

Salt Shakers

Helping Christians make a difference

The future is an unknown, but a somewhat predictable unknown. To look to the future we must first look back upon the past. That is where the seeds of the future were planted. I never think of the future. It comes soon enough.

Albert Einstein, "Interview, 1930"

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IN THIS ISSUE: Vol. 15 No. 4

	Page		
Editorial...	2	Atheist ads...	12
A prescription for raising children...	3	Complaining about an advertisement...	13
Valueless web based sex information...	4	Queensland: abortion and Emily's List...	13
News & Action.....	6	Who is the Master Designer?...	14
Are you 'heterosexist'?...	7	<i>Forgiven of murder</i> - a true story...	15
Sweden and USA: same-sex 'marriage'...	8	Prayer Update... ..	16
Vic: Exceptions to the EO Act...	9	Using Google for research...	17
Bill of Rights consultation...	9	Bible and cross removed from hospital chapel...	17
Readers' Published Letters...	10	UK: Pregnancy, condoms and abortion...	18
Porn in service stations and milk bars...	11	World News...	19
Update: <i>Home and Away</i> ...	11	Ministry News...	20
		Resources and Subscription details	21

Editorial

The Bible states, “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18).

Sadly, today there is too much vision. Not the vision the Bible is talking about, of course, but television, computer vision, internet vision, billboard vision, magazine vision, and on it goes.

The wrong vision can be just as deadly as the lack of vision spoken of by Solomon.

Earlier this month we read in the newspaper of two boys in Britain, just 10 and 11, who badly beat and slashed two boys aged 11 and 9.

In the same newspaper we were told children, boys as young as 7 and 8, were caught smashing school windows and damaging a classroom.

What causes children to turn violent and destructive? It is one thing to throw a tantrum at 7, or even 10, but smashing up the school or using a knife to slash another child?

That sort of behaviour should be ringing warning bells. It immediately raises the question, “What are we doing to cause our children that much distress”?

Perhaps the answer is the visions our children and young people are confronted with every day.

As if to give the answer, but without even coming close to tying the two together, there in the same newspaper was the headline “Abortion web site angers parents”. This is about a web site designed for 10 - 12 year olds but accessible to any child. A web site about sex with no values attached, just information - very graphic and suggestive. It states that sex can be just for fun, you don't have to love someone, and you decide when you're ready for it. It even suggests an

average size for male sex organs!!! To read more and to take action see page 4.

Is it just possible this is the sort of ‘vision’ that so messes with children’s minds that it creates the sort of anger the children above displayed?

The reason given for this and other ‘sex education’ initiatives is that society is so sexualised today. Yes, children are confronted with adults behaving badly and scantily clad women on advertisements and growing violence and casual sex on TV and now the addition of very sexualised heroes in animated computer games. All created by adults. Adults with agendas.

The decline started a long time ago, and we did not see it coming. Children were confronted by violent Ninja Turtles and transformer toys (which may have seemed harmless) and the slim very-well-proportioned *Barbie* became the image for young girls to aspire to. These images have changed, subtly at first but then more overtly. It is what it sets in motion that is dangerous, even if the initial ‘hero’ seemed harmless enough.

This month we have seen a lesbian liaison developing on *Home & Away*, a program now swamped with adult themes, including sex and drugs, nightly at 7pm. It should be no surprise that the writer of this program is a homosexual. It has also now surfaced that the creator of *Barbie* was a sex addict.

Clearly it is not the children’s fault, but rather than censor the adults we now have to desensitise and sexualise the children.

We know the church should be the answer but does it care enough to speak out? It is happy to talk about the poor, refugees, and justice, but is it prepared to swim against the tide of Political Correctness and challenge the demeaning of our children?

Yours in His service
Peter & Jenny Stokes

Prescription for raising children

A study by the **Mapping America** project has found that children have fewer behaviour problems when they live with both biological parents and attend religious services frequently.^{1,2}

“Children who worship at least weekly are least likely to have their parents contacted by school teachers or administrators about school-related problems,” the report said.²

Those who live with both parents and frequently attend religious services are five times less likely to repeat a grade, and more likely to be cooperative and understanding of others’ feelings.

The data were collected from a survey sample of 102,353 children and teens aged 6 through 17 in all US States. This sample represented nearly 49 million young people nationwide.

It was announced that: “Parents of these children report less stress, healthier parent-child relationships, and fewer concerns about their children’s achievement. These differences hold up even after controlling for family income and poverty, low parent education levels, and race and ethnicity.”¹

There’s a very good reason for the researchers emphasizing that point. That’s because, as the report points out:

“Some social scientists even contend that family structure and religious participation are only linked to developmental outcomes because of their association with socioeconomic disparities.”²

This report, however, dispels that notion - a notion popularly proclaimed by the world’s secular media. The report shows that the positive impact of living with both

by Russell Grigg and David Catchpoole

parents, coupled with regular attendance at worship services, just cannot be ignored. For example, when displaying a bar graph comparing percentages of children who repeat a grade, the authors of the report were unequivocal in their language (emphasis added) when they said:

“Children from intact families who worship frequently are least likely to repeat a grade. Note the **dramatic difference between intact and non-intact families.**”²

That would hardly be a surprise to anyone who knows what the Bible says about families. The biological family is God’s prescription for the proper and best way of raising children. The fact that in the beginning God made but one man and one woman shows that He intended that

marriage should be monogamous and indissoluble (Genesis 2:18; Matthew 19:3-9 (citing Genesis 1:27 and 2:24 as real history written by the Creator); see also <creation.com/monogamy>). And it is within this setting that God blessed the world’s first parents and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number . . .” (Genesis 1:28). Cf. “Children are a heritage of the Lord” (Psalm 127:3-5).

One purpose of God in instituting families is seen in God’s instructions to parents to teach their children about God and His Word (Deuteronomy 4:10, 6:6-7), in order to produce “godly offspring” (Malachi 2:15). When parents follow the Manufacturer’s instructions it is little wonder that these children have a huge advantage.



