

# Salt Shakers

Helping Christians make a difference

**“Shun all views of future punishment that would make it appear less terrible”**

Charles Spurgeon



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## Editorial

In last month's Editorial we talked about false teachers and how the New Testament warns us not to be taken in by them. This month we want to be a little more specific, because a great deception is occurring in Western churches today.

The Bible clearly tells us there is 'nothing new under the sun'. Ecclesiastes 1:9 puts it very succinctly, "That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun".

We have said many times that questions are a good way to discover what people really mean - especially the question recommended by Greg Koukl, "What do you mean by that?". We note that Jesus often answered a question with a question. But questions can also be statements in disguise, especially in this 'postmodern' era.

Just ask yourself, "What was the first question recorded in the Bible?"

The first recorded question (Genesis 3:1) was asked by satan when he approached Eve in the Garden. We read, "Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

That first question was a deception; its aim was to sow a seed of doubt and once sown, Eve acted, and the world changed. Our Pastor mentioned that question a few Sundays ago and suddenly 'the lights went on'! Peter immediately thought of that verse in Ecclesiastes (above) because that same technique is now being used to deceive Christians and the world about Jesus and Christianity.

American mega church Pastor Rob Bell recently wrote a new book called "Love Wins", in which he asks a lot of deceptive questions about Hell. He sows a lot of doubts about Hell's existence, but he doesn't give any definitive answers.

Because he doesn't dispel the deception, he is leading many to conclude that all people will, eventually anyway, end up in heaven because, well, 'Love wins'.

He also, very dangerously, 'cherry picks' verses of Scripture, sometimes even using half a verse, to reinforce the deception.

This is not a new tactic, even for Bell. In his book *Velvet Elvis* he asked:

"What if tomorrow someone digs up definitive proof that Jesus had a real, earthly, biological father named Larry...?"

Bell states that he is an evangelical, but he seems more interested in casting doubts on the Bible than he is in defending it.

If Jesus was not conceived of a virgin, he was simply a good man. If there is no 'real' Hell, then Jesus is also a liar and His cruel death was a waste of a life.

If there is no hell we are all free to do whatever we like, however badly, because one day we will be walking with Hitler and Stalin and Pol Pot - in Heaven.

But Jesus is not a liar, nor is the Bible. There are consequences to the decisions we make or don't make; there is a hell, otherwise there is no justice.

Be not deceived. Jesus came to offer salvation to all, but only those who believe in Him as the Saviour and Son of God, only those who repent of their sin and follow Him will be saved. Those who don't will suffer eternally - in Hell. There is justice.

Yours in Christ Jesus  
Peter and Jenny Stokes



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## Does 'action' get results?

by Peter and Jenny Stokes

Over the years, we have asked readers to take action on a wide variety of issues. Most of the time, these issues are related to upholding the Biblical standard on issues in our states and nation. It might be opposing the legalisation of prostitution, complaining about advertisements or television programs or supporting the definition of marriage as being “the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life”.

You might well ask the question “Does ‘action’ get results?” Or perhaps “Does *my* letter really matter?”

Often we are tempted to think that our my letter won't make any difference – so it won't matter if I don't write – BUT, of course, if everyone thought that, then no letters would get written. The fact is that when a lot of individuals ALL act, it adds up to a large number of people.

We can get disillusioned when we lose campaigns. For instance, when Victoria passed the *Abortion Law Reform Act*, the people who had written letters or marched on the street may be tempted to think that their effort was a waste of time.

However, the problem is not that those efforts were wasted. The real problem was that not enough people took such action. Not enough people marched on the streets. Not enough people spoke to their MPs.

A politician once told us that, when he looked out from Parliament House and could see 10,000 people marching down the street to oppose abortion then maybe he could do more in the parliament to stop abortion. It is the same with EVERY issue.

If the people aren't protesting, then the politicians think we don't care. Unfortunately, they will nearly always

listen to the loudest voices.

Another factor is that not enough Christians actually stand for political service.

The reality is that politicians and governments weigh up competing voices, both outside and inside the parliament.

When groups such as *Emily's List* or the homosexual lobby exert power the politicians listen. That makes it harder to get politicians to really assess the merits of the arguments, since they have already made up their mind on the issue.

The reality is that when politicians are considering an issue they look at how many letters they have received on that issue and how many constituents have visited them to discuss it. If Christians don't write and visit their MP, to let them know their views, all they are going to hear are the arguments from the OTHER side.



### *Activism gets results*

During the past month, we have seen two instances of activism that have resulted in immediate action. The respective responses from the federal government and a private company were very swift and decisive – but in both cases they really didn't seem to have worked through all the issues.

The first issue relates to the live export trade of cattle to Indonesia. The federal government made a knee-jerk reaction to suspend the trade immediately, in response to a concerted campaign and the ‘outrage’ of the public following the screening of horrific images of animals being mistreated in a few Indonesian abattoirs on a *Four Corners* program.

It turns out that the animal welfare group *Animals Australia* had shown the Indonesian

abattoir to *Four Corners* – as part of *Animals Australia*'s stated campaign to ban the live export trade. *Animals Australia* and *RSPCA* set up a website, called "Ban Live Export" at <http://www.banliveexport.com/> They worked with two Independent Senators, Andrew Wilkie and Nick Xenophon, who put a Bill into Parliament to end all live animal exports. They also organized a 'National Week of Action' – using email, phone and mail – to get people to contact MPs to persuade them to support the Bill.

*GetUp!*, a left-wing activist organization, joined in, urging their "members" to sign their petition (they say that more than 240,00 people did!) and to join the *Animals Australia* campaign. Within a few days of the TV program the government acted!

The decision was made with no regard to the effect it would have on a wide range of people – Australian cattle producers, manufacturers of stock feed, the 'good' Indonesian abattoirs or the poor people in Indonesia who rely on fresh meat because they often have little refrigeration.

The decision left farmers across the north of Australia in dire financial trouble after many years of drought. Their animals, which were being readied for the Indonesian market, now had nowhere to go.

The second incident, this time in Queensland, involved the placement of ads that featured a homosexual 'couple' and a condom, along with the message 'Rip 'n Roll', on bus shelters to encourage condom use.

Complaints were made by concerned parents and Christians about placing condom ads on bus shelters which are frequented by children and young people. The company, *Adshel*, responded to the complaints by removing the ads.

Naturally, it didn't take long for homosexual groups to 'complain', including online

complaints on *Facebook* and a small, but noisy, protest outside *Adshel's* office.

