More than 450 women attended ‘Fresh’, the annual event of the Baptist Women’s Ministry, held on 18 September at Mt Pleasant Baptist Church.

Women from 90 different churches attended with some travelling from Darwin and Melbourne, but the majority came from Perth and regional WA churches. Baptist World Aid Australia representatives, Jules Parker from Sydney and Robin Carter from Adelaide also attended.

Leader of the organising team, Karen Wilson, spoke at the event, along with Perth woman Jade Lewis, on the theme of saying ‘yes’ to Jesus. The conference aims to renew and revitalise women through gathering them together, teaching for life-change and helping focus response to God’s Spirit.

Twenty-five women responded at the close of the conference by saying yes to Jesus for the first time, declaring their desire to live their lives under His leadership.

“We dream of helping women make a difference in the world,” Karen Wilson said. “Learning to stand firm in life and then taking ground and making a difference with social justice issues.”

Jade Lewis told the dynamic story of her spiral out of control life as a teenager, resulting in her abuse of alcohol and drugs, and a police record by the time she was 21. Just over a decade ago. Almost three years at Teen Challenge’s residential rehabilitation base at Esperance and an encounter with God when she first started saying yes to Jesus saw her life change dramatically.

Today she promotes a drug free community through her work with high school students, encouraging them to ‘Just Say No’ to drugs and alcohol. Four years ago she started working with women at Bandyup Prison, visiting twice a week to teach and inspire women to grow in self-discipline, health and character with the ‘Step Up’ program. A recent development is ‘From the Heart’, a next step for many women leaving prison. ‘Fresh’ conference attendees gave thousands of dollars worth of toiletries to help the program.

Each year the conference focuses giving to an international project, giving sacrificially to make a difference in the world. In 2009 the conference gave over $26,000 to train health workers in the remote highlands of Papua New Guinea. Kerry Hilton, a New Zealander working in Kolkata, India, for the past 11 years, described the work he and his wife started. Freeset (www.freesetglobal.com), employs and trains women trapped in prostitution in the Sonagacci district. Ten thousand women line the streets daily, selling their bodies to men. Many are trafficked from Bangladesh, Nepal and rural India. Poverty leaves others no options.

Freeset provides women with a life changing opportunity to free themselves from this lifestyle and regain their respect, employing them to make bags and t-shirts that are sold on the international market. As women say yes to Jesus, lives are changing more than circumstantially.

This year the women at the conference gave a staggering $77,980 to help change the lives of women in Kolkata.

The media’s focus was on the political drama of a hung parliament while Australia waited to see who would govern the nation. A similarly challenging question about what really matters is, ‘What will this new government mean in the project, giving?‘

Micah Challenge reports that prior to the election, former Foreign Affairs Minister, Stephen Smith, reaffirmed Labor’s commitment to increase Australia’s funding for overseas development assistance to 0.5 percent of gross national income (GNI) by 2015. This is an important commitment that was initially made during the 2007 election campaign and has now achieved bi-partisan support throughout the Parliament. In the current financial year, the forecast is that aid levels will reach 0.33 percent of GNI.

Beyond the challenge of ensuring the delivery of existing policy, this term will also be critical in gaining new commitments to take the aid budget to 0.7 percent of GNI — the level Australia’s leaders have acknowledged as the international benchmark.

A significant challenge Australia faces over the next three years is Labor’s lack of a sufficient majority in the House of Representatives to form Government in its own right. Instead, Labor is reliant on the support of a group of independents and cross-benchers. This effectively means that the vote of each and every local MP becomes critical in ensuring that the government’s agenda is able to pass through the Parliament.

Australias new Foreign Minister, Kevin Rudd, attended a United Nations summit called by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in New York from 20 to 22 September. The summit focused on how to accelerate progress towards the millennium development goals.
Hope for China’s orphans

Students from Lake Joondalup Baptist College visited the New Hope Foster Home in Beijing, China in July. Eighteen students and three teachers spent 12 days in China, working in sweltering heat to improve the grounds of the children’s home each morning, then spending time playing with the children each afternoon.

Team leader, Ryan Verge, Head of Society and Environment at the Lake Joondalup Baptist College said the trip to China has become a much-anticipated annual event at the College. It includes practical serving and cultural learning through travel, food and language learning.

“We go to help out at orphanages and to show students that not everyone is as lucky as they are, and that the world is a big and diverse place,” he said. “They can do something to help the less fortunate.”

A highlight on this year’s adventure was meeting American singer-songwriter Steve Curtis Chapman and his wife, Mary Beth Chapman, at New Hope Foster Home. The Chapman’s daughter, Maria, who died in 2008, was at New Hope before they adopted her into their family.

Mr Chapman was in China helping Show Hope, a charity assisting with adoptions.

“As a family we have experienced adoption to be the most tangible way to understand the Gospel and what God has done for us,” he said. “Often when I write songs it is to know God, to help others know God and for God to be known. It is something that has helped me to experience God and it is his heart for adoption and orphans.”

He affirmed the value of short term trips for developing character and vision in young people.

“There is no better way to reshape the heart of young people than to take them out of their comfort zone and the usual world to a place with crisis and need. It changes hearts and builds compassion, better than any book or story. It leads to real change and a trip to a place like New Hope means that we are following Christ’s call to visit orphans!”

Lake Joondalup Baptist College is so convinced of the value of this type of trip they are already planning next year’s journey.

Steve Curtis Chapman and Mary Beth Chapman with the team from Lake Joondalup Baptist College at New Hope Foster Home in Beijing, China, in July.

Vose gap year options expanded

Dawson Elliott hopes to meet many young adults at Vose Seminary’s Open Night on Monday, 11 October. As the new Director of Vose Equip, he is keen to talk with young adults who are interested in taking a gap year after high school to nurture their ministry skills. Vose Equip is offering a range of certificate and diploma course in 2011, to help develop practical skills for ministry in the local church context.

‘Take the Plunge’ is an internship year for 18-25 year olds with areas of interest in Youth, Children or Missions. The program offers students the opportunity of ministry training at Vose while they work for two days per week in their local church or mission agency.

Other Vose Equip options include a bridging intensive course in Study skills for Ministry Readiness; A Certificate IV in Ministry, a Diploma, an Advanced Diploma and a Vocational Graduate Diploma of Ministry.

“The entire range of study is highly practical and deeply Biblical,” Dawson Elliott said.

Other options for training include a Certificate IV in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) and Basic, Moderate and Proficient English as a second language.

The Annual Open Night at Vose runs from 7:00 pm on 11 October at the Seminary’s campus, 20 Hayman Road, Bentley. It gives people the opportunity to be informed about what is on offer at Vose and be challenged to ‘Come, Grow’ at Vose. Seminary staff, including Principal Brian Harris, will be on hand throughout the evening to answer questions and offer suggestions about suitable courses for individuals.

