

Salt Shakers

Helping Christians make a difference

**When you sit down to eat with a ruler,
Consider carefully what is before you;
And put a knife to your throat
If you are a man given to appetite.
Do not desire his delicacies,
For they are deceptive food.**

Proverbs 23:1-3 NKJV.

**“To sin by silence when they should protest
makes cowards out of men”**

Abraham Lincoln

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Editorial

What a pity Julia Gillard did not consult with us before calling an election for August 21!

We were on holiday when she called the election and so the August Journal had already gone to the printers.

The day of the election was two days before this journal had to be at the printers, giving us little opportunity to effectively sum up the events of that day. We could not delay the printing because Jenny and I were heading for a conference in Canberra.

Never mind the statement that 'a day is a long time in politics', it is a short time to write and proofread a Journal.

Those are the breaks, I guess - some you win, some you lose.

Did the nation win on Saturday August 21?

That will not depend on who you thought was best to run the country but on what they actually do once a government is formed.

We all have to vote and all too often that is all we think we can do - we think 'Now to sit back and watch the politicians!' NO, that is not the answer.

Now is the time for you to start to influence the decision making process. Yes, you can!

You may not have voted for the winning candidate in your House of Representatives seat or any of the winners of the Senate seats in your State or Territory but that does not matter. They ARE your representatives, and you need to get to know them. You need to start building relationships with them.

How easy that is will depend on where you live and where their office is but we can all make an effort. Your House of Representatives office will not be too far away. Senators represent the whole state

so there may not be one close at hand but there is always email, Australia Post and/or the telephone.



The phrase "it is not over till it is over" could be true here. The election is over but, despite all the promises that will or will not be kept, it is important to remember that, in politics, little is embedded in concrete except the building.

We need to cultivate influence. It must be educated and reasonable to be effective but remember, when it comes to Christian values, we are not lobbyists looking to achieve the lesser of two evils. We have a set of values that are best for everyone.

We don't lose if we are unsuccessful in persuading those who lead the country to go God's way. We lose if we compromise and lose if we don't try to bring them about.

Society loses if they don't listen and follow the Christian worldview, but that is their fault, not ours. That is their responsibility and they will be held accountable before God.

If two teams are to play a game of football and one does not show up, the other team wins by default. If both teams have played and played well, neither side really loses.

We are called to FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT. When we do we are not responsible for the outcome. But if we compromise and settle for the lesser of two evils we lose and so does our nation because satan always wins when we do that. 'Incremental gain' is one of satan's other names along with compromiser, appeaser, fence sitter and many more.

Today is the first day of this nation's future. What will we do to shape that future?

Yours in Christ Jesus
Peter and Jenny Stokes

Election Reflections

by Peter Stokes

Yes, it is all over - after five weeks of virtually nothing but Julia and Tony, it all came to an end on August 21...

Well, that was the planned start of this article. But, as we send this journal to the printers (deadlines!) that is not quite how it is. How it will end is now up to three independents. We'll have to do that roundup in the next journal (and our E-News).

But let us review this election to date...

It all started when the Labor leadership changed so suddenly in June - actually we must not forget Malcolm Turnbull, who had been deposed as Liberal Leader just six months before.

Both deposed leaders were constantly lurking in the shadows of this campaign.

The stage was set: there was the contrast between an atheist Labor leader who was open about her rejection of God and the strong Catholic pro-lifer. The media loved it.

The atheist was dismissive of needing to appeal to the Christians, as her predecessor had done, at least until her campaign seemed, according to the ever present poll results, to fall in a heap.

Suddenly, she too was playing the religious card - the *ACL* asked her to do an interview with them, partly because their 'Make it Count' night, with the two then Leaders, occurred just two days before the overthrow of Kevin Rudd.

After her appointment by Labor as Prime Minister, ABC commentator Scott Stephens, noted that "Julia Gillard was not concerned about the Christian vote." After the *ACL* announced that Julia would do an interview with them, Scott Stephens noted, "Now, it seems, the "real Julia" has decided that she can't ignore the Christian vote." He

concluded, "But this does raise serious questions concerning the authenticity of the Prime Minister's appeal to a lobby that, prior to this week, she seemed not to think she needed."

Even the mild mannered *Age* journalist Barney Zwartz, himself a Christian, put it this way, "Prime Minister Julia Gillard has agreed to be interviewed by the *Australian Christian Lobby* today in an attempt to recover ground with churchgoers."

Suddenly, in one corner the atheist was clamouring to appease the Christians and in the other corner the Christian was running away from his pro-life past, with Tony Abbott saying he had no plans to alter any laws regarding abortion. It could have been amusing if it hadn't been so serious.

It was politics at its worst.

It was interesting to see the spin. When speaking to the *ACL*, Julia said it was her "Baptist background" that had shaped her views, but when talking to the Labor Party faithful a week later her views were shaped by her "education". It was concerning to see this conflict in statements about the ideas that shaped Julia's current worldview. It was not hard, though, to see that the education won - a humanist State education so often does when the Christian teaching has been inadequate.

Of course, we saw the same conflict when the previous Labor Leader could not seem to decide whether it was Dietrich Bonhoeffer or Gough Whitlam, depending on his audience, who had inspired him the most.

There were other ghosts lurking in the past for both leaders: For Tony it was not just his



Catholic faith and time spent training to be a priest but the strident book *Battlelines* he wrote last year before he became Liberal leader and, of course, 'Work Choices'. For Julia it was her membership of the *Fabian Society*, her previous connection with the *Socialist Forum* and the equally radical *Australian Union of Students*, plus her live-in boyfriend. Then there was the other ex-Labor leader popping up everywhere, the notorious Mark Latham, who was mysteriously employed by Channel 9 as a journalist to cover the election. Channel 9 were either desperate or had another motive!

