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AUSSIE ACTRESS SHINES IN CANADA



BY DARRYL MEARS

Playing a lead role in her first international picture *The Pineville Heist* is the fulfilment of a lifelong dream for talented Perth actress Priscilla Anne Forder.

The daughter of an international model mum and a father who did Coca-Cola commercials, Priscilla was perhaps destined to make a career in acting.

Yet she was scared she would not be able to make a career out of it.

She began a human biology degree but felt unable to express her creativity.

"I just felt empty and knew that I would never feel content if I didn't go for gold and follow my dreams. You can't kill the dreams God has placed in your heart."

After a 2012 short-film for British-Canadian writer and director Lee Chambers, the 28-year-old Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts graduate passed a Skype-call screen-test and was cast as a drama teacher who helps a student (young West Aussie Presley Massara) stay alive in the aftermath of a bank robbery gone wrong.

In addition to professional modelling and TV commercials, her previous work includes a supporting role in Perth-made crime thriller *The Reckoning*, alongside Luke Hemsworth and Jonathan LaPaglia.

Although acting has always been on Priscilla's heart, following God was not. The pressures associated with the industry took its toll on her growing up.

"I was self-centred, overly obsessed with image, a lack of self-confidence, stressed out, had sleeping problems, mild anxiety and was developing an eating disorder. I didn't believe God could be real if there was so much suffering in the world."

Through all of this, Priscilla eventually looked up, remembering things she was taught in a small Anglican church about a loving God.

"I was at my absolute depth of despair. I was going through an identity crisis. Who was I? Why was I put on this earth? I was exhausted from reading self-help books and trying to use my own mind to control my feelings, emotions and circumstances. When the people you look up to most in life fall to pieces, where else can you turn? You look up and find God."

"I was going through an identity crisis"

Ready to jump?

A YOUNG MAN took his first parachute jump and was so enraptured with the adrenalin rush of the free fall that he neglected to pull the rip cord in time.



The chute only partially opened and he landed on a freshly ploughed farmer's field which cushioned the blow of the impact. His friends rushed to him expecting the worst, and found him seriously injured, but alive and conscious. He then declared "Boy, did I blow it!"

Imagine for a moment you are standing at the open door of a plane at 10,000 feet and you have to jump. The parachute is right near the door. Will you jump without putting it on? Of course not! You know that parachute will save you

from the unchanging law of gravity and you value your life and you do not wish to perish.

One day sooner or later, we all must face an unavoidable "jump" when at the end of life you and I will launch out into eternity and face another unchanging law called the moral law of God. Many know it as the Ten Commandments. This law is written on every human heart via our God-given conscience. God's Word tells us that He has appointed a day when He

will judge the world in righteousness and this is the standard that God Himself has specified that He will judge us with. So let us see how you do.

Have you ever lied? Ever stolen something – perhaps time from your employer? Have you ever looked at someone with lustful desire, which Jesus called adultery of the heart? Have you used God's Holy name as a swear word, which God sees as blasphemy? Have you hated anyone – something

that Jesus said was 'murder of the heart'? Then God sees you as a murderer at heart.

Based on God's perfect standards, would you be innocent or guilty on judgment day?

You, like me would be guilty of deliberately violating God's moral law and rebelling against the one true and living God who gave us life and every blessing in life. If you die in that sinful state, then God must give you His perfect justice.

● Turn to page 2

● Turn to page 2

TO FORGIVE—OR NOT? (Part 2)

BY ALAN BAILEY

When you are not happy inside, it makes it worse to see others who seem so light-hearted, as though they have not a care in the world. Then you ask, "Why did all this happen to me?" The first step to self-pity. Learning to forgive from the heart is a most important step back to normal living. Holding a grudge, nursing a hurt, does not make for normal living.

TRYING AGAIN

Commonly we hear, "If you knew what kind of person I'm dealing with, you would realise that a peaceful relationship is out of the question. I've tried before and failed."

Whether the other person changes or not may depend on you and how much you are prepared to trust them with another chance. If you were in the other person's position, would you like another opportunity to start again, to rebuild? Not just after one failure but after many? Yes, there is a risk involved. But life is full of risks and perhaps this is one you ought to take.

True, there are some who are hard and unresponsive to any approach. Difficult as it is to do, respond with a loving attitude. Drain away all the old hostility and ill-will just like old black oil from a car sump. Letting it go will help you, and may be the vital link in breaking the hardness of the other.

FORGETTING

Then, it is often said, "I may forgive but I cannot forget. No way!" If we mean that we cannot rub out something from our memory by an act of the will, we are right. No, this kind of forgetting means laying it all to rest, just like burying the deceased cat in the back yard. It is best then to leave it there.

HONESTY

So the clue then is to begin with honesty in everything. Keep calm and try not to be superior to the wrong-doer. Do not make unreal and impossible demands, but act like two very valuable beings. Try to feel for the other person as well as yourself.

A STORY

At one time a rich man called upon one of his debtors to pay up a huge amount that he owed. The debtor pleaded his inability. On the spot, the rich man forgave all. Shortly afterwards, the freed debtor grasped the throat of a man who owed him only a few dollars and demanded that he pay or else. The rich man, on hearing about this was angry and recalled the debtor to exact all he owed.

The story was told by Jesus. He also said that God will not forgive us our huge debt if we do not forgive others their small (by comparison) debts. He should know. As the Saviour of the world "He paid a debt He did not owe; we owed a debt we could not pay." His death on the cross was the tremendous price paid for my debt of sin against God. I am freely, totally forgiven.

We need to reach out for that forgiveness and when we do, we will realise how necessary it is for us to forgive another human being.

AUSSIE ACTRESS SHINES IN CANADA

● From page 1

Since committing her life to the Lord Jesus Christ, Priscilla has seen God turn her life upside down.

The troubles that plagued her have been overcome with love and the need for personal fulfilment has been replaced with a desire to help others.

"I cannot begin to list the blessing as God smothers me. I now put others before myself, I am awake to the problems and needs of people and respond in any way I can. I have found a peace inside the depths of my soul that nothing else could have filled. Even when there is storm and turmoil around me, He keeps me strong. He fills a void that nothing else in this world can."

Having recently travelled to Hollywood after completing filming *The Pineville Heist*, God showed Priscilla how people are and what He wants her to be.

"God showed me how people worship fame and money, but they are not eternally happy and ultimately



Priscilla Anne Forder

live to feed their materialistic desires. Fame is the thing most further from my mind. I am in love with my craft and my Jesus, so doing what I love and giving Him the glory is what drives me. I plan to shine the light

into the darkness and show people that the things of this world won't fill their voids, but God can."

Priscilla leaves her acting career in God's hands. Determining what is a good role or not is important to her based on her relationship with Jesus.

"God helps me determine the roles I take on. I feel it in my spirit when it isn't right. I have learned to pray to and seek God's approval before I say yes to any role."

Priscilla has found that by letting God be her personal director, His timing is perfect.

Having turned down roles in the past, she was blessed with better roles in their place.

Her future in acting and doing what she loves is clear to her, without any fear of the industry, the people who work in it, or the people who view it.

"I know that I can do anything through Christ who strengthens me," she quotes from Philippians 4, verse 13.

"I had this revelation that acting is being that character without hesitation. I don't have the fear of failing and not being 'good' enough like I used to. If I fail, I fail, it doesn't change who and what I am to God so there is no stress. I seek the approval of God, not man, so life is much easier."