The Mapping America project report, however, includes this somewhat sobering snapshot of young America:

“Despite the developmental advantages associated with an intact two-parent family and religious training, the survey shows that nowadays less than half of all American children between 6 and 17 years of age - 45 percent - live with both biological parents and attend religious services weekly or monthly.”²

In the Bible, one of the roles of the prophets preparing for the coming of Christ, was “to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers” (Malachi 4:6 (NIV)). Luke, quoting this verse adds, “to turn

the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord” (Luke 1:17).

There could be a message there for today’s parents!

Russell Grigg and David Catchpoole are on staff with Creation Ministries International.

References:

1. LifeSiteNews.com, <www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2008/dec/08121702.html>, 17 December 2009.

2. Zill, N., and Fletcher, P., *Special Report: National Survey of Children’s Health finds Intact Family and Religious Participation are associated with Fewer Developmental Problems in school-age children*, <<http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF08L48.pdf>>, 16 December 2008.

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Valueless web based sex information for 10-12 year olds!!

by Peter Stokes

The Hormone Factory is an interactive sex education web site aimed at 10 – 12 year olds. It gained newspaper coverage this month - that report focused on it being endorsed by the Queensland Education Department for primary school children.

We have now discovered that in fact it is being promoted in other states and even internationally. It was designed by La Trobe University Faculty of Health Science.

We found links to the site on the Tasmanian Govt. youth site *LinkZone* and the Victorian Govt. ‘*Better Health*’ web site.

The promoters talk about parents and teachers being involved but there are no barriers to access. In fact the introduction states “Are you aged 10 to 12? This site is for you. If you want to know how babies are made, click a fuzzy hormone at the top to find out more...”

The *Better Health* site tells parents “Use the Internet - log onto a good website, like *The Hormone Factory*, and let your child browse alone.” The Tasmanian government

Linkzone site, designed by their Office of Children and Youth Affairs, states... “This fun site has information for 10 to 12 year olds on stuff like periods, girls’ bits, boys’ bits, puberty and making babies.”

Sadly, this site is not new: the ABC program *Life Matters* reported on it on 6 August 2002, but it seems to have gone under the radar until now.

What is all the fuss about?

This site tells the reader, “You told us you were 11... It is normal for you to be interested in this stuff [pornography] at this age.”

When talking of abortion it states “It can also be a relief.”

When talking about AIDS, it does NOT mention it can be fatal, nor does it mention that in Australia AIDS is mostly (about 80%) caused through male-male anal sex (homosexuality).

Other examples of the valueless nature of this site are summed up in the following

questions and answers.

Question: "When to have sex?"

Answer: "It is important that a person feels ready, safe, happy and old enough."

Q: "Decisions"

A: While the answer does give love and marriage as options, it also states...

"Some people have sex because they like having sex and don't need to be in love."

Q: "Termination"

A: "Sometimes people find they are pregnant and do not want to have a baby. They might decide to go to a doctor and have an operation to end the pregnancy. This is called a termination, or an abortion.

"Having a termination is a hard decision to make, and can be very sad. It can also be a relief. If a woman has a termination she can still have a baby at another time."

NOTE: This site does not mention that there can be adverse consequences from an abortion.

This site also says, "It is normal to be gay, lesbian, or bisexual, or heterosexual."

NOTE: They put heterosexual LAST!

Then there is this gem of ambiguity, "Research in Australia says that about half of all 18 year olds have had sex. But more 18 year olds have not had sex."

'About half do, but more don't' - is that confusing? Perhaps that's because I am not 10 years old! But what is a 10 year old meant to make of such a statement?

Adults have sexualised our society for decades and that sexualisation is now being used as the 'reason' to sexualise our children and grandchildren.

La Trobe University, creators of this site,

have, for some years, been sexualising our children by doing school-based research on sexual activity/attitudes and promoting their somewhat skewed results as evidence of increasing sexual activity.

We all know that sexual activity among young people has increased and this is due to many factors, but the more it is researched through questioning children about intimate details of their sexual activity, and the more it is 'taught' as OK through school-based sex-ed, and web sites like this one, the more it becomes true.

Inviting children to use an interactive web site like *The Hormone Factory* will mess further with immature minds.

ACTION:

Please write to your State Education minister and Opposition Education Minister.

Ask them to remove recommendations and links to this web site.

Ask that they pressure La Trobe uni to remove the site from the internet.

Tell them that sexualising our children with this information at 10 - 12 years of age is nothing less than child abuse.

Our web site has links to all state and federal governments. Follow the links to members' address lists and search for Education and Shadow Education Ministers. Web: <http://www.saltshakers.org.au/html/P/13/B/0/>

Visit your State Member and share your concerns – or at least phone their offices and ask to speak to them.

References

www.thehormonefactory.com
www.linkzone.tas.gov.au/topics/health/body/feeling_good_about_yourself/the_hormone_factory
www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/BHCV2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Sex_education_primary_school_children?OpenDocument



News & Action

Companies & same-sex 'marriages'

Westpac has told homosexual lobby group **Australian Marriage Equality (AME)** that it will recognise same-sex 'marriages'. AME has established a register of companies that have agreed to recognise same-sex 'marriages' - these include Telstra, Qantas, IBM, ANZ and the Commonwealth Bank. The companies have agreed to extend the same partner benefits and entitlements to all employees and not discriminate against those in same-sex relationships.

Since they refer to 'marriage' one presumes they mean marriages that have been performed overseas in jurisdictions that allow them. AME says the companies "grant full recognition to the same-sex marriages of their employees and customers and do not reclassify these marriages as domestic partnerships, de facto relationships or something else that they are not."

AME's list of companies recognising same-sex 'marriages' is at <http://www.australianmarriageequality.com/employers.htm> NOW AME is lobbying for the federal government to recognise the same-sex 'marriages' of its employees!

ACTION: Please write to these companies, especially if you do business with them (check the list online for more). Ask them not to recognise same-sex 'marriages' since the Australian government has, at present, refused to grant legal recognition of overseas same-sex 'marriages'.

Ask why they are going against the laws of this nation and undermining the government's position.

Drinking for teens

Recently we heard the statement 'We got it wrong'! AT LAST, we might well say!

Researchers at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute in Melbourne have announced that there is NO safe level of drinking alcohol for teenagers. This runs counter to the current national guidelines that say that there is a 'low-level risk' for teens drinking small amounts. The research was published in the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*.



