

TRANSFORMING
SYDNEY

Transforming Sydney Newsletter August 2014

Welcome to the seventh edition of the newsletter for Transforming Sydney.
The focus for prayer this month is on the sphere or domain of Education.

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

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May His grace and peace prevail.

Praying for Education

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" Proverbs 9:10

(by Di McRae, Miracle Education)

Praying for Education is exciting as we sow into the next generation, the future leaders of our nation. It is a huge mission field and we have the responsibility and privilege to saturate schools and universities with the love of God as we pray.

We have freedom in this nation to pray, evangelise and witness in schools and we must be proactive and take advantage of this access.

I have met many adults, who can trace their Christian commitment to the Special Religious Education (SRE) teacher they had during their school years, or to the outreach programmes run by churches held at their school.

I know of men who have become Christians because their children attend Christian schools. The decision to place their children in a Christian environment brought them in direct contact with people who were full of the love of God.

The story of a man who attended a government high school for boys in Sydney during the 70's is very inspiring. He was friendly with the Christian boys though he did not attend any of their Christian study meetings. They kept praying for him and when he left school they gave him a bible. The support of a Christian teacher at that school also helped put this man on the road to salvation. A few years after he left school he became a Christian! He then trained as a pilot and worked for the Bible Society helping with evangelism in remote areas of Northern Australia. I love that story because not only have I had the privilege of meeting that man but also because it is home grown!

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Praying for Education (...continued)

Your Local Educational Facility

Look at the connection you currently have with schools (pre, primary, high and tertiary) and pray from that area. Are you directly or indirectly involved with schools at the moment?

1. Start praying for your school community
2. Ask the Lord to connect you with other praying Christians with a heart for education and begin praying together
3. Be deliberate and intentional in developing relationships with the educators and other community members (i.e. support staff, parents etc). Become involved as much as possible in the life of the school, be a blessing at the school by simply encouraging the educators and thanking them for what they do
4. Carry out a prayer walk around the school. It can look like an informal part of your exercise routine!
5. Connect with the SRE teachers and let them know you are praying for them.



If you are directly involved in outreach programmes from your church then your praying would be focussed on scripture teaching and evangelism through school holiday programmes. Once again you have direct involvement with the classroom teacher and are a living epistle for he/she to read. Let your light shine!

For more practical ways on effectively witnessing at schools please click on “Action Plan for Impacting Education with the Name of Jesus” at www.mired.com.au/resources

We can boldly declare the desired outcome...

“Thy kingdom come thy will be done [in our schools] as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:10

Strategies for Prayer

When praying for education, it is helpful to focus on the following areas:

- ♥ School community, principals, teachers, students and administration staff
- ♥ Curriculum
- ♥ Governmental issues
- ♥ Christian influences , outreach programmes, religious education, SRE and chaplaincy



School Community

When praying for the school community we can pray for:

⇒ Wisdom

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.” James 3:17

⇒ Salvation

“...to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.” Acts 26:18

⇒ Safety of the school.

We can pray for the bloodline of Jesus Christ to be placed around the borders of the school and for ministering angels to stand guard. “The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.” Psalm 34:7

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Praying for Education (...continued)

Curriculum

When praying for the curriculum pray that the content:

⇒ Is chosen by the Holy Spirit

“But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth.” John 16:13

⇒ Honours the Lord

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honourable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” Philippians 4:8



⇒ Protects the hearts and minds of the children from any ungodly material.

“We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:5

Governmental Issues

⇒ Prayers for all Ministers of Education, both Federal and State.

“Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers and intercessions and giving of thanks, be made for all men, for kings, and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.” 1 Timothy 2:1-4

Christian Influence

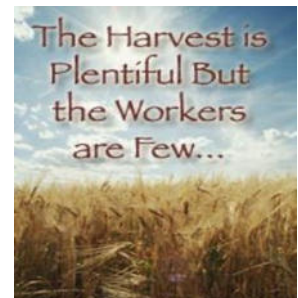
An essential prayer in the area of Christian influence is found in praying for more labourers. Luke 10:2 says “the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few, pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.”

We need to pray:

⇒ That the doors open to our schools stay open to the gospel

⇒ For more labourers to be raised up

⇒ For Chaplaincy programmes and the various Christian youth programmes that evangelise in high schools and tertiary institutions to continue and expand



The Word of God is to be the standard for our prayers

As we take up our position in prayer and praise we can create an atmosphere where the Holy Spirit is free to move. Together in prayer we are impacting education with the Name of Jesus.

By declaring the word of God over our preschools, schools and universities we are releasing angelic forces and disabling the plans of the enemy.

The following are verses that we can pray to see the fear of the Lord triumph.

“In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.” Proverbs 14:26

“And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.” Luke 1:50

“The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.” Proverbs 14:27

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth forever.” Psalms 111:10

We can pray Isaiah 61:1 over our Christian educators.

“The spirit of the Lord is upon our Christian educators, because the Lord has anointed them to preach good tidings to the poor, He has sent them to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.”

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Praying for Education (...continued)

The following are verses we can declare over our schools.

“No weapon formed against us [our schools] shall prosper.” Isaiah 54:17

“The whole earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God.” Habakkuk 2:14

“For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.” Jeremiah 29:11

“For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:9-11

The following are scriptural confessions we can speak over the youth.

“Our children will fulfill God’s will and purpose for their lives.” Psalm 138:8

“Our children are well favored. They are ten times better than others in wisdom and understanding.” Daniel 1:4&10

“Our children are not being conformed to this world’s system, but they are constantly being transformed by the renewing of their mind, that they might know what is the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God for their lives.” Romans 12:2

“Our children will flee from all sexual immorality and impurity in thought, word or deed, and they will realize that their body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.” I Corinthians 6:18-19

Miracle Education website is loaded with extra resources for praying for Education so please follow the links on the website - www.mired.com.au/resources - click on “Prayer Works” for more ideas on prayer.

“Highly valued and treasured are our wonderful Christian educators in the field of Education. I consider Christian educators to be Missionaries in Education deserving of all the support that overseas missionaries receive. They are under constant pressure to conform to the world.”

Highly valued and treasured are our wonderful Christian educators in the field of Education. I consider Christian educators to be Missionaries in Education (see the website for more information) deserving of all the support that overseas missionaries receive. They are under constant pressure to conform to the world. Our prayers for them are crucial and I believe praying for an increase of the fear of the Lord upon them is most important. **The battle in schools is between the fear of the Lord and the fear of man.**

As we read of Joseph in the Old Testament we see that he was given great authority in a foreign land. I believe that Christian educators can receive favour and be promoted to positions of responsibility similar to Joseph. Christian educators are vital and they need our prayers to enable them to stand and to make a difference.

Romans 1:16 says that we are not to be *“ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ for it is the power unto salvation for everyone who believes...”*

Christians in Education carry the light of Jesus Christ within them. Wherever there is light darkness is extinguished. We need to pray that their light not grow dim but increase.

“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

Di McRae is the Director of Miracle Education - www.mired.com.au - “...praying deliberately for the youth to be empowered to reach their generation whether that be at school, university or TAFE “

Pray for IRAQ

Dear friends,

During the first century, almost all of Jesus' disciples suffered martyrdom for his sake. Peter was crucified upside down, Mark was torn to pieces, and Paul was beheaded. As Christianity spread throughout Europe and the British Isles, countless numbers of Christians were tortured and burned at the stake.

But that history has not ended.

Today there are still many Christians martyrs, those who give their life for their faith. Every year and on every continent men and women face death because of their belief in Jesus Christ. They are the Christian martyrs of this century; the fathers, mothers, grandparents, and children who have lost their lives for the sake of the gospel. Around the world the light of their testimonies continues to shine. Their impact is immeasurable and their stories should not be forgotten. Let us not forget our brothers and sisters who died for their faith in Syria and Iraq. Let us pray and remember them in our hearts.

Major James Condon from the Salvation Army said:

“As you know, Iraq and Syria are currently experiencing one of the greatest humanitarian tragedies of our generation, and the silence and lack of engagement of the global Christian community is heartbreaking. The Church in that region is facing an onslaught that is unparalleled in recent history, and the desperate cries of those who belong to the body of Christ cannot (must not) be ignored any longer.

During the past week, a message sent from the city of Mosul reported that all churches are now empty and that the second largest city in Iraq is “devoid of Christianity”. Christians are fleeing the city by the thousands and this Sunday, no sounds of worship will come from a single church. While some hope and consolation can be found in the knowledge that those who died for their faith are now with Jesus, many still have to face the trauma of another day, and another day, and another day. As of yesterday the Americans are dropping aid in the mountains to some; will attack ISIS forces where they can with air strikes, but that's not going to be the real answer that is needed for Iraq.”

