

# Salt Shakers

Helping Christians make a difference

“Truth will ultimately prevail where  
there is pains to bring it to light.”

George Washington

“If we will not be governed by God, then  
we will be ruled by tyrants.”

William Penn



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# Editorial

## **Fires and floods across Australia**

As we write this we are all in a state of shock over the devastation from bushfires in Victoria as well as the Queensland floods and fires across NSW and South Australia.

Our prayers and condolences go out to so many who have lost loved ones, and many who have lost homes and everything they own in recent days. In Victoria, whole towns have now suddenly gone. Many Christians, some we know personally, have lost everything, even their churches. This is indeed a time to grieve.

Some will see these events simply as nature, some will blame global warming, some will blame the earth worshippers or governments for a lack of proper burning off, some will even blame God. However, we always need to be careful when pointing the finger of blame, especially about 'natural' disasters, because there are always three fingers pointing back at us.

Is God responsible? Does He send drought to warn us? Drought that increases the risk of fire? We are sure many have agonised over this in recent weeks. We pray for God to bring rain – so does he withhold the rain because of the sin of a nation? He directly intervened because of sin in the Old Testament - first he threw Adam and Eve out of the garden, then he sent a flood and then there was Sodom and Gomorrah. He sent the plagues on the Egyptians and destroyed places like Canaan, not because He wanted to, but because of sin.

But the good news is that God sent his Son to die for the world, to pay our penalty for sin. He has given us the way of salvation, the only way to avoid the punishment of eternal separation from Him.

But the Scriptures are also clear that when

WE reject God and His values we open ourselves up to the consequences.

Romans Chapter

One speaks clearly of the penalties people receive when they move away from Him. Are there also consequences for nations when they walk away from His laws and values too?

In our February Journal we said that in recent years we have seen a flood of immorality in our land. Our federal government passed laws to normalise homosexuality, the Victorian government passed the most liberal abortion laws in the land, created civil registration for homosexual relationships and passed laws allowing children to become 'products' of artificial creation by anyone - and then they called it all 'good'. On the first weekend in February our Victorian Police Commissioner and the Attorney General, Rob Hulls, marched in celebration of homosexual 'pride', and spoke with great pride about their 'achievements' in normalising homosexuality. Other states have been moving in similar directions.

Australia was established on Christian principles. We need to ask what could be the consequences of rejecting God's laws.

We said last month we needed to give hope and within a week there were so many who felt totally hopeless and needed our help. In one sense we praise God for the many Christians who were on the spot, all be it because of disaster affecting them directly, but they immediately turned towards others, helping their neighbour and giving hope and practical support.

While we repair the physical damage, we must also consider the need to repair the moral damage. We need to stop our nation calling evil good and good evil.

Yours in the service of Jesus

Peter & Jenny Stokes



## But that's Old Testament!

by Murray Adamthwaite PhD

Some time ago, Murray wrote a series on the Ten Commandments. In this article he considers which Old Testament laws still apply for Christians today. A longer version appears on our website.

A common modern pretext for sidestepping the Decalogue is the plea that it's part of the Old Testament, and that we now live under the New Testament where our ethics are the Sermon on the Mount and Paul's instructions in his epistles. Furthermore, because the Decalogue is an integral part of the Pentateuch (the first five books), and because that code is a mixture of all manner of strange, even bizarre laws, the whole 'box

and dice' must be dismissed as irrelevant for our modern age. The same law which forbids adultery (Exod. 20:14) also forbids eating pork and crustacea (Lev. 11:7, 10); the law which enjoins loving one's neighbour (Lev. 19:18) also commands a Sabbath year for land to regenerate its fertility (Lev. 25:2-7). In other words, it comes to us as a total package; we cannot "cherry pick" laws which suit us and discard the rest; therefore that entire package must be jettisoned. So runs the argument.

Now this objection comes from all quarters: church folk, pastors, and even professional theologians. It likewise comes from the unbelieving world (whose Bible knowledge is virtually nil!), "Must we really refrain from rabbits, black puddings, or shark; must we disdain wearing clothes made from dissimilar threads?" "Must builders erect parapets on the roofs of houses?" "Can we cite as valid the law against homosexual behaviour (as in Lev. 18:22) without enforcing also the law forbidding the trimming of beards (Lev. 19:27)?" And so we could go on.

However, we must ask whether these questions are really serious, or whether they are just a form of throwing up dust? Yet they must be explored.

Most would agree that Old Testament law in its entirety does not apply as it stands in today's world, nor in fact has it ever been imposed wholesale during the Christian era. It was a code for ancient Israel, an agrarian society with a theocratic structure, the latter institutionalised by the Mosaic Law itself. With the dissolution of the theocracy at the time of Babylonian Exile, and finally in 70 A.D. with the destruction of the Second Temple, the Israelite commonwealth passed away.

However, for Christians the advent of Christ and His atoning work, climaxing in His Resurrection from the dead and Ascension into Heaven denotes a "Copernican revolution" in their relation to the Old Testament economy. The OT ceremonies are abolished, its temple, sacrifices, priests, rituals

and procedures - all pass away before the Person and work of Christ (Hebrews 8-10). Moreover, the OT institutions such as cities of refuge and allotment of tribal lands no longer apply; likewise laws on land use, or the various dietary laws. Briefly stated, the abrogation of at least some of the OT law is a fact and reality. The only questions are "How much?", and "By what formula?"

By contrast, that not all of the wider OT law is abrogated is equally clear from the NT; the moral demands of that law are enjoined on Christian believers. Some examples appear below, but note that they all come from the epistles, not the Gospels, lest some should object that were I to quote from the

### What Old Testament laws apply today?

latter the reply would simply be that Jesus was there speaking to a Jewish society no longer in existence.

Some examples as follows:

- The priests who serve at the altar have a share in the food offered at the altar and from the temple. See Lev. 6:16, 26; 7:6, referred to in 1 Cor. 9:13. So therefore, should the Christian pastor receive pay for Gospel ministry (v.14).

