

Salt Shakers

Helping Christians make a difference

“The greatest single victory of the [homosexual] movement over the past decade has been to shift the debate from behaviour to identity, thus forcing opponents into a position where they can be seen as attacking the civil rights of homosexual citizens rather than attacking specific and (as they see it) antisocial behaviour”

Dennis Altman - Professor, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, La Trobe University - and a Homosexual.
- From his 1983 book 'The Homosexualisation of America'

Look where society is today
to see how true this was!

October 2011 AD

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Editorial

In recent months our Editorials have looked at the poor state of the Christian church, and last month we suggested this was a cause of the breakdown of society, specifically in light of recent events in Britain.

Last month (Sept 2011) a report titled, *For Kids' Sake*, was released in Australia. The report concluded that children need a mum and a dad and that the breakdown of marriage in Australia was having an extremely detrimental affect on children and young people. It also clearly suggested that children do best when raised by their two biological parents who are married.

Many social commentators saw the relevance of the arguments contained in the report, which was commissioned by the *Australian Christian Lobby* and authored by Professor Patrick Parkinson of the University of Sydney, as an argument against same-sex 'marriage'.

Whilst the ACL are to be commended for commissioning the report, it is sad that they did not do so before embarking on a campaign to endorse the legal recognition of same-sex relationships through State based 'Registers' and then giving support to the 84 'equality' laws subsequently passed by the Labor government which gave same-sex 'couples' all the same Commonwealth 'rights', and benefits' given to heterosexual married and *de facto* couples, thus undermining the very institution this report appears to promote.

Almost immediately, homosexual activists responded by claiming that the report simply promoted marriage - and so that should include same-sex 'marriage'.

As always, they chose to totally ignore all the evidence that children need their

biological mum and dad.

They embarked on a campaign of intimidation against Prof Parkinson which resulted in him rebuking commentators who seized on it to oppose same-sex 'marriage' and same-sex couples raising children.

One might have expected that most Christian leaders across the country would have spoken out in support of the report, and taken the opportunity to voice their opposition to same-sex 'marriage' - especially as many of them had already lined up with ACL's flawed plan to 'save marriage' by supporting same-sex 'Relationship Registers'.

Alas, a search of *Google News* resulted in not finding any such comments.

Once again, the fear of man, was stronger than a preparedness to stand on the Word of God. It seems they simply did not want to rock the boat.

Rarely are Christians prepared to speak plainly about this issue because they fear the inevitable opposition and name calling that comes from taking a stand. Or they use the often trotted out 'line' that "Christians cannot tell non-Christians how best to live their lives". How sad.

I know we seem to be going on about 'Marriage' a lot lately, but there has never been a time in history when this wonderful God-given relationship 'arrangement' has been so under threat.

It is a tough place to stand but the truth is necessary at all times, not just when it is well received.

For one man's bold stand in support of marriage, see, *'When the stones cry out'* on page 12.

Yours in His service
Peter and Jenny Stokes



Is the West now doomed?

by Murray Adamthwaite PhD

According to what not only Christian writers have been saying for some time now, but also secular historians, and journalists of various sorts, are daring now to observe, Western civilization is fast declining to the point of collapse. One example of the latter is John Carroll, in his book *The Wreck of Western Culture*, published in 2004. Carroll is no Christian. He's really an old-fashioned humanist, yet he sees Western civilization making a "headlong tumble into contradiction and crisis".

Hence, some observations are in order as to where we are in the history of the West. The first thing to observe is that this story has, in large part, been the history of 'Christendom'.

What is 'Christendom'? How and when did this phenomenon begin?

While historians will often point to the Roman emperor Constantine, as far as Western Europe is concerned it begins around AD 500, after the fall of the Roman Empire. During the fifth century this once great Empire faded away until it officially ceased to exist in AD 476. The barbarian tribes of Europe then occupied the power vacuum, but the institutional Church survived the collapse and now wielded considerable political power in its own right. To "Christianise" the kings (really chieftains) of the various tribal groups was to establish Christendom, now a major missionary aim of a politically conscious church hierarchy (although the term itself came later).

Clovis, king of the Franks, was baptised into Trinitarian Christianity in Rheims at Christmas-time, c 500 AD (give or take 2-3 years), setting in motion the move to a Mediaeval Europe dominated by the Roman

Church and "Christian" kings. This reached a kind of climax exactly 300 years later when Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne as "King of the Romans", thus creating the phenomenon of the "Holy Roman Empire" which lasted, in fits and starts, for the next 1000 years. Thus Christendom came into being, whose demise many of us have witnessed in our lifetime.

"Christendom" is the state of affairs which we grew up with: Christianity

What is 'Christendom'? How and when did this phenomenon begin?

and its morals were respected and upheld; churches were likewise respected and its ministers and pastors were held in esteem; the Bible was revered as authoritative (at least to a degree) and a quotation from Scripture was held as having force. Christian morals were respected, even by people who had no personal Christian

commitment; for example, sex outside of marriage was frowned on, profane language was kept within bounds, and out of the hearing of women; Sunday was respected as a day of rest. And we could go on.

All this was Christendom, however; not real Christianity. It had its good side, and its bad side. Whatever, for our purposes now, it has gone, and gone for good. The institutional church, whatever its denominational stripe, is attacked on a daily basis; while clergy are lampooned, and worse still, sought out as perpetrators of evil crimes. Christians are now treated with suspicion of all manner of possible misdemeanours, and regarded as an unwelcome and barely-tolerated minority. The Bible is dismissed as an "ancient religious text", and because of, say, evolution, it is seen as false, outdated, and of no authority at all.

If possible, cast your mind back to 1964, when the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsay, came to these shores, and in both interviews and public statements proclaimed that this was a “post-Christian society”. Such sentiments caused something of a riot at the time, but he had a genuine point; only he called it by the wrong name, which brought unnecessary opprobrium on his head. Hence, if the word is modified from “Christian” to “Christendom” the statement is true - even in 1964; much more so now. It is a post-Christendom world.

This is the world into which we have moved: one controlled in part by the militant and godless political left, with its global totalitarian aspirations; then also there is the spectre of the religio-theocratic system of Islam. Whatever the source, persecution now reigns in a multitude of countries, and it is increasing in Western countries, albeit in a somewhat different form.

