

Salt Shakers

Helping Christians make a difference

**“Never give in, never give in,
never, never, never, never
- in nothing, great or small, large
or petty - never give in except to
convictions of honour and good
sense. Never yield to force; never
yield to the apparently overwhelming
might of the enemy.”**

Winston Churchill, 1941
Speech at Harrow School

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Editorial

How often have you heard Christians say, “I won’t fight a battle I can’t win”?

I heard it again a few Saturdays ago at a pro-life conference and I squirmed.

We are hearing it more and more often and the first thought that comes to me when I hear it is, ‘How do you know you can’t win?’ This is a very defeatist attitude and one full of compromise.

Are we not told in the Bible to “trust God, not ourselves”?

Secondly, I think of Winston Churchill’s great message to the boys of Harrow School about leadership and life. He was an old man of great experience, of both the good and the bad of life. During his speech he said, “Never give in, never give in, never, never, never - in nothing, great or small, large or petty - never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense.”

Thirdly, probably the most important thought is, “when you believe in a miracle working God, how do you know you can’t win”? Even when the task seems impossible to us, NOTHING is impossible to God.

The Israelites had seen miracles, but when they came to cross into the Promised Land they thought they ‘could not win’. They spent 40 years regretting that decision.

The early church faced enormous opposition. The 12 disciples and the few other followers of Jesus became depressed after Christ died; they thought it was all over until they saw the risen Christ. After that, nothing was impossible.

Paul wrote, during the extreme persecution of the early church, “However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of

testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.”

That must have seemed an impossible task, but he and others like Peter and John never gave up, even when they saw their friends facing imprisonment, torture and even the most hideous death.

Today we face great opposition with the rise of atheism and what is called ‘secularism’. What was once a Christian-based culture and political system is now going completely pear-shaped with immorality being legalised and even encouraged.

The tendency, even within the church today, is to compromise and ‘negotiate’ for the lesser of two or more evils rather than to stand and fight. Yes, we may lose more often than we win but that is not the point. We do not know that we can’t win until we have lost.

Some Christians call us foolish for not ‘negotiating’, but if we compromise, we can never win. We can never hope to wind back the clock, undo the damage and regain this nation for God. You can never expect to obtain a better position than the place at which you surrendered.

Once the compromise position has been held the precedent is set and there is no turning back.

If we don’t stand for Biblical truth, not just for Christians, but for all people, we will never again reclaim it.

The US Institute on Religion and Democracy President stated recently, “History shows that accommodationist Christians are ultimately irrelevant Christians.”

We want to be there when the worst is realised and people ask ‘Is there anything better?’ We can say “Yes, there is! It is time to do it God’s way.”

Yours, in the service of Jesus the King
Peter & Jenny Stokes



Liberal or Conservative? The Way Forward

by *Dr Kameel Majdali*

We have all grown up surrounded by terms like 'liberal,' 'conservative,' 'left-wing,' 'right-wing,' 'progressive,' and 'traditional.' Even for the many who can neither defend or even define them, we instinctually know that our worldview is coloured by them. Famous people and issues have also been framed by these terms.

Traditionally, the liberals and left-wingers - along with their extreme version called 'communist,' represented issues of 'social justice' and more government involvement to make such justice happen. Government control of the economy is also a feature. In midst of the emergency of the Great Depression of the 1930s, US President Franklin D. Roosevelt represented government intervention at its peak - experimenting with a variety of schemes to try to lift the economy out of the pit. Keep your eye on current US President Barack Obama, who is also leading an activist government trying to revive the US economy in a time of meltdown.

Conservatives take a more literal view of constitutional issues, seeking to preserve or 'conserve' the present order. Its extreme version, 'fascism,' is adept at bringing ultra-order before degenerating into disorder. Conservatives like to keep the government to a minimum, allowing the economy and business maximum latitude for job creation and prosperity.

Christians who are concerned for social justice issues, the plight of the poor, and the state of the environment, tend to lean towards the 'liberals.' Those Christians who adhere to traditional morality, also

known as Biblical morality, tend to lean to the 'conservative' side. Their favoured moral issues include the sanctity of life and marriage, and are anti-abortion and against homosexual rights. In US politics, the Democratic Party tends to be 'liberal' and the Republicans 'conservative' - in Australian politics it is the Australian Labor Party (ALP) that is called 'liberal' and the 'Liberal Party', ironically, that is deemed conservative.

Even for the many who can neither defend or even define them, we instinctually know that our worldview is coloured by them

US President Lyndon Johnson (1963-1969), a Democrat and liberal, declared a 'war on poverty' and championed civil rights. President Ronald Reagan (1981-1989), a classic conservative, was against big government and government intrusion in the economy, yet was strong on defence and traditional moral values. He was famously 'pro-life.'

Classic versions are giving way to new ones. For example, US President Bill Clinton (1993-2001), a Democrat,

declared that the days of 'big government' were over. His successor, George W. Bush, a Republican, who campaigned in 2000 on a platform of 'Compassionate Conservatism,' presided over a major expansion of government and government spending. He was labelled a 'big government' conservative, which for many would seem like an oxymoron. Bush was very strong on traditional moral issues. In the Australian state of Victoria, the former premier Steve Bracks (1999-2007) of the ALP was probably more conservative - at least in moral issues - than the opposition leader Ted Baillieu, from the Liberal Party.

Yet, what few people realize, is that in this 'postmodern' age, the terminology that has been around for a long time has been under rigorous redefinition. For example, in Christendom itself, we know - or should know - what 'born again', 'evangelical', 'charismatic' and 'Pentecostal' mean. But what we do not realize is that all of these terms, and the people who represent them, are under pressure to depart from their classic form and undergo a progressive make-over, if not transformation.

Let's take a look:

'Classic' Born Again: someone who makes a commitment to Christ after an intense spiritual experience and undergoes a change for the better;

Born Again Today: may include the definition above, someone who may have had an experience with Christ but is also open to other spiritual options outside of Christianity. The term is so over used that even carpet cleaners boast that after they have blown through your home the carpets become 'born again.'

