

# COUNTRY STAR'S BOLD MOVE

GRAMMY AWARD WINNER CARRIE UNDERWOOD UNAFRAID TO SING 'RISKY' SONGS

BY ELISHA HAMMOND

Country music star Carrie Underwood has sold 58 million albums globally, made 21 number-one hits, and won seven Grammy awards, and it was all because she proclaimed what she believes in from the very beginning



Carrie found her claim to fame after winning American Idol in 2005 but many doubted she would go far after producing an overtly Christian song as her second single.

"After I released *Jesus Take the Wheel*, people started saying, 'Oh, it's kind of risky. You're coming out with a religious song,'" Carrie explained to *Esquire* magazine.

"And I was thinking, 'Really?' I grew up in Oklahoma, I always had a close relationship with God. I never thought it was risky in the least. If anything, I thought it was the safest thing I could do."

It turned out the critics were wrong.

The single spent six weeks at the top of Billboard's hot country songs, won two Grammys and best single at the Academy of Country Music Awards.

The lyrics tell the story of a young woman on her way to visit her parents with her infant in the backseat. When the car slips on some ice and begins to skid the woman says: "Jesus, take the wheel". Miraculously, the car safely comes to a halt, and the pair are left unscathed.

In an interview for *Entertainment Weekly* in 2012 Carrie explains she hopes the song will be remembered as "something that somebody can hear [that] would make them feel better or help them through an important time in their life".

Having been raised in a Christian home and choosing to put her trust in Jesus from an early age, Carrie used her God-given talent to sing at church from age three, and perform at country talent shows in her hometown of Checotah, Nashville.

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## War and terrorism:

## Who is to blame?

BY CAITLIN CHODAKOWSKY

I have lost count of the amount of times people have accusingly or curiously asked me this question: If God is good, why is religion the cause of most wars?

Before I explain, allow me to start with a correction: religion has not caused the majority of history's wars.

While Islam Jihadists are to blame for 9/11, the recent terrorist attacks in France and many other suicide bombings done in the name of Allah, it is

true that in the last 2000 years some wars have tainted the name of Christianity.

The Crusades, the French Wars of Religion, the Taiping Rebellion, the Troubles in Northern Ireland and even other tragic events like Australia's Stolen Generation are rightly attributed to people who called themselves Protestant Christians and Catholics.

Yet have you stopped to ponder why the 20th century is considered one of the bloodiest in human history? The two World Wars and the Communist Revolutions in Russia, China, Southeast Asia and Cuba all had nothing to do with any historical religion yet accounted for over 70 million deaths.

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**Green Prince**  
TURNS FROM TERROR  
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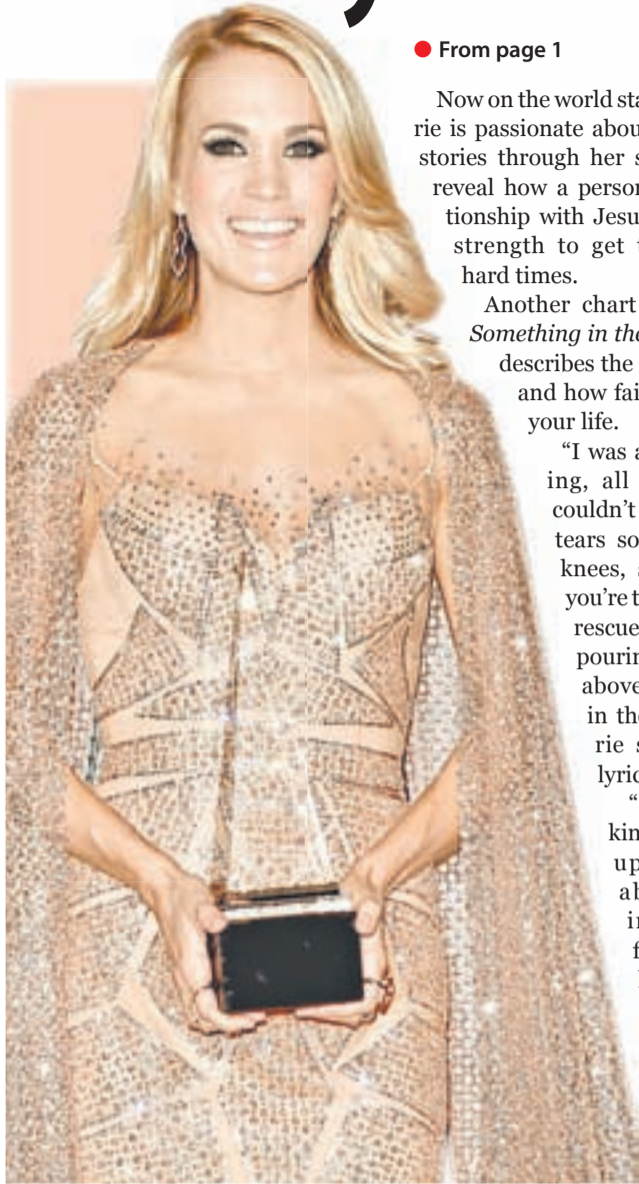
Page 4 **Love regained**



**'I WAS AN AGRO SURFER'**  
BACK PAGE



# Country star's bold move



NOVEMBER 22, 2015: Carrie Underwood proudly displays her Favourite Female Artist Country Award at the 2015 American Music Awards

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Now on the world stage, Carrie is passionate about telling stories through her songs to reveal how a personal relationship with Jesus brings strength to get through hard times.

Another chart topper, *Something in the Water*, describes the act of baptism and how faith can change your life.

"I was all out of hoping, all out of fight, couldn't fight back my tears so I fell on my knees, saying God if you're there come and rescue me, felt love pouring down from above, got washed in the water," Carrie shares in the lyrics of the song.

"It's really kind of a joyous uplifting song about changing your life for the better, kind of having that 'ah-ha' moment, to waking up and your life being different from that moment forward," Carrie later

**"I'm not the first person to sing about God, Jesus, faith [or] any of that, and I won't be the last"**

told ABC Radio.

To the criticism she received for the song, Carrie made this bold statement: "I'm not the first person to sing about God, Jesus, faith [or] any of that, and I won't be the last. And it won't be the last for me, either."

*Temporary Home* is another track worth listening to, encouraging people to see that hardships that they may face in life, whether foster care, unemployment or having a loved one pass away, are temporary struggles in this life.

She bases this understanding around God's promise, for those who accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour: heaven awaits and is a place where there will be no more suffering.

Along with a successful music career, Carrie perceives her marriage to professional hockey player Mike Fisher as yet another blessing from God and describes their faith in Jesus is the bond that keeps their marriage together.

"Every Wednesday, my husband and I have a (Bible) study group with our friends," she told Gospel Light Society.

Another recent and surprising gift from God was the birth of the couple's baby boy, Isaiah, in February 2015.

Her newfound joy inspired Carrie to write the song *What I Never Knew I Always Wanted* and once again topped the charts.

Feeling the need to give back to her community and God with what she has been blessed with, she started the Checotah Animal, Town and School Foundation in 2009.

Carrie often gives away a portion of the profits from her tours, albums and merchandise sales to volunteer organisations to fund special projects and events.

"I've always loved volunteering," Carrie says, "I love making music and all that, but at the end of the day I don't think that's what people are going to remember about a person." ●

# War and terrorism: Who is to blame?

● From page 1

In fact, it could be argued that the ideologies behind the communist movement, which caused millions of deaths, and Hitler's evolution-inspired Holocaust, were both strongly aligned with atheism (or, more precisely, the belief that the Biblical God does not exist).

