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# NO FAME NO SHAME

From acting fame to humble taxi cab, Frank Rautenbach shares why life's disappointments put things into perspective

Frank Rautenbach recently visited Australia and NZ to encourage child sponsorship for World Vision



As a lead actor in *The Bang Bang Club* and *Faith Like Potatoes*, Frank Rautenbach appears every bit the wealthy artisan of his Hollywood fraternity, but a conversation with him will instead reveal a man who now feels no shame in being a humble LA taxi driver.

"It's amazing", the 42-year-old screen veteran says about his new workplace, which he fondly names "the counsel cab".

"Do you know how many broken-hearted people live in Los Angeles? I've had people in my car who are multi-millionaires, and they have so much shame that they can't see straight."

Movie success was more happy accident than intentional for Frank but this did not stop him from feeling worthless when it ended.

"I was a slave to my career and I didn't even know it," he honestly confesses.

"I thought that because I was good – keeping God's rules – I was doing well in my career."

What he had not realised, he says, was "I wanted heaven a lot, but not God".

Frank's accidental fame in South Africa began while modelling and filming commercials to pay off his economics degree. A global Mentos TV commercial in 1994 that ran for four years thrust him into the spotlight and paid for

his degree and wedding to Leigh in 1996.

Upon scoring a lead role in an Afrikaans TV drama *Swende Iaan* in 2000 and a record with Sony BMG, Frank explains, "[The fame] got so silly that I would be paid more than one TV episode to appear at birthday parties."

He then starred in a Sony-backed biopic *Faith Like Potatoes* about South African potato farmer and Christian evangelist Angus Buchan, which was viewed by over 120 million and quickly sold 20 million DVDs.

Following this dramatic success and a move from Johannesburg to Los Angeles, the storms of life would pierce Frank's 'be good to do good' formula.

The makers of *Faith Like Potatoes* cast him as South African cricketer Hansie Cronje in another biopic *Hansie* with a million dollar budget. A series of budget and cinema release mistakes resulted in a single paycheque three years later, just a third of what he expected.

Another promising role came in 2010 when he was cast in a big-budget Hollywood film *The Bang Bang Club* as one of four South African photographers during the 1994 South African Apartheid riots. Again, his paycheck was barely enough to pay living expenses.

When a top Hollywood agency offered to represent Frank, he drove 10,000km to auditions and invested in further acting training, but did not find a single gig.

Instead tragedy seemed to surround him with multiple deaths in the family, and he and his wife were childless after 12 years and four miscarriages.

By this time *Faith like Potatoes* was so successful that Sony floated a follow-up but, when this did not eventuate, Frank was crushed.

Early one morning in November 2011, he felt a severe dread that his career was at its natural end in his 40s.

Frank began praying to the God he had first trusted in at age 18, saying, "I have loved you and obeyed you, but after 20 years I have no evidence you have been here."

"I had very conveniently forgot that I was still breathing, had a healthy body and had food and running water," Frank adds.

"I then read from the Bible, 'If God did not spare His own Son (Jesus) in whom He was well pleased from the wilderness, why do you think He will spare you?'"

As he kept reading and praying, weeks later it became clear that God was teaching him that he worshipped his career above all.

● Turn to page 2

## Expect the unexpected

There is something serious we can all learn from a batsman, a crocodile hunter and a princess...

A few days shy of his twenty-sixth birthday, the startling death of Australian batsman Phillip Hughes in November shifted the fragility of life to the foreground as our nation mourned the unexpected loss of another national figure.

The fatal brain haemorrhage Hughes suffered after a bouncer struck the back of his neck during a match at the Sydney Cricket Ground was an accident that no one could predict.

It takes me back to our collective disbelief when a stingray's barb ended the life of 44-year-old crocodile hunter and wildlife campaigner Steve Irwin in September 2006.

● Turn to page 2



Phillip Hughes



Family races into history books

BACKPAGE

[www.challengenews.org](http://www.challengenews.org)

# Expect the unexpected

● From page 1

The car accident that killed 36-year-old landmine and AIDS campaigner Princess Diana in August 1997 was another tragic death that rocked our nation to its core in the past few decades.

All were greatly-admired people doing exceptional things, leaving us to question why each died so young and without the opportunity to even say goodbye to loved ones.

Life seems so unfair but the reality is that – even in our age of medical breakthroughs, fitness fanaticism, Botox injections and health supplements – death is inevitable.

Death is no respecter of one's personal status. The reality is, among high-profile celebrities, ordinary people die unexpectedly every day doing ordinary things. I hate to say it but you could be one of them. I could be one of them.

As one writer put it: there are two certainties in life – death and taxes!

This quote from Biblical writer James puts things into perspective for me; "How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog – it's here a little while, then it's gone."

Maybe you have not thought about death much but that makes it no less important.

*Pascal's Wager*, a logical reasoning devised by 17th century mathematician, physicist and philosopher Blaise Pascal, argues that each person bets their lives on whether God exists beyond our universe.

According to Pascal's argument, if we die unexpectedly and there turns out to be nothing waiting on the other side, little is lost. Yet on the flip side, if eternity spent in heaven or hell awaits us, our response to God will result in an immeasurable gain or loss.

He concludes that a rational person seeks to live in anticipation of God's existence. With this said, do you have certainty that you would go to be with Him forever if this were the case? I know I do.

You can research health cover and life insurance to your heart's content but I suggest looking into "after-life assurance" while you are at it.

You could wait to find answers later but you may run out of time. Like many others, I am sure Phil Hughes started his day thinking it would be like any other; sadly it was not.



The late "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin

# CURSED WORLD EXPLAINS EBOLA DISEASE

BY DR JONATHAN SARFATI

For the last year or so, a deadly epidemic has ravaged West Africa. The culprit is the Ebola virus, named after the Ebola River in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This causes a high-grade fever accompanied by abnormal bleeding, both internal and external—hence the term 'viral haemorrhagic fever'—plus other nasty things like diarrhoea and vomiting. Ebola disease is especially dangerous because it turns the body's own immune system against it.

## What is Ebola virus?

Ebola virus is classified as a filovirus (family Filoviridae), or thread-shaped virus. Unlike bacteria, viruses are non-living entities, because they can't reproduce on their own, but need the copying machinery of more complex cells. Viruses are so tiny that they can be seen only by electron microscopes.

## Why would God make viruses?

Many viruses have amazing hallmarks of design, such as a powerful electric motor to wind up their DNA, for the 'normal' viruses that use DNA. This points to a Master Designer. However, since God's finished creation was 'very good' (Genesis 1:31), why would He create disease germs?

The basic answer is that they were *not disease-causing before Adam's Fall* (Genesis 3), but had beneficial functions. Also, our immune system has suffered the effects of the Curse, so no longer works as well. Note that the immune system would have played an important role even before the Fall in distinguishing 'self' from 'non-self'.

Many parasites are *genetically depleted* compared to free-living equivalents that can exist without being parasites. The leprosy germ is a good example. The form that causes disease, *Mycobacterium leprae*, has lost more than 2000 genes, about a quarter of its total genome.

The same principle applies to viruses: the most harmful viruses seem to have *devolved*, e.g. the most pathogenic HIV strains are also the least fit (they don't survive as well as less virulent strains).

But what use could viruses have in a perfect world, since they must hijack a living creature's reproductive machinery? Some clues to possible benign pre-Fall roles for viruses can be gleaned from functions they have even today. Viruses have a number of useful functions even now, including transporting genes among plants and



Half of the deaths in the latest outbreak are in Liberia, like this one in the capital Monrovia

animals, keeping soil fertile, keeping water clean and regulating gases in the atmosphere.

Viruses also have a role in killing cancer cells. In particular, Ebola virus seems to have a symbiotic relationship with fruit bats. They seem to stimulate genes that code for DNA repair machinery, including correcting damaged genes that would cause tumours. So bats almost never develop malignant cancer. Unfortunately, the virus has escaped its natural habitat. Similarly, the often-underestimated influenza seems to have been a benign virus in ducks.

