

Salt Shakers

Helping Christians make a difference

“When the church begins to look and sound like the world, there is no compelling rationale for its continued existence.”

Dr. Greg Bahnsen

Every day the above quote becomes more of a reality, as people who ‘call’ themselves Christians fear man more than God.

Salt Shakers



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Editorial

Then came the riots!

During our daily devotional time together, we have been reading and studying the book of Amos. A book about a very brave sheep herder and sycamore fig farmer; a man who heard God and took action.

No, he did not sit down and write a letter, send an email, or even phone talk-back radio. He put on his coat and hat and went to a neighbouring town where he promptly started speaking in the street.

It was not a nice message that made people feel good, one about love and peace or social justice, but one about the wrath that God was to bring on the nations of Judah and Israel.

First, he gained their attention by telling them what God had said about the evil ways of those living in the surrounding countries, but then, probably as the people voiced agreement about how terrible *they* were, he turned the tables and said, 'But you are worse, because you know the Lord and have turned your back on Him; the things you have done are even worse'.

I [Peter] had written the above, and more, when Britain erupted in riots, violence, flames, and looting, early in August and it went on for days, spreading across the country.

Social media seemed to be the tool used to spread the anarchy, and everyone with a grievance seemed to emerge violently onto the streets.

I could not help thinking - was what Amos said to the people of Israel and Judah also true for Britain? I think so.

Britain had been the nation, under God, to do so much for the world. It conquered many nations and it tried to spread democracy.

Yes, it made mistakes by using force rather than the Gospel, but it also did more to spread the Gospel than any other nation, except perhaps ancient Israel as its' new Christians took the Gospel across the world.

Britain triumphed against many evil forces like Napoleon and the Third Reich. It bravely fought to hold on to democracy through the Battle of Britain, the armada of small ships at Dunkirk, and more. It even helped release Israel from the grip of Islam - but what went wrong?

Britain rejected its' Christian heritage, embraced every other religion and opened its' doors to everyone in some sort of guilt-complex appeasement for past wrongs to so many countries - albeit that those things were often done in the name of doing good.

It turned its' back on God's values and morality in general and normalised immorality. It rejected the two-parent family, and embraced 'diversity', rejected discipline in the home, the school and even in the Courtroom, it removed the penalty of death for deliberate murder and handed out lenient sentences, it decriminalised drug use and embraced the European Union.

As British MPs, police, banks and media were devastated by corruption, and the government embraced more and more liberalism, debt and 'doom and gloom', Britain took away the last vestiges of hope from the people.

How the mighty have fallen! Many other countries, like Australia, are heading in the same direction. Can we stop it before we too sink into anarchy?

Our only hope is for our nation, starting with the church, to turn back to God.

Yours in Christ Jesus
Peter and Jenny Stokes



Truth must prevail

By Peter Stokes

The following is part of a letter which was sent by the *National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality* (NARTH) President, Julie Hamilton PhD, in response to the escalating political campaign to normalise homosexuality and to attack anyone who dares challenge that normalisation or help anyone who wants to leave their 'same-sex attracted' lifestyle.

This 'campaign' is running here in Australia too, but in America it has now hit the front pages of major newspapers because Presidential candidate, Congresswoman Michelle Bachman's husband, psychologist Marcus Bachman, allegedly does "reparative therapy" for those who come to his Christian counselling clinic seeking assistance with unwanted homosexuality.

Julie Hamilton PhD writes...

Dear Friends

...the attacks on those who offer assistance to clients struggling with unwanted homosexual attractions is growing daily. In just the past few weeks CNN had an extensive series of reports that sent the message to viewers that attempts to reorient homosexuality are unsafe and universally unsuccessful. Therapists who are willing to help these individuals were portrayed as frauds, and even more concerning, dangerous.

Fortunately, the CNN report (though unbalanced) did include Dr. Joseph Nicolosi, one of NARTH's founding directors, who very articulately offered an opposing and scientifically accurate viewpoint.

Presidential politics will now apparently be used as a forum to attack change therapies. Dr Marcus Bachman, for example, and candidates like former Governor Tim Pawlenty are under fire in the press. Both have pointed out that although homosexual feelings may not be a choice, they are also

not genetically determinative, and cannot be used as a justification to push a political agenda.

As the debate continues we can be sure that science will be generally ignored if we are unwilling to speak out and speak up.

NARTH does not intend to let that happen... We believe the reason reorientation therapies are under attack is because the campaign to deceive society into believing that people are "born that way" is beginning to fail.

The science won't support the rhetoric, and even the American Psychological Association has had to modify their position to reflect the research.

... Now the new assault on science comes in the form of the equally fallacious argument that attempts to help those with unwanted homosexuality are "dangerous". This is completely false!

This is particularly exasperating coming from a media totally unwilling to acknowledge the tremendous health and emotional toll that homosexual activities exact on those caught up in the lifestyle. They will spend thousands of hours searching for one individual who claims to have been injured by therapy, but seldom mention the thousands of broken lives that are the legacy of homosexual behaviour.

At the same time, the number of individuals who have successfully overcome homosexuality continues to grow, and the lives of these brave folks continue to testify that change is possible..."

As stated at the start of this article, a similar campaign is also going on here in Australia to discredit those who try to help people



leave a homosexual life. People we know have been threatened with legal action for trying to help those who came to them for help. As we reported in previous Journals, this has also happened in Britain.

In some cases this occurs by deliberate entrapment, in others it is an emotional reaction to a struggle that seems all too hard.

Dealing with any addiction is hard - but dealing with unwanted sexual addiction is even harder than, say, substance abuse, which is also too hard for many and they give in to the addiction.

Many people have believed they don't have a choice about acting out their thoughts. Homosexuality may have initially seemed wrong to them, but over time it has become 'who they are', and they embrace homosexual thoughts, identity and relationships.

Sadly, changing one's sexual orientation, after years of feeding the 'lust', is often going to be hard - and it is not always going to be successful.

When people say they failed to give up smoking nobody is surprised - but the person often still believes it to be worth trying again to stop smoking. When people fail to give up a same-sex 'addiction' it suddenly becomes 'dangerous' to try.

