

# Salt Shakers

Helping Christians make a difference

**“History fails to record a single precedent in which nations subject to moral decay have not passed into political and economic decline. There has been either a spiritual awakening to overcome the moral lapse, or a progressive deterioration leading to ultimate national disaster”.**

US General, Douglas MacArthur

August 2008 AD

IN THIS ISSUE: Vol. 14 No. 7

	Page
Editorial...	2
The Illegal Attack on the Family'...	3
Climate change: Carbon Trading...	6
News & Action...	7
Emily's Voice: Changing Society...	8
Resistance Thinking Update...	9
FamilyVoice Australia...	9
Letters in the Newspapers...	10
Television: Big Brother & Californication...	11
Will I always struggle like this?...	12

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Prayer Update...	14
Homosexuality is not natural - no 'gene'	15
Anglican Update: Lambeth & GAFCON...	16
USA: same-sex 'marriage'...	17
OIC - 'defamation of religion'...	17
Tony Blair - Faith Foundation...	18
World News...	19
Ministry News...	20
Resources and Subscription details	21

# Editorial

After writing last month's Editorial about the values presented to our young people, and sending the journal off to the printers, I opened the following email...

*"In my two CRE classes, the subject of the f\*\*\* word and unsafe sex has come up. The children stated that sex education is coming up in the near future. What did I think, they asked..."*

*Have you any material to suggest for use in secular government schools in an RE context, where we can address the concept from God's point of view – how He meant it to be for full enjoyment.*

*I imagine these children are just following the trends they see on TV, movies, magazines and pop idols."*

Note this is a PRIMARY school, with children under 12, asking about swearing and sex!

When we speak at meetings we are often asked, "Is this presentation suitable for primary school children to hear?" Many parents seem quite unaware of what their children are confronted with at primary school. Although we may do a good job of protecting them, it does not seem to matter what type of school they go to - these issues are on the agenda today.

Back to the email - sadly, my response fell short because I was unsure how to answer the question, "Have you any material to suggest for use in secular government schools in an RE context?"

Then I picked up the latest copy of 'Every day with Jesus' the daily devotional notes that we use to take-in from God's Word (almost) every morning. It is highlighting the value of studying the Book of Proverbs. The very book we mentioned last month

in reference to the vision (revelation) our young people are confronted with today.

There are 54 verses about 'Wisdom' and 39 verses about 'Knowledge in Proverbs.

I have often said at meetings that if you hear the same message more than once it is not a 'coincidence', but it probably means God is trying to get your attention and you did not listen the first time. I think God is wanting to draw His people back to the importance of studying the Old Testament.

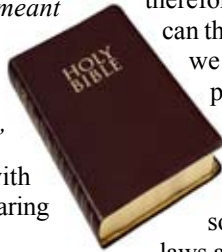
There is too much good wisdom in the OT to dismiss it. Of course, many people want to say it is irrelevant today because there are also lots of 'do not's' and 'laws'. It also shows that God is a God of Justice and therefore has to punish sin. Thankfully we can then point to Christ as our redeemer if we trust Him and obey Him. This is all part of the knowledge young people need to know because they need to know He cares that much.

Yes, we must also appreciate that some aspects, such as the sacrificial laws and cautions about imitating specific cultural practices of the day (such as trimming a beard a certain way), do not apply today.

The history, wisdom and values that flow right through the OT and on into the New Testament, especially in Books about life and morality rather than history, like Proverbs and Psalms, need to be taught to today's young people and to future generations. They are the very basis of Christian living and God's creation.

We hope that CRE organisations are aware of the vital need to deal with the 'practical', but confronting, issues and have a suitable, Bible-based curriculum to help Primary-aged children understand what God says about such issues and the relevance of His OT values to today's children.

Yours in Christ Jesus  
Peter & Jenny Stokes



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## The Illegal Attack on the Family

By Dr. Ted Baehr

Following Peter's article about marriage last month we received this one from the USA which shows they have very similar problems about understanding why we have marriage and the importance of preserving it, and all its benefits, for heterosexual couples.

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Don't buy the lie! Time is running out! Intentionally or not, too many in the press, the mass media, the government, and the education establishment have confused the citizens of America about the institution of marriage. As a result, California is destroying the family, and the United States is on the verge of a self-inflicted spiritual holocaust.

First of all, as many of our readers already know, there are many forms of government. In our western democracy, there are at least four spheres of government: individual government, family government, ecclesiastical government, and civil government. In the United States of America, the civil government owes its existence to the consent of the governed, not the other way around, in the tradition of the Magna Carte. Furthermore, since the Rev. Samuel Rutherford wrote *LEX, REX*, which clarified the rule of law posited by the *Magna Carta*, all of these forms of government have been under God's Law in the United Kingdom and the United States of America. When king or ruler is above the law, he often acts in imperious and dictatorial ways, for the very nature of power is to corrupt the powerful, unless it is restrained by God's Law. In essence, God's Law says to love your neighbour as

yourself, and the civil government is subject to that divine law.

Thus, the *Declaration of Independence* made it clear that King George III acted illegally when he oppressed the American colonies, because he was under the Law of God. Countries that allowed men to rule above the law have produced tyrants such as Stalin, Hitler and Mao Tse Tung. Current examples include Mugabwe, Chavez and the military junta in Burma, among many others.

It must be emphasized that marriage between one man and one woman is a God ordained, God defined, biblical act. For 1800 years in western countries, marriage was a unique institution, initiated by God when he created the male and female, presided

over by Jesus Christ when he blessed the act of marriage and stated that a man and a woman would leave their parents and join together to become one flesh, and sustained by the Holy Spirit who not only holds the marriage together but also produces the offspring that God creates.

The norm in most other religions is not monogamy, although many have borrowed the form of a Christian wedding. Moreover, the state's involvement in Christian marriage is relatively recent.