In Charles Phillips and Alan Axelrod's three-volume *Encyclopedia of Wars*, 1763 wars were documented, of which only 123 (7%) were classified as being religious in nature. They stated that less than 2% of all people killed in warfare were killed because of a religious conflict.

Adding to this, 66 of these wars were waged in the name of Islam, cutting the percentage of religious wars in history down to 3.23%.

Instead of religion, most of the other wars were about domination, independence, control, wealth, resources, economics and/or politics.

While the figures speak for themselves, it is clear that religion or no religion, war and terrorism is a result of evil people not God.

Perhaps some are left asking, well then why did God create evil people? The Bible's answer, in the book of Genesis chapter 1, is God created everything perfect and good.

He then gave the first created man and woman freedom of choice and with it one command: "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die (Genesis 2:16)."

Yep, you guessed it. They ate from that tree. With their disobedience not only did death enter the world but so did evil and sin – this has plagued us ever since.

Jesus' answer to crime, cruelty, loss of life, and evil is clear: "From the inside, out of the heart of men come bad thoughts, sex sins of a married person, sex sins of a person not married, killing other people, stealing, wanting something that belongs to someone else, doing wrong, lying, having a desire for sex sins, having a mind that is always looking for sin, speaking against God, thinking you are better than you are and doing foolish things. All these bad things come from the inside and make the man sinful (Mark 7:21–23 NLT)."

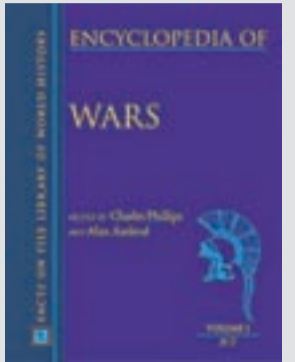
While God may permit war to happen for His own divine reasons, it is sinful people who wage it in the name of religion.

Jesus' summed up His radical view in this quote: "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:43)."

Even with the influence of this true Christian understanding we will never see peace in our age until Jesus' promised return. You can read about His coming reign of peace on earth in the Bible's last book of Revelation.

This is His promise we can hold onto if we accept Him as our Lord and Saviour: "He (Jesus) 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 (Revelation 21:4)."

I look forward to the new order, how about you? ●



## Crossword

- |                         |                                |                           |                             |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>           | 10 Polar jacket (6)            | 20 Clear the slate (5)    | <b>DOWN</b>                 |
| 1 Hobart resident (9)   | 14 Felt hat (6)                |                           | 1 Honk (4)                  |
| 7 Way too weighty (5)   | 15 Big bird (3)                | 21 Inlaid wood blocks (9) | 2 Olympics no-no (7)        |
| 8 Shoe part (5)         | 18 Sort of stew or terrier (5) |                           | 3 Culminating point (4)     |
| 9 Child's plaything (3) |                                |                           | 4 Large lizard (6)          |
|                         |                                |                           | 5 Puppy's bite (3)          |
|                         |                                |                           | 6 Gold finder's phrase (6)  |
|                         |                                |                           | 11 Barricade (7)            |
|                         |                                |                           | 12 Likeness of a person (6) |
|                         |                                |                           | 13 Bowman (6)               |
|                         |                                |                           | 16 Waiter's handout (4)     |
|                         |                                |                           | 17 Declare untrue (4)       |
|                         |                                |                           | 19 Rascal (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

	6		7					
		7		8	3			
3		8			1			
	7	4					2	
	2	6	4		9	3	1	
	8					4	7	
			3			6		2
			6	9		5		
					8		4	

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DECEMBER 5, 2015: A makeshift memorial with a sign saying "Prayers [to] Jesus" situated near the Inland Regional Centre in San Bernardino, California. The centre was the site of the December 2 mass shooting that left 14 dead and 21 wounded. Suspects Syed Rizwan Farook, 28, and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, 27, were killed in a gun battle with police.  
(Photo Greg Vojtko/AFP/Getty Images)





# Green Prince turns from terror

**The son to a founding member of the Hamas Palestinian terrorist group shares why he is prepared to put his life on the line in the name of peace and the truth**

**M**osab Hassan Yousef did the unthinkable, and put himself in danger, when he turned away from the life he was destined for and converted from Islam to Christianity.

"I'm not afraid of (Palestinian Muslims)," Mosab told *The Daily Telegraph*, "especially as I know that I'm doing the right thing, and I don't see them as my enemies."

"If they want to kill me, let them do it. I'm not going to stop anyone. It's going to be my freedom. My soul's going to be free of my body, not flesh anymore."

Mosab says the decision to go public with his beliefs stems from his disgust at the brutality of the terrorist group he was once associated with.

"Hamas, they are using civilians' lives, they are using children, they are using the suffering of people every day to achieve their goals. And this is what I

hate. There is only one way to Paradise – the way of Jesus who sacrificed Himself on the cross for all of our sins," he says.

Before converting to Christianity and seeking asylum in the USA, Mosab worked as a spy for the Israeli Shin Bet with the code name Green Prince: green for the colour of the Islamist Hamas flag, and prince as the offspring of 'Hamas royalty'.

So, as he writes in his book *Son of Hamas*, "At the age of twenty-two, I became the Shin Bet's only Hamas insider who could infiltrate Hamas's military and political wings, as well as other Palestinian factions."

With this intel Mosab foiled planned assassinations of prominent Israeli leaders as well as many suicide bomber attacks.

It was also during this time that he met a British missionary in Jerusalem who gave him an English-Arabic copy of the New Testament and invited him

to attend a Bible study session at their hotel.

Curious about the God of the Bible, Mosab says, "I found that I was really drawn to the grace, love and humility that Jesus talked about."

He began secretly studying the Bible and was particularly struck by Jesus' encouragement to "love your enemies".

"I converted to Christianity because I was convinced by Jesus Christ as a character, as a personality," Mosab told the *Wall Street Journal*.

"I loved Him, His wisdom, His love, His unconditional love. I didn't leave [the Islamic] religion to put myself in another box of religion. At the same time it's a beautiful thing to see my God exist in my life and see the change in my life. I see that when He does exist in [the hearts of] other Middle Easterners there will be a change."

Following Jesus was a painful decision to make as it caused much suffering to his family and left him ostracised from them.

"I absolutely know that in anybody's eyes I was a traitor," Mosab says. "To my family, to my nation, to my God. I crossed all the red lines in my society. I didn't leave one that I didn't cross."

Yet this changes nothing. Mosab has devoted himself to Jesus and the cause of drawing attention to how the Palestinian leadership is "misleading" and exploiting its people.

"Palestinians look really ugly in front of everybody in the world and they are very, very good people ... they are misled, and their picture is very dark because of this leadership. They need some help, they need people to stop lying to them, and lying to the world."

Although the threat of death remains Mosab boldly adds,

"I'm not afraid . . . Palestinians have reason to kill me. Some Israelis may want to kill me. My goal is not to defeat my enemy. It is to win over my enemy."

## MAKING SENSE OF EVIL

FORMER PARISIAN GUILLAUME BIGNON EXAMINES WHAT EVIL ACTIONS TELL US

**AFTER** the terrorist attacks in Paris reached New York where Guillaume Bignon lives, the Paris-born former atheist spoke out on what his beloved France needs to consider in its predominant secularism.

As a theologian currently pursuing his doctorate, he writes in *Premier Christianity* magazine, "The way I see it, there are only a couple of ways to think through this evil."

"The only option for French atheists is to maintain that there isn't really any such thing as evil."

"When one denies the existence of God as a transcendent creator of the universe who ordains how humans ought to live their lives, one is left only with conflicting opinions about what individuals like and dislike."

Gulliaume explains that if there is no God then there is no objective truth about the good and the bad. To deny God is to deny objective good and, with it, objective evil.

