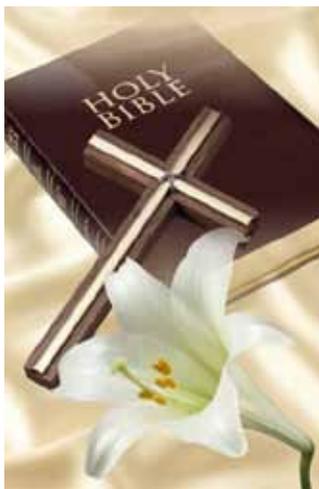


Salt Shakers

Helping Christians make a difference

“Science is the unfolding of
God’s creative word.”

Dr Neil Ryan



March 2010 AD

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Editorial

This month the atheists are in Melbourne for a 'global conference (see page 4). Whenever I [Peter] think of atheists I'm reminded of a conference I attended at the UN in New York a few years ago. As we discussed issues relating to family, one person stood up and said something like, "We humanists [atheists by another name] are interested in the family too, because this life is all there is and we want it to be the best it can be".

Early in February we said 'goodbye' to Neil Ryan, a dear friend and a member of Salt Shakers Board for over 13 years.

Because we know there is more to life than just this life here on earth, his family organised a colourful celebration rather than a sad farewell.

Neil was a very strong support to us and a great source of spiritual strength and encouragement to us and our whole team. They rarely missed our weekly 6.30 am (now 7.30am) Thursday morning prayer breakfast.

We first came to know Neil as a great prayer warrior on our regular prayer buses to the City and the Dandenongs. He was always willing to lead in spiritual battle and was a strong encourager to others to speak out their petitions to the Lord. Driven by the knowledge that 'satan roams the earth like a roaring lion' he was never afraid to roar back but always because he cared so much for those caught up with the spirit of this age.

I approached Neil and his wife Dawn to join the Salt Shakers Board at the end of a prayer bus trip in 1996 and they readily accepted. Little did I know at that time that they had stepped down from another ministry just weeks earlier, and were waiting to see what God would call them to do next. It was definitely God's timing.

Dr Neil Ryan was a world leader in the research of stress fractures in aircraft but he soon turned his



vast research capabilities towards the stress fractures in society. A society rapidly moving away from its Judeo-Christian heritage and Christian morality.

We valued the background work he did on so many issues. His copious emails, with links to research papers and issues are already being sorely missed.

The Federal Senate and other governments will be among the losers from Neil's departure – his regular submissions to them on a wide range of issues relating to faith and family were always full of wise words and sound research. Sadly, his wisdom was all too rarely reflected in the politically correct, social engineering outcomes so often adopted by today's governments.

Neil and Dawn were like a Mum and Dad to us and all those they came into contact with, regardless of age. Their focus was always on God and others before themselves.

Neil's life and his witness touched everyone he came in contact with, even through the suffering of the last few months.

He was ready to meet his maker and his Lord and we can rejoice in the assurance that his life goes on for eternity and we will see him again one day.

Our prayers and support go to Dawn and the family as they continue to live without a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. Neil will be greatly missed by us all, he was a true man of integrity.

The best epitaph we can give Neil is to aspire to do as he did and serve our Lord Jesus Christ in every area of our lives.

**Yours in His service
Peter and Jenny Stokes**

Atheism, Truth and Reason

by Roger Birch

The web site for the **Global Atheist Convention (GAC)** being held in Melbourne in March boasts the following quote from Richard Dawkins, “*The enlightenment is under threat. So is reason. So is truth. So is science ... We have to devote a significant proportion of our time and resources to defending it from deliberate attack from organized ignorance...*”

In this post-modern era, there are supposedly no absolutes (except the absolute that there are no absolutes!) and yet the GAC organisers are claiming the higher moral ground by defending the bastions of science and the ideals of ‘truth’ and ‘reason’ against “organised ignorance” – presumably that of Bible-believing Christians.

So, do these lofty GAC sentiments stand up to scrutiny?

Let’s start with science. The response to this claim can be summed up in one word – **Climategate**. This has shown that the concept of scientists working in some idyllic search for ‘truth’ is utterly flawed. Many individual scientists are honourable people, but the methodologies exposed by the *Climategate* scandal show clear problems where, for example, dissent is not permitted as per the worst of religious sects. Furthermore, lest anyone fall for the, ‘but it’s only one small area’ excuse, remember that anyone associated with a biblical worldview has been excluded from scientific journals by the peer-reviewing process for years.

The enlightenment spawned Modernism which in turn spawned a questioning of everything with one of the main targets being Christianity and the Bible. However,

despite the best efforts of the atheists (and liberal Christians!), the Bible’s accuracy and internal consistency *still* stack up. Luke states that the Bereans were more noble-minded than the Thessalonians because they *did* question what they were taught (Acts 17:11). So, questioning is a valid biblical principle – and yet the term ‘skeptic’ has now become the equivalent of a flat-earther as far as proponents of climate ‘science’ are concerned. The moment someone says the debate is over in any scientific field, be wary! Scientists should always be questioning (as should Christians regarding what they are being taught!) and when this is stopped, there’s something seriously wrong.

The problem with ‘reason’ is that it is based on one’s basic worldview. Luke adds that the Bereans were more noble-minded *because* they checked what Paul said against the Scriptures. Effectively, assuming the Bible is true, if Paul’s teaching matches the Bible, then what he is saying must be true.

An atheist, though, would argue this logic is invalid because the Bible is *not* true, and so no valid conclusions can be drawn from it. However, such atheists are not *proving* the Bible to be wrong, they are merely *stating* it to be so. It is essentially *their faith* system that demands this. Again we find that whereas post-modernism supposedly has no absolutes, we now find they have a second ‘absolute’ – the Bible is **not true** [well, perhaps postmodernists might say ‘it may be true for Christians’]!

Now a faith system implies a religion and whereas most atheists would deny it, they *do*

The problem with ‘reason’ is that it is based on one’s basic worldview.

have a religious belief. There are only three basic theological positions, namely a belief in zero, one or many gods (but obviously many variations based on these), and atheism adopts the first of these positions. The United Nations has also enshrined this by defining 'religion' for Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) to include a belief in no god. This is very useful for atheists – but hardly reasonable – as they can still teach their 'non-religious beliefs' in US schools, but be protected from religious discrimination via the UDHR!

