that 'fits' your business, that staff and customers can relate to.
- ◆ Look for ways to promote the partnership – building support and credibility for them as well as your business reputation.

EXAMPLES TO STIMULATE YOUR THINKING

The Starwood Group (Sheraton & Westin hotels):

Add \$1 to every bill for Unicef. The customer has a choice, but most are happy to donate – it cost Starwood nothing but gives thousands to worldwide child relief.

McDonalds Restaurants:

What started as the well known Ronald McDonalds houses has expanded to Ronald McDonald's Childrens Charities giving to a range of children's charities – research, education etc. The money boxes raise an amazing amount as do franchisees and staff though their fundraising efforts.

An IT software company I know:

Started sponsoring 3 children through Compassion International, his wife wrote regularly to the children. The sponsorship has grown over the years to 12 children.

Private Equity company:

Donates bonuses from business transactions to a charity, volunteers work a day for the charity carrying out maintenance, cleaning or painting.

BE INNOVATIVE IN HOW YOU PARTNER

Involvement brings loyalty, builds teamwork with staff and family and creates a new 'heart' dimension to your business.

Generosity sets you apart.

Peter Irvine

www.peterirvine.com

Peter is Co-Founder of Gloria Jean's Coffees Australia, author of 'Win In Business' and 'Building your Business, your People, your Life' and keynote speaker.

Generate is the premier provider of School Chaplains in NSW, managing over 150 Federal Government Funded School Chaplaincies.

Generate partners with schools in the recruitment, training, supervision and ongoing professional development of School Chaplains. This ensures the placement of high quality Christian Chaplains who are well equipped to support young people and strengthen local communities.

Transforming Sydney is partnering with Generate to bring awareness of the role of Chaplains and the great opportunity for local combined churches to place Generate-employed SRE (Scripture) teachers in NSW state secondary schools.

For more information and how to help please go to

www.generate.org.au



Four Bible Verses about the Heart That Will Change Your Parenting

By Dr. Scott Turansky

Most parents nod their heads in agreement when they hear that reaching a child's heart is important. But what does that mean in practical terms. Here are four scriptures that will give you greater understanding into your own child's heart.

1) Psalm 19:14, "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD."

We say things to ourselves in our hearts. When eight-year-old Jordan says to himself, "I'm no good. No one wants to be with me. I'll never get it right," he's repeating negative things in his heart. Rebecca feels good in her heart because she refused to join those who were disrespectful to the teacher. Hugo's mom can see a heart problem because he scowls and complains whenever she asks him to do something. In each of these situations, the heart is at work.

What people meditate on is important because those thoughts take place in the heart and eventually come out in actions. If you study your child by considering the things said in the heart, you'll be able to identify specific areas to work on in your parenting.

2) Matthew 9:4, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?"

The heart is where we wrestle with things. When experience, teaching, and values need to be integrated into life, it happens in the workshop of the heart. Information comes into our heads on a regular basis but much of it just stays there. Only when it moves down to our hearts does it become part of our lives.

When parents use a heart-based approach they take advantage of this wrestling inside a child. They encourage right thinking, contribute praise for growing character, and comment about the helpful and unhelpful internal dialogue as it makes its way out through behavior.

When the two disciples on the road to Emmaus realized that their surprise guest was Jesus, they

reflected on the experience by saying, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:32)

Some children need to do more wrestling in their hearts. Mom told Christy that she wasn't free to play until she could think of three ways to add energy to family life. That was hard for Christy. In fact, it took her a half hour to come up with some ideas. Christy was more inclined to get things instead of give them. So, requiring her to think about others in tangible ways gave her an opportunity to ponder some new ways of processing life. That was heart work in action.

3) Matthew 15:8, "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."

Be careful that you don't just focus on compliance. A bad attitude is a sign of a heart issue. Ralph was disrespectful to his dad, yelling and saying mean things when Dad refused to buy the latest computer game that Ralph's friends had.