'Classic' Evangelical: a person who believes in salvation through faith in the atoning death of Christ, views the Bible as the highest source of faith and practice and adheres to the primacy of preaching the Gospel. Billy Graham is a classic evangelical whose most famous phrase is 'The Bible says,' which is tantamount to 'God says.'

Evangelical Today: still has a connection to the above, attends a church that is labelled evangelical, but who may not be aware of what either the Bible or God is saying. They are much more affected by the prevailing culture than by the Scriptures, and want to be viewed as 'tolerant,' 'environmentally

friendly,' and 'inclusive.' For example, a famous evangelical author had only five references to Scripture in nearly 300 pages of his best-selling book, yet had a detailed apologetic in defence of a homosexual minister who came out of the closet.

Dr. Tony Campolo, who considers himself 'evangelical,' has stated on his radio program 'Across the Pond' that evangelicals are increasingly identified with the 'religious

right,' who are right-wing Christian activists. He has coined the phrase 'red-letter Christians' as a new alternative to the label 'evangelical.'

'Classic' Pentecostal: Believes in an end-time outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Baptism in the Spirit with the initial evidence of speaking in tongues and necessity of a continuous Spirit-filling and exercise of the Gifts of the Spirit (I Corinthians 12);

Pentecostal Today: Attends a Pentecostal church; may or may not speak in tongues; may or may not be 'filled with

the Spirit.'

In one sense, redefinition can be good in that it keeps us from being predictable and 'pigeon-holed.' The Family First Party in Australia is a good example. This party was founded by Andrew Evans and his son Ashley, both who have served and currently serve as the Senior Pastor of the large Paradise Community Church in Adelaide, South Australia. Andrew was also the former General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God in Australia from 1977 to 1997. Wanting to avoid the stigma of the 'religious right' in America, Family First presented itself as not just strictly an Evangelical/Pentecostal or mainstream Christian party. After all, Jews, Muslims,

In this 'postmodern' age terminology that has been around for a long time has been under rigorous redefinition

Catholics, Mormons, and moral humanists, are all interested in family issues, too. While they defend traditional values on marriage, family, and life, they have departed from the religious right on issues like the Iraq war (they are 'anti') and the environment (they are 'pro'). This 'breaking the mold' stance does project moderation, tolerance, and common sense, which, until now, has helped ensure that Family First has representation in the South Australian Parliament and the Australian Federal Senate.

Yet, on the other hand, if by submitting to re-definition, it causes us to depart from the very tenets that made us great, it would be a very serious loss indeed. It would even make a mockery of the label we still hold: like a Baptist who is unbaptized, an evangelical who did not read or believe the Bible, and a Pentecostal who does not speak in tongues (according to the Pew Forum, 40% of people who attend Pentecostal churches do not speak in tongues).

What is the way forward?

The Apostle Paul gives some very cogent advice. In I Thessalonians 5:21 (KJV), he says, 'Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.' Whatever comes your way, put it to the test. If it is old, traditional, and good, then hold on to it, no matter what the culture and trends say. If it is obsolete, useless, or harmful, reject it, no matter how long established it may be.

In so doing, we show ourselves to be above politics and labels. It is not a matter of being liberal or conservative, progressive or traditional—but of being wise, mature, discerning, and godly. In these change-filled, crisis-riddled, challenge-heavy times, Paul's advice is wisdom from above. It really is the 'way forward.'

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Website: <http://www.tan.org.au/>

Kameel also runs a blog - 'The Road Ahead' see <http://majdali.blogspot.com/> This article was originally published on Kameel's blog - 22/4/2009.



Abortion - NSW and Queensland

NSW - The Greens are running a campaign to decriminalise abortion in NSW. Greens

MP Lee Rhiannon has called on the Rees government to "show leadership and introduce an abortion law reform bill, following the lead of the Victorian Labor government which passed new laws decriminalising abortion in late 2008."

She said, "If the government fails to act then the Greens are committed to introducing our own reform bill."

As part of their ongoing campaign, the Greens held a Public Forum at the NSW Parliament on May 1, 2009.

Details: Greens Campaign Overview, <http://lee.greens.org.au/index.php/index.php/content/view/2817/9/>



Queensland: Pro-abortion group *Children by Choice* has launched a campaign calling on the Government to decriminalise abortion. They cited the recent prosecution of a young Cairns woman who imported and used an abortion drug as a reason for decriminalising abortion.

ACTION: If you live in NSW or Qld, please contact your MPs. Ask them not to support the decriminalisation of abortion.

NSW: One MP in the Legislative Assembly and ALL MPs in the Legislative Council. Also write to Premier Nathan Rees and Opposition Leader Barry O'Farrell.

Queensland: One MP, Premier Anna Bligh, Opposition Leader John-Paul Langbroek.

See our website for contact details.

News & Action

Freedom of Religion Inquiry

There were 1937 submissions received by the Australian Human Rights Commission's inquiry into 'Freedom of Religion and Belief in the 21st century'.

These were divided into 'Organisations' and 'Individuals'. As at mid-May only eight submissions from Organisations and 138 from individuals had been posted online at http://www.hreoc.gov.au/frb/frb_submissions.html#org

Some groups' submissions have been listed as 'Individuals' - including the ones from Endeavour Forum and Salt Shakers.

The website says they'll only publish "submissions from all organisations that meet the publication guidelines; and a selection of individual submissions that are representative of the opinions expressed. Submissions will continue to be published on the Commission website, from late May, throughout 2009, as resource capacity allows."

Why won't they publish all submissions?

ACTION: Please write to the Freedom of Religion and Belief Inquiry and ask them to publish ALL submissions on the website. Write c/- Race Discrimination Unit: Education and Partnerships Section, GPO Box 5218, Sydney NSW 2001.

Tai Chi at church?

An elderly citizens group doing 'gentle exercise' for arthritis was meeting in the church hall of the Wynyard Baptist Church in Tasmania. However, after two years, the exercise group began calling itself 'Level Two Tai Chi'. The church told the group they couldn't continue to use the church hall because Tai Chi is incompatible with

Christianity. "Half of Tai Chi is Taoism and Zen Buddhism, which is in total contrast to what we as a Christian church believe in," said the minister, Rev Viv Morse.

The church said that they owned the building and could decide who used it - but offered to help the group find another venue.