Half-way through the campaign, when opinion polls showed support for Labor dropping, Julia Gillard decided to launch the 'real Julia'. This, in turn, led to questions about which Julia we had been seeing so far! Party political broadcasts are rarely exciting affairs, mostly playing to the Party faithful but hoping to also pick up a few swinging voters along the way. Rarely are they a good indication of the type of government we are about to get - however, the contrast between the Labor and Liberal broadcasts on the ABC this time did say a huge amount about the difference in leadership style we could expect and, to the astute, said a lot about the leaders themselves.

The Coalition's election broadcast naturally featured Mr Abbott, but he shared the time with a number of different shadow Ministers speaking directly to the public about policy directions. In stark contrast, the Labor broadcast showed Julia, Julia, and more Julia. In fact, it consisted of extracts from the speech she gave to party supporters at the opening of the Labor campaign. Clearly, she was still trying to turn our minds, and those of her parliamentary colleagues, away

from her swift and decisive decapitation of the previous Party Leader. Thirty times she said "friends" in her full speech to launch the Labor campaign - but were they really friends or terrified colleagues? The spin was that the speech was off the cuff and done without notes, but some journalists revealed that she was speaking to a prepared speech.

What a strange world politics is, and I'm sure we are all fed up with it.

Will our nation 'move forward' or backward?

Only time will tell. Of course, it also depends on what 'forward' or 'backward' actually mean to you. Will it be forward to socialism and away from God and our Christian nation, or backward, towards socialism and further away from God?

Of course, we need to ask 'What is a Christian nation?' when so little was heard from the 'church' during the campaign?

We had church leaders saying they could not tell people how to vote. So keen were they to sit on the fence in one of the most important elections of the modern era for our nation that they were not even prepared to state quite clearly that it mattered to the nation, and the direction of the nation, that two of the three main Party Leaders were people who deny the existence of God and who are living in sexually immoral relationships.

The saddest thing is that they are the two people who may well control the direction of this nation. Many church leaders and Christian groups were not prepared to categorically state those facts, let alone state that they both support abortion on demand for any reason and the recognition of same-sex relationships. Unfortunately, when Julia Gillard was interviewed by ACL she wasn't asked about any of these important issues.



It seems that moral issues like these don't matter according to some Christians - to them they are side issues to the real meaning of Christianity which is 'social justice'. There were even prominent Christians standing as candidates for the Greens.

Interesting, isn't it, that people can talk about justice for immorality today! It shows how far the church focus has shifted from God to man, or even the environment and animals. Half-way through the election campaign a Judge made a stay order on a major development because of the possibility of rare native animals in the vicinity. That, itself, may not be a bad thing, but to hear the decision called "social justice for the animals" indicated to me how far we have moved away from God.

The only true 'justice' is that based on God's righteous judgement, as revealed in His Word, the Bible.

It amazed me that Christians could say that they weren't really worried that Julia was living in a *de facto* relationship. During the campaign a senior pastor of a large Melbourne church was quoted in *The Age* newspaper as saying he was not concerned by Ms Gillard's atheism: "Primarily you are looking at them to have what it takes to run the nation". He went on to say that he felt "Mr Rudd's dumping would cost Labor more than the party realised." He later wrote on his blog that "faith influences everything too, and needs to be taken into consideration but not as the ONLY criteria for choosing a leader."

Are we to believe that personal moral direction doesn't matter?

Barney Zwartz, the *Age* writer, also quoted *ACL* Chief of Staff, Lyle Shelton, as saying,



"Ms Gillard's atheism might be a factor for some voters, but Christians were a discerning constituency." "Might be a factor"? What about 'should' be a factor?

At the same time, Melbourne's Light FM announcer Tim Malone was telling people on his blog, "*Warning: be careful with some Christian voting literature*".

What literature? "My warning is about the *Christian Values Checklist*, released recently for the 2010 Federal Election", he said. And what worried him most? "There's nothing about foreign aid (what about the Millennium Development Goals?), refugees, homelessness and housing... or other traditionally "left-wing" issues."

Interesting, isn't it - the so-called left of the church constantly talk about 'social justice' and never mention so-called 'right wing' issues like abortion or sexual immorality. In fact, they are inclined to endorse them. However, woe to anyone who dares mention those 'right wing' issues without the 'left wing' issues!

With a church in such disarray and with such faulty views as believing that if we elect a woman living in a *de facto* relationship and the Green's homosexual leader to run the country "it must be God's will", what hope have we? We must remember that God has put the system of government in place and allows the people we elect to rule. Those leaders will be held accountable to God for their actions!

The people of Australia have voted, and now three independents may be able to decide who governs the nation - and the Greens will hold the balance of power in the Senate.

Pray. Pray hard, for the next three years are going to be tough.

News & Action

Canberra Declaration

Following Christian declarations in the USA (*Manhattan Declaration*) and UK (*Westminster Declaration*) the **Canberra Declaration - a call for Christian Conscience and renewal of Christian Values in Australia** - was released on Friday July 23, 2010, in Canberra.

More than 20 National Christian leaders helped in the drafting of the document. The document has sections on 'Religious Freedom', 'Marriage and Family' and the 'Sanctity of Human Life'.

Already more than 7,000 people have signed the declaration.

We hope that many thousands more Christians will become signatories to this Canberra Declaration - we encourage you go to the Canberra Declaration website to read and sign this document!
www.canberradeclaration.org.au

WA: Pride festival

The Perth homosexual Pride festival recently asked the City of Perth for additional funding. Last year they got \$45,000 to help run the festival and this year they asked for \$55,000. The Council's *Marketing, Sponsorship and International Relationships Committee* recommended that the Council give them \$45,900 - including a CPI increase of \$900.

The activists weren't happy - they told Council they would have to cut back activities and advertising if they didn't get the extra money! The group claims it costs \$500,000 to run the festival.

The full Council decided not to give them the full \$55,000 - but agreed to the \$45,900.