The secular media, as the organ of the godless state, leads the charge against all forms of Christianity: they will trumpet every scandal in the church (regrettably, plenty of fodder there!); they will marginalise any attempt at a Christian voice in the public arena, under the pretext of “separation of church and state”: they trumpet the latest theory of unbelief, particularly at Easter time (think of the ABC). We are for them, as Paul notes in his own time, the scum of the earth (1 Cor.4:13). This is how Christianity was regarded in the early centuries; and we have now returned to those times. Again, the era of Christendom is over!

How do we live in a Post-Christendom World?

All this may well seem very depressing to many, and many will despair. But there are

many ways and aspects in which the end of Christendom is a blessing for the Church. For example, the age when people “became Christian” because it was fashionable and socially desirable has gone. Good-bye and good riddance!

(i) Worship will change

Now I like the so-called traditional service, but at the same time it is part of the Christendom legacy. “Going to church” is part of the language of that legacy; it is not in the New Testament.

But let’s face it: there are countries in the world where Christians can’t sing anything - for fear of discovery. And the politically correct insanity could well come here: that we can’t sing anything because it will offend someone! Already some local councils are moving against *Carols by Candlelight*

services at Christmas time, on the grounds that they will offend some or other group. What this means is that worship will possibly become more personalised and informal. But we need to look at worship in the ancient church, for it is in that situation we now find ourselves.

(ii) Associations will change

We will have to find fellowship with Christians of persuasions

we have tended to shy away from. Certain evangelical and fundamentalist groups, and some Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians, will be part of a wider fellowship as persecution and hostility throw us together. This is not to say that doctrinal differences no longer matter. They do, and we must be clear about them; but keep them as “in house” controversies.

(iii) Persecution will increase

The persecution is on in full fury in North Korea, China, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Central Asia, to name a few; but

**The eternal
God is your
refuge, and
underneath
are the
everlasting
arms**

in the “West” Christianity is increasingly criminalised and the clouds are gathering at a fast pace here too. In such an environment we will find some strange bedfellows, while others we thought would support us will turn traitor. It has always been so. Witness how the word “evangelical” has largely lost its meaning, with, for example, such basic doctrines as justification by faith alone, and eternal punishment, now ‘up for discussion’ by some professed evangelicals as we have not seen since the Reformation.

(iv) Our security is in the Lord alone

For all these centuries the church has relied on a sympathetic state; we have trusted conservative politicians to keep the godless radicals at bay, we have looked to an earth that helps the woman (Rev 12:16), but we are now thrown completely on our God and His Christ. Take comfort from Israel: as they entered the Promised Land there were all sorts of enemies around: marauding

tribes, hostile mini-states, a vicious enemy within the land, but look at Deuteronomy 33:26-29. “The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms”. That was the promise as they entered in to the Promised Land, and then overthrew all their pagan enemies.

So Deuteronomy 33:27 remains our promised security too. And there is far more blessing in this promise than ever there was in ‘Christendom’, for under that regime Christians became comfortable and ‘went to sleep’.

Through all this, let us remember, “Look up, for your redemption draws near!” (Luke 21:28). I believe that this injunction is more relevant than ever at this time.

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

Transsexuality - Gender for passports



“On Wednesday 14 September 2011, the government announced new guidelines to make it easier for sex and gender diverse people to get a passport in their preferred gender. Under the guidelines, sex reassignment surgery will no longer be a prerequisite to issue a passport in a person’s preferred gender.” So reads the new section on the *Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade* official **Passports** website <https://www.passports.gov.au/>

The *Passport Office* says this is in “line with the Australian [Labor] Government’s commitment to remove discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or sex and gender identity”

The policy will apply to transgender people who are ‘transitioning’ to the opposite

gender, without them having surgery. The policy also applies to intersex people.

In recent years, several transsexuals, who have not had ‘sex reassignment surgery’ have lobbied the government to change the policy to allow them to have passports in their chosen gender without officially changing their birth certificate - some states won’t allow a birth certificate to be changed unless surgery has been done. In one case a Tribunal ruled that the person could have the passport, in other cases individual decisions have been made to allow the change.

Now the federal government has changed the policy so all transsexuals can choose to change their gender on their passport - without having surgery and with their birth certificate specifying the opposite gender! We might well ask, “What is truth?”

News & Action

SA - Euthanasia

Labor MP Steph Key's "Medical Defences – End of Life Arrangements" Bill was scheduled for its 'Committee stage' and final vote in the SA House of Assembly (lower house) on 29 September. Ros Phillips, of *FamilyVoice*, says "Incredibly, this bill passed the second reading vote a month or so ago, without dissent. Ms Key still insists that this bill is not about "euthanasia" – saying that many MPs had concerns about her earlier "Voluntary Euthanasia" Bill, but they "did not have the same concerns about the medical defence bill".

Ros says, "She keeps saying this, even though the *Australian Medical Association* and the *SA Law Society* have both condemned the bill as **euthanasia without safeguards** in a front page article in *The Advertiser*.

Even though this isn't 'officially' a euthanasia bill it is being proposed by the same people who support the legalisation of euthanasia.

ACTION: If you live in South Australia, please contact ALL members of the Legislative Council - ask them to vote against this 'Medical Defences' Bill.

Uniting Church clergy

Two openly homosexual people - a man and a woman - were recently appointed to lead two different Uniting Churches in Sydney.

The homosexual website, *same-same*, says "both were selected by their congregations in full knowledge of their sexuality."

Reverend Nicole Fleming was inducted as minister of Balmain Uniting Church and Rev Ben Gilmour became the minister at Paddington Uniting Church.

Relationship Register

Cairns Regional Council is planning to introduce a Relationships Register. They are consulting with Councils in Melbourne, Sydney and Tasmania that have already introduced similar registers for homosexual and heterosexual couples.

Territory Powers Bill

The Labor caucus recently decided to support Greens leader Bob Brown's bill on 'Territory Powers'. If this Bill is passed, the power of the government to overrule legislation passed by the Territories (such as NT and ACT) is diminished.