Priscilla hopes to make more pictures in Canada, having gained a two-year working visa.



Ready to jump?

● From page 1

That means you must be given the penalty for your crimes against God which Jesus Himself stated is everlasting separation from His goodness and presence in hell. That is not God's desire for you. The Bible says, God "is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3, verse 9).

God's amazing love, grace and mercy has made a way for you to escape His holy righteous justice if you choose. The only way God could not compromise His perfect justice and yet at the same time, make a way for us to be saved, was to pay the price of eternal justice Himself on our behalf.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" John 3:16. The Bible exhorts us to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ".

He is like our "parachute" – God's only provision for us to go free from the demands of eternal justice. There is no other way.

Man-made religion, 'good' works and your own morality fall far short of God's Holy requirements, and are like parachutes with holes, completely unable to save you. God's holiness is perfection and only perfection is permitted in His presence.

How foolish and terrifying to jump from a plane without a parachute when one is readily available. Christ was crucified and rose again from the dead for your pardon and forgiveness.

How unwise it is to neglect taking this provision by faith that God has provided. To reject God's amazing love gift of pardon and peace with Him will have an inevitable just result on the Day of Judgment. If you die in your sins, there are no second chances, and it will be terrifying to "fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31) and face His Holy unchanging justice. Your final destiny will be the "lake of fire" which is the "second death" (Revelation 20:14-15).

Today, please repent, turn from your sin and trust Christ's finished work on the cross as full payment for your sin and God will cleanse you from every sin you have ever committed and grant you His gift of eternal life. Humble yourself and trust in Jesus today. You may not have tomorrow. God wants to give you a brand new life that lasts forever. His love leaves the choice with you. Please, do not blow it for eternity. To find out more about responding to God, see "Could God love someone like me?" on page 11.

How foolish and terrifying to jump from a plane without a parachute when one is readily available

POINTS TO PONDER

"We all like sheep have gone astray [from God]. Yet God laid on Him (Jesus) the iniquity [the guilt and sins] of us all."

Isaiah 53, verse 6

"The true light (Jesus) that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.... [and] to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God."

John 1:9,12

Crossword

ACROSS 1 Like trapeze artists (9) 5 Hair-raising (5)	7 Squirrel away (5) 9 Flow stopper (4) 10 Jerusalem neighbour town (6)	12 Spend (6) 13 Dam (4) 15 Late (5)	16 Dear, as a price (5) 18 Swindler (3,6)
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DOWN
 1 Air hero (3)
 2 Argentine export (4)
 3 Decorative graduation strand (6)
 4 Asthmatic's device (7)
 6 Nature's alarm clock (7)
 8 Sportsman (7)
 9 Chuckle softly (7)
 11 Fig tree variety (6)
 14 Nicholas II, for one (4)
 17 Bit of butter (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

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

SOLUTION PAGE 11

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Former yakuza gangster Reverend Hiroyuki Suzuki gives a sermon in Funabashi, suburban Tokyo

YAKUZA GANG MEMBER STARTS AGAIN

The scars of a violent past emphasise the smile of a man at peace



Suzuki and seven ex-mobster friends are the founders of the Barabbas Mission and their switch from crime to Christianity is told in the film 'Jesus is my Boss'. (Photo credit YOSHIKAZU TSUNO/AFP/Getty Images)

BY JOANNA DELALANDE

Pinkies cut off at the first knuckle, dragon tattoos on his arms and a long criminal record are the legacy of the Yakuza organised crime gang that Hiroyuki Suzuki joined at 17 years old when he lost a fight with a group of them.

"I was not scared of these people," Hiroyuki admits, "I was scared of the organisation."

A life of gambling, drugs and womanising ensued. An argument with a crime boss cost him one finger, a gambling debt cost him another.

He began the process of getting a full body tattoo, as per Yakuza ritual, though he only got to the arms before things began to change.

His third wife Mariko is the one



completely be able to let go of his past, the marks on his body a painful and permanent reminder of the life he used to lead.

"My tattoos and missing pinkies are my handicap," he says. "I always tried to hide that fact. But after I met Jesus and came to know the Lord, I wanted to live with my true self."

Rather than reject and hide his past, he learned to embrace the powerful message of hope and salvation that is his story.

"The contrast of my happy face with my tattoos shows people things which words cannot convey. And it makes people wonder, 'Why is he so happy? Why is he acting happy? Why is that?' Instead of me talking, people come asking what happened – and then they ask about Jesus, because Jesus is the reason."

Hiroyuki realised he was good enough for God in spite of what he had done.

Once he accepted forgiveness for his crimes, he became a new man free from the guilt and shame his actions caused him. He writes about this spiritual journey in his autobiography *Aisarete, Yusarete (Being Loved and Forgiven)*.

"Whether I have pinkies missing or tattoos, I want to live as I am," he says. "Jesus loves me as I am. So I just want people to know the Lord as they are."

"I hope that people will look at me and say 'If a Yakuza can start again, then so can I.'"

Hiroyuki is currently a church pastor in Japan, braving persecution for the sake of the message of hope that ultimately saved his life.

Horror crash: wakeup call

Former alcoholic imprisoned for manslaughter gains strength to live differently

The terrifying consequences of a one-time lapse in judgement came crashing down on young newlywed James Caldemeyer as he lay semi-conscious on the side of the highway.

The professional fishing guide and angler says his nightmare began when a hard day's work led to him succumbing to his alcohol addiction at the bar and driving home one too many drinks later.

The result was a seven-year prison sentence for drunk-driving that killed the driver of an oncoming car when he drifted into the centre line of the highway.

"The guilt and the anguish and the hurt that came upon my shoulders was overwhelming," James recalls.

"I had never felt anything like it in my life and I knew that I had really done it. I had really let myself become so far out of control that even I couldn't fix it now."

Released from hospital into custody, James remembers feeling suicidal and got down on his knees in tears and desperation asking God for help.

"When I cried out to God He came to me in my time of need," he explains. "I think for some people God reaches through subtly and I think He is able to touch the lives of people in different ways. In my instance it was an iron fist and hard love."

James had grown up in a loving Christian family where he was taught about the sacrifice Jesus had made to bring forgiveness and life to those who seek it but instead he chose to go his own way and quickly became dependent on alcohol instead.

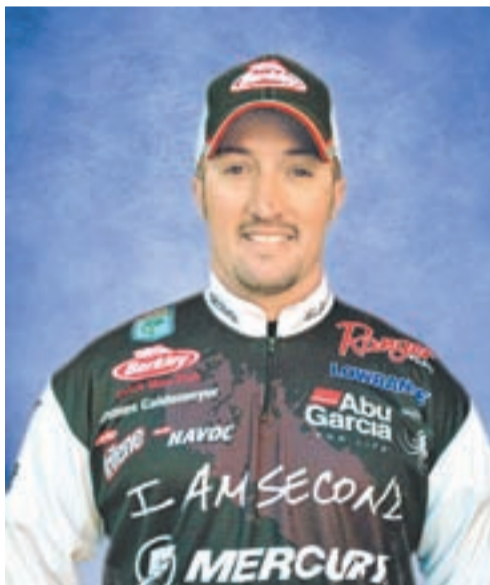
Making excuses for why he did not want to live for God, he says, "God knew that I had to reach my bottom before I would open my eyes".

