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- Islam as the model for refugee law
- Study on care of children
- Honouring Fathers
- Polygamists demand multi-sex marriage
- Dr Tracey Hansen and homosexual parenting

Mr Obama endorses homosexuality - again!

Wednesday, 08 July 2008 17:43

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Editorial

On July 10 we launched our new web site. We are very grateful to Nathan Keen who worked for many weeks to set it up and to Jenny who oversaw the detail and re-edited many of the pages taken from our old site.

We trust you will find it both informative and useful in helping you *Make A Difference*.

The front page contains quick links to current campaigns, latest news and many other key pages. There is a quick link to help find your own MPs, to sign up for our E-News Updates and to make a donation.

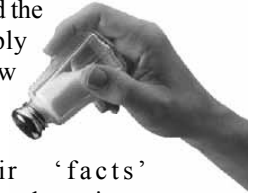
With more than 450 'pages' it has been a huge task and when something evolves over many years it is easy to forget just how much information is there. It is also increasingly difficult to keep it all up-to-date. So it will be some time yet before we can say the process of change is completed. If you find something that is out of date or a link that does not work, please email us.

Over recent months we have been sending out more Media Releases. We have signed up with a national media distribution system.

Following a Media Release and E-News email we sent opposing homosexual access to IVF and surrogacy we found out how efficient our system is because we received a surprising number of emails from people who did not agree with us.

We have since been conversing with a number of homosexuals via email and it is interesting to note the number of times the same tired phrases and theological errors are thrown at us. Yet when we try to engage with them, as we always do, and ask for clarification of their stated 'facts' and for positive reasons why homosexuality should be normalised, the silence is golden. Well, almost. If they do respond they

almost always avoid the question and simply proceed to throw another straw man into the debate.



So many of their 'facts' can be tracked back to incorrect information contained on numerous pro-homosexual websites.

I had one homosexual tell me that the Bible condones incest between a mother and son because Adam and Eve only had two sons. I didn't know what had prompted the statement until I discovered that very same statement on a lesbian website.

What a pity they don't do their research, but the old saying is still true today, 'don't let the truth get in the way of a good story'.

All they had to do was turn to Genesis 4:5 which states, "After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters." Yes, by today's standards there seems a problem of sibling incest, but a little more research in the Old Testament can easily answer that one too.

Peter said in 1 Peter 3:15 "always be ready to give a defence to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you." But because people so often simply trot out what others have said, we need also to be ready to ask those great questions Greg Koukl, of Stand To Reason (str.org), taught at Summit Worldview school: "What do you mean by that" and "How did you come to that conclusion?"

We will often find they have no idea what they really mean and have to admit they simply "read it somewhere".

We need to know the answers, but it also helps to know where the questions come from and if they are genuine. We trust our new website will help you do that.

Yours, in His service
Peter and Jenny Stokes

Beyond same-sex Marriage

by Peter Stokes

"I am in a relationship with one partner of 15 years, who has another partner of 10 years, and I have another partner of 3 years who has been married for 20 years"

Three years ago we wrote an article called *'Beyond Marriage'* because a new website with that name had appeared in the USA. It specifically promoted the idea that if you could give legal recognition to a relationship between two men or two women then why not three men, two women and a man or a man and three women, etc.

Since then a number of countries have legalised same-sex relationships, including two States and a Territory in Australia. Some countries have even given full marriage rights, totally ignoring the idea that this was the thin end of the wedge.

A few months ago, when the US state of New Hampshire legalised homosexual 'marriage', one of the first groups to complain was a polyamory group called **Pro-Polygamy** - they again stated the obvious - that it was discriminatory to give same-sex couples legal recognition but not legally recognise their multi-person relationships.

A few days later my attention was drawn to the statement at the head of this article. It was in an article 'promoting' polyamory in Australian lesbian magazine, *Cherrie*. Then, just a couple of weeks later **polyamory** was being 'promoted' not in a homosexual magazine, but in the mainstream *Age* newspaper's *Sunday Life* magazine.

That *Age* article contained no condemnation of the relationships; it simply described three polyamorous relationships. Among the highlighted phrases was this, "There is a degree of love and care in polyamorous relationships that I have never found in monogamous relationships."

Once upon a time these people would have been called promiscuous or worse, but not today! Now, group relationships are commonly called *polyamory* and some of their advocates are mounting campaigns to legalise **polygamy** - the legal recognition of multiple partner relationships.

Is this just a fad - a passing phase?

If you thought the push to redefine marriage would stop at same-sex couples, think again, because 'progressive' thought about sexuality and relationships actually has no boundaries. Why should it? Once you move away from "God created them male and female..." anything goes.



It did not take me long to discover that polyamory groups were indeed active in Australia. **PolyVic** describes itself as, "A social and support group for Victoria's polyamorous community". They also state, "Polyamory is the practice of honest, open, ethical multiple relationships."

Gauging by the growing media attention, and the statements of advocates for polyamory, it has all the hallmarks of the push to legalise same-sex relationships. There are indeed clear connections between the promotion of homosexuality and the promotion of polyamory.

Remember the key to normalising homosexual sex and same-sex relationships has consistently been - "this is who we are, it's our **IDENTITY**, our orientation". So when you read, "*One way of looking at it is to consider polyamory as an identity, a way of being that guides a person's ideas about love*", you start to see the connection.

Polyamorous NYC is a New York based organization “designed to nurture a prosperous polyamorous community in New York City”.

On November 15, 2007, they held a “Poly ‘Pride’ Weekend” in Central Park. “What brings us together,” they said, “is our shared interest in long-term, romantically-committed, multiple-partner relationships.”¹ Then this, “Polyamory is just as much an orientation as being gay.”¹

Then this, “Polyamory is a fairly new word. The definition is currently very fluid.”