The UN Security Council has held an emergency meeting on Iraq, after the largest Christian town was seized by Islamic State militants.

Tens of thousands of Iraqi Christians and Yazidis have

fled their homes following a warning by the militants to renounce their faiths or face death.

Canon Andrew White, who is the vicar of the only Anglican church in Iraq, says the international community must do more to help Christians and other minorities. He says people are being "slaughtered".

Read more here

www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28700210

Watch this video which sent from the Anglican Vicar in Iraq Canon Andrew White

<http://edition.cnn.com/video/data/2.0/video/world/2014/08/05/pkg-damon-isis-christian-threats.cnn.html>

Take each day 5 minutes to remember your brothers and sisters and read these verses from the bible

Lilian Schmid

National Prayer Strategy for the Ten Domains:

www.tendomains.org

www.facebook.com/groups/10domains

Facilitator for Transforming Sydney Movement Inc.

www.transformingsydney.org

0412 766-917

The Beatitudes - Matt 5:3-12- Lk 6:20-23

Psalms 35, Of David (except below):

10 My whole being will exclaim, “Who is like you, Lord? You rescue the poor from those too strong for them, the poor and needy from those who rob them.”

11 Ruthless witnesses come forward; they question me on things I know nothing about.

12 They repay me evil for good and leave me like one bereaved.

13 Yet when they were ill, I put on sackcloth and humbled myself with fasting. When my prayers returned to me unanswered,

14 I went about mourning as though for my friend or brother. I bowed my head in grief as though weeping for my mother.

15 But when I stumbled, they gathered in glee; assailants gathered against me without my knowledge. They slandered me without ceasing.

16 Like the ungodly they maliciously mocked; they gnashed their teeth at me.

17 How long, Lord, will you look on? Rescue me from their ravages, my precious life from these lions.

Global Prayer & Mission Summit

(by Bjorn Schmid)

Continuing our series vision and revelation for the “Global Prayer & Mission Summit 2016 in Sydney“, we focus this month on the vision received by Lilian in early 2013. Perhaps this is not a unique vision in itself as we know the Holy Spirit is speaking to many hearts across Australia, and indeed across the world, in the language of God’s love for the world and his desire for the unity of the Body of Christ; the Church. But Lilian has such a heart for the unity of the Church in Australia

(Read the July edition of the Newsletter for the Introduction on Revival.)

Vision

Lilian Schmid 7-May-2013:

The theme for the Prayer Summit I received in a vision is from Revelation 21 - A New Heaven and New Earth...

‘Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.’

...and a New Jerusalem

‘I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.’

Every city is (to be) a New Jerusalem, all things made new.

‘And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

*‘He who was seated on the throne said, “**I am making everything new!**”’*

[Rev 21:1-5 NIV]

The Lord showed me also:

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

[Isaiah 65:17-18]

This is a message of hope to be united in one body and make the bride ready to receive her bridegroom.

Through Jesus, God’s dwelling place is now with us His people redeemed and sanctified, His bride; and through us we bring the New Jerusalem to every city – at our work, into businesses, in the supermarkets, to schools and universities, into governments – thus our goal is to see every city, town and community renewed through His transforming power. Truly salt and light.

Thus I believe the theme for a Global Prayer & Mission Summit in Sydney is:

“A new heaven and a new earth, and the new Jerusalem”

Some Observations on Revelation 21

In his series on Revelation “Lamb’s War” (part 1, page 7 - <http://cross-connect.net.au/lambs-war1-entering-into-the-realm-of-revelation/>) written in March 2010, Australian Christian theologian Dr. John Yates writes:

At this moment in the history of spirituality we are in the middle of an enormous struggle between opposing cosmic powers. We are confronted with forces of materialism embedded in a market driven global culture that threatens to devour all peoples and nations in a mad quest for pleasurable life. Despite all surface appearances, what dominates this world is a search for lasting joy.

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Global Prayer & Mission Summit (...continued)

Centuries ago one of the great teachers of the church remarked, "Man cannot live without joy; therefore when he is deprived of true spiritual joys it is necessary that he become addicted to fleshly pleasures." (Aquinas).

God is not passive about the rampant idolatry of our times, he (is) pulling aside the covers of our material perception to reveal what is above, in heaven. The perspective of the slain and exalted Lamb is descending upon the people of God. This is a perspective that makes us stand as the Lamb has stood, in the place of all the oppressed, weak, harassed, broken, addicted and despairing of the earth. This perspective illuminates God's fiery hatred of all that destroys human life and empowers us to work with God in annihilating evil, at the cost, if necessary, of our lives.

Dr. Yates continues (in part 7, p 7):

In the Spirit we can already be involved in this great process of bringing glory into the heavenly city. The traditional division of reality between the sacred and secular, between present time and End time (a corruption of biblical thinking having philosophical roots in Plato's dualism, itself a function of an idolatrous heart) has no ground in Revelation. The present rule of Christ through the church and his future eternal realm are deeply continuous.

When my friend Phil employs ex-convicts, this is a real imaging of the everlasting compassion of God, when Pastor Ken's fellowship in Belmont freely distributed 10 tonnes of food free to the needy last year they were manifesting something of the generosity of God's new creation. When the church breaks forth as a kaleidoscope of creative artistry it reveals the "manifold wisdom of God" that communicates to every creature, especially evil powers, that God has a way to heal "all things". Through the Lamb we bring God's light to the world (Matt 5:14). The church as the city of God on earth reflects the light of the city in heaven to all nations (Acts 13:47).

"When the church breaks forth as a kaleidoscope of creative artistry it reveals the "manifold wisdom of God" that communicates to every creature, especially evil powers, that God has a way to heal "all things".' Dr. John Yates

The glorious and difficult vocation of the saints is to image the New Jerusalem (Gal 4:26; Heb 12:22) in the midst of Babylon by every means God has provided. This means bringing the manifest presence of Christ into government, education, business, law, family, health, sports, media . What can you bring in to the New Jerusalem? Whatever part of creation you are involved in transforming NOW.

In his expose on Revelation 21 ("Revelation 21 – A New Heavens, a New Earth, and a New Jerusalem", 2001, guzik.biblecommenter.com/commentaries/6621.htm and www.enduringword.com/rev_audio.htm), former missionary David Guzik, suggests that this chapter begins a new section of the Book of Revelation, i.e.:

- o Jesus, the Lord of the Churches (Revelation 1:1 to 3:22)
- o Jesus, the Lion over the nations (Revelation 4:1 to 20:15)
- o **Jesus, the Lamb among believers (Revelation 21:1 to 22:21)**

He writes:

"It is significant that this glorious dwelling place of God and His people is described as the holy city. Cities are places where there are many people, and people interact with each other. This isn't isolation, but a perfect community of the people of God."

Through Jesus, God's dwelling place is now with us His people, His bride; and through us we bring the New Jerusalem to every city, thus our goal is to see every city, town and community renewed through His transforming power.

Are we as the Church imaging Christ to the world? Can they see that we are citizens of the New Jerusalem?

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Global Prayer & Mission Summit (...continued)

The author of Hebrews writes (Heb. 12:18-24 - J.B. Phillips New Testament):

Your experience is not that of the old agreement but of the new

18-21 You have not had to approach things which your senses could experience as they did in the old days—flaming fire, black darkness, rushing wind and out of it a trumpet-blast, a voice speaking human words. So terrible was that voice that those who heard it begged and prayed that it might stop speaking, for what it had already commanded was more than they could bear—‘And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or thrust through with an arrow’. So fearful was the spectacle that Moses cried out, ‘I am exceedingly afraid and trembling’.

22-24 No, you have been allowed to approach the true Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have drawn near to the countless angelic army, the great assembly of Heaven and the Church of the first-born whose names are written above. You have drawn near to God, the judge of all, to the souls of good men made perfect, and to Jesus, mediator of a new agreement, to the cleansing of blood which tells a better story than the age-old sacrifice of Abel.

When people return from travelling to an amazing place or city, they are excited to tell their friends and family about it, show pictures and videos, and to return when they can. Are we eager also to do this? When we close our eyes and the physical realm recedes a little so that the spiritual realm is more clear, and we enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise (Psalm 100:4), because Christ has made it possible for us to enter the courts of heaven; don't we wish this for every human on earth? To realise there is more, there is hope, there is grace, there is eternity available now, and there is God's love unending is the greatest revelation that any person can experience - it is LIFE CHANGING. Suddenly everything earthly is put into its proper perspective: it is necessary but it is temporary.

