

Salt Shakers

Helping Christians make a difference

'If we are truthful and look at our nation's present condition, we see a decline in morality, hope and direction.

But God is not through with us,

He is looking for those who would not only talk 'salt' and 'light' – but live it!

He is looking for politicians, business people and youth who will stand up for righteousness and make a difference with their lives.

Col Stringer 'Discovering Australia's Christian Heritage'

August 2010 AD

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Editorial

We have seen the explosion of the pro-abortion movement in this country in recent years but what most Australians are unaware of is the pressure being applied in international forums to enshrine abortion as a 'human right' - obviously for the parent, not the child.

In a recent article titled *Abortion Activists Claim New "Right" to Maternal Health*, Susan Yoshihara PhD pointed out that at a recent United Nations (UN)-backed 'Women Deliver' conference in Washington, abortion activists announced the achievement of a new international 'human right' to maternal health just three years after launching a campaign to establish it.

She noted that advocates said the new 'right' requires nations to liberalise abortion laws and create numerous new bureaucracies, procedures and programs.

Around the same time, C-FAM reported that, "The *International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)* launched a new campaign called "*A Promise is A Promise*," demanding that states [nations] implement policies and programs to achieve the controversial *Millennium Development Goal (MDG)* target 5b on "universal access to reproductive health by 2015."

According to IPPF, "universal access to reproductive health refers to a full package of services including comprehensive sexuality education, access to contraception, maternity care, emergency obstetric care, and *safe abortion services* ..." [emp added]

Whilst many of the *Millennium Development Goals* sound good and are supported by many Christians, the vehicle driving them is a hotbed of activists promoting a godless agenda that includes population control, sexual 'rights' including abortion and

dictating to sovereign nations what they can and cannot do in a range of areas.

While Christians may support responsible aid programs and appropriate help for poor nations, the groups we support need great scrutiny.

Instead of jumping on to some 'nice sounding' UN proposals in the name of 'good works', we need to evaluate the best way that aid can and should be given.

Christians do not need the 'secular' UN to deliver it. Christians have been effectively distributing aid since they realised it was better to teach a man to fish, than to continually give him the fish.

Dambisa Moyo has clearly told us in her book *Dead Aid* that the UN model has totally failed. When you add to this international government aid a requirement that abortion be promoted as a 'right', you see just who is in control of it - satan of course.

We should all be extremely dubious about claims to new 'rights', especially when they are discriminatory against other human beings - in this case against the BABY who is completely human from conception and who is killed in every abortion without any say in the matter at all.

How humans can call that a 'human right' beggars belief, but it is so common today for selfishness to trample others' freedoms that we should not be surprised.

The push for homosexual 'rights' in relation to their 'sexuality' and relationships is totally without justification except on the grounds of selfishness.

Christians must become much better at discerning the truth from the emotional rhetoric if we are to continue to be the salt and the light to a world full of darkness.

Yours in Christ Jesus
Peter & Jenny Stokes



A day is a long time in politics!

In the months leading up to the change of leadership of the Australian Labor Party there had been increasing rumblings about the performance of then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. Some of the concerns related to media reports about his aggressive treatment of staff and his swearing. An article, in *Quarterly Essay*, by journalist David Marr highlighted Kevin Rudd's 'off the record' swearing in press briefings and suggested that anger was a significant trait in Kevin Rudd's character.

Fallout from poor policy decisions contributed to the unease. The deaths from the insulation fiasco, the controversial mining 'super profits' tax, the rorts in the schools' *Building the Education Revolution* program, the arrival of increasing numbers of illegal immigrants by boat and the dumping of the flawed 'Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme' (or tax on carbon dioxide) all contributed to the fall in popularity of the government in opinion polls. At the same time, the Greens were gaining in the opinion polls.

It is important to remember that all the major decisions of the Rudd government were not made by Kevin Rudd alone. They were essentially made by four people - Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Treasurer Wayne Swan and Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner. They had been given the name 'Gang of Four' in recognition of the government's decision-making process. Few decisions went to the full Cabinet and even fewer went to the caucus (all the elected ALP Members). If the government was unpopular, it wasn't JUST Kevin Rudd - it was the whole government!

by Jenny Stokes

Internal polling by the Labor Party revealed that the drop in support could lead to the loss of a large number of marginal seats and contribute to losing government at the next election.

To understand what happened next, we need to remember what occurred when Kevin Rudd was appointed as the leader of the ALP, with Julia Gillard as the deputy leader.

The major decisions of the Rudd government were not made by Kevin Rudd alone

The 'Unity' leadership team of Rudd and Gillard was a compromise deal between the 'socialist left' of the Labor Party and the 'Right' faction. Kevin was the candidate favoured by the Right and Julia Gillard was the candidate of the 'Left'.

With the decline in popularity in the opinion polls, various people started calling for a change of leader. On June 12, former Queensland Labor treasurer Keith De Lacy wrote

in *The Australian*, urging federal MPs to replace Mr Rudd. He warned, "Labor now run the risk of being out of power for a generation. I regret to say there is no alternative but to change the leader".

Bill Shorten, former union leader and now federal MP, decided that Labor's electoral prospects under Kevin Rudd were diminishing rapidly and counted 'numbers' to assess Rudd's support amongst federal Labor MPs. He admits he encouraged Julia Gillard to make a challenge for the leadership. The 'Right' faction of the ALP in NSW and Victoria discussed the electoral prospects of the ALP at the coming federal election and decided to withdraw their support of Kevin Rudd.

Some commentators referred to the 'faceless

men of the Labor Party' calling the shots and declaring that the Prime Minister no longer had their support - so he had to go! The faction leaders encouraged Julia Gillard to 'visit' Kevin Rudd and declare that she would challenge for the leadership of the party. This happened on June 23. Kevin Rudd held a press conference, noting that he had agreed to a leadership ballot the following morning. He declared that the people of Australia had elected him as Prime Minister and he intended to continue.

The reality is that the people do not really elect the 'Prime Minister'. The fact is that the Prime Minister is the leader of the party which has the majority of seats in the House of Representatives. Each political party can change its leader at any time, by a vote of the elected members of parliament in that party. And they do so regularly!

At the caucus meeting the next day, Kevin Rudd was persuaded not to contest the leadership.

Voila! A new leader for the Australian Labor party - thus a new Prime Minister.

Wayne Swan, another member of the 'Gang of Four', became Deputy Prime Minister.

Some commentators initially focused on the ruthless way in which the faction leaders and others in the Labor Party ditched Kevin, and the fact that he was not allowed to complete his first term in government following a decisive win at the 2007 election.

However, attention quickly shifted to Julia Gillard as Prime Minister. Julia Gillard immediately said she thought that the government had 'lost its way' and that she had stepped up to 'take control'.