The result of teen drinking?

The research showed that there are higher rates of alcohol abuse and risky sexual behaviour among those who drink when teenagers.

SA: Cloning Bill passed

The South Australian government has passed a law allowing the creation of embryos in order to destroy them to extract their stem cells.

The vote in the Legislative Council was 12 to 9. The law will also allow the use of animal eggs for the testing of human sperm - the law requires that the hybrid embryos be destroyed after two days. Liberal MP Rob Lucas said he believed most people would find this practice "abhorrent".

As we have recently noted, new research means that stem cells that act in the same way as embryonic stem cells can now be created from adult sources - making the use of embryos not only unethical but unnecessary!

SA: Equal Opportunity Bill

The SA government's Legislative Council has been debating amendments to the state's Equal Opportunity Act. One amendment would have required church schools that did not want to employ homosexual teachers to place their policy on the school's website. Fortunately, the amendment was opposed by Family First and the Liberal Party and was defeated. Debate on the Bill was continuing in mid-April.

Are you 'heterosexist'? Please explain!

by Jenny Stokes

Words are often redefined by those using them to promote their particular agenda, so we need to get into the habit of asking, "What do you mean by that?"

A recent report called *Coming Forward*² by a Victorian homosexual 'health' group, funded by the government, repeatedly uses the word 'heterosexist'.

What do they mean by that?

They said the report "uses the term heterosexism to describe the complex social and psychological processes underpinning violence and discrimination against not only gay men, lesbians and bisexuals, but also against transsexuals and transgender people." The report said "Heterosexism assumes that sex, gender and the relationship between the two are fixed at birth. Men are born masculine, women feminine and sexuality is the gendered, reciprocal attraction between the two."

Wait a minute - I thought that's the way things actually are! As Christians we believe that God made man and woman, gave us our unique characteristics and urged them to marry and to be fruitful and multiply. Does that make us all 'heterosexist' if we think that way? They would say, "Yes".

The word 'homophobic' is an old favourite of homosexual activists. Webster's Dictionary dates this word back to 1958!

If we take the actual word *homophobia* and break it up, *homo* means 'man' and *phobia* means 'fear'. But of course that isn't the meaning that those promoting a homosexual agenda want the word to have.

They apply the word to anyone who opposes homosexuality in any way - they usually interpret it to mean 'hate'. They simply don't like people opposing homosexuality, even if they are really nice about it!

Recently the Victorian Equal Opportunity Commission's training officer gave us their definition of 'homophobia'. He told us that it meant 'any aversion or fear of homosexuals or homosexual behaviour.'

Doug Pollard, a homosexual, writing in the homosexual press last month, actually called for an end to the use of the word 'homophobia' because he says people who oppose homosexuality really aren't 'afraid' of homosexuals. BUT he went on to say that, though they might not be 'homophobic' they still 'hate' and have 'prejudice' against them - a claim we reject, so we wrote to him and told him so.

What do you mean by that?

The word 'heterophobia', is also used quite often. Professor Ray Noonan, in his 1999 presentation to *The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality* said "The term heterophobia is confusing for some people for several reasons. On the one hand, some look at it as just another of the many me-too social constructions that have arisen in the pseudoscience of victimology in recent decades. . . Others look at the parallelism between heterophobia and homophobia, and suggest that the former trivializes the latter. Yet heterophobia may be one of the root contributors in the etiology of homophobia, as Noonan argued in 1998. For others, it is merely a curiosity or parallel-construction word game. But for others still, it is part of both the recognition and politicization of homosexuals' cultural interests in contrast to those of gays - particularly where those interests are perceived to clash."¹

Confusing, isn't it? So just remember, next time someone uses a word to describe you, ask them, "What do YOU mean by that?"

1. See <http://home.bway.net/rjnoonan/Conf1999.html>
2. <http://www.glhv.org.au/files/ComingForwardReport.pdf>

Sweden and USA: same-sex 'marriage'

by Jenny Stokes

Sweden has now become the seventh nation to allow same-sex 'marriage' with the parliament voting to approve a new 'gender-neutral marriage' law. The vote was 261 in favour and 22 opposed, with 70 MPs not voting.

As we mentioned last month, Sweden was one of the first nations to give 'Registered partnerships' to homosexual couples in 1995. That didn't stop the activists - they continued lobbying for "full equality".

In Australia, the group *Australian Marriage Equality* is saying that although they have been given 'civil unions' [their name for relationship registers in Victoria and Tasmania and civil partnerships in the ACT] they still want full marriage.

USA - states change laws

Several states in the USA have now legalised same-sex 'marriage'. There are two ways this is being achieved. In some states the highest court, the Supreme Court, is making a ruling on a case lodged by activists wanting to challenge the law.

California's Supreme Court ruled in May 2008 that same-sex marriage should be legal. This was overturned by Proposition 8, a referendum held on November 2008. Now the case is back before the Supreme Court, with the justices asked to rule on the legality of Proposition 8 and the legality of the 'marriages' performed during 2008.

Iowa - the Iowa Supreme Court issued a unanimous ruling on 3 April. The court found that the state's same-sex marriage ban violates the constitutional rights of homosexuals because the 'equal protection' clause says that all citizens should be given

"equal privileges". The law came into effect on April 24, 2009.

The other method used is through the legislature where new laws are passed to allow same-sex 'marriage'.

Vermont - This was the first US state to legislate to allow 'civil unions'. On December 20, 1999 the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples are "entitled under Chapter I, Article 7, of the Vermont Constitution to obtain the same benefits and protections afforded by Vermont law to married opposite-sex couples". The legislature then voted to allow 'civil unions' - which began in July 2000.

The Vermont legislature has now just voted to approve same-sex 'marriage'. Although the Governor threatened to veto the legislation, the vote in both the House and the Senate was eventually more than the two-thirds majority needed to override the veto. The vote on April 7, 2009 was: Senate 23-5, House 100-49. The law comes into effect on September 1, 2009.

New Hampshire - Civil unions for homosexuals became legal on January 1, 2008. Not content with that, the legislature is currently debating same-sex 'marriage'. The House of Representatives approved the law on March 26, 2009 by 186-179. The Bill now goes to the New Hampshire Senate.