In 1837, the Rev. Henry Morris complained that the state had usurped the authority of God in marriage. Norris railed against the passage of a law on marriage by providing a detailed look at the institution of marriage. He painstakingly exegeted the scriptures in establishing his point that marriage is



most importantly a religious institution, and therefore it should not be relegated to a strictly civil character:

“They took from the Clergy ‘the solemnizing of Matrimony, and put it into the hands of Justices of the Peace. . . .’ In the former instance of this desecration being ordained, the power to legislate had been seized by those who would be restrained in nothing that they imagined to do; and, in a day specified in their ordinance, ‘no other marriage whatsoever within the Commonwealth,’ but such as should be contracted. . . before a Justice of the Peace, ‘should be held or accounted a marriage according to the law of England.’ But the national principle is not yet sufficiently prostrated to make us again ripe for so arbitrary and irreligious an imposition, and therefore, by the law just come in force, you are left to form your own judgments, whether marriage is a mere civil contract, or a Divine institution ‘whether it shall be celebrated with or without any offices of religion’ whether the Church, the Conventicle, or the Register-office, shall be the place of celebration and whether the Clergyman of the Parish, the Dissenting Teacher, or the superintendent Registrar, shall officiate on the occasion.”

Rev. Norris adds that the biblical position is that only God ordains marriage. So, in the light of history and God’s Word written, the judges in Massachusetts, California or any other state or federal court have nothing to say about Christian marriage and have no authority to define, ordain or desecrate it.

Rev. Norris brilliantly continues in his sermon: “by the state of matrimony the spiritual marriage that is betwixt Christ and His Church is signified and represented . . . But that ‘the fruitful vine’. . . is not procurable by a civil contract, it cometh only of the Lord.”

His reasoning is impeccable, but many

have forgotten that marriage belongs to the church. In fact, a few are very uncomfortable with that concept because of the abuse of power by some ecclesiastical authorities. Two wrongs don’t make a right, however. And they certainly don’t make a civil right to same-sex “marriage.”

With regard to the abuse of power, it must be noted that civil government is good, although there can be bad presidents, governors, judges, and other authorities. Family government is good, although there can be bad fathers and mothers. Ecclesiastical government is good, though there can be bad clergymen. The rules and the laws of the exception do not make the rule. In other words, a bad father does



not give us the license to call for the abolishment of fatherhood, etc. What it does do is to give us the opportunity for checks and balances, which until recently were most perfectly expressed in our constitutional government.

The church has to reclaim marriage as its unique institution. Whatever anyone wants to do outside of the church may be their business, but it is not sanctioned by God’s Law. The state has the right to regulate what they do, because there is no liberty for license. But, the state does not have the right to tell the church that any couple outside of the faith is a happily married.

We need to stand for God’s Law in the face of the power grab by those in civil authority, who know no restraints.

California and Massachusetts have not only violated God’s Law, they have also violated their own constitution and the will of the governed. When they do that, they are just like King George III. They have abdicated their moral and legal authority and are subject to indictment, trial and just punishment.

*Dr. Ted Baehr is the founder of MovieGuide, [www.movieguide.org](http://www.movieguide.org)*

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## Climate Change: Carbon trading scheme

by Jenny Stokes

The federal government is continuing to focus on 'climate change'. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd repeatedly notes the achievement of his government in signing the Kyoto Protocol within one hour of being sworn in as the government.

During July, two major reports on the establishment of a 'carbon trading scheme' were released. If introduced, it will act as a tax, significantly raising food, electricity and fuel costs for Australian families. Many manufacturers will take more of their production overseas, especially to countries that are not under the restrictions of the Kyoto Protocol, such as China and India.

### *Garnaut Review*

Professor Ross Garnaut's Draft Report on the economic implications of climate change was released on 4 July 2008 at the National Press Club. He then travelled Australia, promoting the Report.

Professor Garnaut's report evaluates the costs and benefits of climate change mitigation, provides economic modelling and proposes a carbon emissions trading scheme. He says the trading scheme needs to be implemented as soon as possible and recommends that the carbon trading scheme apply to electricity and to fuel costs.

He suggests that the revenue from the auction of permits (less expenses) be returned to households and businesses: trade-exposed, emissions-intensive firms, low-income households and support for research into low-emissions technologies.

Mr Rudd supported the Draft Report, saying we must act now to 'save the planet'.

The final Report is due in September.

### *Green Paper*

Less than TWO weeks later, on 17 July, the Rudd government released its *Green Paper*, called the '**Carbon Pollution**

**Reduction Scheme**', with a proposed carbon emissions trading scheme. Initially the 1000 companies that emit more than 25,000 tonnes of carbon a year would have to buy permits. Electricity production would be included but NOT fuel [actually fuel would be included but for each cent it increased, the fuel excise would be reduced by that amount (up to 2013).] The Green Paper does not implement all Professor Garnaut's recommendations.

The Paper says electricity bills may rise by 16% and inflation by 0.9% if the carbon price is \$20 per tonne (it could be more!). Mr Rudd says low income families (< \$53,000) and those on welfare would receive compensation, as will high-emitting industries to stop them moving offshore. Middle-income families and medium-emitting industries will just have to suffer!

The government will seek submissions from 'stakeholders' (business, welfare groups) by September and then release a **White Paper** towards the end of the year. Meanwhile Treasury is doing 'modelling' but won't release their results until October, after submissions close!

The Coalition is warning against the hasty implementation of a carbon trading scheme that could severely damage our economy.

Referring to carbon as 'pollution' is aimed at influencing the debate; after all we're talking about CO<sub>2</sub>, used by plants to survive!

Meanwhile the world's temperature has not risen since 1998 - in fact it has cooled since 2002! An increasing number of scientists are doubting the 'global warming' scenario.

Read the Garnaut Draft Report (548p) on the web: [www.garnautreview.org.au](http://www.garnautreview.org.au)

Read the Green Paper: [www.greenhouse.gov.au/greenpaper/index.html](http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/greenpaper/index.html)

## News & Action

### *Euthanasia*

The Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee has released its report into Senator Bob Brown's *Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008*. If passed, the Bill would overturn the *Euthanasia Act* that stopped euthanasia in the Northern Territory in 1997.

The report did not present a 'majority view'. Senators Barnett, Fisher, Trood and Hogg said the Bill should not proceed. Senators Crossin, Kirk and Marshall wanted the Bill to proceed in an amended form. The report said they "do not necessarily support the legalisation of voluntary euthanasia, but rather are of the view that the territories should have the right to self-government without arbitrary interference from the Commonwealth." Each group of senators gave separate reports. Read the Report at [http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/legcon\\_ctte/terminally\\_ill/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/legcon_ctte/terminally_ill/index.htm)

The Bill is expected to be considered when Parliament resumes in late August.

**ACTION:** Write to your 12 State Senators (2 in ACT/NT) and to your lower house federal member. Ask them to oppose this legislation. Send letters to Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600.