But wait a moment - wasn't she part of the team that had made all the decisions? Wasn't she therefore at least partly responsible for 'losing the way'?

Andrew Bolt noted that the policies of

the Gillard government were the same as the policies of the Rudd government in his article '*Nicer saleswoman, same junk*'.

Julia Gillard immediately attempted to resolve some of the problem issues - negotiating with some big mining companies (whilst upsetting the smaller miners by leaving them out of the discussions) and announcing a new refugee policy (with off-shore processing in East Timor without the East Timor government even knowing what was being proposed!). The government seems oblivious to the fact that they totally opposed Howard's off-shore processing. Julia Gillard is also talking about a 'carbon tax' as a way of sorting out

the problems with the climate change policy.

It is now thought that, if the polls improve, an election could be held as soon as August! Only time will tell.

Do you believe in God? Julia Gillard: "No"

Who is Julia Gillard?

Since Julia Gillard is now the leader of the nation, it is important that we take a close look at her beliefs and values to discern what she really stands for:

Worldview: Julia Gillard comes from the socialist left faction, on the 'extreme left' end of the Labor Party. She is a member of the ***Fabian Society*** (the form of Marxism that tries to institute socialistic ideals by gradual means). At university, and until 2002, she was a member of the ***Socialist Forum***, an extreme left wing group that was formed by communists - she was a member of its 'Management Committee'. She was also the President of the left-wing ***Australian Union of Students***.

Abortion: Julia Gillard is a founding member of ***Emily's List*** - a feminist, pro-abortion group that provides assistance to 'progressive' Labor women to help them get elected. Together with her 'mentor', former Victorian Premier Joan Kirner, she lobbied

and worked to introduce the affirmative action rules in the Labor Party to ensure that a higher percentage of women were pre-selected in winnable seats - based on gender rather than merit or local support.

Julia Gillard voted in favour of cloning embryos and making RU 486 available.

Religion: Soon after she became Prime Minister, she was asked by Jon Faine on ABC radio if she believed in God. She answered “No”, saying she was “not religious” - but adding that she ‘respects the religious beliefs of others’. Thus, we have a declared atheist as Prime Minister. When sworn in as Prime Minister she made an affirmation rather than swearing an oath whilst holding the Bible.

Marriage: Julia Gillard is living in a *de facto* relationship and has not married. She has also been asked about same-sex ‘marriage’. She responded that the Labor Party doesn’t support it - when asked if

it was her personal view as well, she said “Look, that is my view, I think that’s where we’re at as a community now, and I think it’s appropriate that for these very sensitive issues that we’re reflecting community views.” This is not an answer showing conviction of principle against the idea, rather it is a pragmatic response relying on ‘community opinion’. But community opinion and Labor Party policy could change, so we must be very wary about this issue. The Labor Party has already dropped the words ‘man and woman’ from their Platform regarding marriage. They just refer to the ‘Marriage Act’ - and that could change!

The next few months will be vital in determining the future direction of our nation. It is important that we carefully analyse the character and policies of the people who are vying to lead Australia - as well as our local candidates.

Proposed ‘burqa ban’ in NSW

In May, Rev Fred Nile of the *Christian Democratic Party*, tried to introduce a private member’s bill in the NSW Legislative Council to ban the wearing of face-coverings that conceal identity. This has become known as the ‘burqa bill’ as it would prohibit the wearing of the full face-covering burqa and niqab in public. The Council wouldn’t allow him to introduce it. However, on June 22, he was granted permission to introduce and explain the Bill. This was supported by most of the MLCs - with the exception of the four Greens and Family First MP Gordon Moyes.

In his speech, Fred said the bill had nothing to do with race or religion. He said, “The purpose of the *Summary Offences Amendment (Full-face Coverings Prohibition Bill 2010)* is relatively straightforward. It is based on the Belgium

bill. This bill is to prohibit the concealing of a personal identity whilst in public without a reasonable excuse to do so. As I have already stated, nowhere does the bill mention “burqa” or “Muslim.”

Fred explained that the two reasons he is proposing the bill are the rights of women (some women are forced to wear the face covering by others) and security. The incident that prompted the bill last month was a robbery in Sydney where the robber was wearing a full face-covering burqa! That seems like a major security issue to us!

ACTION: The Bill will be debated in September. If you live in NSW, please write to your MP in the Legislative Assembly and ALL members of the Legislative Council as well as Premier Kristina Keneally and Opposition leader Barry O’Farrell. Ask them to support this bill.

Attitudes to Abortion

The *Medical Journal of Australia* recently published an article containing research suggesting that the majority of Australians think abortion should be legal in the first trimester.

People reading the newspaper reports might have been inclined to think this is the TRUTH! Let's take a closer look...

First, it's important to note who is actually doing the research and writing the article! Two of the authors are Lachlan de Crespigny and Julian Savulescu. They have both been actively lobbying for abortion laws to be changed in Australia for many years.

The survey was done using an online panel of more than 500,000 recruited participants who do surveys for rewards or prizes.



Although participants were weighted according to sex, age and location, this is not a true 'random sample'.

Of the 1050 people selected for the survey, only 798 people completed the survey: 4% declined and 15% didn't complete the survey.

The survey was conducted prior to the legalisation of abortion in Victoria, so it asked people about their views on late term abortions, specifically mentioning 24 weeks as in the proposed Victorian legislation: 6% said they should be 'lawful', 48% said they should be 'unlawful', and 42% said "it depends on the circumstances!"

Article at http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/193_01_050710/dec11141_fm.html



Victoria: Discrimination case

The complaint by a homosexual youth support group called *WayOut* against the *Phillip Island Adventure Camp* finally ended up in a hearing at the *Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal* (VCAT) on July 7, 2010.

The *Phillip Island Adventure Camp*, run by the Christian Brethren Church, refused to allow the group to book their premises for a camp to discuss 'homophobia' in 2007. The group lodged a discrimination complaint with the *Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission* (VEOHRC) in early 2008.

When 'conciliation' failed at VEOHRC, the group took the Church to VCAT in September 2008. Nearly two years later the hearing has finally been held.

The Church claims that the religious

exemption in Victoria's Equal Opportunity Act allows them to discriminate on the basis that it is either necessary to comply with the doctrines of the religion, or to avoid injury to the religious sensitivities of its followers.

WayOut has also run a print and media campaign to talk to the media about their complaint. Their complaint has been supported by **YouthLaw** and the **Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH)** has provided them with *pro bono* (free) legal assistance, through the law firm *Mallesons Stephen Jaques*.

At the time of printing, the outcome of the hearing was not known - we'll let you know when it is handed down!

Meanwhile the WayOut group received a one-off grant of \$100,000 in the Victorian 2010-11 budget!