This perspective comes through strongly in the writings of popular French atheist philosopher André Comte-Sponville, according to Gulliaume.

"In his book *L'esprit de l'athéisme*, he says: 'good and evil do not exist in nature, and nothing exists outside of it'.

"The French atheist contends that

the only morality that exists is a human construction, and one must keep in mind that it is 'illusory'. He concludes: "This is what I call relativism, or rather, its positive side: only reality is absolute, every judgment of value is relative."

Few ordinary French atheists would be this clear-minded, Gulliaume argues, so he presses further.

"In reality, to be a consistent atheist one must affirm that the Islamic terrorists in Paris didn't do anything 'wrong', as such. They only acted out of line with our personal preferences,



**"Hearts are heavy, and thinking objectively is difficult when it hurts"**

Guillaume Bignon pictured left

(and in line with theirs). If there's no ultimate arbiter of right and wrong, that's all we are left with."

To those who say this is crazy, and 'Of course terrorist acts are evil', Gulliaume responds, "I agree, which is why I think the reality of the evil we just witnessed makes atheism so implausible."



"We all sense there is something really, deeply, objectively evil about this," he continues.

"That intuition can only be true if there is a transcendent God, a moral lawgiver, who gives good and evil a moral reality."

In that same book by André Comte-Sponville, Gulliaume notes that André rejects belief in God because 'people are too evil', which logically would mean people who do evil are not worthy of creation by a divine being.

"I leave it up to Comte-Sponville to harmonise those two beliefs," says Gulliaume, "but for now, let's just note that denying

the existence of God, and with it the objectivity of evil, isn't attractive."

Some may ask, 'If God exists and is perfectly good, why didn't God prevent this evil?'

Gulliaume's response is that "on the Christian view, God isn't just passively letting history unfold – He is in providential control of all that

happens, both the good and the bad. While my sweet Paris is grieving, the Bible states that God 'works all things according to the counsel of His will' (Ephesians 1:11).

"This means... that the biblical God, if He exists, must have righteous and just purposes behind even the evil we witness. That is both an entirely challenging and entirely hopeful thought! Of course what these purposes are we rarely get to know, but the positive side is that one can trust that God is good even when it hurts, and one can truly '#PrayForParis', knowing that God is in control and can in fact bring justice in response to our deepest longings."

"Hearts are heavy, and thinking objectively is difficult when it hurts. But ultimately, as the French face this seemingly purposeless evil, one side must deny that it's evil, and the other must deny that it's purposeless."

"As a former-atheist-turned-Christian-theologian there's no hiding which option I favour. I'm hoping that my fellow French would, as I did years ago, find life in Christ, repenting of their sins and placing their trust in Jesus."

**nudge** WITH KARL FAASE

### Money is a drug

We often think about money as a tool of exchange, a practical method of buying, selling and doing business. Yet some people's commitment to building wealth and their obsession with money seems to suggest something more is happening here.

UK University professors Stephen Lea and Paul Webley argue that human behaviour towards money can't solely be explained by its usefulness.

They write: "Money isn't just a tool but it also acts as a drug on the mind, changing how we feel. Part of the benefit people derive from acquiring money (is) feeling good... So we chase money partly just for the sake of having it."

This helps us understand what Jesus teaches about money and why we must be very careful in our response to wealth. It's why Jesus says you can't serve both God and money.

For more Daily Nudge by Karl Faase, see [Nudge.org.au](http://Nudge.org.au)



# LOVE REGAINED AFTER HEARTBREAK

**A devastating break-up led Kahlia to re-examine where true love is found**

**K**ahlia Thomas recently married the man of her dreams but it was in the midst of teen heartbreak that she learnt an important lesson about love that helped turn her life around.

At sweet 16 she remembers falling head over heels for a boy who did not hold the same values and beliefs that she did.

"I was so desperate to feel loved, that I told him I loved him after we had only been dating a few months," Kahlia recalls.

"Before too long, I was putting this guy first in my life and depending on him for my worth, security and identity. I allowed myself to drift away from my friends, which hurt them and caused me to depend on my boyfriend even more."

She stopped attending church with her parents because her boyfriend thought it was "a bit stupid" and admits that she discarded her standards in the area of physical intimacy.

"I had previously thought that the

idea of saving sex for marriage made sense, but I never committed to it. Once I was in a relationship and desperate to feel loved and accepted, delaying sex did not seem that necessary. I gave myself away, physically and emotionally," she confesses sadly.

Meanwhile Kahlia says she assumed she was a Christian because her parents were but admits, "I loved living for myself and finding instant gratification wherever I thought best".

"I wrongly believed that Christianity was about being as 'good' as you can in order to earn God's approval. However, I think I knew, deep down, that I could never be good enough to live up to God's standards," she adds.

After dating over a year, Kahlia's boyfriend broke up with her suddenly, leaving her broken hearted.

"This led to me thinking: people come and go in life. There is nothing that we can put our trust into, without it surely letting us down at some point."

In search for life meaning and purpose that she knew God had to offer, Kahlia started attending church again and was invited by a classmate to a conference run by a university Christian group called Student Life.

At first she thought it would be lame, but eventually agreed to go as she wondered; "Apparently Jesus died for my sins but why couldn't God just say 'you're forgiven' and then ignore any bad things I do? After all, no one is perfect and God is forgiving, right?"

However, at the conference, Kahlia says she finally realised that her sins (wrongs against God) had a huge cost and that she needed to make herself right before Him.

"I acknowledged that God is perfect and good, and that I had offended Him greatly by turning away from



Kahlia Thomas and husband Glenn

Him and putting my own selfish desires first. I knew that I was guilty," she explains.

"Jesus claimed to be God and rose from the dead to prove it. I realised that because Jesus lived a perfect life, His sacrifice in my place was and is the only way that my sins can be forgiven. I decided to follow Jesus, knowing that I am a sinner prone to failure, yet trusting that God will change me and grow me in my Christian life."

After the conference, Kahlia began excitedly telling others about God's forgiveness and promise of everlasting life with Him.

"I am so glad that God has rescued me from my sins. I have been freed from the burden of trying to earn God's approval through good works. Yet, because I know that I am so undeserving of God's forgiveness, I am eager to obey Him.

"I have peace! There is no need to worry, because I know that whatever happens, nothing will separate me

from God's love."

Following the conference Kahlia began dating a fellow Christian named Glenn.

Since they both had their identity, security and satisfaction in God, Kahlia says, "We were happy to take things slow and build our relationship on friendship. We did not need physical intimacy to feel secure and happy."

The couple were married in June last year and now spend their weekdays sharing God's love with university students.

"Our desire is to obey God and put Him first in our lives. We are both sinful people, but we believe that God will help us to have a good marriage. Jesus is a great example for us to follow," Kahlia concludes.

"Because of my faith in Jesus, I am challenged to humbly put Glenn's needs above my own, rather than expecting Glenn to satisfy me completely and meet all of my needs. Only God can do that!"

## Worth the wait

BY CAITLIN CHODAKOWSKY

**AS I PLANNED to celebrate the first Valentine's Day with my newlywed husband a thought struck me and I think it's worth sharing with other young couples...**

Why do girls idolise a man of vintage values? Amidst teen fervour for the *Twilight* film saga, the idealisation of Edward Cullen's character is unusual considering his unpopular values in today's society.

Immortal since 1918, Edward embodied values that have long since been deemed outdated, undesirable and old fashioned. Even in the film and books Bella mocks him for insisting on marriage before sleeping with her.

Yet isn't it interesting that unlike most of the other romantic films being produced at the time, girls were going gaga over Edward?

Virginity is often seen as an undesirable thing in our western culture, as if something is wrong with you if you haven't slept with anyone by the time you are in your 20s.