The Bill was sent to a Committee for scrutiny because some Labor Senators are concerned that the Bill could allow the ACT to pass same-sex 'marriage' laws.

The Senate passed the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Amendment (Disallowance and Amendment Power of the Commonwealth) Bill 2010* on August 18, 2011 by 35 votes to 29. The Coalition voted against the Bill.

Amendments proposed by the Coalition were defeated. The Bill still has to pass the House of Representatives.

ACTION: Please contact your MP in the House of Representatives - ask them to vote against this Bill. Send letters to Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600.

Inquiry into the media

The Labor government has given in to demands by the Greens to hold an 'Inquiry' into the media. The Inquiry will consider the issue of privacy and whether media regulators have adequate powers. Communications Minister, Stephen Conroy, said that the Inquiry will not look into allegations of media bias or the concentration of print media ownership.

[SMH, 13/9/2011]



Homosexuals and foster care

Over the years some aid agencies and governments have altered policies to allow homosexual couples to be 'foster carers' for needy children.

Many years ago, we noted that some welfare agencies were advertising in the homosexual press for foster carers and actively recruiting them at homosexual events. Some agencies claimed they had decided to recruit homosexual couples as 'foster carers' because of 'anti-discrimination laws.'

A Baptist agency in Melbourne placed such an advertisement - fortunately, after complaints to the organisation and the denomination, the agency ceased advertising for homosexuals to be foster carers. *Barnardos* was another welfare agency placing advertisements in the homosexual press - they, and a Uniting Church agency called *Burnside*, place foster children with homosexuals.

The truth is that children who are placed in foster care desperately need a normal home with a mum and a dad to provide stability and good role models. An example of what happens when children are placed in inappropriate homes occurred last month to a boy placed with a lesbian couple by *Barnardos*.

The *Daily Telegraph* reported (12/9/2011) "A SIX-year-old boy placed in the care of a lesbian foster couple was dressed in girl's clothes and the humiliating pictures were posted on the couple's Facebook page. One of the women was preparing for a sex change to become a man at the time, while her girlfriend was undergoing fertility treatment."

Fortunately, the boy was removed from the lesbian couple and placed with other foster carers. His 12-year-old sister had also been

placed with the couple but had previously been removed when 'the placement didn't work out'.

Former Children's Court magistrate Barbara Holborow has called for a full inquiry into the decision to place the children with the lesbian couple. NSW Families Minister Pru Goward demanded a full explanation from child welfare service *Barnardos*, which had recruited the couple.

How many children are placed with homosexual 'foster carers'?

No-one knows, since they are often treated 'equally' with heterosexual married couples.

This case only came to light when the mother of the boy went to the NSW Supreme Court in a bid to win back custody of her son, who was taken into care in 2006 at the age of 18 months. The Supreme Court judgment was posted in August 2011 in *Children's Law News*.

Religious groups & foster care

Religious groups in NSW are allowed to choose not to give foster care children to homosexuals, following a decision by the *NSW Administrative Decisions Tribunal* in December 2010 (we reported on the decision in our April 2011 journal, p17).

Wesley Dalmar Services, part of *Wesley Mission*, refused to allow a homosexual couple to be foster carers for a child. The couple made a complaint under NSW anti-discrimination law, and the *Administrative Decisions Tribunal* initially found against *Wesley* and ordered them to pay the couple \$10,000. An appeals panel set aside the decision and ordered the Tribunal to reconsider the case. The tribunal then found the discrimination was "in conformity" with the church's doctrine.



The calendar and political correctness

by Jenny Stokes

On a recent visit to the *Museum of Australian Democracy*, at the Old Parliament House in Canberra, we noticed that the 'Time line' of democracy in the display in the old Parliamentary Library showed the dates in CE and BCE - meaning 'Common Era' and 'Before Common Era' - instead of the standard BC and AD.

That's the politically correct way of writing dates. Jesus Christ is 'removed' from the dating system we have had for millennia. This is a growing trend, with the new national curriculum for Australia now proposing that these terms be used in all curriculum in Australia. More on that later...

BC and AD - based on Christ

Since our calendar system was established in AD 525, it has measured time in the number of years before and after the estimated time of the birth of Jesus Christ. The terms BC - Before Christ - and AD - *Anno Domini*, in the year of our Lord - have been used since then. The Gregorian calendar, introduced by Pope Gregory in 1582, continued with the same year numbering system but changed the length of a year in line with the latest scientific discoveries.

There is some debate about the actual year of Christ's birth, with some scholars putting his birth at possibly 4 BC or 5 BC. However, the principle is that the central point of history is the birth, life and death of Christ.

CE and BCE

Secularists, or those who want to remove the influence and heritage of Christianity in the world, have promoted the use of the terms CE (Common Era) and BCE (Before Common Era).

Ironically, the years in this secular naming system are exactly the same. The number

of years is still the time before and after the birth of Christ - they just don't want to acknowledge the influence or importance of Jesus Christ.

Some religious groups use different calendars which result in different 'year' dates. Jews and Muslims both use calendars based on lunar cycles. The Jewish calendar is based on the years since creation - *Anno Mundi*, meaning "in the year of the world" - their current year is 5771. Muslims date their calendar from the year that Muhammad migrated from Mecca to Medina, known as the Hijra - they currently have a year of 1432 AH.

National curriculum

There is now a proposal that the Australian National Curriculum use the terms CE and BCE instead of the traditional BC and AD.

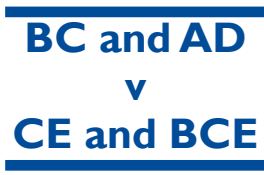
The curriculum proposal also suggests using the term BP, which means 'Before Present'.

But you say, as we did when we heard it, the 'present' is always changing.

Apparently, Before Present (BP) is a time scale used in archaeology, geology, and other scientific disciplines to specify when events in the past occurred. Because the "present" time changes, standard practice is to use AD 1950 as the origin of the age scale, reflecting the fact that radiocarbon dating became practicable in the 1950s.

Of course, the fact that radiocarbon dating is unreliable and relies on assumptions about the amount of carbon and uniform changes is totally ignored!

