

September-November 2014

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5 years

**Do Science
and God Mix?**

with Professor John Lennox

DAMI IM

The Compassion Factor

Special South Australian Prayer Breakfast Edition

risemagazine.com.au

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Cover: Dami Im, 2013

X-Factor winner.
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Super Love Keeps Dami Grounded

Article by Richard Miller, Compassion Australia

Dami Im talks about the special relationship that has helped her to keep her X-Factor experience in perspective.

You might recognise her from Channel Seven's *The X Factor*: the statuesque young woman in impossible heels and glamorous costumes, her winning smile, her quiet grace and poise. Even if you're not a television watcher, you'd recognise that incredible voice soaring on your radio waves, most recently in her new single *Super Love*.

Dami Im—the winner of Australia's 2013 *The X Factor*—is a star on the rise. But even in the glare of the media spotlight, this humble 25-year-old is keeping her feet on the ground and her heart open to children living in poverty by partnering with Compassion Australia as an ambassador and sponsor.

She says her support for Compassion began when she was a university student, years before she'd even dreamed of appearing on a television show.

"I got into uni and I was doing some private teaching, music teaching, so I was earning a little bit of money," Dami says. "I felt like I wanted to do something about the poverty that's going around in the world ... but I didn't know what to do about it."

When Dami, a committed Christian, heard about Compassion on the radio and through her local church, she decided to sponsor a child. She knew that through her sponsorship, a child in a developing country would have opportunities to go to school, to receive good nutrition, a safe place to play and much more. It seemed like a good place to start in her fight against poverty, especially when she found out that Compassion works in partnership with local churches in developing communities.

"I feel so humbled to know that by sponsoring a child with Compassion, I'm changing someone's life in such a big way," she says.

Her first sponsorship began in 2007, and it didn't take her long to convince her soon-to-

be-husband Noah to sponsor, too. "We wanted to sponsor children from the same country because we thought one day we could go and visit them together," she explains.

That was before *The X Factor* made Dami Im a household name. Little did she know that she would have the chance one day to travel to India with Compassion to meet her sponsored child, Somoli.

Always passionate about music—she plays classical piano and the violin as well as singing—Dami says she was a performer from a young age, but struggled for the confidence to take others' opinions in her stride. After years of self-doubt, she says she didn't know whether her dream of a pop music career could ever come true.

When Noah urged her to audition for *The X Factor*, she saw a way to cast off her shackles and chase her dream.

"When I decided to audition I was at the point where I just really wanted to sing in Australia, but I was so frustrated because I didn't know how to get that happening. [Noah] just thought I was being too hesitant, and so he gave me a gentle push to try harder. I eventually agreed and decided to give *The X Factor* a shot."

From her first audition, it was clear that the Korean-born beauty had a special quality. Viewers all over the country fell in love—and Dami's quiet life exploded into song.

Yet even in the most hectic months of her life, when her schedule was brimming over with rehearsals, interviews, photo shoots and promotional spots—not to mention the pressure of performing in front of a national audience every week—Dami knew she had to keep her perspective.

It was then that writing letters to Somoli, her sponsored child in India, helped Dami to see the opportunity she had to make a difference in others' lives. When their relationship

began she was a teenager and Somoli just seven. In the years that passed, Dami realised that Somoli didn't love her because she was a great singer or a TV star—she loved her because they had been through a lot together, they'd written to each other and encouraged each other. It was a small anchor in a storm of media attention, but along with her own faith and her husband's constant love and support, it helped.

"Through *X Factor* things were crazy, and even after [the show] a lot of things in my life changed, but having a relationship with my sponsored child kept me more grounded."

In March 2014, Dami and Somoli met face to face for the first time when Dami and Noah travelled to India with Compassion to see firsthand the difference their sponsorship was making.

Now 14 years old, Somoli dreams of becoming a nurse to help her friends and neighbours access good quality medical care.

Communicating with the help of a translator, and through hugs and gifts, Dami says she could clearly see the difference sponsorship makes in Somoli's life, and in the lives of children living in poverty in her community.

"I can see that Compassion has started something that is very hopeful," she says. "A child in the program [has] access to education, help with hygiene, medical things and fitness and all sorts of different care—and they're being looked after spiritually as well."