The question is - WHY are Councils funding such events with rate-payers funds?

Source: WA Today, 2/8/2010. Council minutes, 3/8.

Defence families moved

With the increasing number of boat arrivals Christmas Island is overcrowded.

So what is the Labor government's latest proposal to accommodate them?

It is to move defence force families out of their housing at Darwin's Berrimah defence base. Move them into inferior housing. Then move the 'asylum seekers' into the defence force houses! [The Aust, 17/7/2010]

Surely our defence families, with soldiers often serving in nations such as Iraq and Afghanistan, deserve better treatment?

WA - Euthanasia

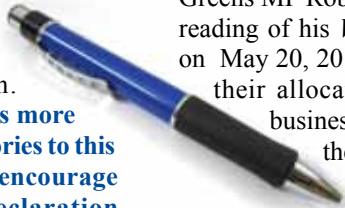
Greens MP Robin Chapple had the second reading of his *Voluntary Euthanasia Bill* on May 20, 2010. The Greens did not use their allocation of "non-government business" time on July 1 to debate the Bill.

The final opportunities for Greens' private members time in 2010 will be 16 September and 11 November (unless the Government decides to give up government time).

ACTION: If you live in WA, please contact your Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly members to ask them to vote against Robin Chapple's *Voluntary Euthanasia Bill*.

Gov-Gen and the government

Following claims by an ethicist that Governor-General Quentin Bryce may face a potential conflict of interest in her role of appointing a government in the hung parliament situation, she announced that she was seeking legal advice. Mrs Bryce's daughter married Labor powerbroker and MP Bill Shorten last year after having an affair with her and getting her pregnant. Shorten was involved in the backroom 'negotiations' that led to the demise of Kevin Rudd as the Labor leader.



Do you have ‘gumption’?

Recently someone said to me that he thought many Christians lacked ‘gumption’.

It’s a long time since I’d heard the word used, and I wondered what it would mean for Christians to have ‘gumption’.

So I went to the dictionary to see what it meant. *Webster’s* dictionary says it means “common sense”. A second meaning was “enterprise, initiative” as in “he lacked the gumption to try ...”

My investigation into the word ‘gumption’ led me to the all-purpose cleaning paste called “Gumption”.

I recall seeing it years ago, and was surprised to see it is still being made by *Clorox* and sold in supermarkets here in Australia.

The inherent message of this product is that it is a very practical and effective cleaning product that will actually clean!

But back to the original statement. What does it mean for a Christian to have ‘gumption’?

I think it means being courageous - showing common sense and initiative and being prepared to ‘stand up’ for what we believe in. You might come up with some more ideas, but here’s a start. . .

1. Standing up for God

Do we openly acknowledge and declare that we are a Christian? Or do we sometimes shy away from that, fearful of the reaction we might get from others?

Having gumption means declaring our faith without fear or favour. It doesn’t mean shoving it in people’s faces but being prepared to declare who we really are - a follower of Jesus Christ.

2. Standing up for faith

A similar, but different, aspect. Are we able

by Jenny Stokes

to present a ‘defence of our faith’ as Peter says in 1 Peter 3:15, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

Do we know enough about the Christian faith, the Bible and the reason for our hope so that we can discuss it sensitively with others? It’s hard to have gumption, whether common sense or initiative, in a conversation. It might end up petering out because we don’t actually know what Scripture says.

3. Standing up for holiness

If our life doesn’t match what we are saying, it doesn’t matter how much gumption we have. Our personal lives have to show that we really mean what we say we believe. People are watching and our lives must consistently show that, as well as sharing about God’s grace, we are following God’s law that he laid out for living a holy life. Otherwise people will think we are hypocrites.

3. Standing up for Biblical values

Once we have our personal life reflecting a Biblical model, we need to have gumption in standing up for Biblical values in the community. Are we prepared to oppose a proposed brothel, are we concerned about TV standards, do we care about unborn babies or helping a young pregnant girl who needs help?

If we don’t apply our Christianity to the whole of life, is it really real?

So time for some gumption! Common sense, enterprise and initiative. All based solidly on a Biblical worldview lived out in every area of our life.



A Fence or an Ambulance

A poem by Joseph Malins (1895)
- a poem about prevention -

We often speak of the importance of having a fence at the top of the cliff to prevent people being lured into addictive and sinful behaviour - rather than relying on an ambulance to pick them up after they've fallen over the cliff.

Joseph Malins' poem, written in 1895, explores this theme...

'Twas a dangerous cliff, as they freely confessed,
Though to walk near its crest was so pleasant;
But over its terrible edge there had slipped
A duke and full many a peasant.

So the people said something would have to be done,
But their projects did not at all tally;

Some said, "Put a fence 'round the edge of the cliff,"

Some, "An ambulance down in the valley."

But the cry for the ambulance carried the day,
For it spread through the neighbouring city;

A fence may be useful or not, it is true,

But each heart became full of pity

For those who slipped over the dangerous cliff;

And the dwellers in highway and alley

Gave pounds and gave pence, not to put up a fence,

But an ambulance down in the valley.



"For the cliff is all right, if you're careful," they said,

"And, if folks even slip and are dropping,

It isn't the slipping that hurts them so much

As the shock down below when they're stopping."

So day after day, as these mishaps occurred,

Quick forth would those rescuers sally

To pick up the victims who fell off the cliff,

With their ambulance down in the valley.

Then an old sage remarked: "It's a marvel to me
That people give far more attention
To repairing results than to stopping the cause,
When they'd much better aim at prevention.
Let us stop at its source all this mischief," cried he,
"Come, neighbours and friends, let us rally;
If the cliff we will fence, we might almost dispense
With the ambulance down in the valley."



"Oh he's a fanatic," the others rejoined,
"Dispense with the ambulance? Never!
He'd dispense with all charities, too, if he
could;
No! No! We'll support them forever.
Aren't we picking up folks just as fast as they
fall?
And shall this man dictate to us? Shall he?"