Part of Jesus famous prayer in John 17 was for us not to be removed from the world - this would be contrary to our mission as 'salt and light' (Matthew 5:13-16) - but to be "in the world but not of the world":

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. (John 17:15-17)

Next month - Unity.

“The Great Aussie Date Night” - 14-20 September 2014



'Date Night Australia' or, if you prefer 'THE GREAT AUSSIE DATE NIGHT'.

Do you want to see marriage transformed and strengthened in your congregation? Then participate in 'The Great Aussie Date Night' taking place nationally on the 20th September the last Saturday of Marriage Week. Help strengthen marriages, rekindling the romance in a fun, enjoyable way. Be part of this national event presenting a united front in support of strong biblical marriages.

The vision/aim of evening is to provide a quality fun evening for married couples in a safe, friendly environment where marriages are affirmed, celebrated and honoured. A time when couples feel loved and can relax away from the calls of "life". Where possible an evening where the wider community is invited and made welcome. Consider inviting local politicians, mayors, business people and of course their spouse!

Venue & Set-up - A romantic, welcoming venue, use the hospitality industry (yes, in the market place) or run it 'in house'. Suggestions include: a restaurant or cafe (e.g. do you have a local Gloria Jeans franchise that will host a private function?), function room a well presented hall or the family home for a smaller group which is non-community based..... For more information and resources go to the web site

<http://www.marriageweek.org.au>

Rubber on the Road Christian Thinking

An extract from the eBook of the same name by Ray Tiller, Equipping Christian Schools, obtainable by emailing ray@raytiller.com.au or from www.equippingchristianschools.com.au/resources

What kind of training can Christian leaders, families, and schools give their generation that will help them make their society better than the one they inherited from us?

The way we teach our young people to think and to apply the truths of God's word to every aspect of life will determine whether they know how to make tomorrow's society a successful, peaceful and wholesome one, or whether they enter it with trepidation, ignorance, or indifference, and let it continue to decline into disaster.

The equipment that we give our children for this task will be found in our own thinking and attitudes and then, more formally, in the curriculum that schools prepare for them.

Our thinking and attitudes, and the planning of the school curriculum outcomes will be, to a large degree, driven and filtered by our worldview. Consciously or unconsciously, through our speaking, writing, responses, and inclusions or omissions in our curriculum, we lead our young people to view reality through the perspectives of our own worldviews. So, the Christian's clear understanding and articulation of a biblical Christian worldview is a vital foundation to the process of developing competent Christians for the next generation.

Unfortunately, however, our communication with our young people is not always based on well-informed, competent biblical Christian thought. On the contrary, in our development of our young people's thinking and worldview, we Christians can sometimes give our young people a 'mixed signal' by inputs and teachings that are not clearly Christian, or which contain a mixture of Christian and non-Christian perspectives. We may transmit this 'mixed signal' for one of two reasons:

1. We don't know how to apply biblical Christian thinking to an issue in our discussion or teaching because we have never thought the issue through from a biblical perspective.
2. We are drawing our information, attitudes, or curriculum texts and resources from sources that are non-Christian or anti-Christian in their perspectives.

The tragedy of our passing on these 'mixed signals' to our young people is that we will not prepare well-educated Christian thinkers who have the potential to offer God's alternatives to the society of their generation. Christians with pious hearts but muddled heads may get to heaven, but might not do much to bring their society into God's order!

The solution to this dilemma is to build foundations to our thinking and teaching that are based on God's word. This building process sometimes requires that we 'reconceptualize' the issues or subjects that we are discussing or teaching. We reconceptualize an issue by first reading all that the Bible says about the issue and consider it in the light of agreed orthodox principles of biblical interpretation.

From all that is said, we can then distil out the fundamental biblical principles and ideas about the issues or questions raised by the subject. Only when we can confidently show that the Bible has clearly and unambiguously established a principle or idea, should we regard it as 'fundamental'. Once we have this confidence, these fundamental truths can become the undergirding presuppositions for any work on that issue, topic, area of thought, or subject.

Once we have developed such a set of undergirding biblical Christian presuppositions, we can develop our thinking on any topic without fear of thinking or believing in a way that is inconsistent with or contradicts God's directions to us.

Perhaps that process is a part of what Romans 12:1 means by being 'transformed by the renewing of (our) mind(s)'. God's ways and thoughts are higher than ours—we do not easily and naturally come to the same conclusions that God does about issues.

The way of transformation of our minds to understand God's mind and ways is hard work, and it involves an earnest search of His Word and its application to our thinking. We will serve Him and His purposes for our lives best by making our thinking conform to His.

For the teacher these undergirding presuppositions can be used as a sure foundation for the development of curriculum objectives, learning activities, and materials that are in harmony with a biblical Christian worldview.

This process of thinking (and curriculum development) based on biblical Christian presuppositions helps us to develop a clearly and consistently Christian head that is now consistent with a pious heart—the Christian believer is now also a Christian thinker, and real biblical Christian intellectual education of our young people can now occur!

“God and Business”

(by Peter Irvine, www.peterirvine.com)

Ray Kroc of McDonald's fame once said “I believe in God, family and McDonald's. And in the office, that order is reversed”.

I have two problems with this quote.

- 1) You should be the same person at home as you are at work. If there is no consistency in the way you act the staff have to guess who turned up today and your family won't know what you'll be like after a day at work. We are all face frustrations, disappointments, obstacles, relationship issues, financial and economic downturns, but we have to learn to believe God and his word and develop a consistent life style. We can't stay in disappointment, we can't stay miserable, we have to learn the checkpoints that enable us to work our way through these situations.
- 2) I have become convinced that we can't categorise our lives into compartments – God, family, work, etc. and try to set an order - When we create a priority, we end up creating conflict and frustration when our lives should work in harmony. We are actually shutting God out, not putting him first. I have found that God wants to be involved in every area of my life, He is interested in everything about me and wants to bless, to guide and teach me in everything. I have realised that God has a plan for my family, my business life, my relationships, Church involvement and more if I open up to Him in these areas. You don't give God two hours on Sunday and do what you like during the week.

Reflecting God In Business

Our faith should be alive, active and a great example in the market place, in how we deal with people and how we do business, in our honesty and reliability. We need to develop real, Godly wisdom in decision making, dealing with staff, suppliers and customers. A down-to-earth real and honest commitment to what is good and right will always stand out in the business world whether you work at the grass roots for a company or operate your own business.

Dealing with mistakes honestly:

We are not perfect, we make mistakes. Over the years in the Advertising industry and while establishing Gloria Jean's Coffees I have made many mistakes, some my own fault, others not. I have found that facing up to these quickly and honestly creates a far better solution than trying to hide them or blame something or someone else.

If you go to the staff member or client or supplier, and admit that you have made a mistake, they are willing to work with you to rectify that situation. Where you try to hide something, it shows a poor example and will rebound back on you in a greater way. People appreciate honesty, (most of us have experienced the opposite in life) it builds a foundation of trust going forward. Even the issues that are not your own fault – forget the blame game, deal with the mistake and everyone will think you're a hero.

Developing Godly wisdom:

The Bible is full of wisdom from beginning to end. As a business person whether doing a job, having a career or owning a business, it is worthwhile developing a list of key passages or verses that are promises from God that challenge you and that encourage you. Understand that over time, the passages that are relevant at particular times will change.

Use God's Word

For example, just recently I started writing down some passages that I believe are relevant for me at this point in time. Some of these are as follows:

Gods promises of blessing

Exodus 23: 25-26 *But you - you serve your God and he'll bless your food and your water. I'll get rid of the sickness among you; there won't be any miscarriages nor barren women in your land. I'll make sure you live full and complete lives.”*

Jeremiah 30:17 *“But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,’ declares the LORD.....”*

(continued next page)

“God and Business” (...continued)

We don't need to fear

Job 3:25 *“What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me..”*

When we start to speak the wrong words, then fear starts to come and we start to see those things overtaking us. It can be sickness, it can be financial issues, it can be a downturn in our business.

God honours our giving

Genesis 26:11-13 *“Then Isaac sowed seed in that land and received in the same year a hundred times as much as he had planted, and the Lord favored him with blessings.”*

Giving - of yourself and your resources (or sowing seed) shows where your heart is.