### *Superannuation*

The granting of superannuation rights to same-sex couples is the federal government's first move to give them more rights. The proposed law has gone to the Senate where the Coalition sent it to an Inquiry.

We have always said that superannuation, which is now compulsory, contributed to by both the employee and the employer, should be treated differently to other issues where the government is paying a benefit or

subsidy. After all, effectively it is your own money. The government does not have to relate to a relationship or what people do in their bedrooms. Simply allowing benefits on death to go to any nominated person would solve the problem. On retirement the benefit should be paid as a lump sum to the retiree.

**ACTION:** See our web site (Action/Campaigns) for our statement. Please write to your Senators opposing any notion of the acceptance of same-sex relationships.

### *Nude Photos of children*

Following the complaints about Bill Henson's nude photos, *Arts Monthly Australia*, decided to make a political challenge to the controversy in its July edition by placing a photo of a 6 year old girl sitting naked on a rock at the beach on its front cover (taken by her mother)

This caused another storm but the censors have now rated the magazine 'M' for general distribution to those over 15.

This was no surprise, if they would not censor a full frontal picture of a nude 13 year old they were never going to censor a far more 'discrete' nude 6 year old.

Interestingly, when checking the mother's web site we discovered only two photos of the girl in the nude - both when she was about 6 - all the later photos have her fully clothed or in a bathing suit.

Why do they not take nude shots of her now? Perhaps they know it would be wrong? Yet, they must have felt so strongly about 'artists' rights that they were prepared to exploit their now-12 YO daughter.

I wonder what her school chums have made of it all? Did they consider that aspect when they took this public political step?

Using young children to fight political battles is always fraught with danger for the children.

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## Medicare funding of abortion

Did you know that Medicare funds abortions? During the last session of Parliament, Senator Guy Barnett, along with Senator Julian McGauran, presented a motion to the Senate to disallow Medicare funding of second and third trimester abortions.

Senator Barnett made a speech to the Senate when he presented his motion on 24 June 2008. He said “Since 1994 the Australian taxpayers have paid about \$1.7 million for more than 10,000 second trimester and late abortions.

In 2007 alone the Australian taxpayers paid over \$150,000 for nearly 800 late-term abortions. The law governing when and under what conditions abortion may be lawfully performed is a matter for the states and territories. However, the Commonwealth has clear responsibility for the Medicare scheme. Each year the new Medicare table which sets out which procedures are to be funded is tabled in the Senate as a regulation. This table contains item 16525, which provides for the funding of second trimester and late abortions. Medicare does not fund third trimester abortions.”

Senator Barnett has prepared a detailed 11 page Briefing Paper which presents the main arguments regarding this important issue. He notes that the current Medicare item 16525 “may relate to management of second trimester labour following intrauterine fetal death. He says that if his motion is successful, the Minister for Health would need to add a new Medicare item covering that procedure but making it clear the item did not cover abortion.

Senator Barnett’s motion would mean that item 16525 in Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the Health Insurance (General Medical Services Table) Regulations 2007, as contained in

Select Legislative Instrument 2007 No. 355 and made under subsection 4 (1) of the Health Insurance Act 1973, be disallowed.

The effect of this motion, if it is successful, will be to immediately stop taxpayer funding of second trimester and late term abortions through Medicare.

How can we help Senator Barnett abolish Medicare funding of second trimester and late term abortion?

### *1. Sign Senator Barnett’s petition*

Senator Barnett has set up a petition to collect signatures so he can present the Senate with evidence that Australians want to see this funding stopped.

PLEASE go to his website, print out the petition and collect signatures: <http://www.guybarnett.com.au/Articles/downloads/Petition-to-disallow-@-30.6.08.pdf> OR phone 03 6334 1755 and ask for a form to be posted to you.

THEN POST the completed petition to Senator Guy Barnett, 33 George Street, Launceston TAS 7250 by 1 Sept. 2008.

### *2. Write to your 12 State Senators*

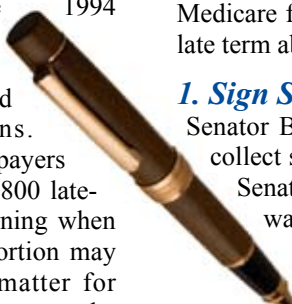
Ask your them to support Senator Guy Barnett’s motion in the Senate.

Do you know who your 12 Senators are? The easiest way is to go to the web: <http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/senators/homepages/index.asp?sort=state>

If you don’t have the internet, phone 13 2326 and ask for the names of your 12 Senators. Send your **brief** letters to Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600.

### *3. Read Briefing Paper*

Guy’s Briefing Paper is at [www.guybarnett.com/Articles/downloads/BRIEFING-PAPER.pdf](http://www.guybarnett.com/Articles/downloads/BRIEFING-PAPER.pdf)



## Emily's Voice - Changing society's attitudes

A new campaign designed to promote a pro-life culture within society at large, particularly related to the unborn, was recently launched in Queensland.

**Emily's Voice** is a new organisation that is running a television campaign to highlight the humanity of the unborn child.

They have produced an inspiring Promotional Video, two TV commercials (45 sec and 15 sec) and an Information Booklet.

Isaac Moody, the founder, speaks passionately on the video. To view the Promo Video go to [www.emilysvoice.com](http://www.emilysvoice.com) and click on "Play the Promo Video."

Their first media campaign is called 'Discover Emily'. To view the 45 sec commercial click on 'Discover Emily', then on [www.discoveremily.com](http://www.discoveremily.com)

Approval was recently given to begin showing the TV commercials which have received generous support from TV station management who have provided additional free spots over and above those paid for. The TV campaign, which it is hoped will eventually go national, began on Channel Ten, Toowoomba, in the week leading up to Mother's Day 2008. The program targets females aged 16-39 - the ads will be shown on programs they are likely to watch. The ads are now also being shown on WIN TV.

Madeleine Wiedemann is the advocacy co-ordinator for Emily's Voice. Her moving

story is featured on the website: she begins by saying "I am now a young married woman of 24. Though my husband and I have no children, in the arms of God rests the child that I gave up. And why did I give her up? At 18 after unexpectedly falling pregnant I thought I made a well-informed decision to abort this 'foetus', but in reality I had no idea what I was getting myself into. My choice was made not knowing any of the consequences of abortion, or even the truth about the baby I was carrying within me...."