## Treating Ebola: why and who?

One important biblical principle is: *it's a blessing to alleviate aspects of the Curse*. That's why Jesus healed sicknesses and disabilities, raised the dead, and praised the Good Samaritan for taking care of a badly beaten traveller. Similarly, biblically-based compassion for those afflicted by effects of the Curse has motivated the founding of orphanages and hospitals, and the abolition of slavery. It's no wonder that even some atheists acknowledge the beneficial effects of Christianity, e.g. English atheist politician Michael Parris even declaring, "As an atheist, I truly believe Africa needs God" (*Times*, 27 December 2008).

Indeed, at the forefront at treating Ebola in Africa is missionary doctor Dr Kent Brantly of Samaritan's Purse. One atheist, Brian Palmer, writing in a far-left publication (*Slate*, October 2014), admits that Christians are at the forefront at providing care

for sick Africans, including Ebola victims:

"Like it or not, though, we are deeply reliant on missionary doctors and nurses. The 2008 ARHAP report found that in some sub-Saharan African countries 30 percent of health care facilities are run by religious entities."

He previously had to admit that they are hardly doing this for personal gain:

"There's one other big difference between missionaries and Western merchants: The missionaries don't profit personally from their work. They are compensated very poorly, if at all. Many risk their lives. How many people would risk death to spread the gospel of Western consumer goods *gratis*?"

Then Palmer had to admit grudgingly that medical care in Africa was crumbling possibly because of bigotry against missionary medicine. So he concluded:

"So until we're finally ready to invest heavily in secular medicine for Africa, I suggest we stand aside and let God do His work."

In contrast, consistent evolutionists must believe that Ebola is just as much a result of evolution as man. Also, they have no basis for believing in the sanctity of innocent human life, made in God's image and likeness (Genesis 1:26–28)—which was not lost at the Fall but just marred (Genesis 9:6, James 3:9).

Adapted article is courtesy of Creation Ministries International from [www.creation.com/ebola](http://www.creation.com/ebola)

## Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Lamb or veal items (5)

4 Downward measurement (5)

7 Countryside painting (9)

8 London's marble one (4)

10 Tiara sparklers (6)

12 Choose (6)

13 Unopened blooms (4)

16 Supporting structure (9)

18 Thorny blooms (5)

19 Shelf (5)

**DOWN**

1 Bed-time drink (5)

2 Night bird (3)

3 Serenading (4)

4 Ran hastily (6)

5 Alpine plain (7)

6 Two-timers (5)

9 Tornado refuges (7)

11 What passwords provide (6)

12 Less imperilled (5)

14 Mold, as clay (5)

15 Water hole (4)

17 Pick on playfully (3)

**SOLUTION PAGE 11**

## Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

Puzzle Level: Medium

6 3 8  
 4 2 9  
 7 5 1

**SOLUTION PAGE 11**

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## NO FAME NO SHAME

● From page 1

He quotes from a book by Tim Keller, "An idol is whatever you look at and say 'If I have that...then I'll know I have value and I'll feel significant.'"

"I started realising," Frank says, "that when we want anything more than we want God, that thing becomes your god and you will be controlled by that thing like you cannot believe."

He still felt angry that Angus Buchan's life was taking off while the movie had "done nothing" for his career but his mindset changed when a bank teller shared that many people had been drawn to God after they screened the film at church.

"I realised God was speaking to me, saying, 'You have so much value. I can use you even when you're not there. It's not what you've

*Frank in Faith Like Potatoes*

done that's given you value – I am giving you value.' It was incredible!"

Frank says he then realised how God can work any circumstance for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28).

His final conclusion is that chasing things, work or relationships apart from God "will not satisfy you."

"Even when you get it, that thing will only reveal the size of the thirst you've had all along," Frank explains.

Quoting from 15th Century theologian Thomas Cranmer, Frank says: "God's love takes us on journeys we do not wish to go, makes us travel by roads we do not wish to use, to take us to places we never wish to leave."

"God loves you and He is willing to wrestle and fight for your heart like you cannot believe!"

# ANGER WILL NOT DOMINATE ME

**Shelby has hope and liberty despite childhood abuse and his parents' divorce**

**A**ngry due to abuse and neglect as a child, Shelby Deatherage was diverted from suicide after his parents' radical transformation. Early on, Shelby recalls facing a rough home: "My dad was searching for joy at the bottom of a bottle and my mom was stuck in an unending pit of depression."

"I was molested by two different people at age seven. One was a babysitter and the other was a relative. Not long after, my parents were divorced."

These events, led to "a deep anger and hatred inside of me", Shelby remembers.

At age 13, hope entered his life when his mother married a kind Christian man. Seeing the way his step-father lived, Shelby says "I came to the realisation that I was lost and that I needed Jesus to save me."

Shelby admits he wanted Jesus to "rule over me" but instead allowed anger to rule his life.

Then he moved in with his biological father and was soon involved in "many dark things", including illicit drugs and alcohol.

Rather than solving his anger, these drugs intensified what was previously beneath the surface.

"I became an increasingly violent person, and I was arrested at school. It was embarrassing as people watched as I left the school in the back of a police car. I felt so despised and rejected," he confesses.

Although his father successfully argued for his reinstatement, Shelby remembers he remained alone through his schooling years.

"In complete solitude, I decided that suicide was my only answer."

Following an angry shouting match with his father, Shelby "psyched"

himself up to put a kitchen knife to his chest but before he could, his father returned for his keys.

"My dad realised the depth of the situation and took the day off so we could sort things out. We began going to church, which I hated. My dad had previously surrendered his life to Jesus Christ and stopped drinking but now he was growing rapidly in his relationship with God."

The next summer Shelby's mother took him to a church-run event where a Christian rock band played and he was able to meet the band members afterwards.

"They each shared their life stories and how they came to know Christ. This was the first time in my life I saw people my age that were the real deal [as Christians]," Shelby recalls.

"This had such a major impact on me that I turned my life fully over to Christ!"

After a short stint playing for this rock band, Shelby knew he needed to return to his home town.

"The Lord warned me that my choices and commitment to Him would have to be different," he adds.

Shelby says God thankfully helped him stand strong against the temptations of drugs and alcohol that had befallen him previously.

"I began to get involved in our church and get opportunities to share my story. I even got the chance to share how Jesus changed my life at school with a whole class," he says gladly.

Ultimately Shelby became pastor and missionary, married his wife Kayla and they now have three children.

"Looking back, I'm so thankful that God stopped me that day from taking my life," Shelby shares. "God took a life that seemed hopeless

and worthless and is doing amazing things. Though no longer together, both my parents are my spiritual heroes."

Quoting from First Corinthians chapter one, verse 27, Shelby shares from the Bible, "God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty."

He concludes: "I'm so glad that God has redeemed my life. And because Jesus forgave my sins and rose from the grave, I will forever live my life for Him!"

➤  
*Shelby and Kayla Deatherage and family*



**"In complete solitude, I decided that suicide was my only answer"**

## Is this the new normal?

BY RICK LEWERS

**FOLLOWING** the shocking inner-city Sydney siege by an Islamic State supporter many have lamented our growing sense of insecurity, as well as the diminishing presence of love and peace in our world.

Former *Australian Idol* winner Wes Carr composed 'I Pray' in which he prays for the victims, their families and "the gunmen lead astray by his own fear, evil and hate". Instead of hating others, Carr encourages people to "Get together... [because] we are all love, unconditional love".