Orientation, pride, fluid, all terms used by the homosexual lobby are now used to define polyamory.

As we saw in my article in our April 2009 Journal, some homosexuals who call themselves Christians rely on ‘identity/orientation’ - “this is who I am and who God made me” - to justify their homosexuality. I wondered how long it would be before we hear a ‘Christian’ claim a polyamorous ‘identity or orientation’ to justify a multi ‘partner’ relationship. Then I read this on a ‘liberal Christian’ web site: “*Promoting Positive Intimacy and Sexuality Including Responsible Non-monogamy or Polyamory as a legitimate CHOICE for Christians and others*”¹²

In the Netherlands, one of the first countries to give marriage rights to homosexuals, polyamory or polygamous ‘marriage’ has been legalised in all but name. In September 2005 the union of three ‘partners’ was registered. The media reported that, “*Victor de Bruijn “married” both Bianca and Mirjam in a ceremony before a notary who duly registered their civil union.*”

Notice how they say a ‘civil union’ and refer

to it as ‘marriage’. Yet, actually, it was a “cohabitation contract”. Clearly the media don’t see a great deal of difference.

Interestingly, in recent months a number of groups have stepped up their campaigns to change the marriage laws here in Australia with momentum directed towards the Labor Party National Conference (July 30-Aug 1). Pressure is also mounting within the ALP itself to change the Party policy to support same-sex marriage.

Notice how they say ‘civil union’ and refer to it as ‘marriage’. Yet, actually, it was a “cohabitation contract

Labor has consistently stated it will not allow same-sex ‘marriage’ but they are promoting State-based Relationship Registers’, unfortunately supported by certain Christian groups.

But for how long will/can the ALP hold out when their stated reason is simply “tradition”? We all know how rapidly ‘traditions’ can change, especially in politics. Penny Wong gives us a clue when she

was asked on the ABC’s *Q & A* on July 31 2008 why she, as an open lesbian, wasn’t pushing the government to allow same-sex ‘marriage’ rights. She simply asserted that the “community” didn’t support more than what the ALP was already doing.

Clearly, when they think the community are ready they will change the ‘tradition’.

Michael Vaughan, co-convener of ALP homosexual group **Rainbow Labor**, wants more. He recently told a *Sydney Morning Herald* Journalist “only three jurisdictions - Tasmania, Victoria and the ACT - have civil unions. There was a lack of consistency among the three schemes and there was no provision for civil unions in any other state or territory.”

Once again we see ‘Relationship Registers’ referred to as ‘Civil Unions’ because, to them, legal recognition is recognition,

whatever it is called. They all legally register a relationship and give virtually the same benefits as marriage. They all mimic 'civil marriage'.

So we continue to see the blurring of the lines. Not only about what is called marriage but about who should get the title, the benefits AND the normalisation that comes from legal recognition. How long before the legal lines are further blurred by also allowing multiple partner relationships to be 'registered'?

Rhiahnon Kennedy wrote in *Green Left Weekly* last year "Trying to deny any group the democratic right to marry another consenting adult is an attack on that group: it deems them lesser beings than the rest of society, and it works to reinforce a public prejudice against them."³

On an ABC talk show, hosted by Jon Faine in 2006, a Melbourne homosexual stated, "If people want to have their relationship recognised, however their relationships are founded, why should another group of people tell them that can't happen?" In the interview he specifically referred to multiple partner relationships.

So when countries enact anti-discrimination laws based on 'sexual orientation' without defining the term, as recently happened in the UK, they are not only inviting the legalisation of polygamy but telling us we cannot oppose (discriminate against) such relationships.

It is interesting to note that the founder of *PolyamorousNYC* says "he began his first polyamorous relationship at 19 with a homosexual couple." Sounds like homosexual recruitment and an excuse for group sex all rolled into one neat package!

While not all polyamory has a homosexual focus, some polyamorous relationships are 'bisexual' in nature. Others interpret it more

like 'open marriage' where each partner has multiple individual relationships.

There is also a strong 'pagan', 'new age' and eastern religious influence on polyamory - with common references to 'tantric sex'.

Summing Up

To think the push for same-sex marriage is, or could be, an end in itself, or to suggest that other people with different 'sexual deviancies' would not also claim their 'rights' to legal recognition, is naive in the extreme. The activists have been telling us as much for a long time.

Our Brave New Progressive World

Paula Ettelbrick, a law professor and homosexual activist has said: "*Being queer means pushing the parameters of sex, sexuality, and family; and in the process, transforming the very fabric of society ... We must keep our eyes on the goals of providing true alternatives to marriage and of radically reordering society's view of reality.*"⁴

Some will try to say this could not really happen here in Australia, but as we have seen, there is plenty of evidence to show it is being promoted.

One danger here is, will some in the church use the same reason they used to agree to the legal recognition of same-sex relationships - that of 'justice' - to accept polygamous relationships? There are Australian polyamory advocacy groups active here and with a growing Muslim population and their belief in up to 4 wives the pressure will come to expand the legal recognition of multi-person relationships.

Our Brave New Progressive World continues to slip down the slope to ever increasing decadence and moral bankruptcy.

References: ¹ <http://www.poly-nyc.com/>

² <http://www.libchrist.com/index.html>

³ <http://www.resistance.org.au/samesexmarriage>

⁴ <http://www.aim.org/wls/author/paula-ettelbrick/>

News & Action

NSW same-sex adoption

Some months ago we asked you to make submissions to an inquiry being held into adoption by same-sex couples in NSW.

The Inquiry was conducted by the NSW Parliament's Law and Justice Committee. They released their report in early July 2009. The Committee, by a margin of four to three, urged the government to allow adoption for same-sex couples.