A spokesman for the *Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority*, responsible for developing the national curriculum from kindergarten



to Year 12, said BCE and CE were to be introduced because this was an increasingly common standard for the representation of dates.

Christian leaders have expressed concern about the proposal.

Anglican Archbishop Peter Jensen said that removing BC and AD from the curriculum was an “intellectually absurd attempt to write Christ out of human history. It is absurd because the coming of Christ remains the centre point of dating and because the phrase ‘common era’ is meaningless and misleading”. He said that it was akin to calling Christmas the ‘festive season’.¹

Miranda Devine criticised this latest example of political correctness, and reports that the federal Education Minister, Adrian Piccoli, was not concerned about the proposal, saying that BCE and CE were commonly used terms.

However, federal Opposition education spokesman Christopher Pyne said: “Australia is what it is today because of the foundations of our nation in the Judeo-Christian heritage that we inherited from Western civilisation. Kowtowing to political correctness by the embarrassing removal of AD and BC in our national curriculum is of

a piece with the fundamental flaw of trying to deny who we are as a people.”

We agree!

ACTION 1: Please write to the **Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)**, the body responsible for the development of the National Curriculum. Ask them to use the terms BC and AD instead of using CE and BCE. You could note that these terms still use the date of Jesus Christ’s birth as the defining line and the terms BC and AD more accurately reflect the truth.

ACTION 2: Please write to the **Museum of Parliamentary Democracy**. Ask them to use the terms BC and AD. They have told us they are seeking feedback on the use of CE and BCE, so we need to let them know our views! Send your letters to PO Box 7088, Canberra BC ACT 2610.

Third, please write to your federal MPs about these two matters!

References:

1. *The PC brigade kills off Jesus Christ*, Miranda Devine, *Daily Telegraph*, 2/9/2011.
<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/sydney-nsw/the-pc-brigade-kills-off-jesus-christ/story-e6freuzi-1226127656036>



Julia Gillard and Emily’s List

We’ve frequently reported that *Emily’s List* is the group within the Labor Party that promotes feminist ideals such as gender equity, childcare and the right to abortion. The group assists women who support these ideals to get elected to parliaments around Australia. Julia Gillard was one of the founding members of *Emily’s List*.

On 13 September 2011 she gave the “*Inaugural*

Emily’s List Oration” in Canberra. In her speech she proclaimed the success of *Emily’s List*. She didn’t specifically mention abortion - but she did praise the women who “affirmed the right of every woman to a life of opportunity, freedom and choice” and spoke of “Modern choices for modern women”.

Read the speech at: <http://www.pm.gov.au/press-office/inaugural-emilys-list-oration-canberra>



Message to fathers

Happy Fathers Day!

Dads, there are no short cuts to building a healthy, loving, and caring family. It requires hard work, commitment, tears, time and sacrifice.

There is no government program that can fix a family if the father is not there. Be there for your family.

Put your arm round your child and tell them that you love them, care and provide for them. Create fun and happy times that they will remember.

Fathers, are you teaching your children that right is right and wrong is wrong, how to honour, obey and respect? Are you the role model that your child will look back and say "my Dad was the best".

Children will not always do what they are told, they will do what they see! Children will remember your actions, behaviour and words and unconditional love.

To my dear Dad, Happy 94th Birthday and Happy Fathers Day. Thank you for ALL your love and support, I love you too.

Judith Bond, Glen Alpine NSW
Macarthur Advertiser 31/8/2011

Drug and alcohol free venue

What motivates Cr Buman's sniping at *The Lofi*?

This Youth Arts & Cultural Centre was the 2010 Winner of the *National Drug and Alcohol Awards for Excellence in Services to Young People*.

Participants and parents know that, as well as giving excellent training, it is a very safe venue, because of its zero tolerance of alcohol and other drugs on the premises.

Christina Naylor, Mayfield NSW
Newcastle Herald, 9/9/2011



To those who didn't strike

To the teachers who did not strike, you are to be commended.

Your actions and behaviour will make more impact than what you say.

Values are caught, not taught.

Judith Bond, Glen Alpine NSW
Sydney Morning Herald 9/9/2011

Other side-effects of smoking are horrific

A report in *The Guardian* (UK) on July 12, tells a frightening story of horrendous birth defects caused by women smoking during pregnancy.

It says, in part, "Doctors are urging mothers-to-be to give up cigarettes after new research linked smoking in pregnancy to babies suffering birth defects such as clubfoot, missing limbs and deformed limbs".

Those who smoke while expecting a baby increase the risk of their child being born with a serious malformation by as much as 50 per cent, the study found.

The disclosure led to calls for new measures to reduce what the authors called "staggeringly high" levels of smoking among pregnant women.

Although smoking by pregnant women has already been linked to a higher risk of a woman having a miscarriage or her baby being born prematurely or having a low birth weight, 45 per cent of women under 20 do so while one in seven is still a smoker when she gives birth.

The biggest increase in risk, apparently, is for the baby having a birth defect called gastroschisis, in which part of its stomach or intestines protrude through the skin, requiring complex reparative surgery.

It seems the scary pictures to be placed on cigarette packets could well be augmented by pictures of awful birth deformities, if our government in Canberra wants to curb one of the previously unrecognised horrific effects of smoking.

Arthur Comer, Sebastopol
The Courier, 15/7/2011

Where have all the letter writers gone?

Is it that they are not being written, or are they written but not being printed?

Are you sending us those which ARE printed?

We would like to know!

Do Christians support homosexual ‘marriage’?

If you believe the media, you might think Australian Christians support homosexual ‘marriage’. Claims were recently made that an ‘opinion poll’ shows the majority of Australians - and the “majority of Christians” - support homosexual ‘marriage’.

The *Galaxy* poll asked 1060 Australians whether same-sex couples should be allowed to marry and also asked about religious affiliation - giving the options: Christian (Catholic, Anglican, Other Christian), Other Religion and No Religion.

The survey found that support for same-sex ‘marriage’ is 60% overall, 53% among Christians, 62% for those of other religions and 67% for people with no religion.

