

Salt Shakers

Helping Christians make a difference

“When all is said and done, Tiger,
we’ll either hold fast to the truth,
or we’ll face the consequences.”

David Noebel, President, Summit Ministries



July 2008 AD

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Editorial

Our 'motto', established at the beginning of 2008 is 'Helping Christians Make A Difference'.

Just a few Sundays ago we were awakened to a new meaning and emphasis on Making A Difference when we listened to a message by a missionary to Asia. Her theme was "being MAD for God". She said being MAD meant being prepared to 'Make A Difference' for God.

We have often said, jokingly that "you don't have to be mad to take on the world but it helps". In fact, it is essential for us to understand that that is exactly what the world WILL think about us today if we are MAD for God.

But that should not come as a surprise. The Scriptures tell us that the world will always think we are mad - Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1: 23 "we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles".

We need to ask ourselves, "If we are not OUT THERE actually Making A Difference, in the world, who will be?"

There are certainly many opportunities to Make A Difference as the world continues headlong toward eternal disaster. Not from Global Warming or financial meltdown but from moral degradation. We are at a time perhaps never seen since the days of the government-supported Roman gladiators in the Colosseum.

Governments are clamping down on Christianity, often using the power of the law to do so. Hate Crime laws, anti-vilification laws, anti-discrimination laws all remove free speech and freedom of religion. They allow sin to abound unchecked with such aggression that people fear speaking

out against any wrong that occurs. If they do they are castigated for judging others.

A recent letter to the editor of a Melbourne newspaper reminded people that once upon a time, if a young person misbehaved in a public place and a policeman saw them "he would cuff them behind the ear or give them a kick up the backside". In most cases it was enough to straighten them out - for a while anyway.

But today, that is foolishness to most people. Yet the Bible clearly states in Proverbs 13:24 "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him." Naturally the latter half of that verse needs to go with the former half or else it could quickly become child abuse.

Yet even many in the church today hold to the idea that all corporal punishment is wrong - it certainly is according to the world.

When discussing discrimination recently we concluded that wise discernment was scoffed at and 'anti-discrimination' had become a new 'religion'. It is certainly the 'religious' pursuit of those who have no values, or those who have a political agenda or preferred lifestyle to push. Anti-discrimination theology is obsessively promoted by the media and adopted as a catch cry by every minority group, many minority religions and even Christian denominations today. They of course DO discriminate against anyone who does not agree with them.

Anyone who stands for truth and values today is automatically seen as the bad guy. Pleasing the world has replaced being MAD for God - thus being MAD for God is becoming even harder. Nevertheless, MAD we MUST be.

Yours in His Service
Peter & Jenny Stokes



Transsexualism - Part 4

Towards an appropriate Christian response

In the first three parts of our series on **Transsexualism** we dealt with the facts and dispelled much of the rhetoric, but it is important that we don't just oppose - we must know how to respond to those affected by this problem. Remember that it is psychological – events in the person's past, sometimes things they are unaware of, have often led them to make the conclusion that they are living in the wrong body.

Part 4 Introduction:

In recent years there has been increasing public awareness of transvestism and transsexuality. More recently, special interest groups, with their own political agenda, are using the term 'transgender'. Often such groups cast the church as the enemy. The media - press, radio, television and the World Wide Web - are portraying transgendered behaviours as if they are just a normal variant of human sexuality. The message being conveyed is that an enlightened society ought to be accepting of such people. In this post-modern era the church is being challenged as never before in matters of sexuality and gender.

In reality, when transgendered behaviour emerges in a church there is often a startled reaction. Some members are quite hostile, others confused and a host of questions are asked. All too often, not only the congregation but also the church leadership are likely to be uncertain as to how to respond.

God's intention

The initial question is, "what does the Bible have to say on the matter?" The usual cursory exploration is unlikely to reveal

God's heart on the matter – or does it?

Firstly, we need to go back to Genesis 1 where we see God's intention for human sexuality. One man and one woman made in God's image who need the opposite to become one - only totally complete when they come together.

As stated in previous articles, no matter what doctors do they cannot make a man a woman and vice-versa. So these people cannot fulfil God's desire for them by 'changing' their 'gender'.

**This gender
hatred is
likely to have
developed in
early childhood**

Deuteronomy 22:5 states "a woman must not wear men's clothing, nor a man wear woman's clothing, for the LORD your God detests anyone who does this" (Some translations use the word 'abomination'). The Hebrew word "Toebah" which is translated as an abomination

or detestable, in the above passage perhaps more correctly means 'abhorrence' - which has a less judgemental meaning. The word can also convey 'a straying from' or to 'be led astray' from the correct path. The Hebrew word also implies the possibility of returning to the correct pathway.

To understand God's concern on the matter is to understand what is in the mind (or heart) of the person who cross dresses or who seeks sex reassignment surgery (SRS). We must always ask 'why does the person want to crossdress?' Or, 'why is there such a strong desire to live permanently in the role of the opposite gender?'

A desire to live deceiving one's self and others, by acting in an assumed gender role, even for only a short time, is ultimately a form of gender hatred. This gender hatred is likely to have developed in early childhood as a response to traumatic events and should

be taken seriously.

The transgendered person will frequently state – even if not a Christian - that God has made a mistake.

Therefore, (goes the argument) they say ‘I must have this “mistake” corrected’ and they insist on the personal right to act out the preferred gender role. Compulsive pursuit of what is thus rebelliously envied is destructive to relationships.

Many male transvestites and transsexuals are, or have been, married and fathered children. Separation frequently occurs and isolation from the family follows as they are generally no longer accepted within the family or socially in their preferred, that is self-determined, gender role. Alienation from society in general encourages the development of special interest groups. These “special groups” claim that a post-modern society must embrace them and Christians are seen to be aggressively hostile to their worldview.

In most cases, children of a transgendered individual want a father (and mother) who acts (or models) according to society’s norms, and hence they themselves may be scared and traumatised and in turn their own lifestyle may well become dependent upon some form of behaviour which is detrimental to them.