*Adshel* responded almost immediately by reinstating the ads - saying the complaints were only from an 'organised campaign by *ACL*', organised by *ACL* Queensland Director, Wendy Francis. *Adshel* then gave the organisation (*QAHC*) an 'extra two weeks' of ad space.

In fact, Wendy, on her own initiative, had been running a year-long campaign against all sexualized outdoor advertising. Wendy was concerned about the sexualisation of children viewing the ads and would have been just as concerned if it featured a heterosexual couple and a condom.

*Adshel* have not explained why the 'family/Christian' complaints were any less worthy because they were part of a 'campaign'. Why should it matter if a campaign was organised? People only write if they are personally concerned about an issue.

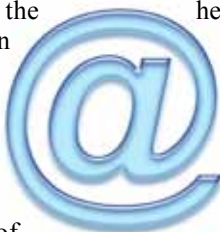
It seems that *Adshel* weighed up the two competing groups... a few polite letters from concerned parents versus the noisy homosexual lobby protesting on the street outside their office. The homosexuals won! If more Christians had been concerned, and been prepared to do something, the result might have been different.

### *Action on both sides*

The current debate over a carbon tax has become more lively in recent months as groups who oppose a carbon tax have started to hold rallies and initiate action.

This has gone some way to balancing the government's promotion of the tax, but in response, a group of actors got together to present a public face to support the new tax - to 'Say Yes' to a 'carbon tax'.

Cate Blanchett was the star who headlined the campaign, but it suffered a credibility



gap when it was pointed out that the coal-fired power station in the ad was actually the UK's Battersea Power Station, which was closed 28 years ago!

The 'Say Yes' campaign was organised by a Coalition of groups: environment organizations such as *Greenpeace* and the *Australian Conservation Foundation*, climate groups such as the *Climate Institute*, and the unions (so long as they get 'compensation'!).

### ***So what lessons can we learn?***

There are many people taking action – but increasingly those taking action have a left-wing and, often, anti-Christian perspective.

Just have a look at *GetUp's* current list of campaigns, which they encourage all their members to take action on! "*Climate Action Now*"; "*Support Victorian Human Rights*" – campaigning for an extension to Victoria's Charter of Rights; "*Ban Live Export*" and "*Marriage Equality*" – support for homosexual marriage.

### ***How do Christians fare?***

When you read the journal, or our *E-News*, and you're encouraged to take action, do you act?

Only a small proportion of the population receive our publications; in fact only a small proportion of Christians receive it or even want to know what is happening, let alone do something about it. We need to spread the word, encouraging others to take action as well as taking action ourselves.

In Tasmania, the homosexual lobby recently set up a special website to urge their people to lobby MPs to support the *Surrogacy Bill* – they stated that this was to counter the large number of letters the MPs were getting from Christians who were opposing the *Surrogacy Bill*! But we suspect the MPs are really hearing more from the homosexuals!



A poll on *The Age* website, run in relation to the issue of teaching Religious Education in schools, gained an amazing 88,000 votes, with 80% in support of RE. We sent the poll out on our E-News - we also kept getting a variety of emails urging us to vote in the poll – that sort of grassroots action is what is needed on every issue.

### ***The Issue of our time***

The threat to marriage is the most vital issue we currently face. There are two factors currently influencing this battle - the Greens and pressure within the ALP itself.

Currently the Gillard government isn't succumbing to pressure from Bob Brown and the Greens - but the Greens will have control of the Senate from July 1, 2011!

The issue of same-sex 'marriage' is now firmly on the agenda for discussion at the ALP Conference in December.

In a startling example of 'activism', in June *GetUp!* and *Australian Marriage Equality* successfully bid for a 'Dinner with the PM' - paying **\$31,150** for three same-sex couples to have dinner with

Julia in an effort to persuade her to change her mind! Oh, and they also won dinner with the Independents. . .

### **WE MUST take action too!**

**ACTION:** Please contact your federal MP, your 12 State Senators, PM Julia Gillard and the Independents. Ask them politely, but firmly, to support the current definition of marriage as "the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life".

To undermine marriage is to undermine society – we CANNOT let that happen. It WILL boil down to NUMBERS – every letter and every face to face encounter with MPs WILL count!"

## News & Action

### **Tasmania: Surrogacy**

On Tuesday June 14, the Tasmanian Legislative Council sent the Surrogacy Bill to the *Legislative Council Government Administration Committee A* for an Inquiry.

Ruth Forrest, the Member for Murchison, who moved the motion said that “the purpose of the Inquiry “is not to inquire into whether surrogacy should or should not be regulated ... but it is to consider aspects of the bill that is currently before the Council.”

**ACTION:** Please continue writing to all Members of the Tasmanian Legislative Council - ask them to vote against the Surrogacy Bill. Send letters to Parliament House, HOBART, Tasmania, 7000.

### **SA: Euthanasia**

The ‘medical defence’ bill that would provide doctors with a legal defence if they give medication that hastens death is still before the House of Assembly.

**ACTION:** If you live in SA, please contact your House of Assembly MP and party leaders. Post to Parliament House, North Terrace, ADELAIDE SA 5000.

### **Same-sex ‘marriage’**

Anglican Archbishop of Sydney, Peter Jensen, has warned that ALLOWING same-sex couples to marry could lead to the acceptance of polygamy and incest.

Writing in the church’s newspaper, *Southern Cross*, Dr Jensen said the push for same-sex unions to be enshrined in the Marriage Act was not a drive for the extension of rights but the redefinition of “one of the indispensable foundations of community”

“It imposes, through social engineering, a newly minted concept of marriage on a community that understands it in quite another way.”

Meanwhile, last month the Queensland ALP branch passed a motion supporting homosexual ‘marriage’.

### **Victoria: Equal Opportunity Act**

Last month we reported some good news - that the Victorian government planned to repeal the ‘inherent requirement’ test for employment in the Equal Opportunity Act (that was inserted by the previous

Labor government). The Baillieu government also planned to remove the power of the Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission to conduct ‘investigations’ into organisations regarding suspected ‘discrimination’.

When the Bill was voted on in the Legislative Assembly, the government was ONE vote short because one MP was late getting to the Chamber for the vote! The Bill was re-submitted and the Bill passed. It was then passed by the Legislative Council by 19-17 on June 15, 2011.

### **SA: Same-sex ‘parenting’**

The South Australian Parliament has passed the ‘*Family Relationships (Parentage) Amendment Bill 2010*’.