- “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” (Lev. 11:44; 19:2, cited in 1 Pet. 1:16), a general standard for Christian holiness.

- All importantly, the “two or three witnesses” injunction of Deut. 17:6 and 19:15 is applied to church procedures no less than three times in the NT: Matt. 18:16; 2 Cor. 13:1; 1 Tim. 5:19.

- “You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing.” (Deut. 25:4, cited in 1 Cor. 9:9; 1 Tim. 5:18). Paul applies this text also to legitimate pay for Gospel ministry.

Hence the OT Law is constantly cited as authoritative and applied both to NT Christians and to the Gentile world at large (1 Tim. 1:9-11).

However, if OT law, or at least parts of it, are abrogated because of the change of dispensation, how do we account for its continuing authority as evidenced in these examples?

To explain this I believe we must (i) invoke the classic distinction between ‘moral, civil, and ceremonial’, and (ii) look for principles underlying the OT laws, and specifically how they relate to the Decalogue. The reader must ask, “What is the basic intent of this law?” – first in its original historical context, and then to tease out how it can apply in today’s world.

Some examples:

(i) The requirement to construct parapets around the perimeter of a house-roof (Deut. 22:8) was intended to safeguard life, an extension of the Sixth Commandment. Children would often play on the roofs of their houses, and so home safety was all-important; hence the principle enshrined here still has a wide application, e.g. to electrical appliances, and children’s playtime equipment.

(ii) The prohibition of usury to fellow-Israelites (Exodus 22:25; Lev. 25:35-37; Deut. 23:19-20) was to protect the poor,

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laws**

prevent financial exploitation, and provide a hedge against inflation. All of this flowed from the Eighth Commandment, to prevent outright theft, to safeguard private property, and to encourage generosity (cf. Eph. 4:28). In our modern society this principle still applies: usury has sent households, corporations, and even entire nations to financial ruin. The particular application to credit card abuse should be obvious here: banks in this regard engage in the most exorbitant usury.

To reiterate: the ceremonial laws are fulfilled in Christ’s atoning work and are abolished. However, we can investigate the Israelite rituals to explore aspects of that atoning work (but don’t go too far in this!). The civil laws as they stand have passed away with the passing of the Israelite theocracy, in particular their penalties. However, their moral principles abide, and it is the interpreter’s task to discern these, in particular by relating them to the Decalogue. Those laws which are a direct application of the Decalogue, e.g. the laws against incest, homosexuality, bestiality (Lev. 18:6, 22, 23) and consanguinity (common blood in

marriage - Lev. 18.1-16) remain in force.

Finally, let us consider two difficult, but oft-repeated examples:

(i) Lev. 19:19; Deut. 22:11 While the precise reason for this law prohibiting the mixture of different threads is not clear, in general it seems to relate to separation. Egyptians did indeed mix trees in their gardens, animals under their yokes, and threads in their garments. Some of these can be discerned from several tomb paintings. Israelites were to separate themselves entirely from Egypt whence they had come. Likewise, strict separation is necessary in our present world.

One example is rock music, a genre taken directly from the sex-and-drug ridden culture of our pagan world, and ultimately from the heathen cultures of Africa and Central America. Certain genres of music have no place in the sanctuary of God. However, separation has become a non-issue in much of today's church; indeed, it has almost become a dirty word!

(ii) Lev. 19:27; 21:5; Deut. 14:1 Why were the Israelites forbidden to cut the corners of their hair or beards? While the original reason is somewhat obscure, again it most likely has to do with repudiation of pagan practice, in this case mourning rites (Deut. 14:1). The modern application is again separation – from involvement in any pagan practices, or incorporation of the same into Christian worship or daily practice. One prime example is involvement in inter-faith activities.

And then on a positive note, some provisions of the Mosaic Law which are directly pertinent to today's world:

(i) Exod. 23:2 “You shall not follow the masses in doing evil, nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after a multitude

in order to pervert justice.” Bandwagon morality and mob rule are perversions of justice, yet we see this in today's world every day. Politicians follow opinion polls and the dictates of noisy pressure groups, and pass legislation which encourages evil (e.g. on abortion and homosexuality). The media stir up mass-hysteria for faddish causes (e.g. global warming), then silence and even vilify any dissenters, and thus pervert justice. However, nothing is done, and so evil triumphs through the mob.

(ii) Lev. 19:32 “You shall rise up before the grayheaded and honour the aged, and you shall revere your God; I am the LORD.” Respect for age was of utmost importance in Biblical society, just as it is correspondingly lacking in today's world, where come age 60 and one is demeaned as some sort of fossil and disregarded accordingly. Our modern world, by contrast, regards youth with its zeal, energy, self-confidence, and enterprise as the ideal. As a warning let us remind ourselves of the story where a certain king, Rehoboam son of Solomon,

dismissed the wiser counsel of his seniors and listened instead to the younger men of affairs, and lost most of his kingdom as a result! (1 Kings 12:6-16)

In summary, the Old Testament Law, far from being an outmoded code and a set of maxims merely for an ancient and extinct society, enshrines underlying concepts and principles which are as contemporary and wide-ranging as ever.

“I have seen a limit to all perfection; but Your commandment is exceedingly broad”. Psalm 119:96

*Murray Adamthwaite is on Salt Shakers Reference Panel. His website: [www.admathwaite.com.au](http://www.admathwaite.com.au)*

## The Old Testament Law enshrines important concepts and principles

## News & Action

### *SA: Equal Opportunity laws*

The South Australian government is again considering amendments to the state's equal opportunity legislation. Last year they withdrew the Bill following an outcry over their controversial plans to include Section 61, a 'vilification-like' clause that would cover EVERY attribute in the Act. That would mean 'vilification laws' for almost everything! The Parliament debated the amendments to the Bill in February 2009.

### *Lesbian couple wins appeal*

In September 2008, we reported that a lesbian couple had sued an IVF doctor because he implanted two embryos instead of one!

They sued the doctor in the ACT Supreme Court because they had twins and wanted nearly \$400,000 in damages to help raise the second child. They claimed their relationship was stressed because of the extra work involved. They lost the case.

