

Salt Shakers

Helping Christians make a difference

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2

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Editorial

Welcome to 2008.

Encouragement is always welcome, especially when it comes from very unexpected quarters and arrives at a crucial time.

So it was nice that on the first day of this year we received the following email:

“Dear Peter and Jenny,

Thank you for your newsletter. There are so few sane voices in the world these days and you are such a blessing and truly serving the Lord. Your article on that little bird Godwit, was such a blessing - I distributed it far and wide, even to the atheists!

Everyone here looks up to Australia (the joke is that Oz is South Africa's 10th Province because so many South Africans have emigrated there) so I just hope now, with a left-leaning Government, Saltshakers voice will ring loud and clear.

May the Lord continue to bless you and all you put your hand to. Yours in Him, Val.”

That little bird sure made an impact. This was one of many comments we had about it and Creation Ministries International even used our Editorial as a guest Editorial on their web site.

Apart from the encouragement, there are, of course, some real challenges in that email from South Africa. A challenge to Australia as well as to us at Salt Shakers.

This year has been described by various people as “the year of new beginnings”, and that is certainly true politically. We enter uncharted waters with Labor governments in all States and Territories and now Federally as well.

The Howard Government did not do everything right but they did put the brakes on a number of minority groups. They

have been held back for ten years, but now the foot is off the brake peddle and on the accelerator, going full speed to achieve their various ‘progressive’ agendas. (Funny how that word ‘progressive’ is used today to promote liberal thinking and acting!!!)

Major issues now on the ‘progressive’ agenda include a national Bill of Rights, homosexual normalisation, including relationships and parenting, abortion on demand, multi-faith-ism (including appeasement to Islam) and a republic - and that is just for starters!

The homosexual activists are certainly gearing up to exert pressure on the Rudd government. Their media are full of articles about relationship rights, marriage, IVF etc. Even the moves already announced for Victoria don't go far enough, they cry, and as for any possibility that Mr Rudd will force the ACT to toe the line and not introduce a Civil Unions Bill is already being seen as a backflip.

With yet another lesbian joining the Labor ranks in Canberra (West Australian activist Louise Pratt) it will be even harder to hold back the tide.

We were criticised for focusing our ‘Christian Values Check List’ on distinctly ‘moral’ issues rather than ‘social justice’ issues such as Overseas Aid and the poor, and, would you believe ‘work choices’, but when sin abounds who is going to care about others. When selfishness abounds, who will care about the poor? When greed abounds who will consider it necessary to do a hard day's work for a day's pay?

New beginnings? No. Progressive? No.

Only Jesus can bring about progress and New Beginnings. A leopard cannot change its spots - neither can satan.

Looking forward to helping you ‘Make A Difference’ in 2008.

Peter & Jenny Stokes

The Three 'Rs' of Christianity

by Murray Adamthwaite PhD

“Let’s get back to the “Three Rs” in our education programme”, goes the cry from many quarters in response to poisonous pushing of leftist ideology in the classroom. While I thoroughly agree that there has been a politicising of the school curriculum, to the detriment of educational basics, there has also been a downgrade in many churches, even (perhaps especially) those churches who would claim to be Biblical.

A mea culpa report from Willow Creek Community Church now admits that slick marketing, alertness to “felt needs”, seeker sensitive services, big crowds, and “relevant” preaching has not led to solid discipleship and transformed, Biblically-informed lives. Quite the opposite! A whole era when sin, salvation, and sanctification were “out” has led nowhere. Even Bill Hybels laments, “Some of the stuff we have put millions of dollars into thinking would really help our people grow and develop spiritually, when the data actually came back, it wasn’t helping people that much.”

It is therefore high time for a return to the “Three Rs” of Christianity, as follows:

RUIN

Man’s *ruin* by the Fall. The Preacher puts it this way, “God made men upright, but they have sought out many devices” (Eccl. 7:29). Contrary to current humanism, the Bible everywhere insists that all men are depraved sinners; corrupt at heart (Jeremiah 17:9); God-denying and God-defying (Psa. 14:1-3; Psa. 10:3-4); full of poison

in thought, word, and deed (Rom. 3:10-18); full of lust and treachery (Eph. 4:19; Phil. 3:18-19) in all their relations. The only thing that makes life at all liveable is God’s “common grace” which restrains men from their worst excesses: the outward sanctions of civil government (Rom. 13:3-4); the influences of inward conscience

(Rom. 2:14-15); and the savour of the Gospel (Matt. 13:31-32) in our social structures. As our world has moved away from any semblance of Christian influence it has become more violent, full of bloodshed, adulterous, anti-authority, and tolerant of blatant evil; indeed, the type of world the Apostle describes in Rom. 1:28-32.

All this has come about because of the rebellion of our first parents, when they believed the devil’s lie that “you shall be as gods” (Gen. 3:5), and now millennia from Eden, men are

“very far gone from original righteousness”, to quote Article IX of the Anglican 39 Articles.

REDEMPTION

Redemption by the Blood of Christ. God in His infinite love, has not left men to perish, but immediately put into motion His ordained plan of redemption. From the outset of man’s fall, He promised a Divine-human Redeemer who would destroy the seducing devil and his works (Gen. 3:15), and throughout OT history, from Abraham to Malachi, this plan unfolds, until the climax is reached in the on-schedule appearance of that Redeemer (Gal. 4:4). On Calvary’s

There has also been a downgrade in many churches, even those churches who would claim to be Biblical.

cross He became the curse for us; His blood was shed to turn away (“propitiate”) God’s wrath against sin; He became the just for the unjust; He was made sin for us, though He knew no sin (Gal. 3:13; Rom. 3:25; 1 Pet. 3:18; 2 Cor. 5:21).

As a result guilty, corrupt, and sin-stained people are declared innocent and pardoned because of the shedding of the blood of Christ once and for all (Hebrews 7:27). That is, the righteousness of God, through Jesus Christ His Beloved Son, is freely given and bestowed to our account, and in turn received by faith alone, i.e. by looking to Him as the only basis of one’s pardon and acceptance for now and eternity.

As Paul puts it, we are justified by His blood, Rom. 5:8 – that is the ground and basis. Faith is the appointed means for receiving this gift of grace.

Rejoice and be glad, now the pardon is free.

The just for the unjust has died on the tree.

REGENERATION

Regeneration by the Holy Spirit.