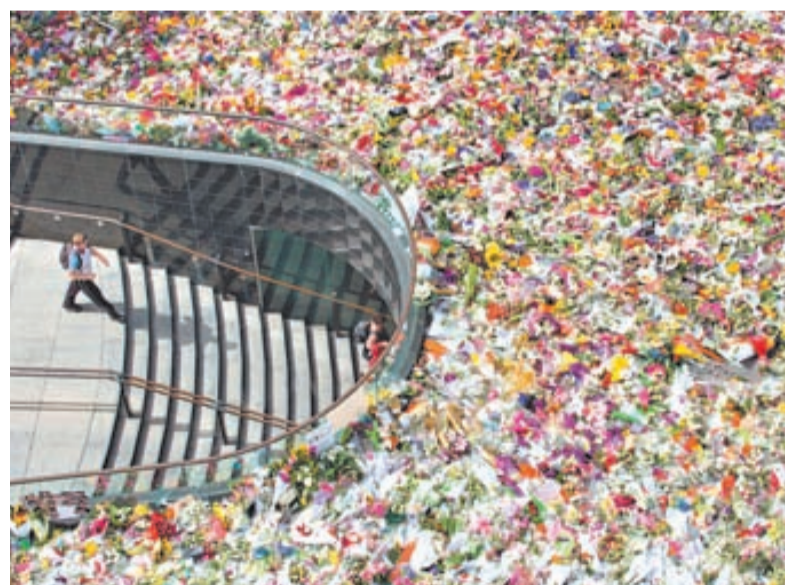
Politicians encourage us to live our lives as normal and not be overwhelmed by the preachers of terror such that our way of life be spoiled.

But I have to admit to being more than a little troubled by recent events.

Beheadings, crucifixions, cutting people in half, the sexual abuse of women are all outside the realm of what I understand to be sane behaviour. It troubles me that people who are involved in such atrocities attempt to justify them, and these same ones declare death on people like Australians.

**Is there an anchor for 'normal'?**

In Sydney I sensed that a 'new normal' is emerging for Australians. I then asked myself the question: 'Is there anything in my life that I would want to remain normal even amidst the greatest upheavals? Is there something normal in my life that would stand firm and challenge



*The sea of floral tributes in Martin Place, Sydney for deceased hostages Tori Johnson and Katrina Dawson*

the most ugly and brutal realities of life? Is there something normal in my life that promoters of evil do not have the heart or capacity for?"

My answer is yes and it is found on the lips of Jesus Christ, who said "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you... Do to others as you would have them do to you... Be merciful, just as your Father [in heaven] is merciful."

Rather than anger and bitterness, I want these loving actions to be normal in my life to love all people yet not love the evil they do. Some might say that is naïve in the face of

present threats, but few would argue against the view that the way of Jesus is better.

Jesus endured the wounds of an Enemy to triumph through love with forgiveness. He revealed that God is merciful, compassionate and just, as He bore man's punishment for sin.

I am prepared for a 'new normal' but there are some normal things I never want to change – love, forgiveness and mercy.

Who wants to live in a world where the 'new normal' is brought about by merciless hatred that has no heart to forgive? That is an abnormality to which I will never give credence. •

## A LITTLE NUDGE



*Michael Clarke grimaces in pain*

### The reason for pain

Breaking bones, being burnt by fire or cutting yourself on something is never a fun experience. The pain of wounds can sometimes seem unbearable. Has it ever made you wonder why we feel pain? Even emotional pain from heartbreak or loss of a loved one can make us feel physically sick. What if I told you that our world was not created to be painful?

The Bible says God created the universe in six days and called it "very good". Everything worked in perfect harmony as Adam and Eve lived in unity with God, but then they brought the curse of suffering and death into the world through their rebellion and sin against God. In Genesis 3, man rejects God, who consequently removes some of His sustaining power.

Now that we experience injury and death, pain is useful. If we did not feel pain when we put our hand in a fire how would we know something is wrong? Pain and suffering causes us to take our hand away from the hot fire so that it does not suffer a painful burn.

Similarly, the suffering we see around us reminds us that there is something wrong with our world today because of sin. So God has provided a way that we may learn to withdraw our lives from what causes us so much pain.

Sin has brought pain, suffering and death but through Jesus Christ's victory over these things we can find forgiveness for our sins and healing for our lives which will last far beyond our suffering in this world.

Turn to Jesus because He is the only way to find the peace, comfort and healing we so desperately need, that will last beyond this life into eternity. •

# Sparks and a love like fire



"Love, I've come to understand, is more than three words mumbled before bedtime. Love is sustained by action, a pattern of devotion in the things we do for each other every day."

—Nicholas Sparks, romance filmmaker

BY CAITLIN CHOVEAUX

Many will curl up on the couch this Valentine's Day with a box of chocolates and pine over lost love or snuggle with their partner in front of a Nicholas Sparks chick-flick. I will probably be one of them and I have to ask myself why.

Famed for his novels-turned-films like *A Walk to Remember*, *The Notebook*, *Dear John* and *Safe Haven*, Nicholas Sparks appears to have a masterful definition of romance and love that other filmmakers struggle to match.

"The best love," Sparks says, "is the kind that awakens the soul and makes us reach for more, that plants a fire in our hearts and brings peace to our minds."

Sparks' fictional fantasies will either leave you feeling all gooey inside or rolling your eyes, but I don't think many can argue that a heartfelt, peace-bringing love is a bad thing.

While the popular understanding of love revolves around heart-shaped chocolate boxes, roses, inventive marriage proposals, heroic acts of bravery and soppy love letters, Sparks hints at a real love that is not fickle but instead selfless, sacrificial, unconditional and constant.

In fact, inspiration for his bookshop blockbusters comes from the best-selling book of all time: the Bible. Wise King Solomon says in Song of Solomon: "Love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame".

It reminds me of Sparks' description: love burns passionately like a wildfire in our souls; it is fulfilling and yet leaves us continually thirsty for more.

Sparks, King Solomon and I have one thing in common: we all believe that this fire-blazing, peace-giving, grave-demanding love comes from God, who Himself is love.

Commenting on one of his most successful films, *The Notebook*, Sparks explained that the love story was "a metaphor of God's love for us all".

"The theme is everlasting, unconditional love. It also goes into the sanctity of marriage and the beauty you can find in a loving relationship," he told *Christianity Today*.

In Sparks' *A Walk to Remember*, Jamie Sullivan is a young girl who is dying from cancer but continues to hold strong to her faith in God.

She explains to her boyfriend, Landon, "Love is like the wind, you can't see it but you can feel it."

The same can be said about God. Love cannot be seen or put in a test tube and explained in scientific terms and yet it indisputably dwells like a fire in our souls. The Bible tells the greatest love story of all time, and the best part is that you are written all over it.

# DEEPER MEANING THAN POP CULTURE

'FOLLOW YOUR HEART' was the motto Katharine Hartnett lived by until heartbreak prompted a search for deeper meaning in life.

Looking for a "fulfilling life", Katharine says, "I just wanted to look cool and thought I'd find satisfaction in parties, clubbing and drinking."

Her celebrity role models encouraged her to stay 'in fashion' and Katharine became obsessed with buying clothes.

"Every weekend I went to clothes stores and bought lots of dresses. But once I would get them, they felt like nothing, so I felt I had to go buy more," she confesses.

In her pursuits of friendships, clothes, music, movies and hobbies, Katharine remained unsatisfied, as she recalls, "deep down I was always searching for something more, for a true and pure love."

Amidst her turmoil of unhappiness, she sometimes thought about God as her parents were Christians and had put her in a Christian school.

"I knew there was a God," she comments, "and that what I was doing wasn't good, but I did not want to worry about that yet."

The lack of satisfaction and meaning continued to plague Katharine until she reflected on the peaceful life of her parents.

"I began to pray and ask God to show me the way through my problems because I wanted something deeper. As I turned to Jesus Christ I found true satisfaction," she explains.

In her journey towards God, Katharine read these words from Jesus: "For whoever will save his life [selfishly for himself] will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it" (Luke chapter 9, verse 24).

