

Salt Shakers

Helping Christians make a difference

The world with its lust
passes away, but he who does
the will of God remains forever.
1 John 2:17

November 2010 AD

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Editorial

As Victoria faces an election this month, and NSW has an election early next year, citizens of both States could well ask, "Where is the choice?"

Some have even suggested the choice is between dumb, dumber, and stupid, with little hope of change. In reality that choice is between, more of the same, a very weak small 'l' Liberal opposition and the Greens holding the balance of power - you can decide which Party fits each description!

There is little doubt that politics in Australia is sliding down a dangerous slope to the left and this slide can only end up in disaster.

Sadly, it is just as hard to even see any real light in a veritable smorgasbord of minor parties and Independents.

It is not hard to see people's disinterest in another election, after the drawn-out Federal election fiasco of not knowing who had won for such a long time and of seeing Independents, supposedly with politically 'right' leanings, supporting a left/extreme left coalition of Labor and the Greens.

But disengagement is not the answer. In fact, it is the disengagement of the church from politics over so many years that has partly contributed to the mess we are in.

Disengagement has allowed the effects of the so-called 'enlightenment', the rise of Marxism/Communism, the sexual revolution, and humanistic liberal views to take over Western society, leaving us morally bankrupt.

Somehow we must re-group and move forward. To do that, it is necessary for us to look back and to ask what created the socially and politically healthy society that produced nations like Britain, the USA, Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

Many people call us 'right wing', because we stand for marriage only between a man and a woman, for life issues rather than death, for sexual morality rather than immorality and for personal responsibility rather than a 'my rights' culture, but it is those very values that made Western culture truly 'progressive' in the right sense of the word.

Some people also make a judgement that, because we stand for 'those' things, we are opposed to 'helping the poor and the marginalised', and they are very quick to point out that God is all about love and helping those in need and that 'God is neither left nor right'.

Of course, the last statement is correct, but He is certainly morally 'right' or correct. We can say with great confidence that God stands for heterosexual-only marriage, life rather than death, sexual morality rather than immorality and personal responsibility rather than a 'my rights' culture.

We do NOT need to make an apology for upholding God's values, because it is those very values that make us compassionate and caring to the marginalised.

As Michael Nazir-Ali wrote in a very interesting article about the state of Britain called *Breaking Faith With Britain*, "I find that the systems of governance, of the rule of law, of the assumption of trust in common life all find their inspiration in Scripture".

If Australia is to ascend out of the abyss we are in, we need to regain our Christian heritage and values. As Christians, we need to 'press on for the mark', not give in.

God's justice and His values are still the best for all people - we need to be 'on the field' if our team is to win.

Yours in Christ Jesus
Peter and Jenny Stokes



Christianity, Liberty and Western Constitutionalism

By Dr Augusto Zimmermann

According to our Western legal tradition, liberty presupposes the existence of laws serving as an effective check against arbitrary power. In the constitutional struggle of parliamentary forces against the Stuarts in seventeenth-century England, the receptive attitude towards Christianity allowed philosophers such as John Locke to develop a political theory where the main justification for the state rested on the protection of our most fundamental rights to life, liberty and property. In *Second Treatise on Civil Government* (1690), Locke elaborated on a 'state of nature' predating the creation of the state in which people were governed not by positive laws but only by a natural law that everybody was able to recognise and uphold. 'This law of nature', Locke explained,

"stands as an eternal rule to all men, legislators as well as others. The rules that they make for other men's actions must, as well as their own and other men's actions, be conformable to the law of nature, ie. to the will of God of which that is a declaration. And the fundamental law of nature being the preservation of mankind, no sanction can be good or valid against it."

Locke hereby contends that our most basic rights are independent of, and antecedent to, the state. Once it is established, the state 'hath no other end but the preservation of these rights, and therefore can never have a right to destroy, enslave, or designedly to impoverish the subjects'.

According to him, the civil ruler puts himself into a 'state of war' against society

every time he attempts to undermine those basic rights of the individual. Being God-given and inalienable, our basic rights to life, liberty and property *set limits* on governmental power, providing lawful justification for civil resistance against political tyranny should our basic rights be grossly violated. To the extent that the government does not recognise and protect

these basic rights, it actually ceases to be a legitimate authority and can be dismissed by the people for breach of trust. As Locke puts it,

"Whenever the legislators endeavour to take away and destroy the property of the people [ie: their rights to life, liberty and property], or to reduce them to slavery under arbitrary power, they put themselves into a state of war with the people, who are thereupon absolved from any

further obedience, and are left to the common refuge which God hath provided for all men against force and violence."

The general belief expressed in the *American Declaration of Independence* is that 'all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights'. In the American colonies of the eighteenth century, Locke was, after the Bible, 'the principal authority relied on by the preachers to bolster up their political teachings'.

The colonists viewed their successful revolution as inspired and justified by these Christian principles of natural law.

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They further aimed to enshrine these very principles in their new system of constitutional government. That these American Founders undeniably drew from such Christian principles during the composition of their Declaration of Independence is well explained by Professor John Eidsmoe:

“The Declaration of Independence of 1776 was drafted by a congressional committee consisting of Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, John Adams, and Robert Livingstone. The Declaration clearly states that the united colonies are entitled to independence by the “Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God.” They further declared that “all men are created equal,” and that they are endowed “by their Creator” with certain inalienable rights. They closed by appealing to the “Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of [their] intentions,” declaring their “firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence,” and pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. The “Creator” God they trusted was more than the impersonal and uninvolved god of the deists; the term providence implies a God who continually provides for the human race. And the reference to the laws of nature and of nature’s God reflects their belief in the law of nature and the revealed law described by Blackstone.”