The Committee acknowledged the concerns of Christians regarding adoption agencies and recommended that faith-based adoption agencies be allowed to refuse same-sex couples. However they said that these agencies should be obliged to refer them to services that could assist them.

ACTION: Please write to NSW MPs and ask them not to allow adoption by same-sex couples. NSW voters, you have ONE member in the Legislative Assembly - however you need to contact ALL the Members of the Legislative Council. Also write to Premier Nathan Rees and Opposition Leader Barry O'Farrell.

MP Details: <http://www.saltshakers.org.au/take-action/parliamentmps/80-new-south-wales>

Update: Charter of Rights

More than 40,000 submissions were made to the National Consultation on Human Rights. This was a huge number. A big 'Thank You' to everyone who made a submission or wrote a letter.

The Committee, led by Frank Brennan, is now considering the submissions and preparing a Report. The Committee was asked to report to the Australian Government by 31 August 2009 "on the issues raised and

the options identified for the Government to consider to enhance the protection and promotion of human rights."

Due to the workload, they've now been given an extension - to the end of September.

Committees deliberating

The *Freedom of Religion and Belief* Inquiry is still considering submissions.

In Victoria, the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee is considering the 1000+ submissions they received about exceptions in the Equal Opportunity Act.

SA: Equal Opportunity Bill

The government's proposed changes to South Australia's Equal Opportunity Bill were debated in July. All the proposed amendments by Family First - to remove the changes that Christians opposed - were successful. A 13,000 signature petition was co-ordinated as well. Well done!

Channel Ten loses advertising

Channel Ten has announced a 36.6 per cent drop in earnings for the year to date and said it would not pay a final dividend for the fiscal year 2009. Ten's earnings in the nine months to May 31, 2009 were \$128 million, down from \$201.9 million in the prior corresponding period. Channel Ten said their TV advertising revenue was down considerably. [SMH, 24/6/2009]

That got us wondering...

More than 60 advertisers told Channel Ten they didn't want their ads on *Californication* last year. Some companies were upset that TEN had placed their ads during *Californication* despite specific instructions not to have their ads in the program.

Could that have influenced advertising revenue?

Ten's recent program *Masterchef* was very popular. Perhaps they should do more 'nice' programs like *Masterchef* than sleazy ones like *Californication* and *Big Brother!*

Senate Inquiry: same-sex 'marriage'

The Greens have proposed a law to legalise same-sex 'marriage'. Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young introduced a private Senator's Bill on June 24, 2009.

The Bill, called the **Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009**, "seeks to remove all discrimination from the Marriage Act 1961 on the basis of sexuality and gender identity and to permit marriage regardless of sex, sexuality and gender identity."

This is not new for the Greens - but this time the Senate sent the Bill to an Inquiry by the **Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee**.

The Committee is inviting the public to make submissions – in other words to tell them what we think.

If passed, the Bill would allow same-sex couples to marry. We need to tell the Senate that marriage is between a man and

a woman and we do not want the Marriage Act amended.

ACTION: Please send a submission/letter opposing any changes to the Marriage Act. At the time of sending to the printer, the closing date for submissions had not been posted on the Committee's website. On enquiring, we were told it was to be 31 July - but that the Committee may give an extension when Senators return to Parliament in August. So please send your submission ANYWAY! The reporting date is 26 November 2009.

Inquiry website: http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/legcon_ctte/marriage_equality/info.htm

Email to legcon.sen@aph.gov.au
OR post to Committee Secretary,
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, PO Box 6100, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600.



Euthanasia - Philip Nitschke - Tasmania

Not content with advocating euthanasia for terminally ill elderly people, euthanasia campaigner Philip Nitschke recently told a Perth meeting that he thought euthanasia should be available for 'elderly people afraid of getting old and incapacitated'.

He used the example of West Australian academic Lisette Nigot - she ended her life in 2002 because she decided that, having reaching the age of 80, she didn't want to face having her mind and body deteriorate.

[*Brisbane Times*, 8/7/2009]

This development is not really surprising. Some years ago, Nitschke actually told the US magazine *National Review Online* that the 'peaceful pill' for suicide should be available to "troubled teens". [NRO, 5/6/2001] After a public outcry he drew

back to advocating euthanasia just for terminally ill elderly people. It seems that he is again saying what he truly believes.

Tasmania

The Tasmanian Parliament sent Greens MP Nick McKim's euthanasia bill (the *Dying with Dignity Bill 2009*) to the Joint Standing Committee of Community Development.

Submissions closed on 31 July. The Committee will report by October 2, 2009.

ACTION: Tasmanians, please contact your MPs to ask them to vote against this Bill - 5 MPs in the House of Assembly and 1 in the Legislative Council. See our website for contact details: <http://www.saltshakers.org.au/take-action/parliamentmps/83-tasmania> OR phone the AEC on 12 2326.

Global Warming - Senator Fielding's challenge

By Jenny Stokes

The climate change debate is heating up as the world heads toward a major conference on climate in Copenhagen later this year.

The federal government, led by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Climate Change Minister Penny Wong, wants Australia to be seen as leaders in the field. The PM recently spoke at the G8 meeting about Australia's initiatives. The government has been pushing to get the bill for a 'Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme' passed by the federal Parliament. The Bill was passed by the House of Representatives where the government has the numbers, on June 4. However the Bill ran into problems in the Senate. The Liberal and National parties decided not to support the Bill when it was debated and have put it off until the parliament returns in August.

If the Coalition decides NOT to support the Bill the government needs the votes of two of the Independents/minor parties in the Senate to get the legislation passed.

One of those, **Senator Steve Fielding** of Family First, decided to investigate the 'science' of global warming for himself. In June he went to the *International Conference on Climate Change* in Washington DC where scientists spoke of their opposition to the notion of human-caused carbon dioxide emissions causing global warming. Steve Fielding also spoke to Australian scientists including Professor Bob Carter and Ian Plimer.