She felt deeply convicted by these words and decided to replace weekend visits to the clubs with quiet time studying her Bible for more answers to her burning questions.

Suddenly following her heart and living how she pleased seemed much more trivial than what she discovered God had planned for her in His Word, the Bible.



"I was searching for a true and pure love," says Katharine Hartnett

"My friends thought I was a nutcase for not wanting to partake in parties and clubbing events, but the conviction that I had wronged God in every way was so strong," she explains.

She began searching for a Bible-based church and joined her mother and her scientist father Dr John Hartnett in family Bible studies.

As she read about Jesus' "real love" in going to the cross to provide her forgiveness, Katharine says, "I demonstrated my love for Jesus by being obedient to Him and putting my faith in Him."

"I believe that God, in His undeserved kindness, chose to save me and His Truth led me to repentance. I committed my life to Jesus by giving up control of my life because Jesus gave up His life for me when He died on the cross."

The outcome of this, Katharine says, was that "God satisfied my soul with His Word, so that I no longer

crave things that I once 'needed' for satisfaction.

"Although I may not have a lot according to the world's standards, I have much more in Christ Jesus who died for me, and more in everlasting life to come."

Apart from eternal life, Katharine says there are many blessings that come from being a follower of Jesus.

"God often reminds me of a comforting Bible verse when I am feeling depressed or sad and time with Him is the only thing that lifts me up and gets me over the hump."

To others who find themselves caught up in unhelpful addictions, Katharine says, "Jesus came into the world to save sinners. By having faith in Jesus, that He is God the Son and He took the punishment for your sin, you will be saved. Jesus will never reject you, leave you heartbroken or lonely because He is with you always through the Holy Spirit (see John 14:23)."

## HEAVEN—OH SO POPULAR!

BY ALAN BAILEY

**HAVE YOU NOTICED** how much heaven has been in the news lately? It makes me think that most people have a hope somewhere in their hearts that such a place exists and that they might have a chance of getting there.

A celebrity or well-known sportsperson dies and immediately friends and loved ones have them looking down on us, telling us that they are having such a great time and not to worry about them. In fact, we join them with a drink or two to celebrate.

Perceptions of heaven vary widely. Some hope for a glorious golf course, some a racecourse, others endless chocolate, and famously, some expect limitless sensual pleasure after their earthly martyrdom. The

thing in common is unbroken bliss. Oh what a contrast to this troubled life we now live! What a relief from work and worry! No more bosses and nagging mothers-in-law! But is heaven just a fancy, after the style of a childish nursery rhyme, nothing more than an old superstition?

I believe in heaven because the one who has final authority has told us about it. He said "There are many rooms in my Father's house... I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me, that you may also be where I am." Christ taught his followers very plainly that there is an after-life.

Think for a moment. If you were ushered in to a place of utter perfection, would you feel at home? Being as imperfect as we are, we would be

like a fish in a tree. Our condition is sinful and unworthy of the presence of God.

That is, until Jesus deals with us to forgive, cleanse and finally fit us for the place He has prepared. This is what His life, death and resurrection was all about. We need to turn away from our own way, our self-reliance, and trust in Jesus in a personal way. We will never reach heaven without a Saviour.

Jesus promised, "Whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me, has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

The last book in the Bible assures us that "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

## 'Unbroken' man's greatest victory

**THE NEW UNBROKEN MOVIE** about American war hero Louis Zamperini tells the incredible story of the man who went from being an Olympic runner to surviving a plane crash, 47 days at sea and war camp torture. In all this Louis depended on God then forgave his Japanese tormentors when he accepted Jesus' forgiveness at a Billy Graham crusade.

You can take a closer look at his journey to peace in Jesus, how he personally met his captors and became an international Christian speaker in a free online documentary *Louis Zamperini: Captured by Grace*.

Mr Zamperini gives his own testimony on the documentary, saying that when he "found Christ as my Saviour," that was "the heart of my whole life."

According to Louis' son Luke, "[He] never had another nightmare the rest of his life. The Post Traumatic Stress Disorder was gone in an instant". A year later "he forgave his guards face to face".

You can view the free online documentary or purchase a DVD at [billygraham.org](http://billygraham.org).



Louis Zamperini (1917 - 2014) in 'Captured by Grace'



# WHEN A CHILD LOSES HOPE

One child every week takes their own life in our “lucky” country ...that’s enough to make anyone stop and think

**SHOCKING** national statistics released in 2014 revealed Aussie kids as young as four are increasingly taking their own lives.

The Australian Human Rights Commission report tabled to Federal parliament in November established from unpublished coronial reports that 333 children aged four to 17 died from “intentional self-harm” between January 2007 and December 2012.

Every week 50 to 60 more are reported to be hospitalised for attempted suicide.

While many factors are stated as the cause for suicide, a loss of hope is at the root of each devastating decision.

“Children who commit suicide feel very trapped by expectations or difficult situations they can see no way out of,” Child Psychotherapy Trust chairperson Eileen Orford explained to *The Independent* in 2000.

Author Hal Lindsey once said “a man can live about forty days without food, about three days without water, about eight minutes without air but only for one second without hope.”

We are left questioning what causes children to lose hope and purpose so young.

National Children’s Commissioner Megan Mitchell says that children need to be taught better “coping mechanisms”.

I believe this is not enough.

They need a promise that their pain will one day be removed completely.

They need a sense of purpose that will carry them through the times of trial and remind them that someone out there will never leave nor forsake them.

While some Australians have recently made it clear that they see Biblical instruction as ‘indoctrination’, surely God’s promises bring hope and love that transcend each child’s circumstances?

Verses such as *Hebrews 13:5-6*, provide hope: “God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’ So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?’”

Children need to know their lives matter to God, that they were created for a reason and that He loves them more than they will ever know.

They need to know that whilst the struggles of life are not easy, they are worth it for the great joy they will feel when they are reunited with their Heavenly Father who created them.

Jesus Christ died so that each of us could live life to the full, and the certainty of His promises to us, are the means of the hope our nation’s children need to hang on to when all seems lost.

# Will your resolution make the distance?

BY JIMMY YOUNG

It’s the start of a new year and for many people – that means one thing: broken promises, I mean, New Year Resolutions.

Take a good look around Google any time after Christmas and resolutions are the talk of the town, with advice and announcements the flavour of the month.

One thing that stood out to me, though, was that 40% of all people who make a resolution will break it by the end of January!

## WHY?

It might be because people are not motivated, their resolutions are not achievable or a combination of the two but I think a lot of it is because people identify the need to change without embracing the hard work needed to make it work.

Big change means big work and a lot of New Year’s resolutions are not of the small variety. No-one says: “Man, I’m going to make my bed every single day next year. Yeah!”

It’s the big stuff. So you want to make a resolution that last? How?

## 1. Make it real

Write your resolution down or telling someone instead of leaving it in the illogical sorting system in which things often get lost (a.k.a. our minds). Researchers say it could be the difference between making a real life change and making another broken resolution.

## 2. Focus, focus, focus

Willpower is a limited resource. If you make heaps of resolutions, you won’t have enough willpower to keep them all. It’s heaps better to make one solid, tight resolution than several loose resolutions.



NEW YEAR RESOLUTION: Strength training!

## 3. Break it down

I want to lose weight. That is the number one resolution made by people every year, but it’s useless. What is lose weight? How much? How long? Do you want to keep it off?

Break it down...I want to lose 2 kilograms a month. I want to have 15% body fat. I want to weigh in at 80 kg at the end of the year.

The more you break it down, the easier it will be for you to achieve because (and I cannot stress this enough) you know what you want to achieve.

## 4. Seek encouragement

Tell people and get their encouragement! Your friends are your

friends because they are looking out for you, so get them alongside you on this one. Last year, I decided to give up fast food, lollies and junk food for an entire year with my girlfriend and I’m only a few days from achieving that.