Dad decided to correct his son but wanted more than just lip service. He wanted to touch his heart. First Dad had Ralph sit in the hall and settle down. That took over an hour as Ralph continued to seethe and pout. When Ralph finally returned, Dad explained to Ralph that the temper tantrums were unacceptable and that he, as a dad, had a responsibility to discipline his son to try to help him. Therefore, Ralph would lose the privilege of the computer altogether for a while.

Of course, that news threw Ralph into another bout of ranting. Dad refused to join into the anger scene and sent his son back to the hall to settle down again. This time it took a half hour before Ralph returned wanting to know when he'd get his computer privileges back. Dad calmly explained, "I've not set a time on it. I want to see some improvement in the way you handle correction and a no answer. Also, I'd like to see you come to me and ask if there's any way that you can help. I'll give you some jobs. Over the next few days if you can show me that you are trying to change the way you relate to me, then we'll try going back to the computer."

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4 Bible Verses that Will Change Your Parenting (...continued)

Then Dad waited. Would his plan work or would it need some adjustment? Dad knew what he was looking for. He wanted to see a sense of cooperation and self-control in his son. Over the next few days he saw the heart adjustments he was looking for. Ralph volunteered to help and had a good attitude. Dad told Ralph no on a couple of occasions and Ralph, although disappointed, was obviously trying to respond better. Dad gave the computer privileges back to his son but only after they talked about the positive changes that were starting to occur. Ralph is still learning and growing and complete change will likely take several years, but Dad corrected with an eye on the heart and felt like he made significant progress in that one incident.

4) Proverbs 20:5, “ The purposes of a man’s heart are deep waters, but a man of understanding draws them out.”

Sarah made a nice card for her Dad for Valentine’s Day. It obviously took a lot of love and care to put it together. Dad realized that it was not just a gift of a card but it was a gift of his daughter’s heart. He spent some extra time enjoying the card and his daughter, further encouraging her love and compassion.

Alberto made a comment about something he learned at Sunday School. Mom asked some more questions and discussed the issue with her son, realizing that it was a heart moment. She talked further with Alberto, helping him develop the truth so that it had an even greater impact on his thinking.

Jim realized that his daughter was hurt by a friend at school. Instead of telling her to just stop crying about it, he comforted his daughter, realizing that it was a heart moment. She obviously appreciated her dad’s love and care, and just his presence with her for several minutes helped her to work through the issues in her heart.

Too many parents focus only on behavior, things like getting jobs done around the house and completing homework. Although those things are important, the real work of parenting is done in the heart. Be on the lookout for heart moments. They may surprise you at times. Be ready for them because they don’t come as often as you’d like.

A heart-based approach to parenting isn’t easy but

it’s where the significant work is done in a child’s life. Every morning when you get up, pray for your kids. Ask God to reveal opportunities for heart moments with them. You’ll be amazed at the difference it makes in your family.

In the book *Parenting Is Heart Work*, you’ll find the results of a study that looked at 750 times the word “heart” is used in the Bible. Several conclusions of that study reveal practical applications for your parenting. Reaching the heart is strategic and it’s also practical, but many parents don’t know exactly what that means.

A heart-based approach isn’t just about talking to your kids more. It’s not mushy. Sometimes reaching the heart requires firmness as well. *Parenting Is Heart Work* is a powerful book.

"What a great biblical study of the concept of the heart! This book is entertaining as well as life-changing. All parents should read this book to understand their own hearts as well as the hearts of their children." —Dr. Tim Clinton, President of the American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC)

Learn more about the whole *Heart Work Curriculum* at biblicalparenting.org/heartwork



Dr. Scott Turansky is a co-founder of the National Center for Biblical Parenting and author of 14 parenting books. He and his wife Carrie have five children and four grandchildren and live in New Jersey.

What is the Role of Education?

Education: Christian vs. Secular

The desire to accumulate knowledge has been a desire of man since creation. In ancient cultures, education was dominated by males and the upper class. The very idea of instructing women in anything other than tending the home, having babies was not considered important. Jewish families around Jesus's time emphasized the education of their sons to learn a trade in order to earn a living, as well as be able to read and study biblical writing.