“As much I love to talk about Vose, the Vose ethos is caught more than taught. The Open Night gives people a small taste of what it feels like to be part of Vose. In the past, so many people who have attended have said, ‘after a short while here, I knew this was my home ... That’s why I’m keen for all prospective students to attend open night. They’ll quickly sense if this is the place for them,’ Dr Brian Harris said.


Baptism

Barry O’Halloran was baptised in a cattle trough at Karraha Baptist on 8 August.

Historical Society

For 25 years, The Baptist Historic Society of WA has been actively recording and preserving records of churches, individuals and events in WA. Baptist work since the early days of 1885. A Public Meeting to commemorate this 25th Anniversary will be held at Perth Baptist Church, Stirling Street, Perth, on Sunday 10 October at 2:30 pm. Parking is available behind the Church, including bays marked ‘Sunday Times’. Dr Richard Moore will present a paper on ‘Who Has Baptised have attempted to preserve their History’. All invited and most welcome. More information is available from Rhoda Walker phone 9384 5440.

Brigade Presentation

The Girl’s and Boys’ Brigade State Presentation, where recipients are presented with national and international awards by the Governor of Western Australia, will take place on 27 October at Riverton Baptist Church.

SAO lunch

Can you buy lunch for $1.40? The Baptist World Aid Australia team tried to. See what happened at sharanagopa@baptistworldaid.org.au

It only takes $1.40 a day to support a SAO child through Baptist World Aid Australia. Thousands of children around the world are helped through Support An Orphan. This small daily amount of money provides children, their families and communities with life-changing opportunities.

Book launch

Richard Moore’s biography of Dr Noel Vose, Founding Principal of the Baptist Theological College of Western Australia, and President of the Baptist World Alliance (1985—1990) will be launched on 28 November, during the 25th anniversary celebrations of the Baptist Historical Society of Western Australia. Copies of the book Noel Vose: Pastor, Principal, President. A biography can be pre-ordered. The event to be held at Curtin’s College, Nedlands, includes a buffet luncheon starting at 12:30 pm. Tickets ($45) must be pre-purchased and are available from the Baptist Ministry Centre (phone 6313 6300).

Volunteers needed for Leavers 2010

Green team, Baptist Churches of WA and Churches of Christ Sport and Rec run a number of activities over Leavers week to help protect our youth.

We need 200 volunteers CAN YOU HELP?

To find out more visit www.greenteam.org.au or phone 6313 6300.

2
Dementia in epidemic proportions

Alzheimer's Disease, a form of dementia, is reaching epidemic proportions. Currently around 23,000 people in Western Australia have dementia. By 2050 that number will be more than 125,000.

James Ward, is the honorary Chaplain to the Alzheimer's Association of WA as well as Protestant Churches Chaplain at Hollywood Private Hospital. He has wide experience and expertise in working with people with dementia and their families.

Mr Ward is concerned that Pastors and Pastoral Carers already working in local churches need more information and skills training in relating to people with dementia. There is little to no education in pastoral care practices that they are not forgotten. "It's a sad day for the children of NSW. Every child has a right to have a mother and father, but what this bill has destroyed that right. Today, homosexual rights have been trumped children's rights," said Rev. Fred Nile. "Whilst supporters of the bill repeated time and time again that this wasn't about homosexual rights, if we were given a cent for every time 'homosexual discrimination' and 'homosexual rights' was mentioned in the debate, we'd all be very rich right now!"

Michael Eaton coming

Well-known preacher and author, Michael Eaton, will be speaking at Dalkeith Baptist Church on Friday 29 October at 7:30 pm as part of the church’s annual Missions Emphasis Week. Mr Eaton is one of the leaders of the Chirico Fellowship of Churches in Nairobi Kenya and has served as Pastor of Baptist Churches in South Africa and Zambia in the past. Books written by Michael Eaton include A Theology of Encouragement, Enjoying God's Worldwide Church, The Gift of Prophetic Preaching, and Tyndale's Commentary on Ecclesiastes. A resource table and refreshments will be available after the service. For more information contact Nathan Randall randall.nathan@gmail.com.

Baptistcare Board Experiences Of Interest

Baptistcare is a thriving, Christian organisation offering a significant range of community services to individuals, families and communities. It specialises in providing care for those who are ageing, people living with disabilities and people with mental illness seeking recovery, together with their families. It provides a range of residential, home and community based services throughout rural, regional WA and in the Perth metropolitan area. It will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2012.

Baptistcare is seeking expressions of interest from members of the Baptistcare Community to participate as Board Members and work towards achieving Baptistcare’s vision ‘to transform and enrich lives’. The work of Baptistcare is exciting, complex and challenging.

The Board is responsible for the overall governance and direction of Baptistcare and Members are appointed by the Baptist Assembly for a three year period. Areas of expertise or involvement that are being sought include, but are not limited to:

- Finance qualifications and experience
- Health and community services professional experience
- Leadership of large organisations

Expressions of interest should be addressed to the Board Chairperson, Mrs Cynthia Clive and include: details of relevant experience and expertise, a resume and two referees for an initial assessment. Please email details to chairperson@baptistcare.com.au

Or mail to:
The Chairperson
The Baptistcare Board
PO Box 1067
CANNING BRIDGE WA 6153
www.baptistcare.com.au
No more ‘whatevers’ please...

“Instead of genuine forgiveness, our generation has been taught the vague notion of ‘tolerance’. This is, at best, a low-grade parody of forgiveness. At worst, it’s a way of sweeping the real issues in human life under the carpet.” N.T. Wright, The Lord and the羊

Armchair sociologists call us the ‘whatever generation’. It’s not a technical term, but accurate. Whatever you want; whatever suits you; whatever you think. We may disagree, but ... whatever. I may have hurt you, but ... whatever. Whatever you want; whatever suits you. Whatever you think. We may disagree, but ... whatever. I may have hurt you, but ... whatever. Whatever you want; whatever suits you. Whatever you think. We may disagree, but ... whatever. I may have hurt you, but ... whatever.

This laid-back approach to life produces indifference and idleness. But the consequences run far deeper. Like a seeping appendix.

Whatever grows out of relativism — that rampant philosophy that defies biblical morality. It’s the simplest form, relativism insists that what is true for you is well and good, but don’t force your standards on me. As long as we act sincerely and with tolerance toward each other — whatever. But this insipid mindset has a high cost. Only absolutes can evoke authentic evaluation and genuine grace. No absolutes; no forgiveness; no grace. We wallow in pain and shame, and our cultures only consolation is a single word: ‘Whatever’. It falls entirely to hear, reconcile, redeem or restore. Instead, it exacerbates our isolation and despair.

The veneer of freedom in our culture — whereby we can do basically whatever we like — only enslaves us. True freedom does not mean lack of restraint. Just the opposite. We come to the decision to live within godly boundaries and forgive those who violate them. We cannot dismiss or modify those standards, but grace allows the fallen to return. In contrast, whatever casts us adrift, without moorings, without hope.