One of the best things was being able to support each other in this and holding each other accountable.

Encouragement is the fuel that will keep you going when you feel like giving up.

What’s my resolution for this year? I want to save \$8,000 by the end of December. This means I need to save \$166.60 a week until then.

What will be your resolution? •

# No ordinary miracle

There is no dramatic rescue from addiction, abuse, a life of crime, or a teenage rebellion in Jenny Palandri’s life, but her journey to God’s forgiveness is no less miraculous.

“My life,” Jenny says, “is a story about God’s love for everyone and His plan to save us all. We all need saving. There is a gap between all of us and God. A gap which only Jesus can bridge.”

Jenny recalls realising this gap existed between her and God as a girl.

“In the Bible in Romans chapter 3, verse 23, it says ‘...all have sinned (broken God’s law) and fall short of the glory of God.’ That is what I realised as a 10-year-old girl. I cannot imagine living without Jesus in my life.”

Jenny still recalls feeling at that time like the visiting speaker at a special church celebration was speaking just to her.

“The speaker talked about how God loved me so much but there was a gap between me and God, which I couldn’t get over. He said Jesus had made a bridge over this gap and if I trusted in Jesus I could cross the gap and be God’s child.

“That day, I told Jesus that I trusted in Him and wanted Him to be in my life. I asked Him to forgive me for the things I had done which made God sad and to help me to change the way I lived.”

Since that decision over 40 years ago, Jenny affirms that “I have always known that God loves me and Jesus has been with me every day.”

As she had been taught about Jesus and God from a very young age, Jenny is grateful to have been able to do the same with her two daughters, and in her role as a primary school chaplain she encourages both the emotional and spiritual well-being of the students in the schools where she works. •



As a mother and primary school chaplain, Jenny shares the reason for her hope



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# Biochemist no longer tormented inside

**A**s ugly as Dr Ainsley Chalmers found cancer to be in his medical research and personal life, something sicker tormented him until he made the decision to turn his life around.

With qualifications from the University of Adelaide and Flinders University and around 100 peer-reviewed publications in the areas of cancer, immunity and medical biochemistry, the retired Ph.D biochemist found considerable success during his time in research.

Yet amid the hours of studies and stress Ainsley admits he felt his life was "like a lost cause".

"I was leading a tormented life but too proud to admit it," Ainsley says. Despite growing up with a religious background, he adds, "My spiritual life was dead, non-existent."

On the outside things seemed

perfect with a beautiful wife, three daughters and a prestigious position as a principal medical scientist in a major hospital and university research lab.

On the inside, however, Ainsley was clouded in doubt as to what he truly believed and was influenced by his colleagues' ideas of atheistic humanism and his association with Ouija board games.

"In 1974 I gave up going to church because I just couldn't feel the reality of God and two years later I left my family and went off with another married woman for six months," he confesses.

A year later Dr Chalmer's wife Denise committed her life to Jesus and that same month introduced her husband to a pastor named Bob.

"I thought he was weird but he prayed with me and a small area of peace entered my tormented condition," he recalls.

**'On the outside I was fine but on the inside I knew things weren't right,' Dr Ainsley Chalmers says**

Although he had done a lot of good through his research, Ainsley knew that there was only one cure for the sin in his own life and that was to pray for God's forgiveness and accept the fact that Jesus had made a way for him to have a restored relationship with God.

Ainsley prayed with pastor Bob to accept Jesus as his Saviour, just as his wife had done, but he was unsure about whether he wanted Jesus to be the King over his life.

"I immediately returned to my wife Denise and girls, all of whom graciously had me back, but I didn't want any church stuff in my life," he says.

"A few days later I began feeling tormented inside again and even suicidal. That was when a Christian man named Rudi ministered to me. At this time I had a revelation that Satan had been trying to destroy my life. I also came to realise deep in my spirit that Jesus Christ really is the way, the truth and the life and without Him in my life I would very soon be a dead man both physically and spiritually."

It finally made sense to him that Jesus was the only one who could transform his life and give it meaning, purpose and hope.

"Once I gave Jesus control over my life, the desire for alcohol, sexual immorality, lying and suicide were no longer issues in my life because God completely removed them," he explains.

Hard times still ensued but Ainsley had new reason to endure them.

"Denise died of cancer in 1991 and I suffered huge guilt," he says sadly.

"I remarried in 1996 but we sadly divorced in 2001 and I lost another beautiful woman in my life. Despite all this, God strengthened me through this time."

He was often challenged to defend his faith in God in his scientific field of work which brought many more doubts and questions to the surface.

"Using my scientific knowledge I started to probe the Word of God over the next few years," he recalls.

"To cut a long story short I am now convinced that the Bible is absolute truth and everything now makes complete sense to me. The Bible shows that our Creator is Jesus Christ. The whole of creation from the huge universe to our tiny cells testifies to the existence of our Creator God. I also realised that the story of creation to Noah's flood in the first few chapters of Genesis could be taken literally and were consistent with scientific findings.

"I went from being a theistic evolutionist to a young earth creationist. This belief is now foundational to my Christian faith."

Although he has lectured many times on how faith and science can exist perfectly together, the real evidence of God lies in Ainsley's transformation from within.

"My life after becoming a Christian has been wonderful despite some



"I could never have changed this dramatically on my own," says Ainsley Chalmers

major setbacks," he explains.

"I could never have changed this dramatically on my own. Everything, my conversion and research findings, I give the glory to God as He did it all. All I did was say "Yes" to Him. I could

not live without my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He is everything good and wonderful in this life and I love Him dearly." •

To contact Dr Chalmers directly email him at [Ahcha@adam.com.au](mailto:Ahcha@adam.com.au)

## Believe it or not

By JONATHAN SARFATI CREATION.COM

### Spiders' "out-of-focus" eyes help them see depth



Jumping spiders don't use webs to catch their prey, but pounce on them accurately. Researchers have long wondered how tiny eyes could provide the depth perception needed, or how a brain smaller than a house fly's could interpret it.

Biologists from Osaka City University in Japan have solved the first problem. The spider's retina has four distinct layers of light-sensitive cells. However, this means that light that is focused on one layer will be out of focus on the others. Atheists would point to "bad design" of an eye that produces unfocused images.

Also, the spiders are most sensitive to green light, which just happens to be the peak wavelength from the sun; pure coincidence no doubt. But they don't detect red light very well. The spider's eye lenses also refract (bend) red light less strongly.

The researchers covered up the six secondary eyes of Adanson's jumping spiders (*Hasarius adansonii*), and left the two main eyes. Then they let them try to pounce on fruit flies in both green and red light. Their pounces were almost always successful in green light, but were about 10% short in red light.

The reason is that both colours focus sharply on the first layer, but the second layer has a fuzzier image in green light than in red. The sharper red image tricked the spiders into thinking that the flies were closer than they were. Thus the very fuzziness of the second image is no design flaw, but is actually an ingenious design, vital for the spiders' depth perception.

In nature, there is no confusion, precisely because they see so weakly in red, so the green image swamps the red.

But now, spider researchers must solve the second problem: how their tiny brains process the difference in image clarity and fuzziness into depth perception. •

Reference: 3-D Vision for Tiny Eyes, [news.sciencemag.org](http://news.sciencemag.org), 26 January 2012.

## MYTHS ABOUT HEAVEN

By MARTIN DUFFIELD, ST JOHN'S ANNERLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Myth #1 – Heaven is a Myth?

For some, like a famous Australian media magnate, a few minutes of clinical 'death' convinces them that there is no afterlife. Others who have been through unearthly 'near death' experiences disagree. But neither such experiences conclusively prove the reality of life after death.

The final authority on this subject is God Himself and in particular the Lord Jesus Christ, who made authoritative and verifiable claims about an afterlife when He was here on earth.

