

Salt Shakers

Helping Christians make a difference

**"Wrong is wrong
even if everybody is doing it,
and right is right
even if nobody is doing it."**

Augustine

October 2010 AD

IN THIS ISSUE: Vol 16 No 9

	Page
Editorial...	2
Election Outcome...	3
Homophobia - the 'new' Blasphemy...	4
News & Action...	7
Gambling - controlling the epidemic...	8
Don't believe everything in the 'news'!...	9
Readers' published Letters...	10
More legislation for 'homosexual rights'...	11
Victorian election - November 27	11

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Addressing abortion from a 'positive' angle...	12
Smoking in films...	14
Prayer Update...	15
George Soros and 'progressive' causes...	16
UN - the MDGs and 'sexual health'...	18
UN Youth Statement...	18
World News...	19
Ministry News...	20
Resources and Subscription details	21

Editorial

When I hear Christians say “God is in control”, or “this is God’s outcome”, especially in terms of election results, I always want to ask “What do you mean by that?” Because so often, but not always, this can be a cop-out statement.

Whilst we will not solve the great mystery between God’s sovereignty and man’s responsibility, we need to accept that we do have the ability to decide to accept or reject our responsibility.

Left to our own devices, because ‘man is inherently evil’, or through apathy or laziness or even the fear of man, we can so easily shirk our responsibility. All too often we can then excuse bad outcomes by suggesting that “it does not matter what we do because ‘God is in control’.”

Take the last election: faced with the political choices, what was our response? Did we honour God by properly evaluating the candidates for whom we were voting?

If the church hides its light and loses its saltiness then we can hinder the work of the Holy Spirit and affect the immediate outcome, especially of an election.

There are always consequences of wrong decisions. God does not treat us like puppets, controlling our every move.

Peter, in 1 Peter 2:15-17, talks about freedom and he talks of us not misusing our freedom “For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men, as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God freedom to do all things”. (NKJV)

Saying, “yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice,” clearly suggests we can still make the wrong decisions because even those who

follow Christ still have a choice to follow God or satan; to do His will or our own; to vote for the wrong person and, as a nation, to elect the wrong people to govern us.

Some of the decisions we make in day to day life are mundane, like what colour socks will we wear, others are life-changing decisions that determine major outcomes.

In the latter, we all have a responsibility to listen to God, who through the continuing work of the Holy Spirit gives us the power to make the right choices, if we listen . . .

This is especially true in terms of the outcomes of political elections where we are all faced with a multitude of choices. Sadly, we all have tasks, duties and responsibilities that we don’t live up to, but we cannot simply brush away the consequences of those bad choices with this false notion that “Oh well, God is in control”.

All too often it is an attempt to make us feel good when things don’t go the way we think they should.

When we see governments legalising immorality, is God controlling those choices? No, we don’t think so. 1 Peter 5:8 says “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour”.

Clearly, Satan is having his way with many people today, even many Christians, and that is largely because God allows us to choose, not only what we do, but also who we elect to govern us.

If we were the ‘nation under God’ that we are supposed to be, we would be obeying His guide to life, His Word - but we are far from that and we will reap what we sow.

Yours in Christ Jesus
Peter and Jenny Stokes



Final Election Outcome

As most of you would now be aware, the three 'rural' Independents finally announced their decision.

One, Bob Katter, went with the Liberals, the other two, Tony Windsor and Rob Oakeshott, with Labor, thus giving the Labor Party the government and Julia Gillard the Prime Ministership as Parliamentary Leader of Labor - for now anyway.

It will only take a 'no confidence' vote or a by-election to change the face of government because Labor has just one more seat than the Liberals, thanks to the Green MP, Adam Bandt, and Tasmanian Independent, Andrew Wilkie, also siding with Labor.

Rob Oakeshott's spoke about the negotiations, the issues and the points that led to his decision. He said that their decision didn't hinge on party political matters - he mentioned parliamentary reform, indigenous recognition in the Constitution, regional packages, the potential 'longevity' of the parliament to go to the full three years, and the policies of the major parties including broadband, climate change and education. After talking for about 15 minutes he finally got around to telling the media what they already knew - that he would support Julia Gillard and the Labor government - although only on matters of supply (money) and 'trivial' motions of 'no confidence'.

With Labor already having the Greens' MP, Adam Bandt, on their 'side' along with the support of Independent MP Andrew Wilkie (Tasmania), marriage as we know it in Australia is even more under threat as both of them endorse same-sex 'marriage'. Christian values could be in for a rough time - especially when the Greens gain control

of the Senate in July next year.

Bob Brown has already started putting pressure on Labor to follow at least some of the Greens' radical agenda as they jockey to make their voice heard and their balance of power a 'power grab'.

There is no doubt that will continue.

The only good thing about that is that people will start to see what the Greens really stand for and we can but hope and pray that the electorate takes notice.

It is very easy to have policies that please and to hide the main agenda when they are an insignificant and almost unaccountable minor Party, but when the spotlight is shone on them and their decisions actually make a difference, hiding is a very different issue.

Most commentators expect their support to reduce from

the high spot of this election because they probably, rightly, consider it was accentuated by the lack of action on Climate Change and the knife in the back that Julia Gillard and the shadowy figures of Labor and the Unions performed on Kevin Rudd.

There is no doubt that the next three years will be difficult in terms of holding back the immoral policies of both Labor and the Greens. Remember, too, that most of the new Greens will be in the Senate for eight years!

We only have to look at Tasmania to see what the Labor agenda could be like when they and the Greens have power. Attorney-General Lara Giddings has announced what she calls a "progressive law reform agenda" for the next two years - new surrogacy laws, sex industry laws, a charter of human rights and legalising euthanasia!

We need to pray very hard for our nation.



Homophobia - the 'new' Blasphemy

by Peter Stokes

Just a few years ago the worst thing anyone could say was something that vilified God by using His name irreverently, otherwise known as blasphemy, but today it appears quite OK to say whatever one likes about Christians, God and religion - except Islam!

Have you noticed, though, that it is almost impossible to say anything bad about homosexuality without somebody vigorously jumping up and down in protest?

The latest person declared guilty of such a heinous crime, in a growing line of such 'inexcusable' incidents, was Stephanie Rice, the Olympic swimming star who has had quite a checkered career, and personal life, since becoming 'famous'.