Congratulations to Wynyard Baptist Church for taking a stand! It doesn't always make us popular, and it isn't always easy, but we need to remember that Jesus said we would be persecuted for following Him and taking a stand on Biblical values.

Neighbours: lesbian relationship

Following the recent lesbian relationship shown on *Home and Away*, it was recently reported that *Neighbours* will also show a lesbian kiss (scheduled late May). The producers have described it as an "impulse kiss" after a love letter scandal is exposed.

Neighbours is rated 'G'. We believe a lesbian relationship, or a lesbian kiss, should not be shown on a 'G-rated' TV show aimed at children and teenagers.

ACTION: Please contact Channel 10 and express your concern about the lesbian kiss/relationship on *Neighbours*. Send your letter to Mr Grant Blackley, CEO, Network Ten, GPO Box 10, Sydney, NSW 2000.

Camden - Islamic School

For some time the local Camden community objected to the establishment of an Islamic school near Camden on the outskirts of Sydney. The Council rejected the application but the Quranic Society appealed to the NSW Land and Environment Court.

Congratulations to the four local churches that wrote a letter expressing their concerns - it was read out at the appeal which was heard by Commissioner Graham Brown in late April. A decision is expected soon.



One child policy for Australia?

by Jenny Stokes

Fortunately Australia doesn't have a one child policy - YET!

But if Sandra Kanck, the national President of **Sustainable Population Australia** (SPA), has her way, that's the policy she'd like to see implemented in Australia.

In SPA's media release for 'Earth Day' they called for Australia's population to be 'stabilised' and then for it to

"fall".¹ Sandra Kanck said she wanted to reduce Australia's population to **SEVEN million**. She said "Increasing the population is basically suicide, it's environmental suicide, it's utterly irresponsible."²

She told the ABC she thinks the baby bonus needs to be discontinued or limited to the first child only and a 'one-child' limit could also be applied to paid maternity leave.³

All this was to promote 'sustainability'.

Demographer Bernard Salt opposed Kanck's proposal, pointing out the results of such a policy: a reduction in tax revenue in the next generation and being a target for invasion.

Who is Sandra Kanck?

Sandra Kanck was a Democrat MP in the Legislative Council in South Australia from 1993 until November 2008 when she resigned from the parliament. She proposed several private members' bills to legalise euthanasia - fortunately they weren't passed!

Kanck is a life member of the South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society (SAVES). She became the national President of SPA on April 4, 2009 - and immediately started loudly expressing her views.

What is SPA?

Sustainable Population Australia was founded in Canberra in 1988. It was originally called *Australians for an*

Ecologically Sustainable Population.

Their website is www.population.org.au. They say "SPA is primarily an environmental organisation. It also addresses the social and economic implications of population growth."

Their objectives include: "To contribute to public awareness of the limits of Australian population growth from ecological, social and economic viewpoints", "To help promote policies that will initially lead to stabilisation of Australia's population by encouraging near replacement fertility rates and low immigration rates" and to "reduce the global population."

Connection to climate change

The trigger for SPA's call to reduce the population and implement a one-child policy is 'climate change'. They contend that if we are to cut greenhouse gas emissions then population numbers must be reduced.

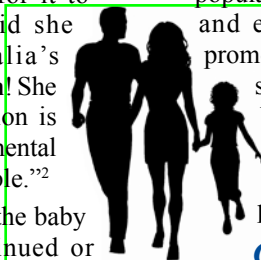
God's perspective

How should we respond to SPA's suggestion about the number of children? God told man and woman to be fruitful and multiply (Gen 1:28). Nowhere in Scripture does it tell a married couple to limit their family to one child - the 'replacement rate' is about 2.1 children per woman. The one-child policy is a socialist/humanist initiative.

God also gave us a mandate to care for the earth (Gen 1:28; Gen 2:15). That includes development and management of the earth and its resources. But it doesn't mean shutting down industry or limiting families to one child to meet the aims of groups like *Sustainable Population Australia*!

References:

1. "End Population Growth to Achieve Climate Targets", SPA Media Release, 21/4/2009.
2. Slash population to save the world, *The Age*, 21/4/2009.
3. ABC News, 22/4/2009.



Adult Television for children?

After monitoring *Home and Away* due to the lesbian relationship became very concerned about the program's constant portrayal of sexual relationships. The lesbians started their relationship by spending the night together and it broke up after the policewoman then had a 'one-night stand' with a man. In another scene a teenage couple had no sooner shared their first kiss when they were shown in bed together. These themes are repeated over and over again. Parents need to ask 'How does this explicit sexual activity affect teenagers and children watching the program?'

A study released by Children's Hospital Boston, and presented to the Pediatric Academic Societies in May, found that the younger children are when exposed to content intended for adults in television and movies, the earlier they become sexually active during adolescence.

Lifesite reported on the study:

The research was a longitudinal study tracking children from age six to eighteen: there were 754 participants, 365 males and 389 females. They were tracked during two stages in life: first during childhood, and again five years later when their ages ranged from 12 to 18-years-old.

According to the findings, when the

youngest children in the sample - ages 6 to 8-years-old - were exposed to adult-targeted television and movies, they were more likely to have sex earlier when compared those who watched less adult-targeted content. The study found that for every hour the youngest group of children watched adult-targeted content over the two sample days, their chances of having sex during early adolescence increased by 33 percent. Meanwhile, the reverse was not found to be true - that is, becoming sexually active in adolescence did not subsequently increase youth's viewing of adult-targeted television and movies.

David Bickham, PhD, staff scientist in the Center on Media and Child Health and co-author of the study commented: "Children learn

from media, and when they watch media with sexual references and innuendos, our research suggests they are more likely to engage in sexual activity earlier in life."

[Lifesite, 5/5/2009]

ACTION: PLEASE monitor the TV programs / movies that your children and teenagers watch. Assess each program according to a Biblical worldview.

When you see inappropriate material on TV programs please write to the TV station and voice your concerns.



Clarification: 'homo' definition

In the April Journal we discussed the meaning of the word *homophobia*.