This confusion (deception?) between faith and truth affects their 'reasoning.' To believe in the *absence* of God is to believe in a universal negative – something that cannot be proven! It actually takes *more faith* to be an atheist than a Christian. So, when they attack Christianity with signs on San Francisco buses like, "Faith is believing what you know **AIN'T SO**" (emphasis in original), they actually attack themselves! So much for their 'reason'! Could *this* be "organized ignorance"?

So, what about the atheists' version of 'truth'? Clearly, their position is very different to the biblical understanding of the

word as found in John 14:6. There are many 'truth' quotes that could be used (for some examples, see *Green Lies and Deceptive Science* at <http://crossroad.to>), but here's just one [on the subject of global warming]:

"...we need to get some broad based support, to capture the public's imagination.... So we have to offer up scary scenarios, make simplified, dramatic statements and make little mention of any doubts.... **Each of us has to decide what the right balance is between being effective and being honest.**" (emphasis added). Stanford University Professor Steven Schneider (Nobel Prize winner along with Al Gore)

So, atheists *do* uphold truth – it's just that they redefine what the word means!

To conclude, an 'inconvenient truth' is that atheism is an intolerant religion which, like most false sects, does not tolerate dissent. So, whereas the atheists' web site and its own high priest, Dawkins, might claim to take the higher moral ground, when a faith system is based on a lie, namely there is no God, it is hardly surprising that their truth and reason are both highly dubious.

Roger Birch teaches theology and is a member of Salt Shakers Reference Panel on theological issues.



Global Atheist Convention

The Global Atheist Convention, *The Rise of Atheism*, will be held in Melbourne from 12-14 March 2010 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (which seats 5,541 people).

Richard Dawkins is a keynote speaker, as is **Peter Singer**, along with a large number of other international and local speakers.

The conference is being organised by the *Atheist Foundation of Australia* and the *Atheist Alliance International*. All Gold Passes for the weekend were sold out by October. By mid-February the website said that the whole event is 'Sold Out' and that the waiting list is closed!

ACTION: Please pray for those attending this conference. Pray that, as they hear speakers proclaiming that there is no God, the Holy Spirit will convict them of God's existence.

News Update

Muslim prayer rooms

We have previously reported about the growing number of prayer rooms for Muslim students at Australian universities.

'Prayer rooms' have also been spotted at top tourist venues: one of our readers recently visited *Sea World* and *Movie World* and noted that they have prayer rooms for Muslims. There are two rooms, one for men and one for women - complete with prayer mats on the floor!

Dream World also has a prayer room - and halal meals are also available.

We wonder if they have a Christian chapel?

More nude photos

This time it is the Sydney Opera House. **Spencer Tunick**, who photographs naked people in public will be taking another of his photos on March 1, as part of the homosexual mardi gras festival.

Tunick's previous 'naked photos' included some taken in Melbourne in 2001.

This time, he's aiming to get 2,000 people. He usually has people posed individually but this time will have them 'intertwined'!

Whilst you might think that rain would put him off, he is not being deterred, saying it will go ahead regardless of the weather. Ironically, Tunick stays fully clothed whilst taking the photos - so he won't be getting wet or cold!

It certainly seems that there is an increasing trend to immorality...

Queensland: Surrogacy

The Queensland government passed a bill on Feb 11, by 45 votes to 36, that legalises surrogacy. As well as allowing altruistic (non-payment) surrogacy for

heterosexual couples, the law will also allow a lesbian couple, a single woman or a male homosexual couple to use surrogacy to have a child.

The government ignored a campaign from Christians asking them to vote against the proposal. We oppose the legalisation of all surrogacy. However, some Christian groups urged the government to split the bill to allow MPs to support heterosexual surrogacy but oppose surrogacy for homosexuals and singles. The government refused. Meanwhile the Liberal National Party put up its own - unsuccessful - bill to legalise surrogacy for heterosexuals but ban it for homosexuals.

Sexting

You might not have heard the word 'sexting' before, but type it in 'Google' and you get more than 7 million hits!

A recent media report revealed an increasing trend of 'sexting' involving teenagers, and children as young as 9, sending sexually explicit photos and messages to each other.

A Horsham magistrate said he recently warned a 16 year old boy, who had urged a 13 year old girl to send him naked photos of herself, that sexting was a "very serious offence".

A magistrate in Gippsland has been going to schools to give lectures about the dangerous consequences of 'sexting'.

Victoria Police is also concerned and is educating teenagers by giving lectures and distributing handouts. [*Herald Sun*, 10/2/2010]

If you have teenagers, please talk to them about pornography and *sexting* and the dangerous consequences.

If your children and teenagers have mobile phones, please monitor their use - and make sure that computers with internet AREN'T in your teenager's or child's bedroom - that's a recipe for disaster!

Federal and State Elections

We're taking a break in our series on political parties to look at the two state elections being held during March 2010.

Elections in March 2010

During March 2010, two state elections will be held - in Tasmania and South Australia. Both elections will be held on the same day - Saturday 20 March.

Tasmania

The election in Tasmania is only for Members of the House of Assembly. The House of Assembly is the lower house of the Tasmanian Parliament - there are five House of Assembly divisions: Bass, Braddon, Denison, Franklin and Lyons.

Following the passage of legislation in April 2009, these divisions have the same boundaries as the five Commonwealth House of Representatives divisions for Tasmania. There are 25 members of the House of Assembly, with five members elected for each of the divisions using the Hare-Clark voting system of multi-member proportional representation. Members are elected for a term of up to 4 years.

The Australian Labor Party, led by Premier **David Bartlett**, is currently in government with 14 Members in the House of Assembly. The Liberal Party is in Opposition, and is led by **Will Hodgman** - the Liberals have 7 Members. The Greens, led by **Nick McKim**, have four Members.

Information: www.electoral.tas.gov.au

Note: Elections for the Legislative Council will not be held at the same time. The Legislative Council has 15 Members, each representing *one* electoral division. Elections are conducted on a 6 year periodic cycle. Elections for 3 members are held in May one year, with elections for 2 members

held in May the following year and so on.

South Australia

The South Australian Parliament has constitutionally fixed four year terms with the election date set for the 3rd Saturday in March every four years. Elections are held for both the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council.

Currently the ALP is in government, led by Premier **Mike Rann**. The Liberal Party is in Opposition, led by **Isobel Redmond**.

Normally in the weeks leading up to an election people writing letters to the editor must provide their name and address. A new law has been passed in South Australia that extends this, requiring

anyone making an *online comment* about the election to publish their real name and postcode! Whilst

some are objecting to this as an infringement of their 'rights', nobody has a right to spread malicious gossip and

tell lies with anonymity. That is a very real and growing danger at any time on the web, but more so at the time of an election. Such moves by governments should be seen as a reasonable safeguard. Everyone needs to know that what is disseminated through the web is accurate and that people can be held accountable for their comments.