We have a relational God whose concern is for wholesome Christ-centred relationships. The Bible lays down firm guidelines for family structures yet increasingly these structures are being challenged by a post-modern society.

We can rightly deduct that pursuing transgendered behaviour alienates a person from God.

Understanding choice:

Christians frequently make the assertion

that “we are where we are at because of choices that we have made” or even that these behaviours “are a deliberate act of rebellion against God.”

These assertions seem a little unfair given that transgendered behaviour appears to be rooted in early childhood experiences, when one is not able to cognitively recognise or determine choice of this magnitude.

The phrase ‘make a choice’ implies that known options or selections are available at the time, but the child, or parents, may in fact be making decisions and choices that will have a bearing in later life, without realising it. They are, in fact, inadvertent decisions or choices that neither the child nor its parents would be aware could have such profound consequences.

Overcoming:

Great care and compassion is required.

Romans chapter 1 gives us a clear expression of God’s willingness to honour our free will. We have been freed to go our own way, but there will be consequences if we deviate from our “design criteria”, this fundamental creational truth that society has rejected.

Paul tells us in Romans 1:25 “...we have exchanged the truth of God for a lie...”

Overcoming transgendered behaviours is directly related to one’s willingness to enter into an ever-closer relationship with Him. A personal, obedient, trusting relationship with Him is necessary in achieving a more wholesome lifestyle. Obedience to a biblical statute alone will not bring about sexual wholeness. (Jer 31: 33-34)

Transgendered people are deeply wounded people, regardless of how mature they may outwardly seem. It takes time for wounded people to build an intimate relationship with God. (Eze 36: 25-27) The place to begin to nurture such an intimate relationship with

**Great
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is required**

the Lord is within the church.

Wounded people have a deep sense of shame. All addictive behaviours have roots in shame. Transgendered behaviours have the characteristics of addictive behaviour. Fantasy can be a measure of the amount of pain a person is carrying.

When we give up a fixed behaviour pattern (false comfort) we experience loss. This loss has to be grieved in the same way as we grieve the loss of a person, position or country.

Until a personal relationship with the Lord is established there will be continued resistance.

Resumption of the original gender identity for the transsexual will always be difficult but for those who have undergone Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS) the difficulties can seem insurmountable. The process will be slow and painful.

For the male who has had full SRS, surgery to satisfactorily replace removed primary sex organs is not available and hormone replacement will need to continue for the rest of his life.

A female who has undergone partial SRS (breast removal and hormone treatment) the chances of returning to womanhood are good. For the woman who has undergone full SRS to a man, which includes genital reassignment and a hysterectomy, the sad news is that they will never be able to have children.

Women will also have had considerable exposure to male sex hormones and developed male facial and body hair, even possibly a receding hairline (male pattern baldness) – any reversal will be slow. She may also have to undertake prolonged and painful electrolysis.

**Jesus himself
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Those who have undergone SRS and subsequently become a Christian should be encouraged to resume their original biological sex, however hard that may be. Often they will live with huge regret and for some this can become unbearable. Leading a ‘normal’ life will be exceedingly hard because we are made for relationship and a proper heterosexual relationship may be impossible.

Pastoral care and counselling will probably be required for the rest of their lives.

The pathway to overcoming will, for all concerned, be fraught with difficulties. Hence the need for absolute dependence upon the Holy Spirit and the understanding of God’s mercy and grace.

The recovery pathway, littered with so many obstacles, may also impair the receptivity to God’s grace.

Jesus himself demonstrated an extraordinary willingness to meet people “where they are at”. In the third chapter of John’s gospel

we see a picture of Jesus meeting with a Pharisee - a well-educated religious leader. In the next chapter we see Him meeting with a Samaritan woman – Samaritans being despised by the Jews. In the eighth chapter we see Jesus meeting with someone legally condemned by the law for adultery. Rather than run from Jesus they all appeared to be drawn to Him. We need to look to His example to guide us in ministry to the gender confused.

Recommended Reading:

Transsexuality. Evangelical Alliance (UK)/Paternoster. ISBN 0-95329-926-0

What Happened to Daddy? by Denise Shick, Help 4 families: www.Help4families.com

This final article in the Transsexualism series was jointly written by Keith Tiller, and Peter Stokes. Keith Tiller is the Director of Parakaleo, a ministry to transsexuals, transvestites and transgendered people in the UK.

News & Action

Tasmania: Blood donation

Michael Cain, the homosexual man who complained that the Red Cross discriminated against him for refusing to allow him to donate blood, has lost his case. The Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Commission found that the Red Cross is entitled to protect the blood supply by imposing a ban on those who have had male-to-male sex in the past 12 months.



Tasmania: Euthanasia

Nick McKim, a Greens MP, has introduced a private member's bill to legalise euthanasia into the Tasmanian parliament.

ACTION: Tasmania: Please contact your 5 Members in the House of Assembly and your MP in the Legislative Council. Ask them NOT to support this bill to legalise euthanasia. Send letters to Parliament House, Hobart, Tasmania, 7000.

Details about MPs: <http://www.saltshakers.org.au/html/P/13/B/112/>

SA: Equal Opportunity Act

Amendments to alter the SA Equal Opportunity Act were debated on 3 June. The government wanted a vote, but despite the time for debate being extended from 6 pm to 10 pm the Bill wasn't voted on. Liberal shadow attorney-general Isobel Redmond spoke for more than three hours to delay the vote. The debate on the Bill will resume in mid-July.



ACTION: SA: Please contact your MPs in both Houses and ask them to vote against the Bill. Send letters to Parliament House, North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000.

QLD: Abortion

Caroline de Costa, the Cairns doctor who lobbied for the legalisation of RU486 and imports and uses the drug to do medical abortions, has announced that she has stopped giving out RU 486 because she is afraid of 'criminal prosecution'.



This 'announcement' was made public on 3 June, the week before the court hearing concerning the 19-year old Cairns woman, charged with using an abortion drug.