We said that *homo* meant 'man'. A couple of readers noted that "homo" in "homophobia" is not the Latin word "man", but the Greek word meaning "same" (as in "homogeneous" - similar or uniform in kind/nature). The term "homosexual", when used in contrast

to "heterosexual" means "same sex", from the Greek. However when 'homosexual' is used with 'lesbian' it always refers to men, picking up some of the Latin meaning.

Either way, "homophobia" is an irrational term we should never 'own'. Rather, we should always ask, "What do you mean by that?"

Double Mastectomy at 16 and school GID policy

by Peter Stokes

Giving a 16 year old girl named *Alex*, who is clearly psychologically disturbed, permission to proceed with a double mastectomy is a clear failure in the duty of care that Australians should expect from the Family Court and the so-called professionals advising them.

Negotiating with Primary School children to accommodate their choice to act as females when they are males and vice versa is a failure of duty of care to all children by education departments.

Alex had a history of family dysfunction that should have led to psychological counselling, not surgery. She was raised as a boy by an obsessive father; she then suffered the loss of her father whom she was very close to. Her mother remarried, which *Alex* could not accept. In 2004, at just 13, her mother went to the Family Court to seek permission for her daughter to start sex reassignment treatment. She was allowed to start treatment that would inhibit female hormones and body development.

In December 2007, at 16, *Alex* went back to the Family Court to seek breast removal surgery. It was revealed last month that Justice Diana Bryant granted her request.

We pointed out in 2004 that it appeared that all the 'specialists' consulted in this case were pro-gender reassignment.

As stated in recent articles by Ken McGuire, there is no evidence that anyone is born into the wrong body unless they are medically diagnosed as 'intersex' at birth. Intersex is not gender identity confusion but a physical condition. *Alex* was not intersex at birth; it was her parents who created this psychological condition in the environment they placed her in. Her condition cannot be remedied with a surgeon's scalpel.

The Family Court failed *Alex* when she was 13; it has done so again with another flawed decision based on political correctness, not sound medical or psychological advice.

Alex has now had surgery and will never again be the woman God made her. Please pray for her. Pray that she does not proceed with the next level of surgical 'treatment' - a hysterectomy and genital reassignment. Please pray that she will receive the proper psychological counselling that she needs.

We discovered recently that the 'Early Childhood Development guidelines' of the Victorian Education Department state, "Under the Victorian Equal Opportunity Act (1995) and its amendments (2000) **schools are required to support and respect a student's choice to identify as their desired gender when this does not align with their biological sex.**"

We have not the space to fully explore this dangerous document but even an initial glance should concern all parents.

Note the choice of words, "their biological sex", and their "choice of identity" thus acknowledging the latter is psychological. But then this "The school principal should oversee the development of an agreed management plan. The emphasis... will **not** be on the 'management of the young person' but the management of the school organisation given the special needs of the young person with a transgender or intersex status."

The whole school has to accommodate a male as a female or female as a male! That includes use of toilet and changing facilities! This is a very dangerous 'guideline' - parents need to keep a close eye on this in their child's school.



Mums are glue that binds families

Happy Mothers Day.
Mums, you have the toughest and most important job that requires overtime with no overtime pay. You are the 'glue' that keeps families together

Judith Bond, Glen Alpine, NSW
Macarthur Chronicle 6/5/2009

Christianity is the solution

I was interested to read Sarah Hudson's article with regard to what's on offer in the spiritual realm across Victoria.

Recently, many people have suffered greatly from drought, fires and floods.

Spiritual values help us to cope, but we need to make sure that who or what we believe in are helpful for now and eternity.

Some of the religions mentioned in the article may experience some sense of temporary peace, but ultimately the answer lies with Christianity.

Jesus, whose death and resurrection are remembered over the Easter period, said: "I am the way, the truth and the life."

All the other so-called gods are all dead.

Jesus is the exception.

He is the eternal, infinite, glorious son of God and he is alive today.

Please don't be deluded by eastern religions. The Christian faith is unique.

Bill Lodewijk, McCrae

And another thing

INSIGHT, (25/4) provided us with a great slogan for a new number plate:
Victoria - the drunken state.

David G. Westaway, Navigators
The Age 27/4/2009

Power to the people

As well as too many lawyers, the VCAT has too much power.

One person can overturn a council's decision - as has been seen with brothels and gambling.

And there is the curtailment of free speech and freedom of religion through judgments made concerning the Racial and Religious Tolerance Act.

Peter P Stokes, Wantirna
Sunday Herald Sun 17/5/2009

Sex sells but abstinence saves

Sir, The Pope has been criticised for saying that abstinence should be practised in Africa to solve the AIDS problem.

It would certainly stop any spreading of AIDS by that means.

I would like to move the spotlight away from Africa to our own backyard here in Australia.

We live in a sex saturated society.

Imagine the changes to our society if we practised abstinence here.

Not just abstaining from the physical activity, but raising it another level which the Lord Jesus taught.

To look upon a woman and to lust after her is to commit adultery in the heart (Matt 5:28), ie the Lord Jesus taught total abstinence, not only abstaining physically, but also in our thought life.

Let me list some of the blessings that would come to our nation: No more AIDS being passed on, no more sexually transmitted diseases, prostitution, rape, homosexual problems, pornography, unwholesome movies, abuse in families, children outside

of wedlock, paedophile problems, marriages broken by adultery (affairs), abortions for unwanted babies and associated guilt and mental problems.

Think what it would save us in terms of dollars.

Imagine the rich blessings, the trust, and the strength in our relationships.

Who is for it? God is.

What about you and I?

Pastor Robert Cotton, Mount Gambier
The Border Watch 26/3/2009

50/50

The most annoying advertisements are the ones that claim "Use (our product/service/ program and help save the planet". How many times a week do I have to rescue the earth? It's wearing me out.

Lennyce Westaway, Navigators
Herald Sun 15/4/2009

Oh, so it takes research findings to confirm there is no safe level of drinking alcohol?

Alcohol kills the cells in the brain. Alcohol is a poison to mind, body and soul, Get it?

Judith Bond, Glen Alpine, NSW
Herald Sun 20/04/2009



Toddler sex ed - lesbian mums and surrogacy

Sex education for two-year-olds!