Australia's first large-scale national survey of sexual behaviour and attitudes, the *Australian Study of Health and Relationships*, found that Australians are having sex at a younger age and with more partners than their parents.

I recently heard of two year six students caught having sex in a school classroom. That news hit me hard.

Why are kids in primary school even thinking about such things?

The results of the 2002 *National Survey of Australian Secondary Students, HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health* reported that 12.6% of high-school kids experienced unwanted sex because they were pressured by their partner.

Rather than dwelling on these things, I wanted to write to encourage young people out there to see the good in choosing to wait for marriage before having sex.

I was 22 before I had my first boyfriend. He became my husband last April. Before that time I had never held a boy's hand, never been kissed and never had a valentine.

While I often wondered if something was wrong with me, I also wondered if I was being too picky and pondered if I would ever get the chance to say 'I do', I can tell you now it was worth the patient wait.

And you know what? My husband patiently waited for me. I was impressed that at age 26 he had never slept with anyone either.

Looking back now, both of us agree that choosing not to have sex outside of marriage gave us the best start to married life possible.

We have no regrets, no guilt, no emotional baggage, no insecurities over comparisons with other ex-partners, no unwanted pregnancies or STDs, and most importantly, as



Caitlin and Will on their wedding day

Christians we honoured God.

I think deep down we all know it is not old fashioned and outdated to want the best for yourself: a secure relationship based on commitment and sincere vows that last "till death do us part".

For those who have made mistakes and learnt the hard way, this is by no means meant to make you feel bad. In fact God says He is quick to forgive and wash away all our history books.

Some of my single friends have experienced the freedom of Jesus' forgiveness and it is the most amazing thing to see them waiting patiently and standing strong against temptation.

If it is true love, it can and will wait till vows of commitment are made. Don't be pressured to give in, because God wants the absolute best for you. Your love story is in the making!

## your money

### GOAL-SETTING: A RECIPE FOR A GREAT MARRIAGE

Great communication is the bedrock of a marriage, and setting goals is essential to this.

Take time as a couple to uncover your dreams and identify your individual long-term goals. Then work out what your long-term goals as a couple are, such as how you want to be living several years from now. A long-term plan (e.g. "10 years from now") will help you set goals for each year, and how spending will be prioritised.

Perhaps one of you is employed but wants to stay home to care for your children. Evaluate what steps to take, and set goals from these steps. If the goal is the ability to live on one income, you may set short-term goals like paying off debts, increasing your pool of savings, or disposing of a vehicle or a house that is not aligned with your family's needs.

You could group long-term goals as follows: Values/Spirituality, Family and friends, Service towards others, and Career/Education/Skills. Financial goals could be grouped as: Giving, Spending/lifestyle, Saving/Investing, Debt and Other. After that, use the same headings to set out goals for this year that will take you to your long-term goals.

It is amazing how many couples go through their lives together without looking each other in the eye and discussing what is most important to them.

Writing down your goals and monitoring whether you are on track will demystify whether progress is being made. Written goals are motivational and improve your focus so that you can achieve your purpose.

As you share your goals, why not ask each other, "How can I help you succeed in reaching your goals?"





# REVIEW: CONCUSSION

Do we respond like Dr Omalu or the NFL, asks Ben McEachen

**HOW MUCH** is someone worth? We know the right answer is meant to be: "How dare you ask that! No-one can put a price on another person." But do our actions match up with our thoughts?

Wanting more money and possessions easily can dominate our lives. We're surrounded by slogans, offers and schemes for how to have more, more, more. And what's the harm in going after a bit of extra cash, or a newer car, or a refreshed bathroom, or an up-to-date laptop? Nothing... until such desires change the way we value everything else. Even the way we value people can be changed, leading us to paying a terrible cost that we might not notice until it's too late.

Having played champion boxer Muhammad Ali, screen superstar Will Smith's next movie has him playing another real-life fighter. While Bennet Omalu is less well-known, what he did was remarkable. Having moved from Nigeria to the USA to pursue his medical career, forensic pathologist Dr Omalu began studying the brain injuries of professional gridiron players.

Released at cinemas from February 18, *Concussion* presents what happened when Dr Omalu announced disturbing findings about the deadly risks posed to those in the American National Football League (NFL). His attempts to value each NFL player, by warning of head trauma caused by hard knocks, were met with hostility from the NFL's bosses.

*Concussion* suggests the NFL's fierce opposition was motivated by

greed. The financial gain attached to NFL games being played was valued more highly than those playing the games.

"The NFL has known about the concussion issue for years," alleges one of Dr Omalu's colleagues in the movie. But rather than face the possibility of enormous losses due

to do to live forever with God, Jesus' answers ultimately revealed what this rich young guy's heart was all about. For he was deeply upset when Jesus told him to sell all he had and give to the poor all the money he made (see Matthew 19:13-22).

Jesus was not saying money is bad and we must get rid of it. He was hitting at the core of a person who prizes their own wealth higher than loving other people as Jesus loves them. The selfless love Jesus models is the central principle of the laws which the rich young guy says he has kept. Yet, as Jesus points out, this wealthy bloke has totally missed that. He's missed the value system the laws are based on. And the result of missing it is the most costly mistake anyone can make. Ultimately, it leads to not being able to share eternal life with God.

So, are we Dr Omalu or the NFL? Consider *Concussion* in light of what Jesus says. To not only help with what we value day to day – but forever.

Ben McEachen co-hosts a weekly review of movies and TV shows on *The Big Picture*. See [www.TheBigPictureWebsite.com](http://www.TheBigPictureWebsite.com)



"If they continue to deny my work, man continues to die" - Dr Bennet Omalu (played by Will Smith)

to medical issues suffered by players, the powerful NFL Corporation seemingly chose to do "whatever it takes to keep them in the game". This included trying to discredit Dr Omalu's research and bury his findings.

*Concussion* spotlights the tragic point when professional sport becomes a ruthless business. It also introduces us to one person who dared to challenge wealth being valued over people. Dr Omalu believed his studies would enhance gridiron and told Good Morning America that he battled the mighty NFL because "it's about these players and their families that have suffered for so long".

A long, long time before the NFL challenged Omalu, a rich young guy also had issues with what he valued. When he asked Jesus what he had



Will Smith's latest movie *Concussion* is out February 18, 2016

## Graduating with honours in life

BY RICK LEWERS

Recently, a Booloominbah yard full of hopeful aspirants graduated from university.

It was a beautiful day and as always, brilliantly organised by the university staff. In a procession, I walked to the podium with women and men whose academic achievements far surpassed my own.

An education had served them well, but perhaps more importantly their education was being employed in the service of others: in agriculture, science, psychology, the arts and so much more.

The thing their degrees cannot assess is whether the graduates will face their world with small thoughts or with great ideas, whether they will live to comfort self or bless others, whether the arrogance of learning might limit their vision to where they will not allow faith to take them. Many a graduate has squandered knowledge in alcohol abuse, betrayed the nobility of their education in sexual immorality and in a sad existence that overdoses on excesses.

Some have simply met failure with surrender and their aspirations are lost. The jury is out of course on recent graduates and only time will tell how they respond to the privilege of their education.

Those graduates are probably not reading this article in fact they are probably taking a break from reading articles. But I want to plead with the degree-achieving crowds of the last few weeks to meet the challenges beyond university with courage and the spirit of not giving up on great life ambitions.

As a father whose daughter graduated two years ago I lived with frustrated aspirations, mine and hers. My aspirations were for a daughter to start earning enough money for me not to have to pay her car rego. Her aspirations are to become the most successful business woman she can be. Nearly two years of frustration were accompanied by part-time work in a high-class dress shop, followed with time as a doctor's receptionist.