“The Barbarians are Coming... Here”

On August 24, 410, just 1600 years ago, Alaric the Goth entered Rome, the celestial city, and torched its many buildings on a three day rampage, amid the shrieks and abject consternation of the inhabitants, and indeed of the entire empire. Not for 800 years had anything like this ever happened to this city, the glory of civilization. Hence, shock waves went far and wide. From his cave in Bethlehem, Jerome (of Vulgate fame) lamented, “My tongue cleaves to the roof of my mouth and my voice is choked with sobs, to think that that city is captive which led captive the whole world.”

In the years leading up to the sack of Rome barbarian activity on the frontiers had been increasing, and the once invincible Roman armies were now no longer able to do much to stop them. A general called Stilicho had managed to defeat them at Pollentia in 402, but he was half-barbarian himself. Since entire ranks of the frontier army were now riddled with Germanic soldiers, when the invasions came the barbarians, despite some defeats, merely walked through what barriers that remained. Likewise, many of the towns and cities of Gaul were so full of Gothic and other peoples that the game would have been to “spot the Roman”. In Rome itself, and other Italian cities, the cry went up as Alaric approached, “The barbarians are coming!”, but in truth they were already there, and had been for quite some time.

Who were these “barbarians”, and how did they differ from the traditional Romans? This is an important question, since answering it reveals many parallels to the collapse of our civilization today. To begin:

by Murray Adamthwaite PhD

Roman society imagined itself as the elite, the bringers of civilisation in the form of law and justice, technology (roads, aqueducts, etc), security by an efficient army, education and culture, to mention a few. “Barbarians” had none of these refinements: their speech and manner were uncouth; in character they were wild and fierce; in culture they were “philistines”. There were notable exceptions of course, but in the main they were disdained as well beneath the Roman dignity, and when in the late Roman period traditional noble (patrician) families saw their society rent through with these peoples they naturally saw them as undermining everything they held dear. Then, when the barbarian Alaric sacked their beloved city it was a catastrophe.

Who were these “barbarians”, and how did they differ from the traditional Romans?

Our Western civilization faces the same scenario in the early C21st. In all sorts of ways we are witnessing a descent into barbarism. Let me highlight five aspects:

1. Law and Justice

“Now the LORD saw, and it was displeasing in His sight that there was no justice” (Isaiah 59:15). It almost goes without saying that our justice system has broken down in many important respects. Barely a week goes by somewhere in the country that some convicted murderer gets off with a light sentence, or that there is, in general, maudlin sympathy for the perpetrator of a crime, yet scant regard for the victim. It is no secret that for the criminal clan our justice system not only holds no terrors for the evildoer (cf. Rom 13:3); it is a joke. Why is this? The answer is simple: our legal

fraternity is largely made up of left-wing civil libertarians for whom human nature is essentially good, or at least perfectible – certainly not deserving of “punishment” in the old, “heartless” sense. Hence, the criminal penal system has become a social laboratory to demonstrate this perfectibility by various “rehabilitation” techniques. When criminals are not punished this is but a symptom of the disappearance of justice. In turn, this situation is *carte blanche* to the vigilante, when eventually people in the frustration will take the law into their own hands, and our society descends into barbarism where no-one is safe.

We see the potential breakdown of the rule of law in other respects. Take the current “asylum seeker” issue. Many in the community, claiming to be compassionate, would have the government simply set aside the proper legal procedures for processing claims of those seeking to enter the country illegally, and throw open the doors to all comers regardless. But where does that leave those who apply through the proper channels? The bottom line here is that the left and their ilk do not believe in the universal rule of law, but only when that serves other agendas. So while it all sounds very tender-hearted, it is a faux-compassion, since again it jettisons justice. When the rule of law is forsaken, justice disappears and barbarism is the result.

2. Multiculturalism

“But they mingled with the nations, and learned their practices, and served their idols.” (Psalm 105:35-36). The old assimilation policy in regard to immigration held as its assumption that this country had a right to have within its own borders its own laws, culture, customs, and national identity, and anyone wanting to live here had to come to terms with that and conform

to it. This did not mean, of course, that say a Dutch person, or a Croatian, had to forget and jettison those values and memorabilia from his country of origin. No. What it did mean was that immigrants must learn English, renounce all foreign allegiances, and become part of a coherent Australian community.

However, the socialists were never happy with this, and during the 1980s renounced that policy and brought in the esteemed product of their wisdom, *viz.* multiculturalism. Under this policy the nation was no longer a coherent entity but a polyglot of various ‘cultures’, all making

up a ‘diverse’ society. Despite the rhetoric there was nothing new about it: ancient Israel adopted a live-and-let-live approach to their Canaanite comrades in their midst, absorbed their ‘culture’, and ceased to be God’s separate people. Again, the late Roman Empire saw its own version of multiculturalism, when Rome by

the C5th had, by and large, absorbed the culture of the barbarians and forsaken their own, and as a result lost the will to survive as an ethnic entity in its own right.

Likewise in our modern world: in what once was a White Anglo-Saxon Protestant (WASP) culture all sorts of cultures and religions have arisen in its place: Buddhist and Hindu temples, Muslim mosques, meditation centres for Eastern mysticism, and shop-fronts for New Age crystal gazing. Meanwhile, tree-hugging environmentalists encourage us into Earth-worship, while the sports and fitness clubs promote yoga - all in the name of the much-vaunted ‘diversity’. Apart from this degeneration into heathenism my question here is: Is this not a formula for importing the barbarous religious conflicts we see elsewhere in the world, especially in India and the Balkans?

We ignore the warnings at our peril. One

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of the founding Fathers of the United States, Alexander Hamilton, commented on unrestricted multiculturalism in 1802: “The safety of a republic depends essentially on the energy of a common national sentiment; on a uniformity of principles and habits; on the exemption of the citizens from foreign bias and prejudice; and on that love of country which will almost invariably be found to be closely connected with birth, education and family.” That applies not only to the USA, but equally to our own country.

3. Youth anti-culture

“Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions...” (Psalm 25:7)

It is often said that today’s youth are the society of tomorrow. If that is the case, then the outlook is grim indeed.

First, our educational institutions for training the young have become propaganda centres for trendy politically correct (PC) ideology, evolution and post-modernism. As a result they are mere ‘sausage-machines’ producing ideological puppets. The quest for truth has largely been abandoned, and has been replaced by ideological fashion, as can be seen not only in the university courses and “studies” (ie. race studies, peace studies, women’s studies, etc.), but in our museums: they promote a rigid PC orthodoxy of evolution, global warming, racial diversity and so on. Over the past generation or so the PC ideologues have waged war against the classic disciplines, especially history: now fashionable is the so-called “black arm-band” view wherein all was evil and sinister until left-wing socialism came along, when things at last began to improve. Now they are turning their guns on the sciences, and politicising those too, as can be seen in the “climate change” obsession: evidence and scientific caution are thrown to the wind, and “consensus” group-think is the order of the day. But if people do not want reason, logic,

appeal to evidence and the like, then God will take them away, just as He took it away from Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:32), and the result will be superstitious barbarism.

