

Salt Shakers

Helping Christians make a difference

**Justice demands that,
“Equals ought to be treated
equally and unequals ought to
be treated unequally.”**

Aristotle

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Editorial

Recently we attended the 08/08/08 'Your Kingdom Come' gathering in Canberra.

What is the significance of 8? In Biblical terms it is seen as the number for 'new beginnings'. We have a seven day week, clearly given us from the foundation of the earth (Gen. 1) by God, so the eighth day was the start of a new week. Eight people were on the boat of new beginnings, the Ark. Circumcision was to be done on the eighth day after birth signifying the (then) new covenant of God to his people. It was on the first day of the new week, the eighth day, that Jesus rose from the dead bringing new life to the world.

Whether 08/08/08 will bring a new beginning to the church in Australia remains to be seen, but it certainly brought together many people who would not have gathered together before so it was certainly something new.

All too often we see the church from our own little box, that might be our ministry focus or simply our denominational focus, and all too often we do not want to venture outside that box. We rarely want to stretch ourselves by sharing with people who 'think' differently or do things like worship in a different way to the way 'we' do it.

This 08 weekend stretched a lot of people. While all those who met together had a lot in common because they all shared a love for the Lord and a strong belief in His Word, they would not normally spend three days together in worship and workshops that draw them outside their particular box.

So this weekend was a new beginning for many people. Some had never felt the urge to get up and dance in 'church' before - tapping feet, clapping, lifting up the hands, may be, but actually dancing with banners!!!

Some had never been confronted with the idea that we are also to be political beings, that the Christian worldview covers every area of life, yes even politics.

So there we all were, thrown together (so to speak) to worship in the Great Hall of the National Parliament in UNITY.

There was no pressure to do anything anyone else did, but how great it was to see that the body of Christ does have arms and legs, a torso, etc. and they all have different functions, but can work in harmony - as long as the head is the Lord Jesus Christ.

That is, of course, the only form of unity we as the body of Christ can hope to achieve in a world of 'diversity', The Lordship of Christ and His Word must be paramount and from that flows the freedom to be who God has made us and to do what He has called us to do. When people claim you must 'do things their way' to be in unity then you know that is not unity, it is control.

Sadly, today, we see too many people moving away from that headship of Christ and then claiming that it is those who stay true to His Word who are "divisive". Just look at the response from Lambeth (UK) - the bishops who would not compromise the Lordship of Christ and affirm same-sex immorality are called the divisive ones.

Our young people are the 'new beginnings', the next generation, but sadly what they confront today is a very confused and sad world that lacks hope.

Unity in the body is essential if we are to give them a future but the centrality of Christ and His Word cannot be compromised for the sake of nice sounding platitudes such as 'harmony' or 'peace'.

There can be no harmony or peace outside the headship of Christ and His Word.

Yours in Christ Jesus
Peter & Jenny Stokes

Violence v Hope

by Peter Stokes

There are many indicators of the general health of a society but one of the strongest has to be the crime rate.

While we can never expect to have a totally crime-free society, we should be asking many questions about the health of a society in which the rate of crimes by young people, even children as young as 10, is increasing as rapidly as it is in Australia today.

Analysis of police statistics shows violent crime by children aged between 10 and 14 is growing at a much faster rate than for the rest of the community.

Paul Mazerolle, Griffith University's Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance, said in July, "We are seeing consistent trends indicating young people are becoming more violent,"

Even more surprising is the staggering increase in assaults by young girls. Assaults by girls in the 10 - 14 age bracket went up by 60 per cent in Queensland, 45 per cent in NSW and 36 per cent in Victoria.

Sadly, though, despite the great concern being expressed about this, there seems to be little serious soul searching about the real cause of this tragedy.

The tendency of many is to simply condemn the young for being irresponsible, but society also has to take a cold hard look at itself and the part it has played in causing this social dilemma.

Back in 1990, the Youth Justice Project, a fairly left-wing think tank, proposed "*a joint approach, a combination of social justice and situational crime prevention measures working hand in hand with law enforcement agencies.*" They said, "*We*

must turn our back on solutions which see crime and criminals as separate from the problems that beset society. We should develop proposals that encourage social harmony, that improve the physical and social environments of urban and rural areas, that increase the equity and participation of young people in society, that enhance family life, that re-establish the conditions for informal community controls, that allow for self-determination of minorities, that mobilise, involve, support and empower young people, and that support victims.

Even more surprising is the staggering increase in assaults by young girls

We require a juvenile justice system that involves all elements of the community, that is accountable to the public and its users, that coordinates and integrates all levels and arms of government... We must set high goals and standards, otherwise we condemn society to perhaps a spiralling problem of juvenile crime (Youth Justice Coalition 1990, pp. 10-11).

Indeed, they were high sounding goals couched in fancy platitudes but what they really meant was a feel good, harm minimisation model which seems to have been adopted, certainly by State governments, over the last eighteen years.

An escalation of violent crime by younger and younger children as discipline was replaced by tolerance. Schools have increasingly become places where children rule rather than teachers, and homes have become places where children's rights are superior to parental control.

Society continues to open the door to more sexual permissiveness; drinking hours have been extended, rave parties are havens

for all-night drinking and drugs, a drug injecting room has been established in Sydney, more violence was seen on TV, in the movies and violent video games flooded the market.

Even the latest comic-book Batman movie, *The Dark Knight*, aimed at young people through advertising and product placement, has been described as very 'dark' and extremely violent.

Monash University researcher Dr Jocelynn Gordon interviewed more than 500 Victorian children aged eight to 16 about their nightmares. Overall, two-thirds reported night-time fears. Almost one-third of these said that their fears stemmed from frightening TV, video and movie images.

Young Media Australia spokeswoman Jane Roberts said in 2005 that, "Children under 10 are routinely exposed to scenes showing death, murder, hunting and open surgery on television and at the movies.

Despite this concern, violent entertainment will continue to get worse as people cry for more freedom from censorship. The most violent of video games could soon be available in Australia after the Federal Government said it was considering updating the classification system for games to include an R18+ rating.