Western constitutionalism is therefore founded upon the belief in laws which, according to Sir Edward Coke, ‘God at the time of creation of the nature of man infused into his heart for his preservation and direction’. This amounts to saying

that a legal system without God’s natural law is not protective of liberty but rather of licence. Such a distinction between liberty and licence was one commonly made by natural rights theorists like Locke and Blackstone. In describing the ‘state of nature’, or world without government, Locke contended that ‘though this be a *State of Liberty*, yet it is *not a State of License*’. On this passage, law professor Randy E. Barnett explains that ‘[by] liberty is meant those freedoms which people *ought to have*. License refers to those freedoms which people *ought not to have* and thus those freedoms which are properly constrained’.

A legal system without God’s natural law is not protective of liberty but rather of licence

In his famous *Commentaries*, Sir William Blackstone asserted that ‘God, when He created man, endued him with freewill to conduct himself in all parts of life. He laid down certain immutable laws of human nature whereby freewill is in some degree regulated and restrained, and gave him also the faculty of reason to discover the purport of those laws’. Blackstone

believed that authentic liberty is defined and regulated by eternal or natural laws which everyone is able discover by ‘right reason’. However, if there is no reference point for law, there is also no absolute basis upon which judgement can be made. The result is a noticeable lack of an objective moral standard binding on all individuals and in all circumstances. At worst, law becomes merely what a judge (or a dictator) arbitrarily says it is.

In *Commentaries*, Blackstone also stated that the common law had been established according to both the natural and the revealed law of God: ‘On these two foundations, the law of nature and the law of revelation depends all human laws; that is to say, no human law should be suffered to contradict

these'. The argument that the natural law is 'dictated by God Himself' echoed the sentiments of his English predecessors. This sentiment, reflecting the inherency of natural law in the common law, was adopted by the American Framers, with their view of common law and natural law developing to virtually echo Blackstone's works.

Blackstone's portrayal of the common law revealed the natural law foundations of American constitutionalism. Accordingly, the acceptance of natural law was faithfully mirrored in the American judiciary, with many of its court members placing their reliance on natural law when adjudicating on matters during the nineteenth century. Within this juridical context, natural law was actively promoted by leading jurists such as Joseph Story, the first Dane Professor of Law at Harvard University and Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Justice Story linked the natural law to the rights of conscience, which 'are given by God, and cannot be encroached upon by human authority, without a criminal disobedience of the precepts of natural, as well as revealed religion.'

As can be seen, Christian jurisprudence has played an enormously important role in the origin and development of modern constitutionalism. The view adopted by the American Founders is that people cannot know the natural moral order and their inalienable rights from their own reasoning unaided by God's revelation. There are, of course, those who resist the idea of a supernatural lawgiver because they fear it may lead to intolerance or even theocracy. They have it entirely wrong. For if they are really 'endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights', they are

therefore entitled to preserve these rights no matter their ideological or religious convictions. Conversely, asked Thomas Jefferson, the author of the *American Declaration of Independence*, rhetorically: 'How can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed their only secure basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift of God?'

While the Australian legal tradition cannot lay claim to the historical depth of America, it too was built on solid foundations derived from the English common law and Christian theology. As with their

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American counterparts, Christianity was embedded in Australian society during the major moments of legal reform (namely, Federation) and religious ideas permeate both the legal and governmental customs that were developed. Many of these traditions have endured to the present. It is therefore erroneous, although increasingly popular, to assert that the Australian Constitution was aimed at ensuring a secular public square.

Both the context behind its drafting and the Christian roots of the concept of constitutional government, combine to negate the proposition that the Australian Constitution was intended to do any such thing.

Dr Augusto Zimmermann teaches law at Murdoch University, Western Australia. He holds a PhD from Monash University as well as a LLB (Hons) and a LL M cum laude from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro. Dr Zimmermann is also President of the Western Australian Legal Theory Association (WALTA). A footnoted version of this paper is on our website. Next month we will have another article from Augusto Zimmermann on 'Radical Secularism'. ■

News & Action

Same-sex 'marriage'

Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young has re-introduced her same-sex 'marriage' legislation to the federal Senate.

The Greens are pushing both parties to allow a 'conscience vote' on the issue.

We want the major parties to continue to totally oppose same-sex 'marriage'.

See our Campaign page to read the Bill and find out more... <http://www.saltshakers.org.au/take-action/campaigns/704-greens-same-sex-marriage-bill-again>

ACTION: Please contact your 12 State Senators and ask them to oppose the Greens same-sex 'marriage' legislation. Also contact your federal MP.

Please also write to Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Opposition Leader Tony Abbott - ask them to strongly oppose the bill.

March for the Babies

More people attended this years *March for the Babies* in Melbourne than last year.

When one media outlet reported that 400 people attended, they later admitted, after being challenged, that it was a 'typo' and the figure should have been '4000'.

The media report said there were about 200 counter protesters - but those at the march said there were less than 30 'protesters'!

The media's response?

Well, *that was the organisers' figure!* When there were so few of them, it's a pity that the media did not do their own count - or are they incapable of counting that high!

Canberra Declaration

Already more than 15,000 people have signed the Canberra Declaration - which

aims to protect religious liberty, marriage and family, and life.

Have you signed it yet?

Visit the website to read and sign it - <http://www.canberradeclaration.org.au/>

Or send a statement of support to PO Box 378, Unanderra, NSW 2526.

New anti-euthanasia group

Australians Against Euthanasia is a new group formed to oppose the legalisation of euthanasia in Australia. The group has set up a Facebook page - it already has more than 600 members.

So why not check it out and add your support to opposing euthanasia across the country and keep up to date with the latest developments (see Page 11 for the latest fronts on the euthanasia issue.)

Google "*Australians Against Euthanasia*" or visit: <http://en-gb.facebook.com/group.php?gid=115850385139178&ref=share>

Sexuality discrimination Consultation

The *Australian Human Rights Commission* (AHRC) is conducting a consultation regarding federal protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and sex and/or gender identity.

Currently, federal law protects against discrimination on the basis of race, sex, disability and age and the AHRC wants to extend this to 'sexuality' and 'gender identity'.