We must understand the politics. As Julie Hamilton says, and the *American Psychological Association* now states, there is no scientific evidence for a gene that causes same-sex attraction.

Even Australian homosexual newspapers have carried headlines stating, 'Gay gene' debunked' (*MCV* July 2008), with the final paragraph quoting researchers saying "The report confirms the result of previous twin-based surveys, that there is no 'gay gene'. This has been and remains our understanding."

This report was based on a study that suggested 35% of the 'cause' was genetic in men and 18% was genetic in women. But that 'genetic' result appears to have been obtained simply because that percentage of identical twins were both homosexuals, which would seem a very broad statement with no scientific basis.

The fact is, whenever so-called scientific research is done it becomes generalised with the best possible spin towards appeasing the homosexual community, rather than specifically based on facts.

So many groups like the *APA* and the British and Australian equivalents have been so caught up with political correctness that they are trying desperately to save face rather than tell the truth.

We recently wrote to the *Australian Psychological Society* asking for clarification regarding a position paper they had on their website about the issue of 'reparative therapy'. Their initial reply suggested they did not have a position - when we gave them a copy of the paper on their website we received no further reply.

Why would they not stand by their paper? Probably because it was written in 2000 and was based on a now very-out-of-date *APA* statement.

Yet the intimidation of those who try to help people still goes on in Australia as it does around the globe, because sound research has given way to 'progressive thought' and appeasement.

We expect better from what were once responsible, professional, scientifically/medically based organisations; but sadly they seem to have collapsed under the pressure, meaning that people who genuinely need and deserve professional help are no longer able to obtain it.

**...there is
no scientific
evidence
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that causes
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attraction.**

News & Action

Euthanasia drug

Philip Nitschke, the Australian advocate of euthanasia, says he has found a legal 'loophole' that will allow him to import the drug *Nembutal* to use for euthanasia.

He says that he has discovered the drug can be imported legally, if a doctor applies to the *Therapeutic Goods Administration* with an 'acceptable medical reason'. He plans to tell the TGA why he wants to import the drug.

However, Nitschke is yet to test the law. Please pray that his application to import *Nembutal* is not successful.

[Ch 7, 1/8/2011]

SA: Euthanasia

South Australia's lower house, the House of Assembly passed the second reading of the *Criminal Law Consolidation (Medical Defences – End of Life Arrangements) Amendment Bill* on 28 July. The Bill was passed 'on the voices' with no vote taken.

The Bill now goes to the 'Committee stage' in the House of Assembly in late September, where each section of the Bill is debated and amendments are put forward. Then a final third reading vote is taken.

The Bill allows a doctor to provide a 'lethal dose' to a person aged 18 years or more where the person claims to have a medical condition that makes life "intolerable".

Dr Rob Pollnitz, from South Australia, recently wrote, "The bill places total faith in that one doctor – there is no consent form, no family involvement, no second opinion, no board of oversight, no mental health specialist, no cooling-off period, no residency requirement. After the event the only witness other than the doctor is dead. The bill grants the doctor immunity from

prosecution by the simple assertion that he or she thought the lethal dose "reasonable" and the bill actually directs the court to see it that way. The defence need only be proven on "the balance of probabilities" to succeed. This is a protect-the-doctor bill that provides absolutely no protection at all for the patient. And the doctor has only to believe the patient is 18, not to sight any proof."

ACTION: If you live in SA, PLEASE contact your MP in the House of Assembly and ALL MPs in the Legislative Council. Ask them to vote against this Bill which is really a form of euthanasia.

Send your letters to Parliament House, North Terrace, ADELAIDE SA 5000.

For email addresses, see our website.



Baby for Penny Wong?

Federal Labor government minister Penny Wong, is a lesbian who openly supports same-sex 'marriage'.

She recently announced that her partner, Sophie Allouache, is expecting a baby in December. The baby has been conceived using IVF and donor sperm from a man who is known to them.

There were mixed reactions. Whilst some politicians congratulated Penny Wong, Fred Nile of the Christian Democratic Party said she was setting a bad example. He said her public 'announcement' was being used to make a political point about homosexual relationships and lesbians having children. We agree!

A Good Marriage

What do most people say they REALLY WANT? The latest annual **AustraliaSCAN** survey, conducted by *Quantum Social and Market Research*, found that the highest priority for most people is having a good marriage - 83% said this was what they really wanted most in life!

Safe as houses?

The availability of easy credit over the last fifteen years and the fixation, in the western world, on home ownership at any cost has played a major part of its financial undoing.

The piercing of property bubbles in the US and the UK, in particular, have played a significant role in the protracted recessions being experienced by those countries.

With the US and Europe now re-arranging deck chairs on the *Titanic* as they attempt to avoid sovereign debt default, Australia is heavily exposed to a fall in demand for its exports.

A property market crash could spell disaster for our economy, causing a credit crunch, a long period of deflation and low consumer confidence.

If the debt deflation “cleaning up” experiences of banks and governments in the US, the UK and Japan are anything to go by, the time taken to recover from such events could be prolonged. And the costs aren’t just financial. Economic downturns inevitably give way to social unrest... the riots on the streets of London in recent days are, in part, a direct consequence of a protracted recession in the UK.

Since 1997, property prices in Australia have risen significantly, with the ratio of average house price to average annual income rising from approximately 3.5:1 to around 8:1 over the last 14 years. This has had a profound effect on our society, significantly increasing the price of living for renters and mortgagees, diverting investment away from more productive pursuits and dramatically increasing the



By Peter Bain

level of private debt held by households.

Australia has some of the most unaffordable property in the world. In 2010, *The Economist's* 'House-price indicators' table provided a picture of how overpriced real estate in Australia has become. In a list of 20 countries (Asia, US and European markets), Australia was noted as being 61.1% overvalued on long run averages of price-to-rent ratios. *The Economist* noted that Australia currently has the most expensive property in the world by this measure.

As with all free markets, prices in the property market are the result of an equilibrium between supply and demand. The pattern of rising prices observed indicates that supply has fallen or that demand has risen. In

the case of Australian property, both have occurred.