She made a rather stupid statement on *Twitter* following the Wallabies' Tri-Nations rugby victory over South Africa in September which had homosexual connotations. Suddenly it became world news, and she was instantly dumped from being the pin-up girl for Jaguar cars.

She responded with, "I made a comment on *Twitter* last night in the excitement of the moment, I did not mean to cause offence and I apologise. I have deleted it from the site."

While admitting it was a silly comment and deleting it was probably a good thing, the reaction to such a comment on *Twitter* is totally ridiculous,

Back in May, Jason Akermanis suggested in a newspaper article, "Young people from the ages 15-24 are the main participants in organised sport in Victoria. Some of them must be [homosexual] and I hope they thoroughly enjoy their sporting lives without having to experience any form of prejudice. But if they are thinking of telling

the world, my advice would be forget it." He also stated that "it wasn't the role of sport to lead the way in changing community attitudes."

How right he was, but the uproar was deafening. "Apologise or face an official discrimination complaint" was the response from serial complainant, Gary Burns, a homosexual lawyer from NSW. A number of top AFL figures publicly distanced themselves from him - his club initially suspended and later sacked him.

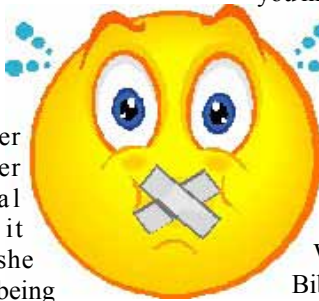
It appears that you can 'slag off' at anything you like and get away with it, EXCEPT about homosexuality.

Why is this so when just a few decades ago homosexuality was deemed a perversion by most people? Yet today the worst 'offence' is to be "homophobic".

We don't need to tell you that the Bible clearly states homosexuality is against God's design for natural sexual relationships, as we have done that on many occasions. However, today even many Christians defend homosexuality and even contend there should be anti-homophobia laws - yet, the same people don't believe there should be blasphemy laws. Some Christians even go so far from God's truth that they actually call for "justice" for homosexual relationships and many churches preach "acceptance" of homosexuals without mentioning the need to repent!

How did this come about? How did a small, sexually deviant minority become one of the most protected people groups on earth?

The only answer I can see is 'infiltration' and deception. A strategic infiltration of



both church and state and a deception about homosexuality itself.

As a consequence we have governments ploughing millions of dollars into special same-sex sexual health centres and giving special and very expensive medical treatment to those “gaining within themselves the due penalty of their sin” (Romans 1) - STDs and HIV/AIDS. Both are clearly a ‘natural’ consequence of sexual immorality. Yet, increasingly we are not even allowed to call homosexuality sexual immorality!

We have Christians today stating that “Jesus never said anything about homosexuality”, despite four references to two instances where he clearly mentions ‘sexual immorality’. (See Matthew 5:32, Matthew 15:19, Mark 7:21)

We need to understand that for the Jews “sexual immorality” clearly meant ‘ALL sexual activity outside marriage’. In Mark’s account Jesus states, “Are you thus without understanding also?... What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.”

We might ask the same question today of anyone who infers that Jesus never said anything about homosexuality. “Are you thus without understanding also?” Sadly, the only answer is, ‘Yes’.

It is one thing for the ‘world’ to reject Jesus’ teaching, but for those in the church this should be unacceptable. Yet today it is almost commonplace.

How then can we expect governments to have more wisdom than church leaders?

Interestingly, if you scratch the surface of public opinion, and ask many Christians, they do not really know why they are prepared to

accept the normalisation of homosexuality, nor do they understand why homophobia is the new blasphemy.

This deception has come about through the infiltration of our churches, parliaments, all levels of our educational institutions, the Courts - even of our ‘Family’ Court. It is almost universal and has resulted in political correctness that just a few years ago would not have been tolerated.

Now it is anyone who dares to speak against homosexuality and its promotion that is not tolerated.

In fact, anyone who dares to challenge this new ‘blasphemy’ is immediately isolated.

You may remember Warwick Marsh, a man we know personally. He has tirelessly served, at great cost to himself and his family, the cause of helping the marginalised, promoting fatherhood and supporting the fatherless. He has even given shelter to young homosexuals seeking his help. A year or so ago Nicola Roxon, Health Minister in the then Rudd Government, announced he was to become one of a number of ‘Men’s Health Ambassadors’. Yet, as soon as the homosexual lobby heard about this, protest burst force. Why? Because Warwick was associated with the great booklet ‘*21 Reasons Why Gender Matters*’, which highlights the importance of God’s definition of ‘gender’ as only male and female - equal but unique, and states that homosexuality is “gender disorientation” and that it should not be normalised.

That’s a position that should have been endorsed wholeheartedly by the church, but when Roxon publicly cancelled his appointment two days later, the church was largely silent or worse, parts of it rejected Warwick in preference to political correctness.



Examples like this show us that infiltration of society and the Church, and the undermining of Biblical truth, is almost complete.

Anyone who dares to speak such blasphemy about homosexuality will not be tolerated.

Through the Courts, thanks to bad 'sexuality anti-discrimination and vilification' laws, and through 'gender neutral' 'diversity' or 'tolerance' policies, the silencing continues.

Government leaders in every western country will support, and will even join street parades to announce 'Pride' in such sexual diversity and deviancy as though they are blind to all the disadvantages this 'new tolerance' will bring upon natural relationships within society.

They appear blind to the burgeoning health costs that 'pride and acceptance' of sexual immorality will bring as HIV/AIDS and STDs grow and the medical costs become prohibitive.

They are blind to the confusion this new sexual freedom will bring upon our young people.

This new 'blasphemy' includes what is now called 'Heterosexism'. One Australian web site (acorn.org.au) states that "Heterosexism refers to the social and cultural 'norms' that support the idea that heterosexuality is inherently 'right' and anything else isn't. This is also known as 'hetero-normativity', the assumption that heterosexuality is the norm and that everyone is heterosexual."

Two examples they give of "Heterosexism":

* Asking a woman "Do you have a boyfriend?" rather than "Do you have a partner?" (ie assuming that they're straight)

* Failing to include positive queer role models in mainstream media.