These are not 'born' constructs, they are thoughts that people have about themselves, and we don't believe laws should protect such 'thoughts' and force others to adhere to them. The Discussion Paper is at http://www.hreoc.gov.au/human_rights/lgbti/lgbticonsult/index.html You can make a comment - email lgbti@humanrights.gov.au

Church Camp loses discrimination case

by Jenny Stokes

The Christian Brethren have LOST the case of discrimination that was brought against them by a Victorian group called *WayOut* which supports homosexual youth, and have been ordered to pay *WayOut* \$5000 in compensation.

Sexual identity/preference now takes precedence over religious belief in Victoria.

This appalling decision was handed down on Friday 8 October 2010 by Judge Felicity Hampel of the *Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Anti-Discrimination List)*.¹

The case was initiated after the *Christian Youth Camps' Phillip Island Adventure Resort (CYC)* (run by the Christian Brethren) refused to allow *WayOut* to book the campsite for a residential workshop on fighting homophobia in June 2007.

CYC claimed that homosexuality was against their religious beliefs and that an exemption in the *Equal Opportunity Act* should apply to them.

WayOut argued that '**businesses**' run by churches or religious groups should not be exempt from state laws banning discrimination on the basis of sexuality.

WayOut was set up as a pilot project in 2002 by Kyneton-based *Cobaw Community Health Service* to combat homophobia and support homosexual youth. *WayOut* (and *Cobaw*) lodged a 'discrimination' complaint with the *Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission*, but, when it wasn't resolved there, the case finally ended up in a hearing at VCAT in July 2010.

The Decision

Judge Hampel criticised the 'expert witness' for CYC, Rev Dr Peter Adam from Ridley College, and rejected his evidence, accusing

him of being an 'advocate' for the CYC cause. What does that say about the sort of 'expert witnesses' that might be deemed as 'suitable' to the Tribunal?

Any respected Christian theologian who respects and believes the Bible, could easily be accused of being "biased" in presenting his views on what the Bible and Christianity say about homosexuality. Interestingly, *Wayout* also had a Christian theologian as an expert witness - Revd Dr Rufus Black, a lawyer, Uniting Church minister and the Master of Ormond College!

Another travesty of justice against Christians!

Legal people in the case

We naturally expect all judges and Tribunal Members to make impartial judgements based on the evidence in every case they hear.

However, it is difficult not to observe that the person hearing this case, Judge Felicity Hampel,

was a prominent human rights lawyer and was also a previous President of *Liberty Victoria*, an activist civil rights group, prior to becoming a judge.

She was appointed as a Judge of the County Court in 2005 by Victorian Attorney-General Rob Hulls – who has consistently promoted anti-discrimination laws, the *Charter of Rights* and removing exemptions for churches! Mr Hulls has now appointed three former *Liberty Victoria* Presidents as judges!

Another name of interest in the case was the barrister representing *WayOut* and *Cobaw Community Health Service* - Debbie Mortimer SC. She was one of the barristers representing the Islamic Council of Victoria in their case against Daniel Scot, *Catch the Fire Ministries* and Danny Nalliah.

In that case, the barristers also worked hard

to discredit CTFM expert witness Revd Dr Mark Durie, accusing him of bias - the judge then rejected his evidence. Ms Mortimer did the same in this case against CYC expert witnesses and was again successful.

Christian Youth Camps are able to appeal against the decision to the Supreme Court (Court of Appeal) - but only on the basis of an 'error in law'. They only have 28 days in which to lodge such an appeal.

We will have to wait and see if they decide

to take such action. If they don't appeal, this decision will stand – and will have enormous ramifications for churches and for any business associated with a church in Victoria, but especially Christian Camp sites.

If they do appeal, we will have a long wait until we see if yet another anti-Christian judgement is overturned...

1. Decision linked from our website - as well as further analysis of the decision. ■

RU 486 – use, failure, adverse reactions

It's hard to believe that it is four years since the abortion drug RU 486 was allowed to be imported into Australia for use in abortions. The law was changed, by a conscience vote of MPs and Senators in the federal parliament, to transfer the authority to import the drug to the *Therapeutic Drug Administration* (TGA) (it was previously under the control of the Health Minister and was effectively banned).

There have been more than 3000 abortions performed using the RU 486 abortion drug since 2006.

Tasmanian Liberal Senator **Guy Barnett** recently asked questions about the use of RU 486 and adverse reactions to the drug in 'Senate Estimates' hearings.

Shortly after the Bill was passed, the TGA started issuing authorizations to individuals such as Caroline da Costa in Queensland and to some hospitals and clinics. However, use of the drug increased dramatically after August 2009, when the TGA allowed abortion organisation *Marie Stopes International* to use RU 486 in its 13 clinics across Australia.

In NSW, abortions using RU 486 went from none to 1154 between July and December 2009. In Queensland they increased from

four to 323 and in Victoria the number increased from 42 to 412.

During the parliament debate, proponents of RU 486 claimed that it would be used for 'early abortions' – however it has since become evident that the drug is being used for 'late abortions'. Recently Caroline da Costa said "a high proportion of the overall 3000 cases are late ones"!

Failure of RU 486

In fourteen cases, the RU 486 drug didn't actually cause an abortion – and the women had to then undergo surgical abortions to "complete the termination".

Adverse reactions to RU 486

There were 110 cases of "adverse effects" reported by the 81 doctors authorised to prescribe RU 486 as at the end of 2009. They included "retention of placenta remains" and other "products of conception".

We can't just reduce these abortions to mere statistics. Every one of these represents a precious child, created and loved by God.

RU 486 is just the latest in a long list of methods used to abort babies. All of them destroy our humanity and reduce the respect the community has for vulnerable people. ■



Abortion on trial in Queensland

There is increasing pressure in Queensland to 'legalise' abortion, following the legalisation of abortion in Victoria two years ago.