How is anyone to receive this gift? It is futile to say that everyone can exercise faith. They cannot! Left to himself the natural man is not interested in the things of God; he does not understand them; he cannot receive or accept them; he instinctively rejects them as sheer folly (1 Cor. 2:14). Just listen for a moment to the shrill voices of unbelief across our world now that Christianity has been abandoned! They are the voices of the natural man, in his own much-vaunted wisdom but in reality his God-defying madness (1 Cor. 1:21; Psa. 53:1). The natural man looks at Christ and sees Him not as the Son of God, but as an ordinary

man; and His death merely that of a martyr, or an “ancient injustice” (as I once heard from an ignorant journalist). He sees Him “according to the flesh” (2 Cor. 5:16).

Thus to come into touch with the things of God, and to see Christ as He really is, there must be nothing less than a new act of creation, on the same level as when God called light into being at the beginning. When that light by God’s mighty power shines into a man’s soul the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ arises within him (2 Cor. 4:6). He becomes a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17), a transformed person alive in Christ (Eph. 2:5), and pursuing the path of holiness (Phil. 2:13-14).

This is regeneration (Titus 3:5), and the “new birth” taught by Christ to Nicodemus (John 3:3, 5). However, this term “born again” has in the hands of the world become one of the most debased expressions imaginable. We hear it said of someone who has changed his political allegiances, or someone else “turned on” by the benefits

of eating chocolate (as in that silly movie *Chocolat*), or again someone who gives up wine and turns to drinking Coke. This sort of flim-flam is called being “born again”. On the contrary, it is nothing less than the death-to-life transformation of a sinner dead in sin to become a living saint in Christ Jesus. It is “the life of God in the soul of man.” Let us call it what it really is in John 3 – being born *anōthen*, “from above”!

J.C. Ryle put the situation this way: ““We live in an age of shams, cheats, deceptions, and impositions. It is an age of white-wash, varnish, lacquer, and veneer ... of adulterated food, paste diamonds, false weights and measures, unsound timber,

**The
righteousness
of God,
through Jesus
Christ ..., is
freely given...,
and in turn
received by
faith alone**

and shoddy clothing. It is (also) an age of wind-bags, and whitened sepulchres, and cymbals in religion. I hardly wonder that many regard all Christian professors as suspicious characters, if not hypocrites, and deny the reality of any such thing as conversion.” [*Old Paths*, p. 325]

Little has changed since Ryle penned these words in the 1880s! In fact, never more so than right now. In part this is due to the world’s debasement of our theological currency, but it is in large measure due to (i) casting our own theological pearls before pigs (Matt. 7:6), (ii) unholy and hypocritical lives of professing Christians, and (iii) failure to preach these great truths the way that the New Testament presents them, and becoming preoccupied with side issues such as healing, speaking in tongues, self-help psychology (“self-worth”, “self-esteem”, “self-realisation”), and so on.

God has always blessed the straightforward preaching of the “Three Rs”:

(i) of refusing to flatter human pretensions to innate goodness but “tell it like it is” regarding their parlous spiritual condition;

(ii) of plain declaration of Christ’s substitutionary blood atonement even though the world calls it “butcher’s shop gore”;

(iii) of the utter need of men for a new heart, Divinely bestowed and not humanly contrived by psychology, neurotherapy, or “rehabilitation” programmes, even if summoning the spiritually dead seems bizarre folly, even to many erstwhile Christians.

If we want God’s blessing, let us boldly declare God’s revealed message in God’s way. Then we may see God’s results.

Murray Adamthwaite has a PhD in ancient history and a degree in theology. He is a member of Salt Shakers Reference Panel. Murray has a website with details about the lectures he gives in ancient history and Old Testament. Murray has recently launched a new website which contains all his articles: <www.adamthwaite.com.au>

After-effects of Abortion in Brisbane

A study done at the Mater Hospital in Brisbane has found that young women who have an abortion are more likely to drink heavily and use hard drugs.

Researcher Kaeleen Dingle, from the University of Queensland, told the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) conference in Melbourne in November that they had found a clear link. [*The Age*, 30/11/2007]

The study followed 1,122 young women who were born at the Mater hospital in the early 1980s. After 21 years, approximately one-third had an abortion. The young women who had an abortion were **three times more likely** to abuse hard drugs, like heroin, methamphetamines and glue, than the women who either had no pregnancy or

those who had a child.

They were also **twice as likely** to be a binge drinker or an alcoholic, and **1.5 times more likely** to suffer depression. The researchers found that there was no link with heavy smoking, cannabis use, or levels of anxiety.

The findings were adjusted for age, family socio-demographic factors and previous mental health problems.

Kaeleen Dingle said her results should not be seen as supporting those who oppose abortion as other girls who had babies could also have problems, but she noted that “it may be that, based on these findings, some women could do with more GP counselling and more thorough after-abortion care.”

News & Action

Smoking in cars

The Tasmanian has banned smoking in cars where children are present as of 1 January 2008. In 2006, South Australia was the first state to ban smoking in cars where children under 16 are present.

In Victoria, Nationals MP Damian Drum told Parliament in December that he would introduce a private members bill to ban smoking in cars where children are present. The law would also make it illegal for children under 18 to smoke. This followed a campaign by Quit Victoria and anti-cancer groups because of the harm done by passive smoke. The Victorian branch of the Australian Medical Association has supported the campaign. In September 2007 we reported on the campaign to lobby the government and suggested that people support this to protect the health of children in confined spaces.

ACTION: If you live in Victoria, please contact your SIX MPs and encourage them to support this legislation. Write to Parliament House, East Melbourne, Vic 3002. Names of MPs: See <<http://www.saltshakers.org.au/html/P/13/B/107>>

WA: Prostitution

The WA government is currently considering the legalisation of prostitution. The WA Legislative Assembly passed the **Prostitution Amendment Bill 2007** by 29 votes to 22 on 14 November 2007.

The Bill then went to the Legislative Council. The numbers were close and a vote was expected in December 2007.

During December the government 'froze' the bill, deciding not to proceed to a debate in the Council when it became clear they did not have the numbers to pass it.

What caused this change?

Legislative Council member Shelley Archer resigned from the Labor Party towards the end of 2007 and became an 'Independent'. She told the government she planned to vote **against** the Bill - meaning the government no longer had the numbers.

ACTION: This was a good result - the Bill was dropped! However the government will undoubtedly still want to pursue this legislation, so if you live in WA, please contact your 5 or 7 Legislative Council members - ask them to oppose this Bill.