In a number of these cases we have the situation where homosexuals have been granted 'civil unions' or 'registered partnerships' by a nation or a state but homosexual groups have continued to lobby until they get marriage.



Vic: Exceptions to the EO Act

One of the looming battles facing Christians in all States is the removal of exceptions or exemptions for religious belief in the state equal opportunity Acts.

Victoria's Parliament has asked the **Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee (SARC)** to examine the Equal Opportunity Act to see if the exceptions should be altered or removed in light of Victoria's Charter of Rights and Responsibilities.

Of course, the Charter will be seen as the 'superior' document. Of major concern are the exemptions for churches, religious schools and individuals (Sections 75-77).

The Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee has now decided to conduct a public Inquiry. SARC will release an **Interim Report - Options Paper** and call for submissions in May. SARC has engaged

Associate Professor Elizabeth Gaze as the '*consultant*' for the inquiry. This has prompted us to ask some questions: 'Why isn't the Committee running their own Inquiry? Why are they engaging a consultant? Who is Elizabeth Gaze?'



Elizabeth Gaze is an associate professor of law at the University of Melbourne. Her research areas are listed as "Equality and anti-discrimination law with a focus on employment and work-family conflict" and "Comparative equality and human rights laws and their administration".

It is concerning to note that, in her submission to the exceptions review done by the Justice Department, she proposed that the exception for religious schools should be limited and that Section 77, concerning the behaviour of individuals, should also be restricted, "reworded as a proper conscientious objection provision, but one that also takes account of the **effect on the person who is discriminated against.**" [Emphasis added]

Only time will tell how neutral this Inquiry will be! More details next month - we'll also send information on the E-News.

Check the SARC Review webpage: http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/SARC/EOA_exempt_except/default.htm

Bill of Rights Consultation

Don't forget to prepare your submission to the 'Human Rights Consultation' to oppose a Bill of Rights for Australia.

Submissions are due by 15 June 2009.

You can post your submission to National Human Rights Consultation Secretariat, Attorney-General's Department, Central Office, Robert Garran Offices, National Circuit, BARTON ACT 2600.

Or make your submission online at the Consultation website under 'Share your views'. Website: www.humanrightsconsultation.gov.au

[humanrightsconsultation.gov.au](http://www.humanrightsconsultation.gov.au)

Community Roundtables are still being held: check the 'Calendar of events' on the consultation website or phone 1800 086 134. Meetings for Qld, WA, Tasmania (Hobart) and NT will be held during May.

For Articles and more information - see our Campaign page: <http://www.saltshakers.org.au/html/P/302/B/567/>

Next month: An article on the English Bill of Rights 1689 and the erosion of our traditional freedoms.

50/50

The Voodoo pencil case, complete with pins (Voodoo Smiggle furore, March 18) is definitely not a "fun" item, but just another way to create more bullying victims among our young people.

Shame on you Smiggle company; profit at any cost, before ethics!

Ban this obscenity!

Lennyce Westaway, Navigators Vic
Herald Sun 20/03/2009



Who will leave the worst record?

Osama or Obama? Which one will historians credit with the organizing of more deaths in the 21st century?

Osama encourages jihad, to kill infidels by the thousands.

Obama enacts laws to legally allow the killing of millions of pre-born human beings.

Already Obama has allowed overseas aid to include abortion support.

Now he is overruling medical workers' human rights of not providing abortion information if it conflicts with their morals and beliefs.

In addition he is lifting the ban on government funding for embryonic stem cell research and application.

Human life is precious, whether adult or still yet to be born.

David G. Westaway, Navigators
Geelong Advertiser 14/03/2008

Easter thoughts

Easter, the most important day of the year and a joyful celebration.

At the centre of Easter is a man, Jesus, he died on a cross for you and for me.

Based on historical fact with solid evidence to support it, this is fact.

God took the worst deed in history and turned it into the greatest victory.

Will you pay your respects to the king of Kings this Easter?

Judith Bond, Glen Alpine
Macarthur Advertiser, Illawarra Mercury, Yass Tribune 8/4/2009

Judith has now had 29 letters printed so far this year! Congratulations!

More pokies means more suffering

So the RSL finally got its 23 extra pokie machines as its answer to eliminating its \$600,000 debt and making some extra money.

Where will all this cash come from? Largely from pokie addicts and their long suffering families.

Ballarat already has a per adult pokie gambling level more than 50% higher than the national average. (*The Courier*, April 6) Why couldn't the RSL come up with an alternative worthwhile productive service or program that would pay off its debt and also benefit Ballarat families at the same time?

Where is the initiative and inventiveness that was once characteristic of Aussie diggers?

David G. Westaway, Navigators
The Courier 8/04/2008

Are you doing it and not telling us?

You know that Lennyce and David Westaway can do it.

You know that Judith Bond can do it.

BUT CAN YOU DO IT? YES, YOU CAN.

Show us you can by sending us YOUR letters that have been published in the local and State newspapers.

YOU TOO can impact your COMMUNITY - by writing a letter to the Editor
20,000 to 500,000 people EACH DAY read a newspaper near YOU!

Porn in service stations and milk bars

Have you checked the magazine racks in service stations and milk bars recently?

Over the years we have run many campaigns about displays of pornography in such stores and in newsagents, and asked people to speak to the owners.

Kids Free 2B Kids is concerned about the sexualisation of children. The group has been campaigning for Category 1 pornography to be removed from service stations, convenience stores and milk bars. The group, led by Melbourne mother Julie Gale, is particularly concerned about the availability of pornography containing images of women dressed as girls and looking underage.

Category 1 magazines include explicit nudity and are restricted for sale to people 18 or over - but allowed to be displayed in stores. If the front cover has a restricted image, it must be covered by an opaque wrapper. In November 2008 BP announced they would remove all Category

1 magazines and a week later Shell and Coles Express announced that they would remove similar material.

That's good news - but there are some service stations, and lots of milk bars, and newsagents, that still display and sell Category 1 pornography and pornographic material that is not 'categorised' - including *Picture* and *People* magazines.

ACTION: Please check your local service station, milk bar and newsagent magazine display. Do they display Category 1 pornography? The magazines should have a red diamond with an 'R'. Ask the store NOT to stock these magazines.

