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Fearless Faith: **General David Hurley**

by Wendy Rush

Be Selfish, Lose Control, Own your Church

by Kristen Theologou with
Associate Pastor Scott Berry

Where are our Marketplace Leaders?

by Geoff Kempster

Special Edition: South Australian Prayer Breakfast Feature

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www.risemagazine.com.au

Managing Editor

Wendy Rush

info@risemagazine.com.au

Graphic Designer

Kirstan Leane, kdesign.com.au

Contributors

Kristen Theologou, Scott Berry, Geoff Kempster, Wendy Rush, Nick Hawkes, Edi Leane

Advertising Enquiries

Loan Leane

loan@joiecreative.com.au

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Cover: Chief of the Defence Force General David Hurley is responsible for a workforce of more than 90,000 men and women. One of them, flight deck marshaller Leading Seaman James McDonald-Pritchard onboard HMAS Perth, signals for a Seahawk to land during Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC 2012). Photo courtesy the Australian Defence Force.

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south australian prayer breakfast feature

**1 Fearless Faith: General
David Hurley**
by Wendy Rush

**3 Where are Our
Marketplace Leaders?**
by Geoff Kempster

regular features

6 Joie Cartoon
by Edi Leane

**10 RiseWise: What
Influences You?**
by Nick Hawkes

11 RiseVibes: Reviews

special features

**5 Hope for the One
in Trouble**
by Kristen Theologou

**7 Be Selfish, Lose
Control, Own Your
Church**
by Kristen Theologou
with Scott Berry

**9 Collective Shout:
Making a Different
Voice Heard**
by Kristen Theologou



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General David Hurley
AC, DSC, Chief of the
Defence Force

General Hurley is responsible for a defence workforce of more than 90,000 men and women. One of them, flight deck marshaller Leading Seaman James McDonald-Pritchard onboard HMAS Perth, signals for a Seahawk to land during Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC 2012). Photo courtesy the Australian Defence Force.

Fearless Faith

by Wendy Rush

When General David Hurley was promoted to Chief of the Defence Force in July 2011, The Australian newspaper heralded it as part of a sweeping renewal of 'top brass' and reported Prime Minister Julia Gillard as saying that his appointment came at a testing time for the defence force, "the most intense since the Vietnam war".

To paraphrase Defence Minister Stephen Smith, the role of Chief of the Defence force is a big job that carries heavy burdens and heavy responsibilities. The Defence Chief not only commands the Defence Force workforce which totals in excess of 90,000 men and women, but he is also responsible for advising the Minister of Defence and the Prime Minister on military activity and military operations. And, in doing so, General Hurley has vowed to give them 'frank and fearless advice'.

The burdens and responsibilities were apparent when his first day on the job became the most difficult imaginable - General Hurley had to announce the death of a special Operations soldier in Afghanistan. In such cases, the Defence Chief personally speaks to the wives and families of the deceased and shares some of their grief at the loss of a member of the Defence family.

A year later he was responding publicly to the release of a review of hundreds of allegations of sexual abuse in the defence forces over a 60 year period. He expressed his deep distress over each and every allegation and said "we should not, and cannot, turn a blind eye to instances of inappropriate behaviour."

"As individuals we must also be able to demonstrate that we have the moral courage

to act and the ability to respond in an appropriate and timely manner when issues arise."

His is a job specification that only a few good men or women would be courageous enough, or sufficiently equipped, to take on. So what has motivated him to develop through the ranks to the position he now holds? Was it keen ambition, or just being in the right place at the right time?

General Hurley says that he wasn't aiming for the top job, in fact when he graduated from Duntroon in 1975 he didn't even know it existed. But at each stage of his career, he would say to himself 'what comes after this?' Coming into the role after many years of distinguished military service, there is no doubt that he has walked into the top job with his eyes well and truly open.

His leadership performance has been on public display from day one, and over the past 12 months or more there have been many public statements, significant operational matters and high profile issues that have required his attention, often in the context of a tense political environment.

How he handles the issues that arise now and in the future is probably best measured by the sum of his past accomplishments. He was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross for service in Somalia during Operation SOLACE, and in 2010 he became a Companion of the Order of Australia for eminent service to the Australian Defence Force.