When he returned to Australia, Steve Fielding asked for an appointment with Penny Wong and her scientific advisers. He asked three questions, but didn't receive satisfactory replies.

Here are the questions:

1. *Is it the case that CO2 increased by 5%*

since 1998 whilst global temperature cooled over the same period?

If so, why did the temperature not increase; and how can human emissions be to blame for dangerous levels of warming?

2. *Is it the case that the rate and magnitude of warming between 1979 and 1998 (the late 20th century phase of global warming) was not unusual in either rate or magnitude as compared with warmings that have occurred earlier in the Earth's history?...*

3. *Is it the case that all GCM computer models projected a steady increase in temperature for the period 1990-2008, whereas in fact there were only 8 years of warming followed by 10 years of stasis and cooling? If so, why is it assumed that long-term climate projections by the same models are suitable as a basis for public policy making?*

Senator Fielding took four Australian scientists - Bob Carter, David Evans, Stewart Franks and William Kininmonth - to the meeting and asked them to provide an assessment of Penny Wong's response. They provided a brief assessment and a full Due Diligence Report. In brief, they weren't impressed with the answers provided.

When Al Gore visited Melbourne to launch Safe Climate Australia in early July, Steve Fielding was in the audience. He wanted to ask Al Gore one question: the one about CO2 rising whilst temperatures fell. No response was forthcoming.

You can read the brief assessment and the Due Diligence Report at Senator Steve Fielding's website: http://www.stevefielding.com.au/climate_change/



Number crunching and new 'GREEN' Bible!

by Peter Stokes

Can we assess the importance of issues in the Bible by the number of times they appear? We would say 'No', yet there appear to be a growing number of Christians who want to give unintended emphasis to certain words or themes based on the number of times they appear in the Bible.

One gets the distinct impression that this has more to do with promoting their own pet topic or ministry, than any real theological 'enlightenment'.

First we came across the *Poverty and Justice Bible*. Why a *Poverty and Justice Bible*? Because, according to eminent people like Bono, Campolo, Wallis and Warren, "2,000 verses in the Bible wake us up to issues of poverty and justice". So instead of Jesus' words being printed in red, 'poverty and justice' verses are highlighted in orange, just so you can't miss them!

NOW we find there is a 'GREEN' Bible.

WHY? Because while there are 490 references to Heaven and 530 to love there are over 1,000 references to "the earth"! Well that is what *they* say, and to make you want to rush out and buy it, one reviewer emphasised that it is printed using SOY based ink on recycled paper! WOW!

But before you do rush to your nearest earthy book store, the price is (just!) \$49.95. But wait! You also get a series of topical essays about climate change, global warming and the environment - not written by God but by man himself, with all his wisdom!

Now let's us look at number crunching for a minute, because if the number of times a word or theme appears makes it more important we need to check this out.

Thankfully, with computers that is not too much of a time-wasting process. Of course

it depends which 'version' you chose...

The Earth- NIV 545/KJV 781/NRSV 758

Earth - NIV 733/KJV 936/NRSV 1053

The 'Green' people used the NRSV which is convenient because, it is the only one I could find with over 1,000 'earth' references.

The words *justice*, *poor* and *poverty* did not rate too highly with a combined total of - 332/248/426, yet they get a special Bible! Actually, the NRSV had more mentions of these three words than the *Contemporary English Version* which is used for the *Poverty and Justice Bible*. Seems you don't need 1,000, but when you read some of the highlighted verses in the *Poverty and Justice Bible* many of them don't seem to relate to those words either.

Interestingly, many highlighted OT verses seem to relate to God punishing 'sin', yet 'sin' is a dirty word to many of the supporters of the *Poverty and Justice Bible*, despite it rating more than 1,000 direct mentions in all three versions. In fact it has 2037 direct references in the NRSV.

What about **money** - 114/125/186 - and **judge** - 211/286/587. Judging is obviously more important than money!

Or **death /die** - 1014/856/1594 - now we are getting somewhere, perhaps we need a DEATH BIBLE? Sorry!

But wait, what about...

'GOD' - 3,930/4,094/4,674 and **'JESUS'** - 1276/942/1106? Put them together and you consistently have OVER 5,000. MORE than 5 times the number for 'the earth'!

Now there is a novel idea, we need a 'GOD' Bible, all we have to do is work out what colour it should be.

Perhaps BLACK & WHITE with NO shades of grey?



Shocking tales in sale of eggs

Your editorial, "Egg trade risks" (July 8), rightly condemns calls for women to be able to sell their eggs for stem-cell research.

Morality aside, the practice has proved disastrous in other countries. Poor women in eastern Europe have been exploited; poor women in the UK have paid for IVF treatment with their eggs; and the hyperovulation drugs used in the procedure are reported to have killed some donors.

There is a raft of horror cases associated with this racket, and no therapeutic benefit to be gained.

Superior pluripotent adult stem cells are now available, yet the Dr Strangeloves of the scientific world recognise no ethical boundaries.

J. Morrissey, Hawthorn

Herald Sun 9/7/2009

A waste of time

So gather one and all and pray to your god for peace and harmony. (Pause for peace Leader July 1)

But wait a minute, which 'god' is going to answer? The Christians say theirs is the one true God - so do the Muslims and Sikhs, but they are all very different. Then there are the millions of 'gods' worshipped by the Hindus. Can they all come together and pray without insulting each others gods?

It is situations like this, where people such as Rev. Narayans suggest that various religions pray together, that make a mockery of all religions.

If this was a practical session to try to solve any conflict issues it might be of value, but suggesting a multi-faith religious solution is a waste of time.

Peter Stokes Forest Hill Vic.