There could be two other elections this year.

The Victorian state election is scheduled to be held on Saturday 27 November and a Federal election is also on the agenda.

According to election analyst Antony Green, the last date that a 'normal election' for the Federal House of Representatives and half the Senate could be held is April 16, 2011. However, it is widely expected that the election will be held towards the end of 2010. ■



Child abuse statistics

The number of children in Australia who were removed from their families by authorities because of abuse has risen again during the past year.

The Report, *Child Protection Australia 2008-2009*, published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in January 2010, shows there are currently more than 34,000 children across Australia who have been taken from their parents and placed in out-of-home care. This is an increase of 9% from the previous year.

The Report provides detailed information on state and territory child protection and support services. The Report identifies physical, sexual and emotional abuse as well as neglect. The main findings are:

1. *The number of children subject to a notification of child abuse or neglect; the number of children under care and protection orders; and the number in out-of-home care are all rising.*

2. *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are over-represented in all these areas.*

Some statistics

The Report reveals that 207,462 children were the subject of a notification about possible abuse - a rise of 6.2%.

All notifications are investigated to see if they are valid. The number of children subject to a **substantiation** of a notification increased by 1.7% to 32,641 (from 6.8 to 6.9 per 1,000 children).

In the last 12 months the number of children on care and protection orders increased by 8.5% to 35,409.

In the last 12 months the number of children in out-of-home care increased by 9.3% to 34,069. Over the last 5 years the number of children in out-of-home care has risen by 44% from 23,695 to 34,069.

Aboriginal Children

- The rate of Indigenous children on care and protection orders was more than 8 times the rate of non-Indigenous children.
- The rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care was 9 times the rate of non-Indigenous children.
- Indigenous children were 7.5 times as likely to be the subject of substantiations as non-Indigenous children.

Western Australia

Western Australia had the highest rate of removal of children last year. The WA Department of Child Protection has revealed that more than 3,000 children are being cared for by the state - 500 aboriginal children and 600 non-aboriginal children under the age of 6 are in foster care.

WA Proposal

In January 2010, just before the release of the AIHW Report, the Barnett government announced that they plan to introduce tough legislation to deal with child abuse and neglect.

Under the plan, children can be removed from 'bad parents' permanently until the child is 18. The proposal is that, when children are removed, parents will get two years to show authorities that they have beaten their problems and can cope - otherwise the children will be handed to the care of permanent guardians. The children would still retain contact with their parents, but the proposal aims to give the children a stable upbringing. [*News.com*, 2/1/2010]

The Report

A link to the Report has been placed on the 'Child Abuse' page on our website at:

www.saltshakers.org.au/issues/child-abuse



Christianity & Politics: Tony Abbott

by Jenny Stokes

When Tony Abbott was elected as the federal Leader of the Opposition in December 2009, many journalists focused on his religious background. Some of them even referred to him as the 'Mad Monk'. This tactic attempted to use religion to denigrate him because they didn't agree with his views.

The 'Mad Monk' title refers to the fact that Tony Abbott is a Roman Catholic who trained as a priest for two years at St Patrick's seminary in Manly before deciding that the priesthood wasn't for him.

Since being elected Opposition Leader, Mr Abbott has suffered various attacks by the media on faith-related matters.

Evolution

When Laurie Oakes interviewed Mr Abbott last December he asked him about his views on evolution. Tony responded by saying that his personal faith was a private matter and his faith was "not out there in the political marketplace". He continued "I don't do doorsteps in front of church, Laurie. I mean, if there's one person who's put religion front and centre in the public square, to use his phrase, it's Kevin Rudd. So please, next time Kevin's here, grill him on evolution and all these other subjects."

Laurie Oakes actually did ask Kevin Rudd what he thought about evolution in an interview in January 2010. Kevin responded, "I have always believed in evolution. The reason is it's an empirical science. It's been established. It has been, therefore, fundamental to the great innovations in science and technology for the last two hundred years since Darwin was around. And that's my view - always has been."

[West Australian 31/1/2010]



Empirical science? Established? Hardly!

And Mr Abbott's view on evolution?

In an interactive blog last year, he responded to a Christian discussing the matter of evolution. He said "I don't say that evolution is a complete and entirely satisfactory scientific explanation of the origin of man. Still, I think it's more plausible than treating the Adam and Eve story as literal truth (if that's what creationists say)."

At least he questions the theory of evolution, even if we don't agree with his assessment of the Genesis record of creation.

Bible knowledge

A recent media article stridently declared "BIBLE classes should be compulsory so children have a fundamental understanding of Christianity on leaving school, federal Opposition Leader Tony Abbott says."

Is that what he really said?
Of course not!

The same article went on to give Mr Abbott's **actual** comment: "I think everyone should have some familiarity with the great texts that are at the core of our civilisation. That includes, most importantly, the Bible. I think it would be impossible to have a good general education without at least some serious familiarity with the Bible and with the teachings of Christianity. That doesn't mean that people have to be believers."

That's a very different matter to 'calling for compulsory Bible study classes'!

Media 'headlines' and summaries can be very deceptive. You have to read all the article and look at other sources, to verify whether the 'sound bites' are accurate, not

just listen to 'headlines'.

Many commentators went to town, attacking his comments, honing in on the fact that he dared to mention the Bible and Christianity.

Conservative Christian columnist Ben-Peter Terpstra, writing in *Quadrant Online* (31/1/2010), described the response: "Tony Abbott's pro-Bible statements outraged his opponents. And the reason is obvious to all with marbles. In socialist circles, encouraging pupils to study Judeo-Christian texts is a sin. The Australian Education Union's federal president, Angelo Gavrielatos, ritually sniffed at the idea. Abbott was attacked by an Islamic intellectual, Dr Ameer Ali too. The Rudd government also sent backbencher Kate Lundy out to stage future quote-crime scenes. The hysterical ACT Senator cried, "Mr Abbott wants to take the choice away from parents and force every kid in every school to study the Bible."

Ben-Peter Terpstra pointed out "Even the sulky atheist Christopher Hitchens openly acknowledges, "You are not educated if you don't know the Bible. You can't read Shakespeare or Milton without it ... And with the schools now, they don't even teach it as a document ... So kids can't quote the King James Bible. That's terrible."

Interesting when even atheists agree with the importance of knowing about the Bible!