"I was so hard headed that I didn't want to accept Him (as Lord and Saviour) and when I cried out to Him with a plea of just 'come help me and Lord if You'll help me through this I will surrender'."

When his selfish lifestyle finally caught up with him, James says it was this act of surrendering to God that turned his whole situation around.

"Through all that happened I lost my business, I lost my family and I lost a wife that I was newlywed to," he says.

"I lost everything that this life had given me and I had earned in this life on my own will but Jesus had also



Professional fishing guide James Caldemeyer

given me freedom from sin and freedom from the life that I was living through His forgiveness and His love and His grace (undeserved love). If it hadn't of been for His mercy and grace in my life I'd either be dead right now or in prison somewhere rotting away."

After turning away from his sin and turning to Jesus the rest of James' prison sentence only served to strengthen his relationship with God and, now a free man, he tells of how his life was mercifully restored.

"Alcohol is not even a part of my life anymore," he explains. "In fact I encountered a struggle with this situation shortly after I accepted Jesus Christ. I knew that Christ was real to me when I was confronted with the single thing I was most weak to in my life."

"Jesus gave me new power over that, it was not in the strength that I had. I just knew it was God and I knew He was real. I knew He had power over sin and it was evident in my life."

Today James is also grateful for a beautiful wife and daughter and an enjoyable career as a bass fishing guide on the world famous Lake Fork in Texas.

With new purpose he also takes every opportunity to share his life-changing story of recovery and redemption with others wherever the opportunity presents itself. •

"Through all that happened I lost my business, I lost my family and I lost a wife that I was newlywed to"

★ A LITTLE NUDGE ★

Tilly's advice

A remarkable story emerged from the devastating Tsunami that hit South East Asia on Boxing Day, 2004. A ten-year-old British girl saved her family and 100 other tourists because she had learnt about giant waves in a geography lesson.

The Telegraph (UK) reported in 2005: "Tilly Smith (pictured right) was on holiday with her family on Maikhao beach in Phuket, Thailand, when the tide suddenly rushed out. As the other tourists watched in amazement, the water began to bubble and the boats on the horizon started to violently bob up and down. Tilly, who had studied tsunamis in a geography class just two weeks earlier, quickly realised they were in terrible danger. She told her mother they had to get off the beach immediately and warned there could be a tsunami. Her parents alerted the other holidaymakers and staff at their hotel, which was quickly evacuated. The wave crashed a few minutes later, but no one on the beach was killed or seriously injured."

Who would have thought that a geography lesson in a preparatory school in Surrey, England, thousands of kilometres away, would save 100 lives?

There are times when we think that certain information has little or no relevance to us until it is too late. Jesus came and died on a cross so we can be delivered from the coming tsunami of judgment that can come from our choice to ignore the warning signs. Thankfully one little girl was paying attention and was able to read the warning signs on a little beach in Thailand, and many were saved from certain death.

Well it is the same with the good news of the Bible as we see a world ignoring the warning signs much to its peril. But it doesn't have to be that way if we listen to the warning signs the Bible gives to us. Imagine what would have happened if the people on the beach had ignored Tilly's warning.



Fearless living no anomaly

Ashok's family found strength to deal with the tragic death of their five-year-old child after a dramatic life change

Fear of the unknown after death once overwhelmed Ashok Jalalabadi to the point where he struggled as a child to sleep at night.

His family's belief in reincarnation terrified him as he thought he may come back as a dog or a cockroach because of some of the wrong things he had done.

Years later Ashok clung to his science degree, busying himself with an international contract as a teacher instructing African pupils in physics and maths to keep his mind off these fears.

It was a thrilling jet-set lifestyle, which not only included free return air travel and long paid leave but also nightly parties with other expatriate teachers far away from their spouses and families.

"I thought I had everything, with my wife Mary and our children, and prestige among my Indian family and friends because I worked overseas," Ashok says.

While working for a Zimbabwean school, Ashok and Mary became friends with an American teacher and his wife who said that knowing Jesus personally freed them from the fear of death. This was difficult for Ashok to believe.

"Due to my science education I dismissed physical anomalies like angels, a virgin giving birth and a dead body coming to life again, as the Bible describes," he explains.

After years of friendship with this couple, Ashok believed that Mary had weakly "succumbed" when she became a Christian believer, trusting in Jesus' salvation.

Even as he began taunting her about her new faith in Jesus, he noticed she was dramatically different.

"I could not escape the conclusion that she was a changed person. Something had happened to her that gave her a real peace and strength."

A piercing question from a former scientist impacted Ashok even more.

"The pastor of Mary's church had been at the top of his scientific progression when he trained to become a pastor to earn one tenth of his previous salary. To me, that was mad!"

"One day he asked me, 'Ashok, after reading about swimming or watching others swim, would you know how to swim before you entered the water?'"

"The obvious answer was no. He pointed out that becoming a Christian is like learning to swim: you only get a lot of the answers once you surrender your life to Jesus."

After transferring work from Zambia to Zimbabwe, Ashok decided to take the plunge. "In January 1981 I humbly knelt and prayed, 'Lord Jesus, I do not know You yet, but I know enough about You to invite you into my life to make me the kind of person You want me to be.'"

Ashok enthusiastically declares this was a "life-changing experience"

that he now wants to share with everyone. "Jesus is alive and He changes people today," Ashok states.

"The terror I had of death receded, and life became full and abundant as the Lord Jesus promises in the Bible.

"I realised that for those who trust in Jesus 'to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord', according to 2 Corinthians 5, verse 8. Death is not fatal but simply a doorway into the presence of my Lord."

Ashok then experienced a shift in focus from temporary monetary gain to wanting to tell people about Jesus and release them from fears of death.

"Instead of lecturing in maths and physics, I did Biblical studies and have been leading churches and lecturing at Bible colleges in many countries."

God also changed him inwardly too, as he says, "Through the Holy Spirit I am being cleaned from the inside out – not completely sinless, but I definitely sin less!"

Shortly after trusting in Jesus trag-



"I could not escape the conclusion that she was a changed person," Ashok Jalalabadi says of his wife Mary

edy struck and Ashok and Mary lost their eldest child.

"The tragedy devastated us and I certainly questioned God's goodness, but through it, Jesus strengthened us miraculously. The comfort we received from God far exceeded any earthly comfort from family and friends – He is the 'God of all com-

fort', says 2 Corinthians chapter 1."

Comfort came from knowing that they will see their child again in heaven one day and they are able to use their experience to encourage many other couples who have lost a child.

"Jesus takes away the sting of death," Ashok declares, "because He

has overcome death and He rose from the dead to demonstrate His victory.

"His sacrifice on a cross paid the penalty for our sins. All each person has to do is believe and receive His offer of salvation."

Ashok and Mary presently lead a small church in Dongara, Western Australia. •

Do not give up on life: Lieutenant

Shannon Watson was unprepared for the cold shock of reality when he plunged from nearly a decade of full-time military service into the relative freedoms of "civvy street".

"I had no real plans for the immediate future and separating from the military to me was like being a goldfish in a bowl tipped out into the ocean," says the retired lieutenant.

"My ill-prepared transition very quickly became a descent into the depths of depression, alcohol and drug abuse, and even a foray into the police and court systems where I was convicted of a serious, dishonesty-related offence."

Shannon joined the navy after finishing high school and served in sea and shore postings across Australia for eight years before being accepted into the Royal Military College in ACT in 2008.