This is despite reliable surveys that show that less than 1.5% of Australians actually identify as homosexual or lesbian.

Sadly, many Christians who ought to be the salt and light to a hurting world see no more clearly than the political leaders. Jesus said "let your light shine before men", but that light is so often hidden beneath this new blasphemy of not daring to speak against sexual immorality. In most cases these same Christians, leaders and lay people alike, will not even dare to mention the words 'sin' or 'judgement'.

While there is never a good reason for any form of violence against homosexuals, there is a very strong need for sound common sense by governments, and good Biblical teaching from the church, about the dangers of endorsing any sexual immorality.

We are in great danger of placing today's society in the position of Sodom and Gomorrah just before God passed judgement on them.

Clearly, they tolerated and accepted sexual immorality generally, and deviant sex like homosexuality in particular, and I cannot see how they could be that much worse than Western society has become today.

God also warned the Canaanite and Roman Empires, and then allowed them to be destroyed for the same sexual tolerance and other grave sins which are also happening in Western nations today, such as the wholesale slaughter of unborn children.

Exodus 15: 26 states "If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you."

Nothing has changed, folks. We who are called to be the salt and the light cannot sit in silence. Either we acknowledge God or we submit to the god of this age and suffer the consequences of this new blasphemy. ■



News & Action

WA: Euthanasia

The debate on Greens MP Robin Chapple's private member's bill, the **Voluntary Euthanasia Bill 2010**, scheduled for September (21-23 September) will report on the outcome in a month.

Unfortunately, the bill was not actively lobbied in Tasmania. We'll report on the outcome in a month. *Chapple* This group in South Australia. The bill was debated last month.

The WA 'Representative' for the group is **Adrian Price**. He stood as a candidate for the Greens in the 2004 and 2007 federal elections and for the WA elections in 2005 and 2008. **Why isn't that a surprise?**

ACTION: Check the Campaign page on our website to see what action is needed!

Tasmania

If you live in Tasmania, watch out for a raft of legislation on moral issues.

Tasmania's Attorney-General, Lara Giddings, has said that over the next couple of years she will introduce new laws concerning surrogacy (probably including singles and same-sex couples) and the 'sex industry' (read 'prostitution') and will also look at introducing a 'charter of human rights'.

Last month we mentioned that she plans to introduce a bill to legalise euthanasia. That bill is expected to be drafted by the end of 2010. Lara Giddings told the ABC "I certainly do believe that the vast majority of Tasmanians do support dying with dignity legislation. She claims they just didn't like the content of Greens MP Nick McKim's

euthanasia bill that was defeated last year. We believe MPs should oppose ALL euthanasia bills!

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

SA: Euthanasia

Labor MP Steph Key introduced a euthanasia bill into the House of Assembly on September 16.

ACTION: If you live in SA, please contact your MPs and ask them to vote against this Bill.

EXIT Euthanasia ads

During September, Philip Nitschke announced that he planned to screen TV ads for euthanasia across Australia.

Thankfully, *Free TV Australia*, which regulates commercial television, banned the ad on the basis that it "promotes suicide".

Dr Nitschke said he would 'try again' with a different version of the ad. He said he plans to have it screened in New Zealand and is will produce a 'billboard version' of the ad.

In the meantime, EXIT has posted the ad on their website: www.exitinternational.net

Earlier this year, Philip Nitschke and EXIT International received a \$5 million bequest from the will of former Brisbane Lord Mayor Clem Jones to 'promote the legalisation of euthanasia'. Mr Jones made the gift because of his wife's illness.

Wesley Smith, a campaigner against legalised euthanasia, responded: "But euthanasia is not the answer, it is not the solution, it is not the overcoming of disease and disability. Rather, it is total surrender to them, it is the abandonment of the most vulnerable among us to killing over caring, it is to claim that some human beings have lives not worth living or protecting." ■

STOP PRESS
This Bill was
defeated - praise
God for this
positive outcome



Gambling - controlling the epidemic

by Jenny Stokes

The insidious spread of gaming machines and the increase in problem gambling has reached almost epidemic proportions in Australia. The adverse impacts of addiction to gaming machines on people has been highlighted recently.

During the 'negotiations' regarding which major party the Independents would support, Andrew Wilkie, the newly elected MP for Denison in Tasmania, noted that gambling was one of his major concerns and asked for restrictions to be placed on gaming machines as part of his commitment to support a Gillard Labor government.

He asked for 'pre-commitment technology' to be placed on all gaming machines so gamblers can specify the amount they want to spend before starting to gamble. He also wants a \$250 daily withdrawal limit on ATMs near pokie venues. A week earlier he had called for a \$1 limit on each bet but then said that the pre-commitment technology was a better option.

We think both of these are needed.

All of these proposals were included in a recent Report on Gambling done by the Productivity Commission. The *Council of Australian Governments* asked the Productivity Commission to undertake a public inquiry into gambling. Their Report, released to the public in June 2010, provides an update on developments since the Commission's 1999 report into gambling. The Report is at www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/gambling-2009

Some of the key points of the Productivity Commission's Report include:

◦ Total recorded expenditure (losses) in Australia reached just over \$19 billion in 2008-09, or an average of \$1500 per adult

who gambled.

- Various state surveys suggest that the number of Australians categorised as 'problem gamblers' ranges around 115,000, with people categorised as 'moderate risk' ranging around 280,000.

- It is common to report prevalence as a proportion of the adult population, but this can be misleading for policy purposes, given most people do not gamble regularly.

- The risks of problem gambling are low for people who only play lotteries and scratchies, but rise steeply with the frequency of gambling on table games, wagering and, especially, gaming machines.

- Most policy interest centres on people playing regularly on the 'pokies'. Around 600,000 Australians (4 per cent of the adult population) play at least weekly.

- Around 15 per cent of these regular players (95,000) are 'problem gamblers' - and their share of total spending on machines is estimated to range around 40 per cent.

- The significant social cost of problem gambling - estimated to be at least \$4.7 billion a year - means that even policy measures with modest efficacy in reducing harm will often be worthwhile.

- A more coherent and effective policy approach is needed, with targeted policies that can effectively address the high rate of problems experienced by those playing gaming machines regularly.