The contributing factors include:

- High immigration and a relaxation of foreign ownership rules
- Increasing demand, resulting from a growing population
- Historically low interest rates from 1997 onwards, decreasing borrowing costs and increasing demand.
- Limited government release of new land, limiting supply.
- Government grants, incentives and taxes, almost all of which disproportionately benefit existing home owners, encourage speculation and drive up prices.

Today, home buyers face twice the debt of

previous generations in securing a home. This was noted in the Australian Senate Select Committee report released in 2008 '*Housing Affordability in Australia – A good house is hard to find*'.

It stated that “the average house price in the capital cities is now equivalent to over seven years of average earnings; up from three in the 1950s to the early 1980s.”

Even the *Reserve Bank of Australia* Governor Glenn Stevens has questioned the behaviour of participants in the Australian property market, recently asking, “How is it that in a country this big in area and this small in numbers of people we can't manage to make the marginal price of a dwelling lower than it is? It seems to me quite high.”

Federal and state policies including the “first home buyers grant” have been appallingly counterproductive, achieving little more than driving prices to unaffordable levels and further inflating unsustainable debt.

With these initiatives now being wound back during a period of fiscal tightening,

property clearance rates have been falling across the country for well over twelve months. However, it is a combination of factors that has inflated property prices, and so, logically, any successful solution to unaffordable housing will need to address all contributing factors in unison.

Home ownership is an important and valuable part of Australian culture. A stable home is a foundation for family life and stable social networks.

But we have a tax system, banking system and regulatory framework that promotes speculation in property. While these problems remain unchanged, our houses, our economy and our social fabric remains unsafe.

A brief bio:

Peter Bain has worked in senior management roles in not-for-profit organisations for over 15 years. His experience spans the church, international aid, community services and healthcare. He is currently the Director of Operations of the *Australasian College for Emergency Medicine*.



Last chance to Book

Bookings must close Friday 16 September

Salt Shakers Annual Dinner - 24 September

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

Stuart is the author of Mosques and Miracles and a world-acknowledged expert on Islam.

Book now! See the cover sheet or phone the office on 03 9800 2855.

Cost: \$55 per person; \$95 per married couple.

Incremental destruction of society

There are times when saying, “We told you so” is appropriate.

On August 16, 2011 a crowd filled the Great Hall in Parliament House, Canberra to ‘rally’ for marriage as God instigated it - between one man and one woman for life.

Sadly, the church has given so much ground on immorality that the huge crowd which gathered in the same place, for the same cause, in 2004 was greatly reduced.

But the facts still remain. Accepting same- gender ‘marriage’ will destroy what God established, and much more - society itself will suffer.

Incrementally, the church has followed the same path as the world in relation to destroying marriage. Here are two non-Christian reports as to how it happens.

In 2006, the NSW Parliamentary Library Research Service released the report *‘Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Relationships: Briefing Paper No 9/06’*. On page 41 the authors, Karina Anthony and Talina Drabsch, quote a paragraph from the work of lesbian academic Jenni Millbank, 2005, titled *Same-sex Families*:

“No country anywhere in the world has passed laws going from absolutely no form of same-sex relationship recognition directly to same-sex marriage. Rather, over a period of many years, a series of changes have built incrementally on one another. Generally progress has gone along the following sequence: decriminalisation of gay sex, implementation of anti-discrimination protections, some limited recognition of relationships either through *de facto* relationship recognition or limited

registration systems, and then through one or more stages a move to broader relationship recognition, then (usually) some parenting recognition, then a status similar to marriage but called something else such as ‘civil union’ or ‘registered partnership’, and then, some years later, marriage.”¹

David Cole, writing in *The New York Review of Books*, observes:

“In *Gay Marriage* [2006], Eskridge and Spedale also advocate a strategy focused on civil unions, although on more pragmatic grounds. Citing an article by Professor Kees Waaldjik, who helped develop the strategy behind the Netherlands’ recognition of same-sex marriage, Eskridge and Spedale argue that the best way forward is incremental.

“On this view, states (or nations) are likely to recognize same-sex marriage only after a step-by-step process in which they first eliminate laws criminalizing homosexual sodomy, then amend anti-discrimination laws to cover sexual orientation, then extend some government employment-related benefits to same-sex partners of civil servants, and then enact a domestic partnership or civil union law. Where advocates press for same-sex marriage without that incremental foundation, they are likely to fail, or worse, to provoke a backlash, as did the pro-same-sex-marriage judicial decisions in Hawaii in the 1990s.”²

References:

1. NSW Parliament Library

2. David Cole, ‘The Same-Sex Future’, in *The New York Review of Books*, Volume 56, Number 11, July 2, 2009,

No country has passed laws going from absolutely no form of same-sex relationship recognition directly to same-sex marriage.

Attack on Marriage - Update

Homosexual lobby groups are urging their followers to actively lobby politicians to support same-sex 'marriage'. Two groups of Christians are now actively lobbying for homosexual 'marriage'.

One group was officially launched the day before the marriage rally in Canberra. The group, called **Christians4Equality**, is part of the homosexual group *Australians for Marriage Equality*. The list of supporters includes two Baptist ministers (Rowland Croucher, Matt Glover), several Anglican and Uniting Church ministers, as well as activist homosexuals and lesbians.

The other group, **Christians for Gay Marriage**, was formed in South Australia and claims to have members across a range of denominations. The founder is Rev Leanne Jenki, a lesbian Uniting Church minister with a partner. Another contact person is Rev John Maddern, a retired minister associated with *Pilgrim Uniting Church* in SA. He is married to a woman, but the church is 'inclusive'. This is the church that Penny Wong attends.

The battle is intensifying. When even parts of the church are calling for the legalisation of homosexual 'marriage' we must redouble our efforts!

ACTION: PLEASE contact your federal MP and Senators - tell them you don't support 'marriage' for homosexuals. Send your letters to Parliament House, CANBERRA, ACT 2600. For names and electorates, phone 132326

A Labor MP speaks up

John Murphy, a senior Labor backbencher from NSW, spoke out against same-sex 'marriage' last month. He said he didn't believe there was overwhelming public

support for same-sex 'marriage' and said that same-sex 'marriage' supporters in his party should join the Australian Greens!

