

# Prayer Strategy for the Spheres of Influence

## November 2016 - Praying for Media and Entertainment



### In this edition

### - focus on Media & Entertainment

From the National Coordinators

#### I Don't Love You Anymore

*"Consider this: in 10,000 years we'll most likely all be in Heaven"* **Bjorn Schmid**

#### 10 Obscure Gospel Moments Most Jesus Films Miss

*"One of the things I value is the way some films highlight aspects of the Gospels that are overlooked—not just by filmmakers, but also by teachers, preachers, and Bible readers."* **Peter T. Chattaway (via Geoff Waugh)**

#### EXCITEMENT IN THE CAMP..... (\*\_\*) !!!!! The Army of Jesus

*"Using social media, I now have a family/army of people – brothers and sisters in Jesus."* **Wendy Anderson**

#### Media and Entertainment - Telling Stories?

*"There is controversy and criticism within Christendom whether a message through media and entertainment observes what humanity is doing or leads humanity in a direction that changes it."* **Michelle Gattellari**

#### Hollywood Prayer Network - November 2016 Newsletters

#### Anti-Pornography Rally in Toowoomba

*"Toowoomba, a city in Queensland, Australia just pledged to be "porn free" this week"* **Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Camm**

#### In Christ, The Perfect Place To Be

*"We spend our days driving to seminars that promise results, doctors who prescribe medications, therapists who provide counsel, and we tune our car radios to stations that offer soothing melodies"* **Jolly Jude**

#### TOOWOOMBA REGIONAL PRAYER NETWORK - Bringing Regions & Nations together

*"From little things- Big things grow"* **Annie Cathcart**

#### Apostolic Truth

*"The Western Church has been taught of the devil to "demand" of God his riches rather than live in the way of true sonly submission"* **John Yates**

#### A Letter from Lebanon

*"Six years ago we were flooded by Syrian and Iraqis refuges, a lot of them accepted the lord Jesus Christ as a Lord and Savior"* **Pastor Fadi Ghosh**

#### Spheres of Media and Entertainment

*"It is fallacious to think that techno media is the main form of effective communication."* **Brian Millgate**

#### The Work is done! "WHY – Us against God?"

*"Aren't we all searching for hope and assurance?"* **Monica Rohrer**

#### Media vs Trump?

*"The Media recently got its own egg blown right back in its face (I'm not taking sides here)."* **Bjorn Schmid**

#### A call to the churches of south eastern Sydney

*These articles 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.*

## From the National Coordinators

Dear friends,

We're almost at the end of another year (by the Roman calendar) and it has passed so quickly. Every day in 2016 we've seen increasing evidence of change, or 'disruption' as the would-be social leaders like to call it. Mostly they are talking about business 'disruption' but there is a moving and shaking going on across the whole planet, stirring people out of their complacency, whether financial, religious or social. Agents of change are everywhere and fear of change is everywhere.

Notwithstanding, no change occurs without God's approval, and he turns everything to good (Rom 8:28, Psa 23, etc.) Christ CARES for us, should we not be the same?

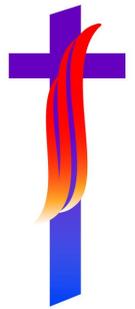
*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. [1 Joh 4:7-12]*

Live His love; be his living letters (2 Cor 3:3) in the world that He loves so much (Joh 3:16), seek out and support your fellow believers (Heb 10:25) and demonstrate the bond of peace (Eph 4:3) to all as a witness of the Truth (Joh 14:6), which is Christ in us, the hope of glory (Col 1:27).

Grace and peace,

Bjorn Schmid, Public Officer for Transforming Sydney

[prayerstrategy.org](http://prayerstrategy.org) [businesswomenhealingministry.org](http://businesswomenhealingministry.org) [transformingsydney.org](http://transformingsydney.org)



TRANSFORMING  
SYDNEY



## I Don't Love You Anymore

This is a topic I never thought I'd have to write about to the Body of Christ.

First I'd like to ensure we're on the same page by starting with the Apostles' Creed:

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit;  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven;  
He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.*

Whoever says 'I believe' says 'I pledge myself to what we believe'. Communion in faith needs a common language of faith, normative for all and uniting all in the same confession of faith.

Credo came into existence because the Scriptures were not available as a complete collection for some time in the early church, and largely illiterate populations had to depend on oral summaries of material that they could commit to memory. The earliest example of this, the Apostles' Creed and later creeds (such as the Nicene Creed) have always been very helpful to Christians; they do four things for us:

- Gives us a short and easy to remember way of saying what we believe when we are baptised.
- Praises God for giving us faith to believe what He teaches about Himself in the Bible. When Christians recite the Creed together, they're also celebrating the fact that God has made us one, uniting us in a common faith.
- Gives us a quick and handy tape measure to see if ideas and beliefs are Christian, so the people of God don't end up falling for ideas invented by people.
- Gives Christians who know the Creed by memory, a way to remind themselves of all the great things God has done for them.

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## I Don't Love You Anymore (...continued)

OK, so now we have a common basis of our faith, what of it? Consider the last part: “*the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.*” This means we are eternal. Yes please, really, take this in: WE ARE ETERNAL. If you read or watch stories that include elves and other fanciful beings they are often portrayed as undying (except by mishap or violence) whereas humans are considered mortal. This is actually a lie as God created us to be eternal. No I'm not ignoring the fact that our physical bodies die.

*For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. [1 Cor 15:53]*

What I'm trying to frame clearly is that our innermost selves are eternal, and our attitude to God and how we treat one another determines how we will be judged before the throne of God:

*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. [Gal 6:7-10]*

“...let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers” says the Apostle Paul, and he has defined something very specific about them earlier in this Letter:

*So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. [Gal 3:26-28]*

“...neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one ”

Now I want to ask you a question: you say you believe in God and Jesus and that “*He will come again to judge the living and the dead*”, so could you say to your spouse “*I don't love you anymore and I want a divorce*”?

There is a pattern of behaviour emerging with a number of women in particular but also some men in the Body where their spouses have said exactly that and are going off with another person, or at least going their own way. All these couples are Christians and many have respected positions of leadership, and yet they decide one day that they can just walk out of a covenant relationship as if it were job they don't like.

Consider this: in 10 thousand years we'll most likely all be in Heaven and there these 'divorced' people will be meeting each other and praising God together and whatever amazing things God has for us. Or will they just avoid each other for eternity? Would Jesus do that?

*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. [1 Joh 4:7-8]*

When I met Lilian my wife, I chose her to be my wife. In spite of the fact that we had a number of differences including cultural and language issues, we determined that we would make our lives together. We've had some pretty severe downs as well as some wonderful ups, but we always knew that we are not alone in our marriage: Christ is always there, and we have our son - another eternal being - also.

*Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” [Heb 13:4-5]*

Marriage is already under massive attack by the enemy's schemes, we do not have to help by being unfaithful to our covenant vows. Instead we need to set an example to the world of what faithfulness under adversity is, and seek God's face when we're really struggling. No, marriage is not easy - read Hosea and what God asked him to accept from his faithless wife, but God rewards faithfulness and unfaithfulness in kind. Marriage is sacrifice of much of our wants and desires; this builds character and maturity, especially in a Christian marriage. Since all is His, your marriage is God's marriage also. Guys if you are frustrated with your wives, read Ephesians 5:25 and 'carry your cross'!

I can recall so many elderly couples I've known who have grown old together and now passed on to eternity. The love they had for each other still beams out like a beacon into their circle of friends and family. All had problems at different times in their lives together, but they persevered with love and bore lasting fruit. Many testified of how God changed their spouse's heart as only God can do.

Of course there are exceptional circumstances where temporary or permanent separation is required (e.g. violence ), but the aggrieved spouse should pray and trust in the Lord to involve and resolve - He will.

See you later, eternal friends! Bjorn Schmid



## 10 Obscure Gospel Moments Most Jesus Films Miss

A look at commonly neglected gospel stories and films that depict them. By Peter T. Chattaway/ February 22, 2016 - adapted from *Christianity Today (CT)* by Dr. Geoff Waugh, *Renewal Journal* - [renewaljournal.wordpress.com](http://renewaljournal.wordpress.com)

Ten years ago, I compiled a list of my ten favorite Jesus movies for CT. Several new Jesus films have released since then, with more coming out this year: *Risen* (February 19), *The Young Messiah* (March 11), and a new version of *Ben-Hur* (August 12). But I've never felt a need to update the list. The original still holds up pretty well, I believe.

That said, while none of the newer films have nudged their way into my all-time top ten, some of them have highlighted aspects of the Gospels that most other films miss. Indeed, one of the things I value more and more, as I study this genre, is the way some films highlight aspects of the Gospels that are often overlooked—not just by other filmmakers, but also by teachers, preachers, and other Bible readers.



Haaz Sleiman in 'Killing Jesus' (2015)

So I wanted to supplement my earlier list with a newer, more particular list of ten stories that usually get ignored by Jesus movies—and the (often obscure, sometimes edgier) films that have actually dramatized those stories. Here they are, in more or less biographical order.

### 1. The Circumcision of Jesus

On the eighth day of Christmas, Mary and Joseph had Jesus circumcised, just as all Jewish boys are (Luke 2:21). This event is significant because it underscores the humanity of Jesus. Art historian Leo Steinberg has shown that many Renaissance artists drew attention to the genitalia of the baby Jesus to emphasize the fact that God had become human even to the point of having physical gender. Not only that, this event highlights Jesus' vulnerability. Some theologians have argued that this was the first time Jesus shed blood. So, in some sense, it marked the beginning of his sacrifice for our redemption. Finally, it underscores Jesus' Jewishness.

The best-known film to depict this event is probably Franco Zeffirelli's *Jesus of Nazareth* (1977), which makes a special point of emphasizing the Jewish rituals that Joseph and Mary would have followed and that Jesus would have been raised with. The man who performs the circumcision even declares that "this is the seal in flesh of the covenant between the Lord and his people," which neatly sums up all three of the theological points I mentioned above. Zeffirelli's film receives extra points for combining this story with another story that is often overlooked: Jesus' consecration at the Temple (Luke 2:22–35), which would have happened over a month later.

More recently, a Palestinian film called *The Savior* (2013) also depicted the circumcision of Jesus. (Though it doesn't show the actual procedure, it includes a close-up of the foreskin being dropped into a bowl!) Notably, this film was produced in a part of the world where circumcision is fairly common not only among Jews and Muslims, but among Christians, too.