It is the belief of many scholars¹ that the early Christians may have been the first group to encourage the education of both genders. These early Christian societies strongly believed in education and pressed for a well-educated leadership.² After the fall of the Roman Empire, the organized church leadership preserved as many literary documents as they could save from barbarian destruction (which is another story in itself). Then during the Middle Ages, it was this organized church that took up the cause of educating the elite and created the basic system, which was generally replicated through the latter 1900's. At the height of the Reformation, both Luther and Calvin pursued educational opportunities for all children through the church and possibly public means.³

Jesus strongly emphasized spiritual over general education. He makes this point clear when he said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6) and "If you hold to my teaching...then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32). It is not that by attaining an education away from the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which makes us free. It is by knowing and having a relationship with Jesus Christ we truly are free.

When Jesus walked this earth, He had the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, power, knowledge, and the fear (respect) of the Lord.⁴ Jesus left this earth to reign from heaven. We have access to that relationship with Him and it gives us the same spirit of truth to guide us and help us to live. Jesus also compared knowledge of God's kingdom to yeast, which changes an entire lump of dough. As we grow in our knowledge of God's Word and apply the truth about Jesus Christ we can have the same effect as yeast in bread, to our **world and workplace**. One way Christian education plays out in our life is in our commitment to learning, understanding and applying the scriptures, as much as we commit to our formal secular studies. It is expressed as we share and show the difference the good news makes in the life of a believer, wherever we go and whatever we do. Jesus cautioned us about the downside of dough. This would be a condition where the yeast does not rise (straight secular teaching). In other words, where education that is not in tune with God's truth. This he said is not good bread (enough said!).

In seeking to understand God's will for our life in the area of education and career, we are oftentimes self-centered! Do you think God really cares that anyone of us "wants" to be a physician, lawyer, politician, or janitor apart from His will? As Matthew 6:33 declares, He wants us yielded to His will and serve Him "first". Too many "well-meaning" Christian young people get an education, even multiple degrees, and never consider God. They do not seem to desire or know first what the real will of God is for their life. God's will has to be based on each individual's talent, spiritual gifts, and calling. God's Will is not "first" based on who they marry, how they see their future, or their earning potential! That was my problem some forty-plus years ago when first starting college. Granted, I was not a Christian and had no relationship with God. Clearly, the questions were not about how I could serve the Lord. It was about what I wanted to do with the rest of *my* life. As Christians should we honestly answer the following questions?

- Are we "first" focused on a relationship with God or ourselves!
- What is our passion? In other words, what do we like to do? Are they God honoring?
- Did we get or are we pursuing an education based on a spiritual or secular scenario?
- Are our life pursuits based on a spiritual or secular scenario?

Adapted from the book: "Understanding God's Will: the Difference between Knowing and Doing" by John W. Boland (Author, Adjunct Professor, Minister); Tate Publishing, Mustang OK (due out Fall 2015)

¹ *Education in the Early Church*, Dave Scarbrough, (August 2006), exegethetext.blogspot.com

² *The Early Christians and Schooling*, Dr. Larry M Arnoldsen, (1998), www.LDS-OHEA.org

³ *Christian Education: A Reformation Heritage*, R. Hanko, lyndenprc.org

⁴ An extract from *Words Old and New: Gems from the Christian Authorship of all Ages* (pp. 82-83), Hamilton, Patrick, (2011), banneroftruth.org

NoPlaceLeft: Getting Started

Western Sydney

Saturday, 22 August 2015, 9:30am – 4pm

Following Jesus and Fishing for People may be challenging, but it shouldn't be complicated!

During the day you'll catch a vision for multiplying new disciples, new groups, and new churches until there is NoPlaceLeft (Romans 15:23).

What you'll learn:

- How to connect with people who are far from God
- How to share your story and the gospel story in a contagious way
- How to make disciples using a simple method of discovery bible study
- How to find Persons of Peace
- You'll put these skills into practice during a short field experience

If you want to learn, and turn learning into action, then NoPlaceLeft: Getting Started will help you on your way. However, experience has shown that ongoing support, encouragement, and accountability are required for success. NoPlaceLeft is a vision that is capturing people's imaginations all around the globe. In Australia, NoPlaceLeft is a growing coalition of Christian leaders, organizations and churches committed to pursuing Multiplication Movements.