ALP - ACT Branch

The ACT Branch of the Labor Party voted to endorse same-sex 'marriage' at their conference on July 30, 2011. Andrew Barr, the ACT's deputy chief minister, is openly homosexual and wants homosexual 'marriage' legalised.

MP 'Consultations'

On 24 August, the House of Representatives allocated time for MPs to report back on their consultations with constituents about homosexual 'marriage'.

The 'consultation' resulted from a motion by Greens MP Adam Bandt - which aimed to promote and support same-sex 'marriage'.

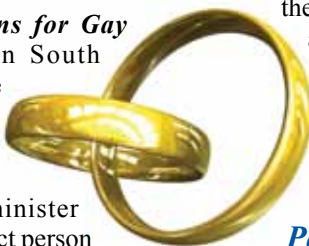
Parliamentary 'friends'

A new homosexual support group - *The Parliamentary Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex People* - has been formed to promote "fair and equitable treatment" for homosexuals at the federal level.

The Chair of the group is Warren Entsch, the Coalition's Chief Whip. Labor MP Graham Perrett and Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young are also part of the group. The group is planning a forum in September. [*Herald Sun*, 12/7/2011]

National Marriage Day Rally

The *National Marriage Day* rally was held on Tuesday August 16 in the Great Hall at Parliament House in Canberra. It marked seven years since the Australian parliament passed an amendment to the *Marriage Act*. The Bill, passed on August 13, 2004, stated that marriage is "a union between one man and one women for life".



Moral high ground

I am finding myself ever-increasingly amazed at the way in which we Australians are trying to push our views on other countries.

Who are we to tell them they should live in accords to our supposed moral behaviour? It appears that we are so blinded by our own puffed-up ego – from the Government down – that we are oblivious to the gross sexual deviancies that we equate with high moral standards when we look in the mirror. It seems that because we laud, promote and celebrate sexual degeneracy in all its forms that we as a nation have the man-given right to tell other countries the way in which they can kill their own animals that they need to eat to survive.

W Williams, Oxenford
Gold Coast Sun 20/7/11

Different-sex marriage

What is right matters.

What is moral matters.

It should be moral, not mortal!

We do not have to cave into the pressures of a godless society.

Marriage is not defined by people's opinions or polls. It is not recreated by judges, members of parliament or any minority groups.

From the Heavenly Supreme Court of Justice, we learn and know that marriage is between one man and one woman.

Traditional marriage is best for children, families, communities, our nation, even the economy and our Prime Minister!

Judith Bond, Glen Alpine, NSW
Macarthur Advertiser 27/7/2011

Norway killer's act is not Christianity

Just because a mass murderer in Norway is reported to claim to be a Christian it does not mean that he is one.

In fact his actions prove that he is most definitely not.

I could claim to be brilliant, handsome and an avid fan of the AFL, but anyone who knows me would instantly dismiss each claim as laughable and ridiculous.

Claims do not always equate to reality.

David G Westaway, Navigators, 3352
The Ballarat Courier 29/07/2011

The following was a Letter to the Editor and web comment in response to Kevin Rudd's sister writing to the Labor Party to oppose it's push for same-sex marriage. She accused some Labor members of being brainwashed by a "global gay Gestapo" Web comments are a very good way to get your point across. We suggest every letter you write to the Editor also be presented as a web comment when the opportunity arises.

Well said, Loree Rudd

To those who are offended by the word 'Gestapo' the dictionary states... - adjective - "of or resembling the Nazi Gestapo, especially in the brutal suppression of opposition: example 'The new regime is using gestapo tactics'."

It is a legitimate term for people who intimidate and abuse anyone who opposes them.

That certainly has been what homosexual activists have done, and continue to do, to anyone who speaks out - even in love and concern - against the normalisation of unnatural sexual activity between two people of the same gender.

I know - I have been on the receiving end of some of that aggressive behaviour because I speak the truth.

Many EX homosexuals have also been on the receiving end of that aggression when they have spoken out against the idea that homosexuality is innate, or stated that people are NOT 'born gay. There is, in fact, NO genuine evidence that substantiates the 'born gay' or 'innateness' rhetoric.

Even the personal swipes on letters pages and web comment pages show that aggression - play the ball, not the women, or wear the label!!

Peter Stokes, Melbourne
Sunshine Coast Daily 18/07/2011



Abortion in Victoria - a basic quiz

Do you believe that...

- 1) Babies in the womb deserve protection?
- 2) Women should be offered support / counselling when considering an abortion?
- 3) Parental consent should be required for a teenager seeking an abortion (as with body piercings, where parental consent is required for those under 16 and tattoos are banned for those under 18)?
- 4) Abortion up until birth should be banned?
- 5) Babies born alive (after failed abortions) should be provided with medical care?
- 6) Suspected sexual abuse, in cases of minors seeking abortions, should be reported?
- 7) Partial birth abortions (banned in the US) should be banned in Victoria?
- 8) There should be a “cooling off” period for women considering late term abortion?
- 9) Abortion should be unthinkable or at least rare?

You might be surprised to learn that all of the Greens, many of the ALP and some Liberal MPs (including the current Victorian Premier, Ted Baillieu) rejected each of the amendments included in the questions above (Q 2-8) when Victoria's ***Abortion Law Reform Bill*** was passed in 2008.

Peter Kavanagh, former DLP MP, was in Parliament when this Bill was passed. His comments, along with those of abortion survivor Melissa Ohden, are included in the pro-life film '*A Story about Life*'.

Members of the current Victorian Government have indicated that they are waiting to hear from the public, before they can act to repeal this law. To motivate Victorian MPs we must run a strong,

consistent and continuing campaign.

Please write to them and ask that they repeal the abortion law of 2008 and reinstate protection for the unborn and their mothers.

If you are part of a mother's group, men's shed group, youth group, Church, social club or family... then why not organise a letter writing hour? If you can, please write or email numerous times.

ACTION:

What are we waiting for?