However, we always need to take a close look at such polls - who commissioned it, what questions were asked and so on. The Poll was commissioned by homosexual lobby group, *Australians for Marriage Equality*



and was released when *AME* launched the group *Christians4Equality*, the group of Christians who fully support homosexual ‘marriage’.

Regarding the question about religion, people were asked ‘What is your religion, if any?’ Of those asked, 49% of people said ‘Christian’. However, there was no further question about how committed they are as Christians - church attendance, beliefs and so on. However, only 19% of people attend church at least once a month (*NCLS*, 2003) and far fewer attend weekly, so these 49% who said ‘Christian’ are not regular church attenders! A similar situation applies in the census, where 64% of people who answered the ‘religion’ question said they were ‘Christian’ in 2006.

Thus, this poll doesn’t give a realistic perspective of what Bible-believing Christians *really* think about homosexual ‘marriage’!

Update - homosexual ‘marriage’

On 24 August, 30 MPs reported to the House of Representatives about homosexual ‘marriage’ - in response to Greens MP Adam Bandt’s motion asking MPs to consult their electorates. Of the 30 MPs, only six said their electorates were in favour of homosexual ‘marriage’.

The ALP National Conference is coming up in December - so it is vital to write to all your federal MPs and Senators, telling them you don’t support homosexual ‘marriage’, and asking them to oppose it. Send letters to Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600.

Senate vote

On July 7, 2011 the Greens put a motion on same-sex ‘marriage’ to a vote in the Senate.

The motion called on the Australian government to “support marriage equality for all Australian citizens”. The ALP and Coalition Senators voted against the Greens motion - it was defeated by 31 votes to 9.

Parliamentary ‘friends’ forum

The *Parliamentary Friends of LGBTI Australians* group held a forum at Parliament House on 13 September - Liberal MPs Malcolm Turnbull and Warren Entsch, Greens Christine Milne and Labor MPs Anthony Albanese, Peter Garrett, Stephen Conroy, Louise Pratt, Doug Cameron and Penny Wong attended.

Telstra was the **sponsor** of the event and *Telstra* executive Paul Geason spoke about supporting diversity in the workplace.

When the stones cry out

by Peter Stokes

As Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem his followers cried out in support, but the Jews called on Jesus to stop them. He replied, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."

Today, it seems this is also happening with regard to marriage and the natural family.

While I am not suggesting ex-Victorian Premier, Jeff Kennett, is a stone or reflecting on whether or not he is a Christian, he certainly spoke out last month in support for heterosexual marriage in a way few Christian leaders have done for a long time.

Jeff has been running *beyondblue*, a group focusing on addressing the problem of depression, since leaving the Victorian Parliament - and his leadership of that group, just as his politics, has not been without controversy.

A lot of the controversy about *beyondblue* has come from groups trying to normalise same-sex relationships; groups that ignore the evidence that homosexuality is fraught with associated mental problems, including depression. But Jeff hasn't swallowed the rhetoric that those problems come from discrimination and from comments from people like us who won't accept same-sex attraction, orientation, or practice, as 'normal'.

Jeff has seen first hand the effect of broken marriages and dysfunctional relationships on children and young people, and he recently wrote in the *Herald Sun*, "*There is no substitute for parents of both genders. Happy heterosexual marriages are the best environment for the mental health of children. Many people think - but have been afraid to express it - that married couples in a loving relationship provide our children the best opportunity to prepare for*

a fulfilling and happy life."

Note his comment "but have been afraid to express it". Christian leaders, please take note!

Jeff continued, "*A report released this week, titled For Kids' Sake and authored by Professor Patrick Parkinson of the University of Sydney, is a sober reminder of this. It says, in part: "The wellbeing of Australia's children and young adults has declined sharply in the past decade, and ...sliding marriage rates are partly to blame"*.

**There
is no
substitute
for parents
of both
genders.**

During my 11-year leadership of beyondblue, the national depression initiative, I have become increasingly concerned that so many children starting out in primary school are already stressed and anxious - at only five years old.

Sadly, in most cases this stress and anxiousness is a direct result of the family learning pattern many children receive and observe at home.

I further contend that the first seven years of a child's life are the most important as this sets the values for children for the rest of their lives.

Clearly the best environment in which to bring a child into the world is a stable, loving environment in which a male and female are married to each other. . .

A loving environment, where the young child observes good practices, is more important than any instruction that attempts to set values such as respect, honesty, punctuality, hard work, reward and, importantly, love.

The second point I would make is that when marriages break down and the children of that marriage are young, the breakdown

can have a profound effect on the children of that marriage.

So often I have heard adults from a broken marriage respond: "They are handling it well," when asked how the children are managing the break-up. Sadly, that is so often superficial.

While on the surface the children may be handling the break-up well, many are internally traumatised. That can lead to so many issues developing not only in the short-term but later in life.

Many adults I have spoken to about their depressive illnesses have referred back to an unhappy childhood and/or the separation of their parents.

Sadly, many adults take their marriage vows lightly. It is perhaps an indication of the plastic society we live in today, where everything is changeable and tradeable. When challenges arise, some people feel it is best not to work through them but to walk away from the responsibilities that are a part of every relationship.

With changes to family law in the 1970s, many marriages have become more easily disposable. This should never be the case, particularly when children are involved.

As adults I think it is incumbent on us to do all we can as parents to resolve issues within a marriage, in the interests of those we have seen fit to bring into the world. Or at least until they have reached a mature age to handle any separation of parents ...

Many people ask me why there is so much stress, anxiety and depression in Australia, so often referred to as "the lucky country". The answers are many, but one which is patently clear is the breakdown in marriages and the declining number of marriages within our society.

Professor Parkinson, in the recommendations within his 'For Kids Sake' report, has

strongly recommended that the Federal Government should fund many activities.

I have a concern with this approach because governments, federal and state, are already funding research and programs, and because such a recommendation again removes responsibility from individuals and attempts to transfer it to governments. But governments are not the trend-setters in values, or good behaviour. We as individuals are, and we must again accept responsibility for ourselves, our behaviour and the examples we set for our children.

All we can do is give our children the best possible opportunity in which to start their lives - being part of a family that is based on a marriage, in a loving relationship, that stands the test of time." [Herald Sun, 9/9/2011]

Clearly, this is the message all church leaders and pastors should have been stating, even shouting - but did they? NO!