### 2. The Brothers and Sisters of Jesus

The Gospels tell us that Jesus had four brothers and an unspecified number of sisters (Matt. 12:46–50; 13:55–56; Mark 3:31–35; 6:3; Luke 8:19–21; John 2:12). The Gospels also tell us that the brothers of Jesus did not believe in him during his ministry (John 7:2–10). However, the rest of the New Testament indicates that his brothers became active participants and leaders in the early church (Acts 1:14; 12:17; 15:13–21; 21:18; 1 Cor. 9:5; Gal. 2:11–13). Two of them, James and Jude, even lent their names to two of the canonical epistles.

Few films about the life of Jesus, however, have depicted his siblings—possibly because doing so would require the filmmakers to choose between the dominant Protestant, Orthodox, and Catholic traditions, which disagree on whether these siblings were the half-brothers of Jesus (i.e., the children of Mary and Joseph), the step-brothers of Jesus (i.e., the children of Joseph from a previous marriage), or the cousins of Jesus.

There are at least three key exceptions, though. *Color of the Cross* (2006), which depicts Jesus and his family as black, features the brothers and sisters of Jesus in several scenes—as well as their father Joseph, who, unlike the Joseph of most other films, is still alive during Jesus' ministry. *Killing Jesus* (2015), which may be the first English-language film to cast a Middle Eastern actor as Jesus, makes James a key supporting character. When I visited the film's set in Morocco, I noticed that one of the costumes had a tag that said "Girl (Jesus' Sister)." This apparently refers to a girl who is seen hugging Jesus in one shot, though she has no dialogue. Further, *The Young Messiah* (2016), which comes out in March, shows Jesus and his parents traveling from Egypt to Judea in the company of his uncle, aunt, and male and female cousins.

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## 10 Obscure Gospel Moments Most Jesus Films Miss (...continued)

### 3. The Exorcism of Mary Magdalene

Many people believe Mary Magdalene was a prostitute before she joined the Jesus movement, but there is no basis for that in the Gospels. What the Gospels *do* say is that Jesus cast seven demons out of her (Luke 8:2). But this fact about her life has been ignored by most films about Jesus.

At least two major films depict her exorcism, though. Alas, one of them—*The King of Kings* (1927), a silent film directed by Cecil B. DeMille—depicts her as a prostitute too. And not just any; rather, a wealthy courtesan. When Jesus casts the seven demons out of her, they are identified with the Seven Deadly Sins. And the first sin to come out of Mary is Lust. But at least the exorcism is depicted.

Much better is the exorcism scene in *The Miracle Maker* (2000), an animated film that uses stop-motion puppets to signify the objective world—and hand-drawn animation to signify memories, visions, and states of mind. When Jesus casts the demons out of Mary in this film, the sequence begins as a seriously strange set of distorted hand-drawn images that eventually stabilize as the film moves through several styles of hand-drawn animation before fading back to the stop-motion puppets.

The History Channel miniseries *The Bible* (2013) almost had a scene that depicted Mary's exorcism, too, but it was deleted before the series aired. Part of it did, however, surface in a TV special called *The Women of the Bible* (2014) that aired on the Lifetime network.

### 4. Joanna, Whose Husband Worked for Herod Antipas

Luke mentions that Mary Magdalene was one of several female patrons who traveled from town to town with Jesus and the apostles. He also mentions that Joanna, one of these patrons, was married to the manager of Herod's household (Luke 8:3).

This detail is fascinating, because Jesus and Herod did not exactly get along with each other. One would think that some dramatist might have picked up on this detail and done something with it. But until last year, none had. And then, suddenly, only a few weeks apart, Joanna popped up as a character in two TV productions that were both particularly concerned with the political implications of the Jesus movement.

In *Killing Jesus*, Joanna overhears a threat made against Jesus in Herod's palace, and she tries to send him a warning. In *A.D. The Bible Continues* (2015), however, her Christian connections are discovered during the events of the Book of Acts, and she is executed by the Romans. All very fictitious, perhaps, but it's exciting to see screenwriters thinking beyond the standard 12 disciples as they flesh out the Jesus movement.

### 5. The Syro-Phoenician Woman

This is one of the more perplexing stories in the Gospels, as Jesus not only rejects a foreign woman's request to heal her daughter, but he seems to insult them, too, when he says, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs" (Matt. 15:21–28; Mark 7:24–30). "Children" in this case refers to the Israelites, and "dogs" refers to Gentiles like this woman).

The woman's reply—"Yes it is, Lord. Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table"—prompts Jesus to heal her daughter after all. Did Jesus always intend to heal the daughter? Was he just testing the mother's faith? Or did he actually change his mind? Since most films have omitted this story, they have never had to answer those questions.

One miniseries, however, does tackle this story. *Jesus* (1999), produced as part of The Bible Collection series, emphasizes the humanity of Jesus and uses this scene to show that Jesus changing his mind. And when the disciples protest, Jesus replies, "This woman has taught me that my message is for the Gentiles, as well. If I can learn, so can you."

### 6. The Ungrateful Lepers

Most Jesus films tend to flatter their audiences by showing how awestruck everyone was whenever Jesus performed a healing. Surely, we think, we would have been just as moved as they were. But the story of the ungrateful lepers—Jesus healed ten of them, and only one came back to thank him (Luke 17:11–19)—reminds us that some people were not so awestruck, or even particularly thankful.



*James the Just (far left) is standing next to Mary at the cross in this image from 'Killing Jesus.'*

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## 10 Obscure Gospel Moments Most Jesus Films Miss (...continued)

Perhaps the only major film that even alludes to this story is the Monty Python comedy *Life of Brian* (1979), in which an “ex-leper” begs for alms and complains that Jesus took away his “livelihood.” When Brian finally says, “There’s no pleasing some people,” the ex-leper—who, based on the way he hops and skips and flexes his arms, is clearly enjoying the use of his restored limbs—replies, “That’s just what Jesus said!”

### 7. The Coin in the Fish’s Mouth

One of the odder miracles in the Gospels concerns a tax that Jesus and his disciples were supposed to pay for the upkeep of the Temple. Jesus suggests to his disciples that, as the Son of God, he should be exempt from this tax, but, “so that we may not cause offense,” he tells Peter to pay the tax using a four-drachma coin that he will find in a fish’s mouth (Matt. 17:24–27).

DeMille’s *The King of Kings* may be the only major film to show this miracle, and it combines the story with the calling of the tax collector Matthew and with Jesus’ teaching that people should “render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s.” DeMille also gets some comedy out of the story by having two soldiers try to replicate the miracle. When one of them catches his own fish, he shakes it next to his ears, hoping to hear the rattling of coins.

### 8. The Plot to Kill Lazarus

The resurrection of Lazarus is one of the most famous miracles in the entire Bible and has been depicted in many films. But many people overlook the fact that the chief priests tried to have Lazarus killed, because his sudden fame was drawing too much attention to Jesus (John 12:9–11).

John doesn’t say whether the conspiracy succeeded, but at least two films—*The Last Temptation of Christ* (1988) and *Jesus, the Spirit of God* (2007), an Iranian film that tells the story of Jesus from a Muslim perspective—actually show Lazarus being killed, by Zealots in one case and by the priests in the other. And in both films, the man who delivers the fatal blow is Saul, the early persecutor of the church who eventually became the Christian missionary Paul.

### 9. The Two Sons of Simon of Cyrene

Three of the Gospels mention that a man named Simon of Cyrene was forced to carry the cross for Jesus. But only Mark’s gospel mentions that Simon was “the father of Alexander and Rufus” (15:21). Why does Mark, and not the other Gospels, tell us this? Tradition says Mark wrote his Gospel in Rome, and Paul’s letter to the Romans includes a greeting for a man named Rufus, whose mother was like a mother to Paul (Rom. 16:13). Is this the same Rufus mentioned in Mark? Was Mark reminding his readers that one of their own friends was the son of someone who had witnessed the Crucifixion for himself?

We don’t know, but it’s fun to speculate. And two films—the silent *King of Kings* and *The Passion of the Christ* (2004)—seem to make a nod to this passage by introducing Simon in the company of one of his sons before the Romans force him to carry the cross.

### 10. The Doubts of Resurrection Eyewitnesses

Many Christians have wished that they could see the resurrected Jesus for themselves, and many have taken to heart what Jesus told the apostle Thomas: “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (John 20:29). But what if actually seeing Jesus didn’t resolve one’s doubts? What if people still struggled to believe even then?

Many films have skipped the Resurrection entirely, and many others have given it only cursory treatment. So it’s not surprising that few films have explored Matthew 28:17, an enigmatic passage: “When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.” But one or two come to mind.

The miniseries *A.D. Anno Domini* (1985) hints at what this passage is getting at when Thomas is reluctant to believe in the Resurrection even after Jesus appears to him and all the other disciples (“He died on a cross,” says Thomas, using the third person even though he is looking right at Jesus). It is only after Thomas touches the wounds of Jesus that he fully believes. Similarly, the film *Risen* features a non-disciple who witnesses the risen Christ and wrestles with whether to accept what he has seen.



*‘Life of Brian’*



*Joseph Fiennes in ‘Risen’*

## EXCITEMENT IN THE CAMP..... (\*\_\*) !!!!! The Army of Jesus.

Hello dear brothers and sisters, in the tradition of Apostle Paul writing to the churches.

My experience/adventure with Jesus has been like a rollercoaster ride.

Out of **love, obedience, and trust** I started writing a book called “The Jesus Experience” with the help of The Holy Spirit and Jesus.

Through social media the book has gone right across the world, Asia, Europe, Netherlands, Scandinavia, UK, Africa, Australia, Carribean, Malta, South America, Phillipines, Middle East, Soviet, and the USA. I will be interviewed by “The Holy Spirit Broadcasting Network” in the USA, shortly.

Using social media, I now have a family/army of people – brothers and sisters in Jesus. Through these relationships, I have sisters and brothers who I have kept in contact with; we are sharing in each other’s ministries through prayer as lead by The Holy Spirit.

Through social media, The Holy Spirit has been bringing people to me with a range of different needs to be ministered too; through them reading the book and I have been able to encourage them. The Holy Spirit works through me.