- Recreational gamblers typically play at low intensity. But if machines are played at high intensity, it is easy to lose \$1500 or more in an hour.



◦ The amount of cash that players can feed into machines at any one time should be limited to \$20 (currently up to \$10,000).

◦ There are strong grounds to lower the bet limit to around \$1 per ‘button push’, instead of the current \$5-10. Accounting for adjustment costs and technology, this can be fully implemented within six years.

• Shutdown periods for gaming in hotels and clubs are too brief and mostly occur at the wrong times. They should commence earlier and be of longer duration.

• There should be a progressive move over the next six years to full ‘pre-commitment’ systems that allow players to set binding limits on their losses.

• Better warnings in venues would help. But school-based information programs could be having perverse effects and should not be extended without review.

• Relocating ATMs away from gaming

floors and imposing a \$250 daily cash withdrawal limit in gaming venues would help some gamblers.

• Problem gambling counselling services have worked well overall. But there is a need for enhanced training and better service coordination.

• Online gaming by Australians appears to have grown rapidly despite the illegality of domestic supply.

The Report also made comments about other forms of gambling and noted that “significant governance flaws remain in most jurisdictions, including insufficient transparency, regulatory independence and coordination.”

We know that there are huge problems with gaming machines. This Report highlights the actual extent to which people are caught up with addiction to gaming machines.



Don't believe everything in the 'news'!

On September 1, the Sydney newspaper *Daily Telegraph* declared that Rev Fred Nile, the longest serving MP in the NSW Legislative Council and leader of the *Christian Democratic Party*, had been caught viewing pornographic websites - in fact more than 200,000 ‘hits’ had been logged according to a leaked, “unofficial audit” done by people in the NSW Parliament.

Fred Nile immediately denied the claims, adding that he doesn't have a personal computer in his office. His research staff, he said, had accessed some sites related to the Australian Sex Party and the Eros Foundation' for “research purposes” but he absolutely rejected the number claimed, saying it was “impossible” to access that number of sites in a five month period.

Legislative Council president Amanda Fazio ordered an investigation.

The outcome?

It turned out that *news.com.au* - owner of the *Daily Telegraph* - topped the list of ‘adult sites’ visited! Yes, the newspaper itself, along with the *Sydney Morning Herald*, was categorised as an ‘adult site’! Amanda Fazio said “Because there are adult matchmaking links or ads on their site, every time someone accesses *news.com.au* and they go from one article to another, that's counted as an individual hit on an adult site.”

The moral of this story?

Don't believe everything you read in a newspaper! Reputations are easily damaged - articles are written; nasty comments remain on the internet. People often read the initial sensationalist claims and don't read the following ‘corrections.

* **Remember to find out the TRUTH!**

* **Please pray for Fred and Elaine Nile.**

Climate change still unproven.

According to Lisa Kendal of Breaze, (The Courier, Aug 24) I am "very much mistaken about many things, most notably ----- human induced climate change."

If, as Lisa states, as a fact, "90% of scientists from all disciplines believe that humans are causing climate change," then out of my 10% I am providing Lisa with the names, qualifications and locations of 31,487 American scientists, including 9029 PhDs, just for starters, who signed the following petition.

"We urge the United States Government to reject the global warming agreement that was written in Kyoto, Japan in December, 1997, and any other similar proposals. The proposed limits on greenhouse gases would harm the environment, hinder the advance of science and technology, and damage the health and welfare of mankind.

There is no convincing scientific evidence that the human release of carbon dioxide, methane, or any other greenhouse gases is causing or will, in the foreseeable future, cause catastrophic heating of the Earth's atmosphere and disruption of the Earth's climate. Moreover, there is substantial scientific evidence that increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide produce many beneficial effects on the natural plant and animal environments of the Earth." (Available at www.petitionproject.org)

I look forward to seeing her named 90% list of 283,383 scientists who disagree with the above statement.

Following that, as Lisa next claims that "99% of climate scientists believe that humans are causing climate change", I can supply a list of some my 1% and then await her 99:1 response.

I am absolutely amazed by another claim that there are "less than half a dozen published peer reviewed articles on climate change that dispute that humans are the cause."

In the well over 2000 pages of information, including many published articles on climate, that I have read and studied, I find that assertion just simply staggering.

David G Westaway Navigators Vic
The Courier 30/08/2010.



Sex Russian roulette can backfire

I find it increasingly baffling as to the federal and state governments' and health boards' reasoning behind their concerns to do with overeating and tobacco use and excessive alcohol and drug abuse.

To my understanding if they were genuine in wanting to bring about a more health-conscious Australia, they would be even more selective on people's detrimental lifestyles.

The ones mentioned above are indeed of grave importance but why on earth are those who play

Russian roulette with their sexual lifestyles – and who are daily putting at risk members of this society by increasingly transmitting

deadly and infectious diseases – not put under the same spotlight as the above mentioned?

A cursory glance at any website that deals with sexually transmitted diseases brings up a plethora of diseases that at one time, though not eliminated, were well and truly under control.

For instance, HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections are on the increase in Australia, as they are worldwide. Sadly and not surprisingly all of these are on the increase in mainly homosexual lifestyles.

Upon further website investigation it can be found that syphilis has become re-established in the male homosexual population.

Also prevalent is gonorrhoea and Chlamydia, and these are increasing at an alarming rate and diseases called shigellosis and amebiasis. In the industrial world this disease amebiasis is virtually unknown but this is definitely going to change.

In the past 40 years we have seen death and misery and families destroyed through a sexually self-indulgent society. Honestly, what does it take to awaken a community and show a lifestyle that is genuine in caring to all we have contact with?

I believe that all levels of government and all parents should be having a duty of care to protect the overall health and safety of their families and their communities by being made aware of the dangers of a sexually promiscuous lifestyle.

W Williams, Oxenford
Gold Coast Sun 1/09/2010

More legislation for 'homosexual rights'

Last month, two states passed legislation giving more rights to homosexuals.

Tasmania - Relationship Registers

The Tasmanian Relationship Register has been extended - again!

Tasmania passed 'Relationship Register' legislation in 2003, allowing same-sex and heterosexual couples to 'register' their relationship. In 2009, the Tasmanian government expanded the law to allow a 'commitment ceremony' to be held. The House of Assembly has passed another amendment recognising **relationships registered in jurisdictions outside Tasmania**.