During the final phase of the course he was granted a special request to transfer to the part-time Army Reserve, resulting in almost immediate graduation, promotion to lieutenant and discharge from full-time service.

Instead of the usual 12 months to mentally prepare for discharge, Shannon only had five weeks before returning with his young family to their hometown.

"I floundered for nearly two years in a dark and stifling depression, drinking every day and pushing my personal relationships to the brink," he admits.

The criminal conviction Shannon received made matters worse, seriously affecting his chance of gaining the meaningful employment that his military service set him up for.

"I had effectively given up on life and was without hope," he says.

Shannon had often walked past a local church and curiously peered through the windows to read posters about their church services.

With nothing to lose, he eventually built up the courage to attend the Sunday meeting and was welcomed so warmly that he brought his family along the following week.

"I started reading the Bible and praying for insight and understanding, which I soon began receiving," he explains.

Realising that his selfishness had separated him from God, Shannon was amazed to discover that Jesus had sacrificed His life so that his relationship with God could be restored.

"Overcome by the extent of God's love and forgiveness, my depression began to lift. I made the decision to commit my life to [Jesus] and trust Him as my Lord and Saviour," he says.

Although Shannon made a genuine commitment to putting God first in his life, the alcohol still beckoned to him and remained a struggle.

He wanted to become a member of the church but says he saw no way out of his drinking problem.

"I was addicted to alcohol and felt that it was preventing me from receiving a fuller experience of God," he explains.

Then during one Sunday service in 2013, Shannon felt prompted to step forward and commit himself to being a member, trusting God to help him deal with his problem.

"The beers I'd had the night before were the last ones I would ever have. I sincerely believe that Jesus healed my addiction as I had been praying for a victory over it for months and have not the slightest desire to drink since," he shares happily.

This miracle led Shannon to complete a chaplaincy degree so he and his wife Tracy now passionately share God's love with others through children's ministry. •

Courtesy Warcry magazine of the Salvation Army



Shannon Watson now helps children as a qualified chaplain

Inquisitive mind finds truth

Do not be content with what you have heard, says scholar

Writer and Bible scholar Lita Cosner admits she seriously doubted the Bible before she was “blown away” by what she personally uncovered in her teens.

“I would encourage teenagers who doubt whether Christianity is true to not be content with what they have heard from someone else – whether it is a preacher or an atheist web site,” says Lita, who holds a Masters degree in Biblical Studies and the New Testament.

“The Bible deals with issues that are so important that it is really worth the effort to investigate these things for yourself.”

As a child Lita naturally questioned her family about where ‘Mrs Cain’ came from and how all the animals fitted on the ark.

“My family usually discouraged me from asking such questions, telling me to ‘just believe’, but it was impossible for me to stop asking those questions,” she remembers.

Today, Lita argues the opposite: “It is good to question and be informed about all the options. God gave us our minds so that we would use them!”

She observes that the popular evolutionary theories she was taught at her school and on TV “made sense” in her young mind only because she never heard a different perspective.

By high school, she only attended church for her family’s sake, before she noticed something was different between herself and others who attended.

One day, she thought, “Maybe its Jesus?”

“Until then I believed I was ‘saved’, but this forced me to examine whether I believed what the Bible taught and I realised that I never really had.”

Declaring herself an agnostic, Lita

decided to study the best evidence from both sides, and not to just swallow what she heard in her year 10 biology class.

“I resolved that if evolution is true I’ll become an atheist, and if the Bible’s creation story is true, I’ll become a Christian,” Lita explains.

Lita recalls being struck almost immediately by weaknesses in evolutionary theory.

“It didn’t make any sense that the complexity of life could have just evolved, i.e. chance and natural selection created great volumes of intelligent genetic information.

“Various forms of life seemed marvellously designed for exactly what they do, and I never found a satisfying evolutionary explanation for how all those types of life could have come from a single common ancestor.

“The creationist explanations seemed to make a lot more sense. An eternal all-powerful Creator made the original animal, bird and fish kinds with all the genetic information for every sub-species we see today. Similarities between these kinds are also better explained by a common designer.

“Ultimately, I was forced to accept the creationist view by the sheer weight of the evidence, and all the excuses I had against the truth of the Bible were stripped away.

“I now had to admit I was in rebellion against God.”

Lita says she was in turmoil about this for months, until at a summer youth camp in 2002, she says a speaker’s description of the crucifixion played “like a video in my brain”.

“That night,” she says, “I felt the holy presence of God in the room and I was both terrified and ashamed.

“I now understood that Jesus had borne the punishment for my sin on the cross, and my rebellion against Him and all my excuses were just pathetic. But I knew God was willing

to forgive all of that, amazingly.

“I silently asked Jesus to forgive me, and said that if He would have me, I’d do whatever He wanted me to.”

In the weeks after she gave her life to Jesus, several people asked her pastor, “What happened to Lita?”

“They had never before seen such a drastic, sudden change of someone’s entire personality because of the joy and peace that God gives,” she recalls.

Lita says that many fears she had battled for years disappeared.

“My life had been characterised by fear of my own inadequacy, of bad things that might happen, and of other people’s perception of me.

“It was really an awful way to live and now that fear was gone!

“Due to that insecurity and fear, I had a seemingly unbreakable habit of telling ‘little’ lies, but now I knew Jesus, I became so convicted every time that I would have to immediately correct it and replace it with the truth.

“It’s only by God’s grace (undeserved love) that I was able to escape that destructive habit.”

As sound arguments in defence of



Lita Cosner decided to study the best evidence from both sides, not to just believe what others said.

the Bible were vitally important in her journey of faith, Lita’s studies have included New Testament Greek and Apologetics, which she now uses in her work for Creation Ministries International.

“You can trust the Bible,” Lita concludes, “it is intellectually sound, but it demands more from us than intellectual agreement. True surrender to Jesus is what changes hearts and lives.”

Perfection not required

John Davies thought he was a failure as he tried to live according to a list of rules.

Unlike his childhood experience of church with his parents, John shares that in his teens, “My faith did not feel warm and welcoming, and instead it was an impersonal list of do’s and don’ts.”

He was a dedicated student, excelled in rugby, and yet underneath he felt like a failure.

At a young age he remembers, “I accepted Jesus as my Saviour – that He had paid for my disobedience – but I thought I needed to be as close to perfect as possible.

“I knew God loved me, but like my parents, I could well imagine there were a lot of moments where He didn’t like me much.

“I struggled with arrogance, anger, selfishness and objectifying people. I gauged my relationship with God on how well I did in these areas.

“How wrong I was.”

In his first year at university John joined a Christian student group on campus that changed his life.

In their Bible study group, John learned that from the moment he had trusted Jesus he was pure in God’s eyes through Jesus’ death on the cross.

“Jesus had paid for all my mistakes, for all time,” John explains.

“Learning that was so liberating. However, for that truth to mean anything in my life, it had to mean everything.”

For John, that meant submitting to Jesus as Lord over everything in His life, and immediately he experienced Jesus’ love in a whole new way.

“I went from a religion to a relationship, from law to love, from ‘do’ to ‘done’ - and I’ll never go back,” John says with a smile.

“Now I talk to Jesus, knowing that He accepts me wholeheartedly. I still



“It was a list of do’s and don’ts... How wrong I was,” says John Davies

try to be a better man, but it is out of gratitude, not to feel worthy.