God's wisdom

Isaiah 55:8 *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, says the Lord...”*

Proverbs 16:8-10 *“A man's mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps and makes them sure.”*

Moving forwards in God's plan

Isaiah 54 *Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.”*

You see, so often in our lives, relationships and business, and our careers, we sit around waiting when we need to be starting to get ourselves ready for where God is going to take us.

What has He given you a passion for and what has He birthed in you?

At some point we need to start moving in the direction that He has birthed in us. You cannot steer a stationary bike or you fall over. When you begin moving, even slowly, He can direct you. Don't forget to stay open - spending time with Him and listening to His Word.

Tough times

Ps 129:2 *“Many a time and much have they afflicted me from my youth up, yet they have not prevailed against me.”*

You will face obstacles, difficulties, competitors will come against you. But understand that what God births, He brings into being.

Listening to the right voices

Jeremiah 49:14 *“I have heard a report from the Lord....”*

Let me ask you, who are you listening to? Are you listening to the media, the wrong advice, negative people, or are we listening to a report from the Lord?

Other lessons learned:

Over the last two years, I have started to realize in a greater way, some of the following points:

1. **Nothing is ever over until God says it is over.** It is easy to be ready to give up that job, that business, that opportunity, because there just seem to be so many obstacles, or we are facing yet another economic meltdown. But it is not over till God says it is over.
2. Gods word talks about **times of supernatural intervention**. Through my working life there have been times I have had to pray ‘God these people are contrary to your word, or where it is going, they are antagonistic, they need to have a change of mind and heart.’ Sometimes I have seen this change immediately, sometimes over a period of time. God intervenes on our behalf and we do see people totally changed.
3. We have to understand that **Gods word is definite**. So often, we translate verses in our own thinking, as ‘might’, or ‘could’, where Gods word actually says SHALL and WILL.
4. **What are you sowing into yourself?** You see, when you get up in the morning, what is the first thing we

(continued on Page 4)

“God and Business” (...continued)

listen to: Death, Destruction and the share market. No wonder we are miserable when we get to the breakfast table or get to work with our staff and customers. Sow positive things into your life, especially God’s word.

5. We have to **start developing the “yes” face**, we can say no, with a “yes” face. So many of us don’t want to say no or deliver bad news, and end up doing it with a miserable attitude. Instead, develop a positive way of delivering a (yes or no) message, it will have a totally different reaction. When we know where we stand according to God’s word in various situations, we can be definite with a Yes face.
6. **Don’t think it – Be it.** So often we think about what we would like to be in our lives, in our relationships and in our careers. We have to stop thinking and start acting like we want it to be. If you want a relationship to grow with a client, customer or staff, or family, you have to start acting that way. You have to learn to forgive. James 3:18 in ‘The Message’ Bible says “do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.” So when the alarm clock goes off in the morning, what is the first thing that you do? Throw it across the room or do you see it as an opportunity clock, in your life, your career, your business, or for whatever task you set your hand to.
7. We all need each other. It is worthwhile to **have someone you are accountable to** that you meet with on a regular basis. For those who are married, husband and wife should be able to share, support and encourage each other through the good and bad times. It is also good to find someone you are able to meet with on a regular basis to share with about business and life. I have a friend that I have met with for many years, for 30 minutes each week we are able to meet, support, pray for and encourage each other. Over 17 years life has changed, many obstacles and situations have been shared and faced together. It gives us both strength and confidence as we move forwards.

Moving ahead in faith:

Every time that God’s people settled down and became comfortable two things happened.

1. He eventually pulled them up and moved them on.
and
2. He knew that if they became comfortable and settled, they would move off course, they would forget God, spend no time with Him and eventually they start doing the things that they shouldn’t, ignoring Him and worshipping other gods.

An army, when they have no war to fight, actually start fighting each other. When a life isn’t growing, when a business isn’t growing, when we aren’t being challenged and learning, we settle down and become comfortable and with that we become lethargic, we lose our vision, we lose our focus, we become grumpy, we become angry, we become disenchanted, and eventually relationships, business and careers and our growth in our Christian walk start to decline and go backwards.

The principles of doing business well are very much the principles of doing life well – the only way I know to do that is with God in the centre, involved in everything I do.

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



The **Centre for Public Christianity (CPX)** is a not-for-profit media company that offers a Christian perspective on contemporary life. We seek to promote the public understanding of the Christian faith by engaging mainstream media and the general public with high quality and well-researched print, video and audio material about the relevance of Christianity in the 21st century.

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Welcomed into the 'secret place'

By Heidi Wysman

Gods desire for us is for complete intimacy with Him - knowing that all fruitfulness flows from this place.

Jesus prays these words in John 17:20-23 *“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent me. And the glory which You gave Me, I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one; I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one. And that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”*

Our ‘oneness’ with the Lord convinces a lost world of Jesus. It’s not how much we know about Him, it’s how much we know the Person we confess to believe!

There are no secret formulas to getting close to Jesus or to feeling His heart for you and others. There is only a secret place, which starts to take form with just a desire to posture your heart towards Jesus and spend some time alone with Him. It is here where your faith grows as the character of the One who fills the pages of the Bible is revealed to you every time you enter in. You are no longer just reading about the acts of God, you are understanding and knowing the ways of the One who is the Book.

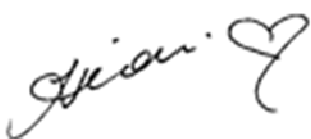
It is a beautiful thing that all it takes is one touch. One encounter with the living God changed my life eighteen years ago. Where my eyes were no longer fixed on myself, or my lack; I had encountered the writer of the words I had read, He was real, and He was for me. I no longer had to squeeze life out of the words in a book, the Word was living, and I had met Him! I was in love, captivated, He would take my breath away. I would run to be alone with Him, run to worship Him, run to just be intimate with Him in the ‘secret place.’

Do you know what it is to have a secret place? It is wonderful. It is a surety; it’s a place where there is no wavering, no unbelief, no unrest there. It is perfect! When you and He connect how could there be room for unbelief? Smith Wigglesworth said this, *“There are two kinds of shouts: a shout that is made, and a shout that makes you. There are men of God, but there are also men who are God's men. There is a place where you take hold of God, but there is a better place where God takes hold of you.”* [1]

That is the ‘secret place.’

So no matter where you are on the journey, whether you are at the door, or whether you have just entered in – know that He is there waiting for you with arms open wide.

Run in! He is waiting...



[1] Smith Wigglesworth, *Sermon: The Secret Place*, 1921.

Praying for the Persecuted Church

“Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.” [Hebrews 13:3 NIV]

See also and support thirteenthree.org.au - 13:3 BOUND WITH THEM



Servants of the Persecuted Church

IRAQ: ISIS' Persecution of Christians Intensifies

Facing the promise of execution if they do not embrace Islam or pay tribute for being Christians, the remaining Christians in Mosul, Iraq fled before the deadline of noon on Saturday 19 July.

The aim of the militant group ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham) to create an Islamic state emptied of all Christians has moved closer to a reality.

Last week, ISIS began marking Christian homes throughout the city. The Arabic letter "N," standing for the Arabic word "Nasrani," a name for Christians, was painted on Christians' homes around Mosul.

On Thursday 17 July, ISIS released a statement in Mosul laying out the only three options for Christians who had remained in the city following its takeover last month:

1. *Islam (to become Muslim).*
2. *Pay Jizya (which is taking tribute for being Christians).*
3. *If they refuse, there is nothing for them but the sword.*

The Prince of the Faithful Caliph Ibrahim -- God Glorify him -- will allow them to evacuate themselves only from the borders of the state Alkhalafah by Saturday, Ramadan 21, 1435 (18 July 2014) noon hour, and after this date, the only thing between us and them is the sword.

The deadline was reportedly set by Caliph Ibrahim, the title claimed by ISIS' leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi when declaring the restoration of the Islamic Caliphate. The offer of "Islam, tribute, or sword" was the same offer that ISIS made in Raqqa, Syria, a city that has now become its base of operations. ISIS controls a large swath of territory across northern Syria and into Iraq. They are moving to set up an Islamic state and driving out all Christians, along with Shi'a Muslims, and other religious minorities.

According to Tera Dahl, writing from Erbil, "The last Christian reportedly left Iraq's second largest city of Mosul at 12:00pm on Saturday, ending over 6,000 years of Assyrian history in the city. Assyrians have lived in Mosul for over 6,000 years, converting to Christianity over 2,000 years ago. This all came to an end on Saturday, when the last Assyrian Christian left the city."