Another example of through social media, the Holy Spirit made the divine connection of two Myanmar pastors and later, long story short...Father said they were to come to New Zealand and we would work together in the Burmese community. With another brother pastor leading the NZ end; also a Divine connection. This is still to happen in Fathers time and provision; but what a blessing. Please pray for this and all involved – Fathers will be done, in Jesus name. (What Father says, He does – I not only know this and believe it, He has done it, time and again.)

Also through social media again, the Holy Spirit made another divine connection in Nepal, this time. From this pastor and one from Myanmar resulted in, their children drawing me pictures for the first children’s book; Jesus said to write. It is called “The Lion of Judah” - not published yet, waiting in the wings for Fathers direction.

My last example for now; is that through “The Jesus Experience” book, again via social media, Father has placed an Army of sisters and brothers around me. It was them from across the world, who were praying for a Prayer Meeting, that Father told me to hold for the whole town and region of the West Coast in New Zealand. Father said to go to the entrance (spiritual gates) of the major town, Greymouth, and to bless it and to pray The Lord’s Prayer over it.

By the way my name is Wendy May Anderson nee Dwyer. I live in Runanga on the West Coast of the South Island in the Rain Forest Region of New Zealand with my husband John. We have two adult children and two grandchildren.

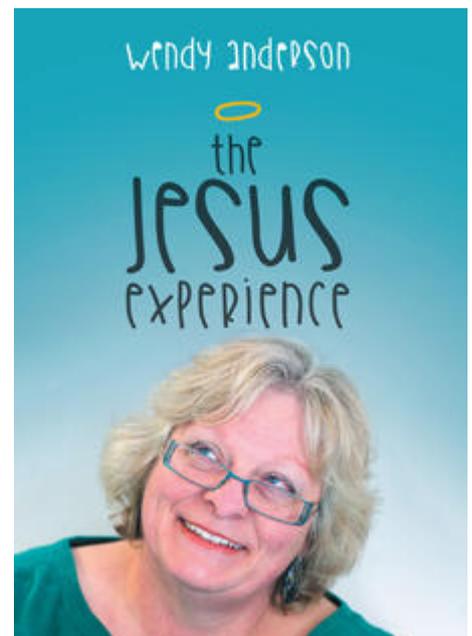
I met Jesus when I was a 15 years old and have kept meeting Him ever since. In my life, had it not been for Father, Jesus and The Holy Spirit, I would not be here. I am speaking out of experience, not theology.

Thank you Father for the privilege of serving you– all the glory to you. Thank you Jesus. Thank you Holy Spirit for helping me.

With love,  
Wendy

Colossians 1:27

**My gift to you is the ebook copy of “The Jesus Experience” from this free download link. Just scroll down till you see the button.**  
**<https://wendyanderson.live/>**



## Media and Entertainment - Telling Stories?

By Michelle Gattellari, Snr. Co-Pastor Bringelly Vineyard Church, Writer: Everlast Films Pty. Ltd. - JP 119771

Storytelling has been a mode of communication and the passing on of information from generation to generation. It has developed in many forms over time, with its fundamental intention to reveal the elements of a message using the various forms of vocalization, imagery and movement directed at an audience with the intent and reliance on an interactive reaction from them.

The bible and other fundamental messages are flooded with storytelling imagery which move, provoke and stir people into action. The spheres of media and entertainment are so broad in today's dynamic overflow of society, so I will briefly put forward some hopefully inspiring views to get "the juices flowing".

In this time frame the spheres of media and entertainment have been a tool to pass on the "good" message, yet, at times, there is still great controversy and criticism within Christendom over this topic determining whether a message through media and entertainment observes what humanity is doing or whether it leads humanity in a direction that changes it.

Certainly my experience is that both are true. The challenge for believers is can we still find God speaking through any story that is being presented and what is the message that the story is providing?

I won't cover the all modes and various strategies of media and entertainment in this article but I will share a point of view in relation to film that may help with regaining the depth of passion for sharing the story of good news (in all its facets) in a way that may help troubleshoot and contextualize the framework of the use of media and entertainment.

There undoubtedly are dangers as in everything today which lead to deception and selfish improvisation reminding me of what was spoken by Paul to Timothy: 2Timothy 4:3 - *For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.*

There are many good messages in Christian and Christian themed films however, I want to discuss and use an example from the secular line of the film industry and challenge our thought process.

An article at ChristianAnswers.net as adapted by Films for Christ ([christiananswers.net/q-eden/edn-f010.html](http://christiananswers.net/q-eden/edn-f010.html)) states in relation to entertainment through film and television:

"Dick Rolfe, movie and television specialist and head of the Dove Foundation (an organization which identifies movies and videos meeting family standards), remarks "...when you spend that much time watching something, you have just developed new role models and a new window on life. And I think that's the destructive value of some television and movies... [viewers] get the wrong impression and a distorted view of what life is really like. Dr. Ted Baehr of the Christian-based "Movie Guide" comments, "It certainly is causing us to have a society that's being corrupted and cancerously destroyed in terms of its moral values."

True as it may be, this should not negate the fact that there is opportunity of sharing a message through the varying forms of media and entertainment both from the storytellers' perspective and that of the believer as a part of the audience to share a message that can speak into the lives of others.

An example of this is a time when my friend and I went along to see *Knowing* a film by Alex Proyas starring Nicholas Cage – now some Christian reviews remark, amongst other things, that this film offensive in its moral rating and that it poses great philosophical and theological questions suggesting that the director continues his trend with a heavy dose of new age mystic-pantheism and Von Däniken's claims on extraterrestrial influences. (Reviewed by David Criswell, Ph.D., [christiananswers.net/spotlight/movies/2009/knowing2009.html](http://christiananswers.net/spotlight/movies/2009/knowing2009.html))

Wow – that would put you off right! I'd like you to consider my analogy which I will share with you, through my "story" of what I saw and got out of that film?

During the film, I said to my friend, "gosh this is familiar, I know this story". I am sure this is from the book of Ezekiel. After the film I was almost salivating with joy at the detailed descriptiveness of a story shared by our forefathers of one of my favour prophets. I couldn't wait for the car ride home to share the parallel of this story. The similarity of the coded numbers leading to a message was like the scroll that Ezekiel had that was bitter sweet to swallow and that he had to pass those predictions (prophecies) of destruction on to the people – his task as a watchman and to warn (Ezek 3, 33) – there is also clear description in the film of the supernatural beings and the metal glowing in metal that they travelled in all well



(continued next page)

## Media and Entertainment - Telling Stories? (...continued)

depicted in the film (Ezek 1) – further on Ezekiel's prophecy to mankind is destruction by fire which is also in the film. (Ezek 28,39) Along the way there is reconciliation and last hope of a new earth revealing the tree of life (Rev 21).

I bought a copy of the film and watched it over and over even to find the image of Ezekiel 1 in screenshot and the use of Ezekiel Films at the end which confirmed it to me that whilst there is much criticism those whose eyes are open can see – for me as a believe it was a great message and of course the danger is that if you are not au fait with the book of Ezekiel you may think it was about aliens.



Taking this film as an example, the concern I saw in this type of Christian critiquing of media and entertainment is its view from a surface level (which I understand most initially think from) rather than the actual message which God can use to convey a message/story through us to others. Even if you were not familiar with the story/message in Ezekiel there is still opportunity to share a message in parable form with dialogue to help others, at their level which in this instance using this film, represented transformation, growth and struggle into understanding something unexplainable that was more than humanity with reconciliation and a promise of hope.

What message does that sound like to you? Could you compare the Kingdom of God or the love of Christ and His salvation via a parable / parallel message from the sphere of media and entertainment in something you have seen, heard or read about to someone who wanted clarification, understanding or hope?

I have myself of many occasions used analogies from film or stories I have read and or viewed unpacking and being able to bring to the table a deeper understanding of examples of say, the battle of good and evil, love and reconciliation etc., to help get a message across to those needing clarity in an area.

A scripture comes to mind when Jesus was speaking to a lawyer who wanted clarification to inherit eternal life. He wanted the understanding of interpreting what is written of whom he should love and who was his neighbour in the parable of the Good Samaritan in the Gospel of Luke.

When the lawyer in Luke 10 was hearing Jesus speak about many things and wanted to know how to inherit eternal life and Jesus said to him:

26 And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?"

27 And he answered, "you shall love The Lord Your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." 28 and he said to him, "you have answered correctly; do this and you will live." 29 But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

30 Jesus replied and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. 31 "And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 "Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 "But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, 34 and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 "On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.' 36 "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?"

37 And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

Jesus could have used words "anyone you treat with love" simple right – but to this man he had to picture what that meant – the instruction on "how" for his situation. Jesus gave him a visual example of the difference between being religious and really believing. Of course, this is what a lot of the parables represent, an illustrative story, by which a familiar idea is cast beside an unfamiliar idea in such a way that the comparison helps people to better understand the points or principles.

So can we see the sphere of media and entertainment in a different light as a mode of storytelling but, of course, with great discernment examining everything carefully, holding fast to that which is good (1Thess 5).

My prayer is that we ask God to open our eyes to His understanding of what He requires; sometimes sharing a story over a cup of tea with a neighbour can plant a seed or transform a life.

There is so much more to cover, from understanding our audience – who are we speaking to? What mode and how do we clearly send the message out, by what mode and what is contextually relevant to each area of culture and society?

The list goes on and on but for now I won't.

Blessings, Michelle G.



# Hollywood Prayer Network

## November 2016 Newsletter



Dear HPN members,

We have just experienced one of the most emotional elections in our country's history! We have to keep praying for the people all around us and for those in the media. Let's pray for those who are hurting, angry and scared because of our recent election. Let's pray for our own hearts as well! As Christians, no matter what we believe or stand for politically, may we put Christ first and be Ambassadors of love, peace and encouragement for the people around us – especially to those whom we may not agree with, and especially if we are struggling ourselves! May our love for Jesus and for others be what SHINES in the days to come!

Also, it's THANKSGIVING time! We want to live each day with a heart of Thanksgiving and Thankfulness. Let's thank God for everything He's doing in/through Hollywood and the global entertainment industry. Also, for choosing us to be a part of His work, through our actions, prayers and conversations. Have a joyous Thanksgiving and know that THANKS is a powerful weapon against the enemy!