This pressure was intensified during the past month, with the trial of two people in the Cairns District Court in the week beginning 11 October.¹

Tegan Leach, 20, and her partner, Sergie Brenna, 22, were accused of importing the abortion drug misoprostol (like RU 486) from the Ukraine and using it to abort their unborn child. Leach was charged, under Section 225 of the 1899 Queensland Criminal Code, of 'procuring her own abortion' and Brenna was charged under Section 226 - for supplying drugs or instruments to procure an abortion.²



By the Friday of that week, the jury had announced its verdict... **Not Guilty.**

The jury took one hour to reach its verdict, following instruction by the judge. The key factor was the expert evidence of Professor Nicholas Fisk, an obstetrics expert from the University of Queensland, who had been engaged by the prosecution. He talked of whether RU486 was 'noxious' and said that the drug taken had virtually no complications, that they could not be harmful to Leach or cause her to suffer ill side-effects. The judge pointed out that for the case to be proved 'beyond reasonable doubt' they would have to be convinced that the drug was noxious to the woman, not the unborn child (he called it a foetus).³

Some organisations, including abortion provider *Marie Stopes International*, are calling for 'reform' of the law in Queensland - in other words, they want abortion to be legalised in Queensland.⁴

Professor George Williams also called for

the legalisation of abortion, saying "Views about abortion have changed over the past century, and the statute book should alter to reflect this."²

He complains that Queensland Premier Anna Bligh has said her government won't introduce such legislation but rather says if it is to be discussed it would be as a private member's bill and a conscience vote. In the previous parliament, Labor MP Bonny Barry wanted to move a Bill to legalise abortion and says she now regrets not persisting with that despite pressure from the Premier not to proceed. Bonny Barry lost her seat at the last election, at least partly because of a campaign exposing her views on abortion.

Meanwhile, Queensland pro-life group ***Cherish Life*** is actively opposing the legalisation of abortion.⁵

We will continue to monitor possible moves by MPs to legalise abortion in Queensland.

ACTION: Please pray that abortion is not legalised in Queensland. Visit our website's 'Campaign Page' for updates.

If you live in Queensland, **please contact your Member** in the Legislative Assembly. For names and contact details see our website or phone the AEC on 13 2326.

Please also write to the Premier Anna Bligh and the Leader of the Liberal National Party, John-Paul Langbroek. Ask them to oppose the legalisation of abortion. Send letters to Parliament House, Cnr of George and Alice Streets, Brisbane, QLD, 4000.

Endnotes

1. *Couple front court over illegal abortion, ABC, 12/10/2010*
2. *Abortion law stuck in the 19th century SMH, 12/10/2010*
3. *Crown kicks own goal in Qld abortion trial, ABC, 15/10/2010.*
4. *New calls for abortion to be decriminalized, ABC, 7/10/2010*
5. *Cherish Life: www.cherishlife.org.au*

And Another Thing - *The Age*

At least Julia realizes the basic fact about marriage; it's between a man and a woman.

David G Westaway, Victoria
The Age 2/10/2010

"Gillard must be praying..." suggests Josh Gordon (*Sunday Age*, September 26). I suppose that, when all else fails, even an avowed atheist might resort to prayer, but to whom would she pray?

Ron Fischer, Victoria
The Age 3/10/2010

Burqa blockage

It's not a matter of banning the burqa, it is being open and honest with identity.

Full face reveals true identity in public.

Mrs Judith Bond, NSW
Macarthur Advertiser 22/9/2010

Marriage

Denis Carroll's statement 9/10 "Marriage between a man and a woman is the natural way to bring babies into our families" is eminently sensible and right. Although there are bad marriages, on the whole, sound research shows that children do best when raised by their natural married mother and a father. If we want a good society, we should choose to do what is best for the child and society, not just make selfish choices for immediate gratification. The fact that through modern medical technology, at enormous expense we can produce babies without normal sexual union does not mean that we should.

And if the thousands of babies who are aborted each year were instead kept for adoption, then many childless couples could have the children they so greatly desire.

Christina Naylor, Mayfield NSW
Sydney Morning Herald 9/2010

National, State, Capital City, and Local Newspapers represent one of the easiest ways to reach a large number of people with the message that we like, dislike, object to or support what others are doing in, and to, our nation.

Why is it that so few Christians, and so few of our readers, avail themselves of this golden opportunity?

It is free. It can be done by email. It just takes a bit of effort and practice but it can Make A Difference.

This month's varied selection show you the potential.

Well done to each person who made the effort.



Onya'Pat

Thank you, Pat Farmer, for your time as Macarthur's federal MP. You have served well, with good morals and Godly principles and in support of families. You have stood against abortion and against same-sex marriage. Thank you.

Mr Farmer, you and your children spent your holiday time helping at the *Agape* Children's home in Chiang Mai, Thailand. You worked non-stop to paint play equipment and on your return, raised funds to give these children their first new bike for Christmas. May God bless you, keep you and protect you all the days of your life.

Judith Bond, Glen Alpine NSW
Campbelltown Macarthur Advertiser
28/8/2010

Same-sex parents not God's way

Thank God for our conscience. To Phil Costa and Graham West, you will sleep with a clear conscience.

As MPs, you don't do what you feel is right, you stand for what is right. Same-sex adoption is NOT right.

Geoff Corrigan and Andrew McDonald, your conscience will plague you for the rest of your life. Did you really think of the impact on children, families and our culture?

God's design is for children to be raised by a female as a mother and a male as a father.

Mrs Judith Bond NSW
Macarthur Chronicle 14/9/2010

Euthanasia Update

Pro-euthanasia alliance formed

A national alliance of 'dying with dignity' and voluntary euthanasia societies has been established in Australia - they have set up a website called *yourlastright.com* They say they are aiming to "inform and promote compassionate law reform".

That means another lobby group running a concerted campaign to promote euthanasia legislation across Australia.

What are Christians doing? Are we ignoring these vital moral issues whilst the other side is actively working to promote such laws?