She concludes "I encourage you to join with us in this because I believe that Emily's Voice is one way that everyone can help bring change, to give voice to the unborn, who themselves don't have a voice."

'Emily's Voice' says that for the campaign to succeed it will need the generous support of

Christians and those in society who support the pro-life position. Funds for the campaign will be raised by people 'sponsoring' an unborn child. An application has been made for Emily's Voice to be granted Charity Tax Status.

They ask that you pray that many people will be motivated to be advocates and supporters for Emily's Voice, either in speaking to Christian groups and organisations, or, one on one. Pray that it will heighten their awareness of the unborn child.

For more information, visit their website or phone 07 4638 2399.





## Resistance Thinking Update

Emma Hughes, the co-ordinator of our *Resistance Thinking* project writes: “We are almost two years into this project now and it is so encouraging to look back and see progress! The Resistance Thinking website is constantly being updated with current news, articles and reviews and our membership list is consistently increasing. We now have a fairly comprehensive bank of articles and information on the issues that face young adults and the rest of society that can be used for research or reference by anyone who is interested.

One of the biggest successes is the online forum which took a little while to heat up but is now always firing with friendly debate and dialogue. The best part is that different perspectives are being shared and challenged and all parties are being sharpened in our faith and the way we view the world. The bi monthly Higher Distinctions and RT News receives great responses from our members and often sparks more debate on the forum. We look forward to seeing how God will use this project in the future!

### *Resistance Thinking - The way forward*

**Wednesday 20 August - 7.30 pm for 8 pm.** At our office.

Emma and Nathan are holding an evening for young adults to present the vision of RT. Emma has prepared a presentation for youth groups which will ‘trialed’ on the night. Light refreshments provided. Young adults welcome! Invite your youth pastor! Limited numbers. Call the office if you’d like to attend. (03) 9800 2855.

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## FamilyVoice Australia

Thirty-five years after its launch in 1973, *Festival of Light* has changed its name to *FamilyVoice Australia*.

President Dr David Phillips said “The old name was coined by famous media commentator Malcolm Muggeridge. Along with Mary Whitehouse, Cliff Richard and others, he helped found the Festival of Light in Britain in 1971. Muggeridge saw light as representing the values of Jesus, who told us to be the “light of the world” (Matthew 5:14), and festival as a celebration of those values. They were good concepts, but the name Festival of Light has caused us many problems because of confusion with other groups. It has been used in India for centuries for the Hindu Diwali (‘Festival of Light’) and in Jewish communities for the Hanukka (‘Festival of Lights’). Various towns and cities (eg Frankston, Victoria;

Peoria, Illinois; Hartford, Connecticut) have used the name ‘Festival of Light’ for annual displays of fireworks or lights on buildings. Some ‘New Age’ groups are using the name Festival of Light for events promoting pagan philosophies including fortune-telling and crystal-selling,” Dr Phillips said.\*

Some people thought that Festival of Light was a political party or even a seller of light fittings or theatre tickets!

The new name represents their focus: dealing with family issues and giving a voice to Christians. Their motto is “A Christian voice for family, faith and freedom”.

Salt Shakers has worked closely with David and Ros Phillips over many years - we admire their commitment and knowledge of the issues impacting our nation.

[\*From *FamilyVoice Australia* Media Release]

### **Promotion of a death culture**

I'm so thankful we have a politician in Victoria with the integrity and life values of Peter Kavanagh. (The Courier July 7 - "New bill undermines protection for us all".) Very few in the wilderness of the Victorian Parliament, are fighting for the recognition of the sanctity of life.

Instead, there appears to be many in the major parties, and especially the Greens, both in federal and state parliament, promoting a death culture.

Proponents of the Medical Treatment (Physician Assisted Dying) Bill 2008, just a euphemism for the discredited Eugenics movement of pre World War 2, are anxious to put into place this first step of their program.

Already in Belgium it is being proposed to allow euthanasia for disabled children and persons with dementia.

As well, doctors there, who refuse to submit to this dastardly practice, would be forced to refer possible candidates to other doctors who have no qualms about killing off patients for a fee.

Lennyce Westaway, Navigators,  
*Ballarat Courier* 15/7/2008

### **Heed the warnings**

Smoking Kills, it is a simple, plain, clear medical fact.

It does not matter how graphic a TV ad may be. The open honesty is that smoking ends your life.

Dead, bang, gone, no more breathing. What generation does not understand that?

**Judith Bond**, Glen Alpine NSW  
*Macarthur Advertiser* 9/7/2008

### **Seeing the light at last**

It was a breath of fresh air to read your front-page report about Professor Jeffrey Sachs and his concern about the implementation of a carbon trading scheme in Australia.

After all, a carbon emissions trading scheme will just be another huge tax on everything, from fuel to food, and even more manufacturing will go to China and elsewhere.

When this was followed by a feature on the biofuels con, I wondered whether *The Age* had suddenly seen the light.

**Jenny Stokes**, Salt Shakers, Wantirna  
*The Age*, 16/7/2008

### **Big Brother a loser**

When there is so much bad news around, it is great to get some good news once and a while. And it doesn't get much better than to learn that Big Brother will no longer be disgracing our small screens. BB was arguably one of the worst shows ever to air on Australian television. Big Brothel was one big excuse for voyeurism, gratuitous sex, and the exploitation of young people - all so that the fat cats at Ten could line their pockets. Although this decision is eight years overdue, I can hear the popping of champagne corks all around the country.

**Bill Muehlenberg**, Heathmont  
*Herald Sun (and many others)* 15/7/2008

### **Climate pain and propaganda**

Of course there is going to be massive "climate" pain, but it won't be from the non-existent rising ocean levels nor the fantasized Antarctic meltdown.

It will be because as a nation we have believed the propaganda of the disciples of Gore, and elected his converts to make political and economic decisions for us.

They have no idea of the destructive forces they will unleash on the Australian economy as they knee jerk their way through their intended repressive carbon taxes, or maybe they simply don't care.

**David G. Westaway**, Navigators Vic.  
*The Courier* 8/7/2008

### **Ex gays & ex-ex-gays**

Poor Anthony Venn-Brown can't accept that some people do manage to leave the homosexual lifestyle simply because he surrendered to it.

There are many groups in Australia still effectively helping people who want to leave their same-sex feeling behind.

No, not everyone makes it, just as many people cannot give up smoking or pornography, but just because some fail it does not mean it is not possible.