Virginity

A third attack on Mr Abbott's values and faith related to the matter of virginity.

Julia Gillard accused Tony Abbott of

"lecturing" all the women in Australia about virginity and not having sex before marriage and the media gleefully reported her comments. She said Tony's comments would "confirm their worst fears" about the Opposition Leader. [Aust 26/1/2010]

But what did he really say?

In an interview with the *Women's Weekly* he was asked what advice he would give his daughters about sex before marriage.

Tony said: "I would say to my daughters, if they were to ask me this question... it is the greatest gift you can give someone, the ultimate gift of giving, and don't give it to someone lightly."

This was hardly 'lecturing all women'! In fact he only said he'd offer some advice IF his daughters asked for it!

Just a few weeks later, Julia Gillard expressed concern about women getting tattoos, saying they might regret it later.

Ironically, she is telling women what they should and shouldn't do! Journalists didn't appear to attack her for her comments.

The media seems to have very different approaches to the way they treat Christians. If they like their politics and their views they are happy to go along with their Christianity and not make it an issue. Even waiting outside church every Sunday morning!

If they don't like the person or their politics, then they attack at every opportunity.

In a federal election year, when the media spotlight will be on both Mr Abbott and Mr Rudd, it is important to understand how the media is responding to matters of faith. ■

RESISTANCE THINKING

Resistance Thinking is going well. A new website has just been launched, with an updated image and new features making it

easier to navigate.

Cameron, the co-ordinator of Resistance Thinking, is sending weekly emails highlighting the latest articles and forum discussions.

Please encourage young adults to visit . . .

www.resistancethinking.com

Reproductive Health Care

The loss of Ted Kennedy's old senate seat in the United States to the Republicans should be seen as a warning to Australian Labor Governments as well. President Obama and Hilary Clinton have been pushing reproductive health care strongly.

Americans are increasingly aware that this is a code term for abortion in the service of population control. The majority of Americans do not like it one bit. For instance, the black people realise that four out of every ten of their babies are aborted. Both President Obama and Hilary Clinton are on record that they want to spread their reproductive health care around the world and paid for by the American taxpayers. Australians need to be aware that when Labor and the Greens speak about reproductive health care, they mean abortion. They have no concern for the damage that this type of policy will do to our women, our culture and the population.

Robert Bom, Rockhampton

Daily Mercury (Mackay)
Catholic Leader, 31/1/2010

Keep icon as is

No, we don't need to change the Australian flag. Do we allow anyone to change our history? No way.

Our flag is our colourful, wonderful, symbolic Australian icon. Keep it that way.

Judith Bond, Glen Alpine NSW

Illawarra Mercury 29/1/2010
Daily Telegraph 27/1/2010

A state of denial in crime statistics

We appear to have an epidemic of suspended sentences in Victoria.

Magistrates are in effect saying to convicted offenders, "Don't get caught doing anything naughty for the next two years and you won't suffer any penalty for this current crime."

But it's certainly harrowing for the suffering victims and their families and frustrating for our over-stretched police force.

Is this the result of a sudden rise in legal compassion for the perpetrators or rather just a simple way to reduce statistics of criminal fines, punishments and imprisonments to make Victoria seem a safer state than it is in reality?

David G Westaway, Navigators Vic
Herald Sun 6/2/2010

Hot air or oracle? Sceptic ignites climate confusion

It's a shame that Rosslyn Beeby (CT, p1 4/2/10) has to not only knock the age of those attending Lord Monckton's talk, with the implication that anyone with grey hair cannot think, but also fail to report a critical comment Lord Monckton made at his talk, namely "Do not believe anything I say, but check it out!" Trying to make herself look good, Beeby did what Lord Monckton recommended but, sadly, failed her own "Google research test" suggesting the "Johannessen et al" article in *Science Express*, 20 October 2005 which shows the Greenland ice-sheets have actually grown at 5.4 +/- 0.2 cm/year for the past 11 years, did not exist.

However, the article appeared at the top of my own Google search and the data in the article is exactly as quoted by Lord Monckton.

I might also add that far from being "anonymous" as Beeby claims, the University of Illinois holds all the base data on the extent of the ice sheets at the poles for the past 30 years and is freely available for anyone to download to check out the claims of Al Gore et al.

Roger Birch, Canberra

Canberra Times 6/2/2010

Why young people don't value life

Do you ever wonder why many of our young people show total disregard for the value of human life, as we see mindless violence on our streets, the road carnage as teenagers kill themselves in cars, or destroy their brain cells with alcohol and drugs?

They have been fed a diet of atheistic, evolutionary teachings in our schools and universities for decades.

Atheist and evolutionist guru, Richard Dawkins, proclaims that we live in a universe that has "no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but pitiless indifference."

His psychologist disciple, Susan Blackmore, says, "If you really think about evolution and why we human beings are here, you have to come to the conclusion that we are here for absolutely no reason at all."

Without hope and no purposeful future to look forward to, why would our young people put a high value on their life or anyone else's?

David G Westaway Navigators Vic 3352
Geelong Advertiser 20/01/2010

ALP's stance on gay marriage must stand

Thank you Catherine King (MHR) for stating clearly that "The Labor Party went to the last election with an unambiguous position on marriage: that legally it's a union between a man and a woman." ("Gay March" The Courier, February 15)

We look forward to hearing from Catherine that Labor will continue to stand steadfast against the ongoing pressure and maintain its support for traditional marriage throughout the forthcoming election campaign.

David G Westaway Navigators Vic 3352
The Ballarat Courier 18/02/2010

'Society is turning away from the light.'

Society today is literally 'falling apart', with rampant crime and sometimes murderous violence spoiling life in our cities, our police unable to cope. Vicious attacks on foreign students detract from Australia's reputation as a good place to live. Dishonesty is rampant, from shoplifting to shonky investment agencies, with manufacturers reducing container sizes with no change in price, some bakers almost doubling the thickness of 'sandwich-sliced' bread. The Salvation Army and Brotherhood of St Laurence depots are being flooded with sickening rubbish, costing them millions to have the filth taken away.

I speak to quite a few people about Jesus, but most have no comprehension of who He is, or of what He did for them. Jesus said 'I am the light of the world', but as fewer people turn to that light society is threatened with a descent into an abyss of darkness.

Arthur Comer Ballarat
The Ballarat Courier 10/01/2010

50/50 column

Jill Singer continues to demonstrate her acrid anti Tony Abbott bias. ("Violated by hypocrisy", January 28).

That just ensures that I'll endorse Tony's family-first focus even more strongly.