Are we writing letters to MPs opposing euthanasia? They are certainly getting letters from groups supporting euthanasia (and abortion and homosexuality)!

In fact we learnt about this new group when an MP sent me the information they had received!



WA: Euthanasia defeated

The *Voluntary Euthanasia Bill* was soundly defeated by the Legislative Council by 24 votes to 11 on Sept 21-23. Thank you to those who wrote to MPs in WA and 'thank you' to Hon Nick Goiran, a Liberal MP, who strongly opposed the Bill.

Tasmania: Euthanasia Bill

A voluntary euthanasia bill is expected soon - this one may be more dangerous because it is being promoted by the Labor Attorney-General (rather than a Green MP!)

ACTION: If you live in Tasmania, please write to all your MPs, Premier and Opposition Leader - ask them to OPPOSE euthanasia legalisation. Remind them that vulnerable people are affected and doctors should help people live, not help them die!

Federal: Bob Brown and NT law

Greens Senator Bob Brown has introduced legislation that would allow the NT to re-enact euthanasia legislation.

ACTION: Please write to your 12 State Senators and your MP and ask them to oppose Sen Brown's bill.

Another perspective...

On a different note, one of our readers, Bob Cogger, sent us this poem...

YYouth in Asia

Youth in Asia, now the aged

Through the years the battle's raged.
Kill the babies – kill those too old
Where will it stop? We are not told.

Hitler tried – "The Master Race"

Now it races at a faster pace.

"Kill homosexuals, gypsies, Jews"

Who decides? Yes, who will choose?

Kill those who do not hug the trees?

Kill anyone who does not please.

Kill those who drive polluting cars?

All who smoke big cigars?

Those with intellects not in our range

All sceptics of world climate change.

Too fat, too thin – too short or tall

That just about covers all.

Never mind "Thou shall not kill!"

Those in power always will!

Red or yellow, black or white

The sick and deformed are all in sight.

No need for a Hospital bed

Very soon they'll all be dead.

Kill those too sick and make no fuss

Kill anyone who is not like us!

Who are the chosen? Who are the strong?

Who will choose and not go wrong?

Dispense with God and will decide

The human race must suicide?



Sin

by Dr Arthur Hartwig

In 1973 Karl Menninger published a book “Whatever Became of Sin?” In his book, he attributed to Webster the following definition of sin: “Sin is transgression of the law of God; disobedience of the Divine Will; moral failure. Sin is failure to realise in conduct and character the moral ideal, at least as fully as possible under existing circumstances; failure to do as one ought towards one’s fellow man”.

If the Great Commandment is “to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul and mind; and thy neighbour as thyself”, then the great sin, indeed perhaps the only sin, is to not so love God and neighbour. But the manifestations of this sin, the ways in which this sin is committed or actualised, are legion.

Love is a decision; not a feeling. We do not love ice-cream or our car, however important they are to us and however much time or thought we invest in them. We are commanded to love God and our neighbour; not necessarily to like either of them. We are commanded to love God even when/if we don’t like what He allows to happen to us. Indeed, such occasions are when we most need to love Him.

So what is Love?

My favourite/preferred definition follows: Love is the constant care and attention to the life, needs and growth of those we love; a permanent unqualified commitment to the true good of the other; the will to extend oneself for the purpose of nurturing one’s own or another’s spiritual growth; the determined commitment to seek the other’s good, to cherish, shelter, nurture, edify and

show patience with one’s spouse.

Do we always/ever truly love?

In short, when we do not love, when we do not put others before self, and God before both, we put the relevant relationship in jeopardy; and anything that disrupts or threatens any relationship is a sin. So, indeed, “All have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God”. There are no theological degrees of sin, nor are there theological degrees of forgiveness. However much we dislike this, however much we think we would prefer it to be different, we either are in a smooth working relationship with our Maker and with our neighbour, or we aren’t.

So! What has happened to ‘sin’?

It has been sanitised, euphemised, relativised, trivialised, corporatised, minimised, even decriminalised; with the result there are progressively more sins (broken relationships) we are required to approve.

J. Budziszewski put it thus; “*Consider just the domain of sexual practice. First we were to approve sex before marriage, then without marriage, now against marriage. First with one, then with a series, now with a crowd. First with the other sex, then with the same. First between adults, then between children, then between adults and children. As sin passes through its stages from temptation to tolerance to approval, its name is first euphemised,*

**Sin has been
sanitised,
euphemised,
relativised,
trivialised,
corporatised,
minimised, even
decriminalised**

then avoided, then forgotten. A colleague tells me that some of his fellow scholars call child molestation 'intergenerational intimacy'. That's euphemism. A good-hearted editor tried to talk me out of using the term 'sodomy' - that's avoidance. My students don't know the meaning of the word 'fornication' at all - that's forgetfulness".

When did you last listen to a Sermon on "Sin"?

With the benefit of hindsight, it is difficult to see that much good has come from 'sexual liberation', which has meant little more than death, disease, and wrecked lives to most who chose to participate, and undreamed of profits to the exploiters.

Most people who say abortion is wrong still call it killing. Most people who call it killing say it kills a baby.

Most people who say it is killing a baby decline to prohibit it altogether. More and more people favour restrictions. Yet greater and greater numbers of people have had, or have been involved in, abortions.

With record divorce numbers, increased 'binge-drinking', record youth suicides, and constant pressure to legalise killing (at both ends of life), obviously we live in a moral climate that is growing progressively more chilly. But by and large we do know 'right' from 'wrong', but we wish we didn't. If the traditional view is true, then our decline is owed not to moral ignorance, but to moral suppression. We are not untutored but 'in denial'; and having great problems with our individual consciences.