The *Social Development Committee* tabled its report during May 2011, recommending adoption, surrogacy, IVF and fostering rights for homosexual couples. Since the Chairman of the Committee was Ian Hunter, a practicing homosexual, the result is not surprising. *Family First* MP Dennis Hood, made a dissenting report, opposing the Committee’s recommendations.

The Bill passed the Legislative Council some months ago - it passed the House of Assembly on June 9 by a vote of 24-15.



## Health problems with RU486

by Jenny Stokes

The abortion pill, RU486, has been available in Australia since 2006, when the federal government passed a law transferring the control over the importation of RU486 from the federal Health Minister to the *Therapeutic Goods Administration* (TGA).

Abortionists and doctors who wish to use RU486 for 'medical abortions' have to apply to the TGA for approval. Since 2006, the TGA has given 102 doctors and abortionists permission to hand out RU486 to pregnant women who want an abortion and has handed out 11,173 prescriptions.

When the issue was debated in 2006, it was said that RU486 would only be used for early stage pregnancies - however, it is also being used for much later abortions. In addition, RU486 was promoted as an 'easy option' that was safe and trouble-free. The woman is given the RU486 pill (mifepristone), and later given a second drug, misoprostol, and usually sent home to deliver the dead baby 'in the privacy of their home'. It is not surprising that there are medical complications for the woman using RU486. Of course, there are also additional emotional consequences for the women who have to undergo such a devastating experience on their own at home.

Many states do not record the number and type of abortions, or monitor the adverse consequences resulting from those abortions. South Australia, however, is one state that monitors abortion statistics. A recent study of the statistics, published in *Australian Family Physician*, gives an insight into the use of RU486 in SA. The results of the study was reported in *The Australian* in May.

The study compared surgical abortions and 'medical abortions' which use the RU486

abortion pill. The researchers, Adelaide-based doctors Ea Mulligan and Hayley Messenger, found that complications from the abortion pill are higher than for surgical abortions. Of the nearly 7000 abortions done in SA in 2009-2010, 3.3% of women who used RU486 in the first trimester of pregnancy ended up going to a hospital emergency department, compared with 2.2% who had undergone surgery. Of those, 5.7% of those who had used RU486 were admitted to hospital compared to 0.4% of those who had surgical abortions.

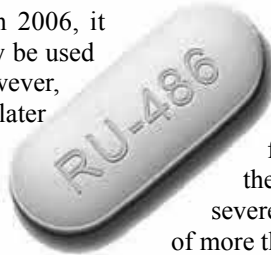
The risk of 'serious complications' was also higher for RU486 abortions. Two of the 5,823 surgical patients suffered severe haemorrhage, involving the loss of more than a litre of blood. This equated to a rate of one in 3000. Four of the 947 women who had medical abortions using RU486 had the same problem, lifting the rate to one in 200.

The article in *The Australian* said, "Dr Mulligan pointed out that the number of complications was so small it could be regarded as statistically insignificant."

However, the study found that complications from second-trimester medical abortions happened in up to 33 per cent of the cases reviewed. *The Australian* reported that Dr Mulligan "conceded that Australian doctors were still on a "learning curve" about RU486 and its use.

*Life Network Australia* responded, "The idea of a "learning curve" is alarming when the lives of women, babies and families are so negatively affected by this drug, which some have likened to 'backyard' abortions."

*Life Network* is calling for a review of the



use of RU486 and encouraging everyone to write to their federal MP and Senators, asking them to ban the use of RU486. They suggest people should remind them of the warning given by Dr Renate Klein back in 2006. Dr Klein, a feminist academic who supports legal abortion, warned that the use of prostaglandin, the second drug given after RU486 to expel the dead baby, has serious health consequences for women. She said, "Since the 1970s, prostaglandins have been rejected by the women's health movement as far too dangerous to use as abortifacients as they cause such severe and painful contractions in some women that the uterus may be irreversibly damaged. They can also lead to uncontrollable blood loss." As Christians, we believe that any abortion

goes against the Biblical commandment of not murdering another person. The RU486 abortion pill adds even more ethical problems and health risks, and so its use in abortions should be totally rejected.

**ACTION:** Contact your federal MP and 12 State Senators - ask them to ban the use of RU486 in abortions. Mention the additional health risk and emotional trauma experienced by women who use this drug for abortions.

**References:**

- \* Abortion pill 'less safe than surgery', *The Australian*, 7/5/2011.
- \* [http://lifework.org.au/\\_blog/The\\_Case\\_Against\\_Abortion/post/Federal\\_MPs\\_must\\_reconsider\\_RU486/](http://lifework.org.au/_blog/The_Case_Against_Abortion/post/Federal_MPs_must_reconsider_RU486/)

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## Chaplaincy Update

The challenge to the funding of the federal government's chaplaincy program will be heard in the High Court from August 9-11 this year. The challenge specifically relates to a primary school near Toowoomba that the complainant's children attend. However, the case and the decision will undoubtedly have implications across Australia. The federal government is a defendant in the case, as is *Scripture Union*, which provides chaplains to schools in Queensland.

The Attorneys-General of Queensland, Victoria and NSW have all announced that they will intervene in the case to support chaplaincy programs in schools.

It seems that Queensland parent Ron Williams, who is mounting the challenge to the government providing funds for chaplaincy, is relying on Section 116 of the Constitution, which says, in part, "no religious test shall be required as a

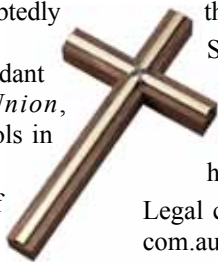
qualification for any office or public trust under the Commonwealth". He claims that, since chaplains have to have a religious affiliation, the scheme contravenes the federal Constitution. He is also arguing that the Commonwealth should not fund the program.

So far, over 30,000 supporters have signed the 'Statement of Support' on the *Save Our Chaplains* website - please sign the petition online at <http://saveourchaplains.com.au>

Legal case: <http://supportschoolchaplains.com.au/high-court-challenge/>

**ACTION:** If you live in other states, please encourage your Attorney-General to join the states of Qld, Victoria and NSW and intervene in this High Court case to support chaplaincy on schools.

Please sign the *Save Our Chaplains* petition online. - if you don't have the internet, please phone them on 1300 478 753.



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## Islam and Sharia Law in Australia

by Jenny Stokes

There is an increasing promotion of Islam in Australia. When we consider the impact of Islam and Islamic ideas on life in Australia, it is important to note that Islam is not just a religion. Islam itself claims to be a total political and religious system, and the ultimate aim of Islam is to control the political system.

One of the ways that Islam is advanced is through the introduction of laws that are consistent with Sharia (or Islamic) law.