However, they appealed to the ACT Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal has just overturned that decision. The three judges awarded them \$317,000 in damages and ordered the doctor to pay their legal costs.

### *Federal discrimination laws*

In early January, a Senate Committee recommended an Inquiry into a federal "Equality Act" that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. The Inquiry would not report until 2011, after the next election. [Southern Star, 8/1/2009]

Just three weeks later, federal Attorney-General Robert McClelland told Melbourne's homosexual radio station that it was "more probable than not" that anti-discrimination reforms covering sexuality and gender

identity will **commence before the next federal election**. He said "It is certainly our platform and it is our intention to do that. We would like to do that on a nationally consistent basis." [SSO, 28/1/2009]

The homosexual media said he "did not clarify if the reforms would include a new federal law, similar to the federal sex and race discrimination acts, or convincing state governments to improve their protections."

So who knows when this next move might occur? We need to be vigilant. What we can be certain of is that the Rudd government **intends to introduce such laws and that they will impinge on freedom of speech!**

### *Gender definitions*

The Australian Human Rights Commission has released a report proposing the recognition of a 'new' third gender - 'intersex'. They didn't ask everyone for input - just asked the "sex and gender diverse community" to help develop recommendations.

Two disturbing recommendations in the Report are allowing minors to have their legal sex changed with the consent of **one** parent; and allowing married persons to change their legal sex - there is no mention of the need for spousal consent! In effect this would recognise same-sex 'marriage'!

### *Freedom of religion*

Thank you to everyone who made a submission to the Freedom of Religion and Belief Inquiry being conducted by the Australian Human Rights Commission.

**ACTION:** If you missed making a submission, please start talking to your federal MP and state Senators.

Tell them you're concerned about the direction the Inquiry might take and tell them you oppose a 'Freedom of Religion' Act or discrimination/vilification laws based on religion.

## Abortion and overseas aid

The Rudd government is considering overturning the current ban on overseas aid funding that provides abortion advice or abortions in overseas nations.

The ban was introduced by the Howard government as a result of advocacy by former Tasmanian senator Brian Harradine. The current rule is outlined in the AusAID Family Planning Guidelines.<sup>1</sup>

The ban has been under review for the past year. A Labor Party caucus subcommittee reported around August 2008 but the result was not made public.<sup>2</sup> The ban can be lifted 'administratively' by Stephen Smith, the government Minister for Foreign Affairs. NO legislation is required to lift the ban.

Pro-abortion activists, led by the Australian Reproductive Health Alliance, have been campaigning for the lifting of the ban. The Parliamentary Group on Population and Development is also lobbying for the ban to be overturned. The Chair of the group is Claire Moore, who is also the national co-convenor of Emily's List, the group of Labor women who support abortion.

The Rudd government is already working with the Australian Reproductive Health

Alliance and Planned Parenthood, giving them overseas aid funds to provide maternal health services.<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately, as we reported last year, this means they could use those funds for maternal health and use their OTHER funds for providing abortions!

The ban should stay

We believe the ban should stay - we should use our scarce resources on saving lives and providing health assistance for all people in developing countries, including pregnant women - not on providing abortions.

**ACTION:** Please write a short letter to Stephen Smith and Kevin Rudd. POLITELY ask them to retain the ban on giving any government overseas aid funding for the

provision of abortion advice or abortions.

Email: [Stephen.Smith.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Stephen.Smith.MP@aph.gov.au)

Contact the PM at [www.pm.gov.au](http://www.pm.gov.au)

Also write to the Leader of the Opposition Malcolm Turnbull - [Malcolm.Turnbull.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Malcolm.Turnbull.MP@aph.gov.au)

Alternatively write to both of them at Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600.

*Endnotes:*

1. AusAID Family Planning Guidelines

2. Michelle Grattan, *The Age*, 26/1/2009.

3. SPRINT, AusAID media release, 18/2/2008.



## Resistance Thinking website:

Our 15 - 30 year old readers are encouraged to visit our Resistance Thinking web site to engage in lively debates on issues of Faith, Culture and Society, and to sign up for our Resistance Thinking emails - Go to **[www.resistancethinking.com](http://www.resistancethinking.com)**

Join us for Prayer and Breakfast  
Pray for our nation, its leaders, Salt Shakers and RT  
6.30 am every Thursday morning at SALT SHAKERS Office

## Surrogacy Inquiry

The state and federal attorneys-general and state Health and Disability Ministers have launched a national Inquiry into surrogacy Laws.

Their aim is to have a 'consistent' approach to surrogacy laws across Australia. Inevitably this means adopting the most liberal of the existing laws - because individual states never want to go backwards!

The Inquiry was prompted by Victorian Labor Senator, Stephen Conroy, whose wife had ovarian cancer and a hysterectomy and was unable to conceive or carry a child. They used a surrogate mother and egg donor in Sydney because of Victoria's law.

Last year the Victorian government changed the laws relating to IVF and surrogacy. Previously a woman could only be a surrogate if she was infertile herself. That requirement has now been removed. Male homosexual couples can now access IVF and surrogacy in Victoria.



### *Opposing surrogacy*

There are always hard cases, such as the situation of Senator Conroy, but hard cases make bad laws.

With various states already allowing it, should we just accept it and 'agree'?

No - we still need to make a stand! From a Biblical perspective, the use of surrogacy breaks the marriage and family bond set up by God. Only heartache resulted when Sarah stepped in and organised a 'surrogate' to bear a child with Abraham rather than wait on God's plan and timing.

A child should have the opportunity to be brought up by their biological father and mother. Whilst we recognise that this does not always happen, it should be the aim

of society. With surrogacy arrangements, children are denied that right.

Surrogacy arrangements can be a subject to dispute, especially if the woman changes her mind and wants to keep the baby.

Male homosexual couples are using surrogates in the USA at a cost of \$300,000, and now many are going to India where it is cheaper (\$30,000) and less regulated.