Why should people of sense stop to put up a fence,
While the ambulance works in the valley?"

But the sensible few, who are practical too,
Will not bear with such nonsense much longer;
They believe that prevention is better than cure,
And their party will soon be the stronger.
Encourage them then, with your purse, voice, and pen,
And while other philanthropists dally,
They will scorn all pretense, and put up a stout fence
On the cliff that hangs over the valley.

Better guide well the young than reclaim them when old,
For the voice of true wisdom is calling.
"To rescue the fallen is good, but 'tis best
To prevent other people from falling."
Better close up the source of temptation and crime
Than deliver from dungeon or galley;
Better put a strong fence 'round the top of the cliff
Than an ambulance down in the valley.

Inclusiveness goes only so far

Although Jesus said, "Whoever comes to me, I will not cast out", he also said, "Sin no more".

The Bible says: we must repent, that Jesus alone saves, and that those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God - and that some of us were once like that. It doesn't say: "Christians may continue sinning".

If the church accepts practicing homosexuals as members or ministers, it discounts the Bible. Yet June and July *TMA* seem to endorse that discount, and disallow Adam and Eve as history. And yes, Adam and Eve are relevant here - let atheist Frank Zindler explain:

"Now that we know that Adam and Eve never were real people the central myth of Christianity is destroyed. If there never was an Adam and Eve there never was an original sin. If there never was an original sin there is no need of salvation. If there is no need of salvation there is no need of a saviour. And I submit that puts Jesus, historical or otherwise, into the ranks of the unemployed. I think that evolution is absolutely the death knell of Christianity."

The current *TMA Faith/Science Interface* series tends to accept Zindler's starting assumption. And if we assume that the start of the Bible is not true, isn't it logical to deny sin and accept homosexual practice? But if the Bible is true, shouldn't we eject practicing homosexuals from the church? So I challenge *TMA* readers to refute Zindler - either with or without defending Genesis 1-11 as real history. Those who defend Genesis as history will probably be accused of scientific nonsense, while those who do not will be accused of theological gobbledygook.

Peter Newland Mitcham

The Melbourne Anglican August 2010



Disastrous Policies

I SUPPORT Peter Stokes regarding the Influence of the Greens.

Whether it is support for drug-injecting rooms, opposition to fuel reduction burns during the winter months as a bush fire-prevention measure opposing more dams to feed our growing population, screaming for shutdown of our power generation stations or calls for more intrusive legislation to "fight" the non-problem of global warming, The policies of the so-called Greens are a disaster.

In any other age, when sanity prevails, they would not even get a hearing.

Murray Adamthwaite, Tecoma

Free Press Leader 28/07/2010



Greens policies

Jim Reiher is right, when he says "it's all about the Party" (*Mail*, 29 June), BUT sadly, most people are confused about his party, *The Greens*.

Rather than truly supporting the environment, which is a priority for all Yarra Ranges residents, the Greens are heavily into radical social engineering such as being pro drug legalisation, pro drug injecting rooms, pro euthanasia, pro abortion and pro homosexual 'marriage'. All are pro death policies for humans.

What the Yarra Ranges needs are people who are pro human and genuinely, rather than radically, pro the environment.

The Greens' opposition to sensible forest management, and their call to do away with all coal fired power stations, are environmentally dangerous policies for humans.

The detrimental results of the first we saw very clearly last year on Black Saturday. The detrimental results of the second we would see in much higher electricity bills and more blackouts, because coal, which is not as polluting as the Greens make out, provides the bulk of our energy at a very cheap rate. While neither major Party is perfect, people certainly need to know what the so-called 'Green Party' stands for and consider their vote very carefully at both state and Federal elections this year.

Peter Stokes Victoria

Yarra Valley Mail 04/08/2010

Vic: Babies born alive after abortion

It is a shameful day when a State parliament refuses to investigate the situation of babies being born alive after late-term abortions and **being left to die**.

That's what happened in Victoria at the end of July.

On July 28, Peter Kavanagh, the DLP Member in Victoria's Legislative Council, proposed a motion to require a Parliamentary committee to investigate the deaths of these newborn babies.

The motion said 'the recently released 2007 annual report of the *Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity* showed that 54 out of 181 late term foetuses who were aborted for "abnormalities" survived late term abortions but all of them in the period studied died "post-natally".'

The motion called for "the *Family and Community Development Committee* to inquire into, consider and report on the post-natal deaths of babies born alive in Victoria after failed abortions" with particular reference to that Report.

The motion was defeated following a debate that observers described as "vicious" and "brutal" Only eight other MPs voted for the proposal - all were Liberals and Nationals:

Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Drum, Mr Finn, Mr Guy, Mr Hall, Mrs Petrovich, Mrs Peulich and Mr Vogels. Mrs Jan Kronberg, who is pro-life, was absent for the vote but supported the motion.

The Labor Party didn't give their members a conscience vote and insisted that all ALP MPs vote AGAINST the motion! Several told Mr Kavanagh that they were distressed at the directive. Mr Kavanagh noted, "They said that the ALP decided to vote against the proposed investigation because it did not want anything at all that even hinted at abortion to be mentioned at the time of the election."

We also understand that, when the original *Abortion Law Reform Bill* was being debated, some Labor MPs who were concerned about the legislation and wanted to vote against it were 'persuaded' to vote for the bill by people who talked about their future pre-selection as Labor candidates!

ACTION: Please congratulate Peter Kavanagh for his courage in bringing forward this motion - "La Cabine", 2nd Floor, 1 Yarra St, Geelong, Victoria 3220.

If you live in the electoral 'Region' represented by MLCs who supported Peter's motion - please commend them as well.

Salt Shakers Annual Dinner

Guest Speakers: Warwick & June Murphy - who have worked in Australia, UK, and now Asia, assisting people with problems associated with drug addiction and training others to care for the marginalised.