As someone who knows many people who have succeeded, I find Venn-Brown's self justification failure message very hollow and extremely hurtful to those people he is calling a liar.

**Peter Stokes**, Salt Shakers  
*MCV (homosexual newspaper)* 19/6/2008

## Television: Big Brother & Californication

Television standards are of continuing concern, with sex and violence frequently served up whilst teenagers are watching.

However, this month there is SOME reasonably good news. . .

### **Big Brother**

'*Big Brother* Evicted' read the headline in the *Herald Sun* on 14 July. Channel 10 has decided not to screen *Big Brother* next year after eight years and 1316 episodes. They say it is due to falling ratings. A change of presenter, along with continued criticism of the depiction of unacceptable behaviour may also have contributed to its demise. The fact that Channel Ten pays about \$30 million a year for screening rights to the show may well be another factor!

Over a number of years we and other groups have conducted various campaigns against *Big Brother*.

In particular, the adult version, 'Big Brother Adults Only', which had quite explicit sexual references, was severely criticised by many groups. One particular incident involving two guys and a girl was criticised by then PM John Howard in 2006, "*Big Brother* is atrocious. Here's a great opportunity for Channel 10 to do a bit of self-regulation and get this stupid program off the air."

The two male contestants were removed from the show and Communications Minister Helen Coonan asked the Australian Media and Communication Authority, the regulator, to consider drawing up stricter guidelines about reality TV.

So thank you to all who wrote and complained about this show at some time over the past ten years!

### **Californication**

During the screening of 'Californication' in November 2007 by Channel Ten, we and other groups made formal complaints to the Australian Communications and Media Authority about several episodes, claiming that the content fell outside the guidelines for television broadcasts.

ACMA analysed our complaints regarding the first few episodes and decided they did not breach the Guidelines. However, they recently announced that one particularly unpleasant sexual incident involving three people in episode 10 DID breach them.

### **Good news you say...**

Yes, but ACMA decided NOT to impose any penalty on Channel Ten for the breach.

Richard Egan from FamilyVoice Australia (formerly Festival of Light Australia), who lodged a complaint about the incident, said "Clearly more needs to be done or we will see the television networks continuing to thumb their noses at an umpire

who takes eight months to hand down a decision and even then only gives a slap on the wrist with a feather. Imagine if our football codes were run in this way! The poor performance of ACMA and the defects in the current system of complaints were highlighted in a recent Senate report. That report recommended that ACMA 'should use its powers to pursue a civil penalty; refer the matter for prosecution as an offence; suspend or cancel the license; or impose an enforceable undertaking'."

ACMA needs to be reformed... it needs to have stronger powers and needs to enforce those powers on those who breach the Guidelines.



## Will I always struggle like this?

Mosaic Ministries, located in Melbourne, provides support and assistance to those wishing to deal with homosexuality.

*Carol Hardy, the Director of Mosaic Ministries, writes...*

“There are times, more than I care to mention, when people I am working with ask me, what I call, ‘difficult questions’. One that is very recent was—“will I always struggle like this?”.

Why is this so difficult to answer? For one reason it places me in a position where I need to be both honest and hopeful.

You might be thinking—“What’s so hard about that?” It is a fine line sharing truth, and timing is always crucial. Men and women at various times need more hope than anything else. At other times honesty is vitally important as it enables us to come to terms with reality, helping us to make correct decisions, adjust our behaviour, and to hear more clearly with our Spirits and minds, as to what to do and how ‘to be’.

The opposite of honesty is, of course, dishonesty, which when it has run its course ultimately leads to a lack of hope, as it does not deal with reality. So back to the question “Will I always struggle with unwanted same

sex feelings or desires?” Maybe yes, maybe no! Both are honest answers, but I realise they are laced with a tinge of uncertainty – that’s the reality.

No one can foretell the future of another, and we are all individuals, with our lives tenderly held in the Father’s hands.

This is actually our best hope – The continued knowledge that through the ups and downs of our life’s journey, our Father

God will continue to pour his Healing balm over the vulnerable areas of our lives, as we submit to Him.

The reality is, it may take a while (that’s the honest truth). But hope and trust in God will enable us not to focus on the ‘ifs and buts’ so much, whilst also reminding us of our relationship with Christ.

Honesty is not denial, and not for one minute am I suggesting we block ourselves from asking and seeking answers. Rather, I am encouraging us to continue to seek answers and to be honest. It is then that we are sure to find the help, comfort and hope which will enable us, no matter what, to journey on.”

*Mosaic Ministries is on the internet at [www.mosaic-ministries.org.au](http://www.mosaic-ministries.org.au) Email them on [info@mosaicministries.org.au](mailto:info@mosaicministries.org.au) or phone them on 0402 020 142.*



### **Salt Shakers Annual Dinner - Book NOW!**

**Date:** Saturday 13 September.

**Time:** 7 pm: Savouries. 7.30 pm: Dinner.

**Speaker:** Rev Dr David Claydon ‘Worldwide Challenges for the Church’

**Venue:** The Quest, Mountain Highway, Wantirna.

**Cost:** \$50 a person, \$95 married couple.

PLEASE phone the office on (03) 9800 2855 to book for the Dinner.

## Prayer Update

### *080808 - Your Kingdom Come*

Pray for the 080808 Prayer Gathering in Canberra, 8-11 August 2008.

### *Olympics 8 – 24 August*

The eyes of the world will be upon China this month but most will be blind to the persecution faced by many of our brothers and sisters in Christ across that nation.

Pray for the Christians who are being persecuted in China (and other nations).

### *Members of Parliament*

Please pray that MPs will have a time of refreshing during the winter break, and be able to spend time with their families.

### *PM and Cabinet*

Pray for Kevin Rudd as he tries to balance the competing demands on government.

Pray that he and the Cabinet would seek God's wisdom on policy decisions.



### *Issues*

As you read through the journal, list the various issues that need prayer - the decriminalisation of abortion, euthanasia in the Senate, doctor-assisted suicide proposals in Victoria, the promotion of homosexuality, etc.

Pray for each of these matters - remember, without prayer we are just relying on our human abilities. God is the only one who can change the hearts of men and women.

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



## Prayer Groups for Schools

*Prayer Groups for Schools* is having their annual 'Prayer Day for Schools' next month.