Victoria: Knives at school

Should Sikh students be allowed to bring a dagger to school? This was the subject of a debate in Victoria during 2007.

The parliamentary Education and Training Committee conducted an inquiry into school uniforms. Many in the community felt that students should not be allowed to bring any kind of knife or dagger to school.

The Committee has recommended that Sikh students be allowed to carry the **kirpan** - a small, curved ornamental steel dagger carried by initiated Sikh men. It is worn under clothing and not allowed to be used as a weapon. School principals expressed concern that, even if the students did not use the dagger, other students could misuse it. The Sikh Interfaith Council rejected suggestions by the Department of Education that students could carry a replica instead. Schools and principals have expressed concern at this recommendation.

The inquiry suggested that all schools should allow the wearing of clothing or other items that are of 'religious significance' - including the wearing of hijabs by Muslim girls and crosses or crucifixes by Christians!

Source: Knives at school okay for religious reasons - report, *Herald Sun*, 6/12/2007.

Committee Report: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/etc/fs_inq_dress.html>

Vic - (same-sex) Relationship Registers

'Win for gay couples' read the headline in the *Herald Sun*. 'New laws to mirror marriage rights' said the by-line.

The Victorian government introduced a bill to establish a Relationships Register on 4 December 2007. It will be debated early in 2008.

We said the Victorian government would wait until after the federal election to present this legislation to prevent a possible backlash - and that proved to be true!

The Relationships Register will allow the registration of same-sex and heterosexual *de facto* relationships, giving a 'marriage type' certificate to legally recognise relationships. It will be administered by the 'Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages'.

Attorney-General Rob Hulls said "These reforms provide that Victorian laws, in most cases, treat *de facto* and same-sex couples in the same way as married couples."

The law will give 'unmarried' couples, heterosexual and homosexual, most marriage benefits. However, they already have most of the benefits, which were granted in 2001 when more than 50 Victorian laws were changed. In most cases, a new term of 'domestic partner' was defined meaning anyone in a heterosexual or homosexual *de facto* relationship. Then the word 'partner' was defined to mean 'domestic partner or spouse'. THEN all the laws were changed - the words spouse, husband and wife were removed and replaced by 'partner'. The effect of this is that most laws do not specifically refer to marriage - just to 'partner' and that already includes everyone!

So homosexual and heterosexual *de facto* couples already have most of the so-called 'rights'. This register will formalise such relationships, giving legal recognition and

endorsement to what used to be called immoral or sinful lifestyles. Formally recognising such relationships - whether heterosexual or homosexual - will undermine marriage and have a detrimental effect on marriage, children and society generally.

What is the point of 'MARRIAGE' when ALL THE BENEFITS are given to ANY TWO PEOPLE?

Some Christian groups are supporting Relationship Registers - provided 'caring' relationships are also included as they are in Tasmania. This confuses the issue and recognises the homosexual relationships. The Tasmanian register has two *separate* categories - for 'significant' relationships between homosexual or heterosexual couples and a separate register for 'caring' relationships between any two people where they care for each other.

Any form of sexual relationship outside marriage is forbidden in the Bible. Christians cannot endorse the formal recognition of homosexual or heterosexual *de facto* relationships by the state.

ACTION: Victorians, please contact your SIX MPs (one Legislative Assembly and five in the Legislative Council).

Also contact Premier John Brumby, Opposition Leader Ted Baillieu, Shadow Attorney General Robert Clark and Nationals leader Peter Ryan. Address your letters to Parliament House, East Melbourne, Vic 3002. See our website for details of the bill: <<http://www.saltshakers.org.au/html/P/302/B/472>>

MP details names, emails and contact addresses: <<http://www.saltshakers.org.au/html/P/13/B/107>>

Why does the Victorian government ALWAYS introduce these laws just BEFORE Christmas and the January holidays???

Sydney mardi gras



The Sydney gay and lesbian mardi gras is underway again. The four week festival promotes the homosexual lifestyle through a wide range of activities. It begins on Saturday 9 February and culminates in the parade down Oxford Street in Sydney on Saturday 1 March.¹

One homosexual paper said the Chair of mardi gras was questioning whether a street parade should be held, suggesting a protest march as an alternative. A readers' vote showed that 34% of homosexuals thought it should be scrapped and only 39% wanted the parade as it is.²

Crowd numbers are always inflated by the organisers. The official website still claims that "Indeed over half a million Sydneysiders turn out each year to cheer on the parade."³ This claim is simply not true. Even the organisers estimated last year that 350,000 people watched the parade!⁴ Our mathematical calculations show that less than 100,000 watch the parade, with the figure closer to 50,000.⁴

Sponsors

Ten years ago sponsors of this event included large well-known companies as Telstra, Qantas and Ford. Since then, many sponsors have deserted mardi gras, thanks to all of those who wrote to them asking them not to support the homosexual lifestyle by providing them with financial support. Mardi gras was bankrupted a few years back before emerging as 'new mardi gras'.

This year the main sponsor or 'Presenting Partner' is *gaydar*, a company that runs an online meeting website for homosexuals.⁵

The major sponsors include Virgin Blue, Pump, and

by Jenny Stokes

the City of Sydney. Supporters, who often provide a particular service, include JCDecaux (street advertising), and the Botanic Gardens Trust (hosting one of the dance parties).

We all need to contact each of these and ask them not to support the mardi gras. See the Action section at the end of this article for more details!

Messages of Support

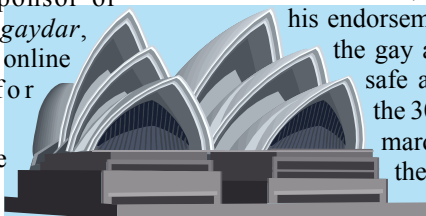
The official mardi gras Guide again contains messages of support from politicians.⁶

Kevin Rudd, as Prime Minister, gave an official message to the mardi gras. This is disappointing and is a stark contrast to the last 11 years when John Howard was PM – he steadfastly refused to give a message of support.

Kevin Rudd said "As Prime Minister I am committed to represent all in our diverse community. Mardi Gras is a celebration of that diversity and is a major Sydney event that brings thousands of people to our shores to experience the vibrant global city that is Sydney. Best wishes to all."