David G Westaway, Navigators Vic
Herald Sun 1/2/2010

Proud Aussie

Australia Day, its ours, it is purely Australian. Australia has its own culture, customs and values, lets keep Australia that way.

Something special, Australian! Think of the 'ies' - Tassie, postie, Aussies, barbies, sickies. Words like this are not heard of overseas. How special and unique!

As we celebrate, lets give thanks [to God], for our great and vast land, with beauty so rich and rare.

Judith Bond, Glen Alpine NSW
Macarthur Advertiser 27/1/2010

Judith included the words 'to God' after her exhortation to 'give thanks'. But the paper left out the words 'to God'!

Generous present.

We know the excitement when one child in a family receives a bike for Christmas. Imagine the delight, happiness, joy and fun for 60 children in a family, each receiving their own bike for Christmas?

Thanks to the efforts of Macarthur Federal MP Pat Farmer in collecting donations, 60 children at the Agape Children's Home, Chiang Mai, Thailand, have each received their own bike.

Mr Farmer visited this home for children with AIDS and was inspired to give them something that they had never experienced before.

Judith Bond, Glen Alpine NSW
Camden Advertiser 20/1/2010

Win a free subscription to our E-Journal (value \$25)

This year we are adding a NEW CATEGORY - 'Web comment' (see below)

Our two most prolific letter writers are off and running towards winning our letter writers competition but it is not too late to get going with 10 months of the year left.

Judith and David would both tell you this is not because they have a special talent for writing letters - it is because they actually write them instead of just thinking about it.

They also know that the more practice you get the easier it becomes and, of course, it's a numbers game - the more you write the more likely you are to be included on the letters page.

NEW CATEGORY 'Web comment'

The two people with the most web comments that actually make it onto the internet will be awarded a one year subscription to our (PDF) E-Journal.

PLEASE NOTE: You will need to send us the link to the comment for it to count.

Bendigo Stupa and the Buddhist Revival

Ruth Webb is the Director of the 'Tabernacle of David' (Bendigo). She has been involved in monitoring and praying about this development in Bendigo.

According to a recent census, Buddhism is one of the fastest growing religions in Australia. Buddhism poses a threat to the church which may be greater than that of Islam.

Where Islam may be aggressive, very few Christians convert to Islam. However, Buddhism has a facade of being a "peaceful" lifestyle and "not a religion". Yet a substantial reason for its growth in Australia is because dissatisfied church adherents are turning to eastern religions which have a dangerous ability to seduce people to a faith with occult foundations.

Buddhism has crept stealthily and undetected into both the church and society as it has mixed yogic meditation, exercise, health alternatives, prayer and worship. It wants Christians to compromise faith in Jesus or at least become passive. Buddhism has infiltrated schools, health care facilities and hospices as people search for peace in a turbulent world.

Its effect on Christians is its ability to deceive, confuse and to put us to sleep. This became very clear on one particular prayer assignment where Tibetan chanting was taking place. People were falling into a trance-like sleep - I, too, had a big spiritual fight to physically stay awake, and I was standing up!

Stupa to bring Buddhist Illumination
Bendigo, in central Victoria, has been chosen to build the largest Stupa (temple) in the southern hemisphere. When finished, ***"The***

by Ruth Webb

Great Stupa of Universal Compassion" will be the same size and design as the one in Tibet, 50 metres wide and nearly 50 metres high. It is expected to cost untold millions of dollars. Its original completion date of 2010 will not happen as progress has been slower than anticipated. We understand the hindrance has been a lack of funds, which is an answer to active prayer.

The stupa is to be a "pilgrimage place for Buddhists from around the world" and as a tourist attraction has received favour and finance from the city council. Buddhists believe that the stupa will "illuminate the world" and "bring world peace" making "Australia lift off like a rocket".



Gemstone Idol

"The Jade Buddha for Universal Peace" was blessed last December by the Dalai Lama in Sydney. It is 2.7 metres high, weighs around 4 tonnes and has been valued at \$5 million. As their "beacon of hope", the Jade Buddha is on a three year tour throughout major cities in Asia and Australia before being set up in a "dragon shrine" at the

stupa in Bendigo.

Buddhists believe in the "power of prayer". Buddhist prayer flags are multiplying and the stupa will have 100,000 spinning prayer wheels or "chakras" that release demonic oppression to the minds of people. These are a counterfeit of the Lord's Prayer-houses that He is raising up around the earth.

God Answers Prayer

Strategic prayer by Pastors and intercessors in Bendigo has resulted in many plans of the enemy being averted. In 2003 a major prayer assignment was undertaken. Within 10 days of its completion an "unpredicted"

tornado “suddenly” ripped through the city.

As this assignment reached its climax the Lord spoke very strongly about the need to “rebuild the altar of true worship”. Our direction was for corporate throne room worship without denominational barriers. The Lord’s encouragement was that the “idols of Egypt will totter and fall at the presence of the Lord.” (Isaiah 19:1)

Consider these facts:

1. Nations affected by Buddhism are the least evangelized in the world.
2. Preaching Jesus has resulted in aggressive persecution in Buddhist nations.
3. People turning from nominal Christianity to Buddhism have become increasingly

“hardened” to the Gospel.

4. Tibetan Buddhism, the form of Buddhism in Bendigo, retains many features of **Bon** (a religious tradition from Central Asia) including shamanism, animism, demon worship and animal sacrifices.

As God’s people, may we be spiritually awake, pray skilfully without ceasing, worship together around His throne and preach that Jesus is the only way to the Father.

References: “Peoples of the Buddhist World” by Paul Hattaway; www.stupa.org.au; www.jadebuddha.org.au/en/; Articles in the *Bendigo Advertiser*.

Euthanasia - and Nembutal

* A Melbourne woman, Ann Leith, has been charged with “importing a marketable quantity of a border-controlled substance” and will appear in court in April. She is accused of importing the drug **nembutal** from Mexico - the drug that euthanasia campaigner Philip Nitschke promotes for carrying out euthanasia. Nitschke said that Leith was a member of his euthanasia group EXIT international. If convicted, Ann Leith faces up to 25 years’ jail or a \$550,000 fine. [News.com, 20/1/2010]

* Meanwhile, Dr Nitschke has complained that the government’s ISP filtering program would prevent people accessing information on euthanasia. The Communications Minister, Stephen Conroy said that the EXIT site would still be available but that any specific step-by-step instructions for euthanasia, such as Nitsche’s ‘*Peaceful Pill Handbook*’ would continue to be illegal. Such material is already banned or rated ‘Refused Classification’ under the *Suicide Related Material Offences Act*, passed in 2005 by the Howard government.