If they refuse, ask them, at the very least, to put them, and other pornographic material, at the top of the rack out of sight or reach of children. In some newsagents, we've seen Playboy magazines on the lower racks, visible and accessible to young children.

Check out the **Kids Free 2B Kids** website:
<http://www.kf2bk.com/>



Update: Home and Away

Channel 7's *Home and Away* showed a lesbian relationship developing between a police woman and another young woman who works on a fishing boat during April. Prior to the episode screening their first kiss, it was reported that Channel 7 had 'censored' the kiss. However, they later said they had filmed two kisses – a short one and a longer one and said they had **decided** to show the short one. The policewoman has had previous boyfriends and is shown as being unsure of her feelings.

The lesbian scenario went on for a number of weeks giving young people very confusing signals about relationships. Eventually it ended in disaster allowing

'homophobia' to be cited as a cause.

As the writer of H & A is a homosexual we wonder how long it will be before the show features a male homosexual 'couple'.

ACTION: Please write to Channel 7, asking them not to show same-sex relationships or unmarried couples sleeping together in *Home and Away*. Seven Network Limited, PO Box 777 Pyrmont NSW 2009. If you wrote to Channel 7 and received a reply – please write to the Australian Communications and Media Authority. Send a copy of the response you received from Channel 7 and explain why you are unhappy with their response and want them to investigate the showing of this relationship in a PG rated programme.



Atheist ads

Around the world there is a proliferation of atheist/humanist ads appearing on buses.

Following a decision to place advertisements on UK buses, similar campaigns have been run in Spain, Italy, Canada and the USA.

Not to be outdone, the **Atheist Foundation of Australia** (AFA) also planned to put ads on buses. Their slogan, “Atheism – sleep in on Sunday mornings”, was rejected by Australia’s biggest outdoor advertising company, APN Outdoor, last November.

The atheists lodged a complaint with the Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Board and a second complaint with the Victorian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission for ‘religious discrimination’.

APN said they offered the atheists roadside ads and advertising on billboards - but said that they had no control over ads on buses since the content of such ads was controlled by state bus authorities.

Both cases are still with the authorities, so we’ll have to wait for the outcome.

The AFA did manage to get their ad on one Australian ‘bus’ - in the Sydney mardi gras. The float ‘bus’ was organised by the Sydney Queer Atheists and sponsored by the Atheist Foundation.

Meanwhile, back in the UK the humanists and atheists raised £100,000 - enough for ads on 800 buses. The message read “There is probably no God - so stop worrying and enjoy life”. Comedy writer Ariane Sherine, creator of the UK campaign, stated in a *Guardian* ‘Comment is Free’ blogpost that it would be a “reassuring alternative to religious slogans threatening non-Christians with hell and damnation.”

In Spain, the ads were a translation of

the UK ad; in Italy they planned to say “The bad news is that God does not exist. The good news is that we do not need him.” But the ad agency pulled out when conservatives objected. In the USA, the American Humanist Association also mounted a bus ad campaign. Their ad read “Why believe in a god? Just be good - for goodness sake”.

So should we be upset by such ads? How should we respond?

In the *war of ideas* everyone can put their perspective. Having the ads on buses actually made people more aware of God than ever!

However, the UK Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) received 150 complaints about the ads, claiming that the campaign was offensive to Christians, and that the “no

God” claim could not be substantiated.

The ASA ruled the ads did not break the advertising code, concluding that the ads were an “expression of the advertiser’s opinion and that the claims in it were not capable of objective substantiation”. As such, it said that it was unlikely to mislead or to cause widespread offence.

Instead of complaining, some Christian groups did the right thing and simply ran counter campaigns on buses. Rev George Hargreaves of the Christian Party created a bus advert which proclaims: “There definitely is a God. So join the Christian Party and enjoy your life.” It ran on 50 bendy buses in central London. The Russian Orthodox Church had 25 supersize bus advertisements, using the line “There IS a God, BELIEVE. Don’t worry and enjoy your life” and the Trinitarian Bible Society had ads saying “The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God. (Psalm 53.1)”.



Complaining about an advertisement

Have you seen an advertisement you think is morally offensive? Next time you see one, please take action!

The Advertising Standards Bureau (ASB) deals with matters covered by their code of ethics: Portrayal of sex/sexuality/nudity; Language; Violence; Health & Safety.

They also deal with complaints about inappropriate advertising to children.

A full list of matters covered is at: <www.adstandards.com.au/pages/page51.asp>

ACTION: How to complain:

First step

Find out the name of the company - look up their details in the telephone directory or on the internet.

Second step

Write to the company about their ad - explain why you think it is objectionable - it could be sexualisation of women or

children, language or violence.

Third step

Write to the Advertising Standards Bureau (ASB). You can make a complaint by post or online.

Complaints **MUST** be in writing, and **MUST** include your postal address.

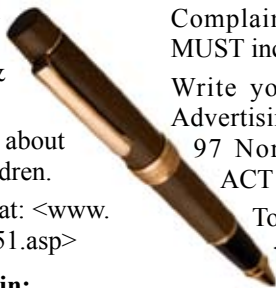
Write your letter and send it to The Advertising Standards Bureau, Level 2, 97 Northbourne Avenue, TURNER ACT 2612.

To make a complaint online, go to <www.adstandards.com.au/pages/screening.asp>

A screening form needs to be completed first to check if the ASB is able to respond to the complaint. The webpage then goes to the complaint form.

So next time you see an offensive ad - Please do something about it!

Remember: *All that is needed for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing.*



Queensland: abortion and Emily's List

Bonny Barry, the Queensland ALP MP and Emily's List member who had canvassed the possibility of introducing a private member's bill to decriminalise abortion, lost her seat in the recent Queensland election.

Various pro-life groups and churches campaigned extensively in her electorate of Apsley. There was a swing of 7.5% against her. This compared to an average two party preferred swing of 4.15% against the ALP in all electorates (excluding the four seats held by Independents) - and an average two party preferred swing against Emily's List candidates of 5.25%.