Now surrogates are being asked for 'child support'! A male homosexual couple from Queensland had a child using a surrogate mother from New Zealand. The one-year-old surrogate baby girl is being raised by the baby's biological father and his male partner

in Queensland, who are her legal guardians. They gained child support benefits to enable the father to stay home and care for her. However, Centrelink and the Child Support Agency asked the surrogate to contribute financially - the surrogate refused, but is being pursued for the money!

### *The Consultation Paper*

At no time does the consultation paper ask if we should allow surrogacy. Every question assumes you agree with surrogacy so we cannot answer ANY of the questions.

**ACTION:** Submissions are invited - and **close on 16 April 2009**. We suggest you write to the Inquiry, saying that children deserve to be brought up by their biological mother and father.

Write to Executive Officer of the Secretariat of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General, NSW Attorney General's Department, GPO Box 6, Sydney NSW 2001. Or email to: [natalie\\_marsic@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:natalie_marsic@agd.nsw.gov.au).

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## Bill of Rights - National Consultation

The federal government announced a 'National Consultation on Human Rights' on 10 December 2008. That really means a discussion and debate about whether Australia should have a 'Bill of Rights'.

### *Making a Submission*

**Submissions are invited - and close on 29 May 2009.**

We encourage you to make a submission to the Inquiry to express your opposition to a Bill of Rights. It is vital that we let the government know what we think about them introducing a Bill or Charter of Rights - because all the groups supporting the Bill, including homosexual rights groups, are already busy lobbying!

### *A Bill of Rights*

In the past few years the Australian Capital Territory and Victoria have both passed laws to enact a Charter of Rights.

We opposed both of these Charters because such Charters generally add additional 'rights' that particularly favour minority groups. They also give too much power to judges. Under our constitution the elected parliament makes the laws and judges make rulings accordingly. Once a government defines 'rights' they inevitably limit them and pit one group against another.

### *Opposition to a Bill of Rights*

In the political sphere, many Coalition MPs oppose a Bill of Rights. Importantly, many leading Labor MPs have also recently spoken out, opposing a federal Bill of Rights. These include SA Attorney General Michael Atkinson, NSW Attorney-General John Hatzistergos and former NSW Premier Bob Carr.

**ACTION:** During the next couple of months, we encourage you to check out our Campaign page, which has detailed articles explaining why these charters are NOT a good idea. You can also read the 'Consultation paper'.

Then you can prepare your submissions by the end of May.

### *Key Information*

Please visit Salt Shakers Campaign Page (under the Take Action section): <http://www.saltshakers.org.au/html/P/302/B/567/>

Consultation webpage: <http://www.humanrightsconsultation.gov.au>

If you don't have the internet, phone the secretariat on 1800 086 134 - ask for a copy of the Consultation Paper to be posted.

### *The Consultation:*

The Key Consultation Questions are:

- \* Which human rights and responsibilities should be protected and promoted?
- \* Are human rights sufficiently protected and promoted?
- \* How could Australia better protect and promote human rights?

The main thing to say in your response is that human rights ARE protected in Australia. Australia does not need any further framework to 'protect' rights. Thus we do not need a Charter of Rights.

Don't feel you need to answer the 'questions' given - they would lead people to respond 'favourably' - by giving examples of certain 'rights' to be protected etc!

**NEXT MONTH:** we'll give you some ideas of points you can make in your submission.



## 50/50 column

Great to see the example set by actors, Ricardo Montalban, married 63 years, and Patrick McGoochan, married 57 years. Farewell and congratulations.

**Lennycy Westaway**, Navigators  
*Herald Sun*, 20/01/2009

## Where is the Evidence?

Opinions are great but fact are better. Steve Raskovy often shares his opinions but I was both surprised and concerned at the alarmist rhetoric he espoused in his recent letter ('Targets inadequate' W. Leader Jan 7).

If the science was 'proven', rather than simply 'modelled', we might have cause for concern, but there is NO real scientific evidence to suggest man is the cause of global warming, in fact Russian scientists are now predicting global cooling and England has just had one of its coldest Christmases on record!

Neither is there any firm evidence that aeroplanes are causing a lack of rain or that the planet is over-populated.

There is certainty about climate change, I have experienced it 4 times in one day in Melbourne. Certainly there is an unfair distribution of the world's food with the west now using some of it to quench its fuel thirst while others starve, but these are man made and we should be doing something about that rather than lining the pockets of the rich with carbon taxes.

I suggest that we all need to be more discerning about what we read so we do not get sucked in by someone else's political agenda.

**Peter Stokes**, Forest Hill  
*Whitehorse Leader* 21/01/09

## This Great Land

AUSTRALIA, what a great country, definitely the best. With clear, blue skies and fresh air, white sandy beaches and clean water, tall majestic gum trees and great open spaces, to name a few attractions, Australia is so unique and special.

Our democratic freedom is alive and well, we must not throw it away. Thank God for our forefathers who built and shaped this nation on the Judeo-Christian beliefs.

As we celebrate and hold our flag up high, let's give thanks with grateful hearts for this great land. Will you?

**Judith Bond**, Glen Alpine  
*Adelaide Advertiser*, 26/1/2009

## Motherhood is a human right

I would like the human right to stop home with my children ("Five ABC centres face the axe", H&VW, December 9). And put my whole self into them – and not be punished for it, by being refused child-care allowance when I'm supplying a much more human and dedicated care, including that priceless commodity – mother's love and mother's actual presence. (All kids shout a loud "Hurrah" at this point!) But this monetary bonus is only available to those "mums" who are also receiving a salary (and sharing their mate's, too!).

I would like the human right of not being bludgeoned into abandoning my little ones, breaking their hearts – toughening them up – to become the angry young hoons of tomorrow. "Other education" mum can warmly supply – instead of Government-supplied brainwashing by the certified social-engineered carers, no matter how caring. The little ones are being denied a mother's love – their own mu is surely a human right.

Let's stop torturing them. And let mum develop her motherhood, instead of turning into a hard-headed cog in the Big Business Machine – or one of the "carers" of other people's children!