The philosophical arm-wrestle between absolute ethics and relativistic ethics has grace-based implications. The irony is obvious. Relativism begets bondage. Absolutes lead to life. God always seems distant and remote to those with no culpability. On the other hand, John Newton could write of Amazing Grace because its light shone in the darkness of his acknowledged depravity. No ‘whatever’ for him.

Without awareness of our sin and guilt, we cannot enter salvation and grace as fully as the Father intends.

Grace emerges from absolute standards in the same way our philosophy of our times. The Lord’s statutes do more than sustain society. His principles pave the way to grace and life for each of us.

No more ‘whatevers’... please.

My Thoughts
To love or hate the world?

My answer to those who ask where my accent originates from is, “I was born in South Africa, I am a New Zealand citizen and I live in Australia.” The Kiwi part meant that at the election, in spite of paying Australian taxes, I was ineligible to vote. Not that I’m bitter! It isn’t something that occupies my mind greatly. But I did observe the election with interest, if only because the Messiah never cast aside the vaguest notion of ‘tolerance’.

The rather pious church group that nurtured my spiritual growth as an adolescent argued that Christianity and politics do not mix. After all, Hebrews 13:14 reminds us, “Here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.” Thumbing noses at that counsel, I got obsessed with mining taxes and broadband schemes? The apostle John presses this even further when in 1 John 2:15 he writes, “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” Strong stuff!

Did John mean what he said? After all, it is the same John who wrote that, “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son — who knew the world well enough to fill in the chapter and verse. So God loves the world that we are not to love. A tad confusing don’t you think? Actually, not really! Words have different connotations in different contexts.

Sometimes when the Bible speaks of the world it speaks of the creation of God, a creation that he loves and longs to be in relationship with. The world is the object of his nurture and care — he knows when thesparrow falls; indeed, should a trivial pursuit question inquire about the number of hairs on our head, God can answer

without pausing for breath. The Bible speaks of a God who watches over the widow and orphan. His Son went so far as to suggest that when we feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked and visit the prisoners, we mysteriously feed, welcome, clothe and visit Him (Matt 25:34-40). The vulnerable constitute a world that is loved and a world to be loved.

There is another kind of love for the world — the kind John tells us to shun. It’s about falling in love with the culture and grace as fully as the Father intends.

“Here’s a well-known quote in the marketing and business world from Steve Jobs about the importance of getting your ideas out the door. Real artists’ ship. Jobs isn’t just speaking of people who paint, draw, sculpt, or make music. It’s anyone who has the responsibility for creating anything. Products, services, Reports. Even sermons. Real artists don’t delay their creation’s release in an attempt to make it perfect. They put in the work and get it as close as they can, and then release it. The most significant ideas in the world are the ones that have been shipped. Not the ones that are perfect. And that’s because no idea is ever perfect ... The Word is perfect. The Gospel is perfect. Your plan and ability to present it are not. But we have faith that God can more than make up the difference. The same God who used a stuttering shepherd as His mouthpiece before the most powerful man in the world can use us as well. The same God who took twelve ordinary men with no background in public speaking and used them to begin a movement that changed the world can use us too.”

01/09/2010
Phil Cooke: www.philcooke.com

“In my consulting work, there are a lot of diseases I deal with on a daily basis that have infected the church, but one of the most serious is shallow thinking. When pastors and Christian leaders don’t have a deep intellectual bench, the options they offer end up being shallow, simplistic, and weak. When I grew up in the South, pastors actually made jokes about those who attended seminary. They felt that the intellectual study of the Bible kept people away from the authentic experience of the Holy Spirit. Of course today we know that’s bunk. The hard and brutal truth is that even today, intellectually, too many pastors are creampuffs. If we’re going to engage the culture in a significant way, we need to raise up more intellectuals within the church. Men and women who have wrestled with the big questions, and have a deeper understanding of the challenges facing the next generation.”

02/09/2010
Steven Furick: www.stevenfurick.com

“Here’s a well-known quote in the marketing and business world from Steve Jobs about the importance of getting your ideas out the door. Real artists’ ship. Jobs isn’t just speaking of people who paint, draw, sculpt, or make music. It’s anyone who has the responsibility for creating anything. Products, services, Reports. Even sermons. Real artists don’t delay their creation’s release in an attempt to make it perfect. They put in the work and get it as close as they can, and then release it. The most significant ideas in the world are the ones that have been shipped. Not the ones that are perfect. And that’s because no idea is ever perfect ... The Word is perfect. The Gospel is perfect. Your plan and ability to present it are not. But we have faith that God can more than make up the difference. The same God who used a stuttering shepherd as His mouthpiece before the most powerful man in the world can use us as well. The same God who took twelve ordinary men with no background in public speaking and used them to begin a movement that changed the world can use us too.”

Dr Brian Harris is the Principal of Vose Seminary and Senior Pastor of Carey Community Baptist Church. He can be contacted at brian.harris@vose.wa.edu.au

03/09/2010
Perry Noble: www.perrynoble.com

“God doesn’t have small dreams for you! (Ephesians 2:10, 1 Corinthians 2:9). He crafted you to be unique. (Psalm 139:13-16). He placed you in this place at this time. (Acts 17:26). He gifted you with at least one gift from HIS Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:7). He promised you His presence (isaiah 43:3-1). AND ... His promises are true. His power is unstoppable. His potential is breathtaking. SO ... Do not settle for anything less than His best for your life. Do not give up on the God who has never given up on you. Do not start begging God to reveal Himself to you (He actually wants you to get it right way more than you do)! Do not think He is through with you. He has great plans ... surrender yourself fully, follow Him completely and take up your cross daily ... and, over time, He will blow your mind!”

14/09/2010
Carlos Whitaker: www.raganamuffinsoul.com

“Before the church had ‘offices’, which was not very long ago, the ministers were out in the community doing ‘church’. Officers are important in a sense that it allows meetings to happen and stuff to get done. But there is so much great space around you that you are missing out on. And guess what is inside that space? Local business owners who are not going to your church. People who are not going to your church. People who are not coming the Sunday service that you are planning while you are inside your church offices. So what if your church implemented a policy that you must work 25 hours from the office and 15 hours outside the office? I would think that the same amount of work IF NOT MORE could get done. And you would accidentally get more work done in the community than you have ever before. Maybe I’m just an idealistic romantic dreamer. Maybe, or maybe I’m right and you are working way too much inside the church when you are supposed to be outside it.”


Mark Wilson is the Director of Ministries for Baptist Churches Western Australia. He can be contacted at mark.wilson@baptistwa.asn.au.
Housing helps our youth

Fusion Student Household Service supports young people who cannot remain in their home situation. The group provides safe community living for homeless high school students in need.