As hundreds of families were trying to flee before the deadline, ISIS reportedly set up checkpoints and was robbing them of their possessions.

Dispossessed of their cars, hundreds of Christians were forced to continue their march of nearly 80 kilometres on foot. This latest stream of refugees joins the hundreds of thousands who fled when ISIS first took Mosul in early June.

Sources: *International Christian Concern, Assyrian International News Agency*

- ♥ Ask God to protect and provide for the Christians who have been forced to leave their homes.
- ♥ Pray they will not despair but take heart in the Lord's promises that He will never leave them nor forsake them.

(continued next page)

Praying for the Persecuted Church (...continued)

- ♥ Pray the Lord will intervene to bring an end to the evil of ISIS.

NIGERIA: Boko Haram Responsible for More than 2,000 Deaths in 2014 Alone

Human Rights Watch's West Africa Director Corinne Dufka says the Nigerian group Boko Haram has killed more than 2,000 people in the first half of this year by bombings, murder, rape and kidnapping in widespread or systematic attacks.

Dufka says Boko Haram is “effectively waging a war on the people of north-eastern Nigeria at a staggering human cost.”

“We have documented 95 attacks on 70 towns and villages, mostly in north-eastern Nigeria,” she said.

Confirmation of the 2,053 deaths is based on media reports, human rights groups and others.

One of Boko Haram's most infamous attacks was the kidnapping of hundreds of schoolgirls in Chibok in April. However, Human Rights Watch said there have been many attacks on schools where male students were often killed. In February, an attack on the Federal Government College in Buni Yadi in Yobe State left 59 boys dead.

Dufka added that Human Rights Watch and others also have documented abuses by Nigerian Security forces. These include use of excessive force, arbitrary detention, the burning of homes and the extrajudicial killing of those suspected of supporting Boko Haram.

Sources: International Christian Concern, Voice of America

- ♥ Pray the deaths of so many will not be in vain, but that through this current violence and unrest, God will build His church by encouraging the faith of believers and making them more dependent on Him.
- ♥ Pray for the healing and comforting Spirit of our Lord and Saviour over the families of those perished and missing; pray for the immediate and safe return of all kidnapped in Nigeria.
- ♥ Pray God will grant strength and wisdom for those who are trying to bring an end to violence perpetrated by Boko Haram.

UKRAINE: Pray for Pastor Sergei Kosyak

Evangelical churches in the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk are being targeted by pro-Russian forces, which view the evangelicals as ‘sects’ which support the Ukrainian government by praying for peace.

VOM has received reports of at least nine attacks on Christians, churches and church-run drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres.

Pastor Sergei Kosyak, pastor of an Assemblies of God church in Donetsk and founder of the ‘Prayer for Ukraine’ movement, was detained and beaten for four hours. In another incident, on 17 June, gunmen broke into a Christian rehabilitation centre and held 29 people hostage, before later releasing them.

Pro-Russian rebels have detained other pastors and have robbed and looted churches. Many evangelicals in the region refuse to take up weapons on principle, and some congregations have been very public about the fact that they are praying for unity in Ukraine.

Source: Voice of the Martyrs USA

- ♥ Pray the Christians in Donetsk will exemplify the love of God through consistent love and prayer for those who persecute them (Matthew 5:43-48).
- ♥ Ask the Lord to strengthen Pastor Sergei and the members of his congregation and prayer movement; may the Lord help them to overcome the trials they have faced.
- ♥ Pray that increased persecution will result in increased boldness among the believers (Acts 4:29-31)



Voice of the Martyrs Australia PO Box 250 Lawson NSW 2783 Australia
 phone +61 2 4759 3700 fax +61 2 4759 3711 www.vom.com.au

The Task of Catholics Today – Each Day

(by Adrian Commadeur, author of “The Spirit in the Church”, 1992, Melbourne: Comsoda Communication)

Papal Exhortations to Evangelisation

Two Papal Milestones seem to mark off my work in the Church’s most important mission: Evangelisation. The first is the 1975 exhortation from Pope Paul VI On the Evangelisation in the Modern World. This summary of the synod of bishops in 1974 on evangelisation gave a clear rallying call to all levels of Catholics that the Church exists to evangelise. The Pope wrote: Evangelising is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelise, that is to say in order to preach and teach, to be the channel of the gift of grace, to reconcile sinners with God, and perpetuate Christ’s sacrifice in the Mass... (EN 14).

The second Papal Milestone is a similar exhortation by Pope Francis in 2013 called The Joy of the Gospel. Nearly 40 years after Paul VI, with a number of other exhortations in between by John Paul II on the same subject, such as the Vocation and Mission of the Lay Faithful (1988), Pope Francis has renewed the call to a new phase of evangelisation, one marked by enthusiasm and vitality (EG 17). He pleads with the readers to adopt in every activity which you undertake a definitive style of evangelisation marked with joy, since all of us are called to take part in this new missionary “going forth” (EG 20).

Both of the papal exhortations give wonderful principles and guidelines, based on the scriptural basis of Jesus’ command to go out into the whole world to preach the gospel and make disciples of all nations (Mt 28, 19). Both letters acknowledge that the Holy Spirit enables the believer to accomplish the mission by the power received at Pentecost and subsequently by everyone who appropriates the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Confession in the Spirit of St Augustine

St Augustine wrote his Confessions, not only of his sinful lifestyle - he stole some pears in his youth among his misdemeanours – but also of his conversion and faith. In that spirit I confess that I felt called to be missionary in Africa as a youth, pursued study for that purpose, but failed to achieve that goal. Well educated in theology and scripture, I experienced a lack of power to proclaim the good news of Jesus. I left the seminary and became a criminologist instead. My desire to bring the saving power of the crucified and risen Jesus, however, never wavered. I found small ways of putting the missionary call into practice, not with great success.

In 1971 I came across the very first mention and information meetings of the new movement in the Church, later to be called Charismatic Renewal. It had to do with the power of the Holy Spirit in a Personal Pentecost. In August 1973 I attended my first meeting and six people prayed for me to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, mentioned by Jesus in Acts 1, 8. This experience transformed my life. The presence of the person of the Holy Spirit became real and active and empowered me to fulfill the call of Jesus, repeated by Paul VI, by John Paul II and now Pope Francis.

Vocation and Mission of a Lay Person

In my baptism I became a follower of Jesus, a member of the church and called to ministry. In confirmation I was empowered by the Holy Spirit to achieve my vocation and mission in the Church. But it was the baptism in the Holy Spirit on that August night 1971 that released the ability to fulfill my mission. Soon I began to share the good news of Jesus, how God loves us, how Jesus came to save us from our sins by his death and resurrection, how we are made right with God, converted by faith, how the Holy Spirit guides and enables us to grow in holiness, and how we are to share the gospel with others in the Church. I became a more active member of the Church.



Adrian teaching from Scriptures

School of Evangelisation

I have received a number of phone calls from people which transformed the direction of my life. They were really calls from God. One of these was from Fr (later Bishop) Joe Grech in 1994, inviting me to attend courses in Rome equipping me to evangelise and to equip others to evangelise. As a member of a team, together with Fr Joe at first, I had the privilege of training hundreds of Catholics all around Australia and Oceania, to evangelise. But I had to be

(continued next page)

The Task of Catholics Today – Each Day (...continued)

the first to do so. I needed and wanted to give the example. For more than 15 years God gave me the opportunities to mentor and accompany many on evangelising missions in parishes. Our aim, not completely fulfilled as yet, has been to form teams of evangelisers in parishes, equipped with the necessary knowledge of Scriptures and skills to engage others, especially non-practising Catholics, in evangelistic conversations. We do this in an atmosphere of faith, respect, prayer and love for the people.

One to One Evangelisation

There are many forms of evangelisation, such as television, theatre, art, philosophy and one to one. In the end the purpose of evangelisation is to bring a person to conversion through repentance of sin and faith in Jesus and the Church. The joy of meeting people, sharing our testimony of how God has touched our lives is like that of the 72 disciples sent out by Jesus, returning full of joy at what happened amongst the people they met. This is the joy of the gospel of Pope Francis. I think of the elderly Italian couple who resolved to return to the practice of the faith in Hobart. I remember the young mother in Wagga Wagga who could not get enough sharing God's love for her. I think of the poor squatters in a Filipino suburb who gathered in numbers around us as we shared the love of Jesus with them. I think of the migrant family one Saturday afternoon in Melbourne, where the adult children were visiting their parents, all joining hands in prayer of reconciliation. There is great joy in helping people to accept Jesus as their Saviour and Lord in their lives, and as much joy in equipping others to do the same.