Second, our youth increasingly look and behave like barbarians. I may sound old-fashioned, but I believe in a world where “Ye men are men, and ye women are glad of it” (to echo an old Laurel and Hardy movie). Vive la difference! Hence when in dress there is little to distinguish men from women, when neither take any pride in their appearance (cf. the elegance of women’s fashion 100 years ago to the dowdy – and slovenly - styles of today), when men and boys wear jewellery like women, when both sexes have not only ears pierced (often multiple piercings), but lips, noses, chins, and other unmentionable body parts, then we are on a path back to savagery. This kind of thing does not represent some early stage of evolutionary development, but degeneration from that dignity which God gave to man in the beginning, a process we are witnessing before our eyes.

Again, much youth speech and behaviour has become crass and insolent. Profanities ,which in a former time would have earned a washout of the mouth with soap and water, are now accepted, even in some Christian circles. Teachers are regularly abused in our schools, and with their discipline-deprived powers there is little they can do to stop it. Even the elderly are fair game for in-your-face impudence and crime: jeers and taunts on public transport, frequent bag-snatch incidents, and attacks against them even in their own homes. God’s Word abides: “You shall rise up before the gray-headed and honour the aged...I am the LORD” (Leviticus 19:32).

Part 2 of this article next month will explore entertainment and marriage, with guidelines for a Christian response. ■

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Teach the Christian morality

Another sickening, unprovoked street attack (*The Courier*, 17/6). I recently wrote (9/6), to Premier Brumby, who has expressed some concern about the prevalence of such crimes. To date he has not responded.

I referred to the moral decline in this state since the days of my youth (1940s), when many people didn't even bother to lock their doors, a time when people could walk the streets without fear, at any time of day or night, when crimes of the type referred to in the *Courier* report were undreamt of.

I suggested to Premier Brumby that a partial answer to the problem of youth violence is for all Victorian schools to teach the basic Christian principles 'You are to love your neighbour as you love yourself', and also 'Do to others as you would want done to yourself', not hesitating to name Jesus of Nazareth as their originator.

No Buddhist or Muslim, I said, could possibly object to such teaching, which is consistent with their own principles. In fact no Victorian should have any objection at all to the teaching of a way of life that could transform the outlook of young people, and produce a healthier, happier society in the future.

Arthur Comer, Sebastopol
Ballarat Courier 24/6/2010



Stupid, naive plane

I am so glad that Jim Reiher, Greens candidate for La Trobe, is happy to see a vigorous public debate about State policies before the forthcoming State election. (Free Press Leader, June 16)

I draw attention to the both stupid and naive proposal by the Greens to establish drug injecting rooms in Victoria.

Ten years ago we had such a vigorous debate and the evidence against drug injecting rooms was so overwhelming, as was the public outcry against them, that both major parties totally dropped their foolish support of them.

Heaven help Victoria if the Greens ever hold the balance of power in this state.

Peter Stokes Victoria
Free Press Leader 30/06/2010

Grim Green = Barren Brown

The grim outcome of a federal Greens balance of power would not only "Brown" me off, but create a very barren future for our nation.

David G Westaway, Navigators Vic
The Age 9/6/2010

Carbon dioxide not the cause of change

Jim Brown is right in asserting that both Liberal and Labor have lost their way in relation to the issue of climate, (*The Courier*, June 4th) but it is the Green's crazy climate claims that are right off the planet. Carbon dioxide is not, and never has been, the real issue regarding climate change.

The climate does change and always has, with both major and minor adjustments taking place, such as the Roman and Medieval warm periods and the mini ice age just a few centuries ago. Swings lasting a few decades occur within those major movements.

Currently, the brief minor warming phase appears to have ceased, and recent research indicates a cooling trend over the next few decades.

US meteorologist, Anthony Watts, and Aussie based climate scientist, cancer researcher and author of *Solar Cycle 24*, David Archibald, are actually visiting Ballarat later this month (June 26th) and would be delighted to share their research findings with

people who are willing to look beyond the media hype and political posturing.

David G Westaway Navigators Vic
The Courier 5/6/2010

Labor has lost trust of voters

Please do not vote for Labor.

Labor has had poor oversight in the insulation (issue), numerous buildings were raised with no real value to schools, our hospitals are still overcrowded and patients waiting, the mining communities confused and planet overheating dropped like a hot potato.

There has been no security, no stability and no one to trust in Labor

Judith Bond, Glen Alpine, NSW
Macarthur Chronicle 29/6/2010

Around the states

Tasmania - Euthanasia

Tasmania's Attorney-General Lara Giddings has announced that she will introduce a bill to legalise euthanasia - she euphemistically calls it 'dying with dignity'. This term is specifically chosen to persuade people that this is a humane and compassionate approach to death - when it isn't!

Last year the Greens introduced a euthanasia bill but it failed to get support. Lara Giddings says her bill will be 'better'!

ACTION: If you live in Tasmania please contact your MPs and ask them to vote against this legislation.

NSW - Same-sex adoption

Clover Moore, an Independent member of NSW's Legislative Assembly, has introduced a private member's bill to legalise same-sex adoption and grant 'parenting rights' for same-sex couples.

In early 2010 the NSW government responded to a parliamentary inquiry that recommended allowing same-sex adoption, saying they would not legalise this as there was 'no community consensus' on the issue.

Now the NSW Premier, Kristina Keneally, has said she will support Clover Moore's bill. She said she will give all Labor MPs a 'conscience vote' on the issue. The Liberals are also giving a conscience vote.

Many Christians are upset at Keneally's support for the bill, since she claims to be a committed pro-life Catholic. When asked by reporters how she reconciles her faith with her support for same-sex adoption, she said she knew homosexual couples who fostered children and said that "Jesus sat with the sinners and the saints". When asked to clarify if she meant homosexuals were sinners, she said "Jesus loves all. He accepted all. For me, that is the strongest message that comes out of the gospel."

That sounds like 'half' a gospel to us!

ACTION: If you live in NSW, please contact Premier Kristina Keneally, Liberal leader Barry O'Farrell, your Member in the Legislative Assembly and all Members of the Legislative Council. Ask them not to support this legislation.

SA - same-sex parenting

The South Australian Parliament's 'Social Development Committee' (in the Legislative Council) is reviewing same-sex parenting. The Chairman of the Committee is ALP Member Ian Hunter - he is an active homosexual!