The Greens and Democrats regularly offer their support to this event. **Bob Brown**, leader of the Greens, said "Thirty stunning years...". Democrats leader (until July) **Lyn Allison** said "Mardi gras is a unique and wonderful celebration of love and community".

Morris Iemma, Premier of NSW, offered his endorsement of tolerance: "I wish the gay and lesbian community a safe and happy celebration on the 30th anniversary of the first mardi gras, a pivotal event in the life of Sydney and NSW. On this special occasion,



I express my sincere hope that the spirit of understanding and acceptance which has emerged over the past three decades will continue to expand in a tolerant society increasingly comfortable with the need to embrace difference and diversity.”

Clover Moore, Lord Mayor of Sydney, who has been a long-term supporter of the mardi gras, said it is a “major festival recognised around the world for its celebration of gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual pride”.

Two of the sponsors gave messages: Trevor Martin, the director of Qsoft Consulting which runs the gaydar website and Tim Entwisle – Executive Director, Botanic Gardens Trust.

ACTION:

Write to sponsors

Virgin Blue - Mr Brett Godfrey, CEO, Virgin Blue, GPO Box 1034, Spring Hill, Qld, 4004.

Pump - Mr Warwick White, Managing Director, Coca Cola Amatil, PO Box 145, Sydney, NSW, 2001.

City of Sydney - The Mayor, GPO Box 1591, Sydney NSW 2001.

JCDecaux - Suite 903, Level 9, 50 Clarence St, Sydney, NSW 2000

Botanic Gardens Trust: Tim Entwisle, Executive Director, Botanic Gardens Trust, Mrs Macquaries Road, Sydney NSW 2000.

Write to MPs

Kevin Rudd, Bob Brown, Lyn Allison - all at Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600.

Morris Iemma, Premier of NSW, Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney, NSW 2000.

Clover Moore, Lord Mayor of Sydney, GPO Box 1591, Sydney NSW 2001.

References:

1. *New mardi gras*: <www.mardigras.org.au>
2. *The end of mardi gras parade?*, SSO, 13/12/2007. At <<http://www.ssonet.com.au/display.asp?ArticleID=7508>>
3. *NMG Parade page*, at <<http://www.mardigras.org.au/internal.cfm?sub=Parade&nav=Mardi%20Gras%2008>>
4. *Salt Shakers - mardi gras 2007* at <<http://www.saltshakers.org.au/html/P/9/B/383>>
5. *Sponsors list*: <<http://www.mardigras.org.au/partners.cfm?nav=Partners>>
6. *Messages of Support*: <<http://e-p.net.au/publica>>

IVF and Surrogacy

JUST before Christmas the Victorian government said they will implement ALL but one of the 130 recommendations of the Victorian Law Reform Commission (VLRC) regarding IVF for single women and lesbians and surrogacy. The government is expected to do this early in 2008.

The ONLY thing the government decided not to act on at this time is the recommendation to allow adoption by same-sex couples. This has been referred to a national committee.

Victorian Senator Steven Conroy also put pressure on the government to change the surrogacy laws. He and his wife have a new baby, born to a surrogate mother with a third woman as a separate egg donor. His wife

had previously had ovarian cancer and a hysterectomy. He sought to have ‘parenting rights’. In December 2007, a court awarded him the legal right to be named as the child’s father. [The Age, 3/12/2007]

We oppose IVF for lesbians/single women and surrogacy because a child is denied the right to be brought up by his/her natural mother and father and it is contrary to the Biblical model of marriage and family.

ACTION: If you live in Victoria, please visit or write to, all your MPs. Also write to party leaders. You could combine the two issues of Relationship Registers and IVF/Surrogacy. See Page 7 for names and contact details.

What now, Robyn?

Columnist Robyn Riley often worries that the lives of “unborn babies” may be put at risk by some women timing their deliveries to cash in on the \$3000 baby bonus. She believes “motherhood is the ultimate gift” and “a mother would always put her child first.”

This from the same writer who has always defended the right of women to have their unborn babies killed by abortion?

The 80,000-plus women who have their babies aborted in Australia annually obviously do not put their babies first.

When the decriminalisation of abortion is debated in Victoria next year it will be interesting to see if Ms Riley is as concerned about the killing of unborn babies as she is about the potential risk of a few induced deliveries she believes are motivated by the baby bonus.

Will she continue to insult those who oppose this move on the ground the risk abortion poses to unborn babies?

Denise M. Cameron, Pro-Life Victoria.
Herald Sun 25/11/2007

Writing on the wall

The graffiti on private and public buildings in Melbourne is the work of young people who have no social conscience.

Knowledge of right and wrong has been denied them by parents who no longer say there is sin in the world.

Let's return to Christian values.

M. F. Tonti-Filippini, Hawthorn, Vic
Sunday Herald Sun 25/11/2007

MP Values

Mr Farmer, I asked you, “What is your stand on abortion?”. Your reply was “Against”. I also asked you your stand on homosexuals, again, your response was “Against”.

Thank you Mr Farmer for your stand and commitment to family values, to our Christian heritage.

Our nation needs Members of Parliament who live their values and who can be trusted to promote and honour Christian morals and legal foundations of our nation.

Judith Bond, Glen Alpine
Camden Advertiser 5/12/2007

Trust in government sadly misplaced

We trusted our past Labor and Liberal Governments to protect our primary and secondary industries - failed.

We trusted our banking system to look after our family finances fairly - failed.

We trusted our legal system to protect our children and permanently put away predatory pedophiles - failed.

We trusted our medical industry to competently care for our health needs - failed.

We trusted our education system to teach all our kids to be highly literate and numerate - failed.

We trusted... you finish the list.

Now our new Rudd Government wants us to trust it, and its Kyoto cronies, to fix up the whole world.

David G. Westaway, Navigators, Vic.
The Courier - 15/12/2007
Geelong Advertiser - 17/12/2007

50 / 50

The three biggest pokies addicts in Victoria are Tatts, Tabcorp and John Brumby.

David G Westaway, Navigators, Vic.
Herald Sun 15/12/2007

Meeting Health Requirements

My deepest sympathy to Bernie Peel. Let me assure him that I have enjoyed life greatly for 77 years without alcohol and tobacco (except when uncaring people have blown it into my airspace), and that for the sake of animal welfare (and my own health, and the environment) I have abstained from meat since 1974. Routine medical test results last month were all “excellent” - at least as good as when I ate meat. The greater variety of foods eaten to provide the necessary protein, vitamins, minerals etc., makes eating much more enjoyable, unspoiled by the thought of cattle being jammed into cattle trains and transported 52 hours without food or water. And what's wrong with free range eggs? Life's much more fun when you're healthy - and when you find God's purpose for your life!