When ordinary rationalisation fails, people revert to other modes of suppression. Thus, a woman has an abortion - or 'gets rid of the evidence'. But now she has something more difficult to rationalise. Think what is necessary to justify an

abortion. Because we cannot not know it is wrong to deliberately kill human beings, there are only four options. We must deny the act was deliberate, deny that it kills, deny that the victim is human, or deny that wrong must not be done. This last option is literally nonsense. The first is hardly promising either. Sonograms have made the second no longer feasible. So all that is left is to deny the humanity of the victim - which completely ignores biological nature.

The demands of conscience remain constant. Those who commit evil or break the moral code (whatever it might be) will be troubled by its pangs; and in their trouble have only two alternatives. They can either conform their action to the moral law or conform the moral code to their actions. The former calls for confession and repentance; the latter rationalisation ideology, and ultimately a social activism in which those who feel guilty

will unite and try through political means to make wrong right. (Does this explain the persistence, insistence and vehemence of the 'pro-choice' and the 'pro-homosexual' lobbies?) Guilt produces the need to confess; as the pool of guilt in any society grows, so the need to confess also grows. Hence, the growth in the numbers of public confessions also known as 'coming out'.

So! In many ways we are killing ourselves. If I am killing myself I do not need to be rehabilitated. I need to be transformed; to become a 'new person'. Therapy does not make me a new person, nor do laws, terror or tyranny. Rehabilitation rarely removes bad stuff. Transformation replaces bad stuff with good stuff; that is the difference. And many have referred to the "Expulsive Power of a New Affection".

There is only one known way to transformation. 'Transformation' involves

When did you last listen to a Sermon on "Sin"?

a radical change - in behaviour/priorities/life - to become a 'new' man. A 'new love' is the only 'thing' I know of having such ability. Money, Power, Terror, Legislation can break the Spirit; but don't radically change. "A man convinced against his will, is of the same opinion still".

This is perhaps best illustrated by the following anecdote. "Life had not been easy for George. Family tragedy, unwise investments, a broken marriage combined to lead to an extreme alcohol dependency which became life threatening; and his only 'friends' were his drinking 'mates'. But by God's grace George saw 'the light' and was transformed. After some months he unintentionally encountered old cronies who ridiculed both his abstinence and his new faith. One said "George, surely you don't believe that story of water being

turned into wine!" To which George replied "I know nothing of water being turned into wine; but I do know He has turned beer into furniture".

Further Reading:

"The Revenge of Conscience"

J. Budziszewski ISBN 1-890626-27-9

"Degenerate Moderns"

E. Michael Jones ISBN 0-89870-447-2

Arthur Hartwig graduated in Medicine from University of QLD in 1950 and retired to the Gold Coast after 50 years in 'Family Medicine'. He has been married to Jean for 58 years and has 4 children and 9 grandchildren.

Victorian election - 27 November

It is vital that Victorians check how current MPs in the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council voted on issues such as abortion, homosexuality, euthanasia cloning and IVF for lesbians.

Supporters of death and immorality issues need to be put last on your ballot paper regardless of which party they represent.

To see a spread sheet of how the MPs voted on these issues go to the new 'Victorian Election' page

on our website: <http://www.saltshakers.org.au/issues/politics/688-2010-victorian-election>

Or email or write to us (see back page for details) for a copy. The *Life Vote* website

also has information on these issues, in particular the *Abortion Law Reform Act*.

Visit <http://www.lifevote.org.au/>

Christian Values Checklist

It's important to know the party policies as well - to know where the Parties stand on a range of moral issues.

We are collating the information for this Checklist and it will be available shortly.

If you subscribe to our E-News you will receive a copy by email.

If you do not have email, please phone our office for a copy.

Please distribute this information to all your friends and through your church so Christians can make an informed vote!



Prayer Update

Prayer for Victorian election

We need to pray for good Christian candidates to be elected.

Please pray that Christians will make informed judgements about which candidates and political parties to vote for.

Pray for the impact of *Life Vote* - which highlights how MPs voted on abortion.

Pray about the outcome of the election.

The *Parliamentary Prayer Network* and *Transforming Melbourne* are holding a prayer meeting for the Victorian election:

Date: November 12, Friday 6 to 8 pm

Venue: Queens Hall, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne.

Euthanasia Bills

Praise God that the euthanasia bill in WA was defeated.

Pray that the euthanasia laws being proposed in various states by the Greens (and Labor in Tas) are defeated.

Pray against the culture of death that is promoted by such laws.

Governments and laws

Pray that the federal and state governments will look to our Christian legal heritage when they introduce laws.

Pray that our parliaments will not reject Biblical law.

Please pray that they won't succumb to humanistic reasoning.



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

Prayer for the Persecuted Church

The annual **International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church** (IDOP) will be held on **Sunday November 14**.

The IDOP website has information and resources to help us pray more effectively.

IDOP says "There are many countries in the world today where Christians are martyred for their faith. Believers in Afghanistan are facing death threats; Christians in Uzbekistan, Nigeria and many other countries all around the world face violence, imprisonment and even death. There are other places in the world such as

North Korea where acts of persecution take place, but we don't see or hear of it. Brother Andrew of *Open Doors* once said, 'Our heroes are not with us simply because they are in prison.' IDOP is a time set apart for us to remember thousands of our Christian brothers and sisters around the world who suffer persecution, simply because they confess Jesus Christ as Lord."

Find out more at IDOP: www.idop.org and Open Doors Australia: <http://www.opendoors.org.au/page/132/international-day-of-prayer-2010>

Join us for Prayer and Breakfast

Pray for our nation, its leaders and Salt Shakers

Thursday 7.30am at SALT SHAKERS Office

Book Review: Liberty to the Captives

Following his insightful book about dhimmitude called *The Third Choice*, Mark Durie has written a companion volume for the Christian reader.

The Third Choice, which was written for a general readership, highlighted the three choices offered to a person when faced with conquest by Islam: convert to Islam, be killed or, the third choice, submit to Islam and pay a tax for ‘protection’ as a dhimmi. This was the status of dhimmitude that existed across lands that were conquered by Islam.