This is part of the campaign to legalise abortion in Queensland. Caroline de Costa has written to the Attorney General and the Premier seeking "clarification and reassurance" about using the drug.

ACTION: Queensland: Please contact your MP and Party leaders Anna Bligh (ALP) and John-Paul Langbroek (LNP). Send your letters to Parliament House, Brisbane, QLD, 4000.

NSW: Islamic school

The NSW Land and Environment Court has refused permission for an Islamic school to be built at Camden. When the Council refused the application by the Quranic Society, on planning grounds, they appealed to the L&E Court - and lost!



mardi gras shortened

The organisers of the Sydney 'gay and lesbian mardi gras' have halved the length of the mardi gras festival - to two weeks.

In previous years, the main party has followed the street parade. This year organisers moved the parade to coincide with the visit of a cruise liner - with the party a week later. They're already receiving protests from interstate homosexuals complaining that they can't afford to visit Sydney on two separate weekends! Pray for continuing strife!

Homosexual 'marriages' and the census

Homosexual lobby groups are celebrating the news that the Australian Bureau of Statistics has said they will count same-sex 'marriages' in the 2011 census.

The ABS has recorded the number of people living in homosexual *de facto* relationships for some time, but has previously refused to count same-sex 'marriages' because they weren't recognised under Australian law.

What is meant by same-sex 'marriage'?

The lobby groups say they are homosexual couples who have 'married' in countries that allow it, such as Canada, and then returned to Australia.

Why did the ABS decide to change their policy to count them?

Homosexual activists protested at the time of the 2006 census. The convener of *Australian Marriage Equality* (AME), Peter Furness and his 'partner' conducted a 'sit-in' outside the ABS in Sydney. Eventually the ABS told them they would record the number of homosexual couples who had ticked the 'married' box. That didn't occur, so AME continued to lobby the ABS to get them to change their policy.

Why shouldn't the ABS count same-sex 'marriages in the census?

1. Such 'marriages' are not legally recognised

in Australia, since the Marriage Act affirms that marriage in Australia is between a man and a woman. When the Marriage Act was amended in 2004 to include that definition, the amendment also said "Certain unions are not marriages. A union solemnised in a foreign country between: (a) a man and another man; or (b) a woman and another woman; must not be recognised as a marriage in Australia."

2. Australia treats such relationships as homosexual *de facto* relationships.

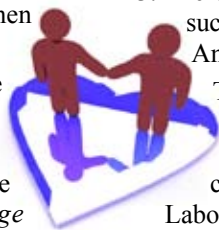
3. There is no official Australian record of such 'marriages' to verify the statistics. Anyone could tick the 'married' box!

This tactic is designed to put pressure on the government to allow same-sex marriages! AME is running a campaign - trying to persuade the

Labor Party to change their position at their national conference in July.

ACTION: Please write to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Ask them NOT to count same-sex 'marriages' in the 2011 census. Mr Brian Pink, Australian Statistician, Locked Bag 10, Belconnen ACT 2616.

Please also write to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, Senator Nick Sherry (Minister responsible for the ABS), Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull and your MP. [Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600.]



Adult Stem Cell Success

Scientists at the University of New South Wales have successfully treated three patients with sight problems using their own stem cells. [Aust, 28/5/2009]

The patients were suffering from corneal blindness. The doctors removed stem cells from the side of the cornea, cultured the stem cells in extended wear contact lenses and inserted the contact lenses. After two

weeks the stem cells attached to the cornea and the lenses were removed. The eyesight of all three had improved and this has been maintained over the past 18 months! Two patients were legally blind - after the treatment they could identify large letters on the eye chart. The third patient could only read the top five rows - afterwards he passed the vision test for a driving license!

“Choices” **One man’s journey out of homosexuality**

A new book...

Reviewed by Peter Stokes

“The normalisation of homosexuality has occurred through ignorance and a lack of testimony to God’s healing grace.”

Wow, that is obviously a statement from a right wing bigot! No, it is a summary of the conclusions of someone who lived the homosexual lifestyle to the full, struggled for many years to leave it behind and who has worked for many years to help others achieve healing and sexual wholeness.

Christopher Keane is a brave man. Not too many men will admit to the mistakes they have made, but by doing so, he hopes many will be freed from the hurts of the past and the resulting addiction and depression so many face today because of them.

Chris starts by telling us about the real homosexual lifestyle - in some detail. Many people will find that confronting but it is necessary if we are to truly understand the struggle to change. He explains his past, surrounded by a weak, often absent, father and domineering women; the rejection of the lifestyle and subsequent loneliness; the difficulty of becoming involved in a church and the triumphant conclusion of a happy marriage, albeit after a false start.

Chris does not hide from the truth but it is a journey we need to take with him if we are to help others achieve what he has achieved: freedom through the grace of God and faith in Jesus Christ.

Nobody is born homosexual, says Chris, but many think they are and think it is the way they must live out their lies. The ‘born gay’ lie, which many same-sex attracted people

believe because they *think* they have always been that way, needs to be challenged, not supported, especially by the church.

Chris says in this book that the Christian response to same-sex attraction and behaviour has not been good. On one extreme are those who think homosexuality is the unforgivable sin and on the other are those who want to endorse the lifestyle and behaviour. The true Christian response

lies somewhere near the middle. We must love the homosexual because we are all sinners, but we must not accept the sin or believe it is unforgivable. We must oppose the normalisation of homosexuality while accepting the broken people into our midst and offering compassion and friendship through their struggle.

Healing is possible and our Heavenly Father wants to put His

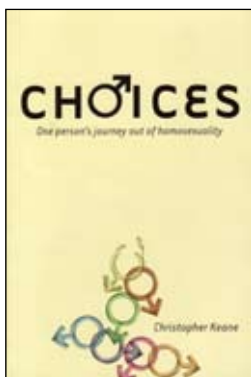
arms around His hurting children - WE are to participate in this process by reaching out to them.

Please purchase a copy of this book and then check your own attitudes in its light.