"I think it's really effective that Compassion runs their programs only through churches because local churches understand their area and the children better than anyone ... it's really important that the child gets the opportunity to realise that somebody really cares for them and that they're not alone in their hardship."

"Now that I've seen what Compassion does, I have witnessed that it works."



About Dami Im

Dami is a South Korean-born Australian singer and music teacher who won the fifth series of *The X-Factor Australia* in 2013. She released her winner's single "Alive" and debut album through Sony Music Entertainment Australia, both of which debuted at number one on the ARIA charts and achieved multi-platinum sales. The 25-year-old is a committed Christian from Queensland who attends Brisbane Full Gospel Church with her husband, Noah. Dami immigrated to Australia with her family at the age of nine. She studied at the Young Conservatorium of Music, graduated with honours in music from the University of Queensland, and is an accomplished violinist and pianist.

See more on Dami and her music at:
damiim.com

About Compassion Australia

Compassion is Australia's second largest child sponsorship organisation and is part of Compassion International, a global network of both funding countries and 26 developing countries. Together we are a Christian child

development and child advocacy ministry working in partnership with local churches to foster the development of over 1.3 million children living in extreme poverty. More than 100,000 of these children are currently

supported by over 73,000 Australian sponsors.

See more about Compassion at:
compassion.com.au

Do Science and God Mix?

Oxford University Professor of Mathematics John Lennox responds to some key questions about science and faith. These articles are transcribed from Professor Lennox's online video resources.



Does Nature Point to a Creator?

Can one see evidence of a Creator in nature? I believe that one can. Nature is not neutral. It's not as Stephen J Gould, the famous palaeontologist, put it, that whatever we think of God, there's no evidence of Him in nature. I think there very much is. But I would start, actually, with the fact that one of the Biblical claims is that 'the heavens declare the glory of God and the earth shows His handiwork'. I always remember – because I studied in Cambridge – that the brilliant scientist James Clerk Maxwell, who gave us electro-magnetic theory, had inscribed over the door of the Cavendish Laboratory, where many of the epoch making experiments in physics were done, 'great are the works of the Lord sought out by those [or studied by those] who take delight in them'.

James Clerk Maxwell, along with many of the great pioneers of science – indeed, practically all of the early ones, like Galileo, Kepler and Newton – saw evidence of God in nature and in fact they devoted their science to explicating that evidence in, as Galileo put it, the language in which God had written it – the language of mathematics.

So my first response to [this question] is this, that the Christian cradle gave birth to modern science, in the sense that the contemporary scientific set of investigations arose because of the conviction that there is a designer, an intelligence, a God who created and upheld nature. That set people free and encouraged them actually to do science. And one of the greatest evidences to me that that is the case is the fact that we can do science and mathematics at all. We find the mathematics that we do in our heads in here corresponds to what we find in the universe out there. It reflects what Einstein said 'the only incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it's comprehensible'. He saw there was a problem. How is it that the human mind can develop formulae equations (mathematical descriptions) that reflect what's going on out there?

Atheism, which is one worldview that's very dominant in the academy today, tells us that

the human mind is simply the accidental by-product of a mindless, purpose-less process. Well, one begins to wonder how such an apparatus could begin to deliver any kind of truth at all. Indeed many noted philosophers like Alvin Plantinga are bearing down on this – that this atheistic explanation of the universe undermines the very rationality which all scientists must believe in to do their science.

Whereas Christianity tells us, or theism more generally tells us, that the reason we can do science is that the same God that created the universe out there ultimately is responsible for the creation of the human mind in here, and that makes perfect sense. So I would start with the very doing of science. To quote Professor Richard Swinburne of Oxford: 'I postulate God to explain why science explains'. In other words the very order that we discover through science is a pointer towards something deep and intelligent underlying that order.

But then of course I would come to the actual science itself. We discover that we live in a fine tuned universe, i.e. the fundamental constants of nature have to be very precise within very small tolerances, if you are to have a universe in which carbon based life is possible. And I'm interested in what some of the physicists who are not necessarily theists are saying about it. That it is an overwhelming indicator of intelligence.