Date: Saturday 11 September 2010

Start: 7pm: soft drinks and savouries - 7.30: Dinner

Where: The Quest, 137 Mountain Hwy, Wantirna (Mel 63 E7)

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

Book BEFORE September 8
Don't miss this great opportunity!



The Barbarians are Coming Here - Part II

In the previous article, I looked at three main ways in which our society is descending into barbarism, in parallel to what happened to ancient Rome in the 5th century and the Barbarian period which ensued in the centuries following. While not exhaustive, I will mention two more such aspects.

1. *Entertainment*

“And when the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests...” [Mark 6:22]

We all know what happened as the outcome of that voluptuous dance: the fearless prophet John the Baptist lost his head. Bad entertainment leads time and again to bad actions. And bad entertainment has come in like a flood: our theatres, cinemas and television media are full of blasphemy, obscenity, ghouliness, and gratuitous violence; modern novels and play scripts bear no comparison in literary merit to those of the great novelists of the 19th century. Their language is all too often uncouth, banal and lined with profanities, while the story-lines are relentlessly unoriginal.

Music too, both popular and serious, has degenerated: beauty has all but disappeared while all the emphasis is on raucous rhythm and beat, but even there the highly syncopated “melodies” are often discordant, repetitious without variation, and confrontational. In short, when we consider the three essential components of music, there is little of harmony, melody and genuine rhythm in modern music. Furthermore, in-depth studies of modern rock music by Christian

by Murray Adamthwaite PhD

investigators have shown time and again how this is inextricably wrapped up with sex, drugs, occultism, and even crime. What little study has been done on rock music and such phenomena as road rage and accidents

have also shown that this genre makes its listeners “hyped up” and aggressive, a potent brew when considering road accident risks. Conversely, recent studies have demonstrated the beneficial effects of serene classical music as a therapy in hospitals and rehabilitation centres.

I reiterate here what I quoted some years ago on this theme: the study by Martha Bayles in *Hole in our Soul: The Loss of Beauty and Meaning in American Popular Music*. She states as her basic thesis:

“The central argument of *Hole in our Soul* is that the anarchistic, nihilistic impulses of perverse modernism have been grafted onto popular music, where they have... encouraged today’s cult of obscenity, brutality, and sonic abuse.” (p 12). Of so-called heavy metal music she first asks rhetorically, “Does heavy metal offer a release for anger that is already there? Or does it whip up even more anger?” She concludes, “Heavy metal offers ritual death, but at the end of the ordeal, there is no rebirth.” (p 261) This could be said of most other genres that pass for music in today’s world: it has, argues Bayles, degenerated to perversity and barbarism, and the barbarous music is at the very least associated with, and probably even drives, the anti-social

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activities of both our youth and even older people.

2. Marriage and Underpinnings

“I hate divorce”, says the LORD, the God of Israel.’ (Malachi 2:16). The breakdown of marriage and the traditional family is causing increasing concern in some quarters, but when anyone does raise a public voice about it he is howled down unmercifully. In Britain only last year (June 2009) Mr Justice Coleridge, in a hard-hitting speech in Parliament, accused mothers and fathers who fail to commit to each other of engaging in a game of ‘pass the partner’ that has left millions of children ‘scarred for life’. “... I have witnessed the damage done [to children] by the endless game of ‘musical relationships’...in which a significant portion of the population is engaged...” He called for a change of attitude that would attach a ‘stigma’ to those who destroy family life and said a National Commission should be established to devise solutions for the ‘epidemic’ of broken homes. ‘The reaffirmation of marriage as the gold standard would be a start.’ [*UK Daily Mail*, 17/6/2009]. Just lately SA Senator Cory Bernardi has echoed with approval the call from this UK judge.

As one might expect, the media and the usual sources of home-wreckers (eg: the homosexual lobby), combined to denounce the judge. The best that could be said was that his views were “controversial” (to use that hackneyed journalistic cliché). So our world continues to approve single parent families, multiple families, two-man or two-woman families, easy divorce, and children as so much flotsam in a disintegrating society. The end result? Barbarism, in which a rising generation cares nothing about the world because the world cares nothing about

them. You remain sceptical? Then look at the rise in the youth drug culture, youth binge drinking, and youth crime.

Closely allied to this is the loss of the Christian base. Up to a generation or two ago, there was still some sort of acknowledgement of Christianity as a commonly agreed base to our legal system, our commerce, our political institutions, even our sport (eg: organised sport would not be played on Sundays). While not all by any means professed Christianity or went to church, most people concurred with this. But with the aggressive campaign of secular humanism all this has been jettisoned.

What base do we now have? It can’t be atheism, because that is merely negative, and negatives will never unite society. Marxism, perhaps? But that too is running out of steam, although the current US President is trying desperately to remake American society in the Marxist image, much to the rising anger and opposition of the populace.

No, the increasingly likely prospect is that Islam will fill the vacuum, and the result will be the barbarities and aggressive discrimination of iron-fisted Sharia law.

The Christian task and outlook in a barbarian society

Let me give some guidelines from Scripture as we face a disintegrating world:

1. Christians are strangers and exiles in this world (Hebrews 11:13), “exiles of the Dispersion” (James 1:1; 1 Peter 1:1). As such the letter of Jeremiah (in Jer 29) remains our charter for life in exile. “Seek the welfare (shalom) of the city where I have sent you, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will have welfare.” (v 7) If those around us want corruption and degeneracy then God will give them up to it, and there is nothing we

**It still
remains that
Christians
are salt and
light**

can do to stop them. Meanwhile, we can do what we can to promote shalom and the Prince of Shalom (Isa 9:6) in the sphere where He has placed us. It still remains that Christians are salt and light.