“We have two houses and a unit, purpose built by the Department of Housing,” Fusion Project Manager, Heather Gare said. “We run a lead tenant model with three Christian young adults and two homeless high school students who need housing, living in the five bedroom homes.”

The Government agency providing funding for the project requires that the young people needing housing must be over 15½ years old, have no criminal record, are not recently diagnosed with mental health issues, drug or alcohol abuse, and have no diagnosed mental health issues.

Many of the young people who come to Fusion for help are left adrift when their own family disintegrates because of problems including mental illness, alcohol abuse, illicit drug use by parents or personal security issues.

“The stable community of the household offers hope to the young people. Many stay long enough to find their feet, finish part of their education, like high school, or start working. The houses are located not far from Curtin University and within easy access to TAFEs, Murdoch and Notre Dame Universities.

“We’re always looking for young adults who enjoy working with youth, to come and be prepared to live their normal lives in these households,” Mrs Gare said.

“But it’s not like official youth work where you shut the door at 5:00 pm and go home. The household is your home and the household members become like family. Relationships are a high priority, and there is an external caseworker who deals with issues if they come up,” Mrs Borbely said.

Fusion is a Christian organisation that aims to ‘bring young people and communities together with hope’. This program is a unique opportunity to reach that goal by nurturing young people to launch them into the wider community when they’re ready. More information is available from Heather Gare on 0402 907 242.

Fusion employees Penny Borbely (left) and Heather Gare.

GIA launches ‘Best of Resonate’

Global Interaction works hard making the issues and information of cross-cultural work accessible to Australian churches. Their latest venture is the magazine style Best of Resonate.

Resonate magazine is now four years old, so GIA is celebrating the milestone with a new publication. Best of Resonate has 16 articles pulled together from the past 11 issues of Resonate, plus bonus discussion starters for each, linking them with key passages in the Bible, as well as providing opportunities to dialogue, reflect and act. All the tools people need to explore an issue more deeply are in the book.

The discussion starters are simply meant to be that — brief ‘nurseries’ and questions to help kick off a deeper exploration of God’s word and respond to His call on their lives.

As churches continue to prepare short-term teams to travel internationally, Best of Resonate would be ideal for use with youth small groups, personal study or far engaging conversation over coffee.

The background material on Buddhism and Islam in particular and understanding culture in general will help churches as they prepare to adopt or work with people groups in the world.

“It’s a great tool to help a wide range of people to engage with some of the important issues,” a Perth Missions Pastor said. “I’m planning to use it with a mission small group we’ve set up to support our people working overseas and here in Australia.”

“It’s not easy to find good material that helps young people and older folk to get their heads around some of the complexities of cross-cultural work. This book is going to be very useful helping people understand the concepts we need to become comfortable with about empowering communities to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus.”

Copies are available from the GIA office or by calling 6313 6300.

Stamps help missions

Global Interaction raised $65,000 from selling stamps in 2009. Used or mint stamps are useful. Stamp collectors are asked to leave some paper around the edges of the stamp or just send the whole envelope. Donations of any quantity are welcomed. Unwanted stamp collections are useful too. Contact the GIA office on 6313 6300.

Aussie Harvest

Peter Irvine, the co-founder of Gloria Jeans Coffees teamed up with the Aussie Harvest team for a week-long speaking tour to western NSW, from 20 September. Aussie Harvest is a non-denominational outreach ministry to men who live mainly in the west of NSW. Peter Irvine will travel with Aussie Harvest founder and pilot, Rod Cuthbertson to Lightning Ridge, Grunin, Tomingley, Narramine, Wee Waa and Bathurst during the four day trip.

The Aussie Harvest team meets with over 150 men each time they fly out west. “It’s great to see God using this ministry to bring a spiritual awakening in mature Australian men that the church hasn’t reached,” Rod Cuthbertson said.

Bible funds

David Sutherland of the Gideons visited Denmark Baptist Church in July. He told stories of giving African children, teachers and community leaders their own Bibles. The church heard that just $1.50 could purchase a Bible and the Gideons would place it into the hands of someone who needs it. Wes Briggs, the newest member at Denmark inspired the church with his vision for the congregation to support the Gideons. “Imagine going without for the Gideons,” he said. So during August, the church went without! Instead of buying coffee or a pie, they went without the luxury and put the money aside for Bibles. The church community pulled together strongly. By ‘going without’, the small congregation gave $4,600. That means 3,000 Bibles can go into the hands of people around the world.
Country city links thrive

They piled into the bus, tired but exhilarated after a weekend at Geraldton. Operation Stretch had lived up to its name. Ten young people and their Youth Pastor, Craig Palmer, were heading home to Riverton.

They arrived in the Port City on Friday afternoon in time to lead an excited junior youth group at Geraldton Baptist Church that hadn’t met for a while because there is no leader for the group.

Riverton Baptist has history of connecting with country churches. “We tend to go where there are natural links of young people that have come to Perth to study,” Craig Palmer said.

University student, Christal Sercombe’s, family is part of Geraldton Baptist, so the ‘Stretch’ team worked through that link.

‘Stretch’ trips aim to help young adults live out their relationship with Jesus. “Team members apply to go, similar to an overseas mission trip,” Mr Palmer said. “This group had three planning and training sessions.”

The group prepared activities for the Geraldton youth, personal testimonies, honed their communication skills and looked at the motivation needed to share their personal stories of faith with new acquaintances. The team camped in the Geraldton Baptist’s Sunday School rooms, sleeping in swags on a bare floor. Saturday morning they met with a group of over-15-year-olds from their host church to worship in a local park before having brunch together. A unique version of an ‘Amazing Race’ through the streets of the city followed. It was mayhem. Later in the evening the rest of the church family had a barbecue dinner and bonfire at David and Rhonda Oliver’s property.

“Sunday morning the group took part in the morning worship service and helped out in Children’s Church,” Church Secretary, Anita Kirkbright said. “We had lunch together before the Riverton youth headed back to the big smoke.” “A highlight for me was watching the growth in care and respect for each other within the team and among the two groups of young people,” Mr Palmer said.

Building relationships on the trip has prepared the groups for Sportsfest in late September when 20 young people from Geraldton will join the Riverton team.

New Bible

Wycliffe Bible Translators report the Sursurunga New Testament was dedicated recently in the New Ireland province of Papua New Guinea. Australians, Laurie and Ruth Morgan, parents of singer-songwriter Reuben Morgan, have worked with the Sursurunga people for more than ten years on the translation project. Mr Morgan was 57 years old when they joined Wycliffe, completed the Summer Institute of Linguistics training at Kangaroo Ground in Victoria then moved to Papua New Guinea.

Arab Vision

Arab Vision, a producer of Christian TV programs in the Arab World since 1997, is airing programs in the sign language for hearing impaired. The organisation already produces programs in many Arabic and non-Arabic vernaculars of the Arab World. “In our Christian programs we present the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but we put much stress on the social side of the Gospel. It was not hard for us to decide to produce programs for deaf Arabs,” says the International Director of Arab Vision.