While these may be rated 18+ and sold only to adults, there is no restriction on who the end user might be. Just like adult videos or any other 'entertainment' medium, once out of the store controlling the age of participants is impossible.

Many years ago we discovered that soldiers were being trained to kill using violent video games. If that is the result of an adult watching them what hope is there for young people who constantly play them.

All the time 'rights' are promoted above responsibility and greater affluence brings greater materialism and selfishness.

This in turn has resulted in more violent demonstrations and street protests with cab drivers and even pensioners stripping in the streets to get their way.

Top all that off with softly, softly policing, and how can we blame the young people for the results.

Without doubt it is society's fault because we have totally lost the Biblical idea of personal and collective responsibility - 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you'.

Violent entertainment will continue to get worse as people cry for more freedom from censorship

On August 9 Anthony Horowitz of *The (London) Guardian* stated "*We worry about our children's loss of innocence even as we collude in their undoing*"

He continued, "*Iain Duncan Smith described himself as astonished. Melinda Messenger was really worried. Keith Vaz announced that he certainly wouldn't be taking his 11-year-old daughter. And a doctor, writing in the Daily Mail, warned of the possibility of*

brain damage for an entire generation. They had all been to see the new Batman film."

Neither society nor the church can sit back and ignore what is going on. Governments refuse to see the damage they have done by following the 'public' rather than giving responsible God-ordained leadership.

Perhaps churches have failed the most because many years ago too many of us stopped giving moral leadership and started following the crowd with a feel-good gospel. Overwhelmed by the increasing violence of humanism and cries for minority 'rights', complacency set in and today even the church looks for the compromise solution

rather than standing in the gap. We would rather have a wonderful time of receiving from God than climb the real mountain, be the salt and light, and face the persecution promised in Matt 5 because we point out where the world is going wrong.

Too many of today's parents took drugs and enjoyed the permissive society of the '60s, '70s, and '80s to feel they can now discipline their children for 'experimenting' with what life has to offer. "After all" they say, "you're only young once and look what we did at their age".

A primary school in Melbourne recently introduced electronic bar codes for their students because more than a third of the 550 students were arriving late EVERY DAY. Should we blame the children? No. Where are their parents?

The introduction of old fashioned ideas like discipline and accountability, all-be-it using new technology, has meant the lateness dropped dramatically.

Instead of being part of the solution, all too often Christians are part of the problem by siding with the softly, softly responses of the social left. Evolutionary humanism, all too often supported by 'Christians', has removed the hope, the purpose and the direction from our young people. In the '60s it was the fear of population explosion - there would be no room left on the planet. In the '70s it was global cooling - another ice age where we all freeze to death - and a nuclear holocaust - where we will all be vaporized. Now it's 'Global warming' - the overheating of the planet and the seas will rise!

Recently, on Bill Muehlenberg's *Culture Watch* web site a young lady named

Shelley wrote, "*In not too many years, we will be in a position of having to decide whether to bring children into the world. That should be a time of joy, but there are so many problems that your generation is bequeathing to us that this decision will be fraught with worry about their future.*"

She is right. WE adults have bequeathed to the young people of today so many problems. Tragically, the church that should have been there to give them hope against all those power-hungry political schemes were instead perpetuating the myths - we

too were running in fear of man rather than trusting in God.

The divisions caused in the church by 'progressive liberals' wanting their own selfish ways, has suggested to the world that we haven't got the answers, when in reality The Book of The Way, The Truth and The Life has the answers, the values, and the HOPE needed for a hurting generation.

Proverbs 29:18 says "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Hosea 4: 6 says, "My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.

We need to offer hope instead of fear.

This will not be very palatable to many in today's church or to today's society. We have not stood in the gap to hold back the tide of evil. In fact we Christians have imported some of that evil into our midst by our compromise and apathy.

A battle is raging for the hearts and minds of the next generation. Yes, God is still the Commander in Chief, but unless we, the troops on the ground, stand up to the culture of violence, sex and doom and gloom, that battle will be lost and so will our young people - lost to eternal doom and gloom.

The Book of The Way, The Truth and The Life has the answers, the values, and the HOPE needed for a hurting generation

News Update

Off to jail

People in the ACT who work in childcare could be sent to jail for up to six months if they “unreasonably discipline a child”.

What does that mean?

The *Children and Young People Act 2008* was passed by the Legislative Assembly on July 1. The law makes it an offence for a childcare worker to unreasonably discipline a child, and that includes “physical punishment; or any behaviour management strategy likely to cause emotional or physical harm to a child”. Examples given are “smacking, yelling and using threatening or humiliating language”.

Prohibiting physical punishment is valid - but how will authorities decide what is ‘yelling’ or what is ‘likely to cause emotional harm’?

In NSW, licensing conditions for childcare centres prohibit “physical, verbal or emotional punishment” of children but there are no jail terms attached. Instead, childcare centres can be prosecuted or fined or have their licence revoked. [*Daily Tel*, 31/7/2008]

ACT: Parental leave

The ACT government recently gave more rights to same-sex couples. The Legislative Assembly passed the *Parental Leave Legislation Amendment Bill 2008* - extending parental leave to both partners in a same-sex relationship.

The Opposition leader absented himself from the vote - he also was absent for the vote on civil unions earlier this year. The homosexual lobby is not happy with him!

Trying to propose that governments give some rights to homosexual couples so long as they don't legislate regarding children is naive. Once relationships are recognised,

there is even more pressure to protect the children.

Adult stem cell successes

Patients who have suffered severe compound leg fractures in road accidents have experienced accelerated healing and bone regeneration following the use of new adult stem cell treatments using the patient's own bone marrow taken from their pelvis.

The trial, by Dr. Richard de Steiger, director of orthopaedic surgery at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, involved ten people, some of whom could not walk. Eight of the patients experienced full bone regrowth. One man broke both his tibia and femur but only the tibia re-grew and another patient required further surgery.