So those kinds of things seem to me to mount up and one tends to agree with Fred Hoyle who, when he found the carbon resonances that are necessary for carbon to be created, said something like 'a super intellect has monkeyed with physics and chemistry'. So that would be my start – indicating that science points towards the existence of God. One of the most eminent cosmologists, Allan Sandage ('the father of modern astronomy'), points out that the very existence of this order is something that points him in the direction of believing in God. For him that's the only explanation of the order that makes any sense.

‘the only incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it’s comprehensible’ {Einstein}

Faith and Reason

This question of the relationship of faith to reason is one that one comes up against all the time. And the question is often put as if faith and reason were opposed. That to my mind is nonsense. It’s coupled with an impression that faith is something that occurs only in religious situations and therefore isn’t worth talking about. Richard Dawkins talks about ‘faith-heads’ (or roughly put, the ‘cloth heads’ I suppose), and that reason is associated with science and, therefore, we take it seriously. Well, that is to make an error in both directions.

Firstly, faith and reason walk hand in hand in both science and theology. So we need to unpack this just a little bit. Our English word [for faith] comes from the Latin word *fides* which means trust. In its normal usage faith, reason and evidence are words that belong very much together.

If I go into my bank manager with a project for making money, the issue for the bank manager is, can he place his faith in me? Can he trust me? Of course in these days of financial crises the problem might be the other way around. Can I trust the bank manager? But leaving that aside, can he trust me?

Now he will want reasons to trust me. He’ll want evidence on which to base his faith in me. And he will ask me a whole series of very penetrating questions in order to

see whether his faith is justified. And that applies right across the board. When we say we have faith in something, we trust it, we believe in it. The next logical question is what reasons have you got, what evidence have you got for believing in it? So if I say ‘God is the Creator of the universe’, you are perfectly justified in saying ‘what reasons have you got?’

So we need to distinguish faith from blind faith. What makes this discussion very complex is that many of the New Atheists regard all faith as blind faith, but that is absolute nonsense. A man’s faith in his wife is not blind. I even discussed this with Richard Dawkins and, although he did not like using that particular word, he conceded that he did have faith in his wife. We immediately see that that kind of faith can have reasons – it is evidence-based faith, but it is nonetheless faith.

So to say that all faith is blind faith is simply wrong, when using faith in its general context. It is also wrong using faith in its specifically religious context. The early scientists and many contemporary scientists weren’t fools for putting their faith in God, because they believed there was evidence for it. And it’s interesting that in the part of the New Testament that is devoted to explaining what faith is (in one of the major books we call the Gospel by the Apostle John, who collected together all this evidence) it says: ‘these things are written that you might believe [that is have faith in]

that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God and that by believing you might have life in his name’.

In other words John is not asking us to put blind faith in Jesus. It’s the exact opposite. He said here’s the evidence I’ve collected as an eye witness and this evidence forms the basis on which you can rest your faith. That is, he is appealing for evidence-based faith. Of course there is such a thing as blind faith and it’s very dangerous, particularly when it’s coupled with unscrupulous religious authority – as we see in 9/11, the blind faith of those that drove the airliners into the Twin Towers in New York. That is blind faith and it is to be roundly condemned. I agree entirely with the New Atheists in condemning it, but I will not agree with them that that is the only kind of faith there is. Because after all, some of them are scientists, like Dawkins and Dennett, for instance, so they have faith in common with every other scientist who ever lived in the rational intelligibility of the universe. Their science doesn’t give them that. As Sir John Polkinghorne, my teacher of quantum physics at Cambridge, points out in many of his books: ‘physics is powerless to explain its faith in the intelligibility of the universe’. Why is that? Because in order to do any physics you must believe in the rational intelligibility of the universe.

Now here comes the major irony. The atheists claim they don’t have faith, but they do, in the rational intelligibility of the universe. But half a minute – where’s the



evidence that that faith is justified in their worldview? It doesn't exist because their worldview is that human intelligence is simply the product of a mindless, unguided process. But if that's the case why on earth would you give it any credence whatsoever? Why would you believe anything that it produced?

As John Gray pointed out not so long ago, the interesting thing about the evolutionary doctrines that these New Atheists base so much of their worldview on, is that they are geared to survivability not towards truth. So why would you believe anything produced by an apparatus that is thrown up by such a mindless, unguided process?