As the normalisation of homosexuality continues, people reject the truth, and our young people are deceived. We need to be there to both oppose the lies and normalisation of homosexuality and to pick up the broken pieces and offer help and healing.

‘Choices, One man’s journey out of homosexuality’ is available from Salt Shakers at the special price of \$20 including postage.

(See our cover sheet for details or phone the office to order.)



Legalising Prostitution

One of the arguments given by governments for the decriminalisation or legalisation of prostitution is that it can then be regulated and controlled. Illegal brothels, so the argument goes, will be closed down and corruption, underage prostitution and sex slavery will be eliminated.

But does it work?

The NSW government decriminalised and deregulated prostitution in 1979 - running a brothel is not illegal and soliciting for prostitution is legal outside residential areas. However, illegal brothels have flourished.

Eighteen months ago the NSW government introduced legislation to make it easier for local councils to close down illegal brothels. Recently a report in the *Daily Telegraph* (18/5/2009) revealed that illegal brothels are 'exploding' all across Sydney - it said "'tough' new laws have failed to prevent unprotected sex, slavery and corruption."

It is estimated that ILLEGAL brothels and escort services outnumber legal ones by a ratio of FOUR to ONE!

This is no surprise. Legalise brothels and people think prostitution is OK. The police think that brothels are normal and don't investigate 'illegal' ones - they say 'how do we know which are which?'

When prostitution was legalised in Victoria in 1994 there were an estimated 50 illegal brothels. By 2001 this had increased to 100 legal brothels, 1500 single sex workers and an estimated 400 illegal brothels!

An interesting question - who is complaining about the illegal brothels in Sydney?

The answer? The Adult Business Association which represents the owners of LEGAL sex services - they don't like the competition!

Tasmanian proposal

Despite this evidence, Tasmania is again facing proposals to legalise brothels.

In 2005 when this was last debated, the proposal to legalise brothels was shelved and instead an alternative law was passed which allowed individual sex workers to operate.

The Department of Justice has just completed a review of the *Sex Industry Offences Act 2005*. The Report noted that the Department of Health and Human Services said the health of sex workers and the community "will best be safeguarded by the legalisation of brothels and the development of services to protect the rights of sex workers".

The Report has four recommendations: to publish a brochure outlining the "legal status of sex work", conduct a campaign to raise health and safety standards, to include "occupation" in the Anti-discrimination Act to make

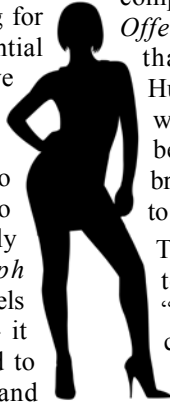
it an offence to discriminate against a prostitute on that basis and to "consider the suitability of alternative legislative models for adoption in Tasmania" - in other words to legalise brothels.

Tasmanian Attorney-General Lara Giddings said the government will consider the report.

ACTION: If you live in Tasmania, please write to your 5 Members in the House of Assembly as well as your Member in the Legislative Council. Also write to Premier David Bartlett, Attorney General Lara Giddings and the Leader of the Opposition Will Hodgman. **Ask them not to legalise brothels in Tasmania.**

MP contact details: <http://www.saltshakers.org.au/html/P/13/B/112/>

Send letters to Parliament House, Hobart, Tasmania, 7000.



Family Court should be accountable, too

THANK you, Jill Stark, for exposing the mutilation carried out in the name of "treatment" by the Monash gender clinic and Dr Trudy Kennedy.

What a pity the Family Court was not also exposed for its recent decision to allow "Alex" to proceed to the same sort of mutilating surgery at just 16.

Psychological problems are never solved by a surgeon's knife. Would a psychologist send a schizophrenic to the surgeon to be cut into two people?

Of course not — neither should this happen to a person suffering transsexualism.

Peter Stokes, Wantirna

The Age 7/6/2009

TV garbage leaves families no hope

If it's not the Chasers demeaning skits, it's Ramsay's foul mouth, sleazy advertisements, idiot panels, soapies' sexuality or gratuitous violence.

Over fifty years of TV in Australia and this is the garbage dished out every evening by the networks.

Families would like to have some programs that they could enjoy together.

Remember those high grade BBC series where intelligent script writers and accomplished actors used their English language skills to entertain their audiences.

David G Westaway, Navigators Vic

The Courier - 13/06/2009

Herald Sun - 15/06/2009

Sex and drugs part of the show

Your Editorial "Home truths" (May 6), about 'Home & Away' actors involved in drug use and filming sex acts was spot on.

However, you forgot to mention that both actors involved were really only carrying out the all too frequent themes of the program they act in.

You rightly point out that "children & young teenagers are the bulk of the audience", yet promiscuous sex and drug references are common themes.

It is time we not only saw some responsibility on the part of actors but also TV producers.

Peter Stokes Forest Hill

Herald Sun 9/06/2009

Human Rights Bill

Socialist countries around the world are busy adopting Charters of Human Rights.

Now it is Australia's turn. It depends on your point of view if they are a good idea.

The Constitution already serves us adequately under Common Law. With a Charter of Rights power is shifted to judges who decide if a particular right applies. It is like cheap insurance where the policy wording needs to be contested in court to see if a claim will be paid. Mr Rudd said that the people of Australia will be fully consulted beforehand. The Human Rights team consulted in Queensland around March.

Few local people knew there was a meeting at Rockhampton. I did not see any official notifications and neither did some of my friends who wanted to have their say.

Queenslanders are familiar with full consultations. The last one on Council Amalgamations promised by Mr Beattie finished up looking like a collapsed soufflé.

Canada, New Zealand and Victoria have adopted their Charter of Rights. The history of court cases in those places confirms that there are no rights until the judge says so.

This proposed Charter of Rights for Australia deserves to be opposed.

Robert Bom, Rockhampton

Rockhampton Morning Bulletin 15/5/2009

Bullying is wrong against any victim

Our community has a responsibility to stop all bullying, not only bullying towards certain people, homosexuals for example ("Push to help gay pupils", June 2).