This training day is being hosted by Glenmore Park Anglican Church. A team of experienced trainers will facilitate the training. They are:

- Ryan Sherring – Global Church Movements, Campus Crusade for Christ Australia
- Andrew and Mindy Pyman – Praxeis
- Craig Hamilton – Glenmore Park Anglican Church
- Tim Scheuer – Move Mission Inc

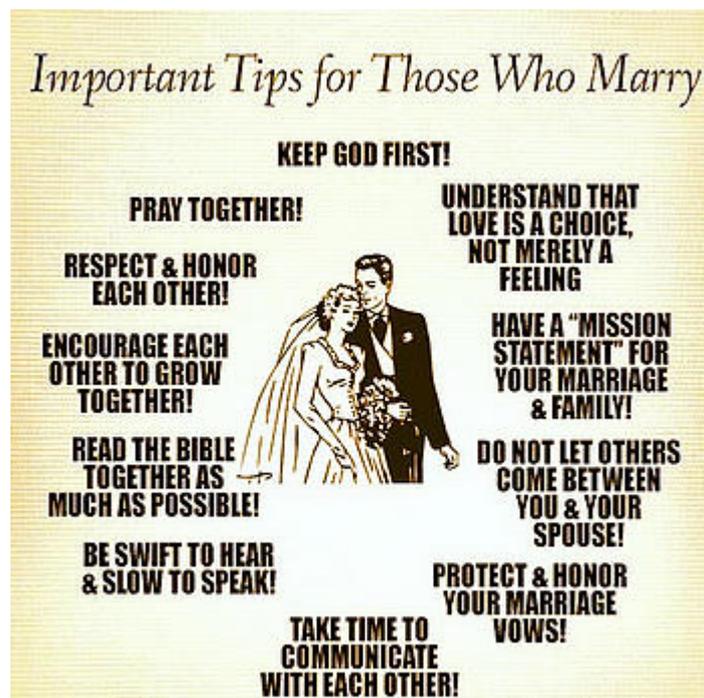
Details:

Time: 9:30am – 4pm, Saturday 22 August

Venue: Glenmore Park Anglican Church, Cnr. William Howell Drive & Pritchard Place, Glenmore Park

Cost: \$30 includes lunch

Who For? Anyone who loves God, loves others, and wants to make disciples!



(forwarded to us by Ps. Jonathan Darma)

Theology of the Body with Eva Tarchichi - 8th September

“Have you searched for God and felt that you only have part of the answers? Have you ever wondered WHY the Catholic Church teaches what it does? Do you feel the separation between your head and your heart in your faith? Are you curious about what makes Catholics so different from other faith traditions?”

St John Paul II provides the most profound and spirit-filled insights into the hunger and yearning of the human heart for God. He does this most obviously in his work, 'Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body'. Join us with Eva Tarchichi, a student taught by Christopher West at the Theology of the Body Institute Pennsylvania USA, who will help to introduce this major work. There will be opportunities to learn with other like-minded people through presentations,

discussions, question time and reflection.

"TOB covers the essentials of what makes us human, what gives our life meaning. We explore masculinity, femininity, what it means to be incarnate beings and our origins before original sin. We uncover our desires and yearnings and place them where they belong in our faith. We look into responding to God's call to each of us to enter into a deeper relationship with him. We come to understand how to set our eyes on heaven. We discuss our struggles and reflect on our personal wounds and how these bring us closer to Christ not further. We focus on specific scripture that reveal God to us such as Genesis, Ephesians, Song of Songs and Tobit."

www.tobaustalia.com.au

YOUR INVITATION

You are invited to a free introductory talk about Theology of the Body presented by Eva Tarchichi on Tuesday night **8th September 2015 from 7.30~9:15pm at Our Lady of Good Counsel, 9 Currie Rd Forestville, Sydney** - in the Parish Centre behind the church building.

