

Salt Shakers

Helping Christians make a difference

‘If you have ten thousand
regulations, you destroy all
respect for the law’

-Winston Churchill

Is that why God gave
us ten that could be
succinctly summed
up in just two?



April 2010 AD

Email Journal subscription. \$25

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Editorial

“We atheists are not all godforsaken” must go down as the quote of the month.

(Cheryl Critchley, Herald Sun, 10/3/2010)

Firstly, if you don't believe in God how can you claim He has not forsaken you?

Secondly, if you have made the claim, ‘there is no god’, you have forsaken Him.

Of course, as Christians we know that nobody is forsaken by God until after they die. That is the wonderful hope that keeps people going through all kinds of difficulty. I remember General Peter Cosgrove saying in a speech at Parliament House, “there are no atheists in the trenches”.

A great deal of discussion has taken place about Atheism, over recent weeks, due to the recent ‘Global Atheist Convention held in Melbourne during March.

There was a lot of riling against religions, some justified, like Dawkins comments about Islam's intimidating “cut off your head” doctrine and some totally untrue, such as Peter Singer suggesting the New Testament, “orders the rich to give away their possessions to the poor”, but what we didn't see were any arguments to prove God does not exist.

Or arguments that proved something came from nothing – a big bang without a ‘big banger’.

Thankfully, when we look around us we see the wonderful evidence that life is too complex to be accidental and too intelligently made to be random.

We think the reason we are seeing a more aggressive Atheism is because they see it too, yet they don't want to admit there is more to life than this.

They want to stay in control – or even take control, to play gods themselves, despite

the mess that resulted from that sort of philosophy in Germany, the USSR and China last century or North Korea today.

Yes, there are bad religions – just look at the Middle East today - but in the West, especially in Australia, we have more freedom that anywhere else, thanks to our Christian heritage.

But back to Cheryl, who decided to suggest her own ten commandments. She said, “One day I might start my own atheist religion. It would go something like: *“ALL men and women are created equal.”* They are created Cheryl, and God says they are equal - equal but different.

“LIVE your life according to what is right, not what is written in a 2000-year-old book.” - Who says what is right, Cheryl?

“TREAT others as you want them to treat you.” - Is this not Luke 6:31?

“RESPECT difference in others.” - Even pornographers and child abusers, Cheryl?

“WATCH out for those less privileged.” - Is that like ‘loving your neighbour’?

“NEVER judge people based on their religion, gender, race or sexuality.” - Not even when some religions treat women as second best or a person's sexuality is unnatural and unhealthy?

“RESPECT relationships between consenting adults that do not hurt others.” - Who is the ‘judge’ of what hurts others?

“QUESTION authority if it unfairly oppresses you or others.” Every smoker would like this one - who judges what is oppression?

“NEVER compromise what is right, for money or promotion.” - Who decides what is right when ‘we’ get to make up the rules?

“IF and when God shows him or herself in person we will believe.” HE DID, Cheryl 2000 years ago, but you still don't believe!

Where do these atheists get their values?

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

'Halal' food - to eat or not to eat?

Have you noticed 'halal' symbols, on Cadbury's chocolate and Vegemite jars?

Halal symbols, like the one below, are now appearing on many Australian products.

Some of you might ask 'What is 'halal'?' so let me explain....

'Halal' is the term that Muslims use to identify foods as being acceptable or 'permitted' to eat. Some food items, such as pork and alcohol are prohibited for Muslims, and they are called 'haram'.

'Halal' meat

Under Islamic law, all food in the five food groups is 'halal' or permitted. However the issue becomes more complex when we consider **meat**. For a Muslim, in order for meat to be 'halal' the animal must be slaughtered in a particular way according to shari'a or Islamic law. The throat of the animal is cut to enable the animal to bleed to death. In Australia the legal requirement is that the animals must be stunned *prior* to having their throats cut. There are 123 Abattoirs that are certified to halal requirements serving over 2,700 butchers who sell it to the public in Australia.

Some Muslims claim that Islamic law says that the animal should **NOT** be stunned before they are killed, so some Australian abattoirs have been given an exemption by the federal government so that they can stun the animal *after* its' throat has been cut.

In 2007, the Howard government ordered a review of ritual slaughter in Australia. However, the report has not been released by the present Minister for Agriculture, Tony Burke.

The RSPCA is particularly concerned about animals being killed without being stunned

by Jenny Stokes

first and animal rights groups are concerned that the exemptions regarding stunning might be allowed to continue.

Princess Alia bint al-Hussein of Jordan, who is the sister of King Abdullah II, is running a campaign to insist that animals should be stunned *before* being killed - she says Islamic principles do **not** require that the animals be conscious when they are killed. She recently wrote to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, saying "Reducing [Australia's]

standards to permit animals to be slaughtered while fully conscious may meet the personal preferences of a minority of Muslims but it is not an example that will inspire positive change, nor encourage the acceptance of pre-slaughter stunning in the Middle East,"

The Primary Industries Ministerial Council of federal and state agriculture ministers met in Perth in November 2009 to discuss the issue. No statements have come from that meeting.

Religious Issues

Of particular concern to Christians is the fact that an **Islamic religious ritual** accompanies the killing of the animal.

Firstly, the slaughterman must be a Muslim - in fact, some slaughtermen have been brought into Australia on religious workers' visas in order to carry out this role.

Secondly, the slaughterman faces towards Mecca (Islam's spiritual centre) and pronounces a Muslim prayer to Allah in Arabic as he kills the animal - "Bismillah, Allahu Akbar" meaning "Allah is great".

For Christians, this is relevant because this makes it a religious ritual that in effect sacrifices the animal to an idol - Allah.



In Acts 15, the church leaders sent a letter to the Gentile believers in Antioch, saying “You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality.” (NIV)

Later, in 1 Corinthians 8, Paul discusses the matter further. He says “We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one”; “Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do”. However, he warns “Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom

does not become a stumbling block to the weak. For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, won’t he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols?”

Thus ‘halal’ meat is a serious issue for Christians.

‘Halal’ Meals

Various organisations, from local councils to hospitals, are now providing ‘halal’ meals in Australia. Sometimes this is just for Muslims whilst at other times they provide halal food for everyone.