What am I saying? I'm saying firstly, there is such a thing as blind faith. It is very dangerous in the religious sphere. But it seems to me that the atheists are coming very near to being guilty of blind faith, when they trust the human mind, even though they haven't a shred of evidence on their own hypotheses (in their own worldview) that it should be considered as reliable. In other words scientists have to have faith in the rational intelligibility of the universe. The rational justification of that faith came originally from Christianity – atheism simply doesn't have any. So this matter of faith, evidence and reason is something we need to think about very carefully.

There is a final point to be made here actually, and that is to bring in the word

'revelation'. Sometimes faith and revelation are put as opposites, as diametrically opposite. But let's think of revelation, firstly, at the simple human level. Here's Aunt Matilda and she's baked a cake. Scientific analysis cannot tell you why she made the cake. You'll never find out unless she reveals it to you. But if she reveals it to you that doesn't mean you shut off your reason. Indeed, you will have to use your reason to understand the content of her revelation. That's absolutely obvious. And you can check, using your reason, whether what she revealed to you made sense. If she says she made it for her son, Jim, and you know she has a son called Jim, then that makes perfect sense.

At the higher level it's exactly the same as this. The Bible claims to be revelation. I believe that that is the case, but an atheist reading it doesn't have to start by believing that. They simply read it as data, and any data requires reason to even understand it. I have never yet met anybody, Christian or not, who can read the Bible without using their reason. So to say that reason and revelation are opposed is to make a fundamental category mistake. The issue is simply this: we get data from nature and we use our reason on that. The Bible claims to be a revelation of God – it claims to be God speaking. We use our reason on that. What is being claimed, though, is that there is certain information in scripture that unaided human reason could not, on its own, gain. But what we are certainly not saying is that revelation

is against reason. Of course that is nonsense, it proceeds from the source of all reason, God himself.

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John Lennox is Professor of Mathematics in the University of Oxford, Fellow in Mathematics and the Philosophy of Science, and Pastoral Advisor at Green Templeton College, Oxford. He has written a number of books on the interface between science, philosophy and theology. These include *God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?* (2009) and *God and Stephen Hawking, a response to The Grand Design* (2011). Prof Lennox has lectured extensively in North America, Eastern and Western Europe and Australasia on mathematics, the philosophy of science and the intellectual defence of Christianity. He has debated Richard Dawkins on 'The God Delusion' (2007) and on 'Has Science buried God?' (2008). He has also debated Christopher Hitchens on the New Atheism (Edinburgh Festival, 2008) and the question of 'Is God Great?' (2010), as well as Peter Singer on the topic of 'Is there a God?' (Melbourne, 2011).

Professor Lennox was in Adelaide to speak at the South Australian Prayer Breakfast and the City Bible Forum Event 'Cosmic Chemistry: Do Science and God Mix?'



THE PERILS OF DIY WILLS

Ai Phan warns that taking the easy way out with Wills may end up costing money and heart ache to those you leave behind.

Search the internet and it's not hard to find any number of Do It Yourself (DIY) Will kits for purchase at a relatively low cost. Even at the post office, DIY Will kits are strategically placed alongside the serving queue, leaving you to ponder whether you should grab one or not. Before succumbing to temptation you need to think about how you would feel if it turned out that your DIY Will caused nothing but financial and emotional trouble to those you left behind.

SIMPLE OR COMPLEX?

If your affairs are simple, a DIY Will kit may be adequate in your circumstances. However, it is likely that your affairs are not as simple as you think. While most DIY Will kits contain warnings to obtain legal advice if your situation is complex, very few offer advice on what constitutes a complex situation. The following is a list of common situations that a DIY Will kit may not be appropriate to cover:

- Blended families
- Children and grandchildren under 18 years of age
- Family members with a disability
- Shares held in private companies/units held in unit trusts or managed funds
- Interests in businesses
- Significant debts owed to you by another person or organisation
- Taxation issues

COMMON MISTAKES

In addition to the very limited application of a DIY Will, there are a few common mistakes that, if made, could result in anything from delays in obtaining Grant of Probate (or Letters of Administration) through to the Will being rejected on the grounds that it is invalid.

Mistake Number 1 - Giving away jointly held assets under your Will

People are often confused about their rights in relation to joint ownership and assume that they can deal with the jointly owned asset in their Will. This is not the case. An asset that is held jointly automatically passes to the survivor and does not form part of the estate. If you have assets that are owned by your company or trust, these assets remain assets of the company and trust when you die. In these situations it is important to deal with the control of the company or trust, not the assets held by the company or trust.