On-street parking is available, tea and coffee provided, there will a time for questions and answers.

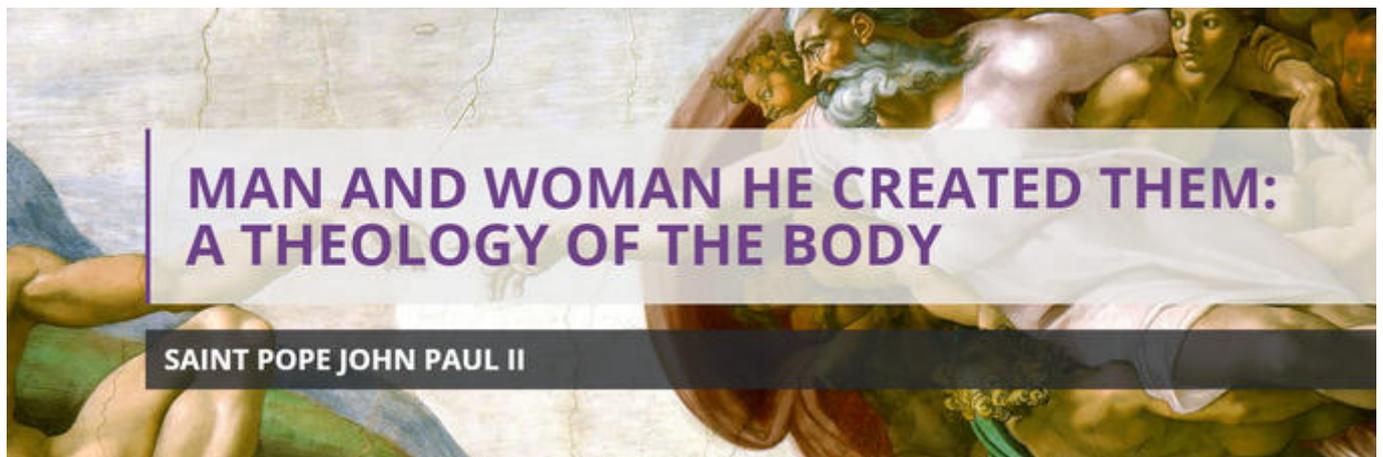
THEOLOGY FOR EVERYONE

Theology of the Body is a theology for everyone. All human beings, by our common humanity and dignity, are capable of living and understanding the theology. You can be single, married, divorced, separated, consecrated, a teenager, a child, male or female.

Any body can find value in the messages contained in the theology.

If you are capable of giving and receiving love then you are already living the theology. Everyone is capable of giving and receiving love, therefore, the theology of the body applies to you. You do not need to have a theology degree. All you need is to have an open heart and mind to the messages contained in the theology.

All aspects in the theology are based on the words of Jesus of Nazareth. He then shows us the meaning of our lives through his very existence and his reference to the beginning of time. We exist on purpose – we are not accidents of nature. Give yourself time to journey through the theology that St Pope John Paul II spent years writing. It is a great resource for assisting all people to a deeper understanding of who we are. With this theology we say, “*I am, therefore I think*”.



Eva Tarchichi - My Testimony

I first heard of **Theology the Body** while studying at the Australian Catholic University in 2001. One of my professors briefly mentioned it and I was enthralled. This was the catalyst for my fascination with TOB. I was struck by the idea that the Church has in existence beautiful, open and candid teachings about life, love, sex and marriage. It was at a time in my life (my very early 20s) when I had questions. I wanted facts, answers and opportunities to determine what the truth is. I wanted to make conscious decisions about what was morally right and wrong. I was eager to find inspiration and material of interest relevant to my life and the official Church teachings.

Upon hearing of the Theology of the Body, I researched the term and came upon an American theologian named **Christopher West**. I read that he had made it his life's work to unpack the Theology and make it accessible to the ordinary lay person. Copies of his talks were available and shipped to me.