Focusing on one group as different from everyone else just perpetuates the division.

Dr M. Jean Graham, Notting Hill

Herald Sun 4/6/2009

Fielding foments climate debate

Senator Fielding's self funded trip to Washington to have meetings with White House officials and researchers on both sides of the global warming issue clearly indicates that the debate in Australia is just heating up.

GW propaganda is at last being shown in its true colors - a green extremist ideology rather than straight climate science.

David G Westaway Navigators Vic

Herald Sun 11/06/09

‘Hate Crime’ laws - more laws to divide people

What is a ‘hate crime’?

A ‘hate crime’ is a crime such as assault or murder that considers the characteristic of the victim - such as their race.

In the USA, the House of Representatives recently passed a ‘hate crimes’ law - the US Senate is currently considering the Bill.

When Victoria experienced a spate of attacks on Indian students, Victoria’s Attorney-General Rob Hulls announced that he was planning to introduce legislation for ‘hate crimes’ by the end of this year.

This was despite the fact that police had said that many of the attacks were not based on race but on ‘opportunity’ - people travelling on their own at night. Many of the attacks were by members of other ethnic groups.

Mr Hulls said that the proposed hate crime laws would cover **race, religion, gender and sexual orientation**.

The effect of ‘hate crime’ laws is that when a person is tried in court for a crime and found guilty the judge has to take into account the relevant ‘characteristics’ of the victim when sentencing the perpetrator.

Our response is that a crime is a crime

- assault, murder and robbery are wrong regardless of who the victim is. All people should be treated equally by the law. And judges already consider motives when sentencing. Hate crime laws divide the community and set up particular classes of victims.

Christian groups in the USA are concerned that ‘vilification’ laws concerning speech could also be included in ‘hate crime’ laws - or be added later. We already have a vilification law in Victoria based on the race and religion of the victim. The homosexuals have been asking for a vilification law based on sexual orientation - as well as ‘hate crime’ laws. Will Rob Hulls also add vilification laws based on sexual orientation?

ACTION: Ask Victoria’s MPs NOT to support hate crime laws or vilification laws based on sexual orientation. Please write to the Premier John Brumby, Opposition Leader Ted Baillieu and Nationals leader Peter Ryan. Also write to your MP in the Legislative Assembly and your five MPs in the Legislative Council. Send letters to Parliament House, Melbourne, Vic 3002.

Website: Encouraging note from Germany

We are currently preparing a new, updated website. We expect to have the new website up and running within a couple of months.

The website contains a lot of information: contact details for MPs, information on issues and current campaigns and more.

Recently we received this encouraging email from Germany:

Your website has made me realize what I miss about most Christian sites I know that address the efforts of Christians in politics and society and challenge them to get involved: you have links to the major

political parties, a good overview of who is elected when for what purpose and you encourage people to do research and make up their own mind, not just listen to what you say and how you judge.

Thank God Australians have such a great tool at their disposal! I pray that many people use your site for the benefit of their country and I wish we had a similar effort going on in Germany.

Just wanted to say that and encourage you to keep going. You guys are great!”

Have you checked out our website lately?

Memories

by John Hompot

There are two main views of abortion in the world today. One is that it is simply a medical procedure. The other is that it is murder in the eyes of God. Many say that abortion results in one dead child and one wounded mother. But I believe there is more to it than that.

My first memorable experience on arriving in Australia in 1968 was in a migrant facility in Newcastle, where I was given a cup of tea with milk in it and a sweet biscuit which I dipped into it. Now, almost 40 years later, I can still remember how good it tasted following our long, uncertain journey half way around the planet.

I was the eldest of five children in a family of seven. We arrived in Australia aboard the Italian ship *Achille Lauro*. We had no possessions except the clothes we were wearing and what we could fit into a couple of suitcases - and of course we didn't speak any English.

As the eldest of the children I guess I assumed an unconscious responsible role in the family. I learned the language reasonably well, even though school was very difficult for me and I found it hard to feel welcome. But school was not for me and by age fifteen I was out working. I bought my dad a car and saved enough to put down a deposit on a small weatherboard house in which we lived in Dandenong until we (the five siblings) all married and left home.

Little did I know that, thirty five years later, I would hear the most disturbing words from my Mother as she told me that about a year after arriving in Australia she had had an abortion. As she told me, she broke

down and wept uncontrollably. I had never seen my mother like this before. She had always been a hard working woman and she made sure we never lacked anything. But on confessing the abortion she said that she had killed one of her children. A few months later she died.

Besides the many family photographs that she cherished she had a painting of Mary Magdalene kneeling in the presence of Jesus. She never attended school and was illiterate all her life; she only learned how to crudely write basic shopping lists and notes. My father only had 4 years of primary schooling and all his life performed the most difficult labouring jobs. My Mother came from a non Christian family and had five sisters; but in defiance of her family she took herself to church at age nine all by herself. I remember her telling me that she would

look forward to the sermons on Sunday mornings.

After my Mother told me about the abortion, my thoughts would often return to the discussion. I tried to piece together and make some sense of why she may have had the abortion. I tried to search scripture - I would pray for guidance and wonder whether God had saved the soul of my faceless brother or sister.

I soon realised that, as the eldest child, I had again assumed responsibility, this time for the abortion. I began to wonder why I wasn't there to prevent the abortion and I began to have dreams and on several occasions in a dream I would visit a place that appeared to be like heaven and saw



thousands of faceless angels there. In one of these dreams, as I came into the presence of these faceless angels, one of the angels appeared to take the lead and came toward me, embraced me and said "I forgive you". Following this experience I realised that we don't know what the face of Jesus really looks like.

At times I wept so badly that for a time I thought I might not be able to stop. The

entire experience was very disturbing and at the same time very healing. I also found myself writing words which I later fashioned into a song called "Here I Am" and wrote a totally new verse to "Jesus Loves Me" which will both be available soon on DVD, God willing.

John is one of our readers - We thank him for sharing his personal story.