Mistake Number 2 - Failure to properly sign or date your Will

Something as simple as this can make the Will invalid. A properly executed Will requires two adult witnesses who are not beneficiaries under the Will. Also, don't forget to ensure that you and the two witnesses sign each page of the Will.

Mistake Number 3 - Failing to appoint an appropriate Executor and Trustee

The role of the Executor and Trustee



is to administer your estate. In some circumstances, that role could last for years where:

- a) there is a life interest
- b) a trust or conditional gift is created, or
- c) where minor beneficiaries have to be cared for.

It may be wise to choose an impartial individual to act as the Executor and Trustee so as to avoid conflicts that may arise between the Executor/Trustee and the beneficiaries during the long term administration of the estate.

Mistake Number 4 - Making provisions that result in a Capital Gains Tax (CGT) liability to your estate

An example of this is where your Will gives a beneficiary an option to purchase real property. The general rule is that CGT is not assessed when an estate asset is gifted or passes to a beneficiary.

Mistake Number 5 - Leaving family dependants out of your Will

This could happen where you specifically name your children and then subsequently have more who are not included in your Will. A professionally prepared Will would make provisions to include all of your children as at the date of your death.

Mistake Number 6 – Poor or inadequate drafting of bequests

Poor or inadequate drafting of bequest

clauses can result in a gift to a beneficiary lapsing, thereby failing to provide for someone even though it was your intention to do so.

Mistake Number 7 – Hand written amendments

If you must make hand written amendments make sure that they are in ink, the directions make sense and such amendments have been properly signed and witnessed. Failure to do any of these things could render either the amendments or the entire Will invalid.

Mistake Number 8 – Failure to adequately deal with the residue of the Estate

Sometimes in the enthusiasm to prescribe specific bequests to particular beneficiaries, a clause dealing with the distribution of the residue of the estate is either omitted or incorrectly dealt with under the Will. The residue is intended to catch all of the assets not specifically given away under the Will, including gifts that have failed. It is therefore essential to include a clause which sets out how 100% of the residue of your estate is to be dealt with, because failing to do so could result in a partial intestacy (dying without a legally valid Will).

Mistake Number 9 – Attaching additional documents to your Will or separating the pages

Whilst it may be tempting to attach notes or related documents to your Will so that they stay together, the indentations from a paperclip or fold back clip may produce a

requisition from the Probate Registrar asking for an explanation of what was attached, so the rule is, never attach anything to your Will. The same goes for removing the staple or binding that holds your Will together. It may make it easier to photocopy, but leaving evidence that suggests that the Will could have been tampered with in any way (including extra staple holes that could suggest that pages have been removed or substituted) can render your Will invalid.

SEEK ADVICE

The task of drafting a valid Will is not as straight forward as you may assume and while a DIY Will may appear to be cost-effective, it could end up unnecessarily costing your estate thousands of dollars in legal fees or creating unnecessary adverse tax outcomes.

It is recommended that you seek legal advice before preparing your Will. A legal firm will be able to explain the finer points of what you can and can't do and offer you options that you may not have thought possible.

Ai Phan is Senior Associate with Tri-meridian Corporate and Commercial Law tri-meridian.com

CBMC Living Up to its Name

CBMC (Christian Business and Marketplace Connections) International SA Inc is a Christian leadership network connecting with the business and marketplace community in South Australia to bring hope and transformation through sound values and principles. RISE recently spoke to two people whose stories demonstrate what CBMC is all about.

Andrew Marsh – Connecting with the CBMC Community

RISE paved the way for Andrew Marsh to connect with CBMC when he moved to Adelaide recently. Now the organisation he works for is a major partner of the SA Prayer Breakfast.

Andrew Marsh recently moved to Adelaide, along with his wife Amanda, to take up a role with Compassion Australia as Relationship Manager – Central. Originally from Newcastle NSW, Andrew was employed by Compassion in August 2013 which required him to uproot and move across the border to South Australia.

Trying to get established in a new job in a new city, Andrew knew that he needed to make connections with the local community and start developing relationships. These relationships would be of benefit in his new role, but most importantly they would help him and his wife as they settled into their new life.