For the first time in my life I began to understand why the Church teaches what She does on major issues to do with human sexuality (such as contraception, abortion, divorce and homosexuality) and why these have not changed "with the times." A wonderful aspect of Theology of the Body is that it is a non-judgmental and inclusive of all persons – a closer picture of how I believe the original and authentic Jesus would have been. The unfortunate thing about my internal discovery was that no one else around me knew anything about it. This limited my discussions at a time when I was so excited about discovering it myself.

Seven-and-a-half years passed before I heard about the Theology of the Body or Christopher West again. One day while discussing with my parish youth group which World Youth Day 2008 events to attend, I saw that Christopher was giving three talks across Sydney. I was fortunate enough to attend two of the talks with more than three thousand people. My interest in TOB was reignited! However, apart from obtaining more CDs and books, I felt the absence of a close avenue to pursue more learning and relationships in this area.

Thankfully, more Australians were introduced to Theology of the Body through World Youth Day 2008 and I was able to join a group that was travelling all the way to United States to attend the first instalment of the Certification Program; TOB 1 "Head and Heart" Immersion Course. Altogether, there were 92 participants from Ireland, Canada, Mexico and different parts of the US. Together we unpacked and explored the approximately 500 pages of inspiring, life enhancing work of St Pope John Paul II in 30 hours.

Christopher incorporated cultural references from

music and film into each of our sessions. Our course also had a concert with two recording artists who write music inspired by TOB, a talent night and great table discussions. All of this mixed in with plenty of time for individual prayer, Mass, confession and adoration, I had found the opportunity I was looking for to discuss and learn more about TOB with other people who were as eager as myself.

These experiences allowed my soul to dance and my passion for life to reinvigorate. I journeyed to the U.S. for the five-day conference to gain a greater and deeper understanding of Theology of the Body from a world-renowned expert in this field and to allow Christ to enter and ignite my heart. It is very easy to learn facts and memorise the accepted responses to various dilemmas, but how many times in our busy lives do we take the time to allow truths to penetrate our hearts and invite a change for the better?

The connection of the mind and heart, facing painful wounds and allowing healing to take place was what I was searching for. In thirty hours, we explored just about every aspect of Catholicism in a perspective that I had never encountered before. We focused on the different types of love and the versions offered in our world. We learned more about the fundamental place of Mary in our faith. We encountered forgiveness in a truly authentic way, and we came to value the vocations of the religious and the celibate life as inspirational rather than a deficit.

It was inevitable that by seeing vulnerability and raw emotion in each other true friendships with others were forged. This enabled me to have a deeper awareness and the appreciation that we are all truly companions on the journey of life.

Since my first Immersion course in 2009, I have been giving talks to members of the public as well as sharing my faith with friends and family. Across Sydney, more people are aware of this major work and forums around the theology are growing. In other parts of the world, TOB is spreading at an increasing rate. This theology is very comprehensive and will need some time to be unpacked.

It is my hope that the Theology of the Body will inform marriage preparation programs, marriage counselling and general education opportunities especially regarding choice in a healthy sexuality. This theology is not only for married people. It is for anyone who searches for truth, for the meaning of their life and answers regarding the reasons why certain beliefs are valued.

Find out more! You will never see the world the same way again.

For the first time in my life I began to understand why the Church teaches what She does on major issues to do with human sexuality

Daily Prayer Calendar for September

- Charity and Not for Profit Welfare

(Compiled by Bjorn Schmid)

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good and His mercy endures forever. Intercede before the throne of grace of our Lord - the Giver of Life, the Lord of the Harvest

Day in September

Prayer Support

- 1 Pray that God calls many to intercede for His people to serve those with physical, emotional and spiritual needs in the community
Job 30:25 Have I not wept for those in trouble? Has not my soul grieved for the poor?
- 2 Pray that those called to pray will respond and be faithful in prayer
1 Thessalonians 5:16-28 Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
- 3 Pray that the physical, mental and spiritual health of intercessors will be strengthened so that they do not become weary or despondent
Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.
- 4 Pray for spiritual wholeness and holiness in those called for intercession, so that the enemy will be prevented from diverting and deceiving intercessors
Ephesians 5:10,11 Try to find out what would please the Lord; take no part in the barren deeds of darkness, but show them up for what they are.