For instance, the local Interfaith Network in Dandenong put on a barbeque and announced that all the food would be halal - some of the Christian pastors objected and insisted on having ‘non-halal’ food as well.

* A childcare centre in Dandenong, Victoria, advertises that it has “100% Halal Food”.

* Southern Health (Vic) is serving a choice of halal meals for Muslim patients in its hospitals, as is Sydney Children’s Hospital.

Some fast food companies now have only halal food in some of their restaurants,

meaning all meat is halal and all food is prepared according to Islamic law. Two McDonalds restaurants in Melbourne (Roxburgh Park and Brunswick East) are already halal with a new restaurant in Preston expected to be halal. In Sydney four McDonalds are certified as ‘halal’.

‘Halal’ labelling of other foods

An increasing number of companies are using the ‘halal’ label on their foods. This ‘certifies’ the food as acceptable to Muslims.

Apart from the scenario in which the product actually contains meat there is the situation where the product doesn’t contain meat but the halal label is used to give ‘Islamic approval’ to the food.

What does this mean for non-Muslims? When foods are labelled as ‘halal’ - whether they contain meat or not - it is a form of dhimmitude, of following Islamic shari’a law. It is contributing to an ‘Islamisation’ of our society. We should not be subject to such practices in Australia.

At least 15 organisations or companies in Australia have set themselves up as authorities that can certify foods, or restaurants and so on, as being ‘halal’.

One of these is the *Australian Federation of Islamic Councils*, the peak body representing Islamic groups across Australia. Other groups are private companies set up to offer a ‘halal certification service’. One of the most prominent is the *Halal Certification Authority*. According to an interview conducted by Michael Smith, of Radio 4BC (Qld) in August 2009, the Chairman of that organisation Hajj Mohamed El-Mouelhy is the **sole shareholder** of the organisation.

Companies pay a fee to these organisations to use the ‘halal’ label, so purchasers in effect give money to Muslim organisations!

**There are
at least 15
organisations
in Australia
certifying
food as ‘Halal’**

These groups tell companies that obtaining halal certification will help the company market their products - to the 370,000 Muslims in Australia (2006 census) and, more importantly, to the wider Middle East markets that want 'halal' products.

Have a look at a block of *Cadbury's* Dairy Milk chocolate. On the back is a very small symbol in a circle with the words "Halal Certification Authority" (HCA). You have to look closely to read it. The symbol shows that Cadbury chocolate is 'halal certified'.

On the back of the label appears a list of 8 countries that Cadbury exports to, with contact addresses. Thus, the same wrapping is used for Cadbury's export market into the Middle East and Asia.

I contacted *Cadbury* and spoke to a representative of the company. I asked why *Cadbury* had 'halal certification' for their chocolate. Did their chocolate or fillings include any 'meat' products?

No, was the answer. I asked, 'Why is your chocolate certified 'halal'? The answer was that the certification body came and inspected their equipment, on which the chocolates are produced, to ensure that it was "Islamically clean".

My response was "I hope it is clean - but it doesn't need to be 'Islamically clean'! I don't need your equipment to be approved by an Islamic inspection team."

Bega cheese is another product bearing a halal symbol - also by the HCA. *Bega* claims that "30% of their production is destined for overseas markets". *'Coon'* cheese now also carries a 'halal' label.

Many yogurts contain 'halal gelatine'. The question then is: "Does the gelatine come from cows?" because if it does the same issues that relate to meat apply.

Recently I contacted *Yoplait*. They said the

'halal gelatine' does come from halal-slaughtered cows. Yogurts with 'halal gelatine' include *Dairy Farmers*, *Yoplait*, *Ski* & *Nestle's*. Nestle say "The gelatine used in our ALLENS confectionery, Violet Crumble and Peters ice-cream is halal" and "some products are "halal certified". Pauls' cream, sour cream and yogurt also get the 'halal' stamp of approval. On the other hand, *Jalna* yogurt does NOT contain 'halal' gelatine!

Vegemite, owned by *Kraft*, has had a 'halal' label since August 2009.

So how should we respond?

It is one thing for Muslim organisations

to identify which foods are appropriate for Muslims to eat, but quite another to have foods in Australia prayed over by Muslims, ritually killed and labelled as 'halal'!

If we are told that food or meat is 'halal' then we are in effect being told that it has undergone some sort Muslim ritual, so eating it is endorsing

the practice and the prayer to Allah.

If eating such food could cause others to think we endorse the Islamic ritual or the 'labelling', should we knowingly eat it?

We need to understand that the labelling of foods as 'halal' is part of the introduction of Islamic shari'a law into Australia by stealth.

ACTION: When you shop for food, or eat out, check carefully to see if your favourite foods are now being labelled as 'halal'! Express your concern to the company or the restaurant owner.

A fully referenced version of this article is at www.saltshakers.org.au - search on 'halal'.

News Update

Registered with no gender

A person in NSW has become the first person to be registered by the state as being neither male nor female.

'Norrie', who identifies as 'neuter' and only uses a first name, has received a certificate from the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages that says "sex not specified".

Apparently the law does not actually deal with this situation, but the registry agreed to the change when presented with evidence from two registered doctors that Norrie was 'physically and psychologically androgynous'. [Age, 12/3/2010]

Norrie was registered as 'male' at birth. At 23, Norrie began taking hormones and then had surgery to become a woman, but has since ceased taking hormones, preferring to live as neither male nor female.

Meanwhile, another boy, 'Bernadette', has been given permission by the Family Court to begin hormone treatment to become a 'girl'. It's certainly a very mixed up world!

Atheism ads

The atheists have now placed atheism ads on Melbourne buses. The ads read, '*Atheism - Celebrate Reason*'. The first ads were placed on the back of buses, starting in late February 2010, two weeks prior to the Global Atheist Convention in Melbourne.

The ads appeared on the backs of 24 buses until March 29. After that the number is to rise to 40 buses and the advertisements will be included on the sides as well.

In February, we reported that the Atheist Foundation had complained to the Victorian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission about discrimination because their proposed ad campaign was rejected by

APN Outdoor, the country's biggest outdoor advertising company.

The atheists made a confidential agreement with the bus and advertising companies. In other words, the companies gave in!