Jesus spoke about Heaven very plainly before He died, at the famous Last Supper in this way; "In My Father's house are many mansions. I go now to prepare a place for you. If it were not so, I would have told you." And when Jesus was dying, He promised Heaven to a remorseful criminal dying near Him, "Truly I say to you, this day you will be with Me in Paradise."

What Jesus said was confirmed by what He did. On the following Sunday (Easter Sunday), Jesus Christ rose from the dead. He spent the next six weeks preparing His followers (more than 500 of them) for their task of telling the world that heaven was now accessible through Him. From His experience, which so many others saw, He was able to confirm His promise to them that, "Because I live, you will live also."

Jesus spent much of His ministry upon earth telling men and women how to get to Heaven. And, when people asked Him questions like, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" His answer was to point to Himself. Before raising His dead friend Lazarus from the grave He said, "He who believes in Me will live, even if he dies".

But how is He the key to Heaven? By breaking God's Laws (The Ten Commandments) all humans actually render themselves unfit for heaven. Like God's nature, heaven is a realm of pure goodness and perfection and humans are not that, as guilt in our lives often reveals. However, Jesus Christ was willing to come and pay the penalty for that disobedience to God in His death upon the Cross. It is only when you truly accept what He has done for you to bring you back to God, that you can be truly forgiven and made fit for Heaven. Then you will not only know about Heaven, but you can live and die confidently expecting to enter it.

The Word of God, the Bible, says "it has now been revealed through the appearing of... a Saviour, Jesus Christ, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel" (2 Timothy chapter 1, verse 10). •

# Controversial novel inspires search

Brad was surprised by his research into 'The Da Vinci Code'

**N**o one would have guessed it would be a controversial fiction novel that would lead Bradley Gebhard to make the most important decision of his life.

After moving with his future wife Lee-Ann from South Africa to London, Brad recalls feeling "happy enough" and yet "I had a feeling that someone or something was watching over me."

Brad did not know whether this was someone was God, but he confesses, "I often felt that something was missing in my life, and nothing seemed to be able to fill it."

Sometimes Brad would have conversations about God with his Christian friends and family but it never went anywhere until he began reading the fictional novel *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown.

"It contained some controversial issues regarding Jesus and the Bible in general, so I decided to start reading the Bible to see what it said about these controversies," Brad explains.

"It is largely thanks to that fictional book, which could quite easily mislead or sow doubt in the minds of people looking for God, that my

search for the real Jesus gained some momentum."

Brad became interested in learning more about God after discovering that the Bible contained a reliable account of Jesus' life on earth, instead of just accepting the fictional information and questionable sources presented by Dan Brown.

Then it came time for Brad to decide whether his young family should return to South Africa or move to Australia. He remembers many hours praying "asking God for guidance", and a few years later he felt God leading him to set up their new life in Australia, while his family stayed in South Africa for a time.

"Being alone, I continued to have more time to read my Bible and pray. My mother also recommended a church to me, as she had met the pastor as well as people from *Challenge Newspaper* there," he says.

On his first visit to this church in 2007, Brad says he finally understood who the real Jesus is.

"I was quite overcome emotionally and really felt in my spirit that God was calling out to me to come close to Him," he explains.

"The pastor asked if anyone who

wanted to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour would raise their hand. I desperately wanted this but due to stubbornness, self-sufficiency or some insecurity, I was strongly fighting the urge to raise my hand."

When he finally decided to raise his hand, Brad recalls a weight lifted off him and he "wanted to explode with joy and relief".

"After the service I told the pastor that I wanted to clean up my life and live 'appropriately' before I made a commitment to Jesus. Yet he explained that God doesn't work that way, rather, you accept Jesus into your life first and then He will become the vital help needed to do this 'clean up'."

They prayed together, and Brad says he acknowledged that he was a sinner, separated from God, and yet wanted to turn away from his sins and follow Jesus wholeheartedly.

"I also prayed that I believed Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for my sins and that He rose again and I invited Jesus into my life to be my Saviour and Lord of my life," he adds.

A few weeks later Brad's family



**WEIGHT LIFTED:** Bradley and Lee-Ann Gebhard with their three children

arrived in Australia and he took them to this new church, hoping to share his newfound joy and pace with them.

"Since then my wife Lee-Ann has made a commitment to the Lord and we have both been baptised to publicly demonstrate our commitment to Jesus Christ," he says joyfully.

"My life is far more centred on Jesus now and this affects the decisions and choices I make. The material things that had high value to me once are now strangely unimportant.

"My focus now is on doing what is right by God, not what the world around us expects. The struggles and temptations of life are real and ever present but I know that with these

things God will always either give me the strength to deal with them or provide a way out."

In hindsight Brad sees how God directed his path to Perth, and all the good things he once considered co-incidences he now considers "God-incidences".

"God was faithful to answer – in His time – those hours of prayers I prayed in London," Brad says. "Sometimes the plans we have for ourselves are not the best and difficult as it can be, we need to be willing to let God guide our steps. We can do all things through Him who gives us strength (see Philippians chapter 4, verse 13)."

## Family Finance

### Baby on a budget

Here are some handy money-saving ideas for new mums and dads...

**1** Knowing babies grow fast (especially under sizes 2-4), avoid expensive and brand name baby clothes. Save money by purchasing clothes up to a year ahead in the off-season. If you want to splurge on some items then coats, hats and bathers are likely to fit for more than one season.

**2** Make your own baby food: mash up bananas, peas, cooked carrots or sweet potato in a blender.

**3** Instead of baby wipes, use dampened soft paper towels or tissues, and don't use 'for babies' laundry powder. If your baby has sensitive skin, use fragrance free and dye free soap powder/liquid.

**4** Borrow or shop online for infrequently used baby items like swings, bathtubs, tub rings, and bouncy seats. Check out eBay.com or Gumtree (WA only) for online listings.

**5** Consider simple, quiet and battery free toys that will entertain your child and will not over-stimulate them before bed-times. Or utilise things you already have like plastic water bottles filled with household items that make different noises. A crawling baby will enjoy exploring cardboard boxes, and plastic spoons and bowls. Some excellent sites to buy kids toys are Tradingpost.com, zilch.com and freecycle.com.au.

**6** Your local library will have a selection of quality kids' books, movies and CDs. Browse the parenting magazines in the library to find out what is available. If you can hook a laptop up to your TV (with an HDMI or VGA D-SUB cable), go online to watch recent kids' TV shows online [www.freeview.com.au/catch-up](http://www.freeview.com.au/catch-up). Other sites with free kids TV content are [www.viewster.com](http://www.viewster.com) and [archive.org/details/movies](http://archive.org/details/movies).

### GENERAL TIPS

**1** Research prices and product options online before major purchases. Search online for coupon codes for online stores. Simply search for "[store name] coupon". Ozbargain.com.au and buckscoop.com.au offer excellent Australia-wide tips on the best shopping deals. For computer goods, check prices on [staticice.com.au](http://staticice.com.au). For broadband prices and choices, check out [bc.whirlpool.net.au](http://bc.whirlpool.net.au).

**2** Shop for holiday cards, decorations, and gift wrap as the season ends, and keep them for next year.

**3** Get cashback on online purchases using a site like PricePal.com.au, Buckscoop.com.au, cashbackclub.com.au, and Qwibble.com.au. Merchants pay these online referral companies to direct customers to them. The company then pays part of that back to you, the shopper. These cashback services are entirely free to sign up for and will generally pay you back every 90 days.



## TRUTH TRUMPS FANTASY

### Selfish fantasies cost Denis his family but the truth set him free

**A**s a 10-year-old Denis Hutchins ended up drunk from unfinished glasses at his brother's 21st birthday, but as he grew older his pursuit of alcohol and pleasing himself led to prison and a dramatic life change.

"As years went by, drinking became a regular part of my life," Denis says. "With drinking came sexual immoralities, including adultery, pornography and indecent behaviour."