Seven sitting Emily's List members - all in the ALP - sought re-election. Emily's List is the Labor group which supports the election

of women who are in favour of abortion). Six were re-elected. Karen Struthers had a swing of 8.7% against her but as she had a margin of 17.8% she kept her seat. Premier Anna Bligh is a member of Emily's List.

Of the six new ALP candidates endorsed by Emily's List only one was elected - Mary-Anne O'Neill who won the very safe (11% margin) Labor seat of Kallangur despite a swing of 8.7% against her. Leeanne Enoch failed to win the apparently safe Labor seat of Coomera (8.7% margin) which she lost with a 10.7% swing to the LNP.

Hopefully these results will discourage Anna Bligh and her Emily List's colleagues from pursuing legalised abortion in this parliamentary term.

Who is the Master Designer?

by Mandy Thomas

When Mandy Thomas, a young woman living near Benalla, read that the local paper was launching a competition for the first young person to write an article for their new 'Spirituality' column, she submitted the following article. Mandy won the prize and the paper printed her article!

Seizing the moment is so important today. No doubt there were all sorts of 'spiritual' people in the area, but by seizing the moment, the Christian message was read by many people.

Have you ever thought about how your car came into being? Of course – somebody intelligent designed it and somebody else made it. It consists of many different components, all put together in a particular way, designed to function efficiently. And most of the time it does. But if one small part fails – say the brakes – you're in a lot of trouble!

In much the same way, the human body is made up of many intricate parts, designed to function as a whole. Take, for example, the eye. It is so much more complex than even the latest camera. Think how many images per second your eyes are looking at (even as you read this) and transmitting to your brain by electrical signals for your brain to process! Your eye has automatic focus and is able to control the amount of light that enters your eye to protect the delicate cells, and many more amazing features which I don't even understand.

Only a master engineer with superior intelligence could design such a complex, interdependent, amazing structure.

Charles Darwin himself once said that

thinking about the complexity of the eye gave him the chills; and wrote: "To suppose that the eye (with so many parts all working together) ... could have been formed by natural selection seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree." He then proceeded to TRY and explain how the eye could have evolved.

The eye is only one small part of the human body – consider all the other complex systems: respiratory, circulatory, digestive, reproductive, etc.

Getting back to the car ... there is no possible way that it could have evolved – it would be crazy to even consider it. So how then could you consider that the eye, the human body, and this whole planet, full of such a variety of life, could possibly have evolved?

It takes so much more faith to believe that we all got here by genetic mutations than that we were designed by a Master Designer. As we see today, genetic mutations lead to problems not improvements of life. (For example – somebody born deaf or blind.) Mutations always

result from a loss of genetic information, rather than an increase of information, proving that evolution is theoretically impossible.

So the question then – Who is the Master Designer? We find the answer in the Bible, which is the world's best and most reliable history book, standing the test of time, and upon which our consciences and morals are based, whether we know it or not, ie: don't murder, don't steal, do to others as you want them to do to you, etc. In Isaiah 45:12, God says, "I have made the earth and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have



stretched out the heavens..." In Genesis, chapter 1, we read the account of how the universe was made by God. Until recently (about 150 years ago) most scientists and scholars believed the Bible's account of origins.

About 2000 years ago, God the Creator, came to earth as a man – Jesus Christ. He died a cruel death to pay the penalty for your sins and mine. But death couldn't hold Him and He rose from the dead, and was seen by

many people before He returned to Heaven. Jesus also wants you to spend eternity in Heaven with Him because He loves you. Eternity is available to all, no matter how much you have sinned. All you have to do to receive his pardon is tell Him that you've done wrong and are sincerely sorry, ask for forgiveness, and turn from the error of your ways. This is how our spirit should respond to God who created us and loves us.

Remember, tomorrow may be too late.



Forgiven of murder ... A True

Book Review

by *Jenny Stokes*

Denise Mountenay is a woman of courage and conviction. We met Denise when she visited Australia last year during the

debate on Victoria's abortion bill and were impressed by her Christian faith and her willingness to speak of her own past in order to help other women.

Denise is the founder of Canada's Silent No More group, which represents women speaking up about the pain and consequences they suffered after having an abortion.

In her book *Forgiven - of murder*, Denise shares her personal story: the trauma of being raped at the age of 13, a teen pregnancy, the pressure to abort, the fear of the unknown.

In *Forgiven*, Denise exposes the lies and rhetoric of those who do abortions as well as those who promote abortion as a solution.

Denise shares of her own pain from repeat abortions, and shares how abortion has negatively affected her life physically and emotionally. In the book Denise also provides statistics and research studies

that show the adverse effects of abortion. Denise later became a Christian and found forgiveness for the abortions.

Through her ministry and her book, Denise wants to tell the church, and the public, about abortion and its effect on women - "that abortion is a wrong, and not a right".

Denise writes passionately about this topic. Reading it helped me understand more of the personal nature of abortion and its effect on the women who have had an abortion. Even though Denise deals with a difficult topic and shares the grief she felt, the book will encourage you to help others. Denise reports that the book has already saved lives - with women deciding not to have an abortion. This book is a great resource for everyone who wants to know something about the personal side of the abortion issue and will assist you to help others who have an unexpected pregnancy who might be considering an abortion.

This month we have a special offer on 'Forgiven of Murder'.

Normally \$20 plus \$5.50 postage, it is now available at **\$20 including postage.**

Only while current stock lasts.

Don't miss this inspiring book.

Place your order today.

Prayer Update

Please continue to pray for the Salt Shakers ministry, for Peter and Jenny, and the team at our office.

Many people tell us they pray for us regularly, some even daily, and we are always grateful for those prayers.

There are many in society who do not like what we do or what we stand for. Sadly, some even within the church oppose the values we try to promote.

We have decided to set up a specific prayer email and phone list so that when attacks come or when there are specific needs for prayer, such as when we are visiting MPs or speaking to groups, we want to be able to inform you of these in advance. They are often things that we cannot share on an open email list like our E-News.

If you are willing to be placed on a 'prayer covering' email or phone list, please email admin@saltshakers.org.au and put 'Prayer intercessor' in the Subject line. Please include your name, address and phone number in the body of the email to help us identify you. For those without email please phone our office and register your name and details.



Naturally, email is very convenient and virtually free so we will use it as much as we can. We do not expect these requests to be more than once or twice a month.