Details and photos of ads are posted on the *Atheist Foundation of Australia's* website. See 'Media Releases' at <http://www.atheistfoundation.org.au>

Federal ETS

Debate on the federal government's proposed emissions trading scheme has been delayed until May. [SMH, 24/2/2010]

The Coalition Senators and Family First's Steve Fielding combined forces to ensure the bill wasn't debated when Labor brought the bill into the Senate in late February.

The government argued it needed to be passed to provide businesses with certainty, but the Opposition said the bill would be defeated anyway, if a vote was taken!

Mr Rudd and his government seem to have gone quiet about this scheme, following revelations about 'Climategate' and the failure to get a treaty signed at Copenhagen.

ACTION: Please write to your State's 12 Senators. Ask Labor Senators not to proceed with the ETS which is effectively a tax. Ask Coalition Senators to oppose this scheme and not amend it. Send letters to Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600. MP/Senator details on our website.

Freedom of Religion

During 2009, the *Australian Human Rights Commission* conducted an inquiry into religious freedom and belief, with submissions closing in March 2009.

The AHRC website says that the Report will be "released in 2010" - so we're still waiting.

Pray that the AHRC report does not recommend a 'Freedom of Religion Act'.

Ouija Boards at Toys 'R' Us

Since when was a ouija board a toy?

Apparently *Toys 'R' Us* think it is a toy - they are stocking a 'glow-in the dark' ouija board and promoting it as a 'game' to children.

In their promotional spiel they say, "*Ouija Board has always been mysterious. It has always been mystifying. And now the OUIJA Board is glow in the dark! With 72 fun questions included, you'll never run out of things to ask. Who will call/text me next? Gather your friends around, draw a card, place your fingers on the planchette and ask your question. Concentrate very hard and watch as the answer is revealed in the message window.*"

However they don't **just** treat it as a toy or game. They go on to say "Make up your own questions, and let the OUIJA Board satisfy your curiosity in virtually endless ways. OUIJA Board will answer. *It's just a game - or is it?*" [Emphasis added]

Age range

The suggested age range for the Ouija Board is "17 years and up". However there is NO restriction on the actual sale of the product.

If it is only suitable for those 17 years and over, why sell the product in a TOY store? Selling it in a TOY store encourages younger children to want a ouija board.

Toys 'R' Us say that the age range is decided on by referring to the "Manufacturer's Age" which "may be based on what age range the manufacturer [in this case *Hasbro*] recommends will like the product best, or what age range is appropriate based on safety information and restrictions."

Toys 'R' Us then provides their own

suggested age range "based on these manufacturer recommendations, as well as considering which ages will enjoy the product. Such factors as a child's developmental skill set and toy popularity help determine the enjoyment levels of a product."

Toys 'R' Us are currently offering a 'free bonus gift' with the purchase of a ouija board. The bonus is a "Mighty Beanz & Collector's Guide" - the age range for this toy is "5 - 10 years". But why give a free bonus aimed at young children?

Why are ouija boards dangerous?

In a word, they are connected to the occult.

A ouija board is used by people participating in a séance who are trying to communicate with spirits (usually those of dead people).

A ouija board is marked with letters, numbers and symbols - a planchette (heart-

shaped piece of wood) is used to trace out the 'answers' to questions. Although the participant touches the planchette, the planchette is said to move by itself (caused by the 'spirits') to trace out 'answers'. In effect this practice channels the spirits and encourages the participant to communicate with the dead. This occult practice is totally prohibited within Christianity.

ACTION: Please write to *Toys 'R' Us* and ask them not to stock ouija boards. Tell them you object to them selling a product that has direct links to the occult. Ask them to protect vulnerable young children by removing it from sale. Address: Customer Support, *Toys 'R' Us*, Locked bag 7, Regents Park, NSW 2143. [Product at <http://www.toysrus.com/product/index.jsp?productId=2266493>]



Britain & Australia move closer to same-sex marriage

by Peter Stokes

Last month the NSW Labor government announced it would introduce legal, civil recognition and registration of relationships through a **Relationship Register** for homosexual and heterosexual couples. Equivalent in most aspects of the law to civil marriage, this move will again draw Australia closer to same-sex marriage.

Registration would be facilitated through the 'Births, Deaths and Marriages' Registry Office - just like marriage!!

Sadly, as an article in a homosexual newspaper states, this recognition is again supported by the Australian Christian Lobby. The ACL themselves stated to the paper, "We are not opposed to relationship registers which assist with the removal of unreasonable discrimination for same-sex couples, [however,] we would definitely prefer to see the NSW relationship register extended to people in caring or interdependency relationships." [SSO, 3 March 2010]

What is "unreasonable discrimination for same-sex couples"? Surely God discriminated against same-sex couples when he made us male and female and required men and women to come together to produce the next generation?

When Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 6:8-10 (NKJ) "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God", how can we suggest that God's discrimination is "unreasonable"?

Please note that the ACL are not talking

about 'basic' human rights for individual people – they are talking about relationship 'rights' and recognition for same-sex couples and ANY 'couple' outside marriage. Saying that giving legal recognition is 'justice' is a human attempt to normalise what the Bible clearly calls immoral sexual relationships - both heterosexual and homosexual.

Legal recognition is seen simply as stepping stone to achieving their goal of 'equality'

Will giving ground to homosexuals prevent them pushing for marriage? ALL the recent evidence from here and overseas clearly says NO. Giving ground to immorality of any sort is always a flawed strategy; it always encourages bad behaviour.

As we have seen, in Australia and overseas, legal recognition is seen simply as a stepping stone to achieving their goal of 'equality' with heterosexual relationships. It is not about wanting marriage but about equality.

Inch by inch same-sex Relationship Registers, Civil Partnerships and Civil Unions are used to undermine opposition to marriage. Once same-sex couples are given all the 'benefits' of marriage, what grounds are left to say no to marriage itself?

Relationship Registers were introduced in Tasmania in 2004, in Victoria in 2008, and the ACT Territory government gave legal recognition through a Civil Partnership scheme in 2008, yet in all three places, and nationally, the pressure is still being applied to give full 'marriage' recognition.