Around 20 percent of all Arabs are able readers, so television is a good medium to communicate the Christian message. Literacy is even lower among deaf people. Without a standardised Arab form of sign language, Arab Vision uses sign language practiced in Egypt for programs.

Where can I go to get excellent and practical hands-on training for ministry?

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highly practical, deeply biblical
Quinns helps the Balinese

Connections and partnership drive the work Quinns Baptist Church does in Bali. Danielle Hamilton drives the Australian connection with the Widhya Asih Foundation in Bali. The foundation was formed by the Balinese Protestant Church. Currently they have seven orphanages caring for about 500 children, a widow’s program assisting 11 widows and their families, and community programs assisting villages with water tanks, education and medical needs.

The partnership with Widhya Ash Foundation is now almost four years old. “Essentially we do whatever we can to help the Balinese fund their church. It’s very useful for the church. It engaged with the needs of their community. They have seven orphanages caring for about 500 children, a widow’s program assisting 11 widows and their families, and community programs assisting villages with water tanks, education and medical needs.

The leadership of the church reviewed the results of the consultancy then prioritised a plan for how they would implement the recommendations. They have started the process of finding a new full-time Pastor. Philip Gilham is currently serving as interim Pastor.

There’s a sense of vibrancy as the church continues to do more than merely exist in this transition period. Three new ministries started in 2010 as the church has engaged with the needs of their community and the findings of the consultancy. A ‘Nurture’ Bible Study Group for women started in March; MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) commenced in August and a Men’s Ministry whose first breakfast meeting is planned for October.

Church consultancy brings change

The people of Karratha Baptist have used this year while they’ve been without a Senior Pastor, to maximum effect. In June they invited Church Health Consultant, Phillip Bryant, from the Baptist Churches Western Australia, to conduct a Church Health Consultancy to help them understand the underlying condition of the church. Most of the church family participated in the review. The assessment was insightful and very useful for the church. It highlighted strengths in worship, the character of the leadership team, the very strong bond of fellowship, the broad nature of ministries with lots of people participating and supporting. Another plus is the excellent church facilities.

The results also revealed several areas where growth and development is needed. One area clarified was the need to develop clearly the responsibilities, authorities and accountabilities for a Senior Pastor and other leaders. A more intentional approach to evangelism and discipleship is also needed.

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The leadership of the church reviewed the results of the consultancy then prioritised a plan for how they would implement the recommendations. They have started the process of finding a new full-time Pastor. Philip Gilham is currently serving as interim Pastor.

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Pastors attacked

More violent attacks on religious freedom in Indonesia occurred in early September when two Pastors from the Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP) church in Bekasi, West Java, were mobbed. One Pastor was stabbed. The information was confirmed by a Bekasi Police officer identified as Daimun. “The incident took place near the HKBP church in the Ciketing, Mustika Jaya housing complex,” Daimun said. “This is the same location where another church service was disrupted by a group of people (claiming to represent) a certain hard-line organisation,” he said. The victim, Rev. ST Sihombing, was stabbed on his way to church by attackers on a motorcycle.

Worker released

An aid worker for Christian relief organisation, Samaritan’s Purse was released in late August after being held hostage for 105 days in Sudan. The 35-year-old employee, Flavia Wagner, was exhausted, but in good health, reported a spokesman. In May, Ms Wagner, another employee and a Sudanese driver were abducted after their two vehicle convoy was stopped by eight armed men 15 miles southwest of Nyala in Sudan’s Darfur region. The three were part of a ten-person team engaged in educational assessments in local communities in the region. Seven days after the kidnapping the two Sudanese men were released unharmed and without explanation. Ms Wagner remained in captivity, but was allowed to contact her family and Samaritan’s Purse staff on several occasions. Samaritan’s Purse worked with USA and Sudanese government officials to secure Ms Wagner’s release.

Ethiopian vision

“An old Ethiopian Pastor pointed his finger at me and exclaimed to our translator, ‘God has sent this one to wake us up.’ He continued, ‘Until I die, I now have my job,’” Accelerating International Missions Strategies (AIMS) Vice President, Jerry Smith said. “I just stared in awe at what this faithful servant of God was telling me. After two days of intensive teaching and training in Addis Ababa this ‘retired’ minister of the gospel had become impassioned by God’s vision for reaching the nations. ‘In early July we gathered with 220 Ethiopian leaders from Kale Heywat (Word of Life), the largest denomination in the country. They plan to double their full-time missionaries from 1,000 to 2,000 in the next three years. They already have missionaries in Ethiopia, Sudan, Pakistan, and India, and this year they sent a team to Iran.

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Mental health needs to challenge community

Mental health patients are often marginalised in the community yet many people suffering with serious mental illness find a safe place to belong and grow in local churches. Baptist churches across the state are engaging in different ways, from offering advocacy to support. Here are some of their stories.
Baptistcare supports recovery

Baptistcare runs recovery support for mental health clients at Geraldton and Narrogin. Manager of Recovery Services, Cassandra Porter, outlined Baptistcare’s work in helping people manage their illness, focusing strongly on their hopes for recovery. They often help connect the client with other services.

“Many people with mental health issues have cyclical experiences,” Ms Porter said. “They don’t need constant care, but they do need continuing support. We can help.”

In Geraldton, Baptistcare’s Kerry Horobin, runs Compassion House, a secure accommodation facility for respite and crisis care with 24 hour support.

“We can cater for four people at a time. We’re a port in a storm for people with a mental illness,” Kerry Horobin said. “They can have time to think, time to sleep. Time for medications to stabilize their situation.”

“We value individuals and work with them as whole people,” Ms Porter said. “We get to help them identify what is hopeful in their lives. So many times we’ve seen people make huge progress over time.”

Often health services compartmentalise needs — mental illness, drug use or alcohol use. Baptistcare uses a person centred approach recognising how deeply connected and intertwined the symptoms and needs of a person may be.

“Because you use drugs doesn’t make you less of a person,” Ms Porter said. “We’re working on de-stigmatizing mental health issues in the community.”

As well as accommodation, Baptistcare runs drop-in groups at Narrogin, Katanning and Geraldton. Rob Douglas is the leader of Mission and Service with Baptistcare.

“These programs are working,” Mr Douglas said. “We’re interested in collaborating with Baptist churches to meet the mental health needs in communities. If we had 20 churches interested in this work, we’d have such great capacity to go to government for funding and support.”

Advocacy, soup and shelter in Esperance

I was invited to join the South East District Health Advisory Council in Esperance three years ago. As a Council we seek to identify the needs of our district and lobby government on behalf of our area. Being painfully aware of the inadequacies of the mental health care being provided in the district, we made this area a priority. I founded the Restore Hope Foundation Esperance Ltd as a result.