Births and Calling

- 5 Pray that God will bestow the heart of service into more people even as He forms them in their mothers' wombs so that all their lives they are drawn to help others in need
Psalms 139:13-14 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
- 6 Pray that God will bestow gifts of wisdom and discernment on people called for service so that they wisely use resources entrusted to them
Luke 2:40 And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.
- 7 Pray that those called of God for service will be protected and nurtured in Godly ways through their childhood and youth
1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil.
- 8 Pray that the called for service will encounter and be inspired by the right people during their developing years and be given the opportunities to serve
Colossians 3:16-17 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or

deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- 9 Pray that the enemy's purpose to steal, kill and destroy the chosen of God be thwarted and turned to God's glory; that children are born and raised to serve God rather than be aborted, abused or deceived away from their calling.
Psalms 91
- 10 Research and pray for **local charities and welfare groups** in your suburb or local government area.
Partners and Family
- 11 Pray that families will be held together in God's word and grace and protected from deception and mistrust from without
Matt 7:18-20 A good tree cannot bear worthless fruit, neither can a rotten tree produce fine fruit. Every tree not producing fine fruit gets cut down and thrown into the fire. Really, then, by their fruits you will recognize those men.
- 12 Pray that families will be glad to see their children called for service and support them as they are able
Psalms 37:25-26 I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed.
- 13 Pray that those called for service with a married partner will meet and marry a person who will support and join them in service
Proverbs 31:20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.
- 14 Pray that those called for service and are to remain single will be consoled and compensated in their calling
2 Thess 2:16,17 May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and gave everlasting comfort and good hope by means of undeserved kindness, comfort your hearts and make you firm in every good deed and word.
- Anointing & Commissioning**
- 15 Pray for an increase in commitments by people young and old to share the gospel of Christ through serving communities, in both direct involvement and in administration, and pray for their guidance to the right organisations to prepare them, send them, and support them in their calling
Mark 10:21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. One thing you lack, he said. Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."
- 16 Pray for fervour in those who make these commitments to stick to their promise, to prepare themselves appropriately, and to habitually seek God for guidance in all they do
James 1:22-25 Become doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves with false reasoning. For if anyone is a hearer of the word, and

(continued next page)

Daily Prayer Calendar for Sept. - *Charity and NFPW (...continued)*

not a doer, this one is like a man looking at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself, and off he goes and immediately forgets what sort of man he is. But he who peers into the perfect law that belongs to freedom and who persists in it, this man, because he has become, not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, will be happy in his doing it.

- 17 Pray for spiritual gifts and fruit to be manifested in those who have committed to serve communities; let God be glorified through these graces and may His heart be revealed to those in need
1 Timothy 4:11-14 Command and teach these things. Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. ...Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.
- 18 Pray for those who are serving in the communities now; that they continue to trust in the Lord and that He shows them daily miracles of provision and mercy so that they are encouraged and praise Him
Matthew 6:31-33 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
- 19 Research and pray for **charities and welfare groups in your city** or region/surrounding towns.
Leadership and Mentoring
- 20 Pray for the leadership of welfare and charity organisations; pray for their hearts to always be close to God and his will and wisdom so that they have a maximum impact to reach the needs of communities and glorify God
psalm 23
- 21 Pray for the leaders of missions and branch offices, that they are good custodians of the people and resources under their care, and always reflecting the nature of Christ
Titus 1:7-9 Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.
- 22 Pray that leaders will be or will appoint mentors and coaches to all staff in to encourage them
Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
Legal Passage, Favour and Provision
- 23 Pray for doors to open to let God's people called to

serve the communities, that there are no legal impediments, and that they receive favour from church and civil authorities

Exodus 3:21 And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed.