Significantly, while Vice Chief of the Defence Force, General Hurley was approached by Bishop Len Ecot and David Douse through

the Defence Anglicans. They wanted to bring to the military a program called *Faith Under Fire*, a DVD based course that explores Christian faith in the modern defence force. General Hurley enthusiastically embraced their idea and arranged for military funding for its production and distribution. The program 'provides an opportunity for military members to examine the Christian faith and the historical claims supporting the life of Jesus.'

As Australians we respect our Defence Forces and honour their contribution to our security and our way of life, and many of us have friends or family who serve. As the *Faith Under Fire* website articulates so well: 'Men and women in the Australian Defence Force have a reputation all over the world for their character. They show courage in the face of adversity; compassion for those in need; strong mateship; a sense of humour; and the ability to take an honest look at life. These great qualities are also embodied in a man who lived more than two thousand years ago, whose approach to life, love, sacrifice and death still make sense today.'

As Chief of the Defence Force General Hurley will face military battles. As a Christian in a high profile leadership position he will also face spiritual battles. No doubt he takes seriously the Apostle Paul's call to 'put on the full armour of God', so that when his faith is under fire he can take his stand against the enemy – and stand fearlessly in the knowledge that the man who lived two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ, stands with him.

General David Hurley AC, DSC is keynote speaker at the 2012 South Australian Prayer Breakfast.

Where are our Marketplace Leaders?

by Geoff Kempster, Executive Director of CBMC International - SA Inc

At the Hope Breakfast held in Adelaide at the end of April, Tim Costello of World Vision shared that within Australia there has been a shift in hope in regard to confidence in our future, from the colloquial Aussie, *"she'll be right"* to *"she might be right."* There is a loss of hope in our leadership and with that a loss of identity in who we are.

When we live in a society where the focus is on individual rights without considering our personal or corporate responsibilities and the consequent shift from the sound values and principles upon which this great nation and state of ours were founded, is it any wonder that we have lost hope.

In January this year CBMC International – SA Inc conducted a leadership workshop involving sixty marketplace (business, government and education) leaders. The discussion was centred on the question, *"What are the top three challenges that you currently face in the marketplace?"* We were surprised by the level of stress that people indicated they are experiencing in the marketplace. Some of the key responses centred around:

- Maintaining work/life balance
- Feeling overwhelmed with unrealistic expectations being placed on them
- Managing change - especially with such a diversity of values and principles in the marketplace affecting the decisions made.

"Leaders are dealers in hope." Napoleon

The words of Tim Costello and the results of our recent workshop only highlight the void that we have in marketplace leadership. Apart from this we only need to survey our news media and consider some of our current political leaders as well as business leaders. The fundamentals upon which this nation of ours was established are being severely damaged. When the goal posts keep moving it is difficult to have hope, as the foundations upon which we live keep changing as they are influenced by the most vocal lobby group or by a well run media campaign.

"Everything rises and falls on leadership."
John C Maxwell

To recover hope we need to look to our leaders and their leadership. Our leaders need a new heartbeat. That's what we called a Summit that we ran at the end of April this year. The focus of this two day leadership event was to get to the spiritual heart of leadership. To encourage marketplace leaders to get back to the foundational Judeo-Christian values and principles that are the bedrock of the western world's growth and success.

Whether you are a Christian or not we all need to base our leadership decisions on sound values and principles to restore hope to the South Australian marketplace.

I have recently been reading about the kings of early Israel – a land established on sound values and principles. Those kings that followed in the footsteps of those founding values were successful both for themselves as well as their people. However, those that strayed, drifting away to selfish desires, suffered the consequences of their poor decisions and actions, including those who may have started out well but drifted away over time, becoming complacent about the foundation of their success.

In July Billy Graham wrote a letter out of concern for America's declining morality. Graham wrote, "My heart aches for America and its deceived people", calling them to turn from current practices and return to the values and principles that the USA was founded on.

Dr John C. Maxwell, in a recent leadership lesson, reflected on the leadership journey over the last 30 years, from Management in the 1980's through Leadership in the 1990's to Team Leadership in the 2000's and on to Transformational Leadership in the 2010's. Maxwell referred to a study on Leadership Development by Gina Hernez-Broome and Richard L Hughes in which they describe Transformational Leadership as "touching follower's deeper values and sense of higher purpose and leading to higher levels

of follower commitment and effort and more enduring change. Transformational Leaders provide compelling visions of a better future and inspire trust through seemingly unshakeable self-confidence and conviction." Also Bass and Steidlmeier noted in their study, *Ethics, Character and Authentic Transformational Leadership Behaviour*, that "Transformational Leadership is only authentic when it is grounded on the leader's moral character, concern for others, and congruence of ethical values with action."