Please remember that each month we email, through our E-News, a prayer update. This is a round up of general issues specifically for prayer and you can use them personally and with your prayer groups.

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

Financial crisis

We need to pray for our nation at this time of financial upheaval - God does know what is happening. We need to intercede for our nation and ask Him to lead our Governments, both state and federal, through this crisis.

Please pray for those who are facing the loss of their job or even their house.

Federal Budget

May is Federal Budget month and this is as much a moral issue as a financial one. The decisions the government makes about

funding for the unemployed and retirees, how they will protect families and the benefits they will give through dispersion of tax revenue are vitally important.

Decisions about maternity leave, how they will fund charities, health care, drug rehabilitation and overseas aid greatly effect all of us but especially the poor and the marginalised of our society.

The national accounts are now in deficit but we cannot afford to spend money we do not have. Spending our way out of trouble only creates more trouble. Pray for wisdom.

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

Using Google for research

The internet has millions of pages of data. It has a good side and a bad side - along with a huge number of Christian sites there is a lot of pornography.

We need to be careful about sourcing information from the net and be very careful about avoiding the wrong sites. However, we should not be afraid of the internet. It is easy to obtain reliable information on a wide range of topics.

Newspaper articles, transcripts of TV and radio interviews such as 7.30 Report and Compass are all readily available. Information on government policies and Inquiries and copies of Hansard are available (along with flight details, book sales, banking etc!). When we first started Salt Shakers the only way to read Hansard was to order printed copies and wade through them when they eventually arrived. Now you can search online the following day!

In a new occasional series, we'll look at how to use the internet effectively for research.

Google News

If you're looking for media articles on a

particular topic, **Google News** makes it very easy to find them all at once. All news items published in media around the world are available for the past 30 days. Plus there is an archive for previous dates.

You might have heard a reference to an item on TV and want to look up ALL the media reports dealing with that subject. A 'normal' Google search (on www.google.com) may find the article - however the search results list all web sources.

To specifically look for recent media articles on a topic just type some key words into Google and click on 'News' (on the top bar). For instance on the recent item on teenage drinking you might type in: teenage drinking Murdoch. Alternatively, if you know the headline from the paper you can type that in.

Then click on 'News' in the top menu bar. The articles are generally shown in a group - you can click on "all x news articles" to see them all.

Why not try it out. . .

Next month: Google Scholar.



Bible and Cross removed from hospital

Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital recently removed the cross and Bible from the hospital's chapel. They said the chapel is used by all religious groups - and that having a cross in the chapel could offend those of other faiths. The hospital said that specific symbols could be brought to particular services.

Muslims said they weren't upset - but they have already been given a separate, dedicated prayer room by the hospital!

A Catholic priest defied the ban by placing

a cross and a Bible on the altar for Good Friday. Mosman mayor Dominic Lopez said the priest was applauded, as he did his hospital rounds, for standing up to the hospital's ban.

The reaction from church and community leaders has caused the NSW government to call for a review of the ban. The chaplains at the hospital, who had opposed the ban, will meet with a NSW Health chaplaincy advisory committee to consider reinstating the cross and Bible.

[Daily Tel, 9-11/4/2009]



UK: Pregnancy, Condoms & Abortion

In 1999 the UK government implemented a range of strategies to try and deal with the growing number of teenage pregnancies.

However, their '*Teenage Pregnancy Strategy*', did not work very well. Official government statistics reveal that the number of girls under the age of 16 becoming pregnant is now the highest it has been in the past decade.

Melanie Phillips, writing in the *Daily Mail*, noted that Labour has spent £300 million (A\$622 million) on trying to reduce teenage pregnancy by handing out contraception and expanding sex education during the past ten years.

She wrote "Labour is doing nothing less than trying to reshape the sexual and moral behaviour of an entire society. In 2007 there were 7,715 conceptions among girls between 13 and 15, who are below the legal age of consent. This was the highest since 1998. Under-16s now account for one in 100 of all pregnancies. Some 8.3 in every 1,000 girls in this age group became pregnant in 2007 - the highest rate since the benchmark year. And in the month that has seen national concern over 13-year-old father Alfie Patten, the figures showed pregnancies among under-14s leapt by nearly 29 per cent from 295 in 2006 to 380 in 2007." [Daily Mail, 27/2/2009]



Abortion

Half of all girls under the age of 18 who become pregnant get an abortion. Now the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) is planning to allow abortion providers to advertise on British TV for the first time, just to make sure everyone knows how they can obtain an abortion!

The ASA is also proposing allowing condom

manufacturers to advertise at any time of the day or night - currently they can't advertise before 9pm (7.30 pm on Channel 4).

The reason given?

The ASA claims it is helping achieve the government's aim to stop the rising trend of teenage pregnancies. They are currently holding a public consultation into the proposals.

Christian and family groups are unhappy with the proposal. Dr Peter Saunders, of the Christian Medical Fellowship, said: "The problem is that the Government strategy on teenage pregnancy, based on condoms, the morning-after pill and abortion, has failed.

"Allowing the advertising of abortion services is not dealing with the real problem. This is the approach of having the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff to deal with the casualties."

Australia is moving down that track also. Colleagues in Brisbane tell us that abortion clinics have been advertising for some months on the most popular radio stations.

Morning after pill

In another UK program, being trialled in six schools in Oxfordshire, the Government is allowing girls as young as 11 to ask for the morning-after pill by sending a text message to the school nurse! Women are now also allowed to 'bulk buy' the morning-after pill over the internet.

The Conservative Party and Christian ministers rightly say that this programme would encourage promiscuity.

The real solution?

Promoting abstinence before marriage and faithfulness within marriage would be a very good start!

World News

UK: Girl dies after abortion

A UK coroner has criticised abortionists at a Marie Stopes International abortion clinic in Leeds after the death of a 15 year old girl from complications following an abortion. The girl died from a heart attack caused by toxic shock syndrome five days after the abortion. The abortionist had written a prescription for antibiotics but the clinic was criticised for failing to ensure that the girl collected the prescription before leaving. [Lifesite, 27/3/2009]

Finland: Pregnancy & Abortion

A recent study of pregnancy-associated deaths in Finland has shown that the risk of dying within a year after an abortion is several times higher than the risk of dying after miscarriage or childbirth.