When the NSW government announced their intention to instigate a relationship register, NSW homosexual activist Ben Keats stated, "Despite the GLRL [Gay

& Lesbian Rights Lobby] never having campaigned for relationship registers, we view them as a step towards greater relationship recognition, however, marriage equality remains the ultimate goal.” Note he did not say ‘marriage’ but “marriage equality”.

Following the rejection of same-sex marriage by the recent Senate Inquiry, Rodney Croome, one of Australia’s most prominent homosexual activists, asked “was the inquiry a waste of time...? The answer he gave? “Definitely not... we now have, on the official record, an immense amount of material supporting marriage equality... Thanks to this inquiry and despite the best efforts of the religious right, marriage equality is now firmly on the national agenda and cannot be removed.”

Despite the set-backs, another step forward to “equality”.

Victoria had the largest pro same-sex marriage rally of any state last August, and in November, despite having a Relationship Register giving all the benefits of marriage.

Of course, same-sex relationships can never be ‘equal’ to heterosexual relationships - no matter how ‘loving’ they may appear to be. God made male and female ‘different yet compatible’. Same sex relationships are ‘the same therefore incompatible’ - they simply don’t ‘fit’ together and they are unable to have sex or reproduce naturally.

Sadly, Christians everywhere are becoming more and more complicit in the undermining of God-ordained, natural human relationships by giving ground to the unnatural.

In Britain recently, some leading Anglican Bishops actually campaigned for the removal of ‘discrimination’ against same-

sex couples by publicly supporting a change in the British ‘Equality Law’ to allow same-sex couples to ‘solemnize’ their ‘Civil Partnerships’ in places of Worship. They agreed with homosexual activists that the UK law ‘discriminated’ by not allowing this.

Buoyed by Christian support, a homosexual Lord moved a motion in the House of Lords to change the ‘Civil Partnership / Equality Act’ to include the option of holding same-sex ‘ceremonies’ in places of worship. It wasn’t surprising, then, that the amendment passed, 95 to 21 - a majority of 74.

This was despite the Labor government Leader in the Lords actually speaking against the move, saying he believed it was ‘a step too far’.

But, largely because the move was supported by ‘some’ Christians, it is unlikely that MPs will NOT oppose it in the House of Commons.

This means, in reality, that Britain is now only one very, very small step away from ‘gender

neutral marriage’ – the ‘marriage’ of ANY two people.

Misguided Christian ‘compassion’ and so-called ‘justice’ is allowing homosexual activists to continue to push for and get closer to, the big prize - false ‘equality through marriage’.

ACTION: We ask all our NSW readers to strongly oppose the proposed relationship register. Please write to the leaders of both major parties - Premier Kristina Keneally and Liberal leader Barry O’Farrell - and your State MPs (one Leg Assembly, ALL Leg Council). Send letters to Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

MP details: www.saltshakers.org.au/take-action/parliamentmps/80-new-south-wales

Sadly, Christians everywhere are becoming more and more complicit in the undermining of God-ordained natural human relationships



Same-sex marriage

Same-sex marriage: Do we want it? No.
Do we need it? No.
Is it right? No.
Is it equal? No.

Solid research resources show that same-sex marriage does not serve children well because study after study shows that children do best when raised with a mum and dad.

That is why retaining traditional marriage, one man with one wife for life is so important for our whole society.

Thank God that the Greens same-sex marriage bill was defeated in the Senate.

Judith Bond, Glen Alpine, NSW
Macarthur Advertiser 10/3/2010

Nation drowning in stimulus debt.

Seventeen hot water systems for four showers at a country football club should be the last straw for taxpayers regarding Kevin Rudd's stimulus spending ('Your money down the drain', March 11).

But for a negligible sum spent on social housing and port infrastructure, the whole splurge has been a fiasco, yet to be topped off with the \$43 million national broadband network which has no viable business plan and will be obsolete before it is completed.

Barnaby Joyce rightly questions a \$133 billion and rising debt incurred, which will be a burden to service, let alone repay.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner accuses Joyce and Tony Abbott of being "economic illiterates", yet endorses his leaders desire to continue the stimulus spending right up to election day.

After all, it's even worse in the US and EU ... so that makes it okay?

J Morrissey, Hawthorne
Herald Sun 12/03/2010

Surrogacy

I can sympathize with heterosexual couples who are unable to have a child. My wife and I struggled with infertility for six years before we unexpectedly conceived our daughter.

However, to legalise altruistic surrogacy, and to make such arrangements available to single people and same-sex couples, is a form of social engineering that Queensland does not need. The Government ought to re-consider.

Brian Robertson, Barga
Courier Mail 10/2/2010

Childcare Debate

Tony Abbott is outbidding Labor by eight weeks with his twenty-six weeks parental leave statement.

Is it good policy? Data based on forward Federal Government Budget estimates and made available by the Australian Family Association, also accessible at www.kidsfirstaustralia.com, shows that there is a huge childcare gap between mothers who hold a job and those that do not. Information shows that waged mum families who outsource childcare in the year of birth will receive sixty five percent more than mothers who do not hold a job. That gap increases to a whopping ninety four per cent in the years after birth.

What this means is, that there is strong governmental encouragement for mothers to work or go and find a job. It would have been more note worthy if Mr Abbott had made a commitment to balance out the needs in our society and include strong support to mothers who want to stay at home and look after their own children.

A balanced population growth policy would be better for our society and our country. It would reduce the need to fuel our population growth through migration.

Robert Bom, Rockhampton
Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton
18/3/2010
Daily Mercury, Mackay



Gambling holds no attraction

For the second time in as many weeks, I have received an unsolicited fax inviting me to join an online footy tipping competition. Besides being a member of the Anti-Football League, (the original AFL), I don't gamble, never have, and have no intention of starting now. This is a simple ploy to lure people to a gambling website.

Our government is totally addicted to the taxes it rakes off from all gambling products. Due to addictions such as gambling, which result in household budgets being gambled away, there are children in our society who regularly go to school without breakfast. Somewhere our society has lost its way and priorities.

Lennyce Westaway Navigators Vic 3352
The Courier 16/03/2010

Victoria - Equal Opportunity Amendments

On March 10 Victoria's Attorney-General Rob Hulls introduced a bill into the parliament to amend Victoria's *Equal Opportunity Act* (EOA). He refused to allow more than two weeks for public consultation, and the bill was to be debated in the Legislative Assembly on 24 March. If passed, it goes to the Legislative Council two weeks later.