Submissions closed on July 16, 2010.

SA - Prostitution

Don't forget to contact your MPs (one on House of Assembly, ALL in Legislative Council) to ask them not to support the legalisation of prostitution. (See our article on prostitution in the July 2010 journal).

WA - Prostitution

If you are in Western Australia, please continue writing to the Attorney General Christian Porter. Ask him not to legalise brothels. Also contact your MPs in the Legislative Assembly/Legislative Council.

WA - Euthanasia

Greens MP Robin Chapple's *Voluntary Euthanasia Bill* wasn't debated during "non-government business" time on July 1.

The final opportunities for Greens' private members time in 2010 will be 16 September and 11 November.

ACTION: If you live in WA, please contact your Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly members to ask them not to support this bill. ■

ALL MP Contact details: <http://www.saltshakers.org.au/take-action/parliamentmps>

The BMA and sexual orientation

by Keith Tiller

The Independent newspaper (London), reported, on July 2, 2010, that more than two-thirds of doctors attending the *British Medical Association* (BMA) annual meeting approved a motion backing a call for the *Royal College of Psychiatrists* and other mental health standards bodies to reject conversion therapy treatments (where a person seeks assistance to change from a homosexual orientation to a heterosexual orientation) and ban their use in their codes of practice.

The newspaper reported that the vote followed a year long investigation, published in the paper in February, by a journalist and homosexual rights campaigner. Patrick Strudwick, the journalist, posed as a 'patient' to reveal how evangelical Christian therapists operated.

The newspaper went on to state that the Vice-Chair of BMA's junior doctors committee proposed the motion that said: 'Sexuality is such a fundamental part of who a person is, that attempts to change it just result in significant confusion, depression and even suicide....' But Cardiff neurophysiologist Gareth Payne said, at the same conference, that there was no 'gold standard' evidence that conversion therapy did not work and was harmful. He said that it was important to respect the wishes of patients who asked for therapy.

The motion ignores the fact that thousands of people throughout the world, both male and female, have overcome the inner conflicts associated with homosexuality and put the behaviour behind them. In many cases they have gone on to marry and become parents.

High profile homosexual rights campaigners, such as Prof Michael King and Peter Tatchell, acknowledge that no

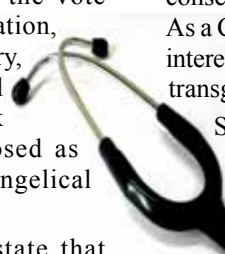
scientific research has demonstrated that homosexuality is innate. In spite of this, homosexual rights campaigners declared the BMA decision a 'watershed moment'.

As part of his investigation, Strudwick attended a Judeo-Christian conference in London in June 2009. The conference was attended by academics, professionals who work in the area of conversion therapy (more commonly called reparative therapy), Anglican Mainstream (part of the conservative Anglican Church) and others. As a Christian, I was present because of my interest in recovery from homosexuality and transgendered behaviours.

Strudwick used a false name and signed a false declaration to gain admittance to the conference. He stated to two therapists attending the conference, one a Christian Counsellor and the other a Psychiatrist, that he was a Christian who was unhappy with his homosexual lifestyle and wanted help to come out of it.

Both therapists offered help to him. In each case Strudwick participated in a number of sessions with each therapist before disclosing that he was in fact an undercover journalist who had secretly recorded all the sessions with a microphone strapped to his stomach. He had lied to both therapists about everything. Strudwick subsequently lodged complaints with the *British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists* (BACP) and with the *General Medical Council* (GMC).

At the time of writing this article a mental health charity, *MIND* (*National Association of Mental Health*) has shortlisted Strudwick for a journalistic award for his article in *The Independent* and an accompanying article in the *Guardian* newspaper.



Lesley Pilkington, the Christian Counsellor entrapped by Strudwick, has stated that Strudwick lied about who he was and what he wanted. She feels that he betrayed the patient/therapist relationship. She says that he came with a specific agenda and asked questions to elicit certain information which he has now deliberately misused. He subsequently told her that his aim was 'to expose people like her'.

Mrs Pilkington, a 60 year old with more than 20 years counselling experience, was advised on June 30 that the *BACP Re-assessment Panel* found that there was a case to answer and they will now proceed to a full professional conduct hearing.

At the time of writing, the Psychiatrist (also a Christian) still awaits the final outcome of his hearing at the *GMC*. The original newspaper article has resulted in stress on his wife and family and the dissolution of his business/practice partnership.

In the accompanying article in the *Guardian*, the *Independent's* sister newspaper, Mr Strudwick calls for a 'War on cures for homosexuality'.

The acceptance of the 'watershed' motion at the *BMA* Annual meeting will have ramifications throughout the world. The motion will affirm the false position held by the British Prime Minister, David Cameron, who has publicly stated that homosexuality is innate. It will also be used to endorse the same false position held by U S President, Barack Obama.

Evangelical Christian Churches that adhere to the primacy of the Bible and hold that God's creative intent was, and is, male and female, and, that marriage is intended by God to be between only one male and one female – will now be under threat like never before.

All Churches which see that the aim of a personal relationship with Christ is to bring about personal wholeness in all aspects of one's life are now vulnerable to the sort of entrapment techniques used by Strudwick, endorsed by homosexual rights organisations, newspapers, politicians, mental health groups and now the *BMA*.

Keith Tiller lives in the UK; he helps people who want to deal with homosexuality and transgendered behaviours. Keith is a member of Salt Shakers Reference Panel.

Other groups opposing reparative therapy

The move to prohibit therapy aimed at helping people deal with and overcome homosexual thoughts, acts, temptations and orientation isn't just occurring in Britain.

In the USA, an *Ex-Gay Survivors* Conference was held in August 2007. The conference was co-ordinated by *Beyond Ex Gay* and *Soulforce*, the group run by Mel White, a former professor at *Fuller Theological Seminary* and speech writer for Billy Graham and Jerry Falwell, who left his wife to live as a homosexual. Those at the conference decided to oppose such groups.

In Australia, Anthony Venn-Brown is calling for Christian groups that offer such assistance to be closed down. He was a

Christian evangelist/minister who left his wife to live in a homosexual relationship. Some years later he decided he wanted to be a Christian and a homosexual, and is now running a support group for pentecostals and Christians who believe homosexuality is compatible with Christianity.

Self Justification is clearly the motivator for such action.

In the case of the *BMA*, the motivation for such a move came from the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Gay and Lesbian Mental Health Special Interest Group. Those in such special interest groups are often activist homosexuals.