### Summary:

- HPN had an amazing Prayer Encounter this past Friday night in Hollywood
- Praise Report from Laurie Singer, the Stunt Woman we prayed for last month:
- Praise God for the favor He has given HPN member, producer DeVon Franklin
- Pray for more members to receive and read our monthly prayer emails
- Keep praying for the employees of Dreamworks SKG as new owners take over
- Pray for Director Scott Derrickson, Director of "Dr. Strange"
- Pray for twin brothers Chad & Carey Hayes, writers of "The Conjuring 2"
- Pray for Rich Peluso, head of Affirm Films, the Sony Faith Based division
- Pray that HPN can more effectively reach the Spanish speaking audience
- Pray for the re-launched our HPN Christian Families ministry
- Pray for singer Michael Buble and his 3-year-old son Noah with cancer
- Pray for industry powerhouse producers Harvey & Bob Weinstein
- Pray for Jamie-Lynn Sigler, from The Sopranos, diagnosed with M.S.
- Pray for Tinseltown Ministries, led by Gary and

Judy Swanson

- Pray for Mel Gibson as his newest film HACKSAW RIDGE
- Pray for the family, friends and fans of singer/songwriter Leonard Cohen
- Pray for National Geographic's upcoming cable series MARS
- Would you prayerfully financially support HPN this year?

### Praises:

#### Prayer Encounter Night

HPN had an amazing Prayer Encounter this past Friday night, partnering with 9t5 and the Hollywood 7th Day Adventist Church. It was a powerful evening of personal prayer, worship and reflection as we praise God that He touched everyone who came to participate. Also, we thank Merlinda, Branden and Naomi for making it possible!

#### Answered Prayers for Stunt Woman

Praise report from Laurie Singer, the Stunt Woman we prayed for last month:

"Dear HPN, Thank you so much for all of your prayers!!!! You and all the prayer warriors' prayers are being answered! I was not able to spend more than about 30 minutes- 1 hour out of my hard neck brace before today and today I've been out of it for 7 hours so far!!! PRAISE THE LORD!!!! I'm healing and I know this is coming from the LORD answering your prayers!!!! Thank you so much!!!! I'm excited to see and feel God continue this healing...it looks like it'll be speedy now!!!! Much love! -Laurie"

#### DeVon Franklin's New Studio Deal



Praise God for the favor He has given HPN member and producer DeVon Franklin, who will not compromise in his faith or his work. He has just made a move as an independent producer from Sony to Fox Studios. We ask that you lift up DeVon and his team and ask the Lord to

continually fill him with wisdom, discernment, creativity and joy as he continues producing at his companies new home, Fox!

### Updates:

#### HPN Monthly Newsletter

Pray for more members to receive and read our

(continued next page)

# HPN November 2016 Newsletter (...continued)

monthly prayer emails on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month. We are trying to reach more people so we are sending it on the Third Tuesday of each month – a good day to read emails, says our social media experts! So, pray through it and pass it on to your friends and family. We are seeing miracles and want more people joining us in prayer!

## Dreamworks SKG, Under New Management



Continue to pray for the employees of Dreamworks SKG as they transition into the new leadership of Comcast, who acquired them recently. Many people are losing their jobs and yet the Christians there are gathering, praying and reaching out with love, comfort and hope to their co-workers who don't know if they'll have a job next month or not. Acquisitions are very difficult and we want the Lord to turn this time into good for everyone walking through the fear and insecurity they're experiencing right before the holidays.

### Requests:

#### Pray For Scott Derrickson

Pray for Director Scott Derrickson, who is being bold in his faith in interviews about "Dr. Strange". Please, ask the Lord to continue to use Scott, his life, his work and his family for eternal good during this high visible time with his very successful film.



#### Pray For Chad and Carey Hayes



Pray for twin brothers Chad and Carey Hayes who have written "The Conjuring 2", a very successful horror film that is still playing in theater's around the world. Chad and Carey grew up Baptist and now consider themselves Messianic Jews. God is very important to them! So, let's pray that they continue to be salt and light, both in our industry and to their fans!

Pray for Rich Peluso, the head of Affirm Films, the Faith Based Film division of Sony Pictures that is producing quality faith based films that are reaching more of the commercial market. Peluso is one of the growing number of Film Executives in Hollywood making higher budget faith based films. Would you pray for Rich and his team, to be wise as they choose upcoming films for Affirm.

#### Pray for Affirm Films

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More Info

## Pray For HPN to Reach Spanish Speakers



Please pray that HPN can more effectively reach the Spanish speaking audience.

We want to encourage the growing global Spanish speaking entertainment community. So, we had our DVD "The Hollywood Community" translated into Spanish. Please pass on this link to everyone you know who would love to be praying with us and for us in Spanish!

## HPN Christian Families Ministry

Christine Smith, the mom of a professional young actor, has re-launched our HPN Christian Families ministry. She is encouraging the parents of young professional actors to gather for encouragement, prayer and guidance as they navigate the muddy waters of minors working in Hollywood. If you would like to check it out or you know a family who can benefit from this email Christine Below:

### Pray for Michael Buble´ and Family



Pray for singer Michael Buble´ and his wife Luisana Lopilato, with the recent news, that their 3-year-old son Noah has Liver cancer. Both Michael and Luisana have decided to place their careers on hold as they

focus on the health of their son. Noah has a younger brother Elias, and we ask that you lift up the whole family in prayer so that the Lord can both heal Noah and bring the family into His loving arms in the process.

### Pray for Harvey & Bob Weinstein

Pray for industry powerhouse producers Harvey and Bob Weinstein whose mom passed away this month. May the Lord use this time to lead these brothers to you as they contemplate life and death. May Christians around Harvey and Bob love them with the love of Jesus, their Messiah.



### Pray For Jamie-Lynn Sigler



Pray for Jamie-Lynn Sigler, from The Sopranos, and her family as she not only deals with M.S., but also as she becomes a more public voice with her disease. She wants to be a strong advocate for M.S. and so may we ask God to give her strength on her journey.

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## HPN November 2016 Newsletter (...continued)

### Pray for Tinseltown Ministries

Pray for Tinseltown Ministries, led by Gary and Judy Swanson. It's an amazing Bible Study that has been meeting weekly with young professionals on two studio lots for the past 6 years. They are currently under intense spiritual battle as some of their members are becoming Christians and Gary asked that we pray for favor, for continued fruit and for more young people to grow spiritually through these Bible Studies.



### Hacksaw Ridge, Directed by Mel Gibson



Pray for Mel Gibson as his newest film HACKSAW RIDGE plays around the world. It is a powerful film but Mel does not have favor in Hollywood, due to past events. At HPN we

believe that we are all flawed humans and that God's grace is sufficient. Let's pray for Mel to feel God's grace, to keep his eyes and heart on Jesus, and that the message of his film can touch the lives of its audiences.

### Lenord Cohen, 82, Passes away

Pray for the family, friends and fans of Canadian singer/songwriter/poet/novelist

Leonard Cohen, best known for his beautiful song "Hallelujah." Leonard passed away last week and we ask that you pray for peace and comfort for all those who have been touched by his life. Below you will find a touching cover featuring Rufus Wainwright and a choir of 1500+ voices.



### National Geographic's MARS



National Geographic's PR firm reached out to HPN asking for prayers for their upcoming cable series MARS, which is a six-part global event series that premiered last night, 11/14. So, we want to definitely pray for the whole team behind this educational series. Would you

lift up the people, the issues and the impact of MARS; ask the Lord to specifically touch the creative minds and hearts of executive producers Brian Grazer and Ron Howard.

### Prayerful Support for HPN, Financially

Would you pray for and with HPN as we ask all of you around the world to support us financially now at the end of 2016! We depend on you to keep us going and you have been so generous in the past 15 years that

we pray for the Lord to do even more this year. Would you prayerfully ask the Lord what you might be able to donate? There are ways to give BELOW. Also, we'll be a part of the Global Day of Giving on November 29th, so we'll be sending you a reminder to give on that day. We thank you SO MUCH for your generous and giving hearts!



*Thank you so much for your prayers, your gifts and your love. We are so thankful for you and look forward to what the Lord has in store for all of us and Hollywood!*

*With love and appreciation,  
Karen, Megan, Veronica and Kim*

For more information and contracts, follow the links at:

<http://hollywoodprayernetwork.org/prayer/monthly-prayer-newsletter/>

## Upcoming Events:

### JOY JAR Drive

HPN is having a JOY JAR Drive on Saturday, Dec. 3rd where anyone in the area can come with some children's toys and we'll pack them up to get to children suffering with cancer. Or you can send in toys yourself. Please join us in blessing these children around the country.

### HPN Prayer Playlist

Don't miss our ongoing HPN PRAYER PLAYLIST where you can pray, along with industry professionals, about anything you might be going through as you pursue a career in the Arts, or if you want to pray for others who are

### Community Calendar

Check out other special and on-going events on our calendar.

### Tip of the Month

Five non-Christian habits that Christians need to learn:

### Quote of the Month

"There is sometimes more about God in a secular painting than in a religious one." Paul Tillich

### Verse of the Month

"If it is a matter of strength, He is mighty! And if it is a matter of justice, who can challenge Him?"

Job 9:19

Easy Ways to Donate to HPN:

**Donate online, or send a check to us at:**

1760 N Gower St, Hollywood, CA 9002



# Anti-Pornography Rally in Toowoomba

From Rev. Dr. Jeffry Camm

This Rally on Tuesday morning has made International News!

## Fight the New Drug – **PORNOGRAPHY!**

[14 October at 04:27]

This breaking story is something we would love to see start happening all over the world ~~~ and you can be a part of it!



### Breaking News: Mayor Gathers Town Together to 'Create A City Free From Porn'

Toowoomba, a city in Queensland, Australia just pledged to be "porn free" this week after an ongoing awareness campaign that led up to a large gathering of towns-people to take this pledge.

The Toowoomba Mayor, Paul Antonio, challenged the church leaders to get behind this cause, so that crime, and other side effects, can be reduced.

The challenge is now out there for every other mayor (and every other church leader) in every other city in Australia to follow suit.

This means to take a stand for righteousness, to take back spiritual territory, to stop the exploitation of women, and to set a tone of witness within the city, that this city/town wants to follow Jesus Christ and His teachings about true agape love, not lust after women, domestic violence and child exploitation.

There is clear evidence that certain parts of the brain are triggered by watching porn, just the same as taking illicit drugs, and it becomes an addiction.

There is also other evidence that where porn is available, domestic violence increases, both in the home and in streets. People who love to make money exploit children. This leads to other sexual crimes, including human trafficking.

So why not join me and the other people who took this pledge and blot out pornography from our nation.