2. As we see culture collapsing around us let us resolve to hold fast all that is good (1 Thess 5:21). Our British heritage has given us much that is good: its great literature (Shakespeare, Keats, Dickens); its music (Handel, Elgar); its science (Newton, Maxwell); its politics and law as exemplified by its great statesmen (Edmund Burke, Winston Churchill). Preserve all that is good; but jettison what is of little value: for example, D H Lawrence in literature; Charles Darwin in science; and dare I say it, the Beatles and their ilk in music.

3. In line with the more 'secular' side of our heritage preserving all that is good in our Christian heritage is also vitally important, especially in a time when it is relegated to the bin in the name of "being contemporary". Thus the great classics like *Pilgrim's Progress* and Matthew Henry's Commentary need to be kept alive, and the hymns of Wesley and Watts need to be rediscovered and sung. The biographies and sermons of Reformers like Ridley and Latimer, Puritans like Watson and Alleine, the revival leaders like Whitefield

and Wesley, preachers and expositors like Spurgeon and Lloyd-Jones: all these are part of our heritage and should be treasured by all Christians.

4. Remember that we are citizens of heaven (Phil 3:20), and our earthly citizenship is of lesser importance. The great mistake that Christians made in the period after the great sack of Rome was to hanker after, and seek to rebuild some kind of "new Rome". Hence the experiments of Charlemagne at Aachen, the Byzantine Empire at Constantinople, or Moscow as "the third Rome" under the Russian tsars. We must learn to let go, and let God do as He will.

5. There is much speculation around as to whether what we now witness is the final stage before the Second Coming of Christ. While I am inclined to agree, we must also remember that we do not know the time (Matt 24:36). On the contrary, we must be working faithfully until the very time of His appearing (Matt 24:45-46). There have been many such speculations in the past, yet we are still here! Speculation is not wrong, in my view, but it must not distract us from our tasks. What I will affirm here is the abiding prayer of the Church, *Maranatha*: "Our Lord, come!" (1 Cor 16:22)

Murray Adamthwaite is a member of Salt Shakers Reference Panel. Website: <http://www.archist.com.au/>

Resistance Thinking

A few months ago we invited you to participate in an exciting new project for *Salt Shakers* and *Resistance Thinking* [our ministry to young adults - website at www.resistancethinking.com/]

We're planning to produce short video clips on current issues - especially focused on young people. However, we'll also be doing video updates on current issues for Salt Shakers as well.

Video project update

Thank you for your support so far - we've purchased some equipment and graciously been donated video cameras and assorted equipment to enable us to start producing video clips.

We have just started constructing a basic studio at the office.

If you'd like to be involved in this project, please contact us at the office!

Prayer Update

Following the result of the recent federal election we need to earnestly pray for those now in leadership of our nation. (1 Tim. 2: 1-2)

They have a heavy responsibility: not just the new government but every Member and Senator is responsible to God for the direction they now take this nation.

If our nation is to truly “Humbly rely on Almighty God” then they need to know

there is a God to whom they are responsible and to whom they will be held accountable.

They also need to understand the values that God expects. How will they know unless Christians tell them?

Please pray that the parliamentary process will be more transparent and respectful as a result of the hung parliament and the influence of the independents.



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



THIS SPRING, from September 22 – October 31, our community is uniting with hundreds of other cities around the world for the largest and longest coordinated pro-life mobilization in history: “The 40 Days for Life” campaign. Recognising that “with God all things are possible,” people of faith are praying that this effort will help bring an end to the tragedy of abortion.

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign that has already mobilized over 350,000 people worldwide, saved more than 2,800 lives from abortion, led to the conversion of 38 abortion workers, and seen five abortion facilities close. 40 Days

for Life is made up of three components:

- **Prayer and Fasting:** believers throughout our city are invited to join together for 40 days of fervent prayer and fasting for an end to abortion.
- **Peaceful Vigil:** stand for life during a 40-day peaceful public witness outside the Fertility Control Clinic, 118 Wellington Pde, East Melbourne.
- **Community Outreach:** help take a positive, upbeat pro-life message to every corner of our city through media efforts, advocacy, and public visibility.

Learn how you can speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves here in Melbourne by contacting Trudi on 9439 4131, tarashi@bigpond.com or Fons on 5194 2340, fonsforlife@skymesh.com.au or visit www.40daysforlife.com/melbourne

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

Who suffers?

The Victorian election will be held on November 27, 2010.

One of the issues we must consider in this election is abortion. The *Abortion Law Reform Act* was passed on October 10, 2008 so this is the first time voters can record their concern about this law at the ballot box.

One of our readers Jan Lumley, recently wrote this poignant plea to ask us to consider the issue of abortion when we vote.

When a woman first finds out that the baby she is carrying in her womb is less than perfect, has an abnormality of some kind, she is devastated. The grief she is feeling is beyond comprehension. At this time she needs understanding counsel to enable her to deal with this knowledge, and gentle caring consideration to help her come to terms with her grief.

Instead, and increasingly in our society she now needs to deal with the expectation that she will “terminate the pregnancy”, and quite often she is asked to make a very quick decision. She is being asked to make a life or death choice in a matter of days without regard to the lifetime of suffering that must follow. Her peers and often her family, as well as the doctors she trusts, will be pressuring her to “have an abortion” without considering that it is her child that is living and growing and making its presence felt within her. Her suffering involves the pain of her new knowledge as well as the terrible decision she is being asked to make. Unless this woman has exceptional inner strength or belief in an Almighty Sovereign God who has formed this child uniquely, in secret, and has chosen her as the mother

she will probably succumb to that pressure, despite the suffering she will endure.