Victorian Premier

Hon Ted Baillieu, Office of the Premier, 1 Treasury Place, GPO Box 4912V V, Melbourne, Victoria, 3002.

Phone: (03) 9651 5000

Email contact form: <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/contact.html>

Leader of the National Party

Hon Peter Ryan, 54B Cunninghame Street SALE 3850 or PO Box 145, SALE 3850.

Phone: (03) 5144 1987

Email contact form: <http://www.peterryan.com.au/contact-us>

Attorney General

Hon Robert Clark, 24 Rutland Road, BOX HILL Vic 3128.

Phone: (03) 9898 6606

Email: robert.clark@parliament.vic.gov.au

If you live in Victoria, please send a message, phone or visit your local MP.

Please contact the five Upper House Members in your region.

This article by ***Sonja Couroupis*** was posted on the *Life Network Australia* website.



Christianity and Libertarianism: Do they belong together?

Dr Gary Cass is the President and CEO of US-based Christian Anti-Defamation Commission - which runs the website DefendChristians.org.

In this article, Dr Cass refers to the American system of government and its Founders - however, his analysis of the difference between libertarianism and Biblical Christianity is insightful...

Over the past few years there has been a growing Libertarian movement within conservative political circles. They are often very passionate and very organized in support of their candidates, as various straw poll and on-line poll results demonstrate, including our own recent online poll.

Libertarianism has many leading proponents, like presidential hopeful Ron Paul. One of libertarianism's most well-known and influential advocates was Ayn Rand, author of the important free market classic, "Atlas Shrugged." Dean Kootz, Thomas Sowell and Walter Williams are all respected Libertarian authors and columnists. Many respected voices for free markets identify as Libertarians such as David Friedman, Friedrich Hayek, Ludwig Von Mises, and Milton Friedman. There are notable Libertarian celebrities from a broad spectrum of film, television and sports like Clint Eastwood, Drew Carey, John Stossel, Tom Selleck, Tommy Chung, Howard Stern and billionaire Mark Cuban, owner of the NBA Mavericks.

There are significant points of agreement and difference between libertarianism and

by Dr Gary Cass

Christian conservatism. The issue comes down to determining where to draw the lines of limited government. When it comes to economic issues there is much common ground between Conservatives and Libertarians. Both agree that economically speaking the government must be limited

and shackled so the beast of the state doesn't devour our property with its redistribution schemes. Liberty and the right to retain the fruit of one's labor are inextricably linked. On this Libertarians and Conservatives heartily agree. This affords cooperation on many fronts.

The tension between Conservatives and Libertarians arises when the discussion turns to the role of government regarding individual rights and social matters, or community virtue.

Within libertarianism there is a broad spectrum of differences

on where to draw the line on social issues, so not every Libertarian ends up in the same place. For example, some Libertarians differ on such contentious issues of abortion and homosexual marriage. Some believe these are issues to be left to the states according to the Tenth Amendment, as opposed to the federal government. Other Libertarians are adamant that no level of government has any right to legislate in such private matters.

There is a strong secular strain of libertarianism represented by Ayn Rand, which tries to formulate a Libertarian view apart from God, based on "self-evident"

Christian conservatives argue that there is no true political philosophy, including libertarianism, from a secularist point of view

truth. The problem is apart from God there is no truth, self-evident or otherwise.

Christian conservatives argue that there is no true political philosophy, including libertarianism, from a secularist point of view. Without a transcendent source of truth and rights, politics is reduced to mere force and tyranny. Those who can impose their view on others define what is right. Secularist libertarianism would be just as arbitrary and tyrannical as any other humanly derived political philosophy.

Conservatives argue that our rights are derived from “the laws of nature and of nature’s God.” A survey of the development of these ideas prove that the Founders correctly derived our American system of rights and liberties from a proper understanding of natural law as it is informed by “nature’s God” as He revealed His will in Scripture and as He has written it on the heart. So, when it comes to matters of economics and civic virtue there is a wise, proven standard to which we can appeal that informs the limits on government and the rights of individuals. While Conservatives and Libertarians agree on the importance of individual rights, Conservatives do so in a more measured way. Liberty must be ordered liberty “under God,” lest it devolve into anarchy.

For example, some Libertarians believe that any “victimless crime” should be legal, including prostitution and drug use. But Scripture, and common sense, teaches us that there is no such thing as a victimless crime.

Christianity affirms the biblical idea of corporate solidarity. No one is an island to himself. Everyone is interrelated to some degree. Therefore, every action or lack

of duty has a ripple effect that impacts the lives of others. Parents have duties to children, children to parents, neighbours to neighbours. etc.

The neglect or abuse of these duties has detrimental societal consequences. This has been taken to the other opposite extreme by Christian Progressives who are trying to create an unbiblical, government mandated collective utopia. Both extremes of radical individualistic libertarianism and radical collectivist progressivism are to be rejected.

**But
Scripture,
and
common
sense,
teaches us
that there
is no such
thing as a
victimless
crime**

As Christian conservatives we believe that all people have both rights and duties that come from God and that we have responsibilities to our Creator, our families and neighbours. These are transcendent rights and duties, therefore, the proper role of government is to punish those who do evil as defined by God, and yet not interfere with a person’s individual rights and duties towards God and neighbour.

A good example of how a Libertarian and a Christian Conservative can differ is seen in the way they think regarding the matters of legalising prostitution or homosexual marriage. For a Libertarian, if two or more people consent to engage in a sexual tryst there is no harm, therefore, no crime or sin.

A Christian conservative starts with an assumption that all people are created in the image of God. Sexual relations have both rights and duties that are regulated by God. For very good reasons, sexuality is restricted to marriage. When anyone engages in illicit sexual acts they debase themselves and human sexuality. Sexual anarchy has a corrosive effect on a person’s soul and body while undermining God’s institutions

of marriage and family. Abortion, AIDS, STDS, children born to unwed mothers, etc. result from ignoring God's plan for human sexuality. All of society suffers as a result. Therefore, the state has a compelling, God-given interest to censure evil extra-marital sexual behaviour and encourage natural biblical marriage.