The team hopes to apply the new technique to hip replacements and cartilage regrowth! It will be 3-5 years before the technique is commercially available. [*Lifesite*, 8/8/2008]

Meanwhile an international conference held in Sydney has been shown operational heart valves created from a patient's own stem cells! One doctor told of creating functional organ tissue from stem cells obtained from the amniotic fluid surrounding an unborn baby! Truly some amazing developments are ahead using ethical stem cells!

Lesbians lose court case

A lesbian couple from the ACT who sued their IVF doctor because they had two children instead of one have lost their court case. They claim they asked the doctor to only insert one embryo and he inserted two. They had asked for almost \$400,000 for the cost of raising the second daughter.

This is good news, as these cases establish precedence for future cases.

NT election

The election in the Northern Territory on August 9 resulted in the Labor government retaining power by just one seat! There was a 9% swing against the government.

Gambling - National and Victoria

An ever-increasing amount of money is being lost by gamblers across Australia. Victorians lost an incredible \$2.6 BILLION on poker machines in the last financial year - \$7 million a day! This is an average of \$647 a year for every adult in Victoria. Many people are losing a lot more since many people don't gamble!

Some federal Senators have called on the Commonwealth to take action on poker machines. Senator Nick Xenophon, from South Australia, was elected on a 'no pokies' platform to the South Australian Parliament in 1997. He was a member there for 10 years, before being elected to the federal Senate and taking up his position on 1 July 2008. He is calling on the Productivity Commission, which is doing an Inquiry into gambling, to review the current model where state governments take a percentage of all money bet on poker machines.

Senator Steve Fielding joined him in urging the federal government to stop the states taking revenue from problem gamblers.

State Gaming Ministers meet

The State gaming ministers, the Ministerial Council on Gaming, met in Melbourne on 25 July to discuss gaming policies.

The Council agreed that the Australian States and Territories will establish a national online and phone counselling services to help tackle problem gambling. It will be developed in partnership with Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre. A new 1800 number will be set up - the number is 1800 858 858.

ATMs & Limits

Victoria is implementing some reforms: Earlier this year the Victorian government passed legislation to remove automatic

teller machines from gaming venues. Unfortunately this won't come into force until 2012! From 2010, Victoria will require all gaming machines to be able to be pre-set before play to limit time and losses.

Victoria has halved the amount that can be gambled on each spin from \$10 to \$5 - new machines are required to implement this from 2008, existing machines by 2010. The amounts are staggering - \$5 per spin is an incredibly high amount that means people can quickly lose large amounts of money!

Victoria urged the other states to adopt similar reforms. The Council set up a working group to investigate the implementation of these changes nationally.



Intralot

Meanwhile, a new 'gambling' company began operation in Victoria on 1 July 2008. Intralot is a Greek company that has been granted a 10 year licence by the Victorian Government to operate a variety of lottery games and instant tickets - both online and at over 700 'agents'. They use the slogan 'The Luck Factory'. They have now obtained a license to operate in Tasmania.

They have had a slow start - leaked figures said they were down \$4 million a week on budget over the first month. Lottery agents, who paid up to \$10,000 in fees to sell the games alongside Tattersall's products, are complaining about the slow sales. Following months were even worse!

The reality is - with so much money going into gaming machines and Tattsлото - there is only so much money to gamble with!

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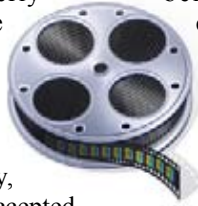
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Protecting our children - *Salo* banned

Censorship has a vital role in protecting adults as well as our children. In Australia the Classification Board (formerly the Office of Film and Literature Classification) has the responsibility for rating films, publications and video games. The censorship Guidelines speak of “offending against the standards of morality, decency and propriety generally accepted by reasonable adults.”

Last month there was some good news on the ‘censorship’ front! The ban on the controversial film *Salo* has been maintained in Australia, with the Classification Board recently voting to give it a ‘Refused Classification’ (RC) rating.

The film, which includes scenes of torture, sexual violence and pedophilia, was made by Italian director, Dir Pier Paolo Pasolini in 1975. It is subtitled *120 Days in Sodom*.



It was banned in Australia until 1993. It was then allowed for four years, before being banned again in 1997 after complaints were made about the film’s classification by Senator Julian McGauran, Rev Fred Nile, Senator Brian Harradine and others.

Earlier this year, a Melbourne firm, Shock Entertainment submitted the film to the Classification Board for classification. The film was assessed by 13 members of the Board - the vote was 7-6 to rate it RC.

They said “The Board is of the opinion that the film contains gratuitous, exploitative and offensive depictions of sexual activity accompanied by abhorrent practices”.

We are thankful that the Board has rated it ‘RC’. However, we are concerned that six Members of the Classification Board voted to allow the film.

Violent computer games

The highest rating for computer games in Australia is MA15+ - but groups are lobbying to allow R18+ rated games.

Mad World is a new game just released by Nintendo Wii in the USA. In order to be released in Australia it will need to be classified by the Classification Board. The game is full of realistic violence. The game is marketed by the owner, Sega, as featuring “over-the-top violence” where players can hack at “terrorists” with chainsaws and impale them on street signs.

In Mad World the players adopt the role of Jack who is trying to save the city and “destroy enemies”. Whilst that might be a noble motive, the use of very violent actions to achieve that end is of grave concern.

The impact of the player of being involved

with violent movements means the player is more engaged with the violence than just viewing it on television or in a movie.

This is a new direction for Nintendo Wii which has previously promoted family-friendly games. They have sold more than 500,000 Wii systems in Australia.

Col David Grossman has studied young people in the military and the effect that the playing of violent video games has on them. He found that young people who have played a lot of violent video games have lost the horror of killing. Check out his website: www.killology.com

ACTION: Write to Nintendo. Ask them not to continue to produce this game and not to sell it in Australia. Nintendo, PO Box 804, Ferntree Gully, Vic 3156.

Protecting children - welcome reforms

It is encouraging to report on some good developments that will protect our children. In recent years we have asked you to contact MPs to support some of these initiatives. Sometimes it takes a long time, and persistent effort, but the results are worth while!