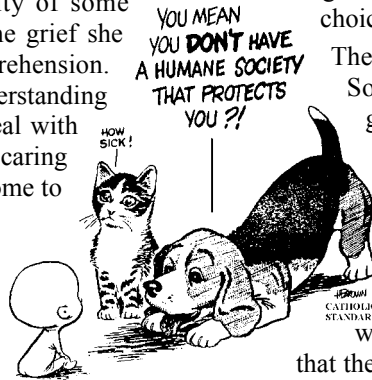
But this baby also has a father. Whether or not he is in a stable married relationship with the mother of his child or it was a passing casual acquaintance, he too has become a parent, and that infant is also his responsibility. Whether or nor he is involved in the decision making, there is a very high probability that he too will suffer because of the death of his child.

Then there is the larger family, grandparents, siblings and cousins who will all suffer grief to a greater or lesser degree at the choice to kill a family member.

The doctor also is responsible. So he must suffer either the guilt of referring this woman for abortion, or take the opportunity to give her the support of counsel. If he does not he is guilty for not telling her the options, of explaining what will be done to her baby,

and grieve over an aborted infant as they would over a stillborn child. He is guilty of not encouraging her to carry the baby to term, to love it as long as she has it, and allowing her body to adjust to the birth of the child naturally, rather than having it torn from her body and the hormonal upheaval that follows. He also should explain the possible abortion/breast cancer link. He should be informed so he can pass this on to the mother so that she can make an intelligent, informed choice rather than an emotional one.

So the doctor also must acknowledge the suffering as well as face the issues of guilt and responsibility.



And then there are the hospital staff who receive this obviously pregnant woman, and instead of looking forward to a birth, they are planning a death. That is un-natural.

If the woman, for what ever motive, is carrying a normal healthy child and presents for a Late Term Abortion the staff must acknowledge that they are not “relieving the suffering of a deformed foetus” but are actually killing a healthy baby while elsewhere in the same hospital other staff members are spending millions of dollars struggling to save the life of a premature baby of the same gestational age.

So as they “carry out the procedure”, they are suffering. As they check the dead baby (“the product of the procedure”) for signs of life and that all the body-parts are there, and then clean up after this, they are suffering. Their suffering actually has a name - POST ABORTION SYNDROME.

But who else is suffering over the death of

this one child? (apart from the infant itself).

The Heads of State and Government for allowing the laws to be passed.

The Parliamentarians who voted for these laws.

The women of Australia for refusing to carry a pregnancy in their bodies.

Their partners for not being committed to and loving these women self-sacrificially.

Our society for tolerating this; for turning a blind eye to this; for hushing it away in the “not nice basket”.

We grieve over the deaths of our soldiers in war, and well we should, yet we ignore the pain and suffering of these our little ones.

We are all guilty, and we are all suffering the consequences of that guilt.

I have a responsibility to vote in the Victorian election, but for whom will I vote? Who will heed the cry of these who never drew breath?

Vic: ‘March for the Babies’ & ‘Life Vote’

The passing of Victoria’s *Abortion Law Reform Act* on October 10, 2008 was a very sad day for the state of Victoria - and for the nation as a whole.

The **March for the Babies** has been held each year since then to mark the passing of this awful law, which Liberal MP Jan Kronberg recently described as the second worst abortion law in the world - after China! The law allows a woman to request an abortion for ANY reason up to 24 weeks, and to have an abortion for any reason from 24 weeks up to birth with the authorisation of two doctors - who can both be abortionists!

Join us at the **March for the Babies** - Saturday 9 October at 2 pm. Treasury Gardens, Melbourne.

Details: www.marchforthebabies.org.au

Life Vote - www.lifevote.org.au

This website has been organised by the *Australian Family Association*. It lists all the MPs in the Victorian parliament and records HOW they VOTED on the *Abortion Law Reform Bill* - and also their votes on amendments to the legislation.



Life Vote is targeting electorates where MPs voted FOR the Bill - they plan to distribute literature to alert voters about the issue. They are also HELPING pro-life candidates who oppose abortion. *Life Vote* is seeking volunteers - if you can help, please register on the website.

California: same-sex 'marriage' again?

A travesty of justice was perpetrated in the US State of California in August that should issue a caution to those who think a *Bill of Rights* will help our nation act more justly.

US District Court **Judge Vaughn Walker** struck down *Proposition 8* on August 4. He ruled that the peoples' vote did NOT count.

Surprise, surprise, he is a homosexual!

The decision was then 'stayed' (meaning no homosexuals could get 'married') until appeals against the decision are heard.

If the decision is upheld, it will mean same-sex 'marriage' will once again be legal in California.

What's Proposition 8?

Despite a peoples' vote in 2000 affirming marriage as between a man and a woman, on May 15, 2008 the California Supreme Court ruled, in a 4-3 decision, that marriage is a fundamental right under Article 1, Section 7 of the Californian Constitution and that homosexuals should be able to 'marry'. Some homosexual couples then 'married' in California.

Christian groups campaigned to get *Proposition 8* on the ballot paper in November 2008. *Proposition 8* proposed adding a new provision to the California *Declaration of Rights*, to state that **"only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."**

They needed 694,354 petition signatures (8% of voters) to get *Proposition 8* on the ballot paper, they obtained 1,120,801.

Those supporting *Proposition 8* spent around \$40 million on their campaign, as did those opposing it!

On November 4, 2008 the Californian people voted - and a majority of Californians voted

to protect marriage, thus overturning the Supreme Court's decision and homosexual marriages were 'halted'!

Naturally, the homosexual activists weren't happy. They filed numerous lawsuits with the California Supreme Court, challenging the validity of *Proposition 8*.

In one case the judge upheld *Proposition 8* but allowed marriages performed between May and November 2008 to stand.

One group opposing same-sex 'marriage' in California said of the recent decision, "his [Judge Walker's] extremely liberal views about sexuality and marriage were scarcely concealed".

The appeal by groups supporting marriage between a man and a woman will be heard by the *Ninth Circuit* (the most liberal circuit in the USA) and could then go to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Despite the judge putting a 'stay' on his ruling, California's Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, urged him to discontinue the stay and let homosexuals marry. Homosexual activists immediately asked the *Ninth Circuit Court* to remove the 'stay'. On 16 August, three judges of the Ninth Circuit Court upheld the 'stay', meaning no same-sex 'marriages' can be recognised until they hear the appeal in December 2010.