The Future of Evangelisation in Australia

Popes Paul VI, John Paul II and Francis are really writing about a culture shift. They are writing to me and to you inviting us to change our mentality from a passive Christianity to an active one. Jesus in the gospel and the Church invite us all to develop an evangelistic or kerygmatic mentality. One can never presume that a person, even one who attends church regularly, is really a follower of Jesus, fully surrendered to His Lordship. The future of evangelisation

in parishes depends on the formation, equipping and training of both clergy and laity to meet the needs of 21st century fellow countrymen. In turn this relies on the practices of our bishops and priests, and how formation of the parishioners in the pews takes place. All Christians are called to discipleship, to fellowship with others, to some form of ministry in the Church – all for the purpose of pleasing and praising and worshipping God through the Sacraments, especially the Sunday Eucharist.



SoE "Joshua Course" participants

May this come about as we pray the prayer to the Holy Spirit attributed to St Augustine:

*Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.*



School of Evangelisation sponsored Parishes on Fire Conference organising team



Papua New Guinea World Mission

P.O. Box 2456 Lae 411 Morobe Province.
Papua New Guinea

Thu 31/07/2014

Dear Partners in Missions,

We praise and thank God for you; our faithful partners for your continuous prayers, encouragements and support in reaching out and touching someone's life out there with the love of God. Nothing matters more and of eternal value then telling someone that God loves you. That is giving hope to a person!!

The Kalgoorlie Boulder update is titled **PUSH - Pray Until Something Happens** God will always make way when there seems to be no way. Keep on Praying. Never give up!

This update features the ongoing ministry our PNGWM missionaries are currently doing in Kalgoorlie, WA.

Thank you for standing with us in prayer.

Blessing,

Ms Tema Manko

PNG World Mission

P-U-S-H - Pray Until Something Happens; Kalgoorlie Boulder Update; July 30, 2014

(Republished from an email from Tema Manko,

Dear Partners and Friends in God's Mission,

Praise and Glory to God our Faithful Father on high! Truly our God works in ways that you and I are always caught aback. It is that when you stay focused with open heart and mind we will never miss out on what God will do before our eyes.

Our four missionaries left Perth city for Kalgoorlie Boulder on the 19th of July, with not much insight of what they were expected to do or whom they were meeting with to make connections to the Indigenous communities. But they were on an assignment from God and were instructed to be obedient to the task before them.

After two days of trying to find their way around and to meet the right people, the Team did not lose heart but continued to press on and focus on God. On Wednesday, sister Claire (Papua New Guinean) who is a resident in Kalgoorlie took the Team to meet Pastor Paul Simelolo (Papua New Guinean) who serves among the Indigenous people. And then from Pastor Paul, they were connected to Pastor Bob (white Australian) who has a heart for Papua New Guinea and Jeffery, Indigenous Pastor. *It has been their prayers and cry to see Papua New Guinean missionaries come and serve their people. And our Team's coming is timely and an answer to their long due prayers.*



Above Photo's: Our Mission Team (Sandra, Paul, Clifford & Girina) on prayer walk to Miracle Lake and feeding and praying with Indigenous people. Indeed, our Mission Team is speechless in witnessing, experiencing and being part of what God is doing through them. Glory to God!

(continued next page)

Kalgoorlie Boulder Update (...continued)

And the mission impossible came to reality, when the Team sat face to face with Pastor Jeffery who is the key person to go through before anyone can set foot into the Indigenous community especially in Kalgoorlie Boulder, WA.

Praise the LORD, the Team has been given permission to go into four (4) different communities.

Please pray for our Mission Team who will be heading out into these communities next week; to establish connections and sow God's Word into the lives of the Indigenous people.

The first thing they have asked our Team to do is to show the Indigenous people how to make their own gardens and sell them to have some earnings. That is a big challenge but with God's wisdom all things are possible (Matt 19:26).

We praise and thank God for placing fellow Papua New Guineans in this location where they have made the commitments to make these connections become a reality. It is God's business that He will never fail His Word (Jer 1:12).

Please pray with us as the Mission Team prepares to go into those Indigenous communities and the possibility of extending their stay for another month in Kalgoorlie, WA as work has just began and the provision for their tickets back to PNG hopefully at the end of September, 2014.

THANK YOU; to you our faithful partners for your prayers and support for the PNGWM Outreach to Perth, WA. The climax was the celebration of the ELC Day at Parkwood, St Luke Lutheran Church. The history of the first Lutheran Missionary to PNG; Johannes Flierl in July 1886 was presented in drama which was well received by the Congregation and continued on with the Challenge of the Great Commission from PNG to the world out there (Matt 28:19).



Our **THANK YOU** to Pastor Michael Parker, Songangs James Waisime & Tolly Tara and their families and all the PNG Community in Perth city and Kalgoorlie for all your support and prayers to make this Outreach a success to the glory of God xxx

Every blessing in Christ,

Ms TEMA MANKO

PNG World Mission, LAE

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A Teacher and the Christian Connection

Thomas Shadrach James

Another in the series of “and the Christian Connection.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

How prepared are you to listen to the voice of God and obey?

Do you want to live an inspirational life?

Are you willing to obey the word of God?

Graham McDonald; graham.mcdonald@ccca.org.au

Children of the World a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ Australia



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Transforming Sydney is partnering with Gener8 to bring awareness of the role of Chaplains and the need for SRE teachers.

For more information how to help please go to <http://www.genr8.org.au/>

“My Vocation for you...”

My name is Fr. Peter Hendriks msc.

I am a priest with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. My ministry is Vocations Director. So what does that mean? Fortunately I don't have to create vocations to the Brotherhood or Priesthood, I leave that up to God! However, it does mean that I promote Vocations and if it touches the heart of a young man then it is my role to journey with him, if he so desires, as he discerns his vocation to where God may be calling him. It is a blessed ministry.

My own journey would fill five long chapters! My life makes true the saying, “God writes straight with crooked lines”, although, someone said to me recently, when you turn around and look back over your life you see in fact it was a straight line.

St Teresa of Avila said that you need to know yourself to know God and St Augustine said to discover your Vocation and God one must first return to one's heart. That is true for me. My first attempt at training for the priesthood lasted five years and I discerned (or hoped to be more accurate) that I wasn't called to be a priest. I was out for 12 years before I returned. During that time I could not seem to let go of the call. I tried to, in good ways and bad. I had trouble deciding and committing. One day I said to God in great anger, “Tell me what to do, you know I am obedient. Do you want me to be a Priest or not.” I had a sense that God's reply was, “Peter it doesn't matter, if you want to be a Priest go ahead, if you want to be a lay person go ahead. **My Vocation for you is for you to know that I love you**”. Wow – that silenced me. It was true, my indecision and inability to commit was due to a deep sense I was worthless. I could not therefore commit to anything or anyone.

To cut a long story short, I entered the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and still struggled. I needed to uncover a deep anxiety in my heart that was ever present. Once I was able to identify it I was able to deal with it. Then peace followed. When I was healed from the anxiety it was then possible for me to live my life 90% for others, rather than 90% focusing on my own pain which was the case for years.

If I had discovered my anxiety when I was in a relationship I would have stayed in that relationship. However, it was no accident that I discovered it when I was training for the priesthood as I feel this is my truest and deepest desire and identity.

Who are the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart? Very simply our founder said, let people discover the Jesus of the Gospels and they will fall in love with him. Our Spirituality is a Heart Spirituality. It

focuses on the truth that God showed his love for us through the way Jesus lived his life with us and for us. Our God is a God of compassion, forgiveness, tenderness, courage, strength as revealed in the Human heart of Jesus.

“Be compassionate as your heavenly father is compassionate” sums it up for me.

In more lay terms, never forget the power of love, it is our most powerful means and the most powerful means the world has to deal with its struggles.

As MSC's we say, “May we be on earth the Heart of God”.

May God's love be everywhere, or as our founder Jules Chevalier said, May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved, forever.

Much love,
Peter.

“...let people discover the Jesus of the Gospels and they will fall in love with him.”



With your help, people can also realise that donating their unwanted but reusable items can go a long way to helping those in need – and all with a simple click of a button! So please help spread the word about what we do by sharing news about us or getting them to visit www.heartforthehomeless.org.