Jeff is right, governments "are not the trend-setters in values, or good behaviour." But this should be one

the role of the church, the sad truth today though, is that many churches are NOT the trend-setters in values, or good behaviour.

We want to point the finger at governments, but, as we have said so many times before, when we point a finger at someone else there are three pointing back at us.

If church leaders, churches, and a majority of individual Christians had consistently stood firm against divorce, and could speak with the confidence Jeff does about marriage, and had also upheld the importance of sexual purity, things may well be different today.

Instead, a growing number have been seduced by the propaganda used by the devil to normalise promiscuity, infidelity and/or same-sex relationships. We face an imminent social disaster if we do not speak out today.

Sadly, many adults take their marriage vows lightly.

Strained Relations: The Challenge of Homosexuality

Bill Muehlenberg has just published a book called *Strained Relations: The Challenge of Homosexuality*.

Bill has been studying and writing on the issue of homosexuality for nearly 20 years. When *Salt Shakers* was first started, in 1994, Bill was a member of the Board and was working with the *Australian Family Association*. His research paper on homosexuality grew over the years. Bill wrote, in a recent blog, "What started out as a ten-page research paper nearly two decades ago has mushroomed into a 270-page book with over 700 footnotes (707 to be exact)."

The publishers overview of the book reads "This comprehensive and thoroughly documented volume deals with every aspect of the homosexual debate, including lengthy chapters on homosexual marriage



and adoption rights.

"The book also examines the biblical and theological material on this subject, rebutting the wild theories of the theological revisionists. With over 700 footnotes, this is the most extensively researched and referenced volume on this topic available in Australia."

If you want to know about the growth of the homosexual agenda in Australia, about the theological implications and the current issues, this is a book you must read.

Visit Bill's website, *Culture Watch* - at <http://www.billmuehlenberg.com/>

Purchase Bill's book...

We have copies available at the office - please see the Cover Sheet for ordering details. The book is also available from *Koorong* and *Freedom Publishing*.

March for the Babies

The annual *March for the Babies* will be held in Melbourne on **Saturday 8 October**.

Book the date in your diary NOW! Bring your family and friends and swell the crowd.

The annual *March for the Babies* marks the passing of the *Abortion Law Reform Act* by the Victorian Parliament on 10 October 2008. The Act allows abortion at the woman's request for any reason, up to 24 weeks - and abortion up to birth so long as two doctors sign to say that they agree that the abortion is "appropriate", based on medical OR "the woman's current and future physical, psychological and social circumstances." (Part 2, Section 5)

The Keynote Speaker at the March is American pro-life

activist Cindy Collins, who is the director of a centre which counsels post-abortive women.

The March begins at 2 pm on Saturday 8 October. Please assemble at Cnr Clarendon St & Wellington Pde, East Melbourne (near Hilton Hotel, Melway ref 2G C4) by 1.45 pm. The March will proceed via the 'Fertility Control Clinic' to the steps of Parliament House

Cindy Collins will also speak at a special event, hosted by CDP, on the Saturday evening following the March. The evening meeting is at the Church of Christ, Richmond (Cnr Coppin and Murphy Street Richmond) - 6.00 pm sausage sizzle, meeting begins at 7.30 pm.



Prayer Update

Last month we headlined our prayer notes with concern for the Christians overseas who were led astray by a false teacher.

This month we want to focus on the disarray within the Australian church. False teachers abound today - theological revisionism is rife and so is the acceptance of immorality **WITHIN** the church.

This makes it very hard for people to know what being a “Christian” really means and leads people to see Christianity as irrelevant.

- Pray for the Christians still standing boldly on the truth of the Bible - in the Church, our parliaments and in the community.
- Please pray that Christians will be encouraged to ‘Stand and fight the good fight’
- Pray that all those involved in theological revisionism and the acceptance of immorality would have a dramatic encounter with Jesus Christ, just as Paul did, and be asked “Why are you persecuting Me?”
- Pray that they will be ‘improved’ or ‘removed’ from their positions of authority in the church or the nation.
- Pray for God’s grace to be shown, by Christians, to all those struggling against or caught up with same-sex thoughts or sexual confusion, bisexuality and transgenderism
- Pray for heterosexuals who are engaged in wrong thoughts and action - promiscuity

and adultery - to receive the same healing.

- Pray that the whole church in Australia, will fear God more than man, and be prepared, despite the inevitable opposition, to stand firmly on the truth of the living Word of God.

- Pray that those who condemn, and show anger towards, those with sexual addictions will repent and reach out in love for the person, while continuing to stand firm against the sin.

We must love the sinner, but not the sin.

Political issues

- Please pray against the continued attack on marriage and the natural family
- Pray that Christians will continue to inform their MPs of their **OPPOSITION** to any changes to the Marriage Act and **AGAINST ANY** legal recognition (normalisation) of same-sex relationships.
- Pray for the repeal of Victoria’s abortion laws, the repeal of anti-vilification laws and anti-discrimination law and the removal of same-sex relationship and adoption laws across the country.
- Pray for Attorneys-General Robert Clark (Vic) and Greg Smith (NSW) who are Christians – that they will be given Godly wisdom and sound judgment.
- Pray that **NO** legislation legalising euthanasia will be passed in Australia.



Thank you to all those who attended the Marriage Day Rally, and the anti-Carbon tax Rally which followed, at the federal parliament.

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

Global warming & the collapse of industry

by Jenny Stokes

The question... “Is the current global warming/climate change agenda actually about orchestrating the collapse of industrialised nations?”

“Surely not!”, I hear you respond.

Here are comments from three people who promote the ‘global warming’ agenda. . .

Bob Brown

Greens leader Bob Brown is on the record as calling for the closure of coal-fired power stations and Australia’s coal industry. In June 2011 he told *Insiders*, “You know the coal industry has to be replaced by renewables”. Australia’s coal industry, including exports, directly and indirectly employs about 140,000 people and contributes \$60 billion to Australia’s export revenue.