We cannot keep drifting away from the values and principles which were foundational to the establishment and rise of the western world without suffering serious consequences. The way we conduct our lives and our business does matter – it matters to us personally and it matters to the people we lead, just as it did to the people of early Israel.

We need to seriously consider how we are currently leading and turn from the vague generalities and political correctness that inhibits sound, values-based, leadership. It's time to return to and stand firm on the values and principles that our founding fathers (see March Rise article 'A State of Promise') brought with them as they practically and constitutionally established this great state and nation of ours. Values and principles that respect people, value people, empower people and bring hope to those we lead. This requires strength and conviction on the part of Transformational Leaders to stand firm against the tide of mediocre leadership that we currently see rampant throughout our society. It is our duty and responsibility as leaders in all areas of the South Australian marketplace to become Transformational Leaders and so become "dealers in hope."

For more information about CBMC International - SA Inc, and how to connect with other business men and women in the South Australian marketplace, go to: www.cbmcint.com.au



"Everything rises and falls on leadership."

John C Maxwell



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Hope for the One in Trouble

by Kristen Theologou

The excitement and joy that filled Moe Moe's face when she heard that Juanita was coming was heart warming. A similar joy filled the room again as their daughters greeted each other and ran off to play in the other room. Before having spoken a word it was obvious to me that I was in the presence of a valued friendship, which made me even more eager to hear the story of Moe Moe and Juanita.

Born in Burma, Moe Moe travelled around, living in Thailand for 8 years and Malaysia for 5 years, chasing work. After many factory jobs and living through great trauma, Moe Moe and her daughter, having been granted refugee status, travelled to Australia in 2009 in search of a better life. As we sat in the living room of their apartment, where they have now lived for 2 years, Moe Moe, told me (with the aid of an interpreter) about the struggles of moving to a new country.

"Not speaking the language and being in a new country, just me and my child, it's not easy...I have no one here- no relatives- which makes it more difficult."

Moe Moe is finding it near impossible to find work, and faces challenges in everyday tasks. When I asked her what she thought of the word 'refugee' she told me that it means 'the one in trouble.' One day at her daughter's school, Moe Moe was approached and referred to a program called Fuse.

Enter, Juanita.

Juanita was born in California, USA into a Christian family. The second oldest in a family of nine, seven of Juanita's siblings were adopted. This, in addition to many family mission trips, meant that Juanita was always being exposed to different cultures. After graduating University she travelled overseas on mission with YWAM (Youth with a Mission). Completing her Discipleship Training in Russia, Juanita met her now husband there before moving to Australia to live. Knowing that they were called to overseas mission, Juanita and her husband travelled to Armenia and Sweden in 2011, but felt God calling them home to Australia for one more year. It was then that God brought the Fuse program across her path, and she knew that was where her heart lay.

"I'm from a different culture as well and, even though it's Western it is different. I left my family behind and had to come into a new one – it was actually really hard for me. I guess I empathise with how difficult the situation must be for refugees leaving their homes, because they don't necessarily want

to, but they have to. I wanted to, but they don't have a choice."

It's here that two unsuspecting paths meet – Juanita, called to Australia, but with a heart for different cultural groups; and Moe Moe, in need of a friend to help her in a foreign



A mother and child in Burma (Myanmar) where refugee Moe Moe began her journey to Australia.

©iStockphoto.com/Ivan & Monika

culture. Fuse, the common factor in the stories of these two women, is a program initiated by Baptist Care SA. It matches refugees and asylum seekers with volunteers that are willing to spend 6 hours a month being a mentor and a friend.

Though Moe Moe has faced many challenges here in Australia, Juanita has helped her greatly.

"When I am facing difficulty with learning, Juanita helps me. Whenever I don't know, I can ask Juanita and I get a lot of help. She will even come to my house and help me out. It is very good!"

Since meeting, Juanita has helped Moe Moe with her English, as well as with her search for work, and Moe Moe has equally blessed Juanita.