There have previously been books explaining to children where they come from - how they develop inside their mother before being born. However *'Where did I really come from?'* provides a disturbing twist on this theme. The book is aimed at "2-12 year olds" and talks about lesbian mothers getting pregnant using sperm donors. Another chapter in the book is about surrogacy - and shows two homosexual men holding a baby.

The book, written by Narelle Wickham, was originally written in 1992.

It has recently been updated and re-published by *Learn to Include*. The website says the book "offers children simple, non-judgmental explanations of sexual intercourse, assisted conception (DI, IVF), pregnancy, birth, adoption and surrogacy."

Learn to Include has previously published four fiction titles, written by lesbian Vicky Harding and her primary-school-aged daughter Brenna. The books are: *My House*, *Going to Fair Day* [mardi gras], *Rainbow*

Cubby House and Koalas on Parade.

A 44 page Teachers' manual covering the content of the four fiction titles was printed in 2005, with funding provided by the NSW Department of Education and Training and the Crime Prevention Division of the NSW Attorney General's Department.¹



Learn to Include is supported by homosexual groups.

Inside the cover of the book it says it is part of the NSW Attorney General Office's *Learn to Include* program.

Attorney-General John Hatzistergos responded

to media reports of the book, saying there was no link between the Attorney General's office or department and the book.

ACTION: Please write to NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos - ask him to ensure that the NSW government removes any endorsement they have given to the *Learn to Include* program. Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney, NSW 2000.

Ref: 1. http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/cpd/ll_cpd.nsf/pages/CPD_learninclude

Centrelink - Couples?

A battle is underway between Centrelink and homosexual lobby groups... Last year the federal government amended 84 laws to 'remove discrimination' against same-sex couples.

One consequence of the changes is that welfare payments through Centrelink are affected. Centrelink is running a print, audio/video ad campaign to tell same-sex couples that they are now considered

'couples' from 1 July - instead of receiving two single pensions they would now receive a 'couples pension' and get less money! Homosexual groups have complained - they want a transition period to 'adjust' to the new scheme. Following the increase for single pensioners in the recent budget they will be even more unhappy!

The moral of the story: you can't have your cake and eat it too!

A Bill of Rights? *by Murray Adamthwaite PhD*

The Labor government in Canberra is trotting it out again, just like they did in the late 1980s, namely a Bill of Rights, which they in their condescending wisdom are granting to us poor, oppressed Australian citizens, chafing under the bondage bequeathed to us from our colonial ancestors, and more recently by wicked conservative governments.

I am only being half-sarcastic, since this really is the mindset of socialist politicians, as they pursue their social engineering programmes, and re-mould the social landscape in their own image.

What most people don't realise, and socialist politicians seek to hide—or sidestep—is that English citizens, and thereby Australian citizens, have had a Bill of Rights since 1689. We would do well to familiarise ourselves with it, since it underlies the freedoms we have enjoyed since that time, and which the modern socialist thinks inadequate, or possibly deems as a little too much freedom.

But first, a little historical background: during the seventeenth century a great struggle took place between the absolutist Stuart monarchy, and those who stood for a limited monarchy and a free parliament. The latter group in the first half of the century were mainly of Puritan persuasion, and after the Restoration in 1660, following Cromwell's Commonwealth, with Puritans driven out of both the Established Church and mainstream society, there arose a Whig party, who absorbed some of those Puritan principles, remained firmly Protestant, but still supported the Anglican Establishment. When James II ascended the throne in 1685 and immediately began to implement his

programme to re-Catholicise England a reaction set in. Realising that the Stuart Dynasty was inimical to all alike all parties combined to drive James from his throne, whereupon Parliament invited the Dutch Stadtholder of Holland, William of Orange, to assume the throne as William III, in what was known as the Glorious Revolution of 1688. It was the triumph of the Whig party and their principles, particularly in regard to limiting the power of the king.

The following year Parliament enacted a Revolution Settlement, part of which was the Bill of Rights.

What does this Bill of Rights contain? The Bill laments how the late King James II had embarked on policies which undermined the “ancient rights and liberties” of English people, and that the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons, representing the nation sought now to vindicate and assert those

ancient rights and liberties.

- The Bill affirms freedom of speech, principally for Members of Parliament, but by extension to all English people;
- It affirms the right of all Protestant people to carry arms for their own defence, provided that they are within the Law otherwise
- It permits that petitions to King and Parliament are lawful and should not be treated as indictable offences

Accompanying this Bill of Rights, and passed in the same year, 1689, was the Toleration Act, which gave Protestant Dissenters liberty to worship apart from the parish church of the Anglican Establishment, to build their own chapels, support their own pastors, and maintain an independent existence. The old laws which required everyone to

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attend worship at the local parish church were now relaxed, and freedom of worship was now enshrined in law. True, Dissenters were still 'second-class citizens', and were excluded from many aspect of mainstream life, and it was still to be a long time before the old laws against Dissenters were finally repealed, albeit long after they had become dead letters.

For all that, however, these two Acts formed the basis of religious and political freedom which English people have enjoyed from then until now. The French philosopher Voltaire, when travelling England during the 1730s, wrote, "The English are the only people upon earth who have been able to prescribe limits to the power of kings, and who, by a series of struggles, have at last established ... that wise government where the prince is all-powerful to do good ... and where the people share in the government without confusion." This was the outcome of the Glorious Revolution, with its Reformation base. Later the American Revolution enshrined religious and political freedom in its First Amendment, a provision which Section 116 of our own Constitution follows closely.

In 1988 the Australian Government (Labor) proposed a referendum to grant religious freedom. It sounded good, and the rhetoric was attractive, except for one thing: religious freedom was something we already had, by virtue of the Revolution Settlement of 1689, and Section 116 of our own Constitution. This proposal therefore could only be the restriction of liberty under the clever guise

of extension of liberty, namely freedom from religion, rather than freedom of religion. Thankfully, that argument won the day and the referendum was decisively defeated.

This brings us to the present: the Labor Party has learned nothing and forgotten nothing, and now proposes a Bill of Rights, which it tried also back in the 1980s under the Hawke Government. Again, ostensibly it proposes to enshrine rights which we either already have, or to grant only those rights that the government wishes us to have. Bear in mind that the English Bill of Rights of 1689 came about because of a struggle for liberties by the populace – Puritan Dissenters in particular – in the face of a tyrannical government, i.e. that of the Stuart monarchy; not because the government, out of some supposed goodness of heart and infinite mercy, granted them.