Christina Naylor, Mayfield NSW
Newcastle Herald. 19/112007

Further Election reflection

As stated in the editorial, we were criticised for focusing the 'Christian Values Checklist' on distinctly 'moral' issues rather than 'social justice' issues such as Overseas Aid and the poor, and, would you believe, 'work choices'!

When we talk about 'moral' issues we think of issues that have a very clear Biblical mandate and that are related Biblically to government control.

In Australia, we also have to consider what issues come under the jurisdiction of the 'states' and what issues are 'federal'.

There is no doubt that 'Overseas Aid' and 'how we treat the poor' are important', and so is the way employers treat their employees, but are not all three 'personal' issues according to the Bible rather than government ones?

The commandment to love your neighbour as yourself is a matter of the heart much more than a matter of legislation.

You cannot simply quote a figure and say that this amount will solve poverty. Money is probably the worst way to solve such a problem. Giving money to a beggar allows them to spend it on those things that are bad as well as good, and that might well be how they became poor in the first place. But buying a person who is asking for money a sandwich and sharing a few moments with them might change their lives.

Corruption is one of the greatest causes of poverty, and that cannot be solved with money. Good governments will do more good dealing politically with corrupt governments and wisely helping in times of dire emergency, like a tsunami, than simply giving out monetary 'aid'.

As for the control of the work place,

that should also be more about personal relationships between employee and employer than government 'stick-wielding' regulations. Of course there has to be an arbitrator to deal with the difficult cases, but one rule for all is certainly not Biblical.

When I asked 'What is the Biblical position on work?', there was almost always virtual silence.

Taking the Bible story of the vineyard owner, we see that the boss made agreements, different for each person, and justice was served by him standing by those agreements (AWAs?) - not on all being equally paid. How would that go down in today's society?

Bosses are told to act justly toward their employees (do unto others...) and the employee has the same responsibility, to give a good account of himself to his employer and treat him with respect.

None of that should be a government's responsibility. Or that of unions, especially one affiliated with a political party.

The union movement was started by Christians to protect employees from the rouges - not to control employers.

If we are to be involved in the political process our FIRST responsibility is to find out what the Bible's position is. We CANNOT be guided by some political Party philosophy. Neither the 'Right' nor the 'Left' of politics have it right, but that does not mean we simply position ourselves in the middle.

On some issues we may find the Christian position is far more on one side than the other but it is the Bible's position that must come first. We must be able to give a well-thought -out Biblical justification for where we stand, NOT the political one.



Oprah - influential campaigner

Oprah Winfrey often seems to be the quintessential American talk show host - interviewing, probing, questioning. She is very influential - the books she recommends become even more widely read, the topics she exposes become part of our conversations.

Oprah's influence is not just in the USA. In Australia, her show is a regular feature of daytime TV and many people listen to, and absorb, the views promoted. One of our readers phoned recently to tell me about the segment about polygamy he had just watched where the decriminalisation of polygamy was advocated by one guest.

A colleague in the USA who writes EPOCH (Evangelical Perspectives On Current Happenings, Vol. 9, No. 22. 28/11/2007), recently wrote about Oprah's influence on US politics and, more disturbing, her promotion of the non-Biblical program called 'A Course in Miracles'... This course is published by the Foundation for Inner Peace and promotes a New Age view of spirituality, talking of the search for inner peace, the theme of love and that the purpose of life is to 'be happy'.

His reflection follows...

"It is one thing for Oprah to campaign for Barack Obama; but quite another thing to campaign for a new religion.

The announcement that Oprah Winfrey would be joining Barack Obama in his campaigning in Iowa, South Carolina and New Hampshire to win the Democrat nomination for president, came as no surprise to anyone. Prior to his formal announcement to be a candidate in February, 2007, Oprah opened the door for his candidacy on her national TV program in

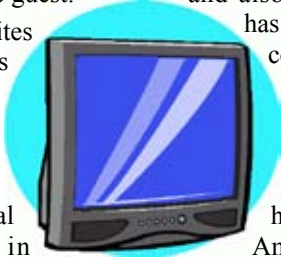
October, 2006, and helped boost his just released book, *The Audacity of Hope; Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream* to the top of the best seller lists. Then in September of this year she hosted a fund raising event at her Montecito, CA, home, raising \$3 million for his campaign.

Oprah is no ordinary, run-of-the-mill, sort of supporter. In a recent Gallup poll asking to name the most influential women in recorded history, Oprah ranked fourth. Her TV program is the highest rated talk show in television history, seen every day by 15-20 million American viewers in 205 markets, and also in 132 countries overseas. It has been the No. 1 talk show for 12 consecutive seasons. It has been well said, "When Oprah speaks, people listen."

If she wants to go on the campaign trail to support Obama, that is her right and her privilege as an American citizen.

At the moment she would appear to be the biggest cannon in his arsenal.

But it has been announced that Oprah is about to take on a new career, and become as some have expressed it, a "Prophetess of a New Religion." Oprah is soon to launch a new broadcast effort - a year long teaching program called "A Course in Miracles" to be aired on all the stations of her XM Satellite Radio network. Beginning on January 1, 2008, there will be offered one lesson each day, to complete the 365 lessons in the program's Workbook. The Workbook defines the program in these words, "This is a course in mind training," and says that it is dedicated to "thought reversal." The teacher will be Marianne Williamson, one of Oprah's long time friends and an XM Satellite reporter - and one of the leaders of the "New Age" religion. The "thought reversal"



presents Jesus as completely different from what the Bible teaches about Him.

For example, here are some direct quotes from the course: “There is no sin ...” “A slain Christ has no meaning...” “Do not make the pathetic error of clinging to the old rugged cross...” “There is no need for the cross because there was never a transgression that needed to be dealt with by God; only a mistake...” And this classic: “The Atonement is the final lesson he [man] need learn, for it teaches him that never having sinned, he has no need of salvation.”

Oprah introduced Ms. Williamson on her TV show in 1992, and said that Williamson’s book “Reflections on the Principles of A Course in Miracles” was one of her favourite books, and that she had bought a thousand copies to give to everyone in the studio audience. That program boosted Williamson’s book to the top of the *New York Times* best seller list.