The temptation to give up as doors closed was enormous, but two years down the track she started work in marketing, applying knowledge and skills she had learned in the dress shop and at the doctor's surgery, lessons her university course never taught her.

Like myself, parents who applauded their kids and whistled, hooted and photographed with pride may need to offer life lessons beyond graduation on patience, perseverance, self-respect, hard work, hope, faith, love and much more, without which life will never graduate with honours.

It is possible to graduate from a university and fail as a human. I don't know anyone with a degree, a masters or a doctorate who has not failed as a human at some point. That is a universal fact, with all the necessary evidence to prove the case. Indeed, many have achieved the dishonours of life while studying for a degree. The real tragedy is that you can grow a brain while shrinking in heart.

The examinations beyond university confront us with much bigger questions than a philosophy class can answer. Where can grace or mercy be found when I fail and guilt

threatens the corrosion of self? In an attitude of patience what does life wait for? What purpose in life is worth persevering for?

Every graduate will need to recognise that all their degree has given them is the admission papers to future opportunities, a world of learning, and the possibility of graduating life with honours.

But the astute learner will realise this can never happen without God. In the death of Christ, the failure can find forgiveness. In the resurrection of Christ, hope for eternity offers more than the grave. Relationship with God gives meaning to existence that will see a person patiently persevere in living to be a blessing to others.

And in the rule of God comes the accountability of judgement that should see every person looking to graduate life with honours from God. Now that will be some graduation day, when God hands out degrees with words like "Well done, good and faithful servant." But just like a university graduation day, the sad truth is that there will be those who fail to graduate. How will you do on that day because it is worth thinking about?





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# A SCIENTIST'S KEYS TO SUCCESS

You may be familiar with Dr Harold Finch from his work with NASA. He is credited with developing the Barbeque Roll concept to resolve extreme space temperatures, which was made famous in Tom Hanks' Apollo 13 movie.

As a project director for the Apollo program, Harold developed the ideal rotation of once-per-hour for the Apollo 8 spacecraft, according to the Kansas City Times (Dec. 23, 1968). That 1968 mission broadcast the first TV pictures of Earth from space.

If you live in Johnson County, Kansas, you might also know Harold as an instrumental founder and former dean of the local community college.

More recently you may have seen one of his 750 lectures around the world on Unlimited Success, or seen the 2013 film Unlimited, which he both produced and featured in.

If anyone has the authority to speak on success, it is Harold.

His bright and fruitful life began in the heart of the 1930's Great Depression where his mother assured him

they were not poor. "You have God who loves you and you have a good mind. Your future is bright," she told him.

After his grandmother's passing when he was age ten, Harold says he came to know God and His love.

"My grandmother's pastor saw that my siblings and I were spiritually lost and without hope," Harold recalls.

The pastor showed them Jesus' promise in the Bible: "Whoever hears [i.e. follows] My word and believes Him (God the Father) who sent Me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life" (John chapter 5, verse 24).

Harold remembers, "God the Holy Spirit spoke to me clearly. I was in tears as I realised God's kindness to me in spite of my sin and rebellion. I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as



Harold doing space research for Westinghouse

my Saviour.

"There was no question that I was truly a new person, spiritually born again by God's work in me."

For the first half of his life Harold was a scientist, educator and business founder, before he sold his business interests to devote his time to mission work at age 52.

"Money is okay because it allows you to do good things," he explains.

Harold gave up his comfortable life to live among the lowest caste in an orphan home in rural India where he helped build a school, a church and houses for nearby tsunami victims.

In the movie Unlimited, for which Harold is the executive producer, Fred Thompson played the part of Harold Finch, who inspires the main character Simon.

"I think [it is a film] that the whole family can go watch and be inspired by," Harold says of the project.

So why leave a seemingly very successful life behind to produce films and help in orphanages in poor coun-

tries? Because there are a few things Harold has come to learn about success in his lifetime.

In his free book, The Three Keys That Unlock The Door To Great Success, he highlights 20 principles, which he calls "the underpinnings of the three keys".

He outlines The Three Keys themselves explaining that successful people are visionaries, goal-directed, and practice the "golden rule":

putting other people first and not living a self-serving life.

The final chapter talks of a bonus key, a very special key: the one that unlocks Eternal success.

"When you throw God out of a country, a business or your own life you lose His protection, power, guidance and leadership," Harold explains.

"The three keys," he writes, "can give us great success while we live a short time on earth, but the only



Harold Finch sold his business to help orphans in India

key that can give us everlasting and infinite success is Jesus Christ. That key to life eternal is a free gift of God – ready for us to accept or reject."

The message of Unlimited is based on the Bible verse Matthew chapter 19 verse 26, which reads: "With God, all things are possible."

Harold believes this wholeheartedly, because he credits all his accomplishment and success to God. •

Connect with Harold and read his free book at [www.finchsucccess.com](http://www.finchsucccess.com)

## Bel

BY CREATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL, CREATION.COM

### Human gene mutations "arose in the last 200 generations"



We have periodically pointed out that, from a biblical perspective, there have only been about 200 human generations since time began. (E.g. [creation.com/human-population-growth](http://creation.com/human-population-growth), [creation.com/biologos-adam](http://creation.com/biologos-adam))

In that light, consider these recent findings by evolutionary geneticists, who studied more than one million mutations, or changes to our DNA code, found across human populations.

"Most of the mutations that we found arose in the last 200 generations or so," said Joshua Akey of the University of Washington. He and his co-researchers found that of the mutations likely to be harmful, 91% emerged in the last 5,000 years. Many of these have only existed for the last thousand years.

Echoing Akey's statements, population geneticist Alon Keinan of Cornell University said: "Humans today carry a much larger load of deleterious variants than our species carried just prior to its massive expansion just a couple hundred generations ago."

These observations match the Bible's declaration of a world "in bondage to decay" since Adam sinned (Romans 8:19-22). Evolutionary geneticists belatedly realized that the rate of degradation of the human genome poses huge problems for the evolutionary timeline (See [creation.com/time](http://creation.com/time)).

- Analysis of 6,515 exomes reveals the recent origin of most human protein-coding variants, [nature.com](http://nature.com), 28 November 2012.
- Human evolution enters an exciting new phase, [wired.com](http://wired.com), 29 November 2012.

## WHY IS THERE SUFFERING?

SUFFERING may seem to be the biggest argument against the existence of a good and loving God. However this is a self-defeating question.

Without the existence of God there is no basis for saying anything is good or bad because this is a moral judgement. If God did not exist then there would be no logical basis for having moral absolutes. Without God, life is meaningless and suffering makes no sense.

If we look to the Bible for an explanation, we find that God is a good. God made everything perfect in the beginning but then, because of Adam and Eve's rebellion against Him, death and suffering came into the world.

Suffering is a reality in our lives because of sin and can easily be likened to physical pain. Imagine you have your hand on a hot plate or you have fallen over and fractured your wrist. Without suffering the painful sensation that follows, perhaps you would not realise the need to move your hand away from the plate or bandage your wrist.

Suffering reminds us that we do not live in a perfect world and that we ourselves are not perfect but sinful and in need of saving. It points us to Jesus, the One who comforts us in the present and is able to save us from future suffering that comes from eternal separation from God in hell.

For now, we can find comfort from Romans 8:18: "What we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory God will reveal to us later." •

## When you don't know who to trust

BY ALAN BAILEY



IT'S getting harder to know who to believe. Cynicism and distrust are on every side. Daily the media is keeping us

informed of scams and swindles, rackets and rorts. Voices on the other end of the phone are spinning lies to extort money from us. The media itself is guilty of trafficking in untruths.

Poor old truth! Today we see it staggering along all tattered and bruised, out of shape and nearly unrecognisable. It's not only courts of law that are constantly struggling to find the truth; all of us have the problem.