The Restore Hope Foundation Esperance Ltd is a charity not specifically a church based organisation, but very much a ministry of the Esperance Baptist Church. Our charter is to seek to have supported accommodation, transitional housing, and respite housing for sufferers of chronic and persistent mental health disorders available in Esperance and the surrounding district, as at this point in time there is nothing.

With the contact we have with sufferers of mental health disorders, we realised that many go through periods of homelessness and often are unable to look after themselves. At times we have addressed housing needs. Currently we feed about two hundred people over three nights each week from our soup kitchen. Businesses, and individuals support us with products, services and time. We operate out of a donated shed that has been modified to suit our needs by the owner, who charges no rent and pays our electricity bill. We have a purpose built state of the art mobile kitchen that cost us $7,000. A local mining company paid the remaining $50,000.

As a means of raising the awareness of the plight of the homeless, seven people joined me to ‘Sleep for the Homeless’ on Friday 13 August. It was the worst night weather wise in Esperance for the whole year. We had dinner thanks to the soup kitchen then slept overnight in the local sound shell. The Esperance Express newspaper raised nearly $700 for the Foundation and other gifts made the total $900. I suspect the sleep out will become an annual event.

As I have no background in medicine or health related fields it is incredible how God opened the doors to this ministry. It is amazing what people can do when they put their mind to it. The opportunities that have come our way in this ministry may seem inconvenient, heavy going and stressful at times and yet it is through those ministries that we were called to Christ Jesus.

Sister love

Michal Martins suffered a severe episode of mental illness in her mid-teens. Over the years she has experienced traumatic episodes of illness and other times of relative peace. Now aged 42, married to Alberto Martins and the mother of two teenagers, Michal lives a full life at a manageable pace, firmly connected to family and friends.

Many of those friends are part of Parkerville Baptist Church where she has worshipped for 13 years. The congregation has loved and supported her and her family through many ups and downs.

On 27 December 2009 before her sister Karena and brother-in-law Richard Joyce were baptised, the congregation heard an amazing story of how God has been using Michal for his glory.

Karena Joyce told how she had rejected God in the early years of Michal’s mental illness, blaming God and accusing him of more than indifference toward Michal’s plight.

About three years ago Karena started to ask questions, looking for peace in her life. The cold hard facts of her reality compelled her to engage again with God. She recognised that her sister, Michal, facing on-going mental health issues, was genuinely loved and deeply respected by a large group of people who weren’t even her family. That spoke to Karena of God’s love and grace.

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Karena to submit her life to the leadership of Jesus.

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A decade ago, Jade Lewis, fought a personal battle with drug addiction. Recently she was awarded The Sunday Times Pride of Australia Medal 2010 in the Community Service Category. The Advocate talked with her in Perth.

Your story of how God changed your life is becoming well-known in Perth. Did you ever dream this would happen?

Not really. I started sharing my story in 2000 after my time at Teen Challenge (a residential rehabilitation centre) in Esperance. I knew I needed a big dream for my life (after getting free from drugs), but I had to overcome my biggest fear - public speaking. God is so amusing and He got all the glory. Every year I ask: "Do I keep sharing?"

In your first book, Golden Haze you talk about how you started using drugs. Looking back, can you see anything that may have intercepted the trajectory your life took?

Hindsight is always useful. I wasn't aware of vibrant church youth groups back in my youth. I needed something. I think I was bored. It seems some experimentation with drugs is 'the norm' for many, many high schoolers - alcohol, illicit drugs. Do you think it needs to be that way?

I don't believe there is recreational drug use. It's watering down the fact that people are using. At some point people say: "I'm going to start using drugs. I say to kids, 'Just say no.' What else are we going to say? I'll teach you how to do it safely.'

You are involved with thousands of high schoolers each year through the 'Just Say No' program. What sort of difference is it making?

I get heaps of emails from high schoolers. Kids with their mum in prison. They hear my story and realise how big the impact (of drug use) is. It challenges their thinking. Helps them reassess their boundaries and make the decision to stop.

You've just written a second book, Under YOUR influence, which helps parents understand teens, drugs and alcohol. How has the Perth community received this book and the course you've developed?

The subtitle of the book is 'Parenting teens into a drug and alcohol free life'. It's practical and full of good research. It gives families strategies. We want to train people to present the seminar in their churches.

Talking with young adults, a common cry is the lack of young adult entertainment that is not soaked in drugs, alcohol or promiscuous sex. Do you see any answers for Perth?

That's a cop out! Churches are rising up, getting creative, finding things to do. People will justify anything if they are not willing to change. We're in a beautiful city where tons of things are happening: run a life group, do fundraising for a charity.

You're working with women at Bandyup Prison using 'Step Up', a program you've developed to help women.

I was invited to go into the maximum security women's prison and the Superintendent okayed it. Initially I went about once a year, but I had a strong sense in my heart this is where I'm to be. These are the women I'm to work with. I run sessions for 2½ hours twice a week. It's very structured with exercise, teaching on 50 character traits and Christian devotions. One chaplain told me: "I never thought I would see women change like this."

How can people help?

We need help with 'From the Heart' program that helps women transition to life away from Bandyup. We need new clothing, toiletries, people's prayers and follow up support for the girls. Go to my website and you can read more www.jadelewis.com.au.

Jade Lewis

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**Nurturing Jesus in India**

Rob Ewing, Pastor at Tom Price Baptist, was born in Assam, North Eastern India. In February he visited his birthplace with his wife Lorraine. Mr Ewing’s parents worked with the Australian Baptist Missionary Society (now Global Interaction) from 1949 - 1963 among the Boro people, nurturing the life of Jesus in individuals and the community. None of Mr Ewing’s family had been back to the area since they left, so he had some concern about how he would be received.

There were 22 churches in the region when Rob Ewing’s parents returned to Australia. Today there are 187 congregations.

Over three hectic weeks, the Ewings met up with many of Mr Ewing’s playmates from his childhood, visited many families in Tukrajhar, the town where he grew up, and had countless opportunities to express the love of Jesus to people.

One person told the Ewings that ‘without the missionaries we would have been without hope’. The influence of the living Lord Jesus permeates the area where Mr Ewing was raised. The Ewings met up with many of the defectors now living in the south, who have been drawn to North Korea by the chance to sponsor local children’s education. Many children who received help through SAO are now prominent and support several young people and plans to increase the number, aware that this is a long-term commitment.

**US Christian activist released**

Former US President Jimmy Carter, 85, travelled to North Korea in late August on a humanitarian visit to negotiate the release of American citizen, Aijalon Mahli Gomes.

Gomes, 31, returned to the United States with former President Carter after North Korean officials agreed to release Gomes to Carter. State Department officials stressed the visit was a private, humanitarian and unofficial mission solely for the purpose of bringing Mr Gomes home and reuniting him with his family.