With much excitement –
The Heart for the Homeless team

FROM: AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST INTERNATIONAL – AUSTRALIA

DATE: July 22, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



AFCI

Spy-turned-evangelist can be your midweek speaker in August

Formerly a Pol Pot spy, evangelist Barnabas Mam will be touring Australia in August 2014 to tell how he found Christ during Cambodia's terrifying genocide, miraculously survived the Killing Fields, and continues to be an active force for Christ in Asia, having helped to plant more than 400 churches at last count.

In great demand as a guest speaker, Barnabas Mam is touring Australia throughout August 2014 to share his compelling and inspiring story of faith and hope. While his Sunday schedules are filling fast, **there is still an opportunity to book him on 1300 723 993 as a guest speaker for mission-minded midweek meetings such as business lunches or men's and women's ministry events** where he can share his amazing story as well as his vision for training church planters and pastors in the SE Asia region, and build ongoing support for sharing the gospel in Cambodia and the Philippines.

Converted to Christ while spying on a Christian evangelical meeting during Pol Pot's deadly regime in the early 1970s, Barnabas Mam survived being arrested and sent to the Killing Fields, spending four years in captivity, fleeing Cambodia and spending another 8 years in a Thai refugee camp.

After returning home, Barnabas went on to help rebuild the church in his native land. Now regarded as one of Cambodia's foremost evangelists and church planters, Barnabas has helped to plant more than 400 churches in Cambodia alone.

Copies of his book, *Church Behind The Wire* (written with Kitti Murray) telling Barnabas' dramatic story of faith in the Killing Fields, are available for media review and as promotional giveaways. They are also on sale through Koorong

You are welcome to hear Barnabas speak in:

- **Sydney at the `Oxygen 2014' Conference** (Australia's only interdenominational national ministry conference) on Wed Aug 6
- **Sydney churches** including Toongabbie Baptist Church (Aug 3) and Engadine Church of Christ (Aug 10)
- **Orange, NSW** at various churches on Sun Aug 17 (including EV Church) and at a special regional church event in Orange on Mon Aug 18
- **Raymond Terrace, NSW** at Raymond Terrace Community Church (Aug 24)

You can also meet Barnabas at his:

Sydney book-signing at Koorong, West Ryde NSW on Sat Aug 16 from 11 am.

Watch for these TV and radio interviews (some available online):

- Barnabas is being interviewed by Record InFocus (Adventist Media Network), a weekly newsmagazine program that plays on the Australian Christian Channel (Foxtel), the international Hope Channel satellite network and free-to-air on Digital 4 in Adelaide. All their program segments are also available online.

He is also being interviewed for the `Open House' radio program on Sydney's Hope 103.2 FM (podcasts available online), and Rhema Central Coast.

Barnabas Mam has served as regional director in Asia for Ambassadors for Christ International since 2007, and continues to be actively involved in evangelism and church planting throughout Asia and beyond.

For guest speaker bookings and more information, contact Joanne Yanco at Ambassadors for Christ International in Sydney: jo@afci.com.au or 1300 723 993.

A LIFE AND MINISTRY PROFILE OF BARNABAS MAM

In April of 1972 Barnabas Mam, a young communist zealot, was assigned to spy on an evangelistic gathering in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. However, in a stunning turn of events, Barnabas left that meeting a born-again Christian.

Then came 1975, a year etched in history with the blood of 1.8 million Cambodians slaughtered by the Khmer Rouge regime. Barnabas soon was imprisoned. While in prison his faith grew and Barnabas was able to show Christ's love to his captors and fellow prisoners. Many cell mates, summoned by the guards at night, never came back. One night, Barnabas was rudely awakened for interrogation. Knowing the probable outcome, Barnabas committed his end to the Lord. With his head bowed in surrender, he was ordered back to his cell! God proved his might in that dark hour.

By 1979 the Khmer Rouge had fallen, but any joy was quelled by the grief of discovering how many loved ones had been lost to the Killing Fields. Barnabas was shocked to find out from his surviving mother that his father and six siblings had been murdered during those darkest hours of atrocities.

A broken man, Barnabas allowed God to use that tragedy to renew his spiritual vigor and impart a new vision of service for the years ahead. He recognized the huge need for spiritual, social, and emotional healing in Cambodia and obediently submitted himself to the call of serving the Lord full time.

The Vietnamese entered Cambodia in 1978 at the invitation of their allies in the Khmer Rouge and installed a new government in Phnom Penh in January 1979, effectively becoming the rulers of Cambodia. Barnabas fled Cambodia for exile in Thailand in 1985. There he was interned together with his surviving family and other Cambodian refugees at Site Two Camp. He joined Campus Crusade for Christ in 1989 as a ministry leader in Site Two Camp. While living eight years with his family in that refugee camp, Barnabas was driven by his passion for the lost and empowered by the Holy Spirit to build a team of nationals to plant 15 churches, train 50 Christian leaders, and teach English to 1,000 students.

Barnabas came back to Cambodia with his family in March 1993. This was possible because the Vietnamese had withdrawn in September 1989 and democracy had come to Cambodia. Cambodians elected their own coalition government in May 1993, under the sponsorship of the United Nations.

Barnabas planted the Living Hope in Christ Church in Phnom Penh in 1995 and served as its senior pastor until February 4, 2007. The Living Hope in Christ Church has thus far birthed 42 daughter churches. The LHCC church continues to grow and serve the Lord under my successor, Pastor Sanith Khem.

Barnabas joined the national church planting movement by establishing the Institute of Church Planting Cambodia (ICPC) in 1998. It trains 30-35 church planters each year. By July 2012, 413 new church planters had been prepared and graduated from this institute and had planted more than 500 churches in Cambodia and southern Vietnam. The Institute of Church Planting continues to educate and disciple church planters to this day.

Barnabas joined Ambassadors for Christ International (AFCI) in 2001 as national director of AFCI Cambodia. Barnabas began serving as Regional Director for AFCI Asia in April 2007, and the Lord is now opening more doors for him to minister to, train and work with nationals in Cambodia, Pakistan, India, Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and in the future throughout Asia. As God's favor rest upon him he was appointed a member of the International Leadership Team and International Board of AFCI Inc. since the day he became the Regional Director for AFCI Asia. Barnabas has written and translated more than 400 songs of praise and worship to be used by the Cambodian church worldwide. He is now writing "The Parables in Songs" in Khmer Language. In partnership with Trans World Radio Cambodia, Barnabas produced 52 Stories of the Potter in Khmer that are currently aired on eight radio stations in Cambodia.

Barnabas served as member of the advisory council of World Vision Cambodia (2004-2009), prayer coordinator of OCC-NLT Cambodia (2006-2010), vice chairman of Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia (1996-2006), co-chairman of Cambodia Prayer Stream (2004-2008) and chairman of the Bible Society Cambodia (2001-2010).

Barnabas married Boury who was a widow in 1980. The Lord blessed them with 9 children and step children.

The Mams are happy grandparents of 23 grandchildren and happy great grandparents of 11 great grandchildren. They are currently living in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Male and Female: One Image, One Purpose

(by Mimi Haddad, President, Christians for Biblical Equality, www.cbeinternational.org)

Have you ever wondered why, when a friend announces they're expecting a child, your first thought is, "Will it be a boy or girl?" Granted, gender is *the* most obvious distinction noted in a newborn, but we seem to ask the question as if there is an essential quality to gender, as if biology is destiny? Can we ever predict a person's identity, or scope of service based on their maleness or femaleness? Some would say yes.

Those who believe that gender is the most important aspect of personhood are often referred to as "gender essentialists." For them, maleness or femaleness is an all distinguishing *attribute* that directs one's fundamental identity and purpose of life—a view that, often, marginalizes girls and females in our world and also in the church. Significantly, gender essentialism is not a biblical idea. Its origins come from Greek philosophy.

Aristotle, for example, argued that there is an essential property or attribute that distinguishes all things, apart from which a thing would not be itself. Those who are gender essentialists believe that men and women possess a fundamentally different essence—that is fixed and unchangeable—giving rise to a distinct and different identity and destiny for males and females. But is gender essentialism consistent with the teachings of Scripture?

The Bible, it seems to me, points to a "human essentialism" which includes both males and females. In Genesis, the fixed and unchangeable essence of humankind is that both male and female are created in God's image (Gen 1:26-28). To bear God's image is an identity with *a* purpose—both Adam and Eve share authority in caring for the world (Gen 1:26, 28). Scripture emphasizes not the *differences* between Adam and Eve but declares their *unity and oneness*. They share a physical body because Eve comes from Adam's body. They also share God's image, an essence that imparts a purpose—a shared authority in caring for the garden and ruling over the animals and the earth, not each other.