In January 2011, Ibrahim Siddiq-Conlon, an Australian-born convert to Islam, set up **Sharia4Australia**, and called for the introduction of sharia law into Australia.

Some Islamic groups have regularly said they want sharia law in terms of family law (marriage and divorce), finance and halal food certification. But Siddiq-Conlon goes further. He wants full sharia law for Australia. At the launch of his group, he said “One day Australia will be ruled by sharia, no doubt. That is why non-Muslims are worried, because they know one day they won’t be able to drink their beer, they won’t be able to eat their pork and they won’t be able to do their homosexual acts, because one day they know they will be controlled.”

He said democracy is “an evil system of life” and said “Democracy is the reason for the world’s problems.”

Some people have claimed that Siddiq-Conlon is an extremist and said that most Muslims do not agree with him, and that Muslims do not want sharia law in Australia.

However, the peak body for Muslims in Australia, the *Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC)*, which is promoted as being a ‘moderate’ organisation, recently called for Australia to adopt aspects of sharia

law. In a submission on *Multiculturalism* to a federal government Inquiry, AFIC said that Islam itself advocates legal pluralism, with each religious community following its own laws. AFIC acknowledged that some Muslims believe Islamic law is unchangeable, regardless of history, time, culture and location. AFIC argued this is not the case, and said that sharia can be applied in a way that fits in to Australia and is not extreme. In particular, AFIC said they wanted sharia law for family law and divorce, but this is given as an example, not as the extent of what they want.

However, the Islamic regulations regarding marriage and divorce treat women as inferior and give priority to the man. It would be totally unacceptable for Muslim women to be treated differently to the way other Australian women are treated by our Australian legal system.

Fortunately, the federal Attorney-General Robert McClelland responded to the AFIC submission and rejected the idea of having sharia law in Australia. He said, “Sharia law has no place in the Australian legal system” and “As our citizenship pledge makes clear, coming to Australia means obeying Australian laws and upholding Australian values.”

Mark Durie responded, “In fact, demands for sharia are a slippery slope: the more is given, the more is demanded. Better to draw a line in the sand now. The Australian Government is right to take a stand on this issue.”

*Mark Durie gives a thorough analysis of AFIC’s request for sharia law in Australia - <http://markdurie.blogspot.com/2011/05/australia-gets-it-right-on-sharia.html>*



### **It's all about human rights**

I am amazed at the letter, "Woman's choice should be private" (*The Border Mail*, April 7), although I should not be, considering the audacity of the proponents of abortion and political correctness.

Fortunately, Australia has not yet become a police state, like Libya or Zimbabwe.

We still have the freedom to demonstrate and freedom of speech, which Julie Walker is exercising in her letter, in order to attempt to deny these rights to others in the community. "In accordance with their human rights, these demonstrators took part in a peaceful demonstration against a perceived evil, the killing of unborn children.

They are to be commended for their courage.

**F Morrison**, Albury

*The Border Mail* 30/4/2011

### **More praise . . .**

Further to Don Ford's letter (*News Weekly*, 28/5/2011), I too, would like to commend Babette Francis and Bill Muehlenberg for their informed and articulate articles over the years.

*Endeavour Forum*, *Salt Shakers*, the *National Civic Council* and *Family Voice Australia* have also printed their thoughts on life issues.

Congratulations and thanks to both for their bravery and constancy under pressure! Let us pray daily for our pro life leaders.

**Sheridan Sawarde**, Mansfield, Qld

*News Weekly* 11/6/2011

### **Kill Harmony Day**

So Campbelltown Council needs to save money! One way is to save on council events. One good event to cut out and save money is on any harmony and multicultural days. The reason is that these are inroad days for foreigners, their laws and values. Councillors, this is one event to out now.

**Judith Bond**, Glen Alpine, NSW

*Campbelltown Macarthur Adv.* 24/5/2011

### **National Day of Thanksgiving**

We don't normally re-print nice letters we receive - partly because we get too many and also because 'self praise' is not a good thing. But this one we thought we would share because it is what the *National Day of Thanksgiving* is all about, and it is an example we could all follow - not to us - but to other people we appreciate.

To Salt Shakers

On this *National Thanksgiving Day* I express my thanks to you and the team who research to keep us informed and enable us to take a stand in upholding our Christian values in our communities. May you be strengthened, protected and strongly anointed for the future issues to be faced. Every blessing, Bronwyn

### **Scaremongers**

Most Christians would agree that Harold Camping's predictions about the end of the world at a certain time were foolish and unsound.

However, I wonder if there is much difference between that and the scaremongering of the Global Warming lobby, including the government? The latest is from Tim Flannery saying 'We have exactly eight years and seven months to meet our target of minus 5 per cent', and predictions about the seas rising higher than previously thought.

At least Camping was speaking of an event that will happen one day, but the end of the world resulting from man's carbon footprint? Only in Hollywood!

**Graham Hodge** Somerset, Tasmania

*The Advocate* 26/5/2011

### **Stop it, you're being too nice!**

Those nasty Christians are at it again, teaching such subversive ideas as "love your neighbour", "do good deeds", and "help the poor and needy".

And to our schoolchildren!

I am with you, Susie O'Brien ("God squads push fiction", May 24), this must be stopped. Only 64 per cent of Australians are Christian; we live in a democracy and our taxes should be spent on teaching the religion of secular humanism in our schools.

Christianity has only underpinned the development and stability of Western culture for centuries, whereas secular humanism has produced such role models as Hitler, Stalin and Chairman Mao.

Yes, we must be rid of these volunteers who give of their time teaching children whose parents want this instruction (perhaps giving teachers opportunities for preparation).

**Peter Hall**, Tatura

*Herald Sun* 25/5/2011

## WA & SA: Prostitution proposals

Two states are considering proposals to legalise or decriminalise prostitution. We already know that this doesn't work.

Advocates claim it protects the women, but it doesn't. Ros Phillips, of *FamilyVoice*, writes, "In mid 2000, Hon Steve Condous, a former Adelaide Lord Mayor and MP for Colton (SA), decided to check what was happening in Sydney's decriminalised brothels. His interviews with the girls revealed chronic abuse and depression – a very different story from the one told by madams and brothel owners."

In Victoria, where prostitution was 'decriminalised' in 1994, the number of illegal brothels was about 50. Now Victoria has about 100 legal brothels (some very large), about 1,500 licenced single operators and a large number of illegal brothels (estimates range from 100 to 400 of these).