Tattooing and body piercing

The Victorian government has introduced legislation to reform the law regarding tattooing and body piercing.

Over the years we have highlighted the dangers of such activities - we were particularly concerned that minors, those under 18, could get tattoos or body piercing without parental consent.

In 2004, the government legislated to implement guidelines on health standards and forced body piercers to provide information on health risks.

The government is now legislating to introduce an 'age of consent' for body piercing and tattooing. The new law will make it an "offence for a body piercer to conduct a non-intimate body piercing on a person aged under 16 years without consent from a parent or guardian". The bill also makes it an offence for a body piercer to perform an intimate body piercing on a person aged under 18 years.¹

The law currently bans tattooing of people under 18 - the new law increases the penalty from 5 penalty units to 60 penalty units. It also extends the law, including 'like processes' include scarification, tongue splitting, branding and beading.¹

Health Minister Justin Madden, in his second reading speech said "the health risks associated with body piercing, tattooing and like processes are well documented and include the transmission of blood-borne viruses (for example, Hepatitis C),

infections, nerve damage and scarring. From July 2007 to April 2008 around 40 people were admitted to Victorian hospitals with complaints associated with body piercing."¹

1. Hon Justin Madden, Second Reading speech. Legislative Council, 31 July 2008.

Smoking in cars

The Victorian and New South Wales governments have both announced that they plan to legislate to ban smoking in cars where children are present. From early next year, it will be illegal for people to smoke in cars carrying children under 16. Offenders will face fines of up to \$200 in Victoria (and \$250 in NSW) if they are caught.

Last year in Victoria, the Cancer Council and the Australian Medical Association ran campaigns calling for this legislation. We supported a ban on smoking in cars with children present, and asked our readers to write to the Victorian government.

Nationals MP Damian Drum (Northern Victoria Region) campaigned for the ban. In May this year he prepared a Private Members Bill to ban smoking in cars with children present and ban children under 18 being able to buy, or sell, tobacco products as well as restrict the display of tobacco products. Now the government has said it will introduce such legislation.

In NSW, Fred Nile drafted a private members bill in 2006, calling for similar reforms. At the time, the government - NOW the government has said it will legislate!

South Australia was the first state to implement a ban on smoking in cars where children are present. Since then, Queensland and Tasmania have passed similar laws.



Religion

Atheism, Dr Syme (Letters, 24/7), has blind faith: that nothing became something, and then became alive; for no reason; against the known laws of science.

Peter Newland, Mitcham
The Age 26/7/2008

A win for China

If we unilaterally restrict our carbon emissions, our manufacturing will decline but will still be needed by us. So we will then have to buy manufactured goods from other countries, which will gain monopolies and raise prices. This can already be seen in the growing number of essentials we buy that are made in China.

This is a huge threat to our security and will do nothing to lower carbon emissions around the world since the carbon will be emitted increasingly in those other countries in order to manufacture the goods we still need and have to import. Where is the sanity in this?

John Moody, Berwick
The Age 19/7/2008

Beijing a contrast of cultures

The Beijing Olympics - an event where hundreds of millions of spectators who need exercise, will sit and watch a few thousand participants that don't.

David G. Westaway, Navigators, Vic
Herald Sun - 08/08/2008
Geelong Advertiser - 09/08/2008

Carbon jury still out

Given Kenneth Davidson's fulsome support for the International Panel on Climate Change (The Age, 24/7), one wonders whether he has done his due diligence on the IPCC report. Contrary to the claims made in the report, the issue of global warming is far from settled.

Is he aware that of the 539 total papers presented to the IPCC panel, only 38 (7%) gave an explicit endorsement of the consensus of global warming. If one considers implicit endorsement, the figure rises to 45%. However, while only 32 papers (6%) reject the consensus outright, the largest category (48%) are neutral papers, refusing to either accept or reject the hypothesis.

The issue of global warming is far from "done and dusted". We need to do more research and then to proceed with caution and due care. There is too much at stake simply to rush in and act too hastily.

Alan Barron, Grovedale
The Age 26/7/2008

Law Reform

Surely Mr Hulls has taken his work place reforms too far with the staffing of the Victorian Law Reform Commission. Its office workers are predominantly female. Incidentally, how many in the community can name even one of the law reform commissioners? These faceless people are responsible for the abortion report before Parliament.

John A Gill, Mt Waverley
Sunday Herald Sun 3/8/08

Don't forget the newspaper letter writing competition. The three people with the most letters printed in the newspaper will receive a one year subscription to our E-Journal - Value \$25

BUT - You must send us the letter as printed, with headline, name of paper and the date to have a chance to WIN!!!

Judith Bond is leading the competition - she has had **54 letters** printed in the media this year! Her local newspaper recently featured her as the 'Reader of the Week' and talked about her letter writing! Well done, Judith.

David Westaway is running a close second with a solid, consistent performance.

They won't mind us saying that they are ordinary people - so if they can do it,
SO CAN YOU!

Grandparents and the value of prayer

by Pat White

While reflecting on my life I realize, how blessed I am to have Godly moral standards given by my parents.

I am 69 years old and I have 4 children and seven grandchildren. Two months ago God blessed us with a great-grandchild; she is a source of great joy to my husband and me.

As Grandparents we have an amazing job to do.

Do you realize that if you have grandchildren you are possibly part of the last generation of people that were raised with Godly morals - whether your parents were church going people or not. Children were often sent to Sunday School by their parents even if they didn't attend, but that rarely happens today. Where you went and what you did was boiled down to a moral standpoint. You were taught to respect the feelings of others, to look at everything to see how it would affect you and your future.



We, have a great responsibility not only to our family but also to God. Maybe you are saying "I know, but my children are a

long way off what God would want them to be. I can't talk to them any more, they just see me as a Bible-basher, just frumpy and old fashioned, or just plain weird".

Let me tell you, you can have input into the lives of your children and your grandchildren without them seeing you as way-out, or an old-fashioned biddy with no idea where the world is at today! And they won't even know that God is being invited to mess with their lives.