2017 is the year for Transformation in Sydney. It could be the year of Transformation for the whole nation. Remember: **RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTS A NATION!**





## In Christ, The Perfect Place To Be

*Written by Jolly Jude, Australia*

“We are hidden in Christ”

“For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. (Hidden in His Glory)” - Colossians 3:3

We live in a culture desperately seeking relief from the chaos of day- to-day living. Flickering candles, soft music, trickling fountains. Our nightstands are overflowing with magazines and books with step-by-step guides to reducing stress. Yoga classes are filled with people looking for solace in mental relaxation techniques. We spend our days driving to seminars that promise results, doctors who prescribe medications, therapists who provide counsel, and we tune our car radios to stations that offer soothing melodies. Ironically, we’re scrambling to find stillness and missing out on it in the process. Most of us are likely trying to find escape from the busyness of life hoping for a moment of serenity. Yet despite all our efforts (including running from one Christian conference to another) in the quest to find this “place of peace”, our hearts are still raced with thoughts bouncing from one item to another demanding our attention: Husband’s joblessness, issues at work, kids’ education, spiritual dryness & the endless list goes on at speed of light with nothing seeming to help.

Let me take your attention to the PLACE scripture points us to for the fulfilment of all of the above. Scripture says In Colossians 3:3 “Our life is NOW hidden in Christ forever”. This is where we are – In Christ. If we are “hidden,” it implies that someone is looking for us—and someone is always looking for us according to 1 Peter 5:8. It says, “Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour”—to devour our peace, joy & hope. But let me tell you the good news: Satan can’t find us anymore now that we’re hidden in Christ; it

would be like looking for a light bulb in the sun! He can never find us or attack us in this perfect place in Christ for we are CAMOUFLAGED in the Glory of Christ, made totally ONE WITH HIM on the cross. This truth is what the enemy wants to steal from you so that he can bring on insecurity, lack of peace & every fruit of darkness as his sole purpose is to “steal, kill & destroy.”

Dear believer in Christ, always remember you are ROOTED in Christ. You are like the tree rooted in the River of life whose leaves are ALWAYS Green. There is no amount of heat, not even a bushfire that can destroy you or your peace (Jeremiah 17:8).

### **Why do I say this with utter confidence? How hidden are we in Christ?**

Let’s quickly turn to Exodus 33:20-23. This is a conversation between Moses & God. Here Moses is asking God “Show me Your Glory” & God, our good Father, is devising a strategy to fulfil Moses’s desire in such a way that it will not destroy or consume Moses. God said, “You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me & live!” But “Behold, there is a PLACE by Me, and you shall stand there on the ROCK; and it will come about, while My Glory is passing by, that I will put you in the CLEFT of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen.”

When Paul says “you are hidden in Christ”, this is where it comes from. It was the Father who placed us in the Son. At the Cross, the Father placed us all in the cleft of the Rock, which is Christ. There was not one square inch of Jesus’ body that was not ripped open

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## In Christ, The Perfect Place To Be (continued)

by the flogging at the whipping post. He was opened up so the Father could place us in Him forever. We are one Spirit with Him forever (1 Corinthians 6:17)

### How far or how much hidden are we in Christ?

Let's turn to Numbers 21: 8, 9 where God instructs Moses to erect a BRONZE SERPENT. The LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent had bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live" Have you ever thought why God asked Moses to make a Bronze Serpent and not a gold or a silver serpent? Let me give you a short spiel on metallurgy. \*Bronze is an ALLOY of two distinct metals, tin and copper & when MELTED IN FIRE they become one brand new metal called Bronze. Bronze is not a natural resource but an alloy. When the two are melted under extreme temperature, they bond together and become bronze. It is a chemical process that cannot be reversed. Once tin (a rare & precious metal) and copper (a common readily available metal) have become bronze, that bronze remains bronze forever. It is impossible to reverse that process and regain its original elements of tin and copper! As bronze, it is fully tin and as bronze, it is fully copper. It has lost none of its tin-ness or copper-ness, yet it is something brand new, bronze - Fully copper and fully tin, yet wholly bronze and therefore neither tin nor copper, as they previously existed.

In the same way, we all were literally and IRREVERSIBLY MELTED TOGETHER into Christ at the Cross. In the furnace of the wrath of the Father, poured out upon the Son, Jesus allowed Himself to be forever melted into absolute union with all humanity. He in us, and us in Him. The two became one and were irreversibly, forever made one. "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." John 3:14. Eternal Life of Christ in us – Hope of Glory.

### Have you ever thought why God asked Moses to lift up a SNAKE?

Because that is what His Son Jesus looked like when He became fully you & me, bearing all our sins (serpent- the symbol of sin). He was irreversibly one with us in death so that we could be one with Him in His life. He was forever 'melted' into us and we were forever 'melted' into Him. If Jesus fully became a "snake" taking your sin & becoming you on the cross

then in Him, you have become His full righteousness! You are as much righteous in Him as He was sin in you!! "God made him who had no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21) That is the FINISHED work; we are the finished work of the Cross! God looks at you and me and says "Son & daughter, you are ONE with Me- you are the "finished work" of the Cross!

On that cross, IN THAT PLACE OF HIDDENNESS IN CHRIST, He became all of our sins, all of our sickness, all of our anxiety so that we may become all of His righteousness, healing, joy & peace. A divine exchange took place. Jesus said "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His Spirit, says the scripture. He was abandoned so you can be adopted. So don't ever live in rejection anymore. All things that you have been looking for in people, places and circumstances (Love, joy, peace, freedom from guilt & condemnation) is PROVIDED IN THIS PERFECT PLACE IN CHRIST. The enemy cannot steal this from you anymore as you are irreversibly hidden in this Place.

In the revelation of this truth, Abraham, when tested by God to sacrifice Isaac, said "On the mountain of the Lord (Mountain of the cross...IN THIS PLACE OF ONENESS), it will be provided.

It says in Genesis 22: 13, 14, "Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son." So Abraham called THAT PLACE "The Lord Will Provide." And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided." (In Christ- in the wounds of Christ- IN THIS PLACE all your needs WILL BE PROVIDED)

Dear believer, your Christian life is a life of maturing in this irreversible Oneness. Jesus said in His prayers, "The same glory you gave me, I gave them, so they'll be as unified and together as we are—I in them and you in me. Then they'll be MATURE in this Oneness." John 17:23 (The Message)

You are a treasured possession of Christ adopted in His Sonship to live an abundant life in Christ. So don't run around for joy & peace, or look around for love & hope in people, or places or circumstances but just look at this Perfect place in Christ where HE HAS HIDDEN YOU from every snare of the enemy. If you believe the Holy Spirit has touched your heart through this reading then declare with me..."In Christ, the perfect place to be" (Colossians 3:3).

\*snippets from the book Consumed by Love.



## TOOWOOMBA REGIONAL PRAYER NETWORK

*Bringing Regions & Nations together*

*October 2016*

*From little things- Big things grow*

*October TRPN Letter from Annie Cathcart - 20-Oct-2016*



Dear TRPN members.

A few people from the early days of intercession in our city has asked me lately "What happened to the Unity in Toowoomba", there doesn't seem to be as many visible signs today as there was in the old days? I started to think about this, and I realize that this is because most people are busy in their own little corners of the church, and don't see the BIG PICTURE.

I am so priceledged to be involved with so many prayer groups in Toowoomba and our Region that I can almost 'trace the results of that early unity movement', but it is very hard to explain as it has GROWN SO MUCH – AND IT LOOKS DIFFERENT.

As you know Colin Shaw wrote a book called: "A house for His Glory", telling the journey of our city towards UNITY AND TRANSFORMATION in 2006, and that is still available at Toowoomba City Church. I also wrote the intercessors journey in a book called "Answers to prayer through the Toowoomba Prayer Network from 1999-2008. They both record the journey behind us, but in 2008 Toowoomba became a Region, and it was no longer possible to keep track of our journey.

Ian Shelton was the man God gave an assignment in 1994 when the Holy Spirit swept through our country as the 'Charismatic Renewal'. He came to Toowoomba with the dream of God creating ONE CHURCH IN THE CITY, and found a few pastors to join him and pray about that mission.

Over the years that vision grew in an amazing way, and that is what both Coli's and my book will tell you about. In the years between 200-1008 the dream exploded, and we saw the start of the AGMF which became Eastfest and lasted for 17 years, as well as many other amazing ministries.

The Pastors prayer meeting grew, and became a 'City Leaders Network', (CLN) and that became the centre of the activities supported by the intercessors group. Colin Shaw was the leader of this group and relayed the important matters to pray about from the pastors. Meetings.

The pastors of CLN have been on a journey and God had humbled them a lot over the years. They have

held yearly prayer summits since 1996 where they have gone away for 3 days to seek the Lords guidance about the destiny of Toowoomba.

God has sent different people into their group over the years to help with that. Andrew Hoey has particularly had a great impact because he is an intercessor at heart and he has been able to teach the other pastors the importance of the city intercessors role as watchmen of the city. David McDonald also had a great impact on the city when he came and started the prophetic church "On the Edge" which turned into what we now know as Victory life church.

Keep in mind that it was only 20 churches that were involved in the early days, but we tried so hard to make it work and the people in those 20 churches attended most unity events. All of us intercessors were VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT IT, and we followed the journey of the pastors closely through Colin Shaw's reports to us. WE PRAYED INTO ECERY EVENT and stood behind the pastors all the way.

In 2003 the more traditional churches realised the importance of working together so the Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran and Uniting Church people met for 6 connective weeks and discussed their different traditions and other differences. They decided to forget about their differences and work in UNITY ON WHAT THEY HAD IN COMMON. They called their union CHURCHES TOGETHER and a representative was elected to attend the CLN MEETINGS.

Other pastors who were not able to attend the CLN decided to come together in monthly meetings in the different districts of Toowoomba, so the different churches in the Glenvale area started a strong fellowship and worked together on Christmas carols and other events through the year. This also happened in the Highfields and other areas.

Over the 18 years this unity movement have gone on there has naturally had to be a "Changing of the Guards" as some of the original leaders have got older and some have moved away, but the YOUTH HAS REALY CAUGHT IT. The youth leaders from Rangeville, Sallies, Tcc and others put their heads

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## TOOWOOMBA REGIONAL PRAYER NETWORK (...continued)

together and arranged huge youth group gatherings where youth attended from all these churches 4 times a year. They brought in special speakers and some of these gatherings had over 200 young people attending. Nat Sparey from the Base told us at CLN that this generation did not know anything else but UNITY, to them that was the natural way to do church. These gatherings are still happening and giving the next generation a healthy understanding of church.