* A report about the use of nembutal, prepared by the *Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine* has found that 51 people across Australia have died from an overdose of nembutal in the past 10 years. The Institute notes the figure could be higher - the number only includes those they could find using the search on their database [*The Age* (15/2/2010)]. A number of young people, six in their 20s and eight in their 30s, have used the drug to kill themselves - despite Nitschke’s claim that he ‘tries to restrict his advice’ to elderly people or those over 50 with terminal illnesses or chronic pain. The report shows that ‘in 11 out of 38 cases closed by coroners, the deceased had suffered significant physical illness, deteriorating health or chronic pain prior to death. In 27 cases, there was no reference to these factors, prompting some to speculate these people had committed suicide because of psychological or psychiatric reasons. ‘Of the 38 deaths closed by coroners, 34 were listed as ‘intentional self harm’.’

Prayer Update

Very little has changed in the social/political world in the last month. In a year where there are so many elections - 3 state elections and a federal election - it is likely that major issues that could affect election outcomes will be avoided.

See our E-News Prayer Updates for more detailed prayer points.

Nevertheless, we cannot rest from engaging in praying for our nation.

We need to especially pray for the outcomes of these elections. In our April and May Journals we will take a look at both major parties. In other words, the parties that are most likely to form government at both State and Federal levels. There are some similarities and some major differences.

In a nation where the people decide who will govern we cannot assume that God 'chooses' who will govern. He gives us free will. He knows the outcome yet He does not dictate that outcome. That is why we need Christians to be in both major political parties to provide the moral compass they need to govern according to Romans 13. Sadly, that has not always been the case in recent years. We get those politicians that the people, most of whom are not Christians, elect. Like the Jews who wanted a King, they get what they deserve, not necessarily that which God would want for them. We

can make a difference if we pray into the spiritual battle that looms for control of our nation. Pray that corruption will be exposed and that truth would be exalted.

We need to pray for the Christians who have decided God

is calling them to stand in the SA and Tasmanian state elections to be held on March 20.

Pray that they will have success only if they commit to serve God first, Country second and their Party third.

Pray that they will be strengthened in their personal resolve to follow Biblical principles.

Remember that Biblical principles are not only good for Christians - they are the best principles for everyone.

People who criticise Christian politicians for "following their faith" or "promoting Biblical principles" do not understand that. They cannot accept that God knows best - but we must accept and acknowledge that He does and so should all Christian members of Parliament.

We need to pray that God would raise up men and women to stand for the Victorian and the federal elections later in the year.



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

Join us for Prayer and Breakfast

Pray for our nation, its leaders and Salt Shakers

NEW TIME! 7.30 am every Thursday morning at SALT SHAKERS

A voice for life

An amazing ad was screened at the Superbowl football game in the USA on February 7, 2010. The ad, sponsored by Focus on the Family, featured Florida Gators quarterback **Tim Tebow** and his mother **Pam**. The ad, with the theme "Celebrate Family, Celebrate Life" focuses on the fact that Tim was a miracle baby who was born despite medical advice that he wouldn't make it.

Pro-abortion groups protested about the ad in the weeks leading up to the Superbowl - but the ad doesn't mention abortion at all.

The ad includes a link to the *Focus on the Family* website which features a video interview with Pam and Bob Tebow, Tim's parents about the circumstances surrounding Tim's birth.

Pam and Bob were missionaries in the Philippines. When Pam was 37, already with four children, she became pregnant with Tim after her husband Bob prayed, 'God, if you want another preacher in this world, you give me a son.'

In the interview, Pam reveals that she had a difficult pregnancy. One doctor told her

The Tebow Story
Celebrate Family, Celebrate Life™



that she had a tumour and should have an abortion in order to save her life. Pam and Bob rejected the advice and continued with the pregnancy - even though it was difficult and they almost lost Tim many times.

Pam and Bob conclude by encouraging girls to keep their babies if they find themselves pregnant. Watch the interview at www.focusonthefamily.com You can also watch the ads shown at the Superbowl.

Changing minds about abortion means changing hearts: helping people see the personhood and humanity of the unborn child. We need to explore innovative ways of changing minds and hearts about abortion and its consequences.

Update: mardi gras

Last month we wrote about mardi gras. We reported that Kevin Rudd had provided a 'message of support' to the mardi gras organisers. Have you written to him yet to complain about his support for mardi gras?

If you haven't already written to Mr Rudd, please write NOW - send your letter to Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600.

The parade was scheduled for February 27, so we'll have a report on the 'crowd' figures next month.

Partners (or sponsors)

Many of the 'partners' of the mardi gras are homosexual groups - media, and so on. However, this year the ANZ is a Major

Partner, as is Mount Franklin water.

The **City of Sydney** is a Major Partner again, as is **Events NSW** (NSW government tourism). **Virgin Blue** is the Airline Partner.

ACTION: Please write to these partners, asking them not to support mardi gras in the future. . .

ANZ - Mr Mike Smith, CEO, ANZ, Locked Bag 4050, South Melbourne, Vic 3205.

Mount Franklin - made by Coca Cola Amatil. Write to Mr Warwick White, Managing Director, Coca Cola Amatil, GPO Box 145, Sydney NSW 2000.

Virgin Blue - Brett Godfrey, CEO, Virgin Blue, PO Box 1034, Spring Hill, QLD 4004.

New Website: 'Pornography Harms'

The '*Pornography Harms*' website was launched on February 18, 2010. It provides a wealth of information about the damage that pornography does - to men, women and children. Website: <http://pornharms.com>

As pornography has spread, especially with the internet making it so accessible, many people have become immune to the damage that pornography causes to individuals and marriages. But the amount of pornography is increasing - and the effects are devastating.

Having the research available is the first step in combating this disease in our society.

The website has been set up by attorney Pat Trueman in the USA. Pat is the former Chief of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (Criminal Division) in the US Department of Justice.

The website provides links to peer-reviewed research articles on the devastating harm that results from pornography. It is meant to be a "one-stop" primarily for research but also for news and opinion.

Please check the website - read the research - and tell your friends about it!

■

Correction - religious instruction in schools

In our February 2010 Journal we incorrectly reported that the Victorian government had approved the teaching on humanism in the 'religious instruction' program in Victorian primary schools.

The good news is that the government has **rejected** the proposal.