It can be said that reinventing, redefining

and blaspheming of Jesus is a sign of the times. The church – we Evangelicals – do not seem to be aware of what is happening in the world about us, and we are not following the Scriptural instruction to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” (Jude, verse 3)

Even as it is Oprah’s right to campaign for Barack Obama, so it is also her right to sponsor the teaching about the New Age version of Jesus Christ. And people have a right to listen to that false teaching if they choose to. But the Evangelicals in the church have not only the right but also the obligation to teach about the Christ of the Scriptures as the necessary and only means of salvation.

ED: Marianne Williamson’s lessons in ‘A Course in Miracles’ are posted on Oprah’s website - they reveal the non-Christian nature of the course. View Lesson 1, *A Course in Miracles* at <http://www.oprah.com/xm/mwilliamson/200801/mwilliamson_20080101.jhtml>

‘A Course in Miracles’

‘*A Course in Miracles*’ was written down or ‘scribed’ by Helen Schucman, a clinical psychologist, between 1965 and 1972, through a process of *inner dictation*.

A personality clash with a colleague, Bill Thetford, led to him saying ‘there must be a better way’. Helen had been having dreams and she says she started to hear a voice which identified itself as Jesus, saying “*This is a course in miracles, please take notes.*”

However, it is not the Jesus of the Bible. The writing of the course used an occult means of communication. The course contradicts the Bible.

This voice dictated notes to Helen Schucman which were typed by Thetford. The course consists of a 622-page Text, a 478 page Workbook and an 88 page Manual for

Teachers. The Workbook has 365 lessons, one for each day of the year.

After completing the course, readers are encouraged to listen to their “own Internal Teacher” to direct further learning.

The Course uses many Christian terms, but distorts them: for instance it says “Sin is defined as “lack of love” (Text, p. 11). Since love is all there is, sin in the sight of the Holy Spirit is a mistake to be corrected, rather than an evil to be punished.”

The Course in Miracles was taken over in 1975 by the *Foundation for Inner Peace*, which had been started in 1972 by Judith and Robert Skutch in New York. It was originally called the *Foundation for ParaSensory Investigation*.

Ref: *A Course in Miracles*: <www.acim.org>

The Truth Project - an excellent resource!

The Truth Project is an invaluable resource on the Christian worldview. It has been produced by Focus on the Family in the USA, and it is now available in Australia through Focus on the Family Australia. There are 12 presentations (the one on science is 2 hours) making a total of 13 hours of material on DVD.

Dr Del Tackett teaches the series - he is engaging and makes the material come alive. Del was a lecturer at the Summit worldview schools in the USA prior to joining Focus to develop and teach this course.

The lectures are presented in a specially designed classroom setting with about 30 students.

Del contrasts the Christian worldview with the 'rest', so the focus is specifically on how Christianity views the world.

Del starts with the question 'What is truth?' He then deals with philosophy and ethics by asking 'Says Who?' before moving on to address the question "Who is Man?", followed by 'Who is God?'. The Truth Project then addresses the topics of science, history, sociology, the law, the American experiment of government, work and community - which includes the arts and literature.

If you have ever wondered HOW Christianity is relevant to ALL of your life, this DVD series is the answer. Del carefully uses Scripture to show the depth of the Christian worldview in all areas of life.

John Anderson, former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia has endorsed *The Truth Project* saying "I believe the Truth Project is quite brilliant, and is an invaluable resource as we seek to build a genuine, authentic and intellectually deep Christian

by Jenny Stokes

worldview in the face of empty Western secularism."

Peter and I watched the series in a single week whilst on holidays last year (2 sessions a day). We found the series stimulating and encouraging as well as providing an excellent understanding of the worldview concept.

The series would be great to watch in a small group setting on a weekly or a

monthly basis or church-wide.

It would be best done with a facilitator who has watched the program and understands the concept of worldviews. Why not have your church purchase the program for use in small groups? Or purchase a copy and get some friends together to watch the series.

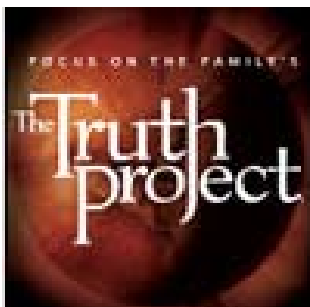
Focus on the Family Australia is providing training for using The Truth Project. The half day training shows highlights of the course and illustrates the use of the project.

The DVD series, complete with a manual and a half-day training (at Clayton), costs \$295. There is a 15% discount for schools and Bible Colleges. Workbooks are available at \$32.00 ea (plus postage).

The Truth Project page is at <<http://www.families.org.au/truthproject/default.aspx>> Contact Colin Bunnett in Melbourne. Phone 1300 300 361 or (03) 95497400.

An outline of the sessions: < <http://www.families.org.au/documents/The%20Truth%20Project%20Session%20Outline.pdf>>

The US Truth Project home page: < <http://www.thetruthproject.org>>



Prayer Update

PRAY for the Church in Australia

Pray that 2008 will indeed be a year for New Beginnings.

Pray for Christians to have reNEWed faith in God and His Word, for NEW boldness to stand against sin and for a NEW commitment to seek out the lost and offer hope to those who have been abused and downtrodden by humanistic relativism or the deception of other false religions.

PRAY for our Prime Minister

Pray for the new Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and his Cabinet.

Pray that they will seek God's wisdom in all the decisions they make.

PRAY for MPs

Pray for all the new Members of Parliament as they adjust to political life.

Pray for their families as they too will need to make many adjustments to daily routines and life in general.

Pray for State Premiers

Pray for the State Premiers and their Cabinets.

Pray for those in Opposition

Pray that the members of Parliament in Opposition will have discernment and be able to agree when that is desirable and have the courage to object to government proposals when that is needed.



If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chr. 7:14

PRAY against the influence of events like the Melbourne Midsumma, Pride march and Sydney's mardi gras. These homosexual events promote sin and promiscuity and the public exposure can give satan a foothold in peoples' lives.

Join us for Prayer and Breakfast

Pray for our nation, its leaders and Salt Shakers
6.30 am every Thursday morning at SALT SHAKERS Office

“**H**ow tragic that we in this dark day have had our seeking done for us by our teachers. Everything is made to centre upon the initial act of “accepting” Christ (a term, incidentally, which is not found in the Bible) and we are not expected thereafter to crave any further revelation of God to our souls. We have been snared in the coils of a spurious logic which insists that if we have found Him we need no more to seek Him.”