It was said legalising brothels would remove the criminal element, stop sex trafficking (especially of girls from Asia) and stop the use of underage girls in the brothels. Yet all of these are still occurring in Victoria.

We oppose the legalisation or decriminalisation of prostitution as it demeans women - as well as the men who use prostitutes for sex. It also totally contradicts God's plan for sex within marriage.

### **WA: Draft Prostitution Bill released**

The WA Liberal government tabled a *Draft Prostitution Bill 2011* in the WA parliament on Tuesday June 14, 2011.

The proposed Bill would legalise brothels in what are termed 'tolerated zones' (These include industrial areas and exclude residential areas). The Bill is open for public comment for six weeks.

The good news is that the Liberal Party

has allowed a conscience vote on the Bill. Hon Nick Goiran MLC said, "Given the global failure of legalised models, such a move ensures that each MP can truly engage with this issue and consider the concerns of their constituents."

Linda Watson, a former prostitute and madam in WA, continues to speak out against the decriminalisation of brothels and runs a home that assists women who leave prostitution. She is concerned that "a huge step backwards would be taken if tolerated zones were established "Prostitution harms prostitutes – it damages their mental health, physical health and relationships- abuse that no woman should ever have to suffer."



**ACTION:** It is VITAL that we contact all WA MPs and ask them to vote against this Bill. Send letters to Parliament House, Harvest Terrace, PERTH WA 6000.

### **SA: Prostitution proposal**

Labor MP Steph Key has announced that she plans to introduce a private member's bill into the parliament before the end of 2011 that would "decriminalise" prostitution in SA. She made the announcement on 'International Whores Day'!

Ros Phillips, of *FamilyVoice*, said this is the sixth attempt to legalise or decriminalise brothels in SA. Ros says "One of its disastrous features would allow three prostitutes to operate a brothel next to suburban homes without any controls by government or police".

**ACTION:** If you live in SA, please contact Premier Mike Rann, Opposition Leader Isobel Redmond, your MP in the House of Assembly and ALL MPs in the Legislative Council. Ask them to oppose any attempt to decriminalise or legalise prostitution. Postal address - see p 6.

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# Civil Government III

## The Demonic Government of Revelation 13

In the opening article of this series I argued that civil government, even at its most benevolent, was in God's plan a 'necessary evil' – emphasising both the adjective and the noun – essential to make life liveable in a fallen world. But what when government becomes outrightly evil? When does it cross that threshold? How shall a wicked government be recognised? Should Christians resist such a government? And if so, by what means?

Although the Israelite theocracy is abolished under the Gospel, and Christians live as exiles under Gentile powers until Christ returns (see James 1:1; 1 Peter 1:1; Hebrews 11:13; Phil 3:20-21), yet we can learn some important principles from the Old Testament on this theme, especially when Israel's kings behaved like other Oriental monarchs and grasped after absolute power. When the elders of Israel came to Samuel the prophet – also a judge – and demanded a king “like all the nations” Samuel replied, in effect, “Do you know what you are asking? Do you know what ‘a king like other nations’ even looks like?” He then outlined what such a king would do, and how such a regime would proceed. What we have in 1 Samuel 8:10-18 is a perfect description of the typical Oriental potentate of the time, who conscripts for a standing army, institutes a corvée of forced labour, taxes people to the hilt, and confiscates land and property as he sees fit. In other words, he will not really rule you but own you. Samuel warned, “Then you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen...” (1 Sam 8:18) What Samuel warned about is exactly what happened during the long years of Solomon,

by Murray Adamthwaite PhD

who became precisely the Oriental potentate Samuel feared, such that when the great king died there was open revolt, as we read in 1 Kings 12:1-20.

The point of this story as regards Israel's kingship should be clear: Israel's monarchy was to be a limited one, with limited powers; her king was to rule under the authority of God's Law (see Deut 17:18-19; cf. “the testimony” in 2 Kings 11:12) and not grasp

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**How shall  
a wicked  
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be  
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at any kind of absolute power *à la* an Oriental potentate. The story of Israel's kingship is in part the story of how she violated that mandate time and again. From Solomon onwards the pattern was absolutism, and in the Northern Kingdom the familiar Eastern pattern of dynastic power struggles, assassinations, and

dynastic changes became a feature of the royal landscape. Modern states may learn from this as they move inexorably in the direction of first, soft tyranny (the “nanny state”), and then on to hard tyranny, where the state is all-powerful, all-seeing, and all-controlling. The more this advances, the more the state not so much rules us as owns us.

When we come to the New Testament era we observe many oppressive and tyrannical rulers, from Herod the Great on a small scale to emperors such as Tiberius, Claudius, and Nero on the larger scale, although the latter is not named. When we come to Revelation the emperor is Domitian (at least on the conventional date of 96 AD), and he becomes the model for brutal and blasphemous tyranny. This is not to say that the Beast of Rev 13 is identical *simpliciter*

with Domitian; on the contrary, the Beast takes on a range of identities through history until the Lord returns. Since Revelation concerns “things which must shortly come to pass” (from John’s standpoint, 1:1), ie events of history beyond his time, it is vital for Christians to analyse this passage to discern what happens when civil government becomes downright demonic.

That this human government is indeed demonic can readily be seen when we compare the description of the Beast (13:1), and the red dragon, the Devil (12:3), who orchestrates the Beast from the sea. They both have seven heads and ten horns, the only difference being that with the beast the diadems are on the horns, whereas with the dragon they are on the heads, the significance of which escapes me, but it is a small point. In other words, Satan conjures up a duplicate of himself.

The second aspect is that the imagery derives from Daniel 7, and this beast is Daniel’s four beasts all rolled into one, while his authority and power derive from the dragon – Satan. Hence, the beast embodies the great empires of the past, “whose life has been extended for a season and a time” (Dan 7:12).

Thirdly, the Beast becomes an object of worship as the peoples of the world give unfeigned obeisance to him. Here we have the deification of the state in opposition to the Living God.

Fourth, the Beast shows the height of arrogant blasphemy against Heaven, and against God’s people, that is, Christians, to the point of persecuting them to death.

That the final and complete manifestation of this imagery will be revealed in the final antichrist and his worldwide rule I have no

doubt, but in the meantime there are many anticipations of this nightmare scenario.

The question arises, however, if we are approaching that scenario in our present world. One of the persistent images of the past century is of larger-than-life, iconic pictures of demagogues and dictators (for example, Lenin, Mao, Ceausescu) being paraded in religious-style processions by dutiful but brain-dead devotees. The same enormous painting would be daubed over the sides of multi-storey buildings in Communist states, where the worship of man and the state was everywhere evident.