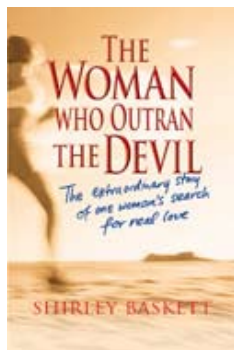
Under this proposed Bill of Rights there is a hidden, but real principle, that rights not expressly granted therein will be deemed not to exist. Will it state, for example, that an unborn child has the same "human rights" as a child outside the womb? In today's free-abortion climate you can be quite sure that no such provision will be stated. In short, do not undermine the rights we already have, and have enjoyed for more than 300 years. See these political wolves in their Santa suits for what they are, and reject their bags of deceptive goodies.

As the French philosopher Rousseau well stated, "Free people, remember this maxim: we may acquire liberty, but it is never recovered if it is once lost."

ACTION: Bill of Rights Submissions due June 15

NOW is the time to get your submission written to the 'Human Rights Consultation', opposing a Bill of Rights. **Please write a letter/submission!** See our 'Campaign page' for information/links/articles: <http://www.saltshakers.org.au/html/P/302/B/567/>

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



The woman who outran the devil

The autobiography of Shirley Bassett.

Reviewed by Kerrie Ternes.

This is the story of a life lived.

Mostly loving God and looking to fulfil his will for her life, Shirley struggled with the temptations of alcohol, violence and sex.

Her messy relationships ended in lesbianism. Yet, as Jesus promised, those whom the Father has given, he will not let any go.

Shirley was befriended by Peter, who was faithfully living God's will for his life, and who ultimately became her husband.

This is a victorious story, full of hope, that "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (I John 4:4) and encouragement to us all that lives can be changed through the power of Him who loves us. The truth did, indeed, set Shirley free.

Available from Salt Shakers: Cost \$22 including postage.

Resources on Islam

Islam continues to challenge the church and society. It is vital that we have an understanding of Islam itself and its impact on society and the church.

Patrick Sookhdeo gave a lecture in February 2009 which provided an excellent overview of Islam around the world - the 2009 Leonard Buck Annual lecture in Missiology at the Bible College of Victoria.

His thorough and erudite address covered a wide range of topics. In fact the title of the lecture shows the breadth of material he covered: "**Islam - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: Impact and Influence on Society, Church and Mission**".

Peter and Jenny attended the lecture and were very impressed. We've been waiting for the CDs and transcript to be prepared so we could get a copy and make them available to you!

CDs of the lecture are \$7 [plus postage]. A transcript of the lecture has been prepared by BCV and is available in booklet form for \$10. Postage for one or both - add \$2.

Public Policy

An excellent book has recently been published called *Islam: Human Rights and Public Policy*. It contains nineteen essays and has been edited by **Dr David Claydon**, who spoke at our 2008 Annual Dinner. The book is aimed at policy makers who need to deal with the impact of Islam on society.

Significantly, out of the 15 authors, nine are Australians. These include Dr Mark Durie, journalist Peter Day, religious liberty expert Elizabeth Kendal and academic Paul Stenhouse. Other chapters have been written by Patrick Sookhdeo, Daniel Pipes, John Azumah and Rosemary Sookhdeo.

David Claydon and John Arnold have a concluding chapter on the development of public policy.

If you want to understand Islam and its impact on public policy this is essential reading. The book is available from Acorn Press - acornpress.net.au or phone 03 9383 1266.



Prayer Update

Financial crisis

Please continue to pray for those caught up in the current financial upheaval.

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

We also know Christians who are struggling to save their businesses. Many have been forced to lay off staff and work twice as hard themselves, just to stay afloat.

Federal Budget

The Federal Budget was handed down to a very mixed reception. Many are very concerned about the level of debt the nation has again accepted. Future generations will have to pay it off if it cannot be quickly reduced over the next few years.

Unfortunately, the unemployed and single parents were given little help this year and they need our prayers as they try to weather the storm.

Spending our way out of trouble only

creates more trouble. Pray for wisdom.

Bill of Rights

Please continue to pray for the community forums and other discussions regarding a Bill of Rights. Pray that governments will place the emphasis on 'responsibility to care for our neighbour' not promote 'my rights'.

Persecuted Christians

Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ in countries around the world.

Pray for the Church in Australia

Pray that Christians leaders and lay people will speak out against a growing opposition to Christian values and even Christianity itself. Both are being more and more threatened in our nation. Pray that no matter how tough it gets Christians will 'stand firm in the faith' (1 Cor 16:13).

Pray for State & Federal governments

Pray that MPs will realise the importance of maintaining Australia as a Christian nation.



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

Salt Shakers prayer emails

Thank you to those who have indicated they would like to be placed on our 'Prayer Email list'. If you pray for us regularly or would like to start doing so please email us. There will be one weekly email or less, depending on the issues we are dealing with.

Please send your email marked 'Prayer intercessors' in the subject line and your name, address and phone number in the body of the email.

It would be great to see more people at our weekly Thursday morning prayer meeting. We have a good time of prayer and fellowship so please join us!

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

My body, my right?

by Darren Speers

In the abortion debate, the chief defence of pro-choice supporters is, “it’s my right to do what I want with my body”. How valid is that argument?

There is one big assumption buried in this statement: it assumes that our body is ours. It seems a safe bet; after all, we direct where our body goes and what it does. However, we can drive a car or live in a house without owning those things. Ownership of an object implies that we have the right both to possess and to use it, but the reverse is not the case: neither possession nor use confers ownership. What does? A contract? What if there is no legal authority to enforce our claim and we alone have to defend our possessions; will a contract be enough? Hardly: theft is the common cold of crime. In the absence of a system to enforce contracts, how can we truly own anything? We can’t, not in this legal sense.