Learning Muslim Perspectives

by Jenny Stokes

A program to promote “Muslim perspectives” in school classrooms is underway across Australia. Called “*Learning from One Another: Bringing Muslim perspectives into Australian schools*”, the program is co-ordinated by the **National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies** (NCEIS). In 2009, the pilot version of the initiative was called *Education with Muslims*.

The NCEIS was established by the Howard government to try and control radical Islam and train ‘home-grown’ imams - the NCEIS was initially given \$8 million funding. Now the NCEIS is teaching our children about Islam! The ‘Muslim Perspectives’ program is funded by the **Myer Foundation**, the legacy of a Jewish man; quite ironic given the poor treatment of the Jews by Mohammed.

What version of Islam is being taught?

The ‘Muslim Perspectives’ program has been “designed and delivered in collaboration with **Dr Eeqbal Hassim**, a [Muslim] expert on Muslim education (who previously worked as Lecturer in Islamic Studies and Research Fellow in Islamic Law at the University of Melbourne), and the **Australian Curriculum Studies Association (ACSA)**”, a professional association involved in developing curriculum. The ACSA Director, **Jennet Cole-Adams** is presenting the program with Dr Hassim.

The workshop and book give a VERY sanitised view of Islam and its contribution to society. No ‘negative’ aspects of Islam are mentioned. Teachers, and thus school students, are being taught this material in the name of “tolerance” and “respect”.

The program operates by running FREE “professional learning workshops” for primary and secondary teachers to show

them how to use the material provided to teach their students about Islam and Muslims. The NCEIS says the program is “aimed at enhancing teachers’ cultural awareness about Muslim students, their communities and the wider Muslim world.”

A booklet is provided as part of the training. *Australian Islamist Monitor* (AIM) has posted it online: <http://www.islammonitor.org/uploads/docs/LFOA.pdf> [ACSA sells it for \$44 - it’s free to workshop participants!]

AIM has analysed the program and called it “Islamic brainwashing”. Angela Thorn, from AIM, attended the ‘professional learning workshop’ run by the authors and was astounded at the selective material presented in the morning session about Islam itself. After a ‘halal’ lunch, the workshop focused on how to bring Islam into various school subjects.

The suggested material for various subjects is included in the book. English teachers are provided with a poem by 13th century Islamic poet *Rumi* about searching for a religion - and settling on Islam; maths and science teachers are encouraged to teach about Islam’s ‘inventions’; history covers the Crusades and students should be taught about Islamic art and architecture as well as Islamic banking and discrimination...

BEWARE! Please write to federal Education Minister Simon Crean. Ask that the program not be used. Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600.

Read AIM’s analysis of the program: http://islammonitor.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3540:lfoa-review-an-alternative-resource-for-teachers&catid=185&Itemid=59

NCEIS: <http://www.nceis.unimelb.edu.au/school-education/learning-one-another>



Prayer Update

Turbulent political times

Pray for our nation and the preservation of our Christian heritage.

Our new Prime Minister

Pray for her salvation, that she will repent, turn from 'living in sin', and follow God.

A National election imminent?

Pray that good Christian candidates will nominate for the election and be supported by voters. Pray that Christians will wisely discern how to vote.

Marriage & the Natural Family

These are both under threat from secularisation and the homosexual lobby. Celebrate marriage on **National Marriage Day** - Friday August 13, 2010.

See <http://marrieday.family.org.au/>

NSW – same-sex adoption

Pray for the NSW Premier - that she will see the error of supporting homosexual adoption.

Pray for Fred Nile and Gordon Moyes – for strength and courage in a hostile environment.

SA - review re same-sex parenting

Pray that this committee, which is headed by a homosexual activist MP, will reject the idea of same-sex parenting.

Pray for boldness for Dennis Hood (Family First) who is on the committee.

Tasmania - Euthanasia Bill

Pray that the bill is defeated by the Tasmanian parliament.



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



Prayer Groups for Schools "POWER OF GOD'S LOVE" John 3:16... Prayer Day for Schools

Friday 3 September - 10am-1pm

Venue: Harold Dalton Hall, **Kilvington Girls' Grammar School**, Lillimur St, Ormond. Melway Ref: 68 E7. Unrestricted parking available in surrounding streets. Ormond station is within walking distance.

Refreshments will be provided at the conclusion of the event. Children under parental supervision are welcome. Come and be inspired as we pray and hear God's direction in connecting with your school community. All are welcome!

More information contact Marilyn on 9874 5764. Email: pgsvic@prayergroupsforschools.net

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

Monitoring the issues without burning out!

Keeping up with what is happening around the world can seem a daunting task. There are so many issues to cover that sometimes we feel we can't possibly monitor and deal with all the things that are happening. So we definitely understand what people are feeling when they tell us that they feel overwhelmed with the number of issues that need attention.

It might be tempting to just throw our hands up in the air and do nothing about any of them! However, that is giving in and when we do that the other side - those who oppose Christian values in the public arena - get a free ride with no opposition!

So, how do we manage our regular lives - with home, family, work and church making huge and legitimate demands on our time - as well as respond to the issues of the day?

The reality is that we have to be selective in choosing issues to address.

It's important to discern what the key issues are. There's no point making a big noise about an issue that isn't currently being discussed. On the other hand, some issues are ongoing - like abortion, the state of the church or persecuted Christians. These need our consistent attention.

Martin Luther was referring to dealing with relevant issues when he said *"If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ.*

"Wherever the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved and to be steady on all the battlefield besides is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that one point."

So, what are the key issues of the day?

Moral issues, other religions such as Islam

or Buddhism, the state of the church, missions, persecution of Christians . . .

You can add other issues that are important to you. Salt Shakers can't cover them all, so it's important that you use a range of resources to help you follow these issues.

We monitor the key moral issues affecting society - and legislation being proposed. We want to enable you to follow developments, and then take action as you are able.

The **Action Checklist** at the back of our Journal gives an overview of specific action needed. Allocating specific time to write two or three letters each week would mean that you respond to all the key areas outlined in the journal. If you think you don't have time, perhaps watching one less TV program would give the time you need!

It's also important to monitor and respond to what is happening in your area - is a brothel being proposed or a new poker machine development?


Here are some strategies for monitoring what is going on and addressing some of the key issues:

- * Monitor the news in a newspaper/radio/online or watch a TV News program.

- * Bookmark news/information websites on your computer so you can quickly check their latest news. Christian sites and alternative news sites help give a balance to the 'news' you receive.

- * Subscribe to a **selected range** of organisations (by mail or email) so you get information on politics, the state of the church, persecution of Christians and so on.

- * Make sure you receive our E-News as well as our Monthly Journal - they are very different media. The Journal is educational with a few action items, the E-News is short sound bites for prayer and action - see page 20 for details .