- 24 Pray for unity between Churches and Christian organisations and the total defeat of competitive attitudes so that the gospel of Christ is unimpeded. Pray for generous hearts in both Christians and those who do not yet believe, to provide all that is needed for organisations and missions to provide their service and to pay their people a reasonable remuneration so that they can sustain themselves and their families
Deuteronomy 15:11 There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be open handed toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.
2 Corinthians 9:7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
- 25 Pray that funding an other resources are being invested in now for future use in welfare and charity missions; pray for protection from theft, misuse and corruption
Deuteronomy 14:28-29 At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns, so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the aliens, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.
- 26 Research and pray for the charities and welfare groups that operate across Australia
Bibles and Teaching Materials
- 27 Pray for the production of quality bibles, discipleship guides, educational and practical self-help materials in all languages that are needed where God is sending His people so that they are able to use and distribute these free to all who will benefit from them
2 Timothy 3:14-17 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
Praise and Thanksgiving
- 28 *Col 3:17 Whatever you are doing, whether you speak or act, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*
- 29 Research and pray for the Australian charities and welfare groups that operate overseas
- 30 *Psalm 145:3-4 Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.*

Next month - October - *Health and Science*



Voice of the Martyrs

Serving the Persecuted Church

Life for Prisoners' Wives

Eban is one of many women in Vietnam whose husbands have been put in prison for their outspokenness and protest about discrimination against Christians. She now has a daily struggle to support her family on her own. But one thing she never regrets, despite her hardships, is her husband's stand for what is right. He is currently serving eight years in prison and won't be released until 2020. How will she, together with her four children, survive?

Eban is a faithful mother and brings the children up carefully in the way of the Lord. Nie, her husband, was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment on 29 October 2012 with the charge of protesting against the government for legal rights for freedom of religion. It is not the first time he has been arrested.

Nie was an evangelist and lay preacher in a church in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. In 2008, he was arrested and imprisoned for six months for his evangelism and for encouraging people to come to church. The government claimed they must give each church member permission to attend, otherwise the meeting would be illegal, but in reality they were seeking a way to silence Nie.

During his imprisonment, they tortured Nie so badly that he became paralysed. Eban described how they would use an electric prod to paralyse his legs, and then strap his hands down and torture his finger tips by beating them constantly. Once, when he was beaten around the head, blood started coming out his ears. Ever since this trauma, Nie has not had the clarity of mind he used to have. It still takes him time to process and respond to conversations.

After his release, Nie was told he could attend church but must not preach. They warned that all his activities would be closely monitored.

Nie is a natural leader. There was discrimination between the Vietnamese people and his own Ede tribal people over their wages. At the rubber plantation where he worked, the Vietnamese employees received \$343 per month, but the Ede tribal people were only paid \$114 for the same work. Nie spoke out against this treatment and the plantation owner reported him to the authorities.

A trumped-up charge was created and Nie was arrested to silence his protest. Eban said, "My husband has the character to stand up for the underdog, even when he knew the authorities would not approve of his protest."

An unforgettable day

The authorities arrived at 4am while Nie was working at the rubber plantation. First, they beat him in front of Eban and the other workers and then they handcuffed him to take him away like a criminal.

Eban cried so much when she saw her husband being taken away, this time to serve eight years in prison.

Working day and night

Each morning, Eban and her son must begin work at 1am harvesting rubber. It is hard work and they earn just \$71 per month. They finish work at 11am, when her son goes to school and Eban looks after the family coffee farm with her nephew until 5pm. Returning home, she feeds the children and barely has enough time for a few short hours of sleep before she has to rise and walk the one-hour journey to the rubber plantation to begin work again.

How does she cope? "I try my best each day," Eban said. "I cannot afford to stop work as I would not know how I could feed and educate my children."

Last November, VOM Australia sponsored Eban on a trip to visit her husband in prison. She shared, "He looked normal, but said he has pain in his legs." She requested medicine for pain relief and some massage oil. Nie's faith is still strong but he prays alone as there are no believers near him in the prison. He has tried to witness to other prisoners but, as yet, none have been converted.

VOM Australia is providing funds so that Eban's small coffee farm can become her main source of income so that she need not work at the rubber plantation or be exploited any more. This will allow her more time with her children and enable her to support her husband's needs in prison. VOMedical will also supply funds for Nie's treatment in prison. **Please pray that their situation will continue to improve through this support.**

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