VIC: Exceptions to the EO Act - Submissions

Submissions to the review of exceptions to Victoria's Equal Opportunity Act are due SOON! If you live in Victoria (or if you live elsewhere and want to send in a submission) PLEASE send a submission/letter to the Review by **JULY 10, 2009**.

The Review, being done by the parliament's Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee (SARC) is comparing the Equal Opportunity Act to the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. The aim is to see if the exceptions meet the 'demands' of the Charter. This 'examination' of legislation is another reason for not supporting a federal Charter of Rights!

Points to include (use your own words):

* Concern about the nature of anti-discrimination laws. Allowing exceptions doesn't improve bad laws!

* Exceptions for religious schools ensure they can operate according to the beliefs of the group. Religious schools, churches and religious bodies need to be able to act according to their beliefs. They should be able to specify that they DO NOT employ homosexuals or people living in *de facto* relationships.

Email submissions to andrew.homer@parliament.vic.gov.au or post to Carlo Carli MP, Chairperson, Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee, Parliament of Victoria, Melbourne 3000.

2009 Annual Dinner

Guest Speakers: Tom Gordon & Shirley Baskett

'Life Changing Decisions'

Tom and Shirley will share their individual journeys out of homosexuality and testify to the wonderful healing Grace of God.

Date: Saturday 12 September 2009

Where: The Quest, 137 Mountain Hwy, Wantirna (Mel 47F9)

Cost: \$50 per person, \$95 per married couple

See enclosed booking form for more details or contact the Office.

Smoking, STDs and Condoms

Q: What's the best way to solve problems?

A: Deal with the behaviour causing the problems.

That's what governments have done with smoking. Once it was recognised that smoking causes lung cancer and disease, governments worked to stop people smoking and to protect people from being exposed to other peoples' cigarette smoke. They've run 'Quit' campaigns, required tobacco manufacturers to place graphic photos of lung disease on cigarette packets, banned advertising, increased taxes and restricted smoking in public places. Of course, the threat of legal action is a good motivator!

The campaign has been very effective. Smoking rates have fallen to an all-time low in Victoria according to a recent report from Anti-Cancer Council Victoria: 14.7% for women and 18.5% for men. People aged 18-29 are still the most likely to smoke, with 22.3% 'regularly smoking'. Perhaps these young people think they won't be the ones who will be 'affected'.

Let's compare the situation regarding sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Across the nation there is a disturbing increase in the number of STDs.

What would be the best way to deal with such a problem?

Telling young people about STDs and the consequences of promiscuous sexual activity would be a good start. Then, they might urge people to change their habits and not engage in sex outside of marriage.

That's not the approach the federal government is taking to stop the increasing spread of STDs. They've launched the

(STIs) Prevention Campaign'.

The first thing to note is the change in language. For some years we've observed the use of the politically correct word 'infections'. Perhaps it doesn't sound as bad as having a 'disease' - so we now have STIs and the word 'transmitted' has been changed to 'transmissible' to soften the message.

The program will cost \$9.8 million and is aimed at countering the rise in chlamydia, HIV/AIDS, and syphilis. The campaign website does give descriptions of various STDs. However, the emphasis is on the use of condoms: ads in magazines and ads in toilets all promote this message. The slogan for the campaign is **"STIs are spreading fast: Always use a condom"**.

Doctors have been sent letters to alert them to the campaign - they've been asked to promote the use of condoms to patients who they know are sexually active.

Principals of all secondary schools have been sent information and resources - including a wheel fact sheet, condom negotiation pocket cards and a classroom guide to assist teachers on using the resources within their existing sexual health programs.

'Condom negotiation pocket cards'? Yes, cards for young people to hand to a potential sex partner to ask them to use a condom!

The campaign website is <http://www.sti.health.gov.au/internet/sti/publishing.nsf/Content/home-1>

ACTION: Please write to Health Minister, Nicola Roxon, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600. Express your concern about the promotion of condoms to try and solve the problem of sexually transmitted diseases rather than encouraging young people to change their behaviour.



Reality TV sinks to a new low

Read the following.... and try and guess where it was written.

“Reality TV gets even more shameless.

A few weeks back, we told you about a new reality show where employees would vote to fire one of their own - so we assumed it really couldn't get any worse than that. Unfortunately, we were wrong.

MTV has commissioned a new reality show called *Fashion Strip*, in which teen girls style outfits and then strip out of them before an audience. The best (or worst) part? If they dress poorly, they will literally be dropped down a chute. Seriously - you couldn't make this stuff up if you tried...

As with most reality TV these days, we don't know whether to laugh or cry.”

No it wasn't a Christian group complaining about the loss of morality.

This was on the *Cosmopolitan* website. Yes, the magazine that has promoted liberal attitudes to sex and relationships.

It marks an interesting turn of events when even secular magazines think things are getting so bad that they complain about this sort of behaviour.

Whilst some people commenting on the articles supported the show, others expressed concern, such as, “The people that create these shows need to get a life and a conscience” and “I'm over the stupid reality TV these days. I wish the Government would ban it” and “It is not only the organisers to be blamed, no people with morals would go to that sort of show. We all know what happens there.”

Aren't we supposed to be the SALT & LIGHT? Have we really let things get that bad that even the world is complaining about itself? Sadly, YES!



Vodafone Ad

Vodafone's current ad campaign features the slogan 'Make the most of now'.

The ads say they want to “inspire us to make the most of now, to act now and not put things off.”

The ad features a range of out-there activities. A woman walks up to a man on a railway station platform and kisses him, a young man working in a supermarket picks up the intercom and announces that he is quitting his job and so on.

The offensive aspect of the ad?

A minister or priest is shown standing at the door of a church

handing out condoms to the congregation as they leave.

Given the stance of Christianity on sexual relationships, this is a deliberate attack on Christianity.

ACTION:

Please write to Vodafone, asking them not to portray the church in this way and to remove this segment from their ad.

Write to: The CEO, Vodafone Australia, PO BOX 2580, Kingston Delivery Centre, Kingston, TAS 7050.