When truth is lacking in relationships, people get hurt. Children are hurt when parents promise something then fail to deliver. Wives are hurt when husbands feed them lies. In business, the harm caused by dishonesty can affect thousands. Then there are the "isms" and "ologies"—the array of groups that make special claims and want your allegiance. There are sects, institutions, associations and so on dealing in religion, politics, life-style choices—you name it. No wonder many today have withdrawn to their safe haven, their home, there to keep as out of touch with such groups as they can.

### Finding truth

We shouldn't give up on our search for truth. Deep down, we know that there are genuine values, bedrock principles, unchanging laws—in a word, reality. A rule was given to us by Jesus long ago. He said "You will know them by their fruits." Meaning, of course, that people show what they are all about by the results in their lives and behaviour. He also said that a good tree bears good fruit, and, naturally, a bad tree bad fruit. Just look at the broken families, the war, the miseries created by ideologies and make your assessment.

I would like you also to read the true stories in this paper showing what happens when people come to know Christ. Over and over again we hear of lives wonderfully turned around, bondages broken, thieves and liars made over again. They have discovered the reality of John chapter 14 and verse 6 where it says that Jesus, "is the way, the truth, and the life." And thus it has been down through the years. Countless folk have proved the Christian gospel to be true and always a blessing. It was so when Christ was here. The fruit of His life and ministry was so positive, so uplifting, and so full of promise of even more bounty from God.

I urge you not to turn away from the truth because Jesus said in John chapter 8 and verse 32: "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." If you do turn away, the consequences will never be good; in fact they could be eternal. •

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# REJECTION TO JOY

**Karen is free of the chains that held her captive from a loveless childhood**

**H**er face is calm, her smile is infectious – a mighty victory for Karen Roos who battled for 40 years against low self-esteem and self-hatred.

Wounded by conditional parental love, she battled with an unwelcome destructive outlook and years fighting bulimia.

“Not hearing from my father and trying to stay out of the way of an angry mother, I lived in a world governed by rejection,” Karen recalls.

Karen says an untactful and overbearing character became her “self-survival kit”, thinking it would protect her from more rejection. Throughout her schooling, she did not fit in and depression set in.

“My parents divorced, my father left our small family when I was eight and moved to another country and I was very much alone as a child,” she says.

Her mother joined a religious sect when Karen was five. Barred from

birthday parties, Christmas and Easter celebrations, she recalls “I grew up feeling even more ostracised from friends and community.”

Persistently depressed by rejection at age 18, Karen decided to attempt suicide the next day, a Sunday. At 4am after a sleepless night, she recalls a clear voice telling her to go to a friend immediately, the voice was so strong.

At 4am Karen’s friend opened her door and invited her to come to church that morning. Karen never argued but went straight to sleep on their couch and for the first time in a long time was absent of the “horrendous thoughts” that were attacking her mind.

That morning Karen stepped inside a church for the first time in her life. She says she sensed God’s presence and peace immediately.

“As I walked in, I started weeping uncontrollably. I was radically saved by faith in Jesus, My Lord, My Saviour and Redeemer. I believed that Jesus had paid the price for my sins and I knew I was never to go back to my past.”

“My life changed that very day and the Lord helped me start working on the many trials I still had to contend with.”

One of them was that she did not fully understand God’s forgiveness.

Karen says she regretfully continued to be defensive when she felt threatened or if her character faults were exposed.

Feelings of rejection also plagued her and at age 18 she struggled with bulimia.

“I would eat myself senseless, be so revolted with what I had done and then purge all that food,” she recalls.

After marriage and four sons, Karen gained 40kg, and was further burdened with guilt because she could not lose the weight.

However, a loving husband, and her relationship with God ultimately enabled Karen to overcome these internal battles over time.

“The Lord gave me my husband Johann who demonstrated the love of God by loving me unconditionally and unequivocally,” Karen says.

“I finally stopped vomiting when God gave me a revelation of the lies that the enemy had been feeding me. God showed me how He had indescribably blessed me with four beautiful sons and the incredible love and support from my husband and Himself.”

The other major victory came when Karen had a word of revelation that her ‘black or white’ perception of life was God-given.

“The Holy Spirit told me through a pastor that God had specifically made

me that way. I see things as either for the benefit of Jesus or they are for the benefit of Satan. This means that I no longer conform to the lies of the enemy.”

And when feelings of rejection sometimes re-emerge, Karen says, “I am quick to recognise it as a lie. I have God’s Word, the Bible, to slice through those lies.”

A truth Karen can testify to; is that for those who trust in Jesus, “God never leaves you, nor will He ever forsake you (see Hebrews chapter 13 verse 5). You are His beloved and He thinks of you all the time!”

Despite her efforts, family relationships still remain broken. “It is extremely difficult,” Karen says, “but God has been so gracious to me. My heart’s desire is to have a pure heart. I honour my parents and family members even though they may not love me. In God’s might, I keep my heart in forgiveness towards everyone.”

Karen says God has strengthened her to co-ordinate and plan Christian



“I have forgiven everyone” says Karen Roos

conferences for women in southern Western Australia.

“I am so honoured to serve God, to reach out to people who don’t know Him and to touch God’s beloved children,” Karen concludes joyfully.

“I am no longer a woman rejected, but a woman with inexplicable joy from the Lord. He turned my mourning into dancing!”

Editor’s note: *Challenge* wishes to apologise for mistakenly publishing a draft version of Karen’s testimony in Nov 2015. This is the corrected version.



BY RICK LEWERS

Roadkill on the highway shows that no animal is immune from skimp thinking: roos, rabbits, goats, sheep, emus, a steer, foxes and emus. Even those who feast upon roadkill become victims, as I saw the carcass of the once magnificent wedge-tailed eagle.

It is amazing the trouble that comes from skimping on thinking. The impulsive buy, the gambling pre-occupations, rushing while ignoring consequences, reacting out of fear, or lingering where we should not.

## Forgetting childhood lessons

We teach our children to think before moving because bad decisions in life do not discriminate. Old, young, male or female, Aussie or international – it does not matter which one you are – none are immune to the foolishness of thoughtless decisions and we all feel the consequences.

**Look both ways before crossing** Mindful of this, we must as individuals and as a nation learn again to cross the road.

We need to apply our minds to the issues before us. The Bible makes clear that the beginning of wisdom is the fear of God, the revering of God.

Personally, I am a thinking supporter of people and nations returning to God. Like a father teaching his child how to cross the road safely, God offers us guidance on how we can do the same with the mountain of issues that confront us as a nation, corporately and individually.

As a simple definition, ‘wisdom is knowledge correctly applied.’ God’s wisdom correctly applied is the sure answer to crossing roads safely.

Of course, you may reject God as being the source of wisdom but He is worth a thought if you are not in too much of a rush to cross other roads. ●

## PEARL HARBOUR: A miraculous conversion

### CAPTAIN MITSUO FUCHIDA

was more excited than usual as he awoke the morning of December 7, 1941. As general commander of the air squadron, he made some last-minute checks on intelligence information before going to warm up his plane.

Three hundred and sixty Japanese planes led by Captain Fuchida headed toward Hawaii. He knew the objective of this mission: to surprise and cripple the American naval force in the Pacific.

The destruction left behind included 20 naval vessels including eight enormous battleships with over 200 planes. The human cost was over 2000 military and civilians killed and more than a 1000 injured.

Fuchida was the first over the target and the last to leave. It was his voice that sent his aircraft carrier the message “Tora! Tora! Tora!” (Tiger! Tiger! Tiger!) indicating the success of the surprise mission.