Although it isn't mentioned in the Bill, the government revealed **DURING the debate** that the law will **now recognise same-sex 'marriages' performed overseas**, as well as civil unions and registered relationships!

The House passed the Bill on August 31, 2010 by 21 votes to 3. Congratulations



to Rene Hidding, Michael Ferguson and Jacquie Petrusma who opposed the Bill.

The Bill now goes to the Legislative Council - a vote was expected during September.

NSW - same-sex adoption

Children need a mother and a father - but 'homosexual rights' won the day when the NSW parliament passed a bill to give adoption rights to same-sex couples.

The Legislative Assembly voted on the Bill on September 2. They passed the Bill by 45 votes to 43. The Bill allows 'stranger' adoption as well as 'known' adoption (where one of the adoptive couple is a birth parent). An amendment allowing faith-based adoption agencies to choose not to give babies to same-sex couples, was passed.

On September 8 the Legislative Council passed the Bill by 22 votes to 15.

We congratulate all MPs in both Houses who voted against the Bill. ■

Victorian Election - November 27

If you live in Victoria, NOW is the time to start thinking about your vote - the election is on **Saturday 27 November, 2010**.

Next month we'll have the **Christian Values Checklist** available - it compares parties on a range of moral issues.

Unfortunately, on several important moral issues, MPs from both major political parties have supported immoral laws.

In the abortion debate, John Brumby, leader of the Labor Party, supported the Bill; so did the leader and deputy leader of the Liberal Party - Ted Baillieu and Louise Asher.

On the other hand there are pro-life MPs in both the Liberal and Labor Parties - though

there are more in the Liberal Party.

Peter Ryan, Nationals leader, voted against the Bill as did Peter Kavanagh of the DLP.

Check the **Life Vote** website to see how YOUR MPs (1 in Leg Assembly and 5 in Leg Council) voted on the Abortion Bill.

Other moral issues

We have prepared a spreadsheet listing all Victorian MPs and how they voted on a range of moral issues - including abortion, relationship registers, IVF for single women and homosexuals and euthanasia.

Read it on our Victorian election page:
<http://www.saltshakers.org.au/issues/politics/688-2010-victorian-election> ■

Addressing Abortion From a “Positive Angle” - Tough to Do When It Kills Children

Bryan Kemper is the president of *Stand True Ministries*, a pro-life group that reaches out to youth and young adults. He is the author of a new book, **Social Justice Begins In The Womb.**

A Christian leader recently asked me to talk about abortion from a “positive angle” - here is my attempt.

Abortion is positively an act of homicide
Homicide is defined as one person killing another person.

Abortion is positively the killing of a human person

Every single person aborted is a unique, full and equal human person in a different stage of their life. Zygote, Embryo, Fetus, Infant, Toddler, Teen, Adult, Senior Citizen: all stages of the life of a human person.

There are positively no exceptions that justify abortion

Because abortion always ends the life of a human person, there is no way to justify this homicidal act. While there may be tragic circumstances that lead to the conception of some human persons, this does not change the genetic make up or value of that individual person. While the mother carrying that individual human person in her womb may have medical complications, this does not justify killing that human person.

We would never accept the killing of a three year old to save the life or protect the health of a mother; in the same manner we cannot accept the killing of that same person when they were at an earlier stage of their life.

Abortion positively causes mental trauma and pain for women and men

Abortion often causes what is referred to as *Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome* in those who have one or participate in one. Mothers, fathers and even siblings of those humans who have been killed by abortion often go through years of pain and anguish when they realize what has actually happened.

Abortion is positively dangerous

The abortion industry is one of the least regulated medical fields and usually attracts the least qualified doctors. Women are

constantly being taken from abortion mills in ambulances because of botched abortions and incompetent medical practices; many of them die.

Abortion is positively never safe

Since abortion always results in the death of at least one human person, it can never be deemed safe.

Abortion is positively not a human or woman’s right

We as human persons do not have the right to harm or kill another innocent human person. We cannot call an act of homicide a “right” for anyone.

Abortion is positively not simply a political or moral issue

While politics and morals are involved, the issue of abortion is also a matter of right and wrong, or natural law. We know it is inherently wrong for one person to murder another person, therefore this inherent wrong also applies to abortion.

Abortion is positively not something we can ignore or dismiss

Everyone has the responsibility to do what is right whether it is the biblical teaching of “love your neighbour as yourself” or the common proverb, “do unto others as



you would have them do unto you”. When we know that our fellow human person is being killed at the rate of almost 4,000 times a day in the US [more than 220 a day in Australia], we have a right and a duty to stand up against such an evil. When we know that in our own neighbourhoods there are buildings that house these murderous practices, we must be a voice and expose the evil practices that are taking place. We must take a stand, be a voice, and rise to action against the killing of innocent little baby boys and girls.

Abortion is positively mentioned in the Bible

While the word abortion may not be used, the word murder is. The murder of someone using a gun or many other weapons is not mentioned in the Bible either. It is not the method of the act of murder, but the act of murder itself which makes it wrong.

Abortion is positively a sin

The sixth commandment makes it plain and clear; *You Shall Not Commit Murder.*

Jesus positively can and will forgive and heal those who take part in the act of abortion

While abortion is the sin of murder, Christ’s sacrifice on the Cross is sufficient to wipe that sin white as snow. If we repent of our sins and ask God for His forgiveness, He is faithful and just to do so. God will throw our sins as far as the east is from the west: an infinite distance. Whether you are the woman who had the abortion, the man who pushed someone to have an abortion, the abortionist, the nurse who assisted in the abortion or anyone else involved, God can

heal and forgive you.

The apathy, indifference and inaction of God’s people positively grieves Him

As Christians we have been given a new life, a Hope in Christ and it is our duty to share that Hope and Light with the world. We have been crucified with Christ, we no longer live but Christ lives within us. I recently saw a shirt that read “I have the right to remain silent about Jesus, but I won’t”; this is false. We do not have the right to remain silent about Jesus; we have the responsibility to shine that light to a lost and dying world.