'This is Oz' campaign - 'inclusive Australia'

A campaign is being run to affirm homosexuality and criticise 'homophobia' in Australia. The campaign, called *This is Oz*, is being conducted by ACON, an Australian group involved in homosexual health issues; the project is run by their "Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project".

The campaign has a website: <http://www.thisisoz.com.au/> The organisers have persuaded celebrities and ordinary people to participate. The main activity is "an online photo gallery where participants can upload pictures of themselves with messages that challenge homophobia or celebrate diversity and social inclusion."

Some participants are homosexual - like Olympic diver Matthew Mitcham who says "Thank you Mum and Dad, for making me just the ~~way~~ GAY I am" and Justice

Michael Kirby who says "Judge Not". A homosexual minister in the *Metropolitan Community Church*, Gavin Ward, wears a rainbow stole and says "God is not homophobic". Greens MP Bob Brown says "Celebrate love - in all its' diversity".

Other participants are not homosexual but are calling for tolerance and acceptance. A number of non-homosexual politicians are featured including Tanya Plibersek, federal Labor politician, who says "Pride not Prejudice" and Helen Westwood (ALP, NSW) who says "Homophobia is hate by another name".

The real aim of this campaign is to soften up the community to accept homosexuality. Michael Kirby also promoted the cause in an extended interview screened recently on the ABC's *Compass*. ■

Uniting Network - 'sacred unions'

Last month we reported that the Uniting Network group in the Uniting Church, which promotes the full acceptance of homosexuality, was having a conference about 'sacred unions'.

Apparently four same-sex couples (three male and one female) said vows to celebrate their 'sacred union'. It seems that the words 'marriage' and 'wedding' weren't used - however, many of the trappings of weddings were used: vows and rings were exchanged, there were prayers and 'blessings' and a multi-tiered white cake!

One pair said it was 'emotionally and politically significant to have their relationship recognised and blessed in church'.

The Uniting Network told *The Age* religion reporter Barney Zwartz that they wanted to develop sacred union ceremonies quietly to help homosexual Christians and to gradually

normalise the idea of gay marriage.

One convenor of *Uniting Network* said the Uniting Church decided in 1991 that ministers could bless gay and lesbian relationships 'as long as the service does not resemble a marriage ceremony'.

The other convenor said she knew of 25 Uniting Church ministers who are homosexual - many unofficially live with their same-sex 'partners'.

The conservative group in the UCA, the *Assembly of Confessing Congregations*, doesn't want the church to formally celebrate 'sacred unions'. Dr Max Champion wants a moratorium on such services until they are properly debated by the church's national assembly. He complained to the UCA but was told that the issue would not be re-opened.

Perhaps like their Bibles! ■

Update: Halal certification

Following our article on 'halal certified' food, we've found that a number of companies actually pay Muslim organisations to certify their food as 'halal' but don't put a 'halal' symbol on the product's label.

For example, *Nestle* say on their website that they can provide a list of 'halal certified products' on request - so we asked for a list! The list includes a wide range of products - including coffee, *Milo*, *Kit Kat*, *Uncle Tobys* cereals and *Carnation* milk.

We read on a Muslim website that *Sanitarium* have some 'halal' certified products, so we wrote to *Sanitarium*. Since they are a Seventh Day Adventist company, we mentioned our concerns as Christians. The list they sent us included cereals, *So Good* soy milk, *Marmite* and peanut butter!

ACTION: If you eat *Sanitarium* products, perhaps you could write to them: *Sanitarium Australia*, Locked Bag 7, Central Coast Mail Centre, NSW 2252.

Both companies gave 'exports' as one reason for obtaining the halal certification. ■

This raises yet another question about halal certification: If a company is paying to have their products certified as 'halal' - with Islamic requirements about equipment, storage, ingredients, inspection, etc - but not actually telling the consumer it is certified 'halal', is that misleading?

Cadbury Update

After reporting that Cadbury chocolate was certified as 'halal', readers have received unapologetic letters from Cadbury explaining why they pay to certify their products as 'halal'.

We've noted that the new packaging for Cadbury dairy milk chocolate blocks does not have a 'halal' symbol printed on the pack. Instead they're now labelled 'Fair Trade'. However, all other Cadbury chocolate blocks still have the halal symbol - and on the Cadbury website the list of 'halal certified products' still includes the plain dairy milk blocks. So, just because it doesn't have the halal symbol doesn't mean it isn't halal certified! ■

'Day of Silence' - another form of activism

Another homosexual campaign gaining some prominence is the *Day of Silence*. The movement originated in the USA in 1996 and is co-ordinated by the *Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)*, which organises gay/straight alliance groups in schools. They describe the *Day of Silence* as a "National youth-run effort using silence to protest the actual silencing of LGBT people due to harassment, bias and abuse in schools." An estimated 8,000 schools and colleges participated in 2008.

Of course they're not just content with being 'silent'. This is really LOUD activism! The students hand out "Speaking Cards"

explaining their cause and challenging people to take action.

In recent years US Christian groups have held a *Day of Truth* a few days later, to stand up against "the promotion of the homosexual agenda" and expressing "an opposing viewpoint from a Christian perspective."

Day of Silence organisers claim that some students in Australian schools observed the day back in 1997! We know of some schools that participated this year and homosexual activists are encouraging the formation of gay/straight alliance groups in schools. If you have students at secondary school, watch out for these developments. ■

World News

Europe - same-sex 'marriage'

The *European Court of Human Rights* has ruled that European nations are not legally obliged to allow same sex marriages and that the *European Convention on Human Rights* does not include the right for same-sex couples to 'marry'. The court said each nation can make their own decisions, in a case brought by two Austrian men who said that their human rights were 'breached' because Austria didn't allow same-sex 'marriage'.

[BBC, 25/6/2010]

This is a good development - because if the Court had ruled in favour of same-sex 'marriage' it would have put pressure on all European nations to comply!

However, the Court did say that there is "an emerging European consensus" that same sex partnerships should have legal recognition, but said individual states could decide how far they went in recognising the legal status of partnerships. At present six of the 27 EU states allow 'marriage' and ten others allow same-sex partnerships.

USA: Religious freedom

We've previously reported on the case the *Christian Legal Society's* (CLS) chapter at the University of California – Hastings College of Law. The US Supreme Court has now ruled 5-4 **against** the CLS.

The CLS filed a lawsuit in 2004 against school administrators when they refused to recognise the CLS because they wouldn't follow their 'non-discrimination' policy. The administration wanted the CLS to allow **anyone** to be a leader of the group whilst the CLS said that in order for people to be in leadership or have voting membership they needed to adhere to the CLS Statement of

Faith and follow certain requirements for behaviour.

This decision is a blow for freedom of religion - but the case isn't finished yet.