Gomes, an English teacher turned Christian activist, crossed into North Korea on 25 January. In April the North Korean government sentenced him to eight years in a hard-labour camp and fined him US$600,000. It is uncertain why Gomes crossed into North Korea, but most observers speculate he did so in response to the actions of his friend, Robert Park.

On Christmas Eve 2009, Park, 29, crossed into North Korea in hopes of drawing attention to the Communist nation’s human rights violations and persecution of Christians. Park was arrested and imprisoned in North Korea, but released after six weeks.

Christianity Today reported Gomes and Park both attended Every Nation Church of Korea in Seoul, South Korea. Simon Suh, the church’s Pastor, told U.S. radio broadcaster NPR that the two may have been drawn to North Korea because of ‘passionate prayers by defectors now living in the south’, many of whom attend their church.

Since his release, Park has not spoken about his imprisonment — due in part, he said, to fear for Gomes’s safety. He would not comment about North Korea until the situation is North Korea is.”

**AmAzioni people**

The story of the AmAzioni (Zulu word for Zionists) begins well over a century ago, when a Christian city called Zion was established in Illinois. The group of American believers rejected all things modern and held a strong belief in faith healing. They sent missionaries to southern Africa. Injured by the missionaries’ rejection of modernity and medicine, many prominent tribesmen accepted what the missionaries taught. The AmAzioni grew exponentially over the years starting churches, but moving away from biblical teaching. In the early 1980s, the church in Zion, US, now evangelical, called about the problems in Africa and felt it was their responsibility to go to Africa and teach the truth. Other missionaries had tried to reach them but the AmAzioni would not budge. When the church in Zion sent missionaries back to Africa bearing the original Zion church symbol, the AmAzioni were eager to listen.

**Evangelist arrested**

Peter Masanja, a member of the Pentecostal Church in Zanzbar, Tanzania, a predominantly Muslim area off the coast of East Africa, had made part of his land available for church activities and would invite Christians to his house. Muslims in the area interpreted it as a plan to establish another church there. The rumour angered local residents and they vowed to prohibit any Christian activities, the sources said. When her husband failed to return home, Masanja’s wife knew that something was wrong. Pastors sought to meet with prison authorities about Masanja’s arrest, but officials said the person in charge was away on official business, said Bishop Obied Fabian.

**Coptic freed**

A Coptic Christian blogger arrested in Egypt on false charges of insulting Islam, then held for almost two years without charge under the country’s Emergency Law, has been released from prison. Nani Nazeer, 31, a high school social worker and blogger, was arrested 3 October 2008 in response to a link to a Coptic website he placed on his Web log. “The Preacher of Law. The Coptic website had a link to an online copy of Azziz’s Goat in Mecca, a controversial book written in response to Azziz”, a novel critical of Christianity. During his imprisonment, Nazeer said he was beaten, pressured to convert to Islam and was exposed to constant deprivation. Because of recent reforms to the Emergency Law, Nazeer was released on 22 July.
Blame or grace?

By Monica O’Neil, Vose Leadership

A little while ago, I made a mistake. Not that this is unusual for me, but it soon had me feeling the disappointment and the fear that goes with letting others down and displaying to the world around that I am a long way from ideal or perfect. Maybe you know the feeling ...

What we do when we are wrong and how we treat others when they are wrong is critical for our leadership. Let’s take a quick look at what can happen in us ‘mere mortals’ when we make mistakes.

Blaming others, whether directly or indirectly is an age old tradition. An account is found in the story of Adam, asked to give account of his terrible choice. He points his finger of blame directly at his mate and even at the Creator, proclaiming, “Lord, this woman YOU gave me …” When we do wrong, we are tempted to shift the blame as quickly and completely as we can.

While choosing someone nearby is a common tactic, another one is also effective and less recognised than direct blame-shifting. It involves blaming our organisation or some other external powerful group such as ‘the leaders’, ‘the government’ or ‘the company’. It points the blame upwards, perhaps even as far as God. While shifting blame to those nearby may be cowardly and damaging to them, shifting it upwards will rob us of our courage and our sense of legitimate autonomy and choice. We gradually consign ourselves to a state of leadership impotence and victimhood.

Pointing the finger offers only temporary relief. Permanent damage to self and others may well result.

Self loathing is another common strategy. We can choose a season of dramatic and pathos laden self loathing as we heap tons of accusation on ourselves. The mistake we have made is added to as we remind ourselves of all mistakes, real and imagined, that we have ever made. A case of complete doom is assembled. A verdict of failure is delivered with dramas which paint the whole world black. Interestingly, it protects us from the feedback of others and stops us listening to the impact of our mistake on others. Self loathing is a cloaked way of protecting ourselves from listening.

Blaming someone else or loathing ourselves takes the awkward gaze off our own inadequacies so we can hide for a moment. Why hide? Will we die if we admit it is our fault? We may well have consequences. How dire they are will depend on the heart of those being confessed to and the nature of the mistake. Those who have known and appreciate the great love and mercy that has been shown to them, by God and by others, will often extend the same gracious attitude towards others. Those who live in fear and trepidation, who are fighting for survival and esteem, are less likely to be kind to others.

Not a single human is created as a complete and perfect, all powerful and all capable human being. We are created different, each with our own strengths and lacks. Our strengths help complete someone else’s need. It is a marvellous design. This design, when understood and lived, propels us to live together in a new way. Responsibilities are not abdicated but limits on perfection are acknowledged. We are moved to live a life tinted with gratitude when we know and embrace the limitations and the giftedness that has been designed into our beings.

If we believe this, which I do, then confession is appropriate. It is simply a telling of truth. A lacking human has fallen short and is alerting those affected by this fact. It is hoped, yet not demanded, that forgiveness will be offered. An honest repair can be made, with help from others, if possible. Even in our lack we can be accepted and cared for. The strength of the team or our family can cover over our lack and its fall out. Love can cover a multitude of sin. It does not hide the wrong, but covers it with love, acceptance and forgiveness. It may even shoulder or share the burden of consequences and repair.

What choices face a human heart when mistakes are made? Will we be a people who live a noble, contrite and godly life of confession and of forgiveness? Or will we choose a relentless and demanding stance? Perhaps we’ll offer cold comfort and ostracism to the offenders while seeking to hide our own deficiencies. Or perhaps we’ll believe and behave as though this great mystery of lack and gift is by design and a marvellous and humbling thing. As leaders, let us make confession and forgiveness a way of life. We need it and so do those we lead.

For more information on Vose Leadership, please call Monica O’Neil on 6313 6200.
Competition

Wonder — Michael W. Smith

After his most recent, and highly successful release, A New Hallelujah, Michael W. Smith spent time on the road touring in the U.S. and internationally. This allowed him time to once again let his heart view the world we live in, and using his gift of music, begin to express the feelings and thoughts that arose out of these trips. These moments, and other life milestones were the genesis for his latest CD, Wonder. Ten new songs pack this new Michael W. Smith project with subject matter that is sure to pierce your heart, touched by a relevant musical journey. Smitty says, "These songs on this project are hopeful, anthemic, and healing — musically and lyrically. I had a lot I wanted to say and the songs on this album allowed me to open up and do just that."