I leave you with these two thoughts:

1. Proverbs 24:11-12 tells us “*Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, “Behold, we did not know this,” does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?”*

2. The parable of the good Samaritan shows us three reactions to a tragic situation. Two of the characters in the story walked passed their fellow human person as they chose not to love their neighbour. The third character recognized his fellow human person as his neighbour and choose to love him.

My question to you and this Christian leader that sparked this commentary, after reading this and knowing that almost 4,000 innocent baby boys and girls are lying in that proverbial ditch is: Will you be the Priest, the Rabbi or the Samaritan? ■

Don't Forget! March for the Babies

Saturday October 9, 2010 - 2 pm

Meet at Treasury Gardens, Melbourne.

Walk to the Parliament for the rally.

BRING all your FRIENDS!

Smoking in films

Fifty years ago films often showed actors smoking. Today, with increased awareness of the health risks, the number of ‘smoking’ incidents in films has decreased. However, many films still show characters smoking. When the film *Avatar* was released last year, many people expressed concern that the lead character was shown smoking - as it gave the wrong message to young people.

It’s important to remember that everything in a film is deliberately chosen. A scene of a ‘room’ starts with a blank set - everything is selected. The chairs, the brand of TV set, the carpets, the picture above the fireplace (even what sort of fireplace!) are all carefully chosen to reflect the film director’s message. ‘Brand placement’ is often used in movies and on TV to promote products.

Similarly, every character’s actions are carefully scripted. Years ago, when characters ‘smoked’, the brand of cigarette was carefully chosen. For instance, the ‘Marlboro Man’ depicted ‘toughness’.

Until 1989, tobacco companies could pay for their product to be ‘featured’! They stopped openly paying for ‘brand placements’ to avoid the US government legislating to ban the practice.¹ However, some actors have been paid to promote tobacco brands.

A report by the *US Center for Disease Control and Prevention* [CDC] has revealed that 54 per cent of the top-grossing PG-13 [USA rating] movies of 2009 contained smoking! The researchers counted each time tobacco use was shown in the biggest-grossing films of 1991 to 2009.²

It is good to note that the incidence of smoking of films has declined. The CDC report said “The results of this analysis indicate that the number of tobacco incidents peaked in 2005, then declined by approximately half through 2009,

by Jenny Stokes

representing the first time a decline of that duration and magnitude has been observed.”

They said “However, nearly half of popular movies still contained tobacco imagery in 2009 ... and the number of incidents remained higher in 2009 than in 1998.”

In 1998, in order to avoid litigation, the major cigarette companies made an agreement with the US state attorneys in which they agreed to “end brand placement”.² Despite this, the number of ‘incidents’ of smoking increased after 1998. The CDC said that the *Motion Picture Association of America* had done little to make changes, but noted some studios had made voluntary changes, with *Viacom* the first company to show no tobacco use in 2009 movies rated for youth.

The CDC Report said “Exposure to onscreen smoking in movies increases the probability that youths will start smoking. Youths who are heavily exposed to onscreen smoking are approximately two to three times more likely to begin smoking than youths who are lightly exposed.”

The CDC Report made recommendations to restrict the amount of smoking in films - including having a mature content (R) rating for movies with smoking, requiring strong anti-tobacco ads preceding movies that depict smoking, not allowing tobacco brand displays in movies, and requiring producers of movies depicting tobacco use to certify that no person or company associated with the production received any consideration for that depiction”.

1. Study; *Brand placement in movies*, *Lancet*, 2001. <http://www.scenesmoking.org/research/Dartmouth-Brand%20Appearances.pdf>

2. Article: “Smoking still too common in movies, CDC says, *Reuters*, 19/8/2010.



Prayer Update

The Nation and Government

Please continue to pray for the new government.

Pray that every Member and Senator will give 'the nation' a higher priority than Party politics.

Pray that the Independents will use their 'casting' votes wisely and in a Godly way.

Pray that 'the Christian church' would

give wise leadership to MPs. Surely this is a time for Christian values, with good Biblical justifications, both moral and social, to be promoted by Church leaders who were so silent during the election campaign.



Pray for a clear vision for the Church about the future direction of this nation as a CHRISTIAN NATION, rather than a silent surrender to so-called secularism.

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

Pray for life, elections, state governments and the church

Pray for the continuing "40 Days for Life" campaign

Pray that, as many thousands continue to unite across the world, God will raise up Christians to stand in the political gap for the unborn; people who will be prepared to challenge the slaughter of millions of innocent children every year. Details: www.40daysforlife.com/melbourne

Pray for the Victorian election - now just two months away - November 27, 2010.

Pray for the influence of the *Life Vote* campaign to alert people to those MPs who voted for Victoria's awful abortion law.

Pray that Christians who stand boldly for Christian values will be elected.

Pray that Christians will vote wisely and conscientiously so that Christian, rather than

humanist, values will underpin Victoria.

Pray for the church

Pray that pastors/church leaders will speak against injustice and immorality. Pray that they will expose ungodly policies and candidates - regardless of the party.

Pray for Western Australia & Tasmania

Pray that the WA Greens' euthanasia Bill will not be passed.

Pray that Tasmania's Labor Attorney General will not introduce a euthanasia Bill.

Pray that those 'Christians' who are supporting euthanasia will be challenged and their false 'doctrine' denounced.

Pray that the church in both States will oppose these Bills and that Euthanasia will not become accepted anywhere in Australia.

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

If you are not a regular attender please check with the office the day before doing so as sometimes we have to cancel due to Peter & Jenny being away

George Soros and 'progressive' causes

by Jenny Stokes

Human Rights Watch (HRW), an activist group that promotes homosexuality and abortion at the international level, has just received a huge donation from financier **George Soros**. He plans to give them \$100 million over the next ten years to help them expand internationally, on the proviso that *Human Rights Watch* matches his donation by raising \$10 million a year from donors.¹

We need to know who George Soros is, because he has already been active in Australia, supporting those who promote the decriminalisation of drugs. He has also provided finance to some 'progressive' Christian organisations in the USA who also have influence in Australia.

Who is George Soros?