After Pearl Harbour, he had many close brushes with death including six crashes into the sea. Recovering on board after an appendectomy, the ship was bombed and both his legs were broken and he was thrown into the sea. He realised he was the sole survivor of the seven Air Commanders and the thirty two squadron leaders who took part in the Pearl Harbour attack.

It was not until the war was over that he realised why God had kept him from death on so many occasions.

After the war and his military career over, he became more unhappy and depressed. This was further aggravated by his call to be a witness at the war crimes trials.

On his way to give evidence and as he got off the train he was handed a leaflet entitled “I was a Prisoner of Japan.”

The leaflet produced by the Pocket Testament League was the experience of Jake DeShazer who was held in a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp. Jake described how he was cruelly treated. He told about his violent hatred for the Japanese guards.



Captain Mitsuo Fuchida

But one day, the prisoners in the camp were given Bibles. As Jake read it he came to understand that the book was more than an historical story. Its message of love, grace and forgiveness became relevant to him right there in his cell and he accepted Jesus to come into his life. His life changed and his entire attitude toward his captors changed too. His hatred turned to love and concern, and he decided that should his country win the war, and he be set free, he would someday return to Japan to introduce others to this life-changing Bible. Jake DeShazer did return to Japan after the war as a missionary.

Now Fuchida had Jake’s story, printed in leaflet form, in his hand. It was all about a forgiveness he could not understand and could not explain. Since the American had found that peace in the Bible, he decided to purchase a Bible.

Eagerly he read the Bible and sought help from the Pocket Testament League representative on how to become a Christian. Now he understood about the love of Jesus and for the first time he understood the meaning of Jesus dying as a substitute for his sin.

His actions at Pearl Harbour could not be changed but now he was aware of why God had kept him from harm. His new mission in life was to tell others how they can overcome the hatred in their hearts and minds.

He learnt that Jesus is the only One who was powerful enough to change his life and inspire him with God’s thoughts. Jesus was the only answer to Jake DeShazer’s tormented life

and He is still the only real answer for people today.

God’s forgiveness is powerful and life-giving. When we feel it deep down it can be infectious and really change our lives.

Is there someone who would benefit from your forgiveness today? ●

Adapted from ‘Pearl Harbor and the Christian Connection’ by Tim White from Pocket Testament League



# Building Better Marriages

## CLARIFYING EXPECTATIONS IS VITAL

BY ROB FURLONG

I HAVE been reading and thinking about expectations in the context of marriage, and what interests me in the definition supplied by the Oxford Dictionary is the conviction that an expectation is something that is virtually certain, based on what someone believes.

**ex|pect|ation** (noun) A strong belief that something will happen or be the case.

Every relationship is influenced by expectations – parents and children, husbands and wives, close friendships – and when expectations are not met tensions begin to surface.

“You didn’t call me on my birthday – don’t I matter to you?”

“Your school report tells me you are not trying – why can’t you apply yourself like Melinda?”

“We have missed the garbage pick up again – why can’t you remember to put the bins out?”



An author I read recently pointed out that “we expect other people to know what we want before we say it” and this is where expectations create problems in relationships.

Karen and I learnt early in our marriage the value of clearly communicating our expectations to each other in loving ways, even in the seemingly insignificant things.

I am a bit OCD when it comes to the way I like to have my shirts hung in the wardrobe – all in the same direction which makes it easier when

you take them out – so imagine my surprise when I discovered that the girl I married hung them in there any old way!

I had a choice. I could simply “suck it up” and learn to adapt or I could have a potentially embarrassing conversation with my then young bride and explain to her my preference. (I say embarrassing because I genuinely feared that she would think I was some sort of pedantic, shirt hanging wardrobe loony!)

So I approached her sensitively, explained that it probably seemed silly to her, that I was not angry but would she mind if...? And her response? She had a quiet, understanding laugh about it (we both did), thanked me for telling her and said she didn’t mind hanging them my way at all.

The way we both approached that seemingly insignificant situation has become a foundation for our marriage that we have both endeavoured to build upon for over 34 years. That does not mean that we have always got it right but the commitment to be clear with each other in communicating our expectations in loving and humble ways is stronger than it has ever been.

### How do we clarify expectations?

In her marriage enrichment program, *The Third Option*, Pat Ennis points out expectations in a relation-

ship “are only valid when they have been mutually agreed upon” and to clarify expectations couples need to ask some important questions:

“Did either of us know that we had this expectation?”

“Is it reasonable?”

“Have we told each other about it or have we just assumed the other person should know?”

Such questions are important when considered in the light of the definition that I gave at the top of this page. If I have a “strong belief” that Karen should respond in a certain way and I think it “will happen”, what happens to me emotionally when she doesn’t do as I expected?

I might become angry, hurt, disappointed...or all of these! But if she is unaware of my expectation, if I have not clearly communicated it, then who is at fault? Instead of living in a fog of perpetual disappointment because I think she keeps on letting me down, I must take the time to lovingly and graciously communicate my expectations to her as well as asking myself if they are reasonable and something that we can both agree upon.

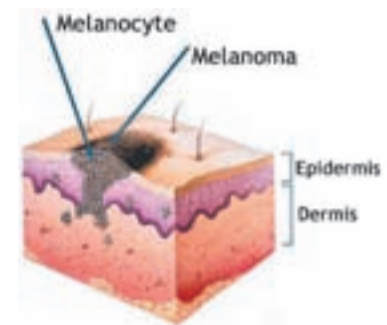
Unclear and unreasonable expectations can profoundly damage any relationship so taking the time as a couple to share and agree on each other’s expectations will not only enrich your marriage, it just makes good sense!

# MEDICAL MATTERS

## What is skin cancer?

Dr Jeremy Beckett shares the ABCs of melanomas

There are several different types of skin cancer, but the one that is most feared is certainly melanoma. A melanoma can grow rapidly, and will eventually spread to other parts of the body. Once it has spread, it will be fatal in most cases.



### Who gets melanoma?

Most skin cancers are seen in older people, or young people with very fair skin. They usually occur in the most sun-damaged areas, such as the face, ears, scalp, neck, back, forearms and hands. Melanoma is a little different, in that it can occur in young people, and in areas of skin that haven’t had much sun exposure.

There are even reported cases of melanoma occurring between the toes, or in the mouth. It is still more common in people with fair skin, but when checking for melanoma you have to look literally everywhere.

### What does it look like?

Almost anything! Whilst most melanomas are very dark in colour, and may have irregular borders and multiple colours, they can sometimes be pale or skin-coloured. This makes them potentially very difficult to recognise.

- The **A B C D E** of melanoma recognition:
  - A**symmetry (irregular shape)
  - B**order irregularities (rather than a smooth, rounded border)
  - C**olour variegation (different colours within the same region)
  - D**iameter greater than 6 mm
  - E**nlargement or progressive change in colour or shape

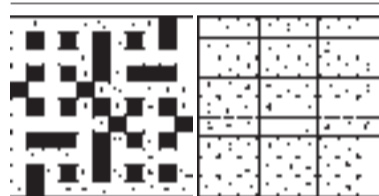
### Should I be worried about my moles?

Most of us have many moles and freckles, and will develop new ones from time to time. We need to watch for changes in these moles.

Digital photography is also helpful: take a high-resolution photo, and then repeat it a couple of months later and compare the images on a large computer screen. Is there any difference? If there has been no change, it is unlikely to be a melanoma.

### Guarding against melanoma

All you can do is continue to protect your skin from the sun, and to be watchful. If you see any spots that have changed, even if they’re not dark in colour, you should seek advice from a doctor.