The statistical analysis unit of Finland's National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health found that women who had abortions were 76% more likely to die in the following year than non-pregnant women. [Lifesite, 27/3/2009]

UK: Teaching Code

Christian groups are concerned about a proposed new 'Code of Conduct and Practice' for teachers in the UK. The General Teaching Council for England (GTCE) released a Draft Code last November and have taken submissions - a report will be published in a few months time.

Concern arises from Principle 4 of the code, "Promote equality and value diversity".

It requires teachers to 'proactively challenge discrimination' and 'promote equality and value diversity in all their professional relationships and interactions' before they can be registered.

It also says teachers have to "Act respectfully

towards all children and young people, parents, carers and colleagues, regardless of their socio-economic background, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion or beliefs".

Colin Hart, Christian Institute director, said: "Respect for people as people is not the same as respecting or valuing every religious belief or sexual lifestyle. Forcing this on Christian teachers is to force them to go against their conscience. Teachers are there to teach not to be diversity officers."

UK: Aborted babies and transplants

A scientist in the UK at Oxford University, Professor Richard Gardner, an Oxford University is suggesting that organs such as kidneys and livers from aborted babies should be used as transplant organs. Christian groups said the proposal was immoral and that pressure could be placed on women seeking abortions to 'donate' the organs. [Daily Mail, 11/3/2009]

BBC pushes lesbianism

Channel 7 has its lesbian story line in *Home & Away*, but the BBC have gone one further, they are running two. One on *Eastenders* and now one on *Coronation Street*.

Despite the BBC receiving over 200 complaints about the *Eastenders'* lesbian tryst, they are about to advance rather than retreat.

The *Coronation Street* character is a 16 year old who was a tearaway and then became a "born again Christian" - she is about to get involved in a lesbian relationship.

It is claimed the move is designed to make the programme reflect modern Britain more accurately. Apparently the show's bosses want to create a soap "representative of society in 2009". They say they are aware they need more gay characters and need to tackle more gay issues.

Perhaps they still believe the lie that 10% of society is homosexual or lesbian!

Ministry News

No church or group is too big or too small

Don't forget that Peter & Jenny are available to speak at your church - their 'sermon' message is based on Matthew 5 "You are the salt of the earth".

They can also speak to youth groups, men's breakfasts, ladies meetings etc.

Their one-day Worldview course is great to help Christians better understand the Biblical Christian worldview as well as some of the other world views impacting Australia and competing with our Christian worldview.

Contact the office for available dates

- weekends or weekday/night dates are available so talk to your pastor or group leader.

Peter & Jenny were in Hobart for the last week of April, mainly visiting Peter's 98 year old mother who broke her leg recently. Please pray for her.

While there, they spoke at a Presbyterian Church and met with other Christians.

Peter & Jenny regularly meet with MPs at both State and Federal levels of government. This is important, both to encourage and to challenge them.

Please pray that more doors will be opened.

When people in leadership know you have a fixed moral position, they are often reluctant to open their door because they don't want to be confronted with the truth.P

ACTION checklist: Tick the box as you complete the task

Page	Topic	Action / People to write to	Done
5	Hormone Factory website	State Education ministers/Shadow ministers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Same-sex 'marriage'	Companies as listed.	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Federal Bill of Rights	Submission and Community meetings.	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Porn in stores	Speak to owners - write to companies.	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Home and Away - lesbians	Channel 7.	<input type="checkbox"/>

SALT SHAKERS On the Web - www.saltshakers.org.au

Free E-News sign up: New process - Send an email to peter@saltshakers.org.au -

Place Subscribe in the 'Subject' - give your name and address in the body of the email.

Contact Peter to change your address (give old and new addresses) and to unsubscribe.

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

All administration and financial matters

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jenny@saltshakers.org.au

Bank details for direct debit donations: Westpac, 033 112 Ac. No. 117992

Please ensure your name is clearly noted on the 'pay to' and 'Description' sections.



Forgiven of Murder by Denise Mountenay

Special offer \$15 - by Post \$20

See the review of this book on page 15 of our May Journal

An encounter with Jesus Christ, changed her life. She overcame addictions to alcohol and drugs and received inner healing for the murder of her own child. That child was the result of being raped at 13. She exposes the lies and rhetoric of abortion providers and advocates. She also reveals how legal abortion has negatively affected her life physically and emotionally.

A must read in a country where Abortion is now legal and easily available.

We are repeating the following offers, while stocks last, because they have proved so popular



A Biblical Perspective On Homosexuality - CD

\$12

This is ,without doubt, the clearest Biblically-based message we have heard on this issue. It is vitally important that we understand God's perspective from His Word and teach it to our children and young people BEFORE they are indoctrinated by other people.

Produced by **Focus on the Family**



CD 1. How Multiculturalism & the spread of Islam is Affecting the West

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.

CD 3. Islam, the Challenge to the Church by Patrick Sookhdeo

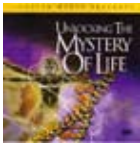
How will the Church respond to Islam?

How will we deal with calls for Sharia law, Islamic finance, Islamic education?

Highly recommended

\$7 each - CD 1 **CD 2** **CDs 3**

SPECIAL OFFER - Purchase all THREE Islam CDs for just \$17



Unlocking the Mystery of Life - DVD Special 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.

It 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.

Please note: Tom Woodward - ID explained - DVD advertised last month is now out of stock

All prices include GST - Prices as at April 2009 Prices may change without notification - ****ALL prices include postage****

The Salt Shakers ministry exists largely because of your donations.

If you have been helped by Salt Shakers, please consider making a one-off donation or become a regular monthly ministry supporter.

Use Bank Direct Debit, the form below or phone (03 9800 2855) to pay using your credit card.

Annual Journal Subscription - Hard copy \$35

email E-Journal \$25

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Please ensure your name is clearly attached to your deposit and email us to confirm your payment - admin@saltshakers.org.au

Post order to SALT SHAKERS, PO Box 6049 WANTIRNA 3152 Phone your order: (03) 9800 2855 or Fax: (03) 9800 2655