A. W. Tozer (1897 - 1963) *The Pursuit of God*.

Abortion

The South Australian government has published data about the number of abortions done during 2006. There were 4,888 terminations of pregnancy (TOPs) notified in SA in 2006 - 173 more than in 2005. The abortion rate was 15.5 TOPs per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years. The peak figure was in 1999 with 5,679 abortions - a rate of 17.9 per 1,000. (Note - Medical TOPs such as RU-486 etc are not reported.)

There were 18,663 live births reported in SA in 2006, giving a total fertility rate of 1.82 live births per woman in 2006, the highest in the last decade [but less than the replacement level of 2.1].

The abortion proportion (abortions compared with abortions plus live births) was 21 per cent. This proportion was higher for teenagers (53 %) and highest for younger teenagers (76 % for those under 15 years - however there were only 16 of these).

Over 90 % of abortions were performed in

metropolitan teaching hospitals.

Fetal reasons were reported for 141 or 2.9 per cent of abortions. Of the 78 abortions done at 20 weeks or later, 51 per cent were reported to be for fetal reasons.

More than 50% of the women having an abortion had never been married; 12% were in de facto relationships, 12% were separated and 24% of the women having abortions were married. Of those having an abortion, 1,873 or 38.3 per cent of women reported having had a previous abortion.

* Report and statistics: <www.health.sa.gov.au/pehs/pregnancyoutcome.htm>

Victoria and Queensland

Both states are facing proposals to decriminalise abortion. In Victoria, we expect that will be early in the year.

ACTION: Please write to your MPs to ask them to oppose the decriminalisation of abortion.

Young Australians: health and wellbeing

A very useful compilation of national statistics about young people in Australia has been published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

A full version of the report is available (free online, book form \$40) but the 22 page 'Selected Highlights' booklet is available free just by asking for it - it gives current data on issues affecting young people.

The AIHW says "This report brings together the most up-to-date national data on the health status of young Australians aged 12-24 years and the factors influencing their health. Information on health status includes self-assessed health status, disability, injury, mental health, chronic disease, communicable diseases, hospitalisations and

mortality. Factors influencing health include family and community environments, environmental factors, socioeconomic factors including education, employment and income and health behaviours such as weight, physical activity, nutrition and substance use."

FULL Report: <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10451>>

SELECTED Highlights: Free booklet available FREE. You can contact AIHW to request a free copy of the 'Selected Highlights'. Ph: 02 6244 1032. Email: pubs@aihw.gov.au

Also online: <www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10452>

Sweden: 'Gender neutral marriage'

The Swedish government plans to legislate early in 2008 to combine the current marriage and registered partnerships laws.

Sweden introduced 'Registered Partnerships' for homosexual and heterosexual couples in 1995. Now the government says 'They're really the same thing, so let's combine them!'

The Swedish Lutheran Church, with 7.2 million members out of Sweden's total population of 9.1 million, is supporting the government's move. The government asked the church what it thought.

The church's statement said "Marriage and (same-sex) partnerships are equivalent forms of unions. Therefore the Church of Sweden's central board says yes to the proposal to join the legislation for



marriages and partnerships into a single law."

The church said they agreed with the law, and could even have the 'weddings' in the church. BUT the church made one proviso... They said "According to the Church of Sweden's board the word 'marriage' should however only be used for the relationship between a woman and a man."

The question is if there is one law, and it is called 'gender neutral marriage' and the church actually agrees with it, how could they think they can give different names to the SAME thing?

Source: *AFP, The Australian*, 13/12/2007. At <<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,22917170-12377,00.html>>

Climate Change - Kyoto and more

On 3 December 2007, on his first day as Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd signed the Kyoto Protocol, committing Australia to binding targets to reduce carbon emissions. When he signed it, he warned that Australia faced penalties for exceeding its greenhouse gas limits. He said "We are likely to exceed our Kyoto target by 1 percent." As a consequence, Australia would have to make up 130 percent of any gap in the current target during the next commitment period after 2012. [AFR, 4/12/2007]

The government has promised to introduce a carbon trading scheme this year. We have already been told that our electricity and gas bills will go up, along with everything else as companies pay levies for using carbon! So much for Mr Rudd's promise to reduce household living expenses!

Then Kevin Rudd went off to Bali, to negotiate on climate matters. At least the

government didn't commit itself to binding targets (yet!) for the new agreement that will be implemented when Kyoto expires.

Al Gore, maker of *An Inconvenient Truth*, spoke at the Bali Summit. However, the International Climate Science Coalition, which disputes the theory of man-made global warming, went to Bali but were not permitted to speak to the assembled delegates. Christopher Monckton, their representative, has analysed Al Gore's film and Bali speech - he documented 35 errors in the film and 50 errors in the Bali speech! In a recent decision by the UK High Court, a judge documented at least 9 errors in Gore's film, and argued that all British schoolchildren who have been shown the film should be given information to correct the errors of the film.

See our website for sources: <<http://www.saltshakers.org.au/html/P/382/B/474>>

UK: Homophobic hatred law proposed

The UK Government published its proposed 'homophobic hatred' law in mid-November 2007. Parts of the law are modelled on the religious hatred law but there is no specific free speech protection.

Only 'threatening' words or behaviour will be covered by the Government's current wording, not those which are 'insulting' or 'abusive' (both very broad terms).

In addition, a prosecutor must prove that a person intended to stir up hatred on grounds of sexual orientation, rather than having been 'likely to' stir up hatred. This mirrors the religious hatred law.

The **Christian Institute** and the **Lawyers Christian Fellowship** (LCF) are concerned that the free speech protection which is present in the religious hatred offence is not included in the 'homophobic hatred' law. They oppose the principle of a 'homophobic hatred' law and claim that existing offences are sufficient to protect homosexuals from any violence or harassment, saying that a 'homophobic hatred' law, in any form, could be used as a pretext for challenging the free speech and religious liberty of Christians.



In mid-December an amendment was proposed by a cross-party group of MPs - it is an attempt to ensure that freedom of speech is protected, so that Christians can continue to promote and protect a biblical stance on marriage, sexuality and relationships. This amendment is similar to the amendment which was passed as part of the incitement to religious hatred law.

It reads "Nothing in this Part shall be read or given effect in a way which prohibits or restricts discussion of, criticism of or expressions of antipathy towards, conduct relating to a particular sexual orientation, or urging persons of a particular sexual orientation to refrain from or modify conduct relating to that orientation."