The standard for what's right and wrong can't merely be man's opinion; that is tyranny. Rather our standards must come as the Founders taught, from the laws of nature and of nature's God. A healthy view of individual liberty is a hallmark of conservatism, but it is not to be taken to the radical extremes of libertarianism.

America needs to return to being "one

nation under God." That means forsaking the arbitrary laws of man, either from the left or the right, and looking to our great Christian legal heritage that has given the world the highest degree of ordered liberty. Can you be a Christian Libertarian? Certainly many good people consider themselves to be so, but can it be logically and ethically reconciled with a Christian's higher commitment to Jesus Christ and His Word? That is where the debate must centre.

Christian Conservatives refuse to live a lie or suppress the truth that God is here, and that individuals and nations are accountable to him.

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Proverbs 14:34

More teaching about Islam

Our teachers are being taught all about Islam - and how they can teach that to their students. Last year we reported that the 'Learning from one another' program, written by researchers associated with the *National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies (NCEIS)*, was running professional development training for primary and secondary teachers. They produced a booklet titled "*Learning from One Another: Bringing Muslim Perspectives into Australian Schools*" which contains lesson plans for many subject areas to promote Islam as positive, moderate and peaceful.

They now claim that teachers from 700 primary and secondary schools have been 'trained'. The workshops are free and morning tea and lunch are provided!

Now the NCEIS has launched a new education program - this one is focused on **Interfaith** activities and the material is now included in their workshops for teachers. The resource is called ***Practising Diversity: Engaging Muslims in Australian Schools***. The Workshop highlights a number of

schools - public, private, Catholic, Islamic and so on - that have implemented interfaith learning and activities in their teaching.

This isn't the first time the NCEIS has focused on interfaith activities. In 2008, they published a Teachers' Resource Kit on 'Multifaith', titled *Understanding the Multifaith Classroom in a Secular Society*

The 97 page booklet included information on Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The material on Islam is taken from the book on *Muslim Australians* that was published at the same time the Department of Immigration published the '*Religion, Cultural Diversity and Safeguarding Australia*' book in 2004.

Read Vickie Janson's analysis of the disturbing elements of the '*Learning from One Another*' program: <http://www.qsociety.org.au/LGRTX.pdf>

The NCEIS Resources:

For links to these documents, see our website article on this issue: <http://www.saltshakers.org.au/issues/islam/876-teaching-students-about-islam>

Prayer Update

With the turmoil which erupted in Britain earlier this month many questions were asked about why it happened and where it will happen next.

As young people face the hopelessness of humanism and the uncertainty of post modernism we need to pray for them. We also need to train them in sound Biblical doctrine and the Biblical Christian worldview.

As stated in our Editorial, they are confused, they have also been hung out to dry by

the revisionist theology of many churches, by libertarian social engineers and placating politicians.

We can blame them for their irresponsibility but society has to accept that they are a product of our time and values -

if we don't like what we see we need to ask why, and note that when we point a finger there are four pointing back at us.

Society is sick, first and foremost, because it has turned its back on God. The Church must accept some responsibility for that.



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

Matters for prayer

Marriage

Please pray about the issue of homosexual 'marriage'. With homosexual activist groups, newly formed so-called Christian groups, *GetUp!*, the Greens and some Labor MPs actively promoting homosexual 'marriage' this continues to be a key issue.

Prayer is a vital component of our action as this is a spiritual issue as well.

Change in government

The Gillard Labor government is increasingly beholden to the Greens (and their leader Bob Brown), and to the Independents, for power.

Pray that a new election will be held to restore democracy to our nation.

The Opposition

Pray for Tony Abbott and the Coalition that they would clearly outline an alternative government. Tony has strongly opposed

the carbon tax, and the Coalition opposes homosexual 'marriage', but a wider platform is needed to ensure that a new government would provide a better alternative across a range of policy issues.

State Premiers and MPs

Pray for the state premiers as they lead their respective states. Pray for all MPs as they seek to understand the issues they are dealing with.

Euthanasia

Pray that euthanasia bills around the nation is defeated. Pray that the 'medical defence' legislation in SA (a form of euthanasia legislation) is defeated.

Islam

Please pray that Islamic sharia law will not be introduced into Australia. We are already seeing some 'sharia' law in the form of Islamic finance, recognition of multiple wives and halal food.

Some good news for marriages

Marriage Week will be held from 11 – 17 September, 2011.

Dennis and Ann Outred co-ordinate Marriage Week. They write...

In Australia there are over 4 million married couples. Over 120,000 couples get married annually. Marriage is a commitment. It's about reflecting the love of God, and regarding our spouse as more important than ourselves – the Bishop of London said at the royal wedding “.. And in the Spirit of this generous God, husband and wife are to give themselves to each other.”

Marriage Week was envisioned in Australia in 2007 as an annual celebration of marriage, held during the second week of September. It is a growing coalition of individuals, churches, Christian marriage ministries and radio broadcasters.

The vision is to forge a national network of Christian churches and Christians, working together, offering resources during *Marriage Week* that will help couples reaffirm the value of, and commitment to, their marriage. The national celebration reinforces and promotes the benefits/ importance of marriage and increases awareness of the value of pre-marriage and in-marriage education, encouraging every part of the church to have an active marriage ministry, meeting the needs within its membership and wider community. It affirms that marriage is ‘the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life’ and is the foundation of healthy families, healthy children, and a healthy community.

Marriage Week is an occasion when:

- Marriages are supported and honoured throughout the week on Christian radio through interviews, listener talkback,

special devotionals and more.

- Churches individually or in unity offer occasions when married couples can celebrate their marriage and the marriages of others through dinners, renewal of vows, and other ways to further strengthen their marriage. It is also an opportunity for churches to talk with young adults about safe dating and the commitment and sanctity of marriage. Both individual couples and churches can show that marriage is important.

- We can pray for the marriages of our leaders, community and nation.