## How can I become a Christian?

Anyone can gain the eternal life offered through Jesus Christ

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)

<b>OUR PROBLEM:</b>	<b>Separation from God</b> “Everyone has sinned. Nobody is good enough because God’s standards are perfect” (Romans 3:23)	<b>ADMIT</b>
<b>GOD’S REMEDY / SOLUTION:</b>	<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)	<b>BELIEVE</b>
<b>OUR RESPONSE:</b>	<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)	<b>COMMIT</b>

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 for loving 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: “I tell you the truth. Everyone who believes in me has eternal life.” (John 6:47). He gives life of a wonderful quality that continues forever.

### 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

### YouTube Kids app selects kid-friendly videos

Chances are, if your child can hold a pencil, they already know how to use a touch screen and love watching videos on YouTube.

If you browse to **Kids.YouTube.com**, you will find YouTube (owned by Google) offers a much more kid-friendly “YouTube Kids” app on iOS and Android.

The app is cast-enabled, for those with Apple TV, Chromecast, game consoles or a smart TV. Despite its added safety, parental supervision may be necessary.

**Filtered content:** YouTube Kids app allows only videos and channels appropriate for children. If you use the built-in parental controls (password protected) you can turn off search, activate a timer to limit screen time, and disable background music or sound effects. A Google account is not required, but the app still tracks videos watched to recommend new videos to watch. If you keep search on, inappropriate search terms like “sex” will be blocked. YouTube advises users to flag content that is inappropriate. Adult-level features like user comments and uploading videos are removed entirely.

**Filtered ads, with no click-throughs:** A YouTube spokesperson told *The Guardian*, “We only show ads [in YouTube Kids app] that are approved as family-friendly – for example, we don’t show any food and beverage ads – and all ads undergo a rigorous review process for compliance with our policies. All ads are clearly labelled and include ad intros. Ads don’t include any click-throughs to websites or product purchase flows.”

### QUICKLY RESTRICT ANDROID DEVICE TO ONE APP

If you have an Android 5 (Lollipop) device, you can turn on “App Pinning” to lock your device to only one app. To turn the feature on, tap on the “Overview” (two squares) recent apps button, then tap on the “Pin” settings icon (bottom of the screen). Move the slider for “App Pinning” to on.

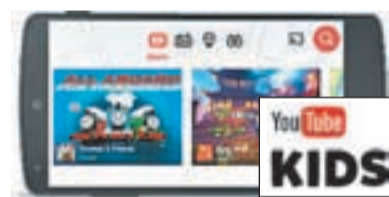
Use App Pinning by tapping on the “Overview” button again, then tap on the Pin icon on the app’s preview.

If you have Android 4.3 or above, you can set up a new User account in Settings, and set it as a “Restricted User”, to disable access to apps and restrict content settings. Activate that account before your child uses your device.

### iOS PARENTAL CONTROLS

In the iOS “Restrictions” settings, you can disable certain apps, toggle any feature and restrict content ratings. In iOS Settings, go to General, then Restrictions. Enter a new Passcode. You can also set a volume limit and turn off mobile data.

There is also Guided Access, to restrict use to one single app. Go to General > Accessibility > Guided Access. Don’t forget to set a Passcode. Enable the shortcut to turn it on (or off), which is three quick clicks on the Home button.





# PEOPLE AREN'T OBSTACLES

I was fighting for identity, admits former agro surfer

**A**bandoned at birth by his mother, Andrew Carruthers struggled for years to understand where he had come from – and neither his loving adoptive parents nor his surfing prowess could answer his inner need.

“The older couple who adopted me as a baby gave me two things that have defined me,” Andrew says.

The first gift was a love of surfing that began at four years of age when his adoptive dad first pushed him onto a wave. The second gift was the knowledge they had chosen him, and thus he says, “I felt special and wanted.”

Despite this secure foundation, Andrew began to aggressively seek recognition in surfing.

“I was a motivated and competitive Gold Coast grommet,” Andrew confesses, “raising trouble and wreaking havoc wherever I went.

“The desire to be the best surfer was how I set about defining myself.”

Up to age 15, Andrew was focused on pushing others aside, before he heard the Bible’s message that God was inviting people to be part of His spiritual family.

“During religious education in high school, I heard the message of Ephesians chapter 1, that God was in the business of adopting people into His heavenly family, regardless

of their past or what they could do or had done.

“I realised that no matter what my past, even if I was wanted by some and abandoned by others, God wanted and loved me. I could come to Him and, despite my past, my future could be different.”

In high school, Andrew chose to surrender his life to the Lord Jesus Christ and soon became involved in a Christian Surfers group on the Gold Coast.

“As the two strongest threads in my life – being a Christian and a surfer – were intertwined I began to see my other friends in the surf through new eyes.

“They were no longer obstacles who took waves I wanted to ride, but people desperately in need of Jesus.

“With my new identity in Jesus and a changed heart, competition seemed less important and in fact the agro and pride that rose up within me in the competitive arena, I now saw as undesirable.”

At age 19, Andrew joined the Royal Australian Air Force to learn a trade. However, eight years of working on F111 fuel tanks led to heart operations, headaches and ongoing problems from over exposure to solvents and, eventually, a medical discharge.

Believing this was God’s way of directing him back to Christian Surfers, he ended up as Asia Pacific

co-ordinator before launching a church for surfers on the Sunshine Coast called SALT.

“Today, I am involved in the role of Chaplain to the ASP World Longboard Tour,” Andrew shares. “This is a voluntary position funded by donation and my surf photography work.”

It was also these roles that gave Andrew the idea of making a surfing documentary called *Flux*, designed as a means of unobtrusively sharing the reality of

Jesus Christ to a broader surf culture.

Set in Raglan, New Zealand, the movie follows a group of surfers of varied backgrounds, aged 12 to 60, as they share a house, waves, conversation over coffee, and a common desire to live lives of faith and truth. *Flux* has been shown on Christian television and used to share the gospel with the surf culture around the world.

Andrew adds, “Together we studied the ‘I Am’ statements of Jesus found in John’s Gospel. We were seeking to discover afresh just who Jesus said He was, as well as unity with one another, creation and God, the value of the individual and community, and the beauty of solace and creation.”

Looking back on his life, Andrew firmly believes that his life is evidence that God is in the business of restoring broken lives. I have devoted most of my adult life to sharing the message of restoration, hope and belonging that only comes through knowing Jesus with the surfing culture.

“I have come to understand that God has amazing plans even for people who were born as inconvenient, unwanted and discarded; abandoned by the world but adopted by God,” he says.

“Through surf chaplaincy I now help surf athletes understand that fulfilment doesn’t come through the titles that you do or don’t win. It is not what you do that defines you but who you are.

“Ultimately who you are is defined by who gives you worth and God ascribes to each of us the greatest worth; the cost of being brought into His family by the death of His Son Jesus. There is no greater love or worth than that.

“If we surrender ourselves to God,” Andrew concludes, “He can use our passions and talents to transport His message to people who otherwise may not hear it.” •

Andrew writes weekly messages designed for the surf culture. These messages, his photography and *FLUX* the movie are available at [www.narrowpathmedia.com.au](http://www.narrowpathmedia.com.au)



Andrew finds being a surfing chaplain challenging and rewarding. Here is feedback from people on the WSL Tour:

“I love Andy’s ability to make everyone in the room... think about the decisions we are making. I feel much safer knowing he is there.

*Wini World Qualifying Series and Longboard Tour*

“He deals with people of different faiths, languages and cultures. His gentle manner has a huge impact on surfers supports and officials. Many a surfer has follow up with Andrew to talk about social/personal issues.

*Peter and Kristen parents of WSL Surfers*

“He has helped show me the brighter path to becoming the best professional surfer I can be through God.

*Nic WSL Longboard Tour*



Adjustments...

FLUX movie



Checking the footage...

FLUX movie

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