“I still sometimes fail, but that doesn’t define my relationship with

Him. Jesus’ completed sacrifice does.”

Courtesy Student Life New Zealand, www.studentlife.org.nz

Is it just coincidence?

What do we say to those one-in-a-million chance events? Is it coincidence or is there something deeper?

We know, of course, that if there is a one-in-a-million chance of it happening – it can happen! There are, however, so many events which defy probability. One day, when driving along a country road, I decided to drop by the place of a widowed friend who I had not seen in a long time. As she invited me in she thanked me for coming and asked, “How did you know it was today? On this very day six years ago my husband died.” I had no idea!

Each of us can probably think back to events that defy probability. While some may just see these things as ‘lucky’ coincidences, I believe many of them are ‘God – incidences’. Whether we believe it or not, God works in mysterious ways to draw us to Himself. He is not a distant, disinterested spiritual force, instead, God is loving and personal. Take careful note of subtle ways God is trying to get your attention. Do not shrug it off as coincidence – look for God-incidences.



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Action man's peace during cancer

Flier and sports adventurer says knowing His Creator carried him through fearful times

They say if you want to truly get to know someone it is a good idea to take a long walk with them. For keen pilot and cancer survivor Eric Dobbie that lesson has proven to be true.

Life was pretty good for Eric's first 50 years, as he had a good marriage, two daughters, good friends and a rich variety of hobbies.

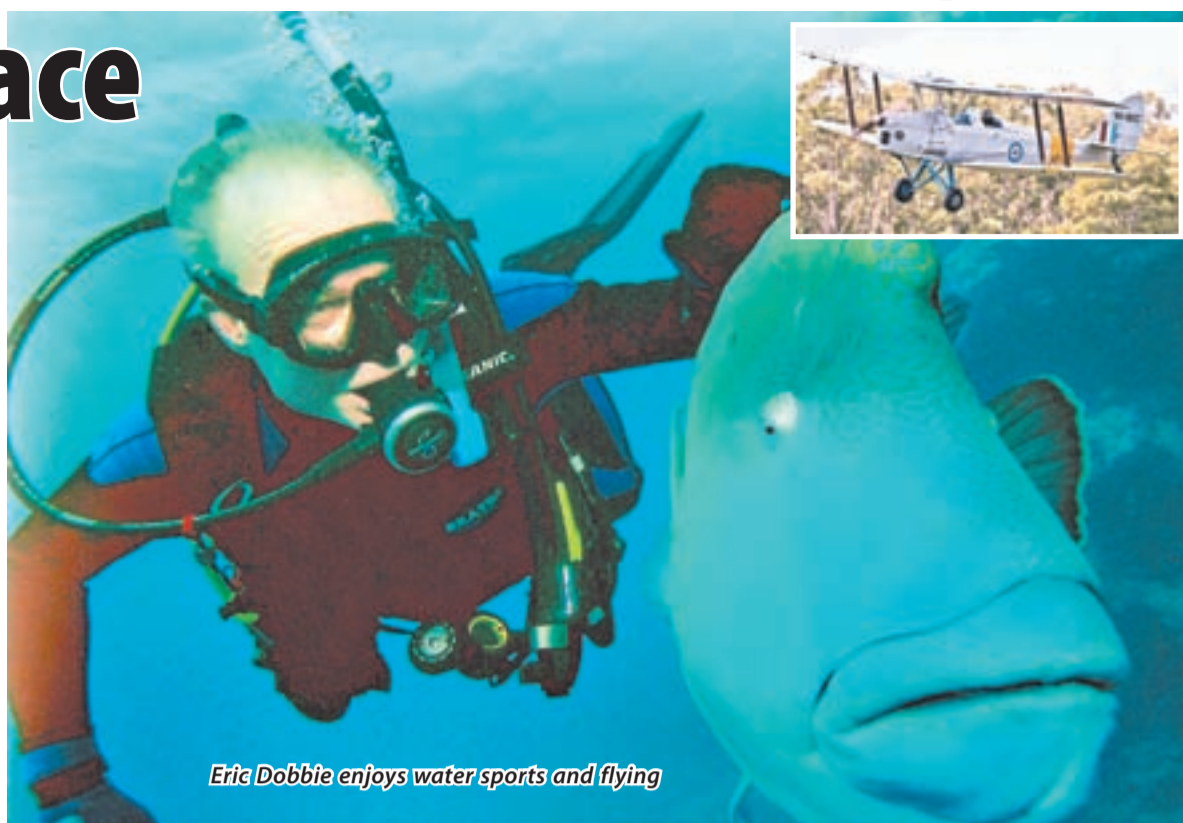
"I enjoyed good health and boundless energy. I travelled, learned to fly both gliders and powered aircraft, and enjoyed boating and water sports. My wife used to call me action

man," Eric explains with a smile.

A week after scuba diving in Vanuatu in 2005 an unusually strong pulse sensation in his lower abdomen warned Eric to visit his GP. He knew he was at risk of cancer after his mother died from colon cancer two years prior.

Following a CT scan, doctors told Eric that he had extensive tumours from his oesophagus through to his stomach.

"I was diagnosed with stage four Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and my condition was inoperable," he soberly remembers.



Eric Dobbie enjoys water sports and flying

"I had a 50:50 chance of surviving 12 months and was placed on six months of chemotherapy."

Before the treatment began, Eric prayed with his pastor to ask God for a miraculous healing.

Then a Christian believer for three decades, he says that God answered his prayer in an unexpected way.

"There was no instantaneous healing, but this prayer gave me peace to continue walking and trusting Jesus to guide the doctors."

Eric explains that he had good grounds to continue to trust God.

"Through business difficulties and career hiccups, Jesus was always there walking along with me, helping me with good guidance from His Word, the Bible," he says.

In this situation he knew Jesus would still sustain him because of a decision he made decades earlier.

As a curious 14-year-old staring into a log fire on an inter-school Scripture Union camp, Eric was unsure what to do about the reality of God. He knew an eternal Intelligent Creator must have caused and sustained the Universe, just as every building requires an architect or builder, but he was unprepared for any commitment.

Fittingly, a science teacher on this camp chatted with Eric about the reasons he needed to know Jesus personally.

"Mr Joyce kindly pointed out that unless I believed and received Jesus' forgiveness of my sin, I was headed for separation from God and His goodness in hell forever. From the Bible, he explained that all those who reject God and forgiveness through Jesus will end up in a fiery judgement 'where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

For a week, Eric recalls deeply contemplating where he was destined for eternity, and read a Christian tract Mr Joyce gave him.

"After much thought, after the camp I invited Jesus to be the Lord of my life."

In the 45 years since, Eric says, "I have come to know Jesus as a truly faithful friend and Saviour."

Following an initial strong chemo dose, which "mercifully" did not stop his heart, Eric recalls, "It was a special time for our family and for me spiritually, as I was able to meditate and understand God's Word better."

Five months later, February 2006, Eric was in remission when he contracted deadly septicaemia. A nurse

accidentally flushed bacteria directly into his blood stream through the catheter that delivered his chemo. After his wife rushed him back to hospital, he and his wife and Christian friends prayed for most of the night and he was unexpectedly released from hospital 24 hours later.

Before he was discharged, Eric recalls, "A cleaner said to me, 'What is it with this room, the light is strange in here this morning.' I said it was probably me."