George Soros is a billionaire who was born in Budapest in 1930 but now lives in New York. The bulk of his money was earned from currency and stock speculation.² In 2010, *Forbes* magazine estimated his wealth at \$14 billion.³

George Soros has said that he plans to give away the bulk of his fortune whilst he is still alive. In 2008, it was reported that he had given away \$6 billion in the past three decades. In the past year he gave away more than \$700 million.¹

Soros runs the *Open Society Institute* and the *Soros Foundation Network* and uses these bodies to give away his money.⁴ He says that he wants to give money to 'civil society organisations' to enable them to hold governments to account. However, he is giving a lot of that money to 'liberal', 'progressive' left-wing causes and has set up think tanks and organisations to promote those causes.

The motto of the *Open Society Institute*

is "Building vibrant and tolerant democracies".⁴

That might sound nice, but the word 'tolerant' reveals their real intent!

Through his network of *Soros Foundations*, Soros has funded many programs in Eastern Europe. Serje Trifkovic writes, "By 1997, a total of 29 'Soros Foundations' were active in every post-communist country. In 1994, his foundations spent a total of \$300 million; by 1998, that figure had risen to \$574 million. These are enormous sums in an impoverished and vulnerable Eastern Europe. Those foundations say that they are 'dedicated to building and maintaining the infrastructure and institutions of an open society.' What this means in practice is clear from their many fruits. Regarding 'women's health' programs in Central and

Southeastern Europe, for instance, one will look in vain for breast-cancer detection or prenatal or postnatal care."²

Instead, their stated goal is "to improve the quality of abortion services". Trifkovic said, "Accordingly, his Public Health Program has supported the introduction of medical abortion in Albania, Latvia, Lithuania, and Slovakia and the introduction of manual vacuum aspiration abortion in Macedonia, Moldova, and Russia."²

George Soros' money is aimed at changing the foundational values of nations.

In the US he has provided millions of dollars to the *American Civil Liberties Union*, a group that is trying to remove Christianity from public life in the USA.

Soros has also given money to *MoveOn* - a left-leaning US action group similar to left-leaning Australian organisation *GetUp*.³



Together with the *Sandler Family Supporting Foundation* (SFSF), Soros helped fund the formation of the *Center for American Progress*, a group aimed at generating support for 'progressive' political causes and one that promotes the left-wing Democratic Party in the USA.⁵

Interestingly, the SFSF gave \$525,000 to activist left-wing organization, ACORN in 2000 and a donation of \$15 million to Human Rights Watch in 2005.⁶

Soros supports the so-called 'reform' of drug laws, calling for the decriminalisation of illicit drugs. He set up the *Drug Policy Alliance*, is a member of the Board, and gave them \$4m in 2008. He told the ACLU, "The War on Drugs is one of the most repressive aspects in American life."⁷

The Soros groups are good at nice-sounding rhetoric. An article on the Soros website speaks of "the need to find common ground in the abortion debate while securing policies to protect safe and legal reproductive rights for women". However, this is 'code' for promoting abortion on demand.

He has given money to pro-abortion groups *Planned Parenthood*, *NARAL pro-choice America* and *Marie Stopes Int.*⁸ He also supports the legalisation of euthanasia.³ As pro-life group *Lifesite* said, "Sadly, Soros is one of many wealthy and powerful individuals who demonstrate much affection for the anti-life and anti-family cause."⁹

Money for 'progressive Christians'

Soros' *Open Society Institute* has provided funds for liberal Catholic groups that support abortion, and has given money to *Sojourners*, a liberal/'progressive' Christian group run by Jim Wallis in the USA.¹⁰

Wallis has visited Australia and influenced various organisations with his 'social justice' ideas.

When Marvin Olasky, of *World Magazine*, recently reported that Soros gave *Sojourners*

\$325,000 between 2004 and 2007, Wallis denied it and called Olasky a liar. On checking the facts, and finding that Soros' *Open Society Institute* had indeed given them money on three occasions, Jim Wallis phoned Olasky to apologise.¹⁰ He said that they get so much money that he doesn't know all the donors!

But, even for *Sojourners*, \$200,000 is a VERY sizeable donation, one which would not go unnoticed by the CEO!

Further investigation has revealed that other secular left wing groups have also given money to *Sojourners* - these include the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the SFSF, which gave \$219,000 to *Sojourners* in 2005-2006.^{5, 11}

Marvin Olasky concludes, "None of this says that *Sojourners* is beholden to secular leftists and pro-abortionists." However, he goes on to add "Grants from Soros and others are evidence that individuals and organizations supporting abortion and other unbiblical goals find *Sojourners* useful."

That's a reminder to us all to carefully consider where our finances come from!

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UN - the MDGs and 'sexual health'

During September, the annual United Conference for non-government organisations (NGOs) was held in Melbourne. The focus was on how NGOs could assist and work with the UN to achieve the *UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)* which aim to alleviate poverty and improve health by 2015.

I [Jenny] was invited to attend as part of *Endeavour Forum*. I went along to observe first-hand how a UN conference is run and to hear what was said!

The focus of the conference was '*Advance Global Health*' - particular attention was given to the MDGs related to health, including No 4: 'Reduce infant mortality' and No 5: 'Improve maternal health'.

Various organisations had 'booths' and presented workshops. A number of groups that promote 'sexual and reproductive health rights' were in attendance - such as *Marie Stopes Int, Planned Parenthood*



and the *Australian Reproductive Health Alliance*. ARHA ran a workshop outlining how they had run a successful campaign using MPs from all parties to allow the use of the abortion drug RU 486 in Australia.

Our group was the only one presenting a message about the risks of abortion, including breast cancer, and the sex-selection abortion of girls in India and China. It wasn't a 'politically correct' message!

We were pleased to see that the proposed 'Conference Declaration' spoke of maternal health but didn't include 'sexual and reproductive health' - which generally means abortion. However, at the meeting to discuss the document, these 'sexual health' groups proposed that this clause be 'added'. A young man from our group said that would alienate half the world's population so it was best to leave it out. When the final Declaration was read out the phrase WASN'T included. A small victory! ■

World Youth Conference Statement

The **World Youth Conference** has just been held in Mexico. Although not an 'official' UN conference, the *UN Population Fund (UNFPA)* saw it as setting the agenda for the UN International Year of Youth. The *NGO Forum* at the conference was made up of a wide range of NGOs dealing with youth - many were representing UNFPA.

The **NGO Youth Statement** calls for "universal access to confidential, youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, including access to evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education."