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## **Another feature of tyranny is the denial of religious freedom and persecution of the righteous**

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Whatever, here is one obvious aspect of our modern scene, whether Marxist Communism or Democratic Socialism: state-worship. Across the decades and the hemispheres there have paraded pretentious dictators and demagogues, mountebanks and charismatics, all united in their belief that the state is the great god from whom all blessings flow. And where that is manifest, where man and not God is sovereign,

there tyranny will prevail.

Another feature of tyranny is the denial of religious freedom and persecution of the righteous: “it was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them” (Rev 13:7). A state will embark on this kind of pogrom when Christians are seen as an element in society which stands in the way of its programme. That was the issue in Ancient Rome: emperor-worship was deemed to be the “glue” which held the state together, the unifying principle essential to Rome’s very being. When Christians refused to participate they were deemed a corrosive agency which must be eliminated. Similarly, when Protestants rejected the papacy the same thinking prevailed: Catholicism was the very essence

of Christendom, so Protestants must be rooted out. With modern secular states similar thinking has yet again appeared: "secularism is the soul of the modern state, so who are these Christians to impose their views on society at large? They must be reined in!" Of course, Islamic states have a very similar view in regard to Islam, the lifeblood of their society: there is no room there for any other religion, especially not Christianity.

However, all this is the lifeblood, not of a healthy society, but of tyranny, an aspect of the Beast. The common thread here is the state setting itself up as the supreme source of law in opposition to God, defying His prerogatives, seeking to cast away His restrictive cords (Psa 2:2-3), and then hunting down God's saints who live obediently under His Laws.

To sum up, when does the state become demonic? In short, when it exceeds its

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God-given boundaries and arrogates to itself powers and imagined rights of its own making, as Samuel warned the Israelite elders. Or again, when it violates God's Laws and regards itself as a law to itself and persecutes those who would dare deny them this power. How does a Christian live under such a regime? Simply put, in the language of Revelation,

*They overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives, even unto death. (Rev 12:11)*

*Murray Adamthwaite has degrees in history and theology and a PhD in Ancient History. He is a member of Salt Shakers Reference Panel. Murray has a website with articles and information: [archist.com.au](http://archist.com.au)*

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## Outreach to Muslims

Every year, thousands of Muslims from the Middle East holiday on the Gold Coast.

An annual outreach, called 'Bound for Paradise', is co-ordinated by *OM Australia*.

You're invited to be part of it...

Dates: July 10-18, 2011

It is a great opportunity to share the good news with people who are very unlikely to hear it in their own countries.

*OM* says, "Come and join dozens of others on the streets and beaches of the Gold Coast, receive training and get experience in evangelism to Muslims."



This is a great opportunity to meet with others who are sharing their faith with Muslim visitors. If you're interested in joining the outreach contact *OM Australia* on (03) 9898 9348.

PLEASE PRAY

\* Please pray for Muslims as they come to Australia on holiday, that they may be open to hearing the gospel.

\* Pray for those who attend the outreach, that they will have fruitful conversations with the Muslim visitors.

\* Pray for the organisers, *OM*, as they co-ordinate this outreach.

## Prayer Update

Many Christians are doing it really tough at the moment in many countries across the world. We in Australia have it so 'easy' compared to them despite all the battles we have here.

We do not put our lives on the line by standing up for our faith in Jesus Christ, but many do. Elizabeth Kendal wrote recently in her *Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin*:

"The number of Christians fleeing for their lives is skyrocketing. Those with financial means may emigrate or fly out and apply for refugee status in the West, an arduous enough process. However, poorer Christians seeking refuge in a neighbouring state must risk death traversing deserts, oceans and dangerous cities, while dodging bandits and people-traffickers.

Lately, finding refuge is becoming increasingly difficult, especially for...

- ◇ Iraq's Assyrian-Chaldean Christians
- ◇ Christians fleeing repression and persecution in totalitarian Eritrea
- ◇ North Korean Christian refugees

◇ Hundreds of thousands of Ivory Coast Christians now living as refugees in Liberia, ◇ and many more.

**P L E A S E P R A Y  
S P E C I F I C A L L Y F O R  
A L L C H R I S T I A N  
R E F U G E E S --**



\* that God the loving Father will keep them safe as they flee: hidden from wild animals, people-traffickers and criminals; sustaining them in oceans, deserts, dangerous cities and other hostile environments.

\* that the Holy Spirit will sanctify them as they seek their place in the purposes of God, confidently looking to Jesus, their great high priest, as one who is well able to empathise with and meet their every need.

\* particularly those who are currently in the hands of jailers or unscrupulous people-traffickers: may the God of all grace, mercy and justice draw these vulnerable believers into his presence, deliver them from violence and brutality and restore their liberty and security.

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

**Join us for Prayer and Breakfast**

7.00am July 28 - at SALT SHAKERS Office

Pray for our nation, its leaders and Salt Shakers

**2011 Annual Dinner - 24 September**

**Guest Speaker: Rev Dr Stuart Robinson**

**'The Challenge of Islam'**

**Book now! See page 20 or phone the office on 03 9800 2855.**

## Lesley Pilkington and ‘reparative therapy’

In our August 2010 journal, Keith Tiller wrote about the situation regarding counsellor Lesley Pilkington in the UK.

An investigative journalist, Patrick Strudwick, who is also a homosexual activist, attended a Christian conference in June 2009. The conference was organised by therapists involved in assisting people who want to deal with “unwanted same-sex attraction (SSA)”, generally known as ‘reparative therapy’. Mr Strudwick spoke to two therapists and later made appointments with them, pretending that he wanted help to deal with his unwanted SSA. He later published a report of his experiences in a newspaper and lodged complaints against both therapists.

The *British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists* (BACP) handed down its decision regarding Mrs Pilkington on May 23, 2011 - finding against her. The decision by the BACP did not question the validity and effectiveness of Reparative Therapy but found against her on a number of other matters. The decision contained a stipulation that its contents were confidential, but Mr Strudwick ignored that and wrote an article in *The Guardian* on May 27.

Full details of the case are on the Christian Concern website - <http://www.christianconcern.com> - search on *Pilkington*.

Lesley Pilkington, and Andrea Williams of *Christian Concern* (which is assisting with her defence) have prepared the following statement:

*Joint Statement by Lesley Pilkington and Andrea Minichiello Williams in response to the decision of the British Association of*

*Counsellors and Psychotherapists (BACP) of 23rd May 2011 and the Article written by Mr Strudwick in The Guardian Newspaper on 27 May 2011.*

Dear All,

Many thanks for your prayers and encouragement in these difficult times. There is some information about my case on the website of Christian Concern (here), but in the light of developments, I would like to give some additional information.