To own something means that we control it: we can do with it whatever we want, no matter what anyone else says or does. If this is true ownership, can it be said that we own our bodies? Finally, no: people, stronger than us physically or by the force of law, can dominate us. Secondly, we get sick and we die. Medicine can heal us, but it can’t stop our inevitable decay and death. This second point seems trite, but if we can’t stop this process, then we aren’t in full control. We have a high level of control, true, but not total control. There is something else that ultimately owns us.

The question to ask then becomes, who or what does own us? There are only two possibilities, and they are two sides of the same coin. The coin is cosmogony: how did life, the universe and everything, come to be? Heads, it was deliberate: tails, it was an accident. If tails, we can’t claim total

ownership of our bodies: time also has a say. Even then, other people can usurp our rule and do things to us that we don’t want done. The best we can say is that we have squatter’s rights over our bodies. Eventually, time leaves us in her wake, until we finally founder. All our claimed rights are shown to be nothing but jetsam.

The flip side of the coin is that the creation of life was deliberate (to keep the matter simple¹) and there is an entity in control over the world. It is this being to whom all things belong. Whether that being is good or evil is, for our purposes, irrelevant. If none of their actions can be overturned, they own us. Whatever rights we may have over our bodies finally depends on them.

As far as this goes, everyone should agree on the theory. But will it change anyone’s belief on abortion? In practice, it’s unlikely. To the objective mind, learning that a foetus is essentially human at 10 weeks old will probably have a greater impact. But how many people can be objective when dealing with a volatile topic such as abortion?

Nonetheless, emotion without the support of reason is “sound and fury, signifying nothing.”

What we believe about abortion depends largely on our worldview, our beliefs about the big picture of life: do we have a purpose? What happens after we die? Does God exist or not? If so, what is God like? Our worldview must change before our position on abortion will. From a Biblical point of view, only God can do that. What Christians should do is learn the facts, strive to make a better world, and show compassion to those who disagree with us.

Endnote:

1. *The other option is that the world was created and*



then abandoned by its creator. Practically, this is the same as the coin turning up tails.

Darren Speers is a writer and editor who lives in WA. He has degrees in psychology and theology. Darren has written articles about philosophy, relationships and Biblical

misinterpretation. His book about clinical depression, Called to Hope, also deals with issues peculiar to Christians, such as guilt, lack of assurance and suicide. It will be released at the end of May (http://www.zeus-publications.com/called_to_hope.htm).

VIC: Exceptions to Equal Opportunity Act

Last month we reported on the review being conducted into the exceptions in Victoria's Equal Opportunity Act. (May page 9)

An Options paper has now been released - **submissions are due by 10 July 2009.**

The exceptions relating to religion are Sections 75 (ordination, churches), Section 76 (schools) and Section 77 (individuals).

The Options Paper canvasses a range of options in each of these sections (Pages 106-131). One 'option' is to retain the clause as it is - allowing exceptions for religion. The remaining options provide varying restrictions but overall the report leans towards saying that exceptions should be greatly restricted.

A Minority Report by the Coalition members on SARC acknowledges that religious schools want to remain independent and says "In a democratic country such as Australia parents should have the right to choose the value systems in which their children will be surrounded throughout their education."

Our Position - in brief - is that bad law is bad law for everyone. In our submission, available on our web site, we state that we are opposed to anti-discrimination laws.

We believe it is not wrong to discriminate against those things that are personal choices - lifestyle, dress, religion, etc.

We do say that discrimination against a person's colour or ethnic origin is wrong but it is best dealt with by education, not heavy-handed laws.

There are times when employers need to

discriminate, even on sex or disability.

Of course, this is not politically correct today, and yet the Labor Party would not employ a Liberal to run their election campaign or even to work in their office. Collingwood would not employ a Carlton fan as their coach. And rightly so.

Anti-discrimination laws are themselves discriminatory. They remove freedom of choice and association.

All people ought to be able to choose who they employ and associate with - not just politicians, football clubs, women's gyms and 'religious' groups.

Anti-discrimination laws are also against Scripture. Psalm one clearly tell us to discriminate. To discern wisely about who we associate with at work, rest, and play.

It is selfish to think we Christians should receive special treatment.

Worse still, Christians have compromised by asking to be exempted from bad laws rather than oppose them altogether.

WE, above all people, are supposed to do unto others as we would like them to do to us and yet we hang out to dry all those who do not fit neatly into OUR 'religious' category. This is wrong.

We must not take the easy way out. Yes, it will cost us to stand alongside others, but it should be a cost we are prepared to bear.

ACTION: Please make a submission by 10 July 2009. Info/details on our campaign we page: <<http://www.saltshakers.org.au/html/P/302/B/599/>>

USA: 'Hate Crimes' Bill

The US House of Representatives has passed a law that adds sexual orientation and gender identity to official categories in 'hate crimes' law. The Bill doesn't define 'sexual orientation' yet an amendment to exclude pedophilia was defeated! The courts will interpret what this Bill includes. The Bill now goes to the Senate for a vote.

Many Christian groups across the USA are concerned about the implications for free speech and freedom of religion but unfortunately some Christians are supporting the law.

As *Christian Newswire* reported:

Members of the Evangelical Left are endorsing the Bill. Liberal evangelist **Tony Campolo** joined a Capitol Hill rally this week organized by the Human Rights Campaign, a homosexual advocacy group, which also distributed supportive statements by Christian ethicist **David Gushee**, Sojourners' **Jim Wallis** and Florida megachurch pastor **Joel Hunter**. The rally additionally touted legislation that would protect transsexualism in the work place.

What did Tony Campolo say to the rally? "We Evangelicals who have such a high

view of scripture should want justice for gays, lesbians and transgendered persons. Justice is love translated into social policy ... This [legislation] is a chance to practice that love."

Justice for sinners who do not repent is certainly a new twist on evangelicalism!

Mark Tooley, President of the Institute on Religion and Democracy, commented:

"Why are self-proclaimed evangelicals echoing the secular culture by endorsing ideologies wrapped around 'sexual orientation' and 'sexual identity'?"

"All victims of violence are already rightly protected by law, no matter the motive of their assailants.

"Increasingly the Evangelical Left is indistinguishable from the secular Left. Christians of all traditions are called to transform the culture, not conform to it. But the Evangelical Left repeats arguments from *The New York Times*' editorial page and seems to think such cultural conformity will win applause. History shows that accommodationist Christians are ultimately irrelevant Christians."