Are you privileged to be on speaking terms

with your sons or daughters?

A birthday card can be an opportunity to have input into their lives.

Talk to God as you choose it. Pray over it before you send it. Even on MOTHER'S Day or FATHER'S Day send them a card thanking them for your grand children. Never give up trying - it's never too late!

Do you get a chance to talk to, baby sit, or visit with your grandchildren? Do they like to sit on your knee? Pray quietly as they look at pictures or tell you what they have drawn. Remember a story is a story, they don't mind what it's about so long as it's good. Instead of fairy tales read Bible stories.



When they have concerns suggest they talk to your friend Jesus. Teach them to thank Him for their food. When you put them to bed, lay hands on their bed and pray into their lives. Ask God to minister while they sleep. Pray reassuring words, lay hands on them. Their subconscious mind can hear while they are asleep. Tell them "Jesus loves you and you are special to Him". If you buy a present, pray over it before you give it to them.

When they behave badly, ask them "Would you like someone to do that to you"?

Grandchildren can be very rude. Some do not know how to respond; some don't know how to respect their elders. Don't feel hurt. Respond saying, "I love you anyway even if I don't like what you're doing".



Most of all, please never, never, give up praying!

When is enough – enough?

by Neil Ryan

Sometimes when I hear someone comment about wanting to return to the 1950s I think that it might not be such a bad idea. At least then most television programs and films were for ‘general exhibition’.

Now we are told that TV programs must reflect community standards BUT do we ever ask “Are these standards high or low?” Who sets the standards in the first place?

Boundaries of acceptability are forever being expanded. Words and actions once considered obscene are now accepted – even in courts of law – simply because it has become accepted by a community ever resigned to a continual depreciation of acceptable behaviour.

Sex Education

Recently Dr Michael Rich said that “Young people tell me that the media (particularly TV) is one of their leading sources of information about sex.”

On average there is about one sex scene every four minutes on free to air TV. If cable TV were included this would grow to one sex scene every 90 seconds.

Why, then, are we surprised to find that around 45-50% of Year 12 students have had sexual intercourse, and that about 14% of those have had more than 3 sexual partners?¹ What then of escalating growth in STDs, teenage pregnancies and yes, publicly funded abortions?

Where do we find television depicting responsible sexual behaviour, the use of condoms, or the risks and dangerous health consequences of inappropriate sexual activity?

Television often depicts sexual activity

between adults as pre-marital or extra-marital. It is rarely ever depicted as between a husband and wife.

TV may be regarded as entertainment; thus sex is presented as a common recreational engagement.

As a ‘modern’ society it has become customary to throw off the ‘yoke’ of old fashioned ‘fuddy duddy’ concepts of abstinence, celibacy and the monogamous commitment of marriage. Instead people are encouraged to enjoy the ‘natural’ freedoms of sexual liberation.

Why then has nature bitten back? Why has the prolific growth in promiscuity been coupled with the ‘natural’ penalties of sexually transmissible diseases; many of which are increasingly

incurable, such as herpes, chlamydia, gonorrhoea, HIV and AIDS? Are we so smart that we know better than nature? And what about the cost to our state health systems?

Where, then, are the responsible public leaders and those in the media? Are they trying to halt this moral slide which is the inevitable consequence of the choices made from the images presented to young people? Their most common answer is that what we need is more ‘sex education’. When is enough – enough?

In the UK normalisation of sex education in schools includes the provision of ‘morning after pills’ and parental consent is excluded.

TV programs clearly assume that every woman is “on the Pill” for there is never any need, or ever a hint of the need, for any ‘safe sex’ contraception device. Yet this flies in



the face of the persistent demands for 'safer sex' behaviour and the call for everyone to use condoms.

Classification standards have declined with each new review, What justification can be given to allow many forms of nudity in the PG classification or to treat homosexuality in the same way as heterosexual activity?

The more we move toward ADULT classification the more degrading and perverse the presentations. Clearly this must be spelt wrongly, as 'a dolt' seems more appropriate.

The contemporary crop of films, TV programs, sit-coms and soaps:

- display violence
- involve unrelenting strategies for promoting promiscuity, glorifying illegitimacy
- assault, malign and caricature the family, and denigrate fatherhood
- parade rights of children to dishonour and disobey parents
- emphasise dysfunctional families
- ridicule and satirise the Christians, the church and its leaders (some deservedly, I must say!)
- depreciates any form of righteous moral lifestyles
- maligns anyone who tries to take a moral stand
- continues to depict the benefits of pantheistic New Age adventures in place of the sound lessons of Biblical values of yesteryear
- degrades national patriotism
- parades weird art forms, embraces demonic imagery
- attacks national heroes

Few people can now remember the 'golden days' when most forms of entertainment were for all the family; rated 'G' for great

family entertainment and fun.

As a consequence, because TV imagery has stretched the moral boundaries beyond acceptable limits:

- public opinion now excuses more and more permissiveness
- private crime is no longer penalised – public leaders' immoral lives can no longer be scrutinised
- individuals now demand instant gratification and rights in place of responsibility
- homosexual and other damaging lifestyles are regarded as normal
- laws defining marriage and family are re-examined and the underlying foundation of our community is being progressively dismantled

When is enough - enough? Where do we look for someone brave enough to elevate "standards" rather than allow them to slide even further?

Neil Ryan is a member of Salt Shakers Board.

Reference:

1. Secondary Students and Sexual Health 2002, Results of the 3rd National Survey of Australian Secondary Students, HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, Latrobe University.

ACTION

This timely warning about TV arrived as we discovered the full impact of what our young people are confronted with.

Following a recent 'Midsummer Murders' episode on the ABC we noted the WARNING intro for RAGE, a teen music video program that runs ALL Friday night. It stated:

"MA15+ Adult themes. Course language. Sexual references. A sex scene, Some nudity. Drug references. Drug use. Some violence. After 6am Rage is for General viewing."

Are you aware of what your children & young adults are watching?