Whitehorse Leader 15/07/2007

Hoping for votes in Vatican visit

Kevin Rudd is trying to be all things to all people. For him to visit the Pope and raise the possible sainthood of Mary McKillop with him is nothing more than your writer suggests - trying to garner the Catholic vote ("St Kevin eager to hail Mary", July 7).

Hopefully, by the time of the next election, the majority of voters will have seen through this man's smokescreen, unless of course he is praying to a few of those saints he doesn't believe in.

Warwick Murphy, East Ringwood

Herald Sun 13/7/2009

And another thing...

Politicians are not keen on using the public train system but don't hesitate to take full advantage of the gravy train.

Roger Marks, Drouin

The Age 22/5/2009

Trading schemes need answers

With Kevin Rudd off saving th world from CO2, one would think that Senator Steve Fielding's questions to Climate Minister Penny Wong would have been adequately answered.

Respected Australian scientists have clearly shown the man-made global warming premise to be false, but Rudd and Labour continue to pursue ecconomy-destroying tax schemes on energy.

How can Rudd justify any CO2 emissions trading scheme when he cannot scientifically show how those emissions are causing any warming?

Jeremy Peet, Belgrave

Herald Sun 13/7/2009

Climate debate not over.

Harvey Bishop's well formulated letter,"Tough climate questions asked," (The Courier June 17) is also correct in the assertion that global warming alarmists often attack anyone's reputation who has the temerity and daring to dispute their earth worship ideology and wild climate claims. Recent instances being Jon Faine's on-air interview that became a pathetic and irresponsible personal attack on Senator Fielding's faith, as well as Ditchy's disparaging cartoon just above Harvey's letter and Green Senator Brown's sleazy gibe at the top of the same page.

This week's report (June 16) from Curtian University of Technology, WA, where researchers under Prof Gavrillov, studying the Antarctic ice shelves over the last six years, documented ice shelf stability and no signs of climate change. This received very little media exposure as it didn't support the global warming dogma.

The scientific debate is certainly not over.

For a government to impose prohibitive costs on industries, for a non pollutant CO2, at a time of severe economic stress, is simply political and economic stupidity!

David G Westaway Navigators Vic.

The Courier (Ballarat) 20/06/09

Food for thought

from Roger Fields - President of *Kidz Blitz Ministries*

I am just a little bit more focused on...

- MISSIONS than emissions.
- REDEMPTION than recycling.
- PEOPLE than pandas.
- Godly FOOTSTEPS than carbon footprints.
- GOSPEL message than glacier movement.
- GOD'S HOUSE than greenhouse.
- CULTURAL change than climate change.
- HOLY character than hybrid cars.
- SALVATION message than solar management.
- EVANGELISM than environmentalism.
- CONVERSION than conservation.

- RESURRECTION power than renewable energy.
- MOVING mountains than protecting mountains.
- OBEDIENCE depletion than ozone depletion.
- GOD'S PEACE than Greenpeace.
- SIN pollution than air pollution.
- FAITH than fuel.
- WHETHER people change than change in the weather.
- ETERNAL warming than global warming.
- RED than green.
- Environmentalism has a place, just not FIRST place.

Used with permission

It's a crazy world!

The world does seem to be getting crazier by the day! Here's a small sample...

* Australia's Professor Loane Skene proposed that **women should be PAID to donate eggs** for embryo stem cell research. She said if they had to take drugs and have surgery then they should be paid!

* UK scientists have announced that they have created **human sperm** from embryonic stem cells. One ethicist pointed out that they are creating life (making an embryo) to destroy it (when obtaining the embryonic stem cells) to try and create life (with the resulting sperm)!

* The Australian Family Court in Australia has ruled on a case involving a 44 year-old lesbian woman and her 3 year-old child. The mother's former partner, who is 65 and has a history of mental illness and self-harm, sought 'equal shared parental responsibility'. The mother had the child through IVF when they were not together and they only lived together for a year!

The Court refused, saying the woman wasn't a 'parent' - but on appeal the Full Bench ruled that the older woman can have weekly access to the child and extra time on significant occasions!

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

Please note: there will be no prayer meeting on August 6 and 13

Hate Speech

By Dr Lachlan Dunje

Just a few weeks ago the Salvation Army apologised over a newspaper advertisement that outraged sex workers and withdrew the advertisement.

Unbelievable?

You had better believe it.¹

The *Scarlet Alliance* protested about an advertisement that told the story of a former male prostitute, alleging it encouraged community discrimination against legal prostitution and capitalised on stigma against sex workers.

Where are we going?

"I recovered from prostitution".

Hate speech and encouraging discrimination against sex-workers.

"Once I was a homosexual."

Hate speech, encouraging homophobia and discrimination against those who choose a homosexual life-style.

"... now I'm married with a loving wife and family."

Hate speech, encouraging homophobia and discrimination against and stigmatisation of families with two mummies or two daddys.

"Once I was living in sexual immorality and sin - now I am a Christian and God has delivered me from all that."

Hate speech with the implication that those who choose sexual freedom are somehow bad.

"I recovered from drug addiction".

Hate speech, either encouraging discrimination against the mentally ill or those who choose a drug-taking lifestyle.

1 Cor 6:9-11 (NIV)

*"Do you not know that the **wicked** will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."*

Hate speech! Absolutely! Read it and you will be in trouble - it doesn't matter that you are quoting the Bible. Pastor

Daniel Scot got into trouble for reading from the Qur'an because it hurt the complainants' feelings.

Romans 1:24-32 (NIV)

"Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another."

They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator - who is forever praised. Amen.

"Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion."

"Furthermore, since they did not think



it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know "God's righteous decree that those who do

such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them."

Hate speech of the highest order. Read it and you will be in trouble. Preach it boldly and openly and you will be in more trouble.