Abortion - Mr Obama and Notre Dame

A controversy erupted in the USA over **Notre Dame University's** invitation to President Barack Obama to give the commencement address, and receive an honorary law degree, on May 17, 2009. **Notre Dame** is a Catholic university.

Pro-life organisations are upset that the university invited Obama to speak, given his voting record supporting abortion, and his decisions to allow overseas aid funding for abortions.

More than 330,000 people signed a petition organised by the Cardinal Newman Society

to object to Obama speaking at Notre Dame.

Randall Terry, who has organised many 'rescues' outside abortion clinics, visited the campus to protest prior to the speech and was arrested and put in jail for trespass.

Former Republican Presidential hopeful Alan Keyes, a Roman Catholic priest and 19 others were arrested on the day of Obama's speech after marching onto the University campus to protest.

All 21 arrested were charged with trespassing, 5 were held in the county jail over the weekend

World News

UK: MAP by text message

Last month we reported that the morning after pill will be available to teenagers in a trial conducted in six schools in Oxfordshire. Under the scheme, students will be able to order the pill simply by sending a text message to their school nurse. It has been revealed that a Catholic school will be forced to participate as one of the six trial schools. St. Gregory the Great Catholic school in Oxford has been told by authorities that there will be no 'opt-out' provisions. The school objected, noting this is against their belief that "sexual relations take place properly within marriage and that any abortion or contraception is contrary to the dignity of the human person." They were ignored.

The reason given? The authorities claim the texting service is "outside the governance of the schools" because it is offered outside of school hours.

UK: Muslim head of BBC Religion!

In a disturbing development, a Muslim has been appointed as the **Head of Religion and Ethics** at the BBC in the UK.

Aaqil Ahmed has previously worked for Channel 4 - where his bias toward Islam and Multiculturalism was noted. Several Anglican bishops expressed concern about his possible appointment - but they were ignored. [CCFON, 13/5/2009]

UK: Homosexualist training

Kwabena Peat, a Christian teacher in the UK, has been suspended from his job.

Why? Because he complained about a compulsory training seminar run by

his school that promoted the idea that homosexuality is normal.

The trainer, Sue Sanders, a lesbian and UK activist who founded *Schools Out* in 1974, said those who don't accept homosexuality as normal have 'issues' that need to be addressed. [Lifesite, 27/4/2009]

Mr Peat wrote and complained to the three staff members who organized the session, about her "aggressive" presentation. He was suspended with pay pending the outcome of disciplinary investigations after the staff members complained that, although they were senior to him, they felt "harassed and intimidated" by his complaint.

Mr Peat is being represented by the Christian Legal Centre who warned that if it is allowed to continue, the trend of Christians being sacked and suspended for expressing their beliefs will amount to "state censorship leading to the infringement of a person's right to freedom of religion and speech."

USA: Presbyterians

For the fourth time in 12 years, a vote has been held regarding the US Presbyterian Church's (PCUSA) constitutional requirement that its ministers and elders practice "fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness".

Why has it been voted on so often?

Because homosexual activists continue to raise the issue. This time they forced a vote on an amendment to allow practicing homosexuals to assume leadership positions within the organization. Thankfully, the amendment has been defeated - of 173 local presbyteries, 89 presbyteries had voted against the amendment by the end of April, with 69 in favour.

What Bible are those 69 reading?

The sad thing is, every time they force a vote they creep a little closer to their goal of 'acceptance'!



Ministry News

Peter & Jenny will be in Bendigo on the weekend of August 15/16. They will run a one day worldview seminar at the Presbyterian Church on the Saturday and speak there on Sunday morning. They're also available to speak at a school on the Friday 14 or Monday 17.

In October they will be in Perth WA from Friday 30 October until Thursday 12 November. They will be speaking at the CDP State Conference on Saturday 31 and are available to speak on the two Sundays, some weekdays and on Saturday 7 November.

If you live in WA please contact our office

if you would like them to speak at your church, home group or school.

We need part time volunteers to help with general office duties in the office and may soon be able to offer a part time paid position to the right person with appropriate computer literacy and people skills. Please email the office for details.

Direct Bank Payments -

We do appreciate direct bank donations, however we have some deposits we cannot allocate and need to do so for accounting purposes. So if you have made a deposit in recent months and have not received a receipt please email the office with details of your deposit.

Please ensure that your name is clearly attached to all deposits, even if you are making an 'anonymous' donation.

ACTION checklist: Tick the box as you complete the task

Page	Topic	Action / People to write to	Done
5	Abortion- NSW/Qld	Write to MPs / Premier / Opp. Leader	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Freedom of Religion	Write to Inquiry re publishing submissions	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Neighbours - TV	Write to Network Ten	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Toddler sex ed	NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Federal Bill of Rights	Submission by June 15, 2009.	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	VIC - Exceptions to EO	Submission by July 10, 2009	<input type="checkbox"/>

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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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****New****

Islam - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: Impact and Influence on Society, Church and Mission.



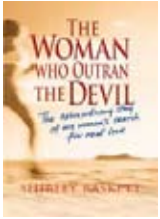
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CDs of the lecture are now available \$8

A transcript of the lecture, prepared by BCV, is available in booklet form for \$12



The woman who outran the devil

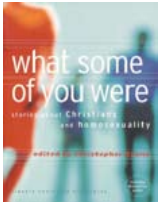
An autobiography by Shirley Baskett.

Special offer \$22

See our review by Kerrie Ternes on page 14 of the June journal.

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This is a victorious story, full of hope, that could help set other people free.



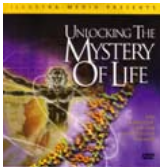
What some of you were: stories about people and homosexuality

by Chris Keane (formaly of Liberty Christian Ministries),

Special offer \$22

Despite what the media and homosexual activists say, there are many homosexuals who do not wish to embrace a homosexual identity. In this book, some of them share their struggles and the way God has brought about change in their lives.

You will also read how family members have coped with having a homosexual or transsexual person in their family.



Unlocking the Mystery of Life - DVD

****ONLY while current stocks last****

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.

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

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