Many leaders have also risen out of this, and the younger generation is really taking a big part in the leadership of many churches today. Some of the original 'Unity leaders' have now retired and their churches are led by people in their 40ties to 50ties, which is a good sign. They are often mentored by the older pastors and trained in unity.

Of course 'City Women' is the prime example of the results of unity. It all started with Tish Shelton (TCC) and Gretchen from Living Grace church praying together weekly asking the Lord how they could reach out to help the girls in our City. They went to the schools with Red Frogs and from there started the Get Away camps (that we intercessors covered in prayer) and out of that has grown an amazing ministry which now cover 22 different programs all geared on bringing Christ into girls and women's lives. It is all run by volunteers, and the Bella magazine has gone worldwide on line and we have now started another printed edition that has also been sent to many other countries.

This month Tish is speaking to a conference on "How to reach your City for God" in New York, that will be attended by 2.700 people from 91 different nations. She will travel with a company of 10 pastors from Toowoomba and Her father Ian will of course also speak.

Tish has held yearly conferences to teach other ladies how they could start a similar service in their own areas, and there are only 2 requirements. One that it is bathed in prayer and they follow God's leading, and that the people involved are from different churches and WORK TOGETHER IN UNITY. We have lost count of how many other "City Women" have been born out of our Toowoomba group.

The pastors have also made great impact on Toowoomba and the world.

Colin Shaw and Ian Shelton already started to bring the Toowoomba story to other countries in the early days and they are still doing it. Roly Sundergeld has an amazing ministry on THE FATHERS HEART and is running seminars in Toowoomba and other places. Many other healing ministries have been established, as well as Freedom life and the Blake Street healing rooms, and Elijah House. We are living up to our

prophecies about being a CITY OF HEALING.

Edgar Mayer (Living Grace Pastor) who was one of the very strong advocated for unity in the early days and prepared a study for the 20 churches that participated called: "40 Days of UNITY has made a great impact on his own denomination.

Through much united prayer within his church they were visited by the Holy Spirit in an unusual way in 2009. Gold dust appeared on people in all their services, and healing miracles started to happen. They spend one night a week in united prayer for up to 4 hours and sometimes all night prayer, so the Holy Spirit had a good entrance. This led to the Idea of a "JESUS TENT OF THE SUPERNATURAL" in a park, and soon they were invited to areas out of Toowoomba even as far away as Rockhampton.

When the "Highrarchy" of the Lutheran church found out about this they tried to stop him and they fought him for 9 years till they finally had to give him permission to take his teaching about the Holy Spirit INTO the Lutheran church and this month they are having their First Nation vide "Lutheran Renewal Conference" in Adelaide. Edgar has also written 2 books "Surprised by the Holy Spirit" and " Surprised by Miracles" which describe his personal journey as well as the journey of his church.

All the pastors involved in this UNITY MOVE have had their own remarkable journey, and they have GROWN TOGETHER IN A SPECIAL WAY. One of the tools that have proved very powerful has been the PASTORS PRAYER SUMMITS which has been held every year since 1996. They have simply gone away for 3 days with no other agenda but to seek GODS PLAN FOR TOOWOOMBA, and He has certainly shown them step by step and they have BEEN OBEDIENT TO HIS LEADING.

For the last 3 years the aim of CLN has been to bring the SHALOM of Christ to our city, and every congregation is trying to do that in a different way. We have had many seminars about how to get out of our churches to minister in the marketplace and that is HAPPENING IN AN AMAZING WAY.

IT IS HARD TO DEFINE THE RESULTS OF UNITY, but because I have been involved in this journey both as an intercessor and pastor I possibly have a better idea about the BIG PICTURE. The problem is that when we only view unity from our own little corner it does not look good if our church is not involved in any visible way. As I said from the beginning it was only 20 churches that started this, and now NO ONE CAN MEASURE THE RESULTS. God always work with a 'GIDDEONS ARMY', and we are very privileged to be part of that.



## Apostolic Truth

By John Yates - posted 11 October 2016 <http://cross-connect.net.au/apostolic-truth/>

7.11.16

Apostle = one who is sent on a mission

### Personal matters

When Peter describes false teachers as “waterless springs and mists driven by a storm” he means they promise nourishment but produce nothing (2 Pet 2:17). These are our times, times marked by widespread *failure to understand the structure of divine revelation*.

### *Only a revival of genuine apostolic ministry can heal our spiritual impoverishment*

a revival of genuine apostolic ministry can heal our spiritual impoverishment.

Because the teaching we are used to is sub-apostolic it has failed to inspire the Church to mission through disclosing “the unsearchable riches of Christ” (Eph 3:8). Only

### In the Beginning

The first step in God’s plan isn’t creation but an eternal decree concerning “the Lamb slain from *before the foundation of the world*” (Rev 13:8 cf. Eph 1:4; 2 Tim 1:9; 1 Pet 1:19-20). The Father’s decision for Jesus to die is foundational to his making of the world. The Son would steward this plan by being sent into the world as the express image of God revealing the Father of love through the sacrifice of Calvary (John 3:16; Col 1:15).

The second step of the divine plan involves the creation of the first humans.

### A Cause Lost

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion...over all the earth....male and female he created them....”” (Gen 1:26-28).

Adam and Eve were created in the likeness of God and *sent* into the world so that through their descendant’s wise rule over creation the revelation of God’s loving character would fill everything. The fulfilment of this apostolic commission was however dependent upon their obedience to the divine command; ““of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”” (Gen 2:17).

Satan too had a plan for humanity, one that was the mirror image of the LORD’s. By entering into a new form of God-likeness through dominion over

the tree of knowledge, Adam and Eve would receive the revelation of “good and evil” empowering them to live forever. Through believing the devil’s lie fallen humanity lost sight of the revelation of the plan of God (Rom 1:25; 1 Tim 2:14). Instead of seeking the glory of God self-glorification has become the driving force for living (Rom 2:7-8). The root of such self-seeking lies in a denial of divine fatherhood.

### Who Sent You?

Since Adam and Eve were both *sent* into the world to rule over it, and Adam is explicitly called “son of God”, when Satan appeared in Eden he should have immediately been interrogated with the question, “Who sent you, who is your father?” (Gen 1:26-28; Luke 3:38). The devil would have been left

*Instead of living apostolically however they had communion with the snake and took on his likeness*

wordless and it would have been revealed to Adam and Eve that he was speaking on his own authority and seeking his own glory. Living in their authority of being sent by God to exercise dominion over all “creeping things” they could have unified the serpent with God’s plan to rule all things in heaven and earth (Gen 1:26; 3:1).

If this had happened the first couple would have been immediately glorified in knowing the Father through faith in his Word. Instead of living apostolically however they had communion with the snake and took on his likeness as a fallen creature, one who lives for himself, who lives a lie (John 8:44).

Only the coming of the True Son can undo this perversion of the plan of God.

### Eternal Submission

Satan’s attacks on God’s people, like Adam, Job, David and Peter, are designed to prove that humans are as self-seeking as himself (Gen 3; Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6; 1 Chron 21:1; Luke 22:31-32). His “demands” to sort and sift humanity are the very opposite of the humble requests of a true son of God who constantly lives in voluntary submission to the will of his Father. It is Jesus’ obedience as the Lamb of God taking away our sin which reveals that submission to suffering is the essence of S/sonship and the way to reveal the Father

(continued next page)

## Apostolic Truth (...continued)

(John 1:29; 5:6).

Christ's words, "The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood." describe the nature of all spiritual truth (John 7:18). Just as he had in Eden, Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness to seek a glory for himself, rather than for God (Matt 4:1-11). Christ rejected such enticements because his eyes were set on bringing honour to the Father in the way of the cross (John 12:27-32). Through

*Just as he had in Eden, Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness to seek a glory for himself*

*suffering love for the one who sent him* Jesus perfects in himself the revelation of the apostolic truth of the love of God (John 3:16; 14:6; Heb 2:10).

It is now up to the Church to complete this mission for which Christ was sent into the world.

### Reveal the Mystery

Paul describes his apostolic/sent ministry as a stewardship of the mystery of God's plan of revelation (Eph 3:2-3, 9). The purpose of this ministry is "so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places." (3:10). By following in Jesus' way of making known the glory of God through suffering the Church demonstrates to evil powers in the heavenly places that the authentic image of God is pure, good and sincere (1 Tim 1:5). These *powers are defeated as we share in the fellowship of the suffering love of Christ crucified in the cause of the gospel* (Phil 3:10). To be overcome in this way is both the place the demonic realm retains in God's plan and why the Church is pivotal in the revelation of the mystery of the divine purpose. In suffering love the Church manifests a quality of life which

alone is eternal and unfathomable fathomed to any power of evil (Eph 3:8). This is the true greatness of the Church abiding in apostolic truth.

### Conclusion

All contemporary apostolic claims can be tested by the question Adam should have asked in Eden; "Who sent you, who is your Father?" (1 Cor 4:15; Rev 2:2). Since real apostles are "stewards of the mysteries of God" they will testify to the mystery of the plan of God perfected in the suffering of his Son (1 Cor 4:1). Because so few ministries today are genuinely apostolic the Church lacks "mature manhood...the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Acts 20:27; Eph 4:13).

Like popular psychology, eastern meditation and occult understanding *many ministries want to unveil to us the best possible plan for our lives NOW rather than revealing the secret of God's plan for his eternal glory!* No wonder most modern Christians are turned in on themselves and are failing the apostolic commission of being sent into the world (Matt 28:18-20).

*The people of God must repent of the mindset which asks, "Is this the message I have been waiting for?"*

The Western Church has been taught of the devil to "demand" of God his riches rather than live in the way of true sonly submission (Luke 22:31). The people of God must repent of the mindset which asks, "Is this the message I have been waiting for?" It's time to join with Paul in his prayer, "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him," (Eph 1:17).

Those who sincerely pray this way will surely receive apostolic truth.