The *Marriage Investment Bank* was launched in 2011 as one of the free resources on the *Marriage Week* website. Married couples are invited to invest in their marriage by opening an account. Throughout *Marriage Week* members receive daily ideas/challenges to strengthen their marriage. It's easy, fun, and the returns on their daily investment of 30/40 minutes are high. Just sign up at the website marriageweek.org.au

The quality of our nation's marital relationships will be a determining factor in the destiny of Australia. The strength of Australian families depends on the qualities of the relationships between our nation's mothers and fathers. Therefore marriage should be encouraged, strengthened, valued and supported by society and individuals in every possible way. The local church is uniquely suited to serve these needs.

Marriage Week is part of an International movement of nations annually mobilizing leaders and events to celebrate marriage in their country.

Website and resources:
www.marriageweek.org.au

Global warming - and overpopulation

by Jenny Stokes

The issue of global warming - and the carbon tax - seems to be moving away from a debate about the 'science' and increasingly becoming a political issue. Actually, it is both a scientific and a political issue. Whether the science is true or not is vitally important. The proposed carbon tax is a political response to the perceived issue of carbon dioxide emissions. The official *IPCC* is really the 'Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change' - a political response by governments to the 'problem'.

Is the current 'global warming' agenda really about the environment? Or is it really about population control, redistribution of wealth and the collapse of industry?

Here are a few quotes to consider about 'overpopulation' ... from people who actively promote the man-made global warming 'problem' and associated causes.

On the reduction of population...

Professor Hans Schellnhuber

In March 2009, Prof Schellnhuber, head of the *Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research*, told a pre-meeting of the Copenhagen Climate Change summit "In a cynical way, it's a triumph for science, because at last we have stabilised something: namely the estimates for the carrying capacity of the planet, below one billion people."

Paul Ehrlich

Paul Ehrlich wrote *The Population Bomb* (1968), which focused on overpopulation. His book began, "The battle to feed all of humanity is over. In the 1970s hundreds of millions of people will starve to death in spite of any crash programs embarked upon now. At this late date nothing can prevent a substantial increase in the world death rate."

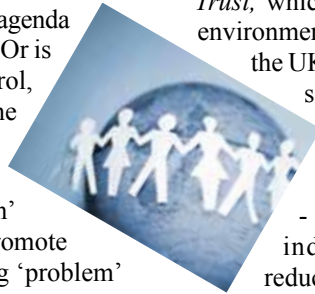
He wrote, "We must have population control at home, hopefully through a system of incentives and penalties, but by compulsion if voluntary methods fail. We must use our political power to push other countries into programs which combine agricultural development and population control."

His predictions haven't come true - but Ehrlich is now a patron of *Population Matters (PM)*, formerly the *Optimum Population Trust*, which says it is "Campaigning for environmentally sustainable populations in the UK and worldwide". In 2006, they said that the UK's population should be reduced to "20-30 million". The UK population is currently almost 62 million - however, the *OPT* gave no indication of how they would reduce the population so drastically.

They're also promoting the problem of 'climate change' - a recent *PM* press release said "At the same time, man made climate change is increasingly posing a threat to the wellbeing of all life, human and animal alike." In 2006, they linked the two issues... They said "Stopping at two children is probably the most effective action people can take to halt climate change".

Club of Rome

The *Club of Rome* is a global think tank established in 1968; one of their key concerns was overpopulation. Their 1972 report, *Limits to Growth*, claimed human overpopulation was a looming threat to civilization. In *Mankind at the Turning Point* (1974) they said, "The Earth has cancer and the cancer is Man." In 1978, when the world's population was 4.3 billion, the *Club of Rome* report, *The Goals of Mankind*, stated, "The resultant ideal sustainable population is hence more than



500 million but less than one billion.”

And on global warming, Alexander King, then head of the *Club of Rome* wrote, in his 1991 book, *The First Global Revolution*, that “new enemies must be identified” since the traditional enemies had disappeared. He wrote, “In searching for a new enemy to unite us, we came up with the idea that pollution, the threat of global warming, water shortages, famine and the like would fit the bill....”

Al Gore

Al Gore, author of *Earth in the Balance*, and foremost advocate for the global warming agenda, said, in June 2011, “One of the things we could do about it is to change the technologies, to put out less of this pollution, to stabilize the population, and one of the principle ways of doing that is to empower and educate girls and women. You have to have ubiquitous availability of fertility management so women can choose how many children they have, the spacing of the children. . . when that happens, then the population begins to stabilize and societies begin to make better choices and more balanced choices.”

Bertrand Russell

“There are three ways of securing a society that shall be stable as regards population. The first is that of birth control, the second that of infanticide or really destructive wars, and the third that of general misery except for a powerful minority.” From *The Impact of Science on Society*, 1951 pps. 103-104.

Bob Brown

Yes, Australia’s own... Speaking on *Q & A* (12/8/2010) about population in Australia and the world: “The Ehrlichs wrote *The Population Bomb* in the 1970s and they’ve been laughed at, but the serious matter is that there were 2.7 billion people when I was born onto this planet in Oberon, New South Wales. There are now seven billion and we’re headed for 11 billion and the planet - we need two or three planets to be able to provide that and we obviously don’t have them. ... Australia owes it to the rest of the world to be able to chart a way forward that’s going to be sustainable for everybody on this planet.”

Next month: The collapse of industry.

Commonwealth ‘Reforms’

The meeting of leaders of Commonwealth nations known as CHOGM will be held in Perth from 28 to 30 October 2011. Leaders from over 50 Commonwealth nations and up to 3,000 delegates are expected to attend.

CHOGM is held every two years, “to discuss global and Commonwealth issues, and to agree on collective policies and initiatives.” In 2009, CHOGM established an ‘**Eminent Persons Group**’. Their task is to “develop options for reform to sharpen the impact, strengthen the networks and raise the profile of the Commonwealth”. They will present a report to CHOGM.

But what sort of ‘reforms’ will they propose? To find the answer to that question, we need

to know who the ‘eminent persons’ are...

One of them is **Michael Kirby** - former High Court judge, open homosexual and an activist for homosexual rights. The Chairperson of the Group is **Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi**, who was the Prime Minister of Malaysia from 2003 to 2009. He is a Muslim and was the Chairman of the *Organisation of the Islamic Conference* from 2003-2007 as well as the founder patron of the *World Islamic Economic Forum* (WIEF).

So, back to the question... What sort of reforms will these men propose?