We encourage anyone who is connected with a Prayer Group in Victoria to attend the meeting. If you don't have a Prayer Group at your children's school/s, why not start one?

**Date:** 5th September 10am-12.30pm

**Guest speaker:** Dale Stephenson

Senior Pastor, Crossway Baptist Church.

**Venue:** Caulfield Grammar in the Function Room.

Enter from Glen Eira Rd, East St Kilda. Melway Ref: Map 67 G2.

All are welcome. Children under parental supervision.

For more info contact Marilyn on (03)98745764.

## 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

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# Homosexuality is NOT natural - there is no

by Peter Stokes

Two headlines caught my eye on the same day recently.

- 1) 'G.. [Homosexual] gene debunked'<sup>1</sup>
- 2) **Homosexuality: it isn't natural**<sup>2</sup>

You can imagine my surprise because both statements came from homosexuals. One was even a prominent UK activist.

The first headline referred to a new, very large 'twins study' conducted by London's *Queen Mary's School of Biological and Chemical Sciences* and the *Karolinska Institute* in Stockholm. Dr Rahman, the study's co-author, stated, "*This study puts cold water on any concerns that we are looking for a single 'gay gene' or a single environmental variable which could be used to 'select out' homosexuality - the factors which influence sexual orientation are complex. And we are not simply talking about homosexuality here - heterosexual behaviour is also influenced by a mixture of genetic and environmental factors.*"

We may be tempted to question the comment about heterosexual behaviour but he is right on both counts when talking about 'behaviour'. Behaviour is always a choice, heterosexuals do engage in all sorts of wrong sexual behaviour stimulated by the environment. Promiscuity is a product of today's sex-soaked environment and early sex 'education'.

The second headline really does hit the "we can't help it, it's genetic" line on the head. By stating that "**it isn't natural**", Peter Tatchell is removing the main reason so many people have accepted homosexuality today.

He is actually stating that homosexuality

is a choice - albeit a choice he says society must accept and normalise - Tatchell states, "*I don't disagree that genes (and hormonal exposure in the womb) influence sexual orientation. But... an influence is not the same as a cause. "Genes and hormones may predispose a person to one sexuality rather than another. But that's all. Predisposition and determination are two different things."*

He acknowledges that, "*Examples of sexual flexibility, [people changing their sexual 'identity'] ...don't square with genetic theories of rigid erotic predestination*", a classic piece of 'logic' that homosexual activists usually try to bury.

Then came the admission I never thought I would hear from a homosexual activist, "***The homophobes are thus, paradoxically, closer to the truth than many gay activists.***"

Despite this change in attitude we should not become complacent and think the battle

is won. This acceptance of the evidence has started to occur in the abortion debate too, but pro-abortion advocates are saying - OK, we know it is a baby but that doesn't change anything. Tatchell is saying, "'No, it isn't natural or genetic but hey, who cares, we should be seen as normal anyway' and then they play the 'human rights' card!

Others continue the search to find a genetic justification for their own behaviour. (Most of the scientists doing research into homosexuality are themselves homosexuals) Another 'research' finding, also coming from the *Karolinska Institute* in Stockholm

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and published in the *Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences of USA* on July 8, claims brain differences could be evident in people of different 'sexual orientations'. The main problem with this type of research is that they look at brains of adults not newborn babies, for obvious reasons. Yet, adult behaviour such as drug use is now known to change the brain in many ways. Using this so called 'evidence', from a group who are prone to high rates of drug use, is therefore very circumstantial. It could only be described as another attempt to clutch at straws.

If you believe in a creator God and His amazing 'design', you cannot ignore all the anatomical, physiological and rational arguments for male/female sex being the created norm.

Sadly, too many people simply do not want to 'think' even when the evidence is presented by one of their own. Self-justification is a powerful motivator,

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causing people to ignore the truth and logic, thus allowing them to continue to 'normalise their deviant behaviour. We see this in people like Justice Kirby and Anthony Venn-Brown who, despite the logic and the lack of real evidence, continue to suggest the 'born homosexual' and/or that 'science' shows we are 'normal' line.

And what is the excuse for those who are not themselves homosexual and yet they continue to support those same ideas? Political correctness and postmodern relativism have become so powerful that even intelligent people will dismiss the truth and believe the lie they have been told for so long.

It is up to us to understand the truth and use it to help set people free from the bondage of homosexuality and many other sexually deviant behaviours.

1. *MCV - A homosexual newspaper*  
2. <http://www.spiked-online.com/index.php?site/article/5375/>

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## Victoria - Update on Abortion

The Victorian government is still considering the Options for 'decriminalising' abortion given by the Victorian Law Reform Commission (VLRC).

The three options given by the VLRC range from a doctor deciding the abortion is 'necessary on life and health' grounds, to a woman having the ability to choose to have an abortion at any time of her pregnancy for any reason.

Option B, the 'middle' option, would allow a woman to have an abortion for any reason up to 24 weeks – after that time a doctor would need to authorize the abortion on restricted life and health grounds.

Some of the pro-abortion groups are advocating for Option C, allowing any abortion at any time. Whilst Premier John

Brumby has said he would not support that option, some Labor MPs have told their constituents they do support this Option.

**ACTION:** Please VISIT your local MP in the House of Representatives. Ask them not to support ANY of the Options for the decriminalisation of abortion proposed by the VLRC.

Take a couple of people with you and take an article or document to leave with them. If you can't visit them, please write to them, identifying yourself as a member of their electorate. Also write to your FIVE Members in the Legislative Council.

To find your six MPs phone 13 2326 or go to webpage and type in your [www.parliament.vic.gov.au/handbook/menupage.cfm?menuId=1](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/handbook/menupage.cfm?menuId=1)

## Anglican Update: Lambeth & GAFCON

The Lambeth conference was held from 20-31 July 2008. It is the meeting of Anglican (and Episcopalian - USA) bishops held every ten years at Lambeth Palace in the UK, the home of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the worldwide leader of the denomination.

A number of bishops, including the Archbishop of Sydney, Peter Jensen, decided not to attend Lambeth, due to the support for homosexuality from some bishops and some sections of the church. The ordination of Gene Robinson as a bishop in the USA was the 'last straw'!

Instead 1148 lay and clergy participants, including 291 bishops representing millions of faithful Anglican Christians, attended an alternative meeting in Jerusalem from 22-29 June 2008, called the **Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON)**. Following the meeting the Bishops released a 'Final Statement'. They say GAFCON is "a spiritual movement to preserve and promote the truth and power of the gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ as we Anglicans have received it."