Dr Lachlan Dunjey is a doctor in WA and is the founder of Medicine with Morality - see <http://www.medicinewithmorality.org.au>

References: 1. One of the reports of this is to be found at <http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,23739,25521679-953,00.html>

Update: Hate Speech and Hate Crimes

Victoria - Hate Crimes

Victorian Attorney General Rob Hulls has said he plans to bring in 'hate crimes' laws by the end of this year. These laws would specifically judge a crime on the basis of the characteristics of the victim - for instance a particular ethnic group or sexuality.

ACTION: Don't forget to write to your MPs to ask them to oppose the introduction of 'hate crimes' laws. Send your letters to your one MP in the Legislative Assembly and five MPs in the Legislative Council to Parliament House, Melbourne, Vic 3002.

Federal - Hate Speech

Homosexual groups are lobbying the federal government to introduce federal anti-discrimination and vilification laws.

ACTION: Please write to your federal MP in the House of Representatives and your 12 Senators (2 in the NT and ACT). Ask them not to introduce anti-discrimination or vilification (hate speech or hate crimes) laws based on sexuality or religion. Send your letters to Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600.

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 - 7 pm.

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.

The Pill - Demographics and Abortion

By Jenny Stokes

Often hailed as a liberating force for modern women, the contraceptive pill is not all it is made out to be. Over recent years we have written about some of the health issues arising from the use of the contraceptive pill.

But there are other factors to consider..

Demographics

The pill has also had profound effects on demographics, or population. Since the oral contraceptive pill became available women have generally had less children. In many nations the birth rate is below the replacement rate of 2.1 children per woman.

Austrian chemist Carl Djerassi, now 85 years old, was one of the creators of the synthetic progestagen *Norethisterone*, which in turn was the basis of the development of the oral contraceptive pill.

Mr Djerassi recently expressed regret at his contribution to the contraceptive pill, saying it had led to a demographic decline in Europe. He said this “horror scenario” and “catastrophe” had been brought on in part by the pill’s invention. He said, “This divide in Catholic Austria, a country which has on average 1.4 children per family, is now complete”.

Mr Djerassi said that to avert disaster each family should produce three children to maintain population levels. [CNA, 11/1/2009]

Already in Europe migration programs are being used to replace the natural population. This is rapidly leading to a vastly different Europe. In many European nations, Muslim migrants, with their larger families, are filling the void.

Here in Australia the birth rate in 2007 was 1.93 - up from 1.729 in 2001, with the rise partly attributed to the baby bonus. But this is still below the replacement rate!

Abortifacient effect

Another aspect of the use of the oral contraceptive pill is the debate over whether it can be *abortifacient*. Although the main purpose of the contraceptive pill is to prevent ovulation, it can have a secondary action - if the egg is released and is fertilised - of removing or thinning the lining of the uterus, thus inhibiting the live human embryo from implanting in the wall of the uterus. This kills the baby and thus can be seen as causing an abortion. Various medical authorities and even some manufacturers of the pill have acknowledged this possible abortifacient action of the pill.

Dr Albert Mohler, the President of the Southern Baptist Seminary in the USA has endorsed a new documentary called **28 Days on the Pill**. The film highlights the possible abortifacient action of the pill. Dr Mohler challenges Christians to seriously consider this issue, saying “For many evangelical Christians, birth control has been an issue of concern only for Catholics... THAT IS ALL CHANGING.” He encourages Christians to use natural methods of family planning in order to avoid these ethical problems.

The film is available to order online - see their website <http://28daysonthepill.com/>

Randy Alcorn, a pro-life US Christian, has written *Does the Birth Control Pill Cause Abortions?* Randy’s answer to the abortifacient question, after many years of research, is ‘yes’. Prior to coming to this conclusion, he and his wife had used the contraceptive pill. The 8th edition of his book can be downloaded (or purchased) at http://www.epm.org/books/does_the_birth_control_pill_cause_abortionsDetail.php



Prayer Update

Many of the following are ongoing issues that are of great concern to Christians. They continue to require our constant prayers...

* **Few of those who lost homes on Black Saturday** have started to rebuild yet - please pray that red tape would be eased so they can quickly re-establish their homes.

* **Many churches destroyed in the fires** have received no help from the Reconstruction Authority - they will have a hard time if extra funds are not made available.

* **The Financial Crisis** continues to create job losses and family uncertainty.

* **The National Charter of Rights** consultations are now complete. Pray that those commissioned to write the report will strongly oppose such a move.

The committee looking at **exceptions to Equal Opportunity and ant-**

Discrimination laws in Victoria is still evaluating submissions and writing its report. Again we need to pray that they will not remove existing exceptions but will also recommend a removal of many of these laws!

The committee looking at **Freedom of Religion** laws in Australia is still deliberating. Pray they will not recommend any controls or laws that would restrict religious freedom and free speech.

Senator Steve Fielding continues to challenge the 'theory of man-made global warming' - he is a lone voice in the parliament although we know other MPs and Senators who hold the same view. Pray for continued boldness, wisdom and perseverance for him to continue to ask the hard questions.

Pray that other MPs and Senators would speak out on this issue.



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



Prayer Groups for Schools

Date: Friday 4th September 2009
Time: 10 am - 1 pm
Theme: "Jesus is Lord"
Venue: Featherstone Hall
School: Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar School
Address: 34 Scott St., Canterbury, Victoria. Melways: 46 D12

Parking is restricted in the surrounding streets. Parking on the opposite side of Prospect Hill Rd is unrestricted.

All are welcome. Plan to be there. Refreshments will be provided at the conclusion.

Children are welcome under parental supervision.

Further information: contact Marilyn - 9874 5764 or pgsvic@prayergroupsforschools.net

NARTH: Changing Sexual Orientation

A comprehensive review of all the research regarding homosexuality and the effects of therapy that assists homosexuals to change an unwanted same-sex attraction has been published by NARTH – the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality.