Geoff Harrison, Andrew's colleague who works in Compassion's Melbourne office, was sent a copy of the September 2013 (SA Prayer Breakfast) edition of RISE

magazine featuring CBMC CEO Natalie Paxton on the cover. It just so happens that Natalie and her husband are Compassion sponsors. Geoff was interested in connecting with CBMC so he could meet like-minded Christians who might be interested in the work of Compassion. Geoff also was keen to introduce Andrew, Compassion's new Adelaide based Relationship Manager, to Natalie. So Geoff contacted her.

"During my first week on the job Geoff came to Adelaide to help train me and had connected with Nat after reading her story, so we all had a coffee together. Nat spoke about what she did and connected me into CBMC and I began attending a monthly group.

"It was quite overwhelming pioneering a new office for Compassion, while being new to the organization and to the city, packing life up at home in five weeks, while renovating our home so someone else could live in it, and then finding out that my mother had cancer.

"As someone new to Adelaide I found things a bit challenging. It was difficult without the support networks that I had at home.

"After only our first meeting, I was able to call on the support of the members of



the [CBMC] group who were willing to sit down for coffee and for some much needed support and encouragement. The group were very generous with their knowledge of Adelaide and offered to send Amanda's resume around to their networks. They were also willing to give me a snapshot of, and help me get connected into, the Christian community which is integral to my work."

Andrew's wife Amanda found employment with Schools Ministry Group before the help of the group was needed, but Andrew says that, really, the most important thing to them both was the friendships that were quickly established.

"Geoff [CBMC Chairman] and Penny Kempster met up with me over coffee numerous times and prayed with me which was very encouraging."

As a result of their new-found connections with CBMC, Compassion Australia has come on board as a major partner with the South Australian Prayer Breakfast. The connection had another unexpected benefit,

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as Dami Im – 2013 winner of *The X-Factor* – is a Compassion Australia Ambassador and Compassion arranged to bring Dami to Adelaide as guest artist at this year's breakfast.

Read the interview with Dami Im in this edition of *RISE Magazine*. Find out more about Compassion Australia at: compassion.com.au

Lin Andrews – The Christian in Business. What's the Difference?

Lin Andrews Real Estate is an associate partner of the SA Prayer Breakfast. The company's mission aligns to that of CBMC's as it aims to bring hope and transformation to South Australians through sound values and principles.



According to Lin Andrews, "business people are those who feed, clothe and house the masses of the world. As Christians we dare not stop."

For forty-four years the Lin Andrews Group of Companies has continued to function in South Australia in the face of economic changes and associated challenges. The vision, mission and value statements of Lin Andrews Real Estate provide for interesting comment on how this has been possible.

Their vision simply says 'To facilitate investment in property for the benefit of people'.

Lin says "As well as working within the Lin Andrews Group, the Directors have their vision and energy invested in external NGOs which provide for growing education and community facilities for the good of people everywhere."

So what is the passion that drives the vision?

"One of the outstanding and motivating teachings of Jesus (our Lord and Saviour) two thousand years ago was his summation 'When I was hungry you fed me, naked you clothed me, when I had no place to go you took me in, sick and in prison you visited me.'

"One of the very best ways of feeding, clothing, housing and rehabilitating people is through 'principle centred economic activity.' Principle centred economic activity opens doors for people to care for their own needs with dignity through employment."

Of South Australia Lin says "If every business that Australia Post delivers to within the Adelaide metropolitan area were to employ one extra person, this would mean an additional 37,600 persons employed.

"Our company stands for the creation of jobs through the supply of commercial property across metropolitan Adelaide. It is our life's work to facilitate employment through the provision of the widest possible variety of commercial property for sale and/or for lease.

"It is not our job to tell people how to invest their money, but we know through forty-four

years of experience that people who invest wisely in houses or commercial property, store their own wealth for retirement needs whilst having the privilege of supplying a resource for the benefit of those who need or choose to rent."

Lin Andrews Real Estate, says Lin, assists people to provide for their old age by simplifying the micro-management of their investment property.

Will Lin Andrews Real Estate and its associated companies survive generationally? The group's Board believes that 'the requirement to feed and clothe and house and rehabilitate people' does not have a stated finish date. Generationally, the Board is committed to 'world's best practice' in fulfilling the Master's call.