### ***Private Statement in Response to the BACP and the Guardian Article:***

I have decided to appeal the BACP’s decision. I know you will understand that I need to act confidentially with respect to a ‘live’ case.

### ***The Decision of the BACP and the article by Mr Strudwick***

The article by Patrick Strudwick in *The Guardian* newspaper is inaccurate.

Reparative Therapy for unwanted Same Sex Attraction (SSA) remains an appropriate treatment for individuals seeking

re-orientation therapies for those who are distressed by their unwanted homosexuality. Counsellors or therapists who provide this therapy are still acting professionally and in the best interests of their clients.

### ***A Biased Decision Against Me***

The BACP made a number of professional malpractice findings against me that are unsustainable and could have a ‘chilling effect’ on practitioners in this field. It appears that there is a degree of bias by the BACP.

Patrick Strudwick is a journalist who was seeking a sensationalist story. He engaged in deceit and deception by pretending to be

**Reparative  
Therapy for  
unwanted  
Same Sex  
Attraction  
remains an  
appropriate  
treatment**

a Christian with unwanted SSA. Patrick had a microphone strapped to his chest and told lies about himself.

In short, the BACP found that a homosexual political activist (who had no unwanted SSA) who was targeting a Christian counsellor was a 'client'. How can he really have been a 'client' when the BACP also found that he had misled me and manipulated the sessions? If you look up SCOTT (Stop Conversion Therapy Taskforce) on Facebook you will clearly see Patrick's agenda: ie. to expose all therapists who work in this field and to force professional bodies to end this type of therapy.

The situation was very difficult. If I had not offered the contractual service of Reparative Therapy then I would have breached my ethical commitments that Patrick and I had agreed; and when I did provide Reparative Therapy, the BACP would not take into account the Christian framework. So I was condemned for what both Patrick and I had agreed at the beginning. Confusing!

The BACP chose to ignore the bigger picture, saying it was not the focus of the hearing. Patrick told me that he had made four tapes, one made during the initial meeting at the conference, where we agreed that I would be working within a biblical Christian framework, two made during the so called 'counselling' sessions and another made during the phone call in which he revealed his true identity. The BACP only wanted the recordings of the counselling sessions.

I was not allowed to call any witnesses, including Dr Byrd, the leading expert on SSA, religious counselling and ethics. He would have been able to address these matters in my favour. It was professionally discourteous for the BACP to decide that they did not need to hear from him.

Every allegation made by Patrick against

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me was upheld. The BACP found against me because our first appointment overran the usual hour. However, I had already explained to Patrick during this appointment that the Christian model can take more than an hour and he accepted that. The BACP also found against me because Patrick met my husband on an unforeseen visit to the toilet (in order to change his tapes!). The BACP said I was unprofessional as I did not address this incident.

### ***Conclusion***

My grave concern about this decision is that it undermines the special confidential relationship between a counsellor and a client. It will prevent frank and open discussion on sensitive issues as a client can report the counsellor for having the 'wrong' views.

This is a spiritual conflict and we are in a battle. We must stand our ground. We are not downhearted but we are deeply disappointed with the BACP. We want to ensure client self-determination - that individuals have the opportunity to choose reparative therapy if they feel it is appropriate for them. We also want therapists to be free to provide this therapy without being opposed by activists who insist that homosexual behaviour cannot and should not be changed. Finally, we want to uphold freedom of speech on these matters, so that we are 'included' in an inclusive and diverse society.

Please pray that this case will be used to totally change the homosexual agenda in this nation for the good of all. Please pray that we will continue to proclaim the love, forgiveness, hope and true freedom that is found only and supremely in the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Lesley Pilkington and Andrea Minichiello Williams*

Please continue to pray for Lesley and Andrea, as Lesley appeals against the decision made by the BACP.

## Carbon Capers - tax, pollution, experts & camels

The Gillard government is continuing with its plan to impose a 'carbon tax' which will place a price on 'carbon' (really on carbon dioxide). The tax will apply to the 1000 companies who emit the most carbon dioxide - these include electricity suppliers, coal miners, steel producers and so on.

The government says it plans to compensate the industries and companies that are 'trade-exposed' - those whose export business would be affected by their increased costs. They also say they will compensate lower-to-middle income families to counteract the increased prices they will pay for electricity, food and other goods.

However, it is inevitable that all companies will have increased costs because of the higher cost of electricity, transport and so on and it is also inevitable that these increased costs will be passed on to consumers. The *Australia Food and Grocery Council* recently noted that every stage of the manufacturing of groceries will be subjected to increased prices - from the farm gate though to manufacturing and retail - which will be passed on to the consumer, increasing food and fuel bills.

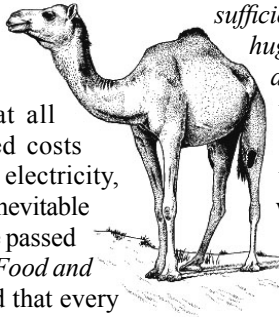
Government ministers are referring to "carbon pollution" - this is designed to make us think of dirty soot, and make us think this is a major problem that needs immediate and drastic action to 'fix'. Rather, what we are really talking about is carbon dioxide, CO<sub>2</sub>, which is a colourless and odourless gas (the same one we breathe out!).

### **Some recent developments**

The *Climate Commission*, a supposedly "independent body" set up by the government to assess the merits of a carbon tax, has released its report. Of course, it recommends the introduction of a carbon tax - which is not surprising since the

Chair is Tim Flannery and the author of the Report, Prof Will Steffen, endorses the IPCC global warming agenda.

The introduction says, "*Over many decades thousands of scientists have painted an unambiguous picture: the global climate is changing and humanity is almost surely the primary cause. The risks have never been clearer and the case for action has never been more urgent. Our Earth's surface is warming rapidly and we can already see social, economic and environmental impacts in Australia. Failing to take sufficient action today entails potentially huge risks to our economy, society and way of life into the future.*"



Yet many scientists do not support this view, and point to the fact that the temperature has not warmed in the past decade. But they have not been included in the government's "independent" *Climate Commission*. An audit of

the Report by four of these scientists, Bob Carter, David Evans, Stewart Franks and William Kininmonth says, "*The report is emotive and tendentious throughout, ignores sound scientific criticism of IPCC shibboleths that has been made previously, is shotgun in its approach and at the same time selective in its use of evidence.*"

Perhaps the craziest suggestion yet is the federal government draft proposal to kill feral camels in central Australia and give 'carbon credits' for their slaughter. A 63 page document on the official government 'Climate Change' website analyses the proposal in detail. Any carbon 'expenses' from fuel and so on have to be 'deducted' to gain an overall 'carbon credit' amount!