Transsexual 'marriage'

Around the world, transsexuals are pushing to have their change of gender registered by the state. In some cases they want to do this while still married.

Recently a German court ruled that those who have had "gender reassignment" therapy can change their legal name and sex while they are **still married**.

Previously, the German law only allowed the recognition of "sex-changes" if the person was unmarried. Married "transsexuals" who wanted to change their designations on birth certificates and other official documentation had to first obtain a divorce.

The court ruled in a single case, but has said the German government must change the law by 2009 to allow anyone in a similar situation to be able to change their birth certificate whilst still married.

The case was brought by a man, who underwent "sex-change" surgery in 2002. He said he did not want to have to end his "happy marriage" in order to have the government recognise his "sex-change." The Federal Constitutional Court ruled that he may change his gender and legal name without divorcing his wife, who, it is reported, also did not want to end the marriage. The man was born in 1929, has three adult children and has been married for 56 years.

[Lifesite, 25/7/2008]

The situation in Australia?

Australian law is similar to the previous situation in Germany. A transsexual can only register a change of sex if they are

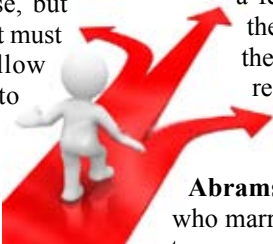
unmarried (otherwise it would in effect be recognising a same-sex 'marriage').

Last year, **AB** applied to have his sex change registered in Victoria. AB was born a man and had surgery to change his genitals. The court refused since AB was married. AB appealed, but the decision was upheld by the full court of the Family Court.

Once a person has a sex change 'registered' they would be allowed to 'marry' in their new gender, as in the case of **Kevin and Jennifer**. Kevin was a female-to-male transsexual who had changed the 'sex' on her birth certificate, and Jennifer was a female. The High Court allowed their marriage to be recognised on the basis that Kevin is now legally recognised as a 'man'.

Transsexuals are continuing to push the boundaries. **Grace Abrams**, a male to female transsexual who married a woman a month before her transsexual 'transition' was complete, then applied for a passport in the 'female' gender. The Australian Passport Office refused because Abrams could not provide a 'female' birth certificate. She couldn't get a new birth certificate because she was married. Abrams appealed against the decision to the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal - in September 2007, the Tribunal ALLOWED Abrams to have a passport listing her as a 'female' even though she did not have a matching birth certificate.

All the Australian legal cases relating to gender identity/transsexualism are now linked from our website: <http://www.saltshakers.org.au/html/P/525/B/526/>



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

Prayer Update

Federal parliamentarians return

The federal parliamentarians have returned to Canberra.

Pray for Godly wisdom - and please pray for their families whom they have left behind in their home state.

Balance of Power

We need to especially pray for Senators Steve Fielding and Nick Xenophon who hold the balance of power in the new Senate. They have a massive job ahead of them as they will have to stay abreast of every piece of legislation passing through the Senate. They will have to make difficult decisions on issues as diverse as euthanasia and carbon emission taxes, Fuel Watch and the war in Iraq.

WA Election

WA Premier, Alan Carpenter, has called an

election for September 6. This means a very short campaign which has not given much chance for minor parties like CDP to generate support.

Please pray that Christians will be elected.

Young People

Please pray for our young people.

Outlined in this journal are just some of the confronting and confusing messages they are bombarded with every day.

Sadly, all too often they also receive confused messages from the church.

National Prayer Breakfast

The National Prayer Breakfast will be held at Parliament House Canberra from 9-10 November. Mark your diary now and plan to be in Canberra. The NaCl Dinner will be held on Saturday 8 November in Canberra.



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

Jewish Prayer Focus

You've probably heard of the prayer focus for Muslims, where Christians pray for the salvation of Muslims during Ramadan.

The *Jewish Prayer Focus* is a 40 page A5 booklet encouraging Christians to intercede for Jewish people from September 29 to October 20, 2008. It is also available online at www.jewishprayerfocus.info

These dates cover the time of the major Biblical feasts from the Old Testament: such as Rosh HaShanah (the Feast of Trumpets), Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) and The Feast of Tabernacles. The booklet

has information about the events and testimonies as well as points on how to pray for the Jewish world and for the salvation of the Jewish people. It is endorsed by *Celebrate Messiah* and *YWAM*.

ACTION: Obtain a copy of the Booklet - contact *Shnat Ratzon (Year of the Lord's Favour) Ministries:* JPF, PO Box 770, Mosman, NSW 2088. Ph: 03-98997231 Email: watchmen777@optusnet.com.au or visit their website. Cost: \$7.50; \$20 for 3, or \$65 for 10 incl postage. Write cheques to Living Way Christian Network.

Victoria: IVF and surrogacy law

Last December the Victorian government announced that it plans to legislate to give lesbian couples and single women access to IVF and allow the lesbian partner to be named on the child's birth certificate. The government plans to legislate so that egg and sperm donors would not be considered parents of the child and to change the law to make it easier for people to use surrogacy.

The legislation is expected to be introduced to the Parliament in **early September** with a debate in **October**. NOW is the time to ACT! Please contact your SIX MPs and ask them not to support this Bill.

The government's Bill will implement the recommendations in the Victorian Law Reform Commission's report on **Assisted Reproductive Technology and Adoption** which was released last December.

The government has said it will not act on adoption, and has referred this matter to the Ministerial Council of Community Services Ministers to discuss a national approach.

Attorney-General Rob Hulls used the

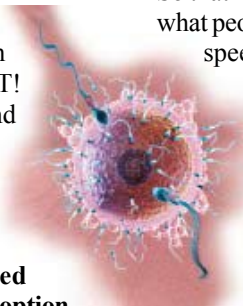
'catch-up' argument: "In most other states, same-sex couples and single women have had access to assisted reproductive technology for years but Victoria is lagging behind. Our laws in this area are out of date and have been found to breach Federal discrimination laws. These reforms provide a legal framework for what is already occurring in the community."