Further, in the context of maternal health, it calls for interventions, "including access to a full range of contraceptives and

safe abortion." Governments are also requested to "recognize LGBT [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender] as part of the spectrum of gender identities."

To counter this statement, a pro-family **Statement of Youth to the UN and the World** was launched at the conference by the *International Youth Coalition*. It will be presented to the UN General Assembly.

The IYC Statement is organized around eight principles, based on family, relationships, parents as primary educators, a proper understanding of sexuality and a focus on 'man and woman'. [Friday Fax, 9/9/2010]

We congratulate these young people! ■

World News

Standing up!

When Iceland's Prime Minister Jóhanna Sigurdardóttir visited the Faroe Islands (a semiautonomous territory of Denmark) recently, one MP refused to attend the state dinner held in her honour.

Why? Because the visiting PM brought her lesbian partner, whom she 'married' in Iceland in June 2010, to the Dinner.

Jenis av Rana, a member of a conservative Christian party, refused to attend the dinner. He said, "My party is formally against homosexual marriage. If I were to participate in the official dinner, it would be the same as saying that I support a union that is contrary to nature and condemned by the Bible. And that is something I will not risk under any circumstances." [*Lifesite*, 10/9/2010]

It takes courage to make such a stand and we congratulate Jenis for his action.

USA: Don't ask - don't tell

A federal judge in California has ruled that the US military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy banning homosexuals from disclosing their sexual orientation while serving in the US military is unconstitutional. The judge said he plans to issue a 'permanent injunction' against the policy. The US Department of Justice can appeal the ruling. [AP, 11/9/2010]

The Pentagon is currently evaluating the possible detrimental effects of repealing the policy and is expected to present a report to

Congress in three months' time.

Please pray that the policy will be retained.

Panama: 'Disrespectful' comments

Those who dare to criticize homosexuals in Panama could soon face a large fine.

A bill is currently being considered by Panama's legislature that would fine perpetrators between \$500 and \$5000 dollars for making fun of or speaking "disrespectfully" of a homosexual.

The proposed law would take "preventative measures" against "discrimination for reason of sexual orientation or gender identity". Local media reports state that the bill has already passed out of the Government Committee of the national congress and "everything seems to indicate that the initiative will soon be converted into a law of the Republic." [*Lifesite*, 9/9/2010]

The question is, 'What is deemed 'disrespectful?'

Please pray that this Bill is not passed.

Slovenia: 'Marriage' and adoption

It isn't just happening in Australia. The Slovenian government is planning to legalize same-sex 'marriage' and adoption of children by same-sex couples, according to *The Slovenian Civilian Initiative for Family and the Rights of Children*.

The proposed new Family Code bill is being pushed through the government's *Labor, Family and Social Issues Committee* without any public input. Ales Primc, the head of CIFRC, said he was barred from attending the session of Parliament during which the controversial bill was discussed! [*Lifesite*, 7/9/2010]



Ministry News

Please continue to pray for the plans to expand this ministry, and discussions we are having about new staff. We will launch a financial support plan later in October.

We are always grateful for the regular financial support of many of you. As the needs grow, so does our faith that God will continue to provide for us as long as He intends this ministry to continue.

God always calls us to consider bigger challenges when our existing finances are already being stretched. That is the situation at this time; so if the Lord has been prompting you to help us, please respond immediately rather than wait for future news.

We praise God for the significant increase in the number of subscribers to our E-News emails. This unprecedented rise in numbers started following the announcement that Julia Gillard had deposed Kevin Rudd as Prime Minister, and continued for many weeks. Perhaps people realised they had been duped into thinking that 'Christian Kevin' was going to change our nation for the better yet now we had 'Atheist Julia' who certainly will not turn this nation back to God.

After sending this Journal to the printers Jenny and Peter took a well-earned rest and will return to the office early in October to start gearing up for the Victorian Election.

Please also continue to pray for all the staff and volunteers who tirelessly help us help you 'Make a Difference'. If you can assist us with one morning a month to help with mailing we would love to hear from you.

ACTION checklist: Tick the box as you complete the task

Page	Topic	Action / People to write to	Done
7	WA - Euthanasia	Check website and contact MPs as needed	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Tas: Euthanasia	Contact all MPs	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	SA: Euthanasia	Contact all MPs	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Very Special introductory offer - Posted for \$10



Essentials of Marriage: Handle with Care - A Focus on the Family DVD

God designed marriage to be one of life's most rewarding and fulfilling relationships.

But it's not easy -- it takes commitment, wisdom and work.

Hosted by popular counsellor and author Greg Smalley, the Essentials of Marriage series brings top relationship experts into your home with practical wisdom, honest confessions, and decades of experience.

In Essentials of Marriage: Handle with Care, experts like Gary and Barb Rosberg, Juli Slattery, and Dave Ramsey spell out strategies for dealing with the biggest threats couples face today - including anger, depression, sexual issues, and financial troubles.

Special price - Posted for \$15



Liberty to the Captives by Rev. Mark Durie

Liberty to the Captives has been prepared as a pastoral resource for use in Christian ministry contexts. It includes teaching on Islam, Jesus and the Cross.

This companion volume to The Third Choice provides prayers and teaching resources for securing spiritual freedom from the legacy of Islam, both for those who have lived as non-Muslims under Sharia conditions, and for those from a Muslim background who choose to follow Christ.

Posted for \$30

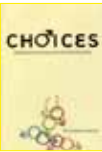


Mosques and Miracles - Rev. Dr. Stuart Robinson

Understand the true nature of Islam and how to reach out to Muslims with the love of Jesus. This is a must read for all Christians.

"I have read many books on this vital subject, but this was the best" RevDavid Pawson

Posted for \$25



Choices - One man's journey out of homosexuality by Chris Keane

Understand the struggle and share one man's journey to find healing and true love through the restoring Grace of Jesus Christ.

This compelling journey will challenge you and help equip you to offer freedom to those who, all too often, only see the church as condemning and judgemental or totally accepting of the homosexual addiction.

We hope the Salt Shakers Annual Dinner presentation 'Changing Lives' will be available on CD or MP3 within a month. Advance orders, with Credit Card details, can be made.

Orders will only be processed when the stock has arrived.

Posted for \$10

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

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