**Cynthia Heyward**, Watsonia  
*Heidelberg & Diamond Valley Weekly*



## Rights for the unborn

Helen Szoke, CEO of the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission, claims that under the Charter of Human Rights every Victorian has the right to recognition and equality before the law, as well as protection from cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, etc. And that government is accountable to undertake its responsibilities ("Worthy charter", Your Say, February 1).

Sadly, the charter allocates only 18 words to the greatest right of all – that to life – and fails to accord any specific rights to the unborn child.

The obscene Abortion Law Reform Act (October 2008) reinforces this philosophy.

**J.A. Gill**, Mt Waverley  
*Sunday Herald Sun*, 8/2/2009

## Another 'stolen' generation?

The rate of children in 'care' has increased in the past year. Much has been said about the so-called 'stolen generation', which refers to aboriginal children being removed from families and placed in homes. However, even during those times, children were also removed from non-indigenous families.

Government authorities continue to remove children from their families if they believe the child is at risk by remaining in the home. Around 31,166 Australian children are currently in out-of-home care.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) collates national statistics on child abuse, classified as physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect. The number of children in care has risen 115% in the past decade - there was a 10% increase in the past year alone according to the AIHW official report, ***Child Protection Australia 2007-08***.

John Sant, the co-author of the report, said "the rising number is partly due to the fact that "more children are admitted to care than are discharged each year. Factors such as low family income, parental substance abuse, mental health issues and family violence, tend to lengthen the time these children remain in care".

The report showed that as at 30 June 2008, 48% of children in care were in foster care, 45% were in relative or kinship care, and 5% were in residential care.

The report also showed that substantiated notifications of child abuse in Australia have fallen for the first time since 1999. There were 55,100 substantiated notifications of child abuse and neglect in 2007-08 compared with 60,200 the previous year.

***Higher rate - aboriginal children***  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

children continue to be over-represented in the child protection system, with Indigenous children aged 0-16 years being more than six times as likely to be the subject of substantiations as other children (35.2 compared with 5.5 per 1,000 children).

The highest rate of substantiations for indigenous children was in Victoria - the rate was 55 per 1000 compared to 4.9 per 1000 for non-indigenous children.

The proportion of indigenous children in care is also higher. "Overall, the rate of Indigenous children in out-of-home care was almost nine times the rate of other children," Mr Sant said.

The number of aboriginal children on care and protection orders ranges from 14.6 per 1,000 in the Northern Territory to 74.1 per 1,000 in Victoria. In contrast, in Victoria, the rate for all children is 6.5% per 1000.

### ***Type of family***

As we might expect, "a relatively high proportion of substantiations involved children living in lone families and in two parent step or blended families, whereas a relatively **low proportion** of substantiations involved children living in **two-parent intact families**. Of substantiated cases, 30% lived in two parent families, whilst 10.9% lived in two parent step or blended families and 42% were from single parent - female households." Since 20% of families are headed by a female single parent (ABS, Family Characteristics, 2006-7), and 73% are intact families, this means children in single parent families are more than 5.6 times as likely to have substantiated cases of child abuse than those living with their two biological parents!

*AIHW media release, 21/1/2009.  
Full Report: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10687>*



# Transsexualism - Part 3

by Ken McGuire

In the first two parts on this series on transsexualism, we saw how transsexualism is a psychological condition and that sex-change operations are both inappropriate and ineffective in the long run. In this, the third and final part of the series, we answer the question as to what the actual cause of transsexualism is and how it can be treated.

The psychodynamic routes to gender dysphoria (discomfort with gender role) are different for boys than they are for girls and they do not necessarily all occur in childhood. Invariably, there is a complex interplay between different psychological and situational factors which cause a discomfort with, fear of, or rejection of, one's biological sex and a corresponding desire to be the opposite sex. Over time, cross-sex wishes develop into cross-sex fantasies and feelings which culminate into the belief that one should be or really is the opposite sex.

Whilst transsexualism is sometimes associated with mental illness such as schizophrenia, transvestism, body dysmorphia or post-traumatic stress disorder, it is more usual to see gender identity issues in the context of personality disorders, often the result of childhood abuse or trauma or, in extreme cases, as a form of dissociative identity disorder consisting of a dual male/female persona.

Sexual abuse features prominently in the history of severe transsexualism. Girls may use a cross-gender identity as a form of self-protection against further abuse or it may arise as a form of "identification with the abuser". Boys may suffer from confusion about sexual orientation following sexual abuse and this confusion can spill over into gender identity.

Transsexuals often entertain false ideas

about gender roles and what it means to be a man or a woman. These ideas stem from inappropriate or absent sex-role models in childhood and social constructs and result in gender role discomfort or confusion. These feelings are exacerbated when the child's role models put each other down in a verbally abusive way.

Girls are more inclined to reject their gender role in societies where women are marginalized and devalued. Girls are also more inclined towards cross gender wishes where men are overly valued or held in high regard. Daughters who witness their mother being repeatedly verbally and/or physically abused by males may take upon themselves the expressed negativity towards women, resulting in a negative self image and fear of womanhood which they see as weakness and the object of abuse.

Boys may reject their own masculinity because of negative male role models and experience feelings of discomfort at the thought of growing up to become a man. Boys who do not enjoy or are not good at perceived male activities such as sport may develop a negative self-image. They may also take upon themselves the title of "girl" or "sissy" because of teasing at school or at home.

The absence of appropriate opposite-sex role models for both boys and girls can also result in a degree of uncertainty and insecurity about their own sexual identity as well as avoidance or lack of comfort with the opposite sex. This is often the cause of homosexual/lesbian feeling too.

Daughters of divorced or abandoned mothers may step in to fill the role of the absent father, often being encouraged by their mothers for their "masculine" traits.

For boys, the absence of a male role model may leave them feeling awkward amongst



same-sex peers. Later, as men, they may be inadequately prepared for the role of husband and father, leading to feelings of failure and discomfort in the male role. Mentally disturbed or absent mothers can likewise leave girls feeling inadequate and inappropriate in their gender role.

Sexual confusion and same sex attraction can lead to transsexualism where there are highly negative attitudes towards homosexuality. In this case, the cross gender identity is used to justify their same sex attraction as being heterosexual and therefore acceptable to themselves and others.