The research concluded that it is possible to change one's sexual orientation. The research was conducted over a period of eighteen months by three of the leading academics and therapists in the field and under the direction of the NARTH Scientific Advisory Committee. The reason for doing the research was to counter the claims made by "some factions of the American Psychological Association and several other professional mental health organizations" that it is undesirable to help people change their sexual orientation.

The study was published in the peer reviewed *Journal of Human Sexuality* in June 2009. The Summary of the Report is available on the NARTH website.²

The Study is called ***What Research Shows: NARTH's Response to the APA Claims on Homosexuality.***

The Summary says: "The American Psychological Association (APA) and other mental health organizations have objected to providing psychological care to those who are distressed by unwanted homosexual attractions on a number of grounds."

"In *What Research Shows*, we offer a landscape review of more than one hundred years of experiential evidence, clinical studies, and research studies that demonstrate that it is possible for men and women to diminish their unwanted homosexual attractions and develop their

heterosexual potential; that efforts to change unwanted homosexual attractions are not generally harmful; and that homosexual men and women do indeed have substantially greater experiences of and risk factors for medical, psychological and relational pathology than do the general population. Based on our review of 600 reports of clinicians, researchers, and former clients—primarily from professional and peer-reviewed scientific journals, we conclude that reorientation treatment has been helpful to many and should continue to be available to those who seek it. Further, mental health

professionals competent to provide such care ethically may do so."

The Summary presents the findings under the following three headings:

I. There is substantial evidence that sexual orientation may be changed through reorientation therapy.

II. Efforts to change sexual orientation have not been shown to be consistently harmful or to regularly lead to greater self-hatred, depression, and other self-destructive behaviours.

III. There is significantly greater medical, psychological, and relational pathology in the homosexual population than the general population.

The full report is much more comprehensive. It is available for sale from the NARTH website at a cost of US\$15.³

The Research Paper: "What Research Shows: NARTH's Response to the APA Claims on Homosexuality."

See <http://www.narth.com/menus/journal.html> - Includes links to (1) Press Release, (2) Summary and (3) Ordering details.

**we conclude
that
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many**

Google News Archive Search

Recently we wrote about using **Google News** to search the internet for media articles published in the previous 30 days.

Google News Archive means that you can search the internet for news items from 1860 to 2009. Just go to this link - <http://news.google.com/archivesearch>

Type in some key words related to the topic you want, and click 'Search'. If a topic is only relevant after a certain date it will find articles from that date.

You can also click on 'Show Timeline' – though not always precise, it puts relevant

articles in date order.

Alternatively if you start with Google, type in the word/s you want, select 'News' on the top menu bar. Then look for the word 'Archives' in the left column and choose 'All Dates'.



Naturally many media sources only have articles from the date they started placing them online. So you won't have much success searching for a newspaper article published in

1860 - or even 1960!

However this is a great help in searching for past media articles.

Britain spends £6 million increasing teen pregnancy!

That was not the aim, of course, but that was the result. Should we be surprised?

The Government-backed scheme tried to persuade teenage girls not to get pregnant by handing out condoms and teaching them about sex.

But subsequent research, funded by the Department of Health, now shows that young women who attended the program at a cost of £2,500 each, were 'significantly' more likely to become pregnant than those on other youth programmes who were not given contraception and sex advice.

Sixteen per cent of those on the 'Young People's Development Programme' conceived compared with just 6 per cent in other programmes.

Experts who refuse to concede that teaching young people about sex and handing out condoms increases experimentation tried to suggest the "scheme failed because it introduced girls 'at risk' of becoming pregnant to promiscuous girls they might not otherwise have met. They suggested that because of peer pressure, the more timid

teenagers were more likely to have sex and become pregnant."

The programme was also designed to slash cannabis use and drunkenness among teenagers, but the same research suggests it made no difference whatsoever.

NOW, to make things worse, a UK *National Health Service* brochure, aimed at children, has suggested that young people should not only see sex as enjoyable, but do it more often!

We should not be surprised to discover that the drafter of this brochure has a close relationship with the homosexual community and has been a promoter of same-sex civil unions as a 'human right'.

There is no doubt that the infiltration of health services everywhere by such people has done a great disservice to our young people. Naturally, they say any sex, including homosexual sex, is fine, thus denying the major health problems caused by promiscuity generally and by homosexuality. Let alone the increased teen-pregnancy rate that inevitably follows.

President Obama endorses homosexuality

Last month US President Barack Obama explicitly endorsed homosexuality.

He officially commended the homosexual pride month by issuing a "Proclamation".

In that he said "LGBT [homosexual +] Pride Month, we commemorate the events of June 1969 and commit to achieving equal justice under law for LGBT Americans.

"LGBT Americans have made, and continue to make, great and lasting contributions that continue to strengthen the fabric of American society."

He went on to say "My Administration has partnered with the LGBT community to advance a wide range of initiatives. At the international level, I have joined efforts at the United Nations to decriminalize homosexuality around the world. Here at home, I continue to support measures to bring the full spectrum of equal rights to LGBT Americans. These measures include enhancing hate crimes laws, supporting civil unions and Federal rights for LGBT couples, outlawing discrimination in the workplace, ensuring adoption rights, and ending the existing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"



commitment to legislative change. He likened the fight for homosexual rights to the 1960s struggle for civil rights for black African-Americans. He said "I've called on Congress to repeal the so-called Defense of Marriage Act to help end

discrimination". This Act affirms that marriage is between a man and a woman.

Since his election Mr Obama has increasingly promoted a liberal and anti-Christian agenda. We wonder what the Christians who endorsed him prior to his election are thinking now?