It is sin that ruptures *not* God's image in man and woman but their purpose—their shared authority (Gen 3:16). Adam's rule over Eve was *not* God's original design. A consequence of sin, male-only rule (patriarchy) opposes and diminishes the purpose of females—their co-rule beside men. Male-rule also diminishes the identity of females—bearers of God's image.

Despite sin, Genesis 3 also teaches that a redeemer, born of a woman, will reconcile us to God and to one another. Though Eve came from Adam's body, the second Adam—Jesus—comes through Mary. Just as Eve shared authority with Adam, Jesus—the second Adam—not only welcomes women's spiritual authority: His teachings and practices consistently opposes patriarchy, cultural and religiously.

Consider the following examples.

When a woman called out to Jesus, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you." Jesus replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." (Luke 11:27-28). A woman's identity arises not from her gender roles, but in her faith—her response to God's revelation. This becomes the standard for all members of Christ's New Covenant. Women are now daughters of Abraham (Luke 13:16), a phrase first used by Jesus to welcome women as full and equal membership within Christ's New Creation project. Sitting at Christ's feet; women became disciples, evangelists and teachers. They also witness every miracle marking Christ's messianic mission. And often, women display greater faith and spiritual authority than the 12 male disciples. It was Mary who remained faithful at the tomb and her courage was rewarded. Mary is the first to meet the risen Lord. She becomes an apostle to the apostles.

Strikingly, the events of Easter parallel the creation account in Genesis, as N.T. Wright observes. Just as God breathed life into our parents in Eden, giving them authority to care for the world, after his resurrection Jesus appears to Mary and the other disciples and breaths on them, giving them spiritual authority to forgive and retain sin, John 20:18-23. Remade through Christ is an identity with a purpose, to exercise spiritual authority equally as male and female, just as Adam and Eve were created in God's image—an identity with the purpose of shared rule in Eden.

(continued next page)

Male and Female: One Image, One Purpose (...continued)

Hence, the apostle Paul builds the church beside the spiritual authority of women teachers, leaders, evangelists, prophets and a deacon and apostle. Paul offers a theological rationale for women's spiritual authority, which he explains throughout his epistles but summarizes in Galatians 3:27-29. Our identity in Christ shapes our relationships in the church. Greeks, slaves and women inherit a new identity not of shame and subjugation but of liberation, dignity and equality. In Christ we are made strong where the old creation had become weak through sin, because the gift is not like the curse, Romans 5:15. Remade in Jesus, we become equal agents of the gospel and partners of reconciliation, not by promoting the consequences of sin like male rule, but through serving one another with God's gifts given to us not because of our gender, but through our rebirth in Christ. Our identity is not in our gender, but in our union with Christ, made possible through Calvary. May we glory, only in the Cross.

*This article first appeared in Spring 2014 Issue of Mutuality, Vol 21, Issue 1, published by Christians for Biblical Equality
122 W Franklin Ave, Suite 218, Minneapolis, MN 55404-2451
www.cbeinternational.org*



News and Events



Pastors Network & Prayer Groups Across Sydney

We encourage you to contact and attend a group that is close to you - join together and be strengthened.

NOTE: the contacts in the below link have been given to Transforming Sydney by the people concerned for the express purpose of inviting others to attend their prayer group - the details are not provided for any other purpose and we ask that you do not copy these details onto other websites and social media without the permission of the respective owners.

Please go to Transforming Sydney Website

www.transformingsydney.org/TSPayerGroups.html

to find a list of Prayer Ministries and Groups.



City Silence is a weekly Holy Hour for young adults (aged 18-35) at St Mary's Cathedral every Tuesday from 6.30-7.30pm.

<https://www.facebook.com/CatholicYouthServices>

Life, Marriage & Family Centre
CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
lifemarriagefamily.org.au

"A mother does not create life on her own but she is the one who carries, sustains and bears this life as a precious gift from God. I warmly invite all pregnant mothers to attend this Mass and receive a personal blessing as they prepare to welcome their little one into the world."

+ BISHOP PETER A. COMENSOLI

Annual Mass for Pregnant Mothers

St Mary's Cathedral

10.30am, Sunday 24th August

On Sunday the 24th of August, the Archdiocese of Sydney will be celebrating the Annual Mass for Pregnant Mothers, at St Mary's Cathedral, 10.30 Mass. The Mass is to be celebrated by the Most Reverend Bishop Peter Comensoli, Apostolic Administrator of Sydney, and will be followed by a morning tea in the St Mary's Cathedral Chapter Hall.

Last year was a great success with around 100 pregnant women attending and each mother coming forward to receive a blessing for herself and her unborn child. We invite you once again to forward the invitation to pregnant mothers and to include a notice of the Mass in your bulletins. Hopefully you have recently received a number of flyers for the event (please see the attached document for your reference).

I have also included below, a suggested notice for bulletins which I kindly ask you to include.

For catering purposes, and to allow for the pregnant mothers to receive a special gift on the day, we ask that all women who wish to attend the Mass

RSVP to LMFEvents@sydneycatholic.org or 9390 5290.

Lessons from Sydney's last revival

Stuart Piggin, 7th Dec 2008

Excerpts from an article originally published on "Sydney Anglicans" - read the full article at: http://sydneyanglicans.net/blogs/indepth/lessons_from_sydney_s_last_revival

"Almighty God, we call upon you for . . . an outpouring of your Holy Spirit upon us . . ."

So begins the current Mission Prayer of the Diocese of Sydney. Do you believe that God will answer it? More than 40,000 fervent members of 5,000 prayer meetings in 1959 believed that God would answer such a prayer. They prayed that, when Billy Graham came to town, Sydney would experience "the greatest moving of the Spirit of God' that it had ever known. By the end of the second week of the Sydney Crusade, Graham observed that he had never witnessed such a response to the Gospel. 'Spiritual hunger is the greatest I have ever known in my ministry,' he said, 'This is the work of the Holy Spirit.'



Did the Southern Cross Crusade bring revival to Australia?

In summary, revival may be defined as a powerful work of the Holy Spirit, poured out on large numbers of people at the same time, bringing them to repentance and faith in Christ. It is usually preceded by a heightened expectation that God is going to do something remarkable, by unprecedented unity among Christians, and by extraordinary prayer. It is always accompanied by the renewal of the church, the conversion of large numbers of unbelievers, and the reduction of sinful practices in the community.

Detailed statistical analysis reveals that, contrary to trends, the consumption of alcohol fell in the year immediately after the crusades; the rate of increase of illegitimate births was slowest in the same year; and there was a reduction in overall crime indices. Not many spiritual movements have had that effect in Australian history. It is an effect consistent with revival.

Also consistent with revival is the unprecedented unity enjoyed by the churches immediately before the Crusade. By 1959 Billy had already turned his back on the sectarianism of fundamentalism. He was not concerned to dwell on what divides Christians, convinced that in Church history 'the great divisions have always resulted from somewhat minor differences.' He believed ecumenical pragmatism essential to evangelistic success, and his team adopted a policy of harnessing the support of all the clergy, rather than offend any of them.

As for heightened expectation, it seems that no-one expected that it would be as successful as it was. All the plans and projections were exceeded. But there were signs for those with eyes to see.

Significantly, expectation was found outside the church, especially in the media. Billy's concern for national regeneration was appreciated by the national press, reflecting a desire for revival then found in the wider Australian community.

All six characteristics of historic revivals were fulfilled in the Southern Cross Crusade. It was the closest Australia has come to "The Great Awakening'.

Impact on evangelicalism?

The Crusade's converts included many future church leaders. If the evangelical churches of Australia were weakened between the wars by the decimation of its future leaders in World War I, they were strengthened from the 1960s by the conversion of many prominent leaders in the Southern Cross Crusade.

Many leaders, already with an appetite for evangelism, became far more accomplished and confident evangelists, buoyed by the evidence of mass conversion, and trained in new skills and attitudes. In particular, counsellor training for the Crusade prepared lay people for a more active role in their churches, and their ministers were more inclined to use them. For their part, lay leaders were more inclined to work through their churches.

Furthermore, the Bible was again widely accepted as the Word of God. Billy's uncompromising refrain, "The Bible says', did more for the reestablishment of the Bible's authority than the defences of the fundamentalists.

Dr Stuart Piggin is director of the Centre for the History of Christian Thought and Experience and Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Modern History, Macquarie University. He is author of Evangelical Christianity in Australia (OUP, 1996).