In this new, small book (85 pages) Mark summarises the major points about Islam and dhimmitude, and explains that there are two groups of people who are affected by Islam and dhimmitude.

First, there are those who have been Muslims but are now converts to Christianity. They have ‘submitted’ to Islam and Allah said the shahada, the Islamic declaration of faith, which acknowledges there is “no god but Allah” and that Mohammed is the prophet or messenger of Allah.

Secondly, there are people who have surrendered to Islamic rule and been dhimmis. In some cases, this may have happened historically, where ancestors came under the dhimmi covenant in nations that were under Islamic rule. However, the influence of dhimmitude still influences them today.

Mark notes that both of these covenants bring people under submission to Islam and that people in both groups need to be released from the bondage that these bring on their lives and to find the freedom that

by Jenny Stokes

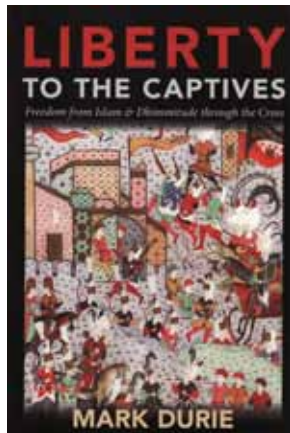
Christ offers. Whilst he acknowledges that non-Muslims can resist the Islamisation of our culture in a variety of ways – political and community action, academic inquiry and using the media – he asserts that the “root of the challenge of Islam is spiritual”.

In the book, Mark has one chapter outlining the nature of the shahada and the submission of Muslims to Islam. A second chapter summarises the dhimma pact and its conditions. The next chapter highlights how the issue of rejection was a major factor in Mohammed’s life and how it influenced his actions. He notes how Mohammed’s actions, and the ‘revelations’ changed as Mohammed responded to rejection in his life and rejection of his new religion of Islam.

This is then contrasted by a chapter on the character of Jesus as the ‘man of sorrows’, where Mark analyses the way Jesus responded to rejection and contrasts that to Mohammed.

The next chapter ‘The Cross, our path to freedom’, highlights the key issue. It is only through the cross and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ that we can have real freedom – and this is in stark contrast to the philosophy of Islam.

Mark goes on to discuss the spiritual worldview that offers Christians healing, forgiveness and freedom. For those who have been Muslims they need to confess and repent of their involvement in Islam and those who are affected need to seek freedom



and forgive those who have oppressed them.

He addresses the need to be released from spiritual bondages and release from blood pacts, and discusses the nature of intergenerational pathways where descendants of those who were dhimmis can be affected. Mark outlines the nature of spiritual attack, discussing legal rights, footholds and entry points of spiritual attack.

Mark provides testimonies of people who have found Christ's freedom by renouncing the claims of Islam and the claims of the dhimmi pact – freedom from fears of genocide, removing fear to witness, freedom from trans-generational fears. The final chapter provides prayers to assist those who are affected to renounce their involvement and find real healing and freedom



through Christ Jesus.

This is an insightful book that highlights the spiritual bondages affecting those who have been involved in Islam and those who have been affected by the power of Islam through dhimmitude.

Please pray for people who are under bondage by having been involved in Islam and pray for those who have come under the influence of Islamic dhimmitude.

Pray that they will find the freedom that only comes from Jesus Christ.

Many former Muslims testify that Jesus Christ has revealed Himself to them - pray that this will continue to happen so they may know and follow the real Jesus of the Bible.

Liberty to the Captives is available from Salt Shakers: Special introductory price - \$18 posted. ■

Sydney conference

“Menace of the Thought Police”

Sponsored by the Australian Christian Nation Association Inc

Keynote Speaker: Rev Dr Mark Durie of Melbourne

Theologian, human rights activist and pastor of an Anglican church

OTHER SPEAKERS

Hermiz Shahan Deputy Secretary General, Assyrian Universal Alliance

The Hon David Clarke MLC Liberal Party Member NSW Legislative Council

Jenny and Peter Stokes - Research Director and Executive Officer, Salt Shakers Inc,

The Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC Member of NSW Legislative Council for 28 years; National President of the Christian Democratic Party

Saturday, 20 November 2010 - 9 am to 5 pm

Ur Ashur Assyrian Club, 1677 Horsley Drive, Horsley Park

Enquiries: Sher: 0410 877 143 / Kaia: 0401 38 38 20

'Climate Change' Update

Australia is heading closer to having a 'price on carbon'. Of course, that really means a price on **carbon dioxide**, but since that is clear and colourless, carbon is frequently used by global warming proponents as it seems bigger and blacker!

During the election campaign, Prime Minister Julia Gillard promised to have a citizens' 'Climate Assembly' if she was elected to government. She has now scrapped that idea – instead she has established a 'multi-party climate change committee'; a promise made to the Greens and the Independents to gain support to form a minority government. The Committee will meet monthly until the end of 2011.

The first meeting of the Committee was held on October 7 – as well as Julia Gillard, the meeting was attended by Australian Greens leader Bob Brown, Climate Change Minister Greg Combet and independent MP Tony Windsor. Greens MP Adam Bandt and parliamentary secretary Mark Dreyfus attended to "advise" their party colleagues.

Four expert advisers attended: economist and 2008 report author Ross Garnaut, Will Steffen from the ANU Climate Change Institute, Rod Sims (Port Jackson Partners), and Patricia Faulkner (KPMG).

The meeting's communique said the Committee intends to "work co-operatively across party lines in considering all the options for a price on carbon".

It seems that Ms Gillard is now committed to putting a 'price on carbon' – in other words, imposing a tax based on the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by industry, electricity and so on.

by *Jenny Stokes*

This will inevitably lead to an increase in prices. The PM claimed that putting a price on carbon would give certainty to electricity companies and keep prices DOWN! Is that just spin?