Who is my MP? What electorate am I in?

People often ask us how they can find out what federal and state electorates they are in. Others want to know who their MPs are or how the voting system works.

We have information on our website under 'Parliaments/MPs' that will help you: See <http://www.saltshakers.org.au/html/P/13/B/0/>

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) also provides a lot of data...



Electoral Pocketbook

The 2009 Electoral Pocketbook has just been published by the Australian Electoral Commission. It provides a quick reference guide to the last federal election (2007) that includes enrolment figures, data on types of votes, formality of votes, final results, and even election funding. At 200 pages, it also contains historical information about Australia's electoral system and the processes involved including an explanation of parliamentary representation, redistributions and vote counting.

It also has a list of all MPs, along with their electorates and political party.

Why not obtain a copy.? You can get the Electoral Pocketbook in pdf form:

<http://www.aec.gov.au/pdf/pocketbook/electoral-pocketbook-2007-revised-april2009.pdf> (729 KB).

- OR you can ask for a pdf copy on CD - email mailboxeducation@aec.gov.au
- OR they have a 'limited number' of printed copies - phone 13 2326 to ask for one!

Finding your electorate:

The AEC has a special website that enables you to verify your enrolment details.

Go to this link - <https://oevf.aec.gov.au/>

Type in your name and address. Click "Verify Enrolment" and your federal and state electorate details will be shown as well as your local government details.

Then print it out for future reference!

If you don't have the internet, you can phone the AEC on 13 23 26 and ask for the details - electorate and/or MPs. Have a pen and paper ready to write them down.

Bushfire Relief Fund - Thank you!

After enquiries from supporters of Salt Shakers, as to a fund that was going to direct their donations specifically to Christian groups, we decided to open our Bushfire Relief Fund. The response was immediate and \$16,064-15 was donated.

We decided to give the money to three churches in the Marysville area which are struggling to rebuild their communities as well as minister to the traumatized people around them, and a Christian drug rehabilitation centre in Kinglake which was

burnt out and is now raising funds to begin again on a new property (in Gippsland).

The recipients of the funds are very thankful for the assistance and will keep us informed of their progress as they rebuild their ministries.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this fund, the disbursements are now complete and the fund is closed. This was a wonderful example of the Community of the Body of Christ.

Prayer Update

All the issues we are asking you to pray about are ongoing and require our constant prayers...

* **The many people still suffering from Black Saturday Fires**

* **Financial crisis**

* **Federal Budget** - which is still being debated in Parliament.

* **Bill of Rights consultation** - continuing although submissions are now closed.

* **Persecuted Christians**

* **The Church in Australia**

* **All members of both State and Federal parliaments**

Please especially add to your prayer list **Senator Steve Fielding**. One commentator suggested that Steve has had a "Damascus

Road experience' over climate change. Indeed, we were very happy to see him challenge the 'global warming' rhetoric and ask for 'evidence'.

This, is unpopular, and we need to pray for boldness, wisdom and perseverance for him to continue to ask the hard questions.

* **Pray for Peter Costello**

Last month he announced that he will leave politics at the next election. Pray that he will follow God's leading as he plans his future.

* **Pray for the farmers of the nation**

Some rain has fallen but it can be too much or too little or at the wrong time.

Please pray for the right amount of rain at the right time to give a good harvest that will help the farmers get back on their feet financially after a number of bad years.



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

Our Board

We rarely mention our hard working Board or our long suffering parents in this Journal. The former work hard behind the scenes to keep us operating and the latter are deliberately kept out of the picture for their own 'safety'.

Right now though, there are big prayer issues for both groups.

Some of our Board members are under great stress because of the financial crisis - one

couple are running their own business and another couple are self-funded retirees. One of our Board is also currently undergoing medical treatment for a serious problem.

Jenny's mother has been in hospital during the past month and Peter's mother, who is 98, has had continuing health issues since breaking her hip joint earlier in the year.

Please pray for all these people: for all our Board and family members, and for Peter and Jenny as they deal with these personal matters as well as the issues they monitor.

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

UK: Free speech and homosexuality

In Victoria, we are currently seeing attempts by the government to modify - or remove - exceptions in the Equal Opportunity Act. When the Racial and Religious Tolerance Act was debated and passed, some religious groups and churches said 'it will be OK so long as you give us an exception'.

But exceptions can always be changed or removed! The UK is currently seeing a classic case of '*Pass the law with an exception - then REMOVE the exception*'.

Last year the UK government passed the **Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008**. It included an offence of "inciting hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation". This is the same wording used for various 'vilification' laws.

During the debate, Lord Waddington successfully inserted a free speech clause into that Act to ensure that criticism of homosexuality would not be considered as an 'offence' under the Act.

The clause reads "*In this Part, for the*



avoidance of doubt, discussion or criticism of sexual conduct or practices or the urging of persons to refrain from or modify such conduct or practices is not to be taken of itself to be threatening or intended to stir up hatred."

Now, even before the Bill has come into force, the UK government is attempting to REMOVE the free speech provision: the government has introduced the Coroners and Justice Bill - clause 61 seeks to repeal the free speech clause in the

Criminal Justice and Immigration Act!

UK group *Christian Concern for our Nation* is opposing this move by the government. They have consistently opposed vilification laws based on religion or sexuality. They've prepared a 20 page *Action and Information Pack* on the issue: http://www.ccfon.org/docs/Information_and_Action_Pack_on_the_Coroners_and_Justice_Bill.pdf

Please pray that the free speech clause regarding 'sexual orientation' is maintained.

Recent research on homosexuality & children

Over the years homosexual advocates have done research into homosexuality and same-sex parenting.

Child Abuse

In 2008, a group of researchers from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a chapter in a book called *Unequal Opportunity* that documented the high rates of sexual abuse among "men who have sex with men (MSM)."

The researchers analysed and reported on data from 17 different studies from the past 15 years. They found the rates of childhood sexual abuse (which they abbreviate as

CSA) for men who have sex with men range from 11.8% to 37.0%, and note that "the best-designed studies tend to converge on CSA prevalence of 15% to 25%."