Even after marrying in 1980, and four children, he admits he was "not a faithful husband, nor a decent father."

This lifestyle of pleasing himself worsened when a clairvoyant spoke favourably about he and his wife's future. Dismissing all consequences, Denis recalls that he "began constantly fantasising about immoral things, while trying to look good and kind on the outside."

Feeling down about his family's low finances and a monotonous routine, Denis joined an early morning breakfast club in Melbourne, where he would hear speakers on motivation and business techniques.

His journey to truth began when, he says, "a lady at this meeting gave me a book that showed me how to 'gain things from God'."

Following the book's instructions, Denis began asking for things he genuinely needed "in Jesus' name" and humbly asked for God's kindness, knowing he did not deserve it.

"The answered prayers," Denis explains, "caused me to have many questions about who God is."

He began reading the Bible and found out that God is perfect, and He cannot allow those who fall short of His perfection into heaven with Him.

"I found that I was deserving of God's punishment for my rebellion against Him and I was in need of God's



Denis Hutchins

help. But I also knew that if I asked God to sort out my life then I would have to face my wife with the truth of my evil ways."

As he changed his mind about his sin before God and asked for Jesus' forgiveness, Denis says, "I understood that I was completely clean before God, but I still needed to confess my sins and face the consequences."

Knowing he did not have the courage to tell his wife, Denis says, "I asked God to bring it about in the best possible way. Days later my wife was called by a friend who said that her daughter had been molested."

"God placed a trust in me that He would do things in the perfect way. It was the toughest time for my family, but all I could do was speak the truth to every question I was asked."

In 1996 Denis went to prison, and was divorced the following year. He has never seen his children again.

Following the end of his sentence, Denis moved in with his parents, and he still cares for his 89-year-old mother after his father's death.

"I prayed regarding the church that God would have me go to and He led me to a wonderful forgiving and loving church."

Despite his past being known in his small town, Denis says, "God protects and cares for those who are truthful with Him. There is a wonderful promise in Proverbs chapter 16, verse 7: 'When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with Him.' So, for those who trust God, people are not our enemies, demons and lies are, and God's truth delivers us from both."

Denis admits that temptations still come to his mind, but each time he says, "I deliberately choose to pray and the Spirit of the Lord lifts me up and gives me good things to think upon."

Denis says he is following the Bible's instruction to "pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

"My heart desires Jesus more than the foolish things of my former selfish character, with its immoralities and fantasies."



# Building Better Marriages

## "i" CULTURE TEARS US APART

BY ROB FURLONG

The Bond franchise recently announced plans for the 24th movie in the series including the oldest ever "Bond girl", 50-year-old Italian actress, Monica Bellucci. Commenting on why she won the plumb role, Bellucci seemed un-phased by all the hype because after all, as she told the press, she had "beauty and talent!"



Monica Bellucci

Bellucci's comments are grating to me, not so much because of their obvious self-focus, but more so that it highlights a prevailing attitude grafted deeply into the culture of our time – that beauty, talent and an emphasis on me and my happiness is what really counts.

Author and pastor, Dale S. Kuehne calls this the *iWorld* which he writes about in his book, *Sex and the iWorld*. The essence of *iWorld*, he says, is an emphasis on the right of the individual to make personal

choices that will lead to his or her personal happiness and fulfillment regardless of what traditional boundaries may be in place and which are also perceived as restricting one's personal satisfaction with life.

To put it more bluntly, in *iWorld* every boundary is up for grabs if it seeks to restrict your right to make your own choices about what is right or wrong.

We have been moving into *iWorld* for some time now.

Twenty years ago I asked a newly engaged couple who wanted me to be their celebrant, "How long do you think your marriage should last?"

Normally the couple will respond with "forever!" but on this occasion the prospective bride's response surprised me: "If it lasts 10 years,

well it lasts 10 years; but if it doesn't, well so be it..."

As I explored this answer with her, it became clear that the idea of committing yourself to another person for the rest of your life (as opposed to her notion of a commitment based on "as long as we both are happy/still in love") was a completely foreign concept to her.

I realise I may come off sounding quite critical here – I do not intend to be. I simply want to highlight that over the past 40 to 50 years we have moved from a society based on the belief that inter-personal relationships also include thoughtfulness, love and care for others to one where the individual self and personal happiness is exalted above everything else.

The culture of *iWorld* strikes at the very heart of marriage and in fact, all relationships. For a marriage to grow and blossom it requires two people who not only love each other but who are also committed to the responsibilities and sacrifices that characterise that love.

Promising to stay faithful to your husband or wife at the exclusion of all others requires just such a love.

Getting up to care for a screaming child late in the night while your wife catches up on her own rest requires just such a love.

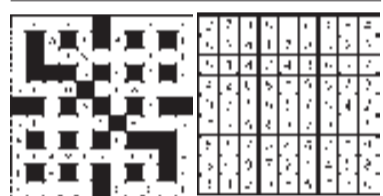
Listening to your husband's complaints at the end of a long day at the office requires just such a love.

Sitting through numberless hours lost at your child's school awards ceremonies most definitely requires just such a love!

But in *iWorld*, no such love is required or even expected. All that matters is that you are happy and in discovering that happiness you do not restrict another person's right to their own happiness.

This does not mean that everything about the world that we have moved from was always right and beyond criticism. Kuehne bravely acknowledges this fact about our former world, a world he describes as *tWorld*. But he does pose this interesting question: Which world will provide us with our best chance of lasting happiness – *tWorld*, *iWorld* or *is there another option?*

In seeking to answer that question we must understand the world that we have come from and the world in which we currently find ourselves before we can consider the possibility of a better alternative. Kuehne believes there is a better world and so do I – I invite you to explore this with me over the coming year as we seek to both grow and find fulfillment in our relationships with each other!



## COULD GOD LOVE SOMEONE LIKE ME?

Yes, He **LOVES** you and has a plan for your life

We read in God's word: "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16)

<p><b>OUR PROBLEM:</b></p>	<p><b>SEPARATION from God</b> "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)</p>	<p><b>ADMIT</b></p>
<p><b>GOD'S REMEDY / SOLUTION:</b></p>	<p><b>JESUS died on the cross</b> "God demonstrates His own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8)</p>	<p><b>BELIEVE</b></p>
<p><b>OUR RESPONSE:</b></p>	<p><b>TRUST Jesus by receiving Him</b> "To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12)</p>	<p><b>COMMIT</b></p>

Here is an example of how you can pray.

"Lord Jesus, I need You now. Please forgive me for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Saviour and Lord. Thankyou that You loved me so much that You died on the cross for me. Take control of my life. Make me the person You created me to be. Amen"

The Lord Jesus says: "He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." (John 7:38)

AS A NEXT STEP :

If you prayed the above prayer, tick this box

I have prayed this prayer.

Please send me:

Bible

Some 'starting off' literature

Information on a helpful church

If you have NOT prayed the prayer at this stage, tick this box

I would like to think about this.

Please send me:

More information as I am inquiring about being a Christian.

I have a problem (see attached letter)

\* Please tick and write clearly \*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Age and occupation (it helps) \_\_\_\_\_

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## Computers & Technology

### Mobile phone contracts explained

BY SALVATION ARMY FINANCIAL COUNSELLOR MARIA TURNBULL

Fixed-term ('post-paid') contracts vary in length, generally from one to two years. They usually involve a range of charges, such as connection (flag-fall) and call charges, monthly access fee; device repayment; service disconnection and reconnection charges; variation and termination fees and charges for internet data usage through the mobile phone handset.

This can result in bill shock if you exceed or are not aware of the contracted services. Calls or data up to a certain value may be included as part of the access fee under the contract. When calls or data exceeds that value they are charged at a rate set by your service provider under your contract.