Liberal MP and scientist Denis Jensen accused the Committee of having a pre-determined agenda. He pointed out that the IPCC is moving away from a 'price on carbon'. He said "The simple fact is that the markets are actually, in a global sense, now not factoring in a price on carbon dioxide. Take the *Chicago Carbon Exchange*. After peaking at about \$US7.50 per ton of carbon, it is now down to US5c, hardly a ringing endorsement of the argument that the market has factored in a price for carbon. Rather, the global market is factoring it out."

[Menzies House, 1/10/2010]

The Government has also announced they would proceed with establishing a 'Climate Commission' of experts to advise the government.

But there are questions we must ask...

Will the Climate Commission simply endorse the view that the government holds that there is 'human-caused global warming'?

Will it support the stated position of having a 'price on carbon' of some sort?

Will scientists like Prof Bob Carter or Prof Ian Plimer, who oppose the IPCC Reports on 'human-caused global warming', be included on the Commission?

Don't hold your breath thinking that this process will be open, investigative and unbiased!



World News

France: burqa ban

France has finally banned the wearing of full-face covering garments such as the burqa. The Constitutional Council, which had previously warned that banning the veil may be unconstitutional, said it reviewed the situation and approved the version of the Bill which has been passed by both houses of parliament. [*Aust*, 8/10/2010]

Europe: Conscience for doctors

Good news! *Friday Fax* reports (14/10) "A dramatic legislative reversal reaffirmed the conscience rights of medical professionals and institutions in Europe last week.

The *Council of Europe's* legislature considered a resolution **calling for onerous restrictions on conscientious objection**, including stripping protections for doctors who object to performing abortions.

However, led by two politicians from Italy and Ireland, a coalition of legislators secured the passage of 29 amendments that transformed the resolution into one that **upheld universally recognized rights to freedom of conscience.**"

Is an unborn baby human?

Medical science tells us that life starts at conception. But, according to Spanish Equality Minister Bibiana Aído, unborn human children are not human beings. In response to an inquiry on abortion, he said "the Government cannot share in the affirmation that the interruption of a pregnancy is the elimination of the life of a human being." [*LS*, 13/10/2010]

"Having an abortion does not suppose that a human life is terminated, because there does not exist a unanimous opinion

regarding the concept of a human being ... because 'human life' refers to a complex concept based on ideas or beliefs that are philosophical, moral, social, and ultimately, subject to opinions or personal preferences."

Mmm... Really? ***Atheism and disaster*** Vaclav Havel, the first President of the modern Czech Republic (from 1993–2003) recently told the Forum 2000 Conference in Prague that the world's first global and deliberately atheistic civilization is heading for disaster. [*Lifesite*, 14/10/2010]

He said the West "has lost its connection with the infinite and with eternity," with the result that "endless consumer collectivism is giving birth to a new type of loneliness."

Canada: Prostitution

The British Columbia Court of Appeal has ruled that a Vancouver based pro-prostitution lobby group will be allowed to challenge Canada's prostitution laws in court, overturning a 2008 ruling by the BC Supreme Court. The judge told representatives from the *Downtown Eastside Sex Workers United Against Violence (SWUAV)* lobby group that she was granting them legal standing to challenge the Criminal Code.

Pray that their legal challenge to the prostitution laws is NOT successful!

UK: Labour leader

It isn't just happening in Australia - Ed Milliband, the new leader of the **UK Labour Party**, is not married but living with his 'partner' and their three children - one of whose birth certificate doesn't even name the father because he 'didn't have time to fill in the form'!

Mr Milliband wants same-sex 'marriage' legalised and is "angry" that there is a free speech law that allows people to express their opposition to homosexuality!



Ministry News

October has not been an easy month for Jenny and Peter. Jenny broke two bones in her leg/ankle while they were on holiday.

Surgery was required and Jenny still has a few more weeks to go before she can put any weight on that leg. Please continue to pray for them both but especially that Jenny will have no ongoing problems due to the break.

Our video production has gathered pace with Cameron experimenting and learning the camera and the editing software.

Please pray that the use of *YouTube* will make an impact for the kingdom.

Cameron will be extending his hours working with Salt Shakers next year.

However, our thoughts about a new full time staff member have not eventuated at this time. Please pray for this situation.

Kerrie, who does an amazing job looking after the administrative needs of Salt Shakers, has been on leave and will return to an full email box and a lot of catching up!

Please pray for her and others who assist her with the day to day running of our office and in keeping our financial records up to date.

With another election we have been busy preparing a Victorian 'Christian Values check list' which will be released soon - make sure you obtain a copy if you vote in Victoria - check our website.

Please pray for our Board - we are seeking God's guidance about new Board members and ask you to pray that we will know His leading in this important task.

ACTION checklist: Tick the box as you complete the task

Page	Topic	Action / People to write to	Done
6	Same-sex 'marriage'	Senators, MP, PM, Opposition Leader	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	AHRC Consultation	Make a comment to the Consultation	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Abortion - QLD	MP, Premier, Opposition Leader	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Euthanasia - Tasmania	MPs, Premier, Opposition Leader	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Euthanasia - federal	Senators, MP, PM, Opposition Leader	<input type="checkbox"/>

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The woman who outran the devil

An autobiography by Shirley Baskett.

Posted for \$18

See our review by Kerrie Ternes on page 14 of the June journal.

Shirley struggled with the temptations of alcohol, violence and sex. Her messy relationships ended in lesbianism. Yet, as Jesus promised, those whom the Father has given, he will not let any go. Shirley was befriended by Peter, who was faithfully living God's will for his life, and who ultimately became her husband. This is a victorious story, full of hope, that could help set other people free.



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

Posted for \$12

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.



Liberty to the Captives by Rev. Mark Durie

Posted for \$18

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.



Mosques and Miracles - Rev. Dr. Stuart Robinson

Posted for \$30

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

We are still hoping the Salt Shakers Annual Dinner presentation 'Changing Lives' will be available on CD or MP3 this 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 November 2010 - Prices may change without notification - ****ALL prices include postage****

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