References:

1. Proclamation: http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Presidential-Proclamation-LGBT-Pride-Month/
2. Mr Obama's speech at the LGBT reception: http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-at-LGBT-Pride-Month-Reception/

Faith Foundation - global interfaith program

The latest initiative of **Tony Blair's Faith Foundation** is *Face to Faith*, a global education program aimed at getting young people of all faiths 'dialoguing with each other' and 'learning from each other'.

Now it's important for us to understand what people of other faiths believe - AND to reach out to them with the gospel. Unfortunately, however, what we often find is that programs that bring young people together on a religious basis have

an underlying assumption that they will not evangelise the others. In the end it leads to an 'I have my faith and you have your faith' mentality.

Whereas what we should be doing as Christians is reaching the world with the good news that Jesus Christ is Lord, even though some might find that message offensive. But we've been warned in the Bible that the gospel will be an offence to some who hear it!

World News

India: Babies and Homosexuality

In an effort to stop the huge number of abortions of baby girls, the Indian government is offering parents a financial incentive of \$3,000 to give birth to female babies and bring them up. The money will be distributed in stages and families will be monitored. [Indep. 6/3/2009; NSWRTL]

Meanwhile the Delhi High Court in India has ruled that homosexual sex should be legalised. The court cited 'rights' such as 'equality' that are referred to in the Indian constitution and international law.

USA: Safe Schools Advocate

President Obama has appointed a homosexual activist, Kevin Jennings, as the assistant deputy secretary of education in charge of the **Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools**.

Mr Jennings is the founder of **Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network** (GLSEN), an organization that promotes pro-homosexual clubs and curricula in public schools. GLSEN runs "gay-straight alliance" clubs in high schools around the USA. GLSEN also advocates for LGBT (lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgendered) rights on school campuses. [CNS, 18/6/2009]

Kevin Jennings bio: <http://www.kevinjennings.com/blog/biography/>

UK: Teacher reinstated

London teacher Kwabena Peat has been re-instated! Last month we reported that Mr Peat was suspended from teaching and threatened with the sack because he complained that a staff training day was used to promote homosexual rights, and to

marginalise and label those who disagreed with homosexual practice.

Mr Peat was supported by the Christian Legal Centre in challenging the school's employment procedures. The school's appeals panel has now decided that the charge of 'gross misconduct' was disproportionate. Mr Peat will return to work when the new term commences in September.

UK: Reception for London Pride

The British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and his wife Sarah hosted a reception for London Pride organisers and the homosexual press at 10 Downing Street just prior to the London Pride March that was held on 4 July. Then Sarah Brown actually participated in the Pride March!

USA Episcopalian Church

Clergy and lay leaders in the US Episcopalian (Anglican) church have voted, at their General Convention, to open up "any ordained ministry" to homosexuals. This will place more pressure on the worldwide Anglican Communion.

Last month a new conservative group in the Anglican church, called the **Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans**, was set up to represent Anglicans who are dedicated to the preaching of the gospel and following the Bible and are concerned about the shift toward the acceptance of homosexuality in the Anglican church. See <http://fca.net/>

In reporting the decision, the *Los Angeles Times* wrote, "But progressives in the denomination of 2.1 million members said the move towards inclusion reflected the reality of a church that is home to many gays and lesbians with partners who belong to parishes that encourage their involvement and already bless their unions."

What a sad day for the church!



Ministry News

July 10 saw the launch of our new web site. We are grateful to Nathan for all his work on that project. He has been offered a part time job in his chosen profession and needs to get that practical experience whilst completing his University studies - so he is no longer able to work with us.

Nicole has joined our team as admin assistant to Kerrie and she will help Jenny formulate the Islam list. Some of you may not be aware that as well as our E-News email list we also have a Global Warming 'realists' (sounds better than 'sceptics'!) list and also an Islam list. Both are designed for people with a special interest in these issues and want to keep up with the latest

information on them. If you would like to receive either of these regular updates please email Jenny.

In August Jenny and Peter are taking a break for two weeks, although the laptop and email will not be far away thanks to wireless broadband.

They are running a Worldview School in Bendigo on Saturday 15, speaking to university students on Friday 14 and at the Presbyterian Church on Sunday morning.

Don't forget they are heading to Perth WA in late October for two weeks and they are available to speak at churches, home groups, men's breakfasts, ladies meetings etc. Please contact the Office for details and availability.

Please continue to uphold them and all our dedicated staff and Board in Prayer.

ACTION checklist Tick the box as you complete the task

Page	Topic	Action / People to write to	Done
6	NSW Adoption	Write to MPs / Premier / Opposition Leader	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	SA: Equal Opportunity	Write to MPs / Premier / Opposition Leader	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Senate: same-sex 'marriage'	Send submission to Inquiry	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Tasmania: Euthanasia	Write to Tasmanian MPs; Premier, Opp Leader	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Vic/Fed hate crimes/speech	Write to MPs as listed	<input type="checkbox"/>

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All administration and financial matters

P O Box 6049
 WANTIRNA Vic. 3152
 Phone (03) 9800 2855
 Fax (03) 9800 2655

Email: admin@saltshakers.org.au

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

Issues & after hours contact

Mobile: Peter 0413 084 145
 Jenny 0413 084 146

Email: peter@saltshakers.org.au
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Craving for Love - Relationship addiction, homosexuality and the God who heals

This book, by Briar Whitehead, should be compulsive reading for:

- Relationship Addicts (many of us!)
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- Pastors and Counsellors

Craving for Love will point a whole variety of people in the direction of hope and healing.



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Tough Questions, Compelling answers.

This most historically accurate film is an interactive journey that explores the evidence.

It has responses to over 50 of life's toughest questions.

It is 94 minutes long and has an additional behind the scenes look at how the film was made.



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 provides an excellent overview of Islam around the world - Patrick's 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 August 2009 Prices may change without notification - **ALL prices include postage**

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