It's important to get the answers to the following questions before choosing a contract:

- (1) What is the minimum cost over the period of the contract?
- (2) What period of time does the contract cover?
- (3) What are the call rates once I exceed the value of the access fee?
- (4) Can I change the access fee during the term of the contract?
- (5) What are the charges for ending my contract early?
- (6) Does the contract include a handset (is it included in the fees and charges)?
- (7) How often will I receive a bill?

**Variation and termination fees** are charges that may be made by the service provider to change the conditions of your contract or to end it early. These fees can be quite high, so before you sign a contract find out what it will cost to change the contract or terminate it early.

**A verbal agreement** (eg. with a phone sales operator) are as binding as written ones. If you agree verbally to a contract, the conditions of that contract can be enforced as if you had signed it. If you are asked to agree verbally to a mobile phone service contract, make sure you understand the conditions before you do so. You should ask for written confirmation of any verbal agreement.

**TRY PREPAID (CONTRACT-FREE) INSTEAD:** By prepaying on a monthly or 'pay as you go' basis, you avoid many 'excess' charges. To go prepaid, you need to buy a prepaid-type SIM (subscriber identity module) card from retail store or online. This card allows you to connect your mobile phone to a network and make calls up to the value you have added to your account. You may buy a new 'unlocked' mobile phone or insert the SIM card into your existing mobile phone. In some cases, handsets are sold with a pre-paid service included, but are usually 'network-locked' until you recharge a certain amount or pay an unlocking fee. If you try pre-paid, investigate: (1) how often you have to recharge your credit, (2) whether your credit or service expires if you don't use it within a certain time (from 1-6 months), and (3) whether the pre-paid call rates beat other options. There are calling-unlimited prepaid SIMs available on every Australian network, as listed at [whirlpool.net.au/wiki/mobile\\_unlimited\\_prepaid\\_plans](http://whirlpool.net.au/wiki/mobile_unlimited_prepaid_plans). If you want a more flexible service without excess charges, it may work for you to go prepaid.

## GARDENING

with DERYN THORPE

### PLANNING TO SURVIVE SUMMER



In your garden, the New Year is an excellent time to celebrate the things that brought joy to your heart last year, take stock of the failures and continue protecting plants from our searing summer heat.

#### ASK YOURSELF: WHAT WORKED?

In my own garden, the best dividends came from soil improvement (which in my sandy soil included the generous use of clay additives), coir peat and compost worked into the top 30cm of soil. My sensational roses were still flowering in late October as a result.

#### WHAT FAILED?

I was a little neglectful in my front vegetable patch and the winter crop of broccoli and kale were under-fertilised and watered and their ill health led to a ferocious attack by white fly. Observation is the most important gardening tool and I should have realised they were stressed and rectified the situation as stressed plants attract sap sucking insects.

After picking the crop, I removed all the plants and left the area fallow for a few weeks before planting a summer crop of green beans which is now growing well. If you were slow to plant this year there is still time to plant tomato seeds or seedlings, as well as eggplant, corn, zucchini, melon and capsicum, before the weather cools.

#### HOW CAN I IMPROVE AND PROTECT IT?

If you have a hot climate it is necessary to provide some temporary afternoon shade for vegetables. Many gardeners now use agricultural shadecloth with 20% to 50% screening which moderates temperatures and reduces damage from wind and radiation over the summer months.

All summer vegetables cope better with the heat if given a fortnightly feed with a complete liquid plant food that contains seaweed. Choose a formula with natural minerals and fulvic acid (which improves nutrient uptake) like Uplift by Yates and pour over the foliage and root zone.

Over summer, soils can become non-wetting and are best improved with an organic-based granular soil wetter like Yates Waterwise Granular Soil Wetter which contains coir peat which attracts and stores water and nutrients along with a fast acting wetting agent that improves the moisture penetration of water repellent soils.

Plants need more frequent watering in summer but you can reduce a plant's water use by applying an acrylic polymer to the leaves. Products like Yates' DroughtShield reduce water usage by up to 50% and increase the survival of plants during dry times. The product stretches up to 100% with leaf growth and lasts for up to 90 days. It will also prolong the life of cut flowers.



# FAMILY RACES INTO HISTORY BOOKS



**Laura Klock and daughters Erika and Karlee are the first mother-daughter-daughter trio in the history of land speed motorcycle racing to hold simultaneous records, but the road to success has not been easy**

Just before setting her first 'bagger' motorcycle land speed record in 2006, Laura remembers waiting on the starting line of the Bonneville Salt Flats and reflecting on "the crazy, twisted, windy roads that lead me to this point".

"Here I was doing something that no one had ever done before. No one had raced the kind of bike I was riding, and my daughters were with me, watching," Laura recalls proudly in an interview for iamsecond.com.

Yet it was only after being released from the burdens of her past that Laura could take to the road without anything holding her back.

"When people say 'time heals all wounds' it's not true. You might be able to [suppress] it for a while but it doesn't go away, it's just in there festering until you face it, forgive, and choose to move forward," she explains.

Knowing her birth to very young parents was unplanned, Laura grew up believing she was "just a mistake" and that she was also the cause for her dad's alcoholism and her parents constant fighting before their divorce.

She escaped from her problems by riding her motorcycle in the Wisconsin countryside, but then turned to

alcohol in high school.

On the surface Laura was excelling in schoolwork, cheerleading and basketball but she says she was just "very good at wearing masks" – hiding the pain she felt inside.

A pregnancy at age 16 led to an abortion. "Ultimately, as I got older I realised that decision was at the core of a lot of the guilt, shame and the low self-worth that I was carrying. I had made an uneducated decision without understanding the emotional and spiritual consequences, and it's a decision I will carry with me for the rest of my life."

"I continued through high school never feeling good enough, never quite pretty enough and never smart enough because nothing I did seemed to change my situation."

In college, Laura turned to experimenting with drugs and more to alcohol to "ease" the pain but it was never enough.

She dropped out of university when she became pregnant again, determined to be a great mum and vowing to never make the abortion decision again.

Even though she felt ill-equipped to have a healthy relationship with her baby's father, they were married, and a second daughter followed.

A divorce when her daughters



Laura and husband Brian created a bike for a Discovery Channel TV series

were aged three and six led Laura to spend her weekends partying when her girls were away visiting their dad. She felt like a failure.

"It became more difficult to lead a double life as the girls grew older," she confesses. "I was starting to lose control of hiding the extent of the partying from my daughters and realized I really wasn't hiding anything from anyone."

Laura met her current husband through what they now call "divine intervention".

Brian was a church-goer, and invited her to go with him. Despite her previous poor experiences with church, she attended and was in tears by the end of the service.

"Certain parts of that sermon just spoke to my heart about a heavenly Father that cares about you and loves you no matter what you've done or where you've been. The pastor spoke about forgiveness and all that we have to do is accept God's love. I thought, what a concept! He could love me and there's a reason for all this," she recalls of that day.

She also remembers a distinct sense of peace settle over her when she gave everything over to Jesus – all her insecurities, past sins and mistakes – realising that God was in control, not her.

decided it would be a smart move to race it, with a woman as the pilot.

At that point Laura had never been a racer but she was not about to let the opportunity pass her by.

"The first time I was on the starting line of the Bonneville Salt Flats I sat there for a moment and I prayed 'okay, God, this is where you have me today, let me do your will'," she recalls.

"This was something new, something I had never done before. So I just turned it over to God, and took off."

She set her first world record that day, and never looked back. She went on to set new 'bagger' motorcycle records in 2007 and 2008 as well with her daughters following in her footsteps. Recently, the girls have topped off other achievements as the first such trio to all ride a 'bagger' past 314kph. Their goal is to exceed 320kph before 2016.

"I don't have to have all the strength or all the answers. I can lean on God when I feel like I'm facing something that I just can't do," she concludes. "I don't have to feel alone anymore. He is always there." ●



Heading for 195mph (314kph) on the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah

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