The Statement launched GAFCON as a fellowship of confessing Anglicans, published the Jerusalem Declaration as the basis of the fellowship and encouraged GAFCON Primates to form a Council.

The *Jerusalem Declaration* contains a strong statement of faith. One paragraph reads "We gladly proclaim and submit to the unique and universal Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, humanity's only Saviour from sin, judgement and hell, who lived the life we could not live and died the death that we deserve. By his atoning death and glorious resurrection, he secured the redemption of all who come to him in repentance and faith."

The Declaration confirms "the unchangeable standard of Christian marriage between one man and one woman as the proper place for sexual intimacy and the basis of the family. We repent of our failures to maintain this standard and call for a renewed commitment to lifelong fidelity in marriage and abstinence for those who are not married."

Read the full statement on the GAFCON website: [www.gafcon.org](http://www.gafcon.org)

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## Justice Kirby - on religion and human rights

Justice Michael Kirby gave a speech titled *People of the Book: Reconciling religious fundamentals with universal human rights*. The speech was given to the **Globalisation for the Common Good: An Interfaith Perspective (GCG)** conference held in Melbourne at the end of June.

The main focus of his speech was apostasy in Islam (and to a lesser extent Christianity). In a wide ranging speech, he discussed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other UN instruments as well as the freedom of religion and the freedom to change

one's religion. But he still managed, in his introduction, to criticise the Christian church for their rejection of homosexuality.

Ironically, the former President of Iran, Seyyed Mohammad Khatami (1997-2005), sent a message to the conference. Iran, acting under Islamic law, treats homosexuals harshly and would not even allow the freedom to discuss and debate that Justice Kirby was advocating.

Read Justice Kirby's speech (33 pages) at [www.abc.net.au/news/opinion/speeches/files/20080630kirby.pdf](http://www.abc.net.au/news/opinion/speeches/files/20080630kirby.pdf)

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## USA: same-sex 'marriage'

The first same-sex 'marriages' were performed in California on 16 June 2008, following a ruling by the state's Supreme Court in May 2008.

California became the second US state to allow same-sex 'marriages', joining Massachusetts where the highest court there allowed same-sex 'marriages' in 2004. The Californian ruling could be overturned in the November election ballot, if a question affirming marriage between a man and a woman is passed.

The two contenders for the US Presidency have said they are on opposite sides of the issue - Barack Obama opposes the ballot measure which would ban same-sex 'marriages' whilst John McCain supports the measure, affirming marriage as between a man and a woman. [LA Times, 2/7/2008]

California's law allows same-sex 'couples' from anywhere in the USA to 'marry in California, whereas homosexual couples had to actually live in Massachusetts to 'marry'



in that state. In mid-July the Massachusetts Senate voted to remove the 1913 marriage law that prohibits out-of-state, homosexual couples from getting married within state borders - the law prohibited couples from obtaining marriage licenses if they couldn't legally marry in their home state. The House also voted to remove the prohibition. [CL, 10/7/2008, ]

Meanwhile, back in California, Episcopal Bishop Marc Handley Andrus, in San Francisco, is urging ALL couples, heterosexual and homosexual, to go and get married in a 'secular service' and THEN come to the church for a blessing. That way, he says, ALL couples can be treated EQUALLY! "Sometimes the church is not quite caught up with the civil society, and this is one of those times," he said. [NY Times, 18/6/2008]

With a representative of the church endorsing same-sex relationships in this way, is it any wonder the church has so many problems regarding this issue?

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## Opposing the OIC - 'defamation of religion'

A few months ago we reported that the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (representing the 57 Islamic nations) has proposed a Resolution to the United Nations on 'Combating Defamation of Religions'. Earlier this year the UN Commission on Human Rights voted to support the resolution.

The effect of this resolution would be to stop criticism of Islam or Mohammed.

The American Centre for Law and Justice is organising a petition to send to the United Nations' High Commissioner of Human Rights.

Why not take a moment to join the 58,000 people who have already signed?

Part of the petition reads: "As a person of faith, I respectfully call on you to exercise keen judgment and act in swift opposition to this resolution. Our focus should remain on improving existing international law to protect the religious rights and free practice thereof for all individuals."

**Sign the petition** - listed on the front page of the ACLJ website: [www.aclj.org](http://www.aclj.org)

You can sign the petition online OR print out the form, collect signatures and mail it to them.

## Another global interfaith initiative

Since resigning as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Tony Blair has taken on a number of roles. Immediately after announcing he was standing down as PM he was appointed a “Middle East envoy”.

Who was he working for? The United Nations, the USA, Russia, and the European Union! Over the past year, Tony Blair has actively pursued this role.

On 30 May 2008, Tony Blair launched the “Tony Blair Faith Foundation”, a multifaith organisation trying to get faiths to work together on a range of initiatives. Whilst some projects are practical (providing netting beds to prevent malaria) the Foundation also aims to teach and inform ABOUT the religions themselves.

The goals of the Foundation are:

- to promote respect and understanding between the major religions;
- to make the case for faith as a force for good; and
- to encourage inter-faith initiatives to tackle global poverty and conflict.

In launching the Foundation, Tony Blair said “Religious faith will be of the same significance to the 21st Century as political ideology was to the 20th Century. In an era of globalisation, there is nothing more important than getting people of different faiths and cultures to understand each other better and live in peace and mutual respect; and to give faith itself its proper place in the future.”

The Foundation’s website says “Tony Blair has argued that faith has to be rescued from those who would use it to divide and those determined to write it off as an irrelevance.

By stressing the values of respect, justice and compassion which the great religions hold in common, he believes faith can help unite the World and shape its direction for the better.”

Tony Blair’s Faith Foundation will seek to promote and implement the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals, particularly with young people: “The Tony Blair Faith Foundation will organise a global campaign to mobilise young people, across religious divides, to work together towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).... The foundation... will promote

u n d e r s t a n d i n g  
between the major  
faiths, and increase  
understanding of the  
role of faith in the

modern world. The foundation will work with Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists.”

### Is faith an end in itself?

Some of this might sound noble - but can religions truly ‘respect’ each other?. When Christians claim to have the TRUTH people who follow another religion will think the Christians don’t respect them or their faith.

What does he mean when he says he wants to “give faith itself its proper place” and “faith can help unite the World”.