The Supreme Court said the "all-comers" policy – which states that every student has a right to join or lead every student group – is constitutional, so long as it is applied to all student groups.

The Supreme Court has now sent the case back to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to determine if the policy is actually applied to all groups at the University.

More details: <http://www.citizenlink.org/CLtopstories/A000012930.cfm>

Iceland: lesbian PM 'marries'

On June 12, Iceland's parliament passed a law to allow same-sex couples to 'marry'.

Prime Minister, **Johanna Sigurdardottir**, 67, who is a lesbian, made a political point by 'marrying' her female partner on the day the legislation became effective, on June 27.

In 2002, the couple had entered into a 'civil union' and have now changed this into a 'marriage'. This is the first time a homosexual with a same-sex 'spouse' has been the leader of a nation.

UK: Church of England bishop

Some good news from the UK.

The media published leaked reports that homosexual priest Jeffery John, who is living in a civil partnership with a man, was tipped as being the favoured nominee to be the next Bishop of Southwark.

Christian groups in the UK asked for prayer and letters - especially to Prime Minister David Cameron, who favoured John's appointment, as he presents the names of the two nominees to the Queen. When the nominations were announced Jeffery John was NOT on the list!



Ministry News

It is said that a day is a long time in politics and we know that so well at Salt Shakers.

So often we come into the office with certain goals for the day and yet the sudden and swift changes that occur in politics can throw the whole plan out of the window.

We always appreciate the 'tip offs' we get from people asking, 'Did you see this?', even if we cannot always respond with the urgency expected! A great deal of information flows into our office and all of it needs to be checked for legitimacy. Some of this work could be done before people send it to us simply by placing key words into Google and checking the sources. This would help us immensely.

We do need eyes and ears everywhere to

keep us informed, but we then have to prioritise the information and decide what is within our mandate, where we can be the most effective and how to move forward. These are often difficult decisions to make and a lot of consultation occurs between staff members and sometimes between us and our Board and/or our Reference Panel (people who have specific areas of expertise on particular issues).

Please continue to pray for all our staff, our Board and our Reference Panel as we work in this volatile environment.

Peter and Jenny were able to get a break in July with a week's holiday in Queensland. Now back on deck, their aim is to do all they can to preserve the Christian culture that has served this nation so well for more than 200 years. This nation is at a crossroads, what we do today will affect not just today but the long term future of our nation. ■

ACTION checklist: Tick the box as you complete the task

Page	Topic	Action / People to write to	Done
5	'Burqa' / face covering Bill	NSW: Write to MPs and party leaders	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Various states / issues	Various MPs - SA, WA, Tasmania, NSW	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	'Muslim Perspectives'	Federal Education Minister Hon Simon Crean	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Halal food	Sanitarium	<input type="checkbox"/>

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2010 Election Update #1

Most of you will know by now that Julia Gillard, has called an election for Saturday 21 August. **It behoves us all to take an active and keen interest in who we elect to govern us in this nation.**

Firstly, please remember that you do not elect the Prime Minister; you elect your local representative.

The Party that wins the most seats in the House of Representatives will be asked by the Governor-General to form the government and the leader of that Party, at that time, will be appointed as Prime Minister.

It is important that we understand the type of people God wants to lead this nation. It is also important to understand that we, the people, can deny God his choice by electing the wrong person, just as the Israelites often did by choosing the wrong person to be their king. They suffered the consequences of their bad decisions and so could we.

Whilst we do not elect a King, we need to take note of the leadership characteristics God would have us, as Christians, consider when choosing those people who should lead our nation. In brief, according to Deuteronomy 17: One from among your brethren - a Christian / one who is prepared to follow God's laws / one who reads the Bible / one who fears the LORD God and is careful to observe God's moral code and statutes. Someone who will not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left.

You need to decide who to vote for based on the information given through many sources - one source is Party Policy, another is the personal traits of your local candidates and yet another is to look at the type of people a Party chooses to lead them. In terms of those leading the three main political parties today, this is quite revealing. The Labor Party has recently chosen a socialist and a person who says she does not believe in God. Remember, that Psalm 14:1 states, 'the fool says in his/her heart there is no God'.

The Liberal Party had a man driven by wealth and liberal thinking (Malcolm Turnbull) but that changed late last year to a Roman Catholic. Sadly, one who appears to be a pragmatist, and who, on all but abortion type issues, often appears to put politics first and Christian thinking second. The Greens are led by a practicing homosexual (Bob Brown). What a sad choice?

Nevertheless, we have to choose because voting is compulsory, so we must take this responsibility seriously.

To assist you, we, as part of the Australian Christian Values Institute, have produced another **Australian Christian Values Checklist**. We have enclosed a Black & white copy. Please copy and circulate the Checklist as widely as possible.

A full colour version is available from our we web site.

We have set up a special 'Federal election 2010' web page for information which will be updated regularly. <http://www.saltshakers.org.au/component/content/article/65/667>

Regular Election Update emails will also be sent via our **E-News**.

If you do not receive our free **E-News**, send a sign-up request to peter@saltshakers.org. au and place 'subscribe' in the subject line and provide your name, address & phone number.



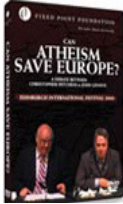
CD 1. How Multiculturalism & the spread of Islam is Affecting the West

CD 2. Islam, the Challenge to the Church by Patrick Sookhdeo

These excellent CD recordings of Patrick, an ex-Muslim, speaking in Australia give a very clear and well-presented insight into how Islam is penetrating the West and why Christians should not fall for the lie that Islam and Christianity are compatible.

\$6 each - CD 1 CD 2

SPECIAL OFFER - Purchase both CDs for just \$10



Can Atheism Save Europe - DVD

A debate between John Lennox and Christopher Hitchens

Special \$25

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



The Battle for Truth by David A Noebel

Special offer \$15

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.



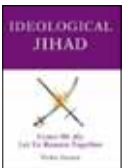
Praying for the GOVERNMENT by Derek Prince

\$5

This excellent small booklet explains how best we can pray for our government.

Paul says in 1 Tim 2:1-2 “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority,”

Praying for governments is the FIRST thing we must do in terms of ‘social action’.



Ideological Jihad by Vickie Janson

\$20

Ideological Jihad is written as an open letter to Waleed Aly in response to his book People Like Us: How arrogance is dividing Islam and the West.

It is a mixture of personal testimony and comparative theology in the very current and public debate about the so called clash of civilisations. “a most serious contribution to interfaith understanding, and its publication is a gift to our nation.” **Mark Durie**, Anglican Vicar and author of Revelation?

All prices include GST - Prices as at August 2010 Prices may change without notification - ****ALL prices include postage****

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