*Then he continued, "Once there was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the property that will come to me.' So he divided up his property between the two of them. Before very long, the younger son collected all his belongings and went off to a foreign land, where he squandered his wealth in the wildest extravagance. And when he had run through all his money, a terrible famine arose in that country, and he began to feel the pinch. Then he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country who sent him out into the fields to feed the pigs. He got to the point of longing to stuff himself with the food the pigs were eating and not a soul gave him anything. Then he came to his senses and cried aloud, 'Why, dozens of my father's hired men have got more food than they can eat and here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go back to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have done wrong in the sight of Heaven and in your eyes. I don't deserve to be called your son any more. Please take me on as one of your hired men."' "* Luke 15:11-19 (J.B. Phillips)

## A Letter from Lebanon

*The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

*My name is Pastor Fadi Ghosh from Lebanon. Growing up as an orphan in a very traditional church, I always felt there is a missing master for me. I tried yoga, transcendental meditation, new age, I even drowned deep in the incarnation. As a child The Lord Jesus saved me so many times from death from the burning fire, drowning and from the wild dogs' bites, to the point that I even tried to commit suicide. At a certain time in life living in a war zone, terrorists tried to kidnap me as a child.*

*I came to know the Lord Jesus Christ in 1997. I was ordained as a monk for nine years, I studied theology for seven years, and I was a member in the charismatic movement where I was baptized in the Holy Spirit.*

*At the age of 23 I started my ministry at the traditional church where I was preaching only the gospel of the Lord, I planted many Charismatic groups throughout the country, I was preaching 24/7 to Muslims and to different denominations of Christians for 9 years. In 2006 after 9 years of persecution from almost all religions in the country, I was giving the choice by my church either to preach their teaching or drop my ministry for I was only preaching from the bible.*

*Walking faithful with the lord I chose to leave the traditional church and preaching only from the bible and open people's eyes and mind for the truth about the lord Jesus Christ.*

*I joined the Pentecostal church after I accepted their doctrine fully and served the Lord with them. The Lord started using me strongly giving me revelations and using me to do supernatural miracles among sick people and atheists and Muslims. I baptized thousands of Muslims in the Middle East among them Imams and ISIS leaders, and I build up groups that I follow with them in almost all the Middle East and North Africa.*

*Six years ago we were flooded by Syrian and Iraqis refuges, a lot of them accepted the lord Jesus Christ as a Lord and Savior, I used my financial connections in order to help the refuges humbly as much as I can. The Lord Jesus blessed us a lot and he opened up heaven above Lebanon and the Middle East as he promised me in a revelation that he will pour out his spirit above the region soon for the preparation of the bride of the lord Jesus Christ so he will be rapture her soon.*

**Son 4:8** Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse, with me from Lebanon: look from the top of Amana, from the top of Shenir and Hermon, from the lions' dens, from the mountains of the leopards.



(continued next page)



## A Letter from Lebanon (...continued)

**Isa 29:17** *Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest?*

**Isa 29:18** *And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.*

**Isa 29:19** *The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.*

**Isa 29:20** *For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off:*

*Later on in life the lord has called me to serve him as an independent servant and he asked me to plant a new church in Lebanon for the people are so much thirsty to know the lord and his word and God is blessing us tremendously with this ministry. The lord is moving fast with us and bringing the lost sheep to the right place where they should be for the final rapture.*

*For more information you can contact us on this email:*

**Cljcmministries1@gmail.com**

*For more information you can go to our websites:*

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eq64olo-3a0>**

**[www.arabescristianos.com](http://www.arabescristianos.com)**

**[www.pastorfadighosh.webnode.com](http://www.pastorfadighosh.webnode.com)**

*for supporting us feel free to share with us and donate whatever the Lord will guide you to.*

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**2Co 9:7** *Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

*May the Lord Jesus Christ our lord and savior bless you all in all means and shower you abundantly with his precious grace and love. Keep us in your prayers brothers and sisters for we are the body of Christ.*

*Pastor Fadi Ghosh*



# Spheres of Media and Entertainment

By Brian Millgate

It is fallacious to think that techno media is the main form of effective communication.

Emotional, biological and psychological alternatives can have far greater power.

Symbols are an example of this. Symbols are the Media of the Mind.

Symbols are a super concentrated presentation and experience of a message.

Symbols tell a story. Our lives are guided by symbols.

Symbols (such as Flags), can evoke the highest emotional response.

Symbols have been used by humans to dynamically change the world as people then incorporate the message or story in that symbol, into their lives. 

Symbols operate in the subconscious, creating patterns that rule your life choices. They reveal a basic idea, emotion or truth.

Symbols offer a way to... COMMUNICATE WITHOUT WORDS , across cultures, languages, and educational levels.

The symbols that people wear reveal bits of their soul, without the need for conversation.

Well established symbols have become road maps by which we live our lives. They carry the energy that has been assigned to them and they lead us towards particular goals. Many symbols appear simple on the surface yet are overwhelmingly complex.

*Symbols when they are designed into a logo, become an empowering vision that many will live and die for.*

What then would then be a universal symbol that encapsulates the highest aspirations of the human spirit?

A symbol that engenders nobility, a code of honour, justice, respect, fidelity and love... and with power?



Now let's create a logo that **empowers** this dynamic symbol..... of an eagle.....



This logo now contains the Word of God. " **the Word of God is living and active...**" Heb.4:12

Today, we believe that we have found the right kind of symbol, that when it becomes a logo embedded with His power.... it has the potential to .. change the world !

Archimedes echoed these same words when he cried out: " Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it, and I shall change the world

## Our civilisation is under threat.

Nations are in social and political disarray and disunity. Violence, rebellion and terrorism are out of control, with no respect or recognition for authority.

We need a new way forward, a new vision that will cut through this mess, one that will deliver a strategy to combat and defeat this threat.

The eagle is a symbol that represents this stand for all that is just, that everyone will instantly recognise and become united under, and the logo itself, provides divine inspiration, wisdom, healing and power.

What media do we use to instantly convey and market such a complex message, in an attractive everyday package ?

Our vehicle is the creation of a dynamic, inspiring and prestige, CHRISTIAN DESIGNER LABEL.

A very different website has been created as the delivery system

[www.withwingsaseagles.com.au](http://www.withwingsaseagles.com.au)

You will see Australian designs that are unique, creative , motivational and inspiring.

Finally on a humorous note:

I found the reason why God made me. It was to show the world what He can do with nothing!

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.

Brian and Helen Millgate



## The Work is done!

### “WHY – Us against God?”

*This is what can happen in 2 years:*

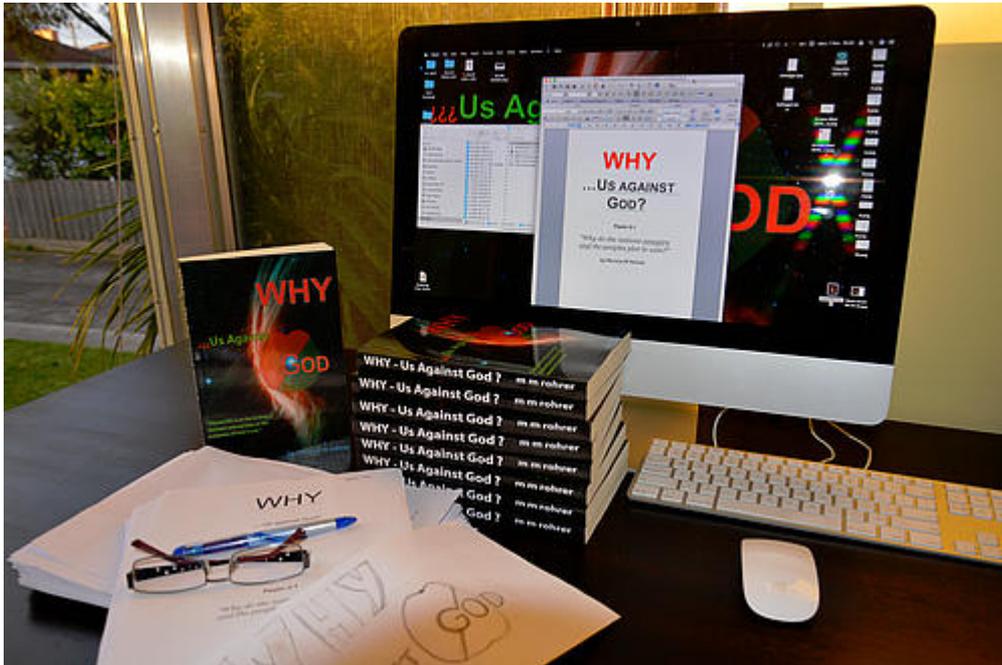
- v God speaks
- v You do
- v He guides
- v ...and then it's done

**Monica Rohrer**

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[www.mmrlifecoaching.com](http://www.mmrlifecoaching.com)



#### **Brief Introduction:**

This book speaks to readers of all ages and walks of life. Every one of us wrestles with questions about life beyond death, creation, purpose of life and the existence of a Creator.

Especially now that we live in such turbulent and uncertain times, the need to know has become even more crucial. Aren't we all searching for hope and assurance?

I truly believe that this is the very reason why God inspired me to write “Why – Us against God?” without any delay. He had already chosen who is going to read this. Throughout the entire process of writing, the lay out and the illustration of the cover and the publishing, I constantly felt the presence of God.

You may already be a follower of Jesus but still have some questions? Perhaps there may be someone in your life who is still looking?

Unlike other books, the chapters can be read in any order so that the readers can make it their very own journey. The chapters and subchapters are well structured and very easy to follow. Each chapter is a question and approaches various aspects of life – with or without God. The personal accounts, insights, poems, colourful analogies as well as Bible quotations and prayers create an easy to read experience.

#### **Where is the Book available?**

##### **Paperback** (ISBN 978-0-9953861-0-5)

- Amazon.com
- Createspace.com
- Barnes& Noble
- AbeBooks.com
- Koorong

##### **eBook** (ISBN 978-0-9953861-1-2)

- Amazon Kindle
- Kobobooks.com
- Koorong (in progress)



## Media vs Trump?

By Bjorn Schmid

*"The most brilliant propagandist technique will yield no success unless one fundamental principle is borne in mind constantly and with unflagging attention. It must confine itself to a few points and repeat them over and over. Here, as so often in this world, persistence is the first and most important requirement for success."*  
from "War Propaganda", in volume 1, chapter 6 of *Mein Kampf* (1925), by Adolf Hitler

A pervasive problem with post-modern mainstream Media is the 'me'-centred mentality. The Media has lost its objectivity in two fundamental ways; the truncation of language and amplifying the loudest radical.