The amendment was expected to be voted upon on Wednesday 9th January.

Please continue to pray for the protection of free speech and religious liberty. Pray that this proposed law is NOT passed.

LCF has outlined the full proposal: <http://www.christian.org.uk/issues/2007/gay_rights/hatecrime/amendment_1_5nov07.pdf>

Source: LCF/Christian Institute, 16/11/2007, 18/12/2007.

UK: Foster Parents Update

Vince and Pauline Matherick, the Christian couple from Chard, Somerset who had refused to promote homosexuality to their foster children, have won the right to have their personal convictions and conscientious objections recognised. The couple met with Social Services leaders at the local Council and secured an agreement to this effect. The Mathericks hope now to continue to foster children as before. They were represented

by two Christian lawyers.

Andrea Williams, of Lawyers Christian Fellowship, commented, 'This is a significant step forward for Christian freedoms in that the Council has agreed not to force Mr and Mrs Matherick to act against their Christian beliefs. This should be of enormous encouragement to all Christians who want to take up the important role of caring for vulnerable children.' [LCF, 16/11/2007]

World News

Switzerland: Euthanasia

Dignitas, a Swiss organisation that helps people die through “assisted suicide” or euthanasia, is now operating a mobile service because local residents campaigned against their operation and forced them out of their premises! [Reuters, 17/11/2007]

They have used hotel rooms and recently two Germans chose to die in their cars in a car park. *Dignitas* says they helped 195 people to die in 2006 and 57 percent of those were German.

Assisted suicide has been legal in Switzerland since the 1940s but full euthanasia given by doctors is illegal. *Dignitas* is now planning to open an operation in Germany even though euthanasia is illegal there.

UK: Babies

More than half of all babies in the UK are born outside marriage. In the 1970s the figure was less than 1 in 10.

[UK Office of Nat Stats]

USA: APA and homosexuality

The American Psychological Association has set up a task force to review the organization’s 10-year-old policy on therapy for homosexuality.

Focus on the Family, along with 250 other organisations and academics, has written to the APA asking to have input into the discussions. They want the faith of the individual to be considered when making decisions about possible therapy, as well as counselling that advocates that change is possible. The APA currently “opposes counselling that treats same-sex attraction as a mental illness; some psychologists want the APA to forbid therapies that address unwanted same-sex attraction.”

So far, the APA hasn’t listened to their concerns - meanwhile homosexual advocacy groups have had input. Pray that the APA will allow the religious beliefs of patients to be considered. [Citizen Link, 3/12/2007]

US: Homosexual Activists

Soulforce, an activist group led by homosexual Mel White, a former evangelical Christian who was a lecturer at Fuller, is launching a new campaign to get the church to accept homosexuality. The group plans to ‘visit’ large churches (including Willow Creek and Saddleback) during 2008. Their goal? To “initiate conversation” and “change hearts and minds.” [Citizen Link, 2/1/2007]

They are recruiting same sex couples with children to attend these ‘American family outings’. Caleb H. Price, research analyst at Focus on the Family, said the friendly façade belies the goal of the group. He said: “Soulforce claims to want one thing - ‘dialogue’ - but in reality, what they’re trying to do is disseminate a false doctrine into the wider Body of Christ.”

USA: Polygamy

Following the conviction in September 2007 of sect leader Warren Jeffs for being an accomplice to the rape of a 14-year-old girl when he authorised her ‘marriage’, polygamy has been in the spotlight.

In December, Oprah Winfrey’s TV show took a close look at polygamy. Oprah talked to a woman in a polygamous relationship - three ‘wives’, one man, and 22 children - they all spoke positively about it. She also looked at cult situations were shown where there were negative outcomes.

Oprah’s guest advocated the decriminalisation of polygamy - to get it out in the open!

See *Oprah - Polygamy in America* - at <http://www.oprah.com/tows/slide/200710/20071026/slide_20071026_284_101.jhtml>



Ministry News

YES, it is here this time. We said our New brochure would be in our December Journal but unfortunately they did not arrive in time. They did arrive about a week later so there is definitely one enclosed with this Journal. We trust you will use it to encourage someone else to help you 'Make a Difference'.

If each reader introduced just one other person to the mailing list each year we would be able to do so much more. Of course, introducing more than one would be even better, so if you would like a supply of brochures to have in your home, in your office, waiting room or in your church, please contact us. They are free but we do not want to just have them sitting around

doing nothing. If you seriously want to help us expand we will happily mail you some!

Thank you to those who used our SPECIAL 'reduced rate' Christmas Gift subscription to introduce your friends to Salt Shakers.

Peter & Jenny did have a good first Christmas with their GRANDSON and a good time of fellowship with Christians from WA, SA, TAS, and Victoria at their Family camp in Portland.

Summit Melbourne 2008 is all over and despite fewer people than expected it was a great time of learning and sharing, once again with people from across the nation.

We encourage you to organise a visit by Peter & Jenny - to speak at your church, to run a 'Take Action' seminar or run a whole day introductory worldview school.

Please contact the office for more details.

ACTION checklist: Tick the box as you complete the task

Page	Topic	Action / People to write to	Done
6	Smoking in cars	Vic - Contact 6 MPs and party leaders.	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Prostitution	WA - MPs in Legislative Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
7/9	Rel Reg/IVF	Vic - Write to 6 MPs and party leaders	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	mardi gras	Write to MPs and sponsors	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Abortion	Victoria and Queensland - decriminalisation	<input type="checkbox"/>

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For further information about SALT SHAKERS or issues in this Journal contact;

All administration and financial matters

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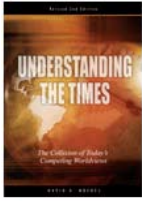
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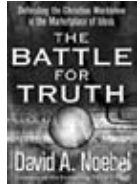
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Tough Questions, Compelling answers. This most historically accurate film is an interactive journey that explores the evidence. It has responses to over 50 of life's toughest questions. It is 94 minutes long and has an additional behind the scenes look at how the film was made.

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10 - 12 week old baby (soft and well detailed.)

Carry one in your pocket or handbag to show people what they looked like at just 10-12 weeks after conception. People will be amazed.

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This 80 page book presents the gospel message, it is a great asset in talking to friends who may have seen the film. **The book will make a great evangelistic gift.**

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