We first became aware that the *Humanist Society of Victoria* had applied to teach in the religious instruction program back in December 2008 - from an article in *The Age*.

Since writing last month's journal we've learned that the Minister for Education, Bronwyn Pike stated in a letter to a colleague that humanism would not be accredited to be taught in the 'special religious education' program. She wrote "The Humanist Society of Victoria is not registered as a religious organisation in Australia and, under current Victorian legislation, its world-view philosophy cannot be defined as special religious instruction in Victorian schools."

In late 2009, we had heard a report about the teaching of a course as an alternative in

the religious education program - however we got the state mixed up. Please accept our apology for that.

The state was NSW - in November 2009, then-NSW Premier Nathan Rees announced that his government had approved a trial of teaching 'ethics' as an alternative to religious studies classes in NSW schools.¹

Several schools in NSW had applied to run a pilot program of an ethics course which was developed by the St James Ethics Centre, but in September 2009, the government's religious education advisory panel, the *Inter-Church Commission on Religious Education in Schools*, had rejected the proposal.² The Premier went against their advice and approved the proposal. The trial, in ten schools for two terms in 2010, involves year 5 and year 6 students and will teach students about "fairness", the importance of telling the truth and about how to deal with bullying.

1. Rees plans to introduce ethics classes in school, *SMH*, 25/11/2009

2. No ethics for non-scripture students: NSW panel, *CathNews*, 28/9/2009.

■

The Netherlands - warning about euthanasia

This article, by Patrick B. Craine from Lifesite News (2/12/2009) highlights the consequences that have resulted from legalising euthanasia in The Netherlands.

The former Dutch minister who successfully promoted the legalization of euthanasia has now admitted that the government's move was a mistake, and says that they should have first focused on palliative care.

Els Borst, who served as Health Minister for the Netherlands from 1994 to 2002, proposed the country's infamous euthanasia bill. When it passed in 2001, the Netherlands became the first country in the world to legalize euthanasia. In 2008, Dutch doctors reported 2,331 cases of euthanasia, 400 cases of assisted suicide, and 550 deaths without request.

Borst drew criticism from some Christian political parties shortly after the passage of her bill for comments she made in an interview. Echoing Christ's final words on the Cross, Borst exclaimed: "It is finished!"

Now, however, she thinks the government acted too soon, as she told **Dr Anne-Mei The**, in interviews for a new book on the history of euthanasia, entitled *Verlossers naast God* ("Redeemer under God").

The legalization of euthanasia came "far too early," Borst said, admitting that the government did not give enough attention to palliative care and support for the dying. "In the Netherlands, we first listened to the political and societal demand in favour of euthanasia," she said. "Obviously, this was not in the proper order."

Alex Schadenberg, executive director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, agrees with Borst that the Netherlands has been

ineffective in providing proper palliative care. "Even today they still do not have effective palliative care in place in the Netherlands," he said.

"It's all good to say that," he said, referring to Borst's comments, "but what are they doing now to protect the vulnerable?"

"Now [euthanasia's] become socially accepted," he continued. "So how are you going to fix your mistake now, thank you? And how many thousands of people died because you didn't properly care for them? How many thousands killed?"

Dr The, who has studied euthanasia for fifteen years, affirmed that the foreign perception of inadequate palliative care in the Netherlands is not unfounded. Further, she explained that in all her years, nearly all the doctors she has met struggle with euthanasia due to moral issues or emotional reactions.

Borst's regret over the situation in the Netherlands is particularly important given that that country has served as a model for euthanasia advocates in other countries. Schadenberg noted, for example, that Canadian MP Francine Lalonde, who currently has a bill before Parliament to legalize euthanasia and assisted suicide, has "imported" the Netherlands' approach into Canada.

As in the Netherlands, Schadenberg explained, Canada "lack[s] the proper care for those either a) at the end of life, or b) experiencing disability or chronic disabling conditions."

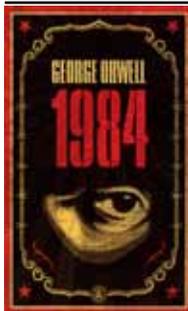
"Without the proper care in place, is [legalizing euthanasia] not the wrong thing to be doing?" he asked. "Really what the debate in Canada needs to be about is how

**So how are you
going to fix
your mistake
now, thank you?**

we care for all Canadians.”

Schadenberg went on to point out the “slippery slope” occurring in the Netherlands, which the country’s politicians deny, he says, through “a systematic cover-up.” “How can you say there is no slippery

slope in the Netherlands—knowing that you now allow euthanasia for newborns, and you went from originally just the terminally ill, [and] now it’s also for those who are mentally ill?” he asked. “You have allowed your definitions to wander so wide that you haven’t even noticed it.” ■



Orwell and Huxley Revisited

In his book *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business*, Neil Postman compares the writing of **George Orwell** and **Aldous Huxley** . . .

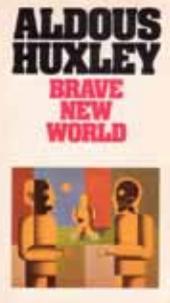
“We were keeping our eye on 1984. When the year came and the prophecy outlined in George Orwell’s book *1984* didn’t eventuate, thoughtful Americans sang softly in praise of themselves. The roots of liberal democracy had held. Wherever else the terror had happened, we, at least, had not been visited by Orwellian nightmares.

“But we had forgotten that alongside Orwell’s dark vision, there was another - slightly older, slightly less well known, equally chilling: Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World*. Contrary to common belief even among the educated, Huxley and Orwell did not prophesy the same thing. Orwell warns that we will be overcome by an externally imposed oppression. But in Huxley’s vision, no Big Brother is required to deprive people of their autonomy, maturity and history. As he saw it, people will come to love their oppression, to adore the technologies that undo their capacities to think.

“What Orwell feared were those who would ban books. What Huxley feared was that there would be no reason to ban a book, for there would be no one who wanted to read one. Orwell feared those who would deprive us of information. Huxley feared those

who would give us so much that we would be reduced to passivity and egoism. Orwell feared that the truth would be concealed from us. Huxley feared the truth would be drowned in a sea of irrelevance. Orwell feared we would become a captive culture. Huxley feared we would become a trivial culture, preoccupied with some equivalent of the feelies, the orgy porgy, and the centrifugal bumblepuppy.

“As Huxley remarked in *Brave New World Revisited*, the civil libertarians and rationalists who are ever on the alert to oppose tyranny “failed to take into account man’s almost infinite appetite for distractions”. In *1984*, Huxley added, “people are controlled by inflicting pain.” In *Brave New World*, they are controlled by inflicting pleasure. In short, Orwell feared that what we hate will ruin us. Huxley feared that what we love will ruin us.”