In less severe cases, confusion about gender can simply arise out of adjustment disorders of adolescence or form part of a more generalised identity confusion, in which questions such as “who am I?” and “where do I fit in?” encompass the question “What gender am I?”

Generally, cross gender feelings and behaviours are not persistent throughout life but manifest as a coping mechanism during stressful life events.

Treatment of transsexualism involves the resolution of the underlying contributing factors. Initially, explorative therapy is valuable in order to obtain relevant history and to identify any co-morbid psychopathology. Those with a background of severe abuse, especially sexual abuse may be treated or referred for treatment for that abuse. Those with personality disorders, dissociative disorders and other psychopathology can likewise undergo treatment for those disorders. In the case where gender identity disorders exist in the context of broader identity problems or issues, the patient will benefit from exploring issues related to self-identity within therapy. Psychotropic medications may be prescribed during treatment to facilitate therapy.

Socially, persons with gender identity disorders will benefit from associations with healthy male and female role models wherein any wrong or inappropriate ideas they hold about sex-roles can be challenged and corrected.

The greatest barrier to treatment lies with the patient themselves who refuse to accept any responsibility for their gender dysphoria and are unwilling to question the origin of their condition or explore its causes or development or entertain any attempts to change it.

Sadly, another barrier to proper help today is the attitude of society to simply affirm and comply with a persons wishes to ‘be the other sex’. This has lead to authorities allowing very young people who are gender confused to affirm their feelings and start treatment to change at a very young age, often well before maturity and possibly even before puberty.

Ultimately, transsexuals suffer from the same problem that we all face - we live in a fallen world. None of us are as God intended. We all face choices between right and wrong, we all face things we do not like about ourselves. Even Paul found himself doing what he did not want to do. It is our response that matters. We can attempt to justify our wrong feelings, desires and actions or we can turn to God through his Son Jesus Christ and allow him to transform us into the person God created us to be, including, in the case of transsexuals, bringing them back to sexual wholeness.

Yet, we need to understand that healing can be a long and hard road – both for the patient, their family and those assisting them. It is also difficult for Christians to know how to respond when confronted with such situations, so we have decided we need to include a Part 4 – “The Christian response to a person who presents with Gender Identity Disorder or cross dressing”



## Gambling Inquiry

The Australian Government has asked the **Productivity Commission** to undertake an inquiry into gambling.

The Commission is inviting the public to make submissions - these need to be made by 31 March 2009.

The inquiry will provide an update on developments since the Commission's 1999 Report. The Inquiry will consider a wide range of issues including:

- the nature and definition of gambling
- the participation profile of gambling, including problem gamblers and those at risk of problem gambling
- the economic impacts of the gambling industries,
- the social impacts of the gambling industries, the incidence of gambling abuse and the cost and nature of welfare support services necessary to address it
- the effects of the regulatory structures
- the implications of new technologies (such as the Internet)
- the impact of gambling on Commonwealth, State and Territory budgets
- the impact that the introduction of harm minimisation measures at gambling venues has had on the prevalence of problem gambling and on those at risk - and their effectiveness or otherwise.

Gambling is a major social problem that adversely affects many people in Australia.

What can we say to the Inquiry?

It is vital that we express our concern about the impact it has on many people. Problem gambling is often recognised, but the reality is that many people gamble with money they cannot afford to lose and this adversely affects their families.

Some suggestions you could make:



Implementing restrictions on trading hours (no 24 hour gaming venues); removing ATMs from in or near pokie venues; additional funds to support problem gambling; registration of all gamblers with venues.

**ACTION:** Please make a submission or write a letter to the Productivity Commission. They need to be made by 31 March 2009.

Send your submission/letter to [gambling@pc.gov.au](mailto:gambling@pc.gov.au) or post to Gambling Inquiry, Productivity Commission, GPO Box 1428, Canberra City ACT 2601.

You can register your interest in this Inquiry by filling out the 'Expression of Interest' form or phoning them - they will keep you updated about the Inquiry by email or post.

You can address some of the issues they list - or you can just express your concern about the impact of gambling on our society. If you have personal stories about the impact of gambling you could also include those.

Full details of the Inquiry and how to make a submission are on the Productivity Commission website - <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/gambling-2009>

If you don't have the internet, you can phone for more details: freecall 1800 020 083 or 03 9653 2244.



## Abortion statistics - Victoria

A research study has been done on the 5462 phone calls made to Melbourn's Royal Women's Hospital Pregnancy Advisory Service in 2006-7. The study found that the most common reason for women seeking abortion advice is "bad timing" or "does not want children now"

Ironically this report comes just **after** the Victorian government has decriminalised abortion up to full term for any reason.

The study was published in the *Medical Journal of Australia* last month. ,

### **Details of the study:**

- \* Records were created for 3827 women
- \* Analysis conducted on 3,018 women
- \* 1026, or 34 %, listed their primary reason as "does not want children now" or "not the right time".
- \* 547, or 18 %, said they already had enough children
- \* 263, or 9 %, said they were caring for a young baby
- \* 339, or 11%, said they were too young.
- \* Financial, relationship or medical reasons accounted for 19 per cent of cases
- \* Rape was cited in 1 % of abortions.
- \* Most pregnancies were in the first trimester, with only 24 - less than 1 per cent - over 18 weeks' gestation.
- \* While the vast majority of women (88 per cent) were aged 18-38, 262, or 7 per cent, were under 18, and 188, or 5 per cent, were over 40. About 42 per cent (2205) of the women had at least one child, 752, or 39 per cent, had previously terminated a pregnancy, and 1107, or 29 per cent, reported using contraception at the time they fell pregnant.
- \* Violence was involved in 16 per cent of

cases, mental health problems in nearly 10 per cent, and about one in five women had experienced difficulties in gaining access to pregnancy support services.

Authors of the study, including director of the Key Centre for Women's Health in Society at Melbourne University, Doreen Rosenthal, told *The Age* (19/1/2009) said it was concerning that younger, socio-economically disadvantaged women living outside Melbourne were making contact with the service much later in their pregnancies than other women.