In the eight years since that course of chemotherapy, Eric has learned that his remission was indeed a miracle.

While lamenting to his oncologist about the pain of chemo Eric was surprised when the man said, "You've had an almost miraculous cure of your condition."

Eric recounts: "Comparing my diagnosis CT scans with later ones, the oncologist showed me the scar tissue where tumours had been healed but in other areas where there had been a lot of tumours they were all gone and there was no scarring at all."

"So God gave me the miracle I asked for after all! I just had to trust Jesus and take that long walk." •

Believe it or not

BY CREATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL, CREATION.COM



Flatfish claims rehashed

In adult flatfish, both eyes are on the same side of its body. (As they mature, one eye progressively migrates over the top of the fish's head.) Evolutionists have traditionally struggled to explain how this could evolve.

Nevertheless, a fossil 'dated' 50 million years old called *Heteronectes* has for some time been hailed as the 'missing link'.¹

One eye of this fossil fish is near the top of the head—in between the conditions of ordinary fish and flatfish. *Heteronectes* has received renewed media interest recently due to a recent re-analysis of its anatomy. And as with the first round of publicity, it has again been used to parade evolution as 'fact'.^{2,3}

This is yet another case of assuming evolution in order to prove evolution. One can explain *Heteronectes* numerous ways without evolution. Perhaps it simply was not a fully adult specimen. Or it may have had a mutation that stopped the eye from migrating completely during the fish's development.

Heteronectes could also be an extension of the natural range of flatfish variation. Spiny turbot is known for being rather different from most other flatfish in a number of recognisable ways, and *Heteronectes* shares many of the same traits, including incomplete eye migration. Non-evolutionary explanations abound and yet remain unexplored. Why? Evolution is an assumption, not a conclusion.

References:

1. Missing link for wonky-eyed fish discovered, livescience.com, 25 June 2012.
2. Osteology of *Heteronectes chantey* (Acanthomorpha, Pleuronectiformes), an Eocene stem flatfish, with a discussion of flatfish sister-group relationships, *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* 32(4):735-756, 2012.
3. The evolutionary origin of flatfish asymmetry, *Nature* 454(7201):209-212, 2008.

\$ Family Finance

DEBT RELIEF AND BANKRUPTCY

Bankruptcy helps people in situations where creditors and debt collectors reject realistic repayment proposals, for example, in consideration of psychological or emotional issues.

There are serious consequences to voluntary bankruptcy, however. More information should be sought from a financial counsellor, lawyer or from the Australian Financial Security Authority (AFSA).

Bankruptcy involves surrendering control of financial affairs to a trustee, usually for three years and one day. This period can be extended, especially if the person fails to cooperate with the trustee in not disclosing information or not meeting their agreements.

The trustee is charged with marshalling assets and income to repay debts, but some assets and income are protected and therefore most debt remaining after the bankruptcy period ends will be cancelled.

TWO WAYS TO ENTER BANKRUPTCY

"Creditor's petition": a creditor can apply for this court judgement to force you to become bankrupt if your debt exceeds \$500.

"Debtor's petition": an individual voluntarily files a 'debtor's petition' with the AFSA.

IS ALL DEBT CANCELLED?

No, even after bankruptcy ends, some debts like court fines, child support and maintenance payments, some Commonwealth Government debts such as student and



HECS loans, debts incurred after the bankruptcy period begins, and debt due to fraud.

Other issues:

- Creditors cannot chase a debt after bankruptcy has been declared, although some exceptions apply for secured debts.
- AFSA specifies an income threshold where contributions towards debts are required
- Jointly-owned property is not protected in bankruptcy, and transferred property may also be unprotected.
- Bankruptcy is recorded on an individual's credit file for seven years.
- Overseas travel is more difficult.

Consider all your options before entering bankruptcy, act sooner rather than later, and certainly consult the opinion of a free financial counselling service. •

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MYTHS ABOUT HEAVEN



Don't need to go to church?

Many people say: 'Going to church doesn't make you a Christian. Just look at the behaviour of some of the people who go there!'

Perhaps consider: Does standing in a garage singing songs about cars make someone a good motor mechanic?

No, the good ones take instruction from the master mechanic and put it into practise. And, far from avoiding garages, true mechanics love spending time with other mechanics, learning how to become better at their trade.

The word 'Christian' literally means 'Little Christ', someone whose life is Christ-like. While it is true that church-going is not a requirement for salvation – as this is by faith alone in Jesus – church is the best way to become more Christ-like (what the Bible calls 'sanctification').

For Christians, Jesus is much greater than a master mechanic: He is the King of the Universe and the only way to everlasting life in God's presence. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no one comes to the Father but by me" (John 14, verse 6). He later added, "Whoever loves me will do what I command" (John chapter 15).

Church is for...

Worship & Learning: Christians love to worship God for who He is and what He has done for us. Church is also a gathering of God's children, a spiritual family who learn from each other on what His Word the Bible says to us. Through one of His Apostles Jesus said this: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness [i.e. becoming more like Jesus], so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16).

Service: The apostle Paul in the book of Romans emphasises that church is like a physical body with many members, each offering a gift to bring others closer to God. "In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others," says Romans 12 verse 5.

Inviting others to God: Churches gather for encouragement and training to know God better. Members go out to tell others about God's goodness and patience, inviting them to know His forgiveness before His coming judgement. Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." And His last commandment was "go and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

While it is true many people have had bad church experiences, remember no church is perfect because no person is perfect. Instead of using it as an excuse not to attend, remember who you are there for – God not men.

Changed outlook

The effects of years of painful abuse disappeared when Julie Hardy allowed God into her life.

"I would like to share with you how, by letting God into your life, it will change it forever. It happened to me and can happen to you," Julie says.

She remembers having to grow up fast and look after her three younger siblings because their mother suffered badly from mental blackouts, alcohol abuse and aggression.

"After my parents separated, I spent the next few years in and out of foster homes and ended up living on the streets of Adelaide from 14 to 16 years of age," she recalls.

"By this time I thought that no one cared how I felt and my personal confidence was nil."

By the time Julie was 16, she was in a very abusive relationship and felt that she had no way out.

"This ended up with me losing my children to welfare and made me feel as low as a person could feel. I had no family, no children and felt my life couldn't get any worse," she explains.

"Well I was wrong. In the next few years my father was killed by a train and I had to identify him. My brother also died after being mauled by wild dogs, and I lost a dear friend who never recovered from a severe stroke – he had been a father figure for me when I lived on the streets.

"This really drove me to desperation, with suicidal feelings, as I felt there was nothing left in the world for me."

She moved to Port Augusta with her partner in 2000 but soon found the strength to leave him a couple of months later.

Then, in 2013, Julie heard about a new church building in Port Augusta where she met the ministers, Dave and Claire.

"Although I used to attend church in my younger days, I didn't really understand much about religion and how it can change your life," she shares.

Dave and Claire helped Julie understand who Jesus was and the new life offered to her through faith and trust in Him as Lord and Saviour of her life.

"[Dave and Claire] worked together to free the chains that bound me," Julie explains.

"I felt the Holy Spirit move through me, from head to toe like a warm heat from fire, and all that weight just lifted off me. I immediately felt peace. The strength of the Holy Spirit opened my eyes and heart and I was reborn (spiritually).

"I now see the world in a new bright and beautiful way and I know as long as you have God in your life, there is hope."