***If you don't want a carbon tax, NOW is the time to 'take action' - and contact your federal MPs and Senators!***

## World News

### **UK: Sharia courts and women**

In the UK an estimated 85 ‘sharia courts’ operate - some in the official guise of ‘arbitration tribunals’, others informally through local mosques. Muslim women are often discriminated against by these courts, which consider family law matters and marriage breakdown.

Baroness Cox has introduced a Bill into the UK House of Lords to impose principles of **gender equality** upon the sharia courts of Britain. The Bill is supported by a number of groups representing Muslim women.

Read more at Mark Durie’s blog: <http://stmarysvicar.blogspot.com/2011/06/sharia-britain-paradox-of-tolerance.html>

Please pray that the Bill is passed. Sharia courts shouldn’t operate at all - there should be one legal system for all. Treating women as inferior is totally unacceptable.



### **Unborn baby photo ‘offensive’**

A Catholic group in Illinois, USA has been told that they cannot use an ultrasound image of an unborn child on a pro-life banner in a ‘town parade’. The parade is organised by the *Jaycees* - their spokesman said the image was “offensive”.

Although the *Jaycees* said they didn’t object to the political message, they maintained the right to decide how the message was displayed. Meanwhile, the homosexual activist group *Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays* is one of the groups participating in the parade. [Lifesite 14/6/2011]

### **UN: Homosexual rights**

The UN *Human Rights Council* has passed a resolution that seeks equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation. The resolution commissions a study on

discriminatory laws and violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity. The resolution, tabled by South Africa, passed 23 to 19, with three abstentions. This resolution is widely seen as support for homosexual rights.

Australia voted in favour! [ABCAM, 18/6/2011]

### **France: Homosexual ‘marriage’**

Good news! The French National Assembly has rejected the idea of homosexual ‘marriage’ by a vote of 293 to 222. The vote follows a ruling in January by the nation’s highest court, the *Constitutional Council*, stating that homosexual “marriage” is not a constitutional right. [Lifesite, 14/6/2011]

### **California: Proposition 8**

The legal fight against the ruling by Judge Walker that *Proposition 8*, the vote by Californians that says marriage is between a man and a woman, is continuing.

A federal judge has rejected the argument that Judge Walker was biased because he had a secret homosexual relationship. The federal judge likened it to a female judge ruling on legal matters involving women!

### **Tony Blair reads the Qur’an daily**

After Tony Blair completed his term as the UK Prime Minister, he became ‘Middle East envoy’ under the auspices of the United Nations, United States, European Union and Russia.

He converted to Catholicism shortly after leaving Downing Street, and established the *Tony Blair Faith Foundation* which promotes ‘interfaith harmony’. Now he has said he reads the Qur’an daily. He said this is, “Partly to understand some of the things happening in the world, but mainly just because it is immensely instructive.” He said it helps to keep him “faith-literate”.

Really?

[Daily Mail, 13/6/2011.]

## 2011 Annual Dinner

### Guest Speaker: Rev Dr Stuart Robinson *'The Challenge of Islam'*

Stuart Robinson worked amongst Muslims in South Asia before becoming Senior Pastor of Blackburn Baptist Church, now Crossway Baptist Church, for 26 years.

Today, Stuart travels the world teaching Christians how to reach out to Muslims and help them find the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour. He also teaches response to the growing effort to Islamise the whole world.

He is the author of many books including the Australian Christian best seller 'Mosques and Miracles'. His latest booklet is 'The Challenge of Islam'.

Stuart greatly encouraged Peter and Jenny to start Salt Shakers and has been a constant encourager, Pastor and mentor to them over the last 16 years.

**Date:** Saturday 24 September 2011

**Start:** 7.00pm: Savouries - 7.30pm: Dinner

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

**Cost:** \$55 per person, \$95 per married couple

*Book early - places are limited*



### Salt Shakers 2011 Dinner booking form

Name: ..... Contact Ph: .....

**No attending:**  **Email** .....

(Please give us the names of all those you are booking for)

Name on Card..... Exp. date ...../..... Amount \$

Card Number

Signature.....

**Credit Card:** fill in and post this form or phone our office on 03 9800 2855 fax: 03 9800 2655

**Direct Debit:** Salt Shakers Inc Westpac, 033 112 Acc No 117992 Please ensure your name is clearly noted on your deposit and EMAIL us with your booking details and the amount paid. Email: [admin@saltshakers.org.au](mailto:admin@saltshakers.org.au)

**Cheque:** Send this form with your cheque to SALT SHAKERS, P O BOX 6049 WANTIRNA, Vic 3152

## Ministry News

Our annual Dinner will be held on September 24 in Wantirna. This will be a great night to meet, and fellowship with, other 'Salt Shakers' and to hear more about the worldwide ministry of Stuart Robinson and his wife Margaret and 'The Challenge of Islam'. If you haven't booked for the Dinner yet, please book or phone the office today!

Jenny and Peter travelled to Sydney and Queensland during May and June, attending conferences, meeting with concerned Christians and speaking at the Nambour Church of Christ. They drove 4,500 kilometres - but they also had a holiday!

Thank you to all the people who made them welcome - and a warm welcome to those

who signed up during this trip.

We are constantly thankful for the many people who support this Ministry. The Board have just accepted a budget of \$190,000 for the next financial year. This is courageous, as we are approximately \$18,000 short of our budget estimate for the current financial year. PLEASE keep praying, as we are, about the future direction of this Ministry.

As our Board Chairman said last month, we get busier as the days grow darker!

The world certainly seems to be going totally mad, as evil is increasingly called good and good evil.

As *Salt Shakers* and *Resistance Thinking* continue to challenge this situation we will come under more and more pressure, so please keep praying for us.

### **ACTION checklist:** Tick the box as you complete the task

Page	Topic	Action / People to write to	Done
5	Marriage	Contact MP, 12 Senators, party leaders	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Tasmania - Surrogacy	Write to ALL Legislative Council Members	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	SA - Euthanasia	Contact leaders and House of Assembly MPs	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Chaplaincy	Contact Attorneys-General, sign petition	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Prostitution	SA &WA - Contact MPs	<input type="checkbox"/>

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