Please pray that the judges will rule against same-sex 'marriage'.

This is yet another clear indication that

1. giving ANY legal relationship recognition to homosexuals will NOT stop them pressing forward towards marriage.
2. legal recognition and a Bill of Rights work together to advance the agenda of the homosexual lobby.



World News

UK: Ads for abortion

Abortion provider *Marie Stopes International* has been screening ads promoting abortion (and their abortion clinics) on TV in the UK. Numerous people complained about the ads - but in early August the *Advertising Standards Authority* dismissed the complaints. That will allow even more such ads to be shown!

A week later the *Daily Mail* revealed that "Marie Stopes employees are being offered free abortions as a regular part of the organization's employee benefits package."

Marie Stopes International employs 430 people in nine centres around Britain. Most of their funding comes from the British taxpayer - to the order of £30 million annually. [LSN, 9/8/2010]

How many UK pro-life pregnancy centres receive such funding? And the situation is similar in Australia.

UK: Equality law case

Peter and Hazelmary Bull are facing a court case under the UK's controversial new equality laws.

Two homosexual men visited their small bed and breakfast hotel. In March 2009, Martyn Hall lodged a claim for up to £5,000 in damages alleging 'direct discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation'.

The Bulls say they have a long-standing policy of banning all unmarried couples, both heterosexual and homosexual, from sharing a bed at the *Chymorvah Private*

Hotel in Marazion, near Penzance in Cornwall. They've had this policy since 1988, when they bought the hotel. The hotel website says: 'We have few rules but please note that out of a deep regard for marriage we prefer to let double accommodation to heterosexual married couples only.'

The court hearing will now be held in Bristol in December 2010.

Please pray for Peter and Hazelmary as they prepare for the case. They are being represented by Christian lawyers at the hearing.

IVF Sex selection

Several US clinic are offering sex selection to couples so they can choose the sex of their baby - inevitably that means killing any embryos that aren't the 'desired' sex!

Dr Jeffrey Steinberg of *The Fertility Institute* has clinics in New York and Los Angeles. He claims couples from nations where sex selection IVF is banned regularly come to his clinics!

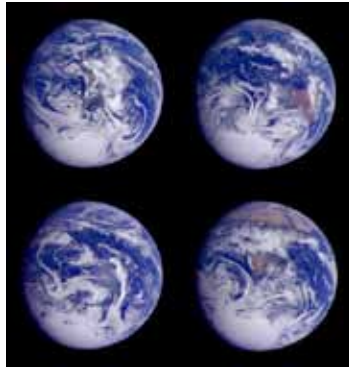
[LSN, 9/8/2010]

Religion and politics

During the federal election Julia Gillard announced that, if re-elected, Labor would give \$1.5 million to help the Roman Catholic church 'celebrate' the canonisation of Mary MacKillop.

We do not believe the government should spend money on this religious 'event'.

The British government is to contribute some of the costs of the Pope's visit to the UK. The visit is expected to cost £15 million - with the government expected to pay some of the costs! That's in addition to the cost of the policing bill!



Ministry News

What a fight the last two months have been but that is behind us - we must regroup and look to the future.

Satan has not gone to sleep and neither can we. We are making plans to expand this ministry, to give it a future beyond Peter and Jenny Stokes. We are interviewing possible staff members and we ask for your prayers as we need to know God's future plan, not ours.

We believe God wants Salt Shakers to continue to be a Godly voice for this nation, to encourage Christians to stand in the gap wherever they are and uphold the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Lord and Saviour, in their home, their workplace, on

their sports fields and beyond.

These plans come at a cost. If our plans for the future of Salt Shakers are successful they will mean additional commitments in time and resources.

For this reason we again ask you to pray. If all goes to plan we will launch a support plan - for new staff and additional hours worked - in October with a view to starting the process of change in January 2011.

We thank you all for the support - prayer, encouragement and finances - that you have given us over the past 16 years.

Please pray about the part God might have for you in this ministry and in the wider community.

Last month we said we need eyes and ears everywhere - we also need them here in the office. Please continue to pray for us.

ACTION checklist: Tick the box as you complete the task

Page	Topic	Action / People to write to	Done
6	WA - Euthanasia	WA MPs - both Houses	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Canberra Declaration	Sign the Declaration	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Babies born after abortion	Vic: Peter Kavanagh and MLCs	<input type="checkbox"/>

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PACK 1: POLITICS

- Boiling Point* by George Barna
- Praying for the Government* by Derek Prince (Booklet)
- Do Christians Belong in Politics?* by Charles Colson (Pamphlet)

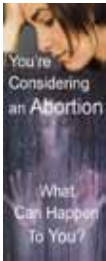
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PACK 2: HOMOSEXUALITY

- What Some of You Were* edited by Christopher Keane
- 21 Reasons Why Gender Matters* (Booklet)
- CD A Biblical Perspective on Homosexuality* distributed by Focus on the Family
- Homosexual Sex & Homosexuals* by Andrew Lansdown (Pamphlet)

Posted for \$30



PACK 3: ABORTION

- The Forbidden Grief* by Peter Barnes (Booklet)
- You're Considering an Abortion* (Pamphlet)
- Abortion: A Biblical Perspective* by Andrew Lansdown (Pamphlet)
- The First Nine Months* by Focus on the Family (Pamphlet)
- The Living Victims of Abortion - Women* (Pamphlet)
- Australia's Most Endangered Species* (Pamphlet)
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Salt Shakers Annual Dinner

Please reserve me seats for the Dinner - 7pm Saturday 11 September 2010

My guests names are:

.....

.....

Cost: \$50 per person, \$95 per married couple
 My payment is enclosed. (please fill in details below)

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

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