The Advocate in conjunction with Crossroad Distributors is giving you the opportunity to win a copy of Michael W. Smith’s Wonder. To be in the draw, simply answer the following question:

Question: How many songs are on Michael W. Smith’s CD Wonder?

Answer:

Please complete this form with your details and post it to: Wonder Competition The Advocate PO Box 8353 Perth Business Centre WA 6849 Entries close 20 October and all winners will be announced in the November edition of The Advocate.

What’s in the Bible? winners:
Sarah Smith, Kaytlin Bradbury, Rebecca Thyer

You Lift Me Up

Ian Tambo

Aussie ‘soul man’ Ian Tambo has been performing his songs for more than 20 years, opening for Human Nature, Christine Anu, Troy Cassar-Daly, Bryan Duncan, and Steve Grace. His honey-rich falsetto tenor voice and musical production are reminiscent of soul greats Stevie Wonder, Jackie Wilson, and Al Green. This seven song EP is a mix of contemporary worship songs (‘These Hands’, ‘You Lift Me Up’, ‘Magnify’, ‘Love’), spiritual songs (‘Higher’, ‘Perfect Day’), an homage to issues facing indigenous people (‘Stolen’) plus mainstream pop (‘Poison’). People who enjoy finding God in the everyday will be delighted with these little gems.

Seasoned

Compliments of Gus

Christmas songs can help connect us to our faith, reconnect us to our childhood, or drive us up the chimney! Fortunately, Compliments Of Gus’ new album Seasoned achieves just the first two ... With Seasoned there’s no: chestnuts, naughty-and-nice novelty ditties, pretty paper, reindeer, rocking around the Christmas tree, Saint Nick, snow shoveling, or stuffed turkeys. Rather, the songs focus on the Father’s gift, hope of the world, peace that can’t be bought, the child born to rule, grace and the mercy of God, plus shepherds, kings and angels. Seasoned is a collection of tasteful and original songs, plus some traditional favorites, that will help flavour your Christmas.

Beautiful Survivor

Julia Grace

Wha, Nelly, what do we have here? This can’t be the girl that gave us the songs ‘Carry Me Away’ and ‘In Cars’ in 2006? Fortunately, it is Hands down, Julia Grace is the female artist to look out for in 2010. Combining alt-folk and pop balladry, the Kiwi singer has developed her songwriting and vocal skills to a new level with these tales of encouragement and perseverance. ‘I Don’t Know How’ is the standout song. It’s a story of love and commitment, especially for the days when we are faced with the decision to stay true to our marriage vows, or to walk away.

Choosing to SEE

Mary Beth Chapman

In Choosing to SEE, Mary Beth unveils her struggle to allow God to write the story of her life, both the happy chapters and the tragic ones. And as the story unfolds, she’s been forced to wrestle with some of life’s biggest questions: Where is God when things fall apart? Why does God allow terrible things to happen? How can I survive hard times? No matter where you find yourself in your own life story, you will treasure the way Mary Beth shows that even in the hard times, there is hope if you choose to see.

Her Daughter’s Dreams

Francine Rivers

In the dramatic conclusion to the New York Times best seller Her Mother’s Hope, Francine Rivers delivers a rich and deeply moving story about the silent sorrows that can tear a family apart and the grace and forgiveness that can heal even the deepest wounds. Growing up isn’t easy for little Carolyn Arondel. With her mother, Hildemara, quarantined to her room with tuberculosis, Carolyn forms a special bond with her oma Marta, who moves in to care for the household. But as tensions between Hildie and Marta escalate, Carolyn believes she is to blame. When Hildie returns to work and Marta leaves, Carolyn and her brother grow up as latchkey kids in a world gripped by the fear of the Cold War.

The Power of a Whisper

Bill Hybels

In The Power of a Whisper, vision is cast for what life can look like when God’s followers choose to hear from heaven as they navigate life on earth. Whispers that arbitrate key decisions, nudges that rescue from dark nights of the soul, promptings that spur on growth, urgings that come by way of another person, inspiration that opens once-glazed-over eyes to the terrible plight people face in this world — through firsthand accounts spanning fifty-seven years of life, more than thirty of which have been spent in the trenches of ministry. Hybels promotes passion in Christ-followers’ hearts for being wide open to hearing from God, and for getting gutsy about doing exactly what he says to do.
10 Things You Didn’t Know

- Bulletproof vests, fire escapes, laser printers and windshield wipers were all invented by women.
- Cats have over 100 vocal sounds, dogs only have about 10.
- Most lipsticks contain fish scales.
- Apples, not caffeine are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.
- During a 24 hour period, the average human will breath 23,040 times, exercise 7 million brain cells and speak 4,800 words.
- Like fingerprints, everyone’s tongue prints are different.
- Chocolate stimulates the release of endorphins in the body. Endorphins enhance one’s mood and block pain.
- Althaiphobia is a fear of marshmallows.
- You can hear the tick of a watch from six metres in very quiet conditions.
- The Hollywood sign was erected in 1923.
Sweaty bodies, smelly shoes and socks assault your senses. Squealing rubber on timber floors as athletes press the opposition, pushing towards the hoop. Shriill whistles tame the competition. The bleachers full with family and friends supporting their team on court one. The clock ticking. Grand finals day for the Baptist Basketball association at Lakeside Recreation Centre. And it ran like clockwork. More than 100 teams in 18 grades, from Under 12s to A1 men’s and women’s teams battled through the season to play finals on 11 September. A team of 30 referees controlled the play each week. Perth Wildcats’ player, Jeremiah Trueman, presented the awards to the winning junior teams on grand final day.

Mount Hawthorn won the A Women’s grand final. Perth GLC won the A1 Men’s grand final. Complete details of winning teams and All-stars team selections are available on the Baptist Basketball website www.baptistbasketball.info. Organisers announced All-star teams, made up of the statistically best players in each grade, to play fixtures all day Saturday starting at 6.30pm, “Mrs Splatt said. “We’ve had so many teams the last games sometimes start at 6.30pm,” Mrs Splatt said.

“For the past two years we’ve run juniors’ training for the first two weeks of the season with Lakeside Lighting players doing skills training for us,” Mrs Splatt said. “We get to help kids find teams to join.”

The Caroline Masters Award for outstanding service to Baptist Basketball in 2010 went to Kevin Parry from Kelmscott Church of Christ. Mr Parry, the Basketball Representative in his local church, nurtures new players, organises weekly training for all the junior teams and promotes the values of sportsmanship.

“He’s been a real encourager this year,” Mrs Splatt said. “He’s made an amazing contribution to our basketball competition.”

Lakeside Recreation Centre’s Summer season starts on 9 October.