Today, Julie says the hurts from the past and all of the things that worried her before now have no effect on her.

"My outlook in life is so different since giving my life to God. I am now looking forward to life and working in the Salvation Army store. Life has changed not only for me, but for my partner and children all of whom attend our local church. We look forward to a wonderful life together with God in it."



"My personal confidence was nil," recalls child abuse survivor Julie Hardy

Story and photo courtesy Warcry magazine of the Salvation Army

LIFE FOUND AT THE BRINK OF DEATH

Former criminal and drug addict Joseph Nguata Kimani of Kenya came alive on the day he thought he was going to die.

At the age of 20, Joseph and other "gangsters" would roam the streets of Nairobi, resorting to mugging and beating people to feed their drug addiction.

Living at the expense of the people around him, Joseph smoked marijuana and khat, a local plant-based amphetamine, and admits, "I was constantly out of my mind."

A surprise failed robbery involving a young couple and near death experience served as a reality check for Joseph causing him to reevaluate his life.

Before sunrise two of his friends attacked a man so Joseph could steal his girlfriend's purse.

"The reality in the ghetto is that it is the poor robbing the poor," he explains.

"I even left her about 100 shillings (1.25 dollars), so they could still catch the bus. Not out of any kindness, though, as I hoped they would come back this way again so we could rob them once more!" Joseph admits.

However things did not go according to plan as the other two muggers struggled to control the young man.

"I intervened and in the process the boyfriend grabbed me in a wrestling hold. My two 'friends' ran off."

Onlookers, including local security guards, approached the scene and began beating Joseph violently.

"I was hit from behind by an iron bar and hit in the front of the head with a machete. Blood poured from me as I fell to the ground, yet the crowd continued to beat me," he recalls.

"I thought I was going to die."

The end finally seemed to come when Joseph saw a man lift a rock over his head, and he thought



Joseph Kimani

Joseph rose to his feet, the stone hitting his shins instead of his chest.

"My legs snapped like brittle sticks," Joseph says. "The bones were protruding from the lower limbs. The rock would have crushed my chest if it had hit me. I was alive – just."

Joseph pleaded with the crowd to let him call his mother and say goodbye to her before he died. They allowed it, and she sprinted the four kilometres to where he was.

His grandmother, who had also been informed, began praying for him, and her pastor brought his car to the scene to pick Joseph up.

"My mother, my grandmother and the pastor came to my rescue – all at the same time," he says.

Having lost a lot of blood Joseph was immediately rushed to hospital.

There, he remembered how God had helped him when he was on the brink of death, and he spent time learning more about Him.

"During my stay in hospital, I gave my life to Jesus Christ," he says. "I knew God had given me a second chance."

After recovering from his injuries Joseph joined the Harvest of Hope Kenya Christian outreach drug and rehabilitation program for addicts (also called Uzima). He was delivered from drugs and alcohol and his life of crime stopped.

Within two years Joseph had become a staff member at the centre himself, feeling called to reach out to other addicts and criminals.

"Thanks to Jesus Christ, I am a new creation and no longer a drug addicted criminal," he says. "Thanks to Jesus, I am saved and heaven awaits me."

"Thanks to Jesus I am alive and not dead."

More about Joseph's work at harvestofhopekenya.com

the crowd must have decided to kill him "like a dying dog".

"I saw him approach with the rock, and at the last second, I remember asking God for help."

Suddenly able to gather up enough strength,



Building Better Marriages

UNSELFISH LOVE MUST BE OUR AIM

BY ROB FURLONG

Author Dale Kuehne writes, "The challenge (of) the twenty-first century is not to use the same old arguments to try to persuade the West of the truth of the traditional teaching on sexual ethics (but neither should we) blindly or reflexively... accommodate the sexual revolution."

I wrote a few months back that we had moved from "tWorld" (traditional world) to "iWorld" – a world that is dominated by "what is the best way that I can guarantee my personal happiness and also live without the confines of social restraint?"

This has particular bearing on the area of human relationships, especially marriage, given a statistic I read recently: in the United States, depending on which data you read, between 40%-65% of married women are having affairs.

And a website that arranges dates for single people with more tradi-

UNCARING, DISMISSIVE OR UNSELFISH LOVE

tional beliefs asked its members between the ages of 18 to 59 "Would they sleep with their partner/date before marriage?" A staggering 65% of respondents said yes!

There is no doubt that we have well and truly moved from tWorld to iWorld!

Many people are afraid to admit that they believe in things like chastity before marriage and other long established traditional values associated with sex, relationships and marriage for fear of being called intolerant or outdated. Some perceive that holding to traditional values runs the risk of coming off as being dismissive and uncaring of others and their opinions.

It is important to remember then

that caring for people does not mean that one has to accept everything that they say and believe.

There is a beautiful example of this when a woman caught in adultery is brought before Jesus for judgement. In the minds of some of her accusers she was deserving of death, as the law of the day dictated. But Jesus shows her mercy by pointing out to the crowd a fact they had conveniently forgotten – they too were guilty of sin and deserving of death. What is often missed however is that when Jesus sends the forgiven woman on her way He does so with the charge to "sin no more".

Did Jesus display genuine love and care for the woman and her plight? Undoubtedly! But neither did He accept everything that she did.

Finally, when holding to absolute moral ideals it is a good thing to remember that love must always be the aim. It is one thing to decry "how bad things are getting" but quite another to try and walk in the shoes of someone who feels broken.

I believe that keeping yourself sexually pure before and during marriage is the best way to live, but what of the young girl who gives herself sexually to a boy on the promise that he does love her, only to discover that he was lying or the victim of sexual abuse, who does not really understand why they are so promiscuous?

Do we stop to think about people like that before we opening our mouths?

If we love then we will.

So yes, one can uphold absolute moral ideals without being uncaring or dismissive. But if we are to carry the day on the debate over sexual ethics we will only do so by choosing to love, remembering that there are many who have been deeply wounded but also understanding that loving them does not mean accepting everything they say or do.

GARDENING

BY ANNE DAVIES

POTTERING AROUND WITH PROPAGATING

Learning to propagate is a satisfying way to keep your garden flourishing without spending a lot of money.

Propagating is the process of growing new plants from old; there are many ways to propagate plants, including cuttings and seeds. Once these propagated plants have developed roots, they usually need to be potted into larger containers before planting in the garden. This process is known as 'potting up' and the key to success is using quality potting mix.

One way to ensure you buy decent potting mix is to check for the Australian Standard 'ticks'. The black tick means the mix meets all the recommended criteria but has no fertiliser.

The red tick includes fertiliser to last up to three months; however, due to transport and storage, this fertiliser may have broken down by the time you purchase it. A good option is to buy black tick Australian fertiliser and add your own controlled-release fertiliser.

Potting mix needs to have the following properties (1) good drainage so there is air available for the root system to process energy and grow well; (2) the ability to hold moisture, which is essential for the plant's growing processes; (3) the right amount of nutrients and also the correct pH (around 6.5 to neutral), ensuring the plant can take up the nutrients for healthy growth; and (4) the correct amount of support to stop the plant from falling over.

Potting mix is made from different ingredients mixed in ratios to suit the plants being grown. Commonly-used ingredients are sand, peat composted pine bark, vermiculite and perlite.