The Bill is a result of two separate inquiries initiated by Mr Hulls. The first was an "independent review" of the EOA conducted by Julian Gardner. A final report, including recommendations for reform of the EOA, was given to Mr Hulls in June 2008.

The second review, on the exemptions contained in the EOA, was initially done by the Justice Department but later handed to the parliament's *Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee* (SARC). Before SARC could release their report (in November 2009) Mr Hulls, with the agreement of some religious bodies, pre-empted the report and announced what restrictions he planned to place on existing religious exemptions in the Act. Religious bodies will now have a very restricted ability to discriminate.

Mr Hulls said, in his second reading speech, "Discrimination will continue to be allowed on other grounds such as *religious beliefs, sex and sexual orientation*, which may be connected to particular religious doctrines. In order to rely on the exceptions, religious bodies and schools *will have to show that the discrimination conforms with the doctrines of the religion, or is reasonably necessary to avoid injury to the religious sensitivities of adherents of the religion.*"

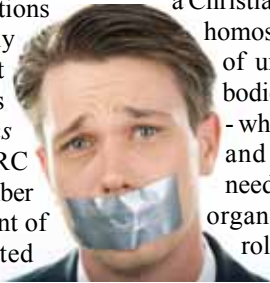
This places an onerous burden on religious bodies who would have to justify their stance to the Commission and the Tribunal whenever anyone complains.

This happened to Wesley Mission regarding same-sex couples being foster carers in NSW. They lost their initial case because the Tribunal decided that opposition to homosexuality was not a 'doctrine' of their religion!

Of particular concern is Mr Hulls proposal that employment by religious bodies and schools would be subject to an 'inherent requirements' clause. For example, if a person was teaching maths, a Christian school would have to justify, according to the doctrines of their faith, why it is an "inherent requirement" for that person to be a Christian, to not be cohabiting or not be homosexual. This shows a total lack of understanding of how religious bodies and Christian schools operate - where all staff need to be Christians and their behaviour and beliefs need to be in accordance with the organisation, no matter what their role - and that includes gardeners and secretaries!

Also of grave concern is that the Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (EOHRC) will be given an **open-ended power to investigate, on its own initiative**, "any matter relating to the operation of this Act." That means they can investigate anything they think is 'discrimination' and initiate their own cases **without a complaint even being made!** They can then issue a 'compliance notice' which can be enforced by the Tribunal.

ACTION: If you live in Victoria, please write immediately to your FIVE Legislative Council Members - ask them to vote against these proposals that restrict religious freedom and give additional powers to the EOHRC. Send letters to Parliament House, Melbourne, Vic 3002.



Political Parties - What do they stand for?

Part Four: The Australian Labor Party

by Peter Stokes

We continue our brief look at political Party's with a glance at the **Australian Labor Party (ALP)**.

The ALP arose in the late 1800s from the so-called 'working class' through the trade union movement.

The term 'working class' was used to represent all those on a wage, although the power of the unions, and subsequently the strength of the ALP, was mostly in places like the docks, the mines, on farms (shearers) and heavy industry.

State Labor Parties were formed in the 1890s and the federal Party was a natural progression after Federation.

Harsh oppression of workers by the 'rich upper class' and a lack of caring for the marginalised, presented a challenge that the new party responded to.

The first Labor government in Australia was a minority government in Queensland in 1899. It is said to be the first Labor government in the world, but it lasted just a week before a group of 'other' parties amalgamated to form a majority government.

Labor's first two federal governments were minority governments; the first in 1904 which lasted for four months, and then in 1910 when they also won control of the Senate. Andrew Fisher was then leader of the Party.

Philosophy

Given that it was the Union movement that gave Labor its grass roots support, the ALP has always been a Party leaning to what is perceived as the 'left' of the political spectrum - anti the proletariat, in revolutionary terms. It also claimed the high

'moral' and social ground.

Shortly after Federation, prominent Labor man GW Spence wrote: "There are only two parties now; the Anti-Social Party - those who are against society and in favour of class dominance and the Labor Party which stands for justice, for right, for high moral principles ... Labor is not for class but for all."

Well, all the 'working class' that is. The dominance of Union representation has always meant the Labor Party was a socialist Party (specified by them as 'democratic socialism) with Communist leanings.

Gough Whitlam epitomises the Labor Party, and he is a mentor of our current Prime Minister.

As a Labor Party Candidate he signed the following pledge "I

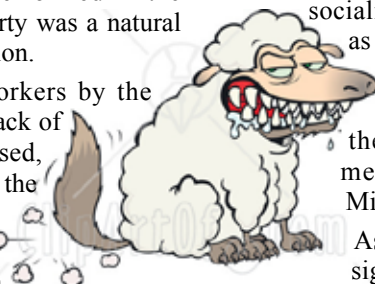
also pledge myself to actively support and advocate at all times the party's objective - the socialisation of industry, production, distribution and exchange" (Labor Party NSW state rules and Constitution, 1964-65).

Mr Whitlam also said in the *Sydney Morning Herald* 26/07/1972, "It would be intolerable if a Labor government were to use the alibi of the Constitution to excuse failure to achieve its socialist objective..."

Socialism must not be confused with social justice. They are very different and come from a completely different motivation.

The motivation of socialism is centralised political control as we saw in the USSR and China during the 1900s.

Also extremely influential in the ALP is the *Australian Fabian Society* which was established in 1947; it is an offshoot of the



British *Fabian Society* founded in 1884. It is said that the Fabians have been “one of the most famous and successful agents of social change” in British political thought. Inspired by the Fabian Society in the United Kingdom, the Australian body is dedicated to Fabianism, the focus on the advancement of socialist ideas through gradual influence and patiently promoting socialist ideals to intellectual circles and groups with power. The original symbol for the Fabians was a wolf in sheep’s clothing.

The *Australian Fabian Society* has had close historical ties with the Australian Labor Party. The following are notable Fabians...