Can Australia function without electricity produced by coal-fired power stations? The short answer is ‘No’. The renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind, are not capable of providing base-load power for industry. Closing coal-fired power stations would inevitably lead to the destruction of Australia’s industries, and thus our economy. Even more manufacturing would go to China, where ‘dirty coal’ is often used to provide power for industry.

Paul Ehrlich

Paul Ehrlich, Professor of Population Studies at Stanford University, has spoken a lot about over-population. In 1989, he called on the world to cut its energy use in half within 20 years and said, “A massive campaign must be launched to de-develop the United States. De-development means bringing our economic system into line with the realities of ecology and the world resource situation.”

In the 1973 book, *Human Ecology*, which

was co-authored by Paul and Anne Ehrlich along with John Holdren (who is now the director of the *White House Office of Science and Technology Policy*), there was also a call for the redistribution of wealth.

“The need for de-development presents our economists with a major challenge,” they wrote. “They must design a stable, low-consumption economy in which there is a much more equitable distribution of wealth than in the present one. Redistribution of wealth both within and among nations is absolutely essential, if a decent life is to be provided to every human being.”

Maurice Strong

Maurice Strong ran the UN Environment Program, ran the *Earth Summit* in Rio in 1992, and facilitated the first United Nations *Conference on the Human Environment*, held in Stockholm in 1972.

In his opening speech at the *Earth Summit*, he said *“Current lifestyles and consumption patterns of the affluent middle class – involving high meat intake, use of fossil fuels, appliances, air-conditioning, and suburban housing – are not sustainable.”*

In an interview with *National Review* magazine, in September 1997, he said, *“If we don’t change, our species will not survive... Frankly, we may get to the point where the only way of saving the world will be for industrial civilization to collapse.”*

Regarding global government, he wrote, in 1992, *“It is simply not feasible for sovereignty to be exercised unilaterally by individual nation-states, however powerful. It is a principle which will yield only slowly and reluctantly to the imperatives of global environmental cooperation.”*

**If we don't
change,
our
species
will not
survive...**

Government promotes 'Multiculturalism'

The Australian federal government has re-affirmed their support for the policy of 'multiculturalism'. The Gillard government launched a new Multiculturalism policy - *The People of Australia* - in February 2011. Ironically, this was at the same time leaders of several European nations were announcing that the policy of multiculturalism is flawed and they no longer support it. German Chancellor Angela Merkel made that pronouncement in October 2010, followed by UK Prime Minister David Cameron and French President Nicolas Sarkozy in February 2011.

Was the announcement of the new Australian multiculturalism policy a response to a huge lobbying initiative organised by the *Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA)*, the peak national body for multicultural Australians, which released a media statement in November 2010 detailing their campaign to get the government to 'Reclaim Multiculturalism'? They said the statement was endorsed by 100 ethnic community organisations.

Multiculturalism is a flawed policy. It is part of the push for 'political correctness' and promotes the idea that all cultures are equal, which is patently not true. Historically, some cultures have sacrificed children whilst others have promoted animistic or hedonistic practices.

As Christians, we believe we are all one race, so the multiculturalism philosophy, of separating ethnic groups, is not one we endorse. The government's multiculturalism policy entrenches divisions in society rather than encouraging people to integrate into our society which is based on our Christian heritage and Christian principles.

Here are two recent federal government

initiatives which promote multiculturalism...

* **Australian Multicultural Council**

Prime Minister Julia Gillard launched the *Australian Multicultural Council (AMC)* on 22 August. It has 10 members, and up to 40 'Ambassadors' will be appointed to advise the AMC. The new Council replaced a previous body, the *Australian Multicultural Advisory Council*, which was launched in December 2008.

How representative is it? Does it include all racial groups? Well, no. Columnist Miranda Devine points out that, of the ten members, half of them are Muslim. Of course that is a question of religion, and Muslims come from numerous racial and ethnic groups.

of the ten members, half of them are Muslim.

But it seems a very high number of people from one religious group! She also notes that there is no-one of Chinese or Indian background on the AMC.

* **Multiculturalism in the curriculum**

The government has announced that multiculturalism will be "embedded in the national curriculum" - saying that students need to "understand and appreciate the value of other cultures" and be trained in 'cultural competency'. But why should we appreciate ALL cultures?

This development is hardly surprising, since it was included in *FECCA*'s submission regarding the development of the national curriculum!

ACTION: Please write and express your concern about the government's multiculturalism policy, including the *Australian Multicultural Council* and the plan to teach multiculturalism in the national curriculum. Write to Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Opposition leader Tony Abbott and your federal MP and Senators. Send letters to Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600.

Same Agenda - Same Result?

When Rebecca Hagelin spoke at the Marriage Rally on August 16 in the Great Hall of Parliament House, she said that campaigns to normalise/legalise Polygamy and Paedophilia would follow if marriage was expanded to include same-sex people. She did not associate homosexuality with paedophilia, as has been suggested by some people. Yet, she was viciously attacked, both in the Australian mainstream media and also by an email campaign of hundreds of vile, rude and abusive emails flooding into her email box, mostly from homosexuals.

What her attackers failed to realise, or perhaps simply did not want to acknowledge, is that there is now CLEAR evidence that campaigns are under way to normalise both polygamy, and paedophilia.

If you think paedophilia could never be normalised, please hear the words of US Baptist, Dr Albert Mohler Jn, who describes the 'acceptance' of homosexuality in the article, '**Evangelicals and the Gay Moral Revolution**'... *"In less than a single generation, homosexuality has gone from something almost universally understood to be sinful, to something now declared to be the moral equivalent of heterosexuality - and deserving of both legal protection and public encouragement."* (Wall Street Journal, July 2011)

In March we talked about a push to normalise polygamy in Canada and Britain. Two months ago a new front was launched by a polygamous family in the USA. Their lawsuit asks a federal judge to declare Utah's bigamy statute 'unconstitutional'.

BUT PAEDOPHILIA...? YES

Just last month, also in the USA, a conference was organized by a group

called **B4U-ACT**. They are lobbying for the decriminalisation of paedophilia and a name change to 'minor-attracted persons' - just as homosexuals sought to use 'gay' as part of their political agenda.