This extract was highlighted by *The Berean Call* in August 2009. They added: “While Orwell and Huxley had competing versions of the ongoing deterioration of humanity, the Scriptures have always pointed out how these times will be: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy” (2 Tim 3:1-2). ■

World News

Geert Wilders on trial

Dutch politician Geert Wilders is on trial in The Netherlands. Whilst this nation has often been a centre of free speech, hate crime laws are now in place. Geert Wilders has been charged with “incitement and discrimination against Muslims” in his public speeches and writings. If he is convicted he could be imprisoned for up to two years.

Just before the start of his trial, which began on January 10, 2010, Geert said “I am being prosecuted for my political convictions. The freedom of speech is on the verge of collapsing. If a politician is not allowed to criticise an ideology anymore this means that we are lost, and it will lead to the end of our freedom.”

Pray that freedom of speech continues to be protected and that Geert Wilders is found to be ‘not guilty’.

USA: Tolerance - or not!

US President Obama has nominated **Chai Feldblum**, an openly lesbian law professor from Georgetown University, to serve on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Feldblum has written that society should “not tolerate” any “private beliefs,” including religious beliefs, that may negatively affect homosexual “equality.”

In an article titled *Moral Conflict and Liberty: Gay Rights and Religion*, published in the Brooklyn Law Review in 2006, she wrote “Just as we do not tolerate private racial beliefs that adversely affect African-Americans in the commercial arena, even if such beliefs are based on religious views, we should similarly not tolerate private beliefs about sexual orientation and gender identity that adversely affect LGBT [lesbian, gay,

bisexual, and transgender] people.”

The US Senate has to confirm the nomination. *[CNS News, 18/1/2010]*

UK: Pregnancy tests for girls

A pilot scheme at five secondary schools in Liverpool is offering pregnancy tests to girls as young as 13.

The girls will also be able to get a screening test for chlamydia and referrals to sex specialists at the drop-in clinics.

The organisers say it will “cut teen pregnancy” - but family groups say it sends the wrong message about sexual activity and will promote promiscuity. *[The Sun, 5/2/2010]*

UK: Christian loses appeal on cross

A Christian who worked as a part-time check-in staff member for British Airways and was told she could not wear a visible cross whilst working has lost her appeal.

Nadia Eweida, 58, from Twickenham, was sent home in September 2006 - unpaid - because she refused to cover up the cross. She returned to work five months later after BA changed their policy to allow the wearing of a faith or charity symbol following a public outcry.

Nadia took her case to Employment Appeal Tribunal claiming discrimination - she also sought lost wages and damages.

The EAT dismissed her claim, saying she was not a victim of indirect religion or belief discrimination. Nadia then appealed against the decision - but the Court has now rejected her appeal, ruling that her case of indirect discrimination was defeated by BA's case on justification. The Court said it was a personal rather than a doctrinal issue since not all Christians wore crosses and no-one else had complained! Nadia and her lawyers plan to take the case to the Supreme Court.



Ministry News

Peter and Jenny are in the middle of moving house - they are moving into the Dandenong Ranges. They will be a little further away from the office but able to retreat to the tranquillity of the hills and the forest to rest and be refreshed.

Please pray for the final details of moving to go smoothly and that they quickly settle into their new home.

They leave Crossway Baptist Church after 26 years as members, pray they find the Christian community which God wants them to settle into.

At the Annual 'start of year' Board meeting various changes were discussed. One is that Peter and Jenny will spend three days a

week at the Wantirna office rather than five and they will work 'remotely' from home at other times. They will also continue to respond to any requests for speaking at Churches and conferences at weekends, evenings and other times.

Whilst we will continue to produce the monthly Journal in hard copy and electronic form, and the E-News will continue, it was decided that we should make a strategic shift in focus towards modern media, such as *YouTube* and video webcasting. This is also the direction **Resistance Thinking** is now taking. We will investigate setting up a small media 'studio' as part of our existing office to accommodate and simplify this process. More will be said about this in due course.

Please pray for us as we endeavour to move with the times to communicate a message which does not change.

ACTION checklist: Tick the box as you complete the task

Page	Topic	Action / People to write to	Done
6	Elections	Prepare and pray!	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	mardi gras	Write to 'Partners' (Sponsors)	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Pornharms website	Check it out!	<input type="checkbox"/>

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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

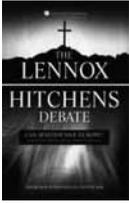
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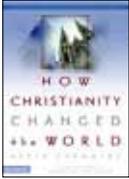


****NEW DVD****

Special \$20

Can Atheism Save Europe - a debate between John Lennox and Christopher Hitchens

With the Global Atheist Conference being held in Australia this month this is a very timely DVD
 "At the world's largest cultural arts festival in Edinburgh, Scotland, Oxford Professor and Christian Philosopher John Lennox debated prominent Atheist Christopher Hitchens about whether or not the New Europe should jettison its religious past and welcome the "New Atheism."
 DVD Run Time: 68 minutes



\$30

How Christianity Changed the World - by Alvin Schmidt

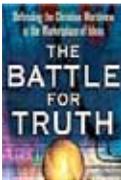
In this well-documented book, Schmidt marshals the evidence for the transforming power of the Christian faith. He shows how Jesus has the power to transform people, who in turn are able to transform society. He shows the impact Christianity has had in so many areas of western social development.
 This book is a must for all Christians if they are to understand the impact Christianity has made on society, and discuss the positive contribution Christianity has made, with those who say religion is irrelevant or the cause of society's problems.



\$2.50 or **Special offer 5 for \$6.50**

Atheism is probably definitely wrong - from Matthias Media

"There is a new breed of Atheist in town, or at least that's the claim being made by the so-called 'New Atheist'. The 'newness' is the argument that only a scientifically-grounded Atheism can ensure the future of humanity."
 With the World Atheist Conference soon to be held in Melbourne we need to know about this 'new' Atheism so we can effectively discuss the truth with atheists, and anyone else who raises the question.



\$20

The Battle for Truth

If you want to know what other people actually believe then this is a vital book to read. David Noebel of Summit Ministries analyses ten different areas including theology, ethics, biology, law, politics and so on. As well as Biblical Christianity three other worldviews are covered - these are secular humanism, cosmic humanism (New Age) and Marxism. David includes numerous quotes from the key advocates of each worldview.



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