Eminent persons group: <http://www.thecommonwealth.org/subhomepage/228488/>

World News

California: Homosexuality

Last month California Governor Jerry Brown signed a radical bill into law. The bill changes public school curriculum and forces textbooks to “celebrate” homosexual, transgender and bisexual lifestyles. This will impact over nine million California public school students.

DefendChristians.org says “The rights and concerns of Christian parents for their children’s education are being denied. Abraham Lincoln rightly said, ‘The philosophy of the classroom in one generation will be the philosophy of the government in the next’.”

They note that, since California is the largest consumer of textbooks in the USA, what is in Californian textbooks will likely end up in the textbooks of other states - and even other nations! [*DefendChristians*, 1/8/2011]

UK: Sharia courts

A UK government inquiry into the rise of sharia courts in the UK has run into problems - the Muslim sharia courts refused to co-operate with the Inquiry! [*Christian.org*]

UK: Criticism for large family

David and Victoria Beckham (of soccer and Spice Girl fame) welcomed the birth of their fourth child, a girl named Harper last month and said they would like another child.

But not everyone was happy. *The Observer*, a left-leaning UK paper, ran an article titled *Beckhams a ‘bad example’ for families*, criticising the Beckhams for the size of their family. Simon Ross, executive director of the *Optimum Population Trust*, told reporter Tracy McVeigh, “One or two children are fine but three or four are just being selfish. The Beckhams . . . are very bad role models

with their large family.”

Writer Jeff Jacoby said, “With more people tend to come more progress and more prosperity. That’s why the birth of virtually any baby is cause to rejoice, and why parents who decide to raise another child bestow a gift on all of us. To be fruitful and multiply, says Genesis, is to be blessed. The parents of Harper Beckham know that, even if *The Observer* doesn’t.”

Planned Parenthood

A prolife group in the USA has published a special report calling for an investigation into the operation of *Planned Parenthood*, the largest abortion provider in the USA.

Titled ‘*The Case for Investigating Planned Parenthood*’, the 181 page report is available online: www.aul.org/aul-special-report-the-case-for-investigating-planned-parenthood/

Hungary: marriage

The new Hungarian constitution explicitly defines marriage as between a man and a woman. The Constitution was passed in April and comes into effect in January 2012.

Back in 2007, the liberal “*Alliance of Free Democrats*” proposed legalising same-sex ‘marriage’, but the Parliament’s human rights committee rejected the bill without debate. A 2007 Constitutional Court ruling defined the institution of marriage as a bond between a man and a woman. . .

Hungary has already legalised ‘registered partnerships’ for homosexuals [in July 2009].

Norway: Anders Breivik

Why did Anders Breivik kill 77 young people in Norway? Some commentators called him a “fundamentalist Christian”.

However, his own ‘manifesto’ said he didn’t have a personal Christian faith, that he had Darwinian beliefs and belonged to a freemasonry group. He also played a number of violent video games.



Ministry News

We hope to see many of you at our Annual Dinner.

This will be a great night to meet other 'Salt Shakers', as well as hear more about the worldwide ministry of Stuart and Margaret Robinson. Stuart is the author of *Mosques and Miracles* and an expert on Islam.

Jenny and Peter travelled to Canberra during August to attend the Rally FOR marriage (and against homosexual 'marriage') and to speak to MPs about this issue.

We are constantly thankful for the many people who support this Ministry.

We are a faith ministry. PLEASE keep praying, as we are, about the future of this Ministry. Peter and Jenny are not getting

any younger - especially Peter, who reaches 'pension age' early next year.

Please pray for our Board as they grapple with what this may mean, and what God has planned for the future of this ministry.

We are asking, and praying, about the hard questions relating to their future and the future of this Ministry, and we ask you to pray too.

Salt Shakers and *Resistance Thinking* continue to be challenged by the failure of so many in the church to stand firm on Biblical principles and how to respond to this situation.

An 'evangelical' Baptist church leader recently suggested that our opposition to homosexuality was based on "hate"!

We will increasingly come under this sort of pressure, so please keep praying with us and for us.

ACTION checklist: Tick the box as you complete the task

Page	Topic	Action / People to write to	Done
5	SA: Euthanasia	Contact MPs - House of Assembly & Leg Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Marriage	Contact federal MP and Senators	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Vic:Abortion	Write to Premier; NP Leader; Attorney General	<input type="checkbox"/>

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2011 Annual Dinner

Booking must close Friday Sept 16 - Don't miss out

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

Date: Saturday 24 September 2011 7.00pm - The Quest, 137 Mountain Hwy, Wantirna (Mel 63 E7)

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

Fill in your payment details below



Craving for Love - Briar Whitehead

Help for people trapped in addictive relationships and lifestyles.

Briar, formally a journalist, lives in NZ with research scientist husband Neil. They have spent many years researching sexual addiction, its causes and consequences. Briar believes that addictive forms of relating, heterosexual or homosexual, can only be changed by a radical experience of the love of God. This very human book is the result of years of research, correspondence, and mentoring of people trapped in addictive relationships.

ONLY \$30 posted



21 Reasons Why Gender Matters - Booklet \$5

A must read for parents and young adults. Parents need to know the truth about Gender so that they can help their children understand the truth about being male and female because of all the 'Gender Confusion' bombarding in magazines, in movies & from social engineers in the classroom.

ONLY \$5 posted



BABY MODELS - 10 - 12 weeks from conception, pre-born

****These soft and well detailed little 'models' have saved children's lives.****

Carry one in your pocket or handbag to show people what they looked like at just 10-12 weeks after conception. Some People will be amazed that a baby so young, still in the womb, is a 'real' baby. Women shown Ultra Sound images of their baby have subsequently refused an abortion - people seeing these model babies have reacted the same way.

ONLY \$5 each posted



Little Feet lapel pins

Remind people what their feet looked like at just 10-12 weeks after conception. Discrete conversation starters. People will ask "what are they?" And the door is open to educate about HUMAN life in the womb!

\$5 each posted
Or 3 for ONLY \$12

Price as at September 2011 - Prices may change without notification - ** Prices include GST and postage **

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