So that means we change the law to endorse what people do? If people speed, do we raise speed limits? If people smoke indoors

do we allow it? In both cases the answer is 'NO!'. Unfortunately it is a convenient excuse!

The family unit was designed by God. A child needs a mother and a father. This sort of legislation is social engineering at its worst.

ACTION: Homosexual lobby groups, such as the Rainbow Families Council, are already lobbying hard. It is time for us to CONTACT our MPs and counter their influence. Victorians, PLEASE ASK your MPs (1 Leg. Assembly, 5 Leg. Council) to oppose this legislation.



Victoria - Abortion and Dying Bills

Physician assisted dying

Debate on the Bill began in the Legislative Council on 30 July and then continued on 20 August. The result was not known at the time of printing - but it was expected the Bill would not pass the Legislative Council.

Decriminalisation of Abortion

The government was expected to introduce legislation in the week of 19 August, with debate starting on 9 September. At the time of printing the details of the Bill were unknown. However media reports said the government was adopting Model B from

the VLRC, making abortion freely available up to 24 weeks at a woman's request and after that for life and health reasons on the recommendation of a doctor. Details will be sent on our E-News - see page 20 for details on signing up if you don't receive these.

CHECK our campaign page for details: www.saltshakers.org.au/html/P/302/B/549

ACTION: Ask your SIX MPs to vote AGAINST the decriminalise abortion. Please DON'T propose compromise positions (eg 'informed consent'. MP details at above link or phone 13 2326. Letters to Parliament House, Melbourne, 3002.

Throwing cold water on global warming

by Peter Westmore

The Rudd Government's carbon emissions policies will ratchet up fuel and electricity prices in pursuit of an unattainable objective.

While the Rudd Labor Government, through Climate Change Minister Senator Penny Wong, is committed to implementing Professor Ross Garnaut's elaborate scheme to force business to pay for greenhouse gas emissions, other countries are baulking at the huge additional cost involved, while mounting scientific evidence shows that it is a dangerous waste of time and money.

Interestingly, the latest satellite data show that, over the past 18 months since January 2007, global temperatures have fallen 0.7°C, equivalent to the rise in temperature measured over the past 100 years.

What is going on?

Two of the pioneers in measuring the earth's temperature, Dr John Christy and Dr Roy Spencer from the Earth System Science Center at the University of Alabama, have pointed out that, over the past 40 years, global temperature has risen slightly, but not at a level which can be attributed to human activity.

Polar ice: They reported that long-term studies of Arctic sea conditions show them to be similar to conditions in the late 19th century, while the Antarctic ice pack is expanding, as its temperature cools. Sea levels are rising by about 3 mm per year, but the annual rate has not increased over the past 150 years.

They said that extreme weather events in the US are no more common or frequent than in the late 19th century. What has changed are global communications, including TV scenes of glaciers collapsing into the

sea, and of the habitats of polar bears and penguins.

The climate scientists said, "With the threat of catastrophic climate change, many proposals have been put forward to limit energy use.

"A fundamental point that needs to be understood is that if any of these proposals (including the Kyoto Protocol) are implemented, they will have an effect on the climate so small that it cannot be detected. None of these proposals will change what the climate is doing enough to notice."

They pointed out that human life is more threatened by polluted water, air and other factors than it is by climate change.

"Millions of children around the world die every year due to water-borne diseases. Tens of millions of people are forced to breathe air that is blackened and made toxic by fumes from leaded gasoline, industrial pollution and cooking fires.

"Women and girls in some developing countries are forced to walk miles each day from their villages to the receding edges of the forests to harvest green wood and other low-energy biomass for the fires they use to cook their meals and heat their homes.

"A UN report estimated that 1.6 million people - most of them women and children - die each year due to indoor pollution from cooking fires.

"While the extent of human impacts on global climate change remains uncertain, research by our colleagues at UAH [the University of Alabama in Huntsville] confirms that deforestation and land conversion are changing regional weather patterns and the local climate over some



parts of the world. Ironically, actions that artificially inflate the cost of energy might hamper those efforts, as healthy economies can better afford to find and develop alternative energy sources and cleaner energy technologies," they said.

Meanwhile, across the world, there is mounting concern that soaring fuel prices and further energy taxes, such as carbon-trading, could plunge the world into recession, or worse.

As a result of shortages in refining capacity and soaring demand from developing countries such as India and China, oil prices have climbed above \$US140 a barrel, effectively cutting world growth and creating a global inflationary spiral.

At the same time, the United Nations is spearheading the push for cuts in greenhouse gas emissions to counter global warming.

The Kyoto Protocol, adopted in 1997, set binding targets for greenhouse gas reductions by 37 industrialised nations and the European Union. It expires in 2012.

Last December, following the release of the latest doomsday report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the UN Climate Change Conference was held in Bali, Indonesia, to

push for a wider international agreement post-Kyoto.

It adopted what is called the "Bali roadmap", with "deep cuts" to global CO2 emissions - to reduce what it claimed was the risk of "severe climate change" - through the establishment of mandatory targets, emissions trading schemes and other mechanisms.

The cost will inevitably be passed on to consumers, with adverse impacts on the poor and large families.

However, developing countries, including China and India, have refused to accept that they should be bound by them.

As a result, the US (which did not sign the Kyoto Protocol), said it would not sign up for further cuts. Meanwhile, France and Germany are looking at cutting petrol taxes to offset rising fuel prices.

It seems that Mr Kevin Rudd, almost alone in the international community, is committed to a program which will ratchet up the price of fuel and electricity in pursuit of an objective which is not only unattainable but utterly misguided.

Peter Westmore is national president of the National Civic Council. This article was printed in News Weekly, July 19, 2008. Web site: www.newsweekly.com.au

Climate change for students

Material from Tim Flannery's books, *The Weather Makers* and *We are the Weather Makers* has been modified for students in a guide called ***Thinking about climate change: a guide for teachers and students.***

The guide, sponsored by Purves Environmental Fund, was published in November 2007, and has been provided free in multiple copies to all Australian secondary schools - it is also available as a pdf download. The Geography Teachers Association of Queensland is promoting the use of the Guide. [www.gtaq.com.au]

They say Tim Flannery's books "changed minds and hearts about global warming. They contributed to a radical shift in our nation's understanding of climate change and the need for an urgent response."