The **B4U-ACT** conference was designed to 'explore ways in which "**minor-attracted persons**" could lobby for broader acceptance of their sexual activities and 'lifestyle' and to press for the *American Psychiatric Association (APA)* to drop 'paedophilia' from its list of recognized disorders - just as the *APA* dropped homosexuality from that list in the 1970s after similar activism!

**SAME
RESULT
- children
suffer and
immorality
is
normalised.**

Dr Fred Berlin, of John Hopkins University, was a keynote speaker at the conference. Berlin was once a consultant to the US Catholic bishops in their attempts to develop policies for handling complaints of sexual abuse by Catholic priests. Archbishop Rembert Weakland has testified that, in 1985, Berlin strongly argued against removing abusive priests from the church.

In the UK, a judge recently ruled that paedophiles should have unsupervised access to their own children because it would breach their 'human rights' to keep them apart.

SAME AGENDA-Here we see the same agenda as the one used to 'normalise' homosexuality... Name change - nicer sounding, 'minor-attracted persons'; decriminalisation; people deserve privacy and help; anti-discrimination laws, to protect them from people who do not agree with their behaviour and lifestyle.

SAME RESULT-children suffer and immorality is normalised.

This would seem preposterous, but remember Dr Albert Mohler's words above.

World News

UK: Abortion

Congratulations to Nadine Dorries MP for moving an amendment in the UK *House of Commons* to ensure that women considering an abortion are offered counselling that is independent from abortion providers who are paid for the abortions they carry out.

She was opposed by *The Guardian*, *The Times*, *Abortion Rights* and *Unison*. *Christian Concern* (9/9/2011) noted the government did a U-turn on the amendment - the wording of the amendment was misrepresented and it was defeated. However, the good news is that 118 MPs voted for the amendment (out of 650) and the abortion debate was re-opened in Britain.

The Health Minister, Anne Milton, announced during the debate that a consultation would be held, saying, "The Government is supportive of the spirit of these amendments and we intend to bring forward proposals for regulations". Please pray that the UK government moves an amendment to ensure the provision of independent counselling for abortion.

September 11 - ten years on

Memorial services were held around the world to mark the tenth anniversary of 9/11, when nearly 3,000 people died when two planes piloted by Muslims flew into the World Trade Centre buildings in New York.

Despite efforts to keep the services 'free of religion', President Obama read Psalm 46 from the Bible at the service in New York and former President Bush mentioned God.

Perhaps the most concerning 'commemoration' was a Scottish Episcopal Church priest and an imam standing together to read aloud from the Bible and Qur'an

outside their respective neighbouring 'places of worship' in Aberdeen, Scotland. This was followed by a community procession to the Catholic Church for more readings and prayers.

Which God are they 'jointly' praying to?

UK: Homosexual 'unions'

The UK *Civil Partnership Act*, passed in 2004, legalised same-sex unions - but they can't be performed in churches.

The UK Coalition government recently announced plans to amend the *Equality Act* to allow churches and other religious venues to perform same-sex unions if they want to but they won't be forced to do so. One conservative MP, Mike Weatherley, said churches should **HAVE** to perform civil partnership ceremonies for homosexuals!

On September 17 the Coalition government announced they plan to legalise same-sex 'marriage' by 2015! [Daily Mail, 17/9/2011]

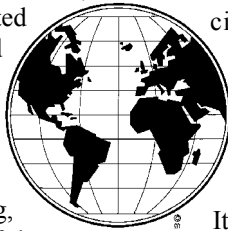
It really is a slippery slope!

Planned Parenthood closes clinics

Good to see that laws regarding abortion are being tightened in the USA!

Abortion provider **Planned Parenthood** has announced that they will no longer provide abortion services in Arizona, outside of the metro areas of Phoenix and Tucson. This means that abortions will only be offered at 3 out of 13 *Planned Parenthood* sites in Arizona, instead of the current 10.

The move stems from a ruling stating that only a physician may perform surgical abortions. Previously, nurse practitioners and midwives could perform abortions. The new law requires that minors seeking an abortion have a notarized statement of consent from a parent, and it allows pharmacists to refuse for religious or moral reasons to provide emergency contraception. [Salt & Light Council, Sept 2011]



Ministry News

Thank you to those who attended our Annual Dinner - nearly twice as many people than any previous year were there to hear about the worldwide ministry of Stuart and Margaret Robinson. We had a great night together.

We also thanked John Broadley who has served on our Salt Shakers Board for many, many years as Treasurer. We are very thankful for his financial guidance and advice. John was also responsible for most of our office furniture. John was a company secretary for many years and, just at the right time, was able to connect us to a company that was closing down. We were able to update almost everything in our

office for a small investment.

Jenny and Peter are heading to Yackandandah this month to speak and will take a couple of days R & R whilst there to enjoy the beautiful Victorian countryside. Peter is an avid nature photographer and has had a number of photos presented on a web site called 'Nature pic of the day' this year. God has given us such a wonderful world in which to live which constantly displays His glory - all we need to do is learn to take a few moments to look around and enjoy it.

PLEASE keep praying about the future of this Ministry. Peter and Jenny and the Board are seeking God's wisdom about the future and we ask you to pray that we will see His guiding hand. Too many 'leaders' keep going too long, and we want to see God's plan, rather than simply plod on in the same 'old' ways. Please keep praying for us.

ACTION checklist: Tick the box as you complete the task

Topic	Action / People to write to	Done	
6	SA - Medical defences Bill	Contact Members in Legislative Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Territory Powers Bill	Write to federal Member (House of Reps)	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Calendar - BC and AD	Curriculum (ACARA), Museum and MPs	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Marriage	Write to federal MPs - especially Labor ones!	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Multiculturalism	PM Gillard, Tony Abbott, MP and Senators	<input type="checkbox"/>

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The Challenge of Homosexuality**

By Bill Muehlenberg

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Homosexual and Lesbian 'relationships' are not natural, not healthy for the individual or society, and are against God's design for sex and human relationships. Despite this, they are being normalised by governments and health organisations and your children are being told they are OK.

Every Christian needs to understand the TRUTH about this issue if we are to stop the social engineers and win the cultural war for our children

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