Homosexual identity of children

A recent *World Net Daily* article published research by Dr Trayce Hansen who analysed studies of same sex parenting. She found that children brought up by homosexual parents are 4-10 times more likely to be homosexual themselves. She also noted that the 'summaries' of the research studies didn't mention these results or actually said there were no differences.

World News

USA: same-sex 'marriage'

California - The Supreme Court has upheld Proposition 8 and left the definition of marriage in California's Constitution as decided by 7 million voters last November.

The Court ruled early in 2008 that same-sex marriages were legal but this was overturned by the referendum (Proposition 8). Homosexual activists appealed to the Supreme Court, asking them to dismiss 'Proposition 8' but the court has refused. Already homosexual activists are saying they want another referendum and may take it to the US Supreme Court!

New Hampshire - On 2 June New Hampshire became the sixth US state to allow same sex 'marriage'. The Bill passed both houses and was signed by the Governor.

New York - The State Assembly, passed a same-sex 'marriage' Bill on 12 May. The Bill, which passed 89-52, then went to the upper house. Gov David Paterson has said he'd sign a same-sex 'marriage' law if it is passed by the Senate. [CWN, 18/5/2009]

UN and abortion

The United Nations committee that monitors compliance with the **Convention Against Torture** has declared that Nicaragua's full protection of fetal life violates the country's obligations under the Convention. The Committee said the 2006 legislation, which bans all abortions, was equivalent to government commissioned "torture" or at least "cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment" banned by the Convention.

This is the fourth UN committee to put pressure on Nicaragua to change their

abortion laws. [Life News, 28/5/2009]

None of these treaties mentions abortion!

USA: Abortion

Christian leaders have denounced the murder of abortionist Dr George Tiller.

The president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Albert Mohler, said, "Violence in the name of protesting abortion is immoral, unjustified and horribly harmful to the pro-life cause. "Murder is murder. The law rightly affirms that the killing of Dr George Tiller is murder. In this we must agree. We cannot rest however until the law also recognizes the killing of the unborn as murder. The killing of Dr George Tiller makes that challenge all the more difficult."



UK: Schools and homosexuality

A Catholic school in the UK, St Cecilia's Primary School, says it has been given legal advice that it cannot sack its' principal, Charles Coyne. The school wanted to sack him because he recently entered into a 'civil partnership' with his male partner, whom he lives with!

This is the sort of situation schools in Victoria may face if the exceptions for religious schools are removed from the state's Equal Opportunity Act.

USA: Bible banned

A Denver judge has ruled that the mother of a kindergarten child cannot read the Bible during 'show and tell', even if the Bible is the boy's favourite book! [AP, 2/6/2009]

UK: Nurse sacked

Another story of persecution from the UK: a nurse with more than 40 years experience was sacked for suggesting - in a role play at a training seminar - that a troubled elderly couple attend church to relieve stress! [CCFON, 26/5/2009]

Ministry News

Plans are well under way for our visits to both Bendigo and Perth, WA.

If you live in the Bendigo area please book the date for our Worldview school - August 15. It will commence at 9.30am and finish at 5pm. The cost is \$25 single and \$5 per extra family member. Please contact the office to book. We hope to do the same in Perth in November - more details next month.

Salt Shakers' financial year is from July to June. We are currently looking at our Budget for 2009/10. Please pray for wisdom as we go through this process. Our Board AGM will be held in August and our financial

statement will be available after that.

We closed our Bushfire appeal at the start of June (see page 16). We spoke at Mt Cathedral Baptist Church on June 28, which is based at Buxton, just a short distance from Marysville where many of the church folk lived. It has been a real joy to share with them and see their strength in the Lord.

Our IT consultant advised us a while back that our main office server, the hub of our computer and internet operations, was starting to groan and grow weary. We alerted our E-News list about this and the need for \$3,400 to upgrade our system and within a few days we had covered the cost! God is Good! And he often relies on us mere mortals to hear his voice and respond - Thank you.

ACTION checklist:

Page	Topic	Action / People to write to	Done
6	Tas/Qld/SA - various	Write to MPs / Premier / Opposition Leader)	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Census and 'marriage'	ABS, PM Kevin Rudd, Sen Sherry, local MP	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Prostitution - Tasmania	Tasmanian MPs; Premier, AG, Opp Leader	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Victoria - Hate crimes	Vic MPs (1 + 5); Premier, Opp Leader, Nats	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	VIC - Exceptions to EO	Submission by July 10, 2009	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Condoms/STD campaign	Nicola Roxon, Health Minister	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Vodafone Ad	Write to Managing Director, Vodafone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tick the box as you complete the task

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

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

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

All administration and financial matters

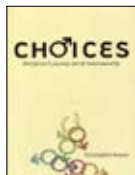
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Our office is located at: Suite 4, 675 Boronia Rd, Wantirna, Vic. 3152

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



New

Choices - One man's journey out of homosexuality

Special offer \$25

by Chris Keane

Understand the struggle and share the journey to find true love through the healing and restoring Grace of Jesus Christ.

This compelling journey will challenge your perceptions of homosexuality and help equip you to minister to those who too often only see the church as condemning and judgemental.



A Christian Pocket guide to Islam, Patrick Sookhdeo

\$8

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



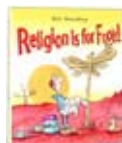
Praying for the GOVERNMENT by Derek Prince

\$6

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

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

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



Religion is for fools - by Bill Medley

\$9

This is a great evangelism tool.

A former comedian and religious skeptic, Bill Medley examines objections to religion in a humorous and surprisingly clever way. He shares his discovery that faith is more than how one feels about it - what matters is whether or not it is true. Bill is now a Christian.



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

Patrick Sookhdeo gave the 2009 Leonard Buck Annual lecture in Missiology at BCV

This CD provided an excellent overview of Islam around the world - 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.

CDs of the lecture are now available \$8

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

All prices include GST - Prices as at July 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.

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