Is *faith* an end in itself? As Christians it is Christ Himself who is important.

By criticising those at each end of the spectrum - those who ‘use’ religion to divide or see it as irrelevant - Blair aims for the broad middle road.

#### References:

1. Blair appointed Middle East envoy, BBC, 27/6/2007. [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/politics/6244358.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/6244358.stm)
2. Tony Blair Faith Foundation website: <http://tony-blairfaithfoundation.org/>

## World News

### ***UK: Muslim prayer***

Year 7 students at Alsager High School, near Stoke-on-Trent were recently required to wear Muslim headgear and 'pray to Allah' as part of a religion class. Two boys who refused to participate were punished.

The local Cheshire County Council, responding on behalf of the school, noted that the matter was being investigated, but said "Educating children in the beliefs of different faith is part of the diversity curriculum on the basis that knowledge is essential to understanding. We accept that such teaching is to be conducted with some sense of sensitivity." [Daily Mail, 4/7/2008]

It may be one thing to learn about another faith, but quite another to be forced to participate in its rituals and practices!

### ***USA: Homosexuality and Bible***

A homosexual man is suing two publishers of the Bible because verses condemn homosexuality as sin. He claims the verses 'violate his constitutional rights and have caused him emotional pain and mental instability'. He also claims the use of the word 'homosexual' in Zondervan's 1982 edition and caused anguish to homosexuals.

He filed a suit in US District Court on July 7 against Zondervan Publishing House Corp. seeking \$60 million. He also filed another suit earlier in June seeking \$10 million from Thomas Nelson Publishing.

A company spokesman for Zondervan said that the publishing house does not translate the Bible or own the copyright, but relies rather on the "scholarly judgment of credible translation committees." [Lifesite, 11/7/2008]

### ***Brazil - Abortion***

Moves to legalise abortion in Brazil have been defeated again. The Justice and Constitution Committee, in Brazil's lower house of Congress, voted 57-4 against the Bill, which would have legalized abortion. The Congress has been considering this Bill for the past 17 years! [Citizen Link, 11/7/2008]

### ***USA: Transsexual gives birth***

In our May 2008 journal we reported that Michael Beattie, a transsexual describing herself as a 'transman' (born a woman, lives as a man having had her breasts removed) was pregnant. SHE has now given birth to a baby girl. Ironically she lives in a town called 'Bend'!!

### ***USA: Homosexual adoption***

Homosexual groups estimate that 65,000 children have been adopted in the USA by homosexual couples. Florida is the only state that outlaws such adoptions. Senator John McCain was recently denounced by homosexual groups for not supporting homosexual adoption. He told the *New York Times* "I think that we've proven that both parents are important in the success of a family so, no, I don't believe in gay adoption." His campaign team later 'clarified' the issue by saying he was not calling for a federal ban and that it was a 'state' issue. [AP, 15/7/2008]

### ***World Bank supports abortion***

The World Bank has re-iterated its support for contraception and family planning - which includes abortion.

In a July 2008 statement, Joy Phumaphi, the World Bank's Vice President for Human Development, said that there are "population issues" in developing countries and that the answer is to provide women in developing nations with "access to modern contraception and family planning."

# Ministry News

Jenny and Peter had 3 weeks away in NSW at the end of June/start of July. It was 'mostly' a holiday - they only had 3 speaking engagements, continued to monitor the 'world' through emails and the internet, and send out a few E-news emails as well!

Nevertheless, they returned refreshed to push on through the second half of what has already been a very busy year. They are attending two conferences in Canberra in August. Pray for continued strength and wisdom as there are some very important

issues due to emerge in a number of state parliaments and as the federal scene changes due to the reshaping of the Senate. WA is heading for an election and there are more issues at the federal level.

We need to tell him that righteousness exalts a nation and prayer and repentance, and God's grace, are the only things that will "save the planet"!!

Nathan and Alison had a great wedding day and honeymoon - so they tell us! Please continue to pray for them as they settle down to married life. Please continue to uphold the whole Salt Shakers Team in prayer.

## Don't Forget - Book NOW for Salt Shakers Annual Dinner 13 September - 7pm for 7.30 start

### **ACTION checklist:** Tick the box as you complete the task

Page	Topic	Action / People to write to	Done
6	Euthanasia	Federal Senators, federal MP, Party Leaders	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Superannuation	Federal Senators	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Medicare/abortion	Petition + write to 12 Senators	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Vic: Abortion	Visit MP - contact all SIX MPs	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **SALT SHAKERS On the Web - [www.saltshakers.org.au](http://www.saltshakers.org.au)**

**FREE E-News sign up:** Send a blank email to [news-subscribe@saltshakers.org.au](mailto:news-subscribe@saltshakers.org.au) - then confirm your request by clicking 'reply' & 'send' when asked to do so by a return email

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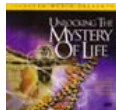
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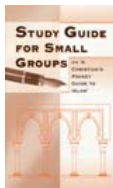
**A Christian Pocket guide to Islam**, by Patrick Sookhdeo **\$8**



This book provides Christians with a simple description of the origins of Islam, what Muslims believe and how it affects their worldview, everyday life and culture. Practical guidelines are given for relating to Muslims in a culturally sensitive way as well as witnessing effectively and caring for converts.

**Study Guide Now Available.** A 7 part study guide has been produced to aid discussion on the above book. These will be very useful for small group leaders.

**SPECIAL OFFER - Pocket Guide + Study Guide for \$10**



**Thinking Things Through** by Michael Cassidy **\$21**



Michael states that, "Instead of challenging the world and its ways, the church risks becoming a spiritual mirror-image of it... We are accommodationist rather than prophetic, compromising rather than challenging, and confused rather than clear. We don't lead the world, we follow it."

Michael writes as a lay person, helping lay people come to grips with issues such as divorce, homosexuality, same-sex marriage, capital punishment and more. This is a very helpful and easy to read book.

**You're Considering an Abortion: what can happen to You? \$1.25**



This very useful pamphlet is ideal to keep handy for that time when you hear that someone is considering an abortion.

It discusses in an easy to read way the dangers of abortion that women are rarely told by abortionists. All women deserve to know the risks of any medical procedure and we need to be prepared to stand in the gap at such a time.

This is a great companion to 'The Beginning of the Journey of Life' which describes the development of the baby in the womb with real photos.



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