Gough Whitlam (ALP PM 1972–75 and National President of the Fabian Society)

Bob Hawke (ALP PM 1983–1991)

Paul Keating (ALP PM 1991–1996)

Julia Gillard (ALP Deputy PM)

John Cain (ALP Premier of Victoria)

Jim Cairns (ALP Deputy PM)

Don Dunstan (ALP Premier of SA)

Geoff Gallop (ALP Premier of WA)

Neville Wran (ALP Premier of NSW)

The ALP was very heavily influenced by the Roman Catholic church until the split over the Communist takeover of the ALP party machine and much of the Unionist movement in 1940s and 50s.

This split saw the establishment of the Democratic Labor Party (DLP) in 1955. Interestingly, after the split, the Victorian Supreme Court held that those who became the DLP were the legitimate Labor Party and not the communist-influenced ALP that expelled them.

Perhaps it is not a coincidence that the rise of Communism in the ALP coincided with the formation and rise of the Fabian Society in Australia. What is of most concern, perhaps, with this regard, is that many current ALP politicians remain members of the Fabian Society.

Whilst today’s ALP would deny any links

to communism, and claim only that they are a ‘democratic socialist’ party, it must be remembered that it is said that Democratic Socialism was all that really existed in the USSR because it failed to achieve all the goals of true Communism.

Once communism really influenced the ALP the moral values of the early Labor party started to change. Issues like abortion on demand were promoted and eventually became ALP policy.

Marriage was the next target. Successfully undermined by the idea of ‘no fault divorce, vigorously pushed by the humanist ALP Attorney-General, Justice Lionel Murphy.

As historian Manning Clark pointed out in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 30/10/86, Christianity also became a target - “it had been one of Murphy’s aims to dismantle the Judeo-Christian ethic of Australian society.”

Murphy’s protégé, Gareth Evans, a former president of the humanist society, Fabian and architect of the proposed Bill of Rights, once said: “children want a right to sexual freedom and education and ‘protection from the influence of Christianity’.”

It comes as no surprise to see the promotion of homosexuality and homosexual relationships high on the agenda of today’s ALP - even to the extent of some State branches now calling for same-sex marriage.

Today, most of the ALP power and many of its’ politicians still come from the trade union movement – which spent around \$20 million of trade unionists’ money fighting the last Federal election. Naturally they always expect and demand a favourable return on their investment. Much of this money is paid to unions by people who are not ALP members, supporters or voters.

The very close link between the Union movement and the ALP, and the easy ride many union ‘officials’ get into safe Labor seats is, in fact, a corruption of modern Australian politics. ■

Paid Parental or Maternity Leave Funding

Paid maternity leave is shaping up to be a federal election issue. The federal government recently debated the Rudd government's proposed scheme, which would provide a paid maternity leave scheme based on 18 weeks paid at the "minimum federal award rate".

For working women this would be in place of the 'Baby Bonus'. Introduced by the Howard government, the bonus was set at an amount that "was roughly 12 weeks pay at the then minimum federal award rate".*

Then federal Liberal leader Tony Abbott, entered the debate, making an announcement during a speech for International Women's Day.* He proposed a paid parental leave (maternity leave) scheme. His proposal was to give 26 weeks of paid leave to women at the same rate as their current salary, up to a maximum salary of \$150,000. He said a "1.7 per cent levy on the taxable income over \$5 million a year of the 3200 companies that pay more than this would raise \$2.7 billion."

A lot of controversy has erupted over Mr Abbott's parental leave scheme. The plan wasn't approved by the Shadow Cabinet and big business expressed concern that they'll

be subject to another tax - which, of course, they said they would pass on to consumers.

Peter Costello, former Liberal Treasurer, opposed Mr Abbott's proposal, saying it was an unreasonable tax and that big businesses that currently provide paid maternity leave might stop their current schemes.

We are concerned at proposals that provide different levels of support to waged and unwaged mums. In the first year, under Mr Abbott's proposal, an 'unwaged mum' would receive the baby bonus of \$5,000 plus \$3,112 from Family Tax Benefit B (total \$8,112) whilst a waged mum would receive up to \$75,000 in salary (average of \$25,000) plus an average child care subsidy of \$6,041 (total - \$31,041 on average wage and up to \$81,041).



Paid maternity leave schemes encourage women to return to work sooner instead of caring for their children; especially since the payment requires them to be in the workforce for a specified time prior to taking leave. Women might qualify for a first child but many stay home to care for that child and wouldn't qualify for the second child - unless they return to work.

* *Tony Abbott's speech: www.tonyabbott.com.au/Pages/Article.aspx?ID=3978* ■

Lesbian ordained as a 'bishop

A lesbian who for 22 years lived in SIN with her female 'partner' has been rewarded with a Bishops 'crown' by the Episcopal Church in the USA. This was the church that approved the first openly homosexual Bishop, Gene Robinson, in 2003.

This was despite repeated calls not to do so by Conservative prelates and the Archbishop of Canterbury, head of the

world wide Anglican Church.

Sadly, homosexuals call for tolerance are very one sided - we must tolerate them while they thumb their nose at everyone else.

Anglicans worldwide need to stop appeasing the pro-homosexual lobby within the church and should start to discipline those who defiantly promote their own agenda of self-justification. ■

Teaching 'creation' in Christian schools

The teaching of 'Biblical creation' as the basis for the origin of the universe and individual species is under threat. Christian schools in various states are under pressure not to teach creation in science classes.

With a proposed national curriculum, some groups are concerned that this pressure could increase across the nation.

The important issue here is the principle that schools should have the freedom to teach all subjects within the tenets of their faith. This applies to all schools, whether they are government schools, Christian schools or those based on other religious views or a secular standard.

This is a worldview issue, and whilst some curriculum matters might be outlined, schools must be able to teach according to their faith perspective.

South Australia

Christian schools are fighting against policies published by the *South Australian Non-Government Schools Registration Board* in December 2009 that effectively ban the teaching of 'creationism' in science.

The policy states that the Board requires "teaching of science as an empirical discipline, focusing on inquiry, hypothesis, investigation, experimentation, observation and evidential analysis".

That sounds reasonable, doesn't it?

However the Board also said it "does not accept as satisfactory a science curriculum in a non-government school which is based on, espouses or reflects the literal interpretation of a religious text in its treatment of either creationism or intelligent design".