The authors also urged initiatives to prevent unplanned pregnancies and for support services to respond to the finding that many women had experienced violence.

The Royal Women's Hospital Pregnancy



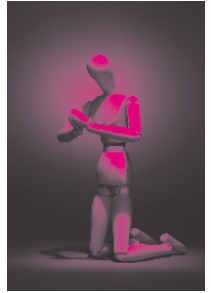
Advisory Service is Victoria's largest public pregnancy support service. They provide women who have an unplanned or unwanted pregnancy can contact the service about their options, including abortion and continuing the pregnancy.

However, 90% of those contacting the service were seeking an abortion, whilst 9% were undecided. 2% of the women were referred to the service by a general practitioner.

This highlights the importance of having pro-life pregnancy centres that encourage women to have their babies instead of aborting them. The challenge is to encourage GPs to refer pregnant women to such centres.

## Prayer Update

### Disaster strikes our nation



Please continue to pray for the people who have lost loved ones in the bushfires earlier this month.

People are also trying to work through so many issues relating to getting their lives back together from the fires and the recent floods in Qld.

The emotional trauma and the task of rebuilding a home and/or business will be enormous. Some even have to rebuild their town, their church and their school.

Marysville was a tourist/holiday town, but its guest houses, resorts (including one we used to stay at) and B & Bs have gone. So have a lot of the forests that made it so popular.

A Christian drug rehab centre in Kinglake, along with churches, businesses and so many houses are also gone. Mobile Mission Maintenance have lost their premises.

### Bushfire appeal for local churches

**We have set up a special account specifically to help church communities we have direct contact with who were hit very hard by these fires.** We want to help them to re-establish their church communities as quickly as possible so they can reach out to others in the community as they rebuild.

This is not meant to replace what others are doing but churches have little chance of getting money to start again from appeal funds or to have resources to help their communities.

**Contributions** can be made by the internet using direct debit (account details on Page 20) or by cheque or credit card. Please ensure you clearly mark your donation 'BUSHFIRE'.

- If using the internet, please email us to confirm your transaction.

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### Other Prayer Points

#### ***Federal Gambling Inquiry***

- Pray that this Inquiry will lead to real action to curb the gambling culture in Australia.

#### ***Cloning Bill in SA***

- Pray that SA MPs will oppose cloning and that the parliament will not pass this Bill.

#### ***Federal 'Freedom of Religion' Inquiry***

• Pray that the Human Rights Commission will conclude that 'Freedom of Religion' laws are not required in Australia.

#### ***Federal parliament same-sex 'equality' Bills***

• Pray that no further restrictions on free speech will be made by this government in relation to 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity'.

#### ***Sydney mardi gras parade (7 March)***

- Pray against this promotion of sexual deviancy in Sydney .
- Pray for those who call themselves Christians – pray for those caught up with any sexual immorality whether homosexual or heterosexual.
- Pray that the media will not simply repeat the organizers' grossly inflated figures.

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## Victoria: Equal Opportunity Laws

Last year the Victorian government ordered a review of the state's Equal Opportunity Act. The review was conducted by Julian Gardner, the former public advocate.

In his report he proposes that all the discrimination laws be combined into a new 'Equality Act'.

It is no surprise that the Report, which has 93 recommendations, calls for increased powers for Victoria's Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission since the government's brief to Mr Gardner asked questions suggesting such changes.

If implemented, the recommendations would mean that the Equal Opportunity Commission could launch its own investigations if they think that 'systemic' discrimination is occurring. They could investigate a particular company or organisation, or a whole sector.

Another recommendation would give the Commission power to enforce its findings by issuing compliance orders.

The report also proposes that the Commission be given powers of entry, search and seizure - to obtain computers and documents.

The Report was actually concluded last June, and is now posted on the Justice Department's website.

**Exceptions Review:** The government also asked the Justice Department to conduct a review of all the 'exceptions' or 'exemptions' in the Act to see if they are compatible with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

On 16 December 2008, the government announced that the matter has been referred to SARC, the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee, which is responsible for assessing all new legislation to see if it meets the criteria laid down in the Charter. SARC has to report to the Parliament on the matter by 30 April 2009.

[http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/sarc/EOA\\_exempt\\_except/default.htm](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/sarc/EOA_exempt_except/default.htm)

**ACTION:** Churches and schools (as well as individuals) should write to SARC, affirming that the religious exemptions in the Equal Opportunity Act (Sections - 75, 76, 77) should be retained.

Write to SARC, Parliament of Victoria, Melbourne, Vic 3002.

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## Barack Obama and abortion

Barack Obama is proud of his pro-abortion voting record. In a statement to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Roe v Wade, last year he said "Throughout my career, I've been a consistent and strong supporter of reproductive justice, and have consistently had a 100% pro-choice rating with Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice America."

One key piece of legislation relating to abortion in the USA is the **Freedom of Choice Act** (S.1173), a bill to nullify any state or federal law that would "interfere with" access to abortion.



Barack Obama has promised to sign this Bill. In July 2007 he told the Planned Parenthood Action Fund "The first thing I'd do as president is sign the Freedom of Choice Act. That's the first thing I'd do."

Just two days after his inauguration Barack Obama signed an executive order to reverse the Bush administration policy that banned the granting of federal funds to any group that performed or promoted abortion as a method of family planning in overseas nations. [FOX News, 21/1/2009]

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# Adverse Consequences of China's one-child policy

by Jenny Stokes

The Chinese government introduced its 'one-child' per couple policy in 1979 in an effort to combat their rising population.

The National Population and Family Planning Commission runs the program and 'Education' is used to coerce couples to follow the policy - they have "140,000 staff and nearly one million grassroots 'service providers' and volunteers."

By 1990, the total fertility rate for women in urban areas in China had dropped to 1.26 children (the replacement rate is 2.1).

While couples in urban areas are still only allowed to have one child, couples in rural areas are now allowed to have a second child and couples who themselves are an only child are now able to obtain an exemption to have a second child.