The Guide (plus other resources!) has been posted at www.theweathermakers.org/tacc/ The lesson plans cover Humanities (English, Geography, HSIE, Environment, History, Economics), Science, Maths and IT!

What are your children being taught at school? If you don't know, now is a good time to start finding out!

World News

USA: Same-sex 'marriage'

Massachusetts has moved closer to allowing homosexuals from all across the USA to 'marry' in their state.

The Massachusetts House of Representatives voted 118–35 on July 29 to repeal a 1913 law that prohibits couples from marrying in Massachusetts if their unions are not legal in their home states. Last month we reported that the Massachusetts Senate had already passed the law. Governor Deval Patrick has indicated he will sign the bill. [Citizen Link, 30/7/2008]

France: Burqa

A French court has told a Moroccan woman, married to a French citizen, that she cannot obtain French nationality because she wears a burqa, covering all but her eyes. The court said it was incompatible with French values.

In 2005, she applied for French nationality but was rejected for "lack of assimilation". She appealed to the Conseil d'Etat - the court rejected her appeal on the grounds that she "adopted a radical practice of her religion..." [Herald.ie, 23/7/2008]

France banned the wearing of religious symbols and clothing, including the hijab, in state schools in 2004 in an effort to maintain 'secularism'.

UK: Hijab and hairdressing

A London hairdresser has been ordered to pay £4,000 to a Muslim woman...

You might well ask 'Why?'

For "hurt feelings"! Bushra Noah, a 19 year old Muslim woman, turned up to an interview for a junior stylist position at a salon in Kings Cross in the centre

of London. She was wearing a hijab - and didn't want to remove it. She then complained to an employment tribunal, claiming that the salon owner was guilty of 'religious discrimination' for not employing her and sought \$30,000 in damages.

In her defence, the salon owner Sarah Desrosiers said she ran a 'funky, urban' salon needed stylists to showcase alternative hairstyles. Clients wanted to see the hairstyles of the hairdressers. She said she would have acted the same if the applicant had worn a cowboy hat or a baseball cap..

The tribunal dismissed the 19-year-old's claim of 'religious discrimination' saying they believed she wasn't treated less favourably than others who wore a head covering. But the tribunal upheld her complaint of indirect discrimination and ordered the salon owner to pay £4,000 in compensation. The salon owner said: "I never in a million years dreamt that somebody would be completely against the display of hair and be in this industry. I don't feel I deserve it." [BBC, 16/6/2008]



UK: Climate Cops

Meanwhile, UK energy company *npower* is enlisting children as 'climate cops'. Their website www.climatecops.com was launched with colour ads in UK Sunday papers in July. The campaign encouraged them to enlist as "climate cops", monitor their family to discover "climate crimes", build up a "climate crime case file" and "save the planet". Climate crimes include using the dryer when it is sunny, leaving the TV on stand-by, leaving lights on in empty rooms. It describes leaving the mobile phone charger plugged in as a 'sin'. The website includes a teachers' guide.

Some of these things are just careful use of resources - but calling them 'climate crimes' - that is something else!

Ministry News

Jenny and Peter spent two weekends in Canberra during August attending conferences. The first was the 08-08-08 gathering (see editorial) where Peter and Jenny both ran workshops. The second was the Daniel 2:44 conference where the main speaker was Mark Rushdoony. This was one of the few conferences that Peter and Jenny attend where they are not speaking.

On August 5 Peter was elected President of the Family Council of Victoria. (FCV)

Since its inception the FCV has been

chaired by its founder, Dr Joe Santamaria. It has consistently lobbied governments on marriage, the natural family and pro-life issues and co-ordinated a number of pro-family conferences. It is not a 'Christian' group but a conservative 'think tank' and has brought together representatives of many diverse pro-family and religious groups.

Dr Joe, who stood down because of ill health, will be sorely missed.

Please pray for Peter as he takes on this additional role.

Please also continue to pray for all the Salt Shakers team.

Salt Shakers is a faith ministry.

Please see the inside of the wrapper your Journal arrived in for more details

Don't Forget book for Salt Shakers Annual Dinner - 13 Sept.

ACTION checklist: Tick the box as you complete the task

Page	Topic	Action / People to write to	Done
8	Mad World game	Write to Nintendo	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Prayer	Pray for children and grandchildren!	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Prayer	Obtain Jewish Prayer Focus booklet.	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Vic: IVF	Write to SIX MPs and Party leaders	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Vic: Abortion	Contact SIX MPs and Party leaders	<input type="checkbox"/>

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CD 2. Are Christianity & Islam Compatible by Patrick Sookhdeo

These excellent CD recordings of Patrick, an ex Muslim, speaking in Australia give a very clear and well presented insight into how Islam is penetrating the West and why Christians should not fall for the lie that Islam and Christianity are compatible. Highly recommended

\$7 each - CD 1 CD 2 or SPECIAL OFFER - Both CDs \$12



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 from conception to birth - with some delightful photos.

SPECIAL OFFER Buy 5 of each pamphlet and pay just \$10



BABY MODELS -

\$5 each or 4 for \$15.00

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.

These little models have saved children's lives. With your help they can save even more.

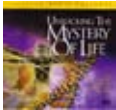


Student version DVD

Unlocking the Mystery of Life - DVD Student/educational version \$10

This amazing DVD shows life's complexity and the clear evidence of design in the most basic, yet most prolific of life's smallest components.

This DVD reveals the myth of evolutionary theory using science, not religion. For those who do not believe in a creator, it will start challenging their thinking that we are here by chance.



Praying for the GOVERNMENT by Derek Prince \$5

Derek's main gifting is in explaining the Bible and its teaching in a clear and simple way.

In this booklet he helps us know HOW to, and WHY, we should pray for our government.

His non-denominational approach has made his teaching relevant and helpful to people from all denominations and none.



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