The vast majority of science fits into the

empirical method. Matters such as the boiling temperature of water and the growth of plants are not affected by whether the curriculum is 'based on' Biblical creation, evolution or intelligent design. However, the way we view the world, including our beliefs about how the world came into existence, influence every aspect of life. In fact, many of the early scientists were Christians who studied science and the world because they believed it was an ordered universe created by God.

It seems that the contentious issues are the question of the origin of the universe (including cosmology and geology) and the theory of the evolution of species.



Evolution is still only a theory - and it is incapable of being proved right. Thus Christian schools should be able to teach various 'theories' in this subject area.

New South Wales

The issue of teaching creation in science classes was the subject of debate in NSW a couple of years ago.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* (3/3/2010) recently reported "A spokeswoman for the NSW Board of Studies, Rebecca Lloyd, said the NSW board had made its policy clear last June that science teaching which was not scientifically or evidence-based would not be part of assessment for the School Certificate or Higher School Certificate. But the NSW Board of Studies had a policy of not loading so much mandatory work on to schools that there was no time for anything else, and other non-core activities offered to students could include extra religious instruction."

This leaves some flexibility and doesn't ban particular topics or approaches.

Unfortunately the acting executive director of the *NSW Association of Independent Schools*, Michael Carr, was much more restrictive when he told *SMH*: “Our view is that NSW independent schools must follow the Board of Studies curriculum, which dictates that creationism cannot be taught as science. “Schools wishing to teach creationism must teach it as part of their religious studies.”

However, Christian schools need to be able to teach all subjects according to the tenets of their faith, teaching the Biblical worldview in all areas of the curriculum.

National Curriculum

However, it is the National Curriculum that could now present the greatest challenge.

The Australian National Curriculum is being developed by ACARA - the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority. The draft Australian curriculum for K-10 for English, History,

Mathematics and Science was released on March 5. It is posted online at <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/>

Comment from the public is invited - comments close on 23 May 2010.

The draft K-10 science curriculum is at <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/Documents/Science%20curriculum.pdf>

The science curriculum outlines the general topics - the Year 10 content specifies that evolution be taught: “Evolution by natural selection and the diversity of plants and animals”. There is no mention of creation or ID in the proposed science curriculum - but it doesn’t say they can’t be taught either.

Various commentators have explored the national curriculum - some have criticised it for being “socialist” and others have said it is far too prescriptive.

Why not check out the draft curriculum for English, History, Maths and Science and have your say! ■

Update: Charter of Rights

The federal government is still considering its response to the National Consultation on Human Rights that was conducted in 2008-2009. Submissions closed in June 2009 and a Report was handed to the government on 30 September 2009.

Some media commentators have noted that the federal government has not made a formal response yet. Of course, that might be because they are busy with a wide range of issues at present. Or it might be that they haven’t decided how to balance the competing views in the community.

In October 2009, a delegation of senior church leaders expressed concern to the government about the adverse effects of legislating for a formal Charter of Rights. They warned the Rudd government it could curtail religious freedoms and give judges the power to shape laws on issues such as

abortion and homosexual marriage.

Therefore, we cannot afford to go to sleep on this one. It is time to contact our federal MP and 12 Senators as well as the Leaders of the Labor, Liberal and National parties to ensure they know we are opposed to any Charter of Rights or any additional legislation to ‘protect rights’.

ACTION: Please write to Kevin Rudd, Tony Abbott and Warren Truss. Also write to your federal MP and 12 Senators. For names see <http://www.saltshakers.org.au/take-action/parliamentmps/79-federal>

Send your letters to Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600. Tell them you oppose a Charter of Rights and ask them not to implement any of the recommendations proposed by the National Consultation on Human Rights. ■

Prayer Update

Members of Parliament

Please pray for Members of Federal and State Parliaments. Pray especially for Christians in these Parliaments as they try and make decisions that are not in conflict with their Christian faith.

Prime Minister

Pray for Kevin Rudd as he makes decisions, with his Cabinet, that affect the whole of Australia. Pray that he might seek God's wisdom and not the wisdom of men.

Opposition Leader

Please pray for Tony Abbott as he seeks to provide a viable alternative government. Pray for wisdom as they set and announce policies in the lead up to the federal election.

Legislation

Pray that governments will not pass

legislation that impedes the gospel or is opposed to Christian principles. Pray concerning any proposal for a federal Charter of Rights, the amendments to Victoria's Equal Opportunity Act and the proposal by the NSW government to implement a Relationships Register.



Prayer in Haiti

Praise God for the three days of prayer held in Haiti recently. In the wake of the 12 January 2010, 7.0-magnitude earthquake, Haiti's president René Préval, for the first time in Haiti's history, cancelled the internationally attended annual Mardi Gras Festival, and instead called for three days of fasting and prayer from 12-14 February 2010.

Please pray for Haiti as they recover from the earthquake.

Join us for Prayer and Breakfast
Pray for our nation, its leaders and Salt Shakers
New Time - 7.30-8.30 AM every Thursday at SALT SHAKERS Office

Pray for the persecuted church

A massacre of up to 500 Christians in Jos in Nigeria rocked the world this past month.

The Christians who lived in villages near Kos were killed by tribal Hausa and Fulani Muslims from the north of Nigeria.

Please pray for Christians in Jos and for Christian leaders as they try and keep calm

in this difficult situations.

Elizabeth Kendal, a researcher on religious freedom issues, has an excellent analysis of the background of this situation at her new website: see <http://elizabethkendal.blogspot.com/2010/03/nigeria-why-is-jos-such-tinderbox.html>

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chr. 7:14

UK - Research on marriage and families

The song goes, “Love and marriage go together like a horse and carriage”.

Research is continuing to prove that marriage provides the best environment for enduring relationships and provides the best environment for raising children.

In the UK, the Conservative Party has pledged to bring in tax breaks for married couples. Labour criticised their proposals, but the Children, Schools and Families Secretary Ed Balls did concede that the evidence suggested marriage helped ‘children do better’.

The Bristol Community Family Trust (BCFT), which does marriage education courses in the UK, recently released research showing that marriage is a huge protective factor in family stability.

Harry Benson, of the BCFT, who did the research using UK census data, said: ‘Based on data of 15,000 new mothers, marriage is the single biggest predictor of couple stability, above and beyond the effects of income, education, age, ethnic group,

benefit receipt and birth order.’