Never use soil for potting mix because it may contain pests and disease and can become waterlogged in containers. Just as soil is no good for potting up, the same applies to using potting mix in the garden. Potting mix is an expensive and inefficient way of trying to improve soil; use compost to enrich your soil.

Potting mix can possibly cause harm to your health, so it is important to take some precautions when using it. Ensure the mix is damp and not dusty, use a disposable mask, and wear eye protection and gloves.

Always wash your hands when you finish potting up. Health risks associated with potting mix include legionnaire's disease, infection of open wounds, tetanus and respiratory ailments.

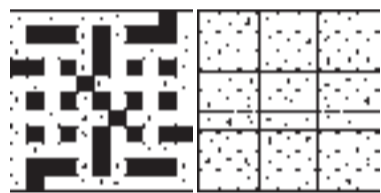
It's important to use the correct container – it must have good drainage holes and be the right size. You should never pot up into a much bigger container because the new roots will be sitting in cold, damp soil.

For instance, if you propagate your plants in trays you should pot up into tube stock; if they are propagated in tube stock, then you should pot up into 140 mm pots.

You must also consider the light requirements of your newly-potted plants. Most plants are propagated out of direct sunlight so when they are potted up they need to be gradually introduced to direct sunlight. This process is known as 'hardening off' plants.

Follow these tips and you'll have plenty of plants for your garden or to give away to friends-and you'll have pots of fun doing it.

Courtesy Salvation Army Warcry magazine. Anne Davies is nursery supervisor and trainer at the Salvos' Tom Quinn Community Centre, Bundaberg (QLD)



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)

OUR PROBLEM: **SEPARATION from God**
"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23) **ADMIT**

GOD'S REMEDY / SOLUTION: **JESUS died on the cross**
"God demonstrates His own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8) **BELIEVE**

OUR RESPONSE: **TRUST Jesus by receiving Him**
"To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12) **COMMIT**

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) _____

All overseas enquiries are referred onto someone in their own country

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Computers & Technology

Control presentations from a mobile device

BY DARRYL BUDGE

ANDROID OR WINDOWS PHONE: The Microsoft apps "Office Remote for Android" and "Office Remote" for Windows Phone allow users to remotely control a Microsoft Office 2013 presentation, read speaker notes and have a virtual 'laser-pointer' in the palm of their hand.

A presenter can play and pause embedded media, view slide thumbnails and a presentation timer. The same app also remotely controls Excel and Word files, enabling a presenter to scroll, zoom and switch between Excel worksheets and document headings and comments. It can also toggle Excel spreadsheet filters and slicers, and jump between named objects.

Requirements:

- 1 A phone or tablet with Android OS version 4.0.3 or newer, or Windows Phone 8 or 8.1.
- 2 A Bluetooth-enabled PC. If your computer lacks Bluetooth consider purchasing a Bluetooth USB adaptor (under \$10 on eBay).
- 3 Office 2013 installed. Office 2013 RT or any other Office version are not supported.

Instructions:

- 1 Install the Microsoft app "Office Remote for Android" from the Play store, or "Office Remote" from Windows Phone Store.

2 Install the desktop add-in for Office Remote on your PC via the Microsoft website: aka.ms/officereotepc.

3 Pair your mobile device to your PC via Bluetooth. Instructions are available via the 'Visit Website' link in the app's details on the Google Play store. Or search **support.office.com** for "Office Remote".

4 For full functionality, Office files must be granted 'edit' access rather than 'read only'.

APPLE IOS DEVICES: Apple users who want to remote control Keynote on their Mac or iOS device can use the Keynote iOS app (either pre-installed for free or a \$10 444MB download on older devices). Keynote's remote control ability can use Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. To learn how to enable remote control on Apple devices search on Google.com for "how to use keynote remote".

OTHER REMOTE CONTROL OPTIONS: If you don't have Office 2013 or Keynote, there are many other free 'remote control' apps that will control and display your PC screen on your mobile device, using Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. Search the relevant app store for "office remote" or "presentation remote". Or try a multi-platform 'meta-search' engine like AppCrawler.com, which will direct you to the relevant official app store.

Please note: Never download an app from an unofficial or third-party app store, as these are likely to maliciously harvest your private data, especially so in pirated or 'cracked' versions of paid apps.

FIGHTER OVERCOMES ULTIMATE PAIN



LAS VEGAS, DECEMBER 1, 2010: Mixed martial artist Vitor Belfort holds his daughter Kyara as he poses with his wife, Joana Prado, and son Davi and daughter Vitoria. (Photo Ethan Miller/Getty Images)

Vitor Belfort's sport brought fame and success but the agony of his sister's kidnapping and murder gave him a whole new perspective on life

While mixed martial arts are not everyone's cup of tea, Brazilian-born Ultimate Fighting Championship hero Vitor Belfort has an incredible story to share about the trauma that led to even greater gain.

"I think there are two ways to get to God, through pain or through love. Mine was through pain," he shared in a video interview for iam-second.com.

At age 19, Vitor remembers writing a bargaining note to God saying that if he won the American championship he was about to compete in, he would serve Him forever.

His dream came true and Vitor soon became the youngest fighter to ever score a victory inside the octagon, earning himself the nickname *The Phenom*.

Yet the promise he had made to God was quickly forgotten.

A year later Vitor received a serious neck injury that threatened to derail his sporting career, leaving him completely devastated.

Grieving his injury while driving an expensive car one day, he encountered a legless man on the sidewalk and rolled down his window.

"He was saying 'Victor you know many people who drive by here think I am worthless because I don't have

a pair of legs but I can guarantee you Victor that I am more happy than many people who drive big cars past here. I've got Jesus and Jesus can transform your life,'" Vitor recalls.

"That day it was the first time I felt God talking to my heart but even with that I didn't follow Him."

In 2004, he captured the title of UFC Light Heavyweight Champion but celebration soon turned to heartache when Vitor's sister was kidnapped in Brazil and the family never saw her again.

"We have words for if you have lost your husband – you're a widow. If you have lost your parents – you're an orphan. But if you have lost your child you don't have a name for that. It is so painful that you don't have a name for it," he shares.

"We never found her body but we heard a story that more than 20 guys raped her and killed her."

Vitor shares that his heart was hardened with bitterness and all he could think of was revenge or turning to medication to numb the pain.

"Then I started praying, I started a strong fire with God and he spoke to my heart and said, 'Son, it doesn't matter how you look or how you think in your life, your sister belongs to me,'" he recalls.

"I think that was the biggest touch

with a true relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit."

Although it was a painful way to finally submit to God's will for his life, Vitor says he has never been so peaceful and feels blessed to now have a great family and a true relationship with God.

"I can see now that through that tribulation I am a new man. I am a strong man. I am mature. I am not perfect – I still struggle with many things. I am in the middle of the process and every day I am trying to improve myself," he says.

Vitor compares faith throughout life's trials to gold being refined in the fire, making reference to 1 Peter chapter 1 verse 7.

He adds that he strongly believes that there is a God-shaped whole in each person that can only be filled by Him.

"The whole world and our culture are teaching us to fill this with [material] things and with pleasures. I've been there and I know how it is," he says.

Yet now Vitor says he does not place his trust and faith in himself or anyone else because after each person dies they will have to come before God and be judged.

"I believe the only way to get to God is through a bridge and this bridge is Jesus," he explains.

"It is important to repent [turn away] from the things you did in the past because God doesn't like a proud heart.

"Through that tribulation I am a new man"

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