A simple example of this is when protestors are interviewed and instead of the reporter saying 'these people' they will usually say 'people' - *"People are angry with the XXXXXX"*, *"People are demanding that ..."* and so on. This shifts the objective perspective from a narrow representation by a small group of people to a broader representation where a small group of people or even one person aired for a 10 or 20-second slot suddenly becomes the voice of a nation in the style of 'V for Vendetta', merely because they voice an opinion that the media supports in their current set of 'truths', or it is negatively provocative, or at least entertaining.

Consider modern movies coming out of the Hollywood machine today. Many are made with a plot of jumping rapidly from one entertaining event to the next, much like a children's show or exhibit. Others are 'reality-focussed' and prove this by presenting a talk-fest with 'real' people that the makers want us to be like. Monkey see, monkey do.

A more subtle example of language manipulation is the replacement of the covenant terms 'husband' and 'wife' with the contract terminology of 'partner' - a contract can after all be altered or broken whereas a covenant is supposed to be unbreakable. If you repeat something enough times people will accept it, believe it, start saying it themselves, and even defend it because no-one wants to be wrong or unpopular.

Everyone loves the idea of a lone voice crying out for justice (and revenge) against an 'injustice' imposed by a bigger or more powerful entity, the latter often without even caring about the 'damage' that has been done (aka *Hunger Games*?) Everyone has cried in their heart "What about me?" at some point in their lives when they felt left out or ignored. Everyone experiences the temptation to vent their individual frustrations at an 'obvious' source of an 'injustice' because they feel powerless to do anything about their situation - in its extreme form, this can be the breeding ground for terrorism of course. These are normal human reactions and as we mature, we learn how to redirect our reactions into more constructive responses to our emotions.

The post-modern approach though is that of 'I make my own reality' and 'my way is right for me', and the Media appears to have taken this literally. Language and imagery are the primary tools of the Media, and in this 'instant' age where the attention span of listeners and viewers is becoming shorter by all accounts, the Media has adopted a **Headline** attitude to capture their attention as this may be all the audience will read. Alternatively they adopt a "Hey we're stupid like you!" approach to gain identification with the demographic groups they are targeting, resulting in the dumbing down of morning and current affair shows and kids TV.

This of course is in part what has led to the success of 'Social Media'. "I can blow my own trumpet as often and as loud as I like." "I can be my own media influencer and if I get enough followers can earn money from it." "We can advertise products much cheaper using Social Media." The mainstream Media is very afraid of losing the mandate of manipulation of the masses (sorry couldn't resist that alliteration) to the multitude of voices in 'Social Media', and of course the advertising/sponsor money that will dry up with the loss. Thus the Media is spending vast sums of money trying to wrest back the ears and eyes of the population by being more bold and trendy and using 'expert opinions'. At the same time they are slashing large numbers of people out of the industry, centralising their operations (like the shrinking of ABC Country and News Ltd) and replacing them with automated writers (yes that's right; computers writing the news stories and other cost-saving tools, which will eventually include automated/robot presenters and readers (recently trialled in Japan).

So what do we do about restoring objectivity in the Media, 'Truth in Advertising' and quality film making? We pray of course! Prayer does change things, especially when you pray for the truth to be revealed, the plots of the enemy of God to be defeated, and for God to be glorified. Our Lord loves answering these prayers.

*"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."* [1 Tim 2:1-4]

To illustrate this, the Media recently got its own egg blown right back in its face. Just take a look at the 'shocksters' reactions the day after Donald Trump's election as President of the USA (I'm not taking sides here).

(continued next page)

## Media vs Trump? (...continued)

From news.com.au 'Stocks in stunning Trump rebound' 10-Nov-2016



### 8:41am Polls are dead, long live polls

Naeem Aslam, chief market analyst with ThinkForex, has hit the nail on the head. "If there is any one trend which has become acute, it is the one in which the polls have started to mislead the market," he writes. "Going forward, we do not think anyone is going to believe them. There is absolutely no reality check and what makes it more insane is that the markets are making the same mistake over and over again. Markets were hoping for a Clinton victory, but clearly you can only live for so long in cloud cuckoo land."

### 8:48am 'Trump's a man who'll get things done' (Herald Sun)

No, the world didn't end at 3pm yesterday, News Corp columnist Terry McCrann helpfully points out. He writes. "Yesterday's vote is not going to tip the global economy into recession; President Trump is not going to start World War III. What happened to our market was understandable — we just followed Wall St down. But what happened on Wall St was just dumb. Big investors around the world drank the Clinton Kool-Aid. That she would win and that she would be a conventional non-threatening president. No surprise, given the millions she's personally taken from Goldman Sachs and other big US banks." McCrann points out that to many Australians, President Donald Trump seems as "impossible as prime minister Pauline Hanson". "Especially if you'd taken your information on the US presidential campaign from almost any of our local media outlets or commentators, regurgitating the almost universal US media and elite disdain of Trump."

### 9:34am Clinton campaign's terrible ROI (Herald Sun)

News Corp columnist Rita Panahi's piece in the Herald Sun today argues Trump's win "shows mainstream media has no idea what the mainstream is thinking". "Trump's victory is humiliating not only for pollsters and political pundits but for the bulk of the mainstream media who gave up any pretence of impartiality and actively campaigned against the Republican candidate," she writes. "Trump has overcome huge odds to secure a famous victory, defeating a brutal media campaign as well as attacks from the Republican establishment and the well-funded Clinton camp, which last month was outspending Trump by an extraordinary 75 to 1 ratio in radio ads alone. In a 10-day period there were 15,948 pro-Clinton radio ads in 85 major radio markets across the US, compared with only 208 radio spots for Trump according to Media Monitors. The Democrats also smashed Trump in terms of total TV ad spending and number of campaign workers on the ground, and then there was the chorus of anti-Trump media commentators who did much of the Clinton camp's dirty work for free."

### 11:21am Trump ran his campaign like a business

Fox News anchor Eric Bolling has posted a short video breaking down how Donald Trump ran his campaign like a business to pull off the shock win. They highlight how he cut costs, capitalised on free media cover, saved money on polling by developing a social media following, and cultivated a small group of loyalists. Ultimately, Trump ended up spending \$US4.57 (\$5.98) per vote, about half the amount spent by rival Hillary Clinton, and generated in excess of \$US3 billion (\$3.92 billion) in free media coverage.

### 12:30pm 'It's the economy, stupid'

Finance commentator Alan Kohler has described Trump's win as "above all, a middle-class economic revolt". "The middle classes were told by their betters that globalisation was good for them, and then watched as their jobs were offshored to low-wage countries and their incomes capped while the rich got richer," he writes in The Australian. "Trump's election represents not just a social and political upheaval — above all this is an economic event. Among all the desperate attempts to explain the Trump victory, the one that makes the most sense echoes Bill Clinton's 1992 campaign theme: 'It's the economy, stupid.' Globalisation — the combination of free trade and global capital — has lifted millions out of poverty in the emerging world, and is still doing so. But there are losers in the developed world — democracy gives them a voice, and digital media makes that voice louder and less controlled."

### 1:40pm Bookies count the cost

Aussie bookmakers Sportsbet, TAB and William Hill have collectively paid out \$18 million to Trump backers. Sportsbet took the biggest hit with \$11 million, TAB paid out more than \$4 million, and William Hill paid \$3 million. "What a day it has been and what a four years we have ahead of us," Sportsbet spokesman Ben Bulmer said. "The punters beat us, with more than 25,000 Aussies successfully predicting the outcome of the election despite the weight of public opinion suggesting Trump was no chance."

### From Facebook - 'DEMOCRATS HAVE FAILED US'

Filmmaker Michael Moore was more blistering in his explanation for Ms Clinton's defeat. Writing on his Facebook page that the Democrats had failed miserably, Moore said it was time to return the party to the people. He also said it was time to fire "all pundits, predictors, pollsters and anyone else in the media who had a narrative they wouldn't let go of and refused to listen to or acknowledge what was really going on". Moore's Morning After To-Do-List, which has been shared on Facebook more than 120,000 times, also called on people to stop saying they are shocked and stunned because the reality was "you were in a bubble and weren't paying attention to your fellow Americans and their despair". Moore goes on to write that years of being neglected by both parties had created a sense of growing anger and a need for people to take revenge against the establishment. "Along came a TV star they liked whose plan was to destroy both parties and tell them all 'You're fired!' Trump's victory is no surprise," Moore said. "He was never a joke. Treating him as one only strengthened him. He is both a creature and a creation of the media and the media will never own that."

Myself and many, many others have been praying for some years now that the sphere of Media is reformed. Exposés and blunders like the News Ltd phone tapping scandal in the UK, the 2Day FM scandal with the suicide of a nurse after a prank call, the recent Channel 9 Sixty Minutes kidnapping debacle in Lebanon are all forcing the industry to look at what they have become. This is the opportunity for our family in the Media to speak truth.

Keep praying, and "All glory to God, all honor is his, no other is worthy of his name. All glory to God, I'll always be his, forever I'll live to sing his praise." (Matt Maher)



*'that they may all be*

*one*

*even as You, Father,  
are in Me  
and I in You,  
that they also may be in Us,  
so that the world  
may believe that  
You sent Me. John 17:21*

## **A call to the churches of south eastern Sydney**

*(St George and Sutherland Shire)*

**A call to show a visible unity by meeting regularly to pray together, and to discover what other forms of mission, worship and service that God may lead us into together.**

Are you interested in establishing a monthly prayer meeting where pastors and/or lay leaders meet for prayer?

The meeting may commence with fellowship over morning/afternoon tea or supper, leading into a time of sharing together in worship and Bible reading, led by the host church, followed by a time of shared prayer for one another's churches and mission, for our area, our city and our nation.

**How often?** Monthly

**Where?** Rotating around our area, and around denominations.

**Who?** Ministers, priests, pastors or appointed lay prayer leaders from all Christian denominations.

**When?** 2 hours at an agreed time.

*In all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling. Eph 4:2-4*

*"By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."  
John 13:35*

**As the Church and her values seem to becoming more obscure in society this is a crucial time to demonstrate our love and unity. Let us pray that, together, we would shine the Lord's light, heralding a renewing of the church and our ministry together, through the Holy Spirit, in our region and nation.**

For further information please contact

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(Dwell Ecumenical House of Prayer has been established to promote prayer locally for all churches, and to call upon the Lord to bless our region and nation.)