‘In a new analysis using census data, I found that 60 per cent of families remain intact until their children are 15. Of these, 97 per cent are married.’

Mr Benson also found that “one in three unmarried couples with children separate before their child’s fifth birthday, four times the rate of married parents”.

The four page report which gives data and analysis, is posted at <http://www.bcft.co.uk/2010%20Family%20policy,%20breakdown%20and%20structure.pdf>

Sources:

“Marriage IS what matters most to family stability as only 3% of unmarried couples stay together until their child is 16”, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1244699/Only-3-couples-stay-child-16-unmarried-study-reveals.html#ixzz0iCICG3Qc>, Daily Mail. 21/1/2010.

Bristol Community Family Trust:
<http://www.bcft.co.uk/> ■



UN: Girl Scouts and sex

When did the Girl Scouts start dealing with matters of sex and sexuality?

One Girl Scouts project “aims at securing the right of women, men and adolescents aged between ten and twenty-five, to better reproductive and sexual health.”

During March, the *World Association of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides* hosted a no-adults-welcome panel at the United Nations during March where Planned Parenthood was allowed to distribute a brochure entitled “Healthy, Happy and Hot” - this

was aimed at young people living with HIV and contains explicit and graphic details on sex, as well as the promotion of casual sex in many forms. The event was part of the annual United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York.

The Girl Scouts, along with the YMCA, have been co-moderating a ‘young women’s caucus’ at the UN - this included hosting an “Intergenerational Conversation” event on “universal access” and “reproductive health.” [CFAM, 11/3/2010.] ■

World News

UN and adolescent sex

At the recent UN meetings for the Commission on the Status of Women, held in March in New York, the heads of various powerful UN agencies including the UN Population Fund, UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN Children's Fund and the World Health Organization released a "UN Joint Statement" under the name of the "UN Adolescent Girls Task Force."

The statements calls for their agencies to promote and support programs "that empower ... adolescent girls, particularly those aged 10 to 14 years."

One of the chief priorities for empowerment is ensuring access to "life-skills based sexuality education, HIV prevention, and sexual and reproductive health."

Geert Wilders in the UK

Geert Wilders, the Dutch politician who has been outspoken about Islam and produced the film *Fitna*, was refused permission to enter the UK by the Home Office a few months ago. He had been invited to speak to the House of Lords and show his film. Why was he not allowed to enter the UK? Because a Muslim MP, Lord Ahmed, objected!

Recently the ban was removed and Geert was given permission to enter Britain, speak at the House of Lords and show his film.

Meanwhile, Geert Wilders is on trial in The Netherlands - for inciting hatred against Muslims. The trial started in February but

has been suspended whilst the witnesses provide a list of dates on which they can appear! Wilders' political party, the *Dutch Freedom Party* (PVV), has been gaining in popularity in recent polls.

Damage from Pornography

Pornography has become more graphic and violent over the years, according to a study released last month by the *Witherspoon Institute*.

Pornography is much more violent and graphic, with degrading acts done to women and children. The ease of access to this pornography on the internet, and even mobile phones, means that the problem has expanded exponentially over the past few years.

The *Witherspoon Institute*, an independent research centre that works to enhance public understanding of the moral foundations of

free and democratic societies, has released a research report called *The Social Costs of Pornography: A Statement of Findings and Recommendations*.

The Institute held a consultation that led to this report - it was the first multifaceted, multidisciplinary, scholarly exploration of pornography since the advent of the Internet. The proceedings, research and recommendations are available in booklet form and as a two-DVD set of the actual two-day meeting that assembled leading experts in several fields, including economics, psychology, sociology, and law to present a rigorously argued overview of pornography in today's society.

Witherspoon Institute: <http://winst.org>

They've set up a special website for the Pornography research: <http://www.socialcostsofpornography.org/>



Ministry News

Peter and Jenny have sold their house in the suburbs and are 'heading for the hills'!

As mentioned last month, our office will continue to be at Wantirna with Peter and Jenny working from there and from their new home.

Last month they joined a large delegation of Christians from more than 30 organisations to speak with a number of senior MPs and Senators about the need to protect marriage and to not support other forms of relationship recognition such as Relationship Registers and Civil Partnerships.

It was great to be a united body, standing together to give a strong message to both government and opposition leaders.

Our decision to shift focus towards a multi-media approach through both our Salt Shaker and Resistance Thinking web sites is progressing. We have spent time laying the ground work for setting up our small 'studio' and working out what hardware and software we will need to accumulate. If any of our readers have some special expertise in the area of video production and have time to assist us, or have reasonably modern video production equipment they don't need, we would be very happy to hear from you before we launch an appeal to raise the funds to employ staff and purchase the required equipment.

Please pray for this project as it develops.

As always we thank you for your continued financial support without which we could not keep you informed and help you *Make a Difference* in your community. ■

ACTION checklist: Tick the box as you complete the task

Page	Topic	Action / People to write to	Done
6	ETS legislation	12 State Senators	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Ouija Board	Toys 'R' Us	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	NSW: Rel Registers	Premier; Opposition Leader; MPs	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Vic: EOA amendments	FIVE Legislative Council Members	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Charter of Rights	Kevin Rudd/Tony Abbott/Warren Truss.	<input type="checkbox"/>

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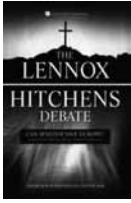
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 "At the world's largest cultural arts festival in Edinburgh, Scotland, Oxford Professor and Christian Philosopher John Lennox debated prominent Atheist Christopher Hitchens about whether or not the New Europe should jettison its religious past and welcome the "New Atheism."
 DVD Run Time: 68 minutes

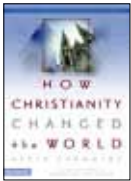
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Atheism is probably definitely wrong - from Matthias Media

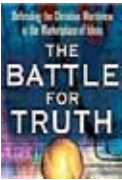
"There is a new breed of Atheist in town, or at least that's the claim being made by the so-called 'New Atheist'. The 'newness' is the argument that only a scientifically-grounded Atheism can ensure the future of humanity." With the World Atheist Conference soon to be held in Melbourne we need to know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

\$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.



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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