The 'family planning' program provides free contraceptives, and sterilisation is urged on couples who have two children.

Naturally, the Chinese government promotes the success of the program, saying "the policy has won understanding and support from the people of the whole country and has guaranteed the success of the family planning work."

## *Adverse consequences - abortion*

However, China's one child policy has led to serious adverse consequences in China.

Chinese people face continuing pressure to have abortions because of the one-child policy. The official statement says "The Chinese government is against promoting induced abortion as a means of family planning". However, there have been numerous reports of women being forced to have abortions when the authorities find they are expecting a second child.

## *Sex selection*

Since a male child is highly valued, there has been an increase in abortions when a couple finds they are expecting a girl; they often abort the baby and try again for a boy. This has led to an increasing gender imbalance in China. Recently Jiang Fan, vice-minister of the National Family Planning Commission (NFPC) said that the growing gender gap, which is at 103-107 boys to every 100 girls, is a "very grave" problem.

## *Children being sold and killed*

A recent documentary revealed that children are sold in China. If a couple goes ahead and has a second child, and avoids a forced abortion, the couple sometimes sells the child to another couple. The documentary interviewed couples selling the child and those acting as agents.

Recently, a woman was sentenced to death by the Shaanxi Higher People's Court for paying a man to kill her nine-year old son.

The reason? Li had re-married and both her new husband and herself had one child each, so were forbidden to have more children. She was forced to undergo two abortions. Still desperate to be allowed to have another child, she paid a man to kill the husband's daughter. When that failed, she arranged for a man to kill her son.

The Chinese government recently released a survey done by the National Family Planning Commission and say they may review the one-child policy. The research found that "70.7% of women would like to have two or more babies."

*References: Lifesite, 19/1/2009  
Xinhua News Agency January 19, 2009  
Official information from [www.nfpfc.gov.cn](http://www.nfpfc.gov.cn)*



## World News

### ***Atheist ads***

UK atheists ran a series of ads in January on public buses saying ‘*There’s probably no God - now stop worrying and enjoy your life*’. Supporters raised £135,000 to display the ads! Public theology think tank, Theos, welcomed the campaign, saying it will encourage more people to think about the existence of God.

The Atheist Foundation of Australia lodged complaints of ‘religious discrimination’ in Melbourne and Hobart because bus companies recently refused to display their ads! They raised \$16,000 to run ads saying “Atheism - celebrate reason”. APN Outdoor, which controls bus advertising, said public buses were owned by state governments, who stipulated that ads that might offend the community were not permitted on public buses! [Age, 29/1/2009]

### ***UK: Free speech under threat***

Last year the UK government passed a law outlawing vilification of homosexuals. Concerned Christians successfully lobbied for an amendment so that saying homosexuality is wrong would not be prohibited by the law. Even with that protection, Christians have been wrongfully harassed.

Now the government is planning to REMOVE the clause. The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, argued against the protection, whilst the shadow home secretary, Dominic Grieve, defended the protection, saying it does not undermine the law. He said that, in the past, individuals who have sought to express perfectly reasonable criticism have received visits from the police.

### ***UK: Homosexual adoption***

Two British grandparents have been refused permission to adopt their own grandchildren, a 5 year old boy and a 4 year old girl, whose mother is a recovering heroin addict.

They reluctantly agreed to a couple adopting them - providing it was a heterosexual couple. But the authorities gave the children to two homosexual men! When the grandparents objected they were told that unless they dropped their opposition they would never see their grandchildren again!

Why? Because of their ‘negative’ attitude towards homosexual adoption. It really is a mixed up world!

### ***USA: Doctors’ conscience***

One of President George Bush’s final acts as president was to issue a regulation, from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), to provide increased protection for the conscience of physicians who object to abortion or other controversial procedures.

[Lifesite, 19/1/2009]

The regulation stated that recipients of certain HHS funds must certify their compliance with already existing laws protecting provider conscience rights, or else risk losing their funding.

The regulation came into effect on January 20, the day of Barack Obama’s inauguration. Even before the regulation was enacted, a lawsuit was launched by the Attorney General’s office of Connecticut to block it. Seven states (California, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon and Rhode Island) are participating in the suit.

The lawsuit is supported by the abortion lobby group National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA) - they are represented by the American Civil Liberties Union!



# Ministry News

As friends and supporters of this ministry, I wanted to make you aware of the current situation and ask you to prayerfully consider your response.

Dear Friends,

Please let me be blunt - we are desperately short of income to keep Salt Shakers in operation. We are down some \$30,000 in donations compared to the same time last year.

We are currently significantly behind in paying wages to Peter and Jenny Stokes, who already only receive one wage between them.

We believe this ministry is God ordained and that He will provide as He has so faithfully for over 14 years.



Any help you can give Salt Shakers at this time would be greatly appreciated.

If you are also able to give a regular monthly donation commitment for the future then you will be helping us to continue to meet our regular commitments.

We believe God wants us to continue helping you make a difference.

Will you help us do that?

Yours faithfully,  
Barney Tomasich

Chairman of Salt Shakers Board

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

Page	Topic	Action / People to write to	Done
6	Freedom of Religion	Federal MP, Senators	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Abortion and overseas aid	Stephen Smith, Kevin Rudd, Malcolm Turnbull	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Surrogacy Inquiry	Send submission / letter	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Bill of Rights Consultation	Prepare - read articles / Consultation Paper	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Gambling Inquiry	Send submission / letter	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Vic - EO Laws	Write to SARC	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

### All administration and financial matters

P O Box 6049  
WANTIRNA Vic. 3152  
Phone (03) 9800 2855  
Fax (03) 9800 2655  
Email: [admin@saltshakers.org.au](mailto:admin@saltshakers.org.au)

### Issues & after hours contact

Mobile: Peter 0413 084 145  
Jenny 0413 084 146  
Email: [peter@saltshakers.org.au](mailto:peter@saltshakers.org.au)  
[jenny@saltshakers.org.au](mailto:jenny@saltshakers.org.au)

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