Lin says "We will find ways of creating employment and making secure investment as easy as possible for generations of people who have the need but lack the skill or the time to micro-manage their property investment. Every day our capabilities improve and our geography is widened."

Lin Andrews believes his company makes a difference, bringing hope and transformation to South Australians. He has a question for other business people: "How about you?"

For more about the Lin Andrews Real Estate story: linandrews.com.au/our-story

Connect with CBMC at: cbmcint.com.au



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Blood and Roses

By Jacqueline E Waters

Blood and Roses is historical fiction set in the mid-1600's during the English Civil War – a battle for religious freedom. It follows the lives of a number of characters from both sides of the war over a span of around twelve years. The key character is Nell, a servant girl who runs away from her royalist household in search of her brother who is fighting for the Royalists in support of King Charles I. She finds herself working for a Puritan household and it is there that she first encounters God personally.

Anyone who is interested in religious or British history will enjoy this story. It highlights the age old problem of religion and politics, and contrasts that with a personal relationship with God. It has romance as well as plenty of facts and fighting so it should appeal to both men and women.

It presents the strengths and weaknesses of both sides well and shows that there are good and bad people whatever their religion. On the Royalist side, many who supported the king "secretly longed for the days when Catholic rule had maintained a rural peace and the rhythm of life from the cradle to the grave was celebrated and controlled by the ordinances of the church." The Puritans however believed that true religion had no place for "superstitions and

dependence on the papal system." I found it fascinating that a crucifix was considered "of the Devil", the celebration of Christmas was banned by parliament and how a girl was almost "swum" (which inevitably ended in drowning) for carrying a collection of bones for her dog.

The author successfully conveys biblical truth through direct quotes from the Bible and through a number of spiritual experiences. She also shows how God's word speaks to our specific situation. I liked seeing Nell's spiritual transformation from someone who "had never thanked him (God) for anything" because she had "assumed it was the priest's duty to do that for her" to someone who could not support either side because "neither seemed to express the love of the Christ she had seen on the cross." I had not realised that so many people left the country for the sake of religious freedom.

There are a number of tragic situations in the book which could have been more heart-wrenching and drawn me more into the characters, with more showing of emotions rather than the logical telling of the character's thoughts. However the old English voice definitely evoked the period as did the descriptions of food, clothing, wildlife, plants etc.

I would have liked a map as I became a bit lost with the many towns and cities mentioned.

The book ends well leaving you wanting to know what happens to the characters next – perhaps a sequel, Jacqueline? *Blood and Roses* is enjoyable, interesting and thought provoking.

'Blood and Roses' is published by WestBow Press and can be purchased through the publisher or by contacting the author at grape_vine_au@yahoo.com

Reviewer: Cindy Williams

by Nick Hawkes

Atheist Says God is Good for Africa

Matthew Parris, writer for The Times and former Member of Parliament, is not your typical atheist, for he wrote in an article on 27th Dec, 2008, saying, "As an atheist, I truly believe Africa needs God. Missionaries, not aid money, are the solution to Africa's biggest problem - the crushing passivity of the people's mindset."

As a result of researching a story on aid organisations in Africa, Parris wrote: "Travelling in Malawi refreshed a belief I've been trying to banish all my life, but an observation I've been unable to avoid since my childhood. It confounds my ideological beliefs, refuses to fit my world view and has embarrassed my growing belief that there is no God."

He goes on to say: "I've become convinced of the enormous contribution that Christianity makes in Africa: sharply distinct from the work of secular and government organisations and international aid efforts. These alone will not do. Education and training alone will not do. Christianity changes people's hearts. It brings spiritual transformation."

So, even atheists are discovering that no one is doing very well without Jesus. Without Jesus, Africa reverts to tribal warfare, abusive overlords and urban gangsterism. Parris says that removing Christianity from Africa risks "leaving the continent at the mercy of a malignant fusion of Nike, the witch doctor, ...and the machete."

If atheism and indifference to God is not working very well for you, perhaps you'd better re-connect with God and be what you were intended to be.

For more see: 'The Bible on the Key Issues of Life', by Dr Nick Hawkes, available from bookshops. Nick has degrees in science and theology. He is a pastor, writer and broadcaster. nickhawkes.net

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