"I just like having another friend. Moe Moe is just awesome. She's very sweet and very considerate – and she is a fabulous cook! She's very thoughtful and it's just really nice to be able to come and visit and hang out with each other – and our girls love each other, which is so cool."

Moe Moe's friendship has also lead Juanita to some new realisations. One day, whilst helping Moe Moe try to find employment,

Juanita was exposed to just how negatively refugees can be received.

"I was calling around trying to help Moe Moe find work and some people were extremely rude to me. They were nice, but as soon as they found out I was calling for someone that didn't speak English they were really very rude and practically hung up on me. And they didn't want some one who wasn't 'Australian'. I was just shocked..."

Fuse Coordinator, Bryan Hughes, explained how the mentoring program can work towards breaking down such negativity directed at refugees and asylum seekers.

"Mentors come to be friends with their mentees, and learn about their lives, their family, their hopes and dreams. The mentors in turn are in contact with 20 to 30 of their own close friends and family members, and sharing about their mentoring experience with them really helps to break down the stereotypes about refugees and asylum seekers - realising how similar they are to us in so many ways."

As I was leaving, Juanita was helping Moe Moe understand some paper work brought home by her daughter from school. They laughed and joked together, discussing the

details of the page. Having met Juanita, found help with language barriers, gained a dear friend for herself and her daughter, and now, knowing that there is someone that cares about her struggles, I wonder if Moe Moe still regards herself as a refugee; as 'one in trouble'?

The Fuse program is always looking for more mentors to be involved. You may not have a background in missions, or history of travel, but your friendship is more than enough. For more information or to get involved contact Fuse Mentoring Coordinator, Bryan Hughes: Ph: 8118 5238 or 0466 776 501 fuse@baptistcaresa.org.au


Rise would be interested to hear about the experiences of other refugees in South Australia, similar programs run by other churches or denominations, or individuals making a difference in the lives of refugees. Email info@risemagazine.com.au.

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NO MATTER HOW DARK YOUR PAST, WITH GOD YOUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT.

Be Selfish, Lose Control, Own Your Church

by Kristen Theologou, with Associate Pastor Scott Berry



Tithing is not our ticket to buying three Ferraris. ©iStockphoto.com/ travelif

As a fourth year university student and someone who has recently become unemployed, I would almost feel safe; assuming that I'm able to exclude myself from any discussion around giving money. Having said that, it would be foolish for me to think that when Jesus challenges His followers about their finances, He is just talking about finances. Like every one of Jesus' commands, He not only discusses our actions, but He questions and tests our hearts. Money is something we rarely talk about, but Jesus does not shy away from the subject.

When reading the New Testament, we repeatedly see Jesus challenging people to

surrender – their time, their desires, their purpose, their relationships, their sexuality – so why would we assume he leaves us to our own devices when it comes to money? John Wesley once said that, *"the last part of a man to be converted is his wallet."* If we believe that the universe and all that is in it belongs to God, where do we get this strange notion that our money is excluded from that all-encompassing truth? The posture of humility that Jesus calls us to is not to surrender our whole lives, except 'A', 'B' and 'C'. Jesus calls us to give Him everything we have, He doesn't want our money, He wants our everything. It is in this place of trust that God begins to mould our hearts into His, and radically transform our lives.

Scott Berry, an Associate Pastor at Enfield Baptist Church, articulates this point through a sermon series he presented. In it he calls us to **be selfish, lose control, and own our church.**

Be selfish. It's something we all wish for permission to do, yes?

In Luke 6:38 Jesus explains, *"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*

We need to realise that it is in giving that we are blessed. This is not to preach prosperity doctrine, but as we give, we are released from our money owning us - we



Matthew 23:23-24 sees Jesus condemn the Pharisees' controlled nature with which they give. He exclaims, "*Woe to you teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices – mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law – justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter without neglecting the former. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but you swallow a camel.*"

It's true – grace means we are not bound by the law – but the calling of grace is much higher. Jesus' call for us to surrender our finances is not out of duty, but out of our will being conformed to His. When, rather than counting our pennies, we prayerfully consider our finances and give out of an abundant and selfless heart, the matter is no longer a case of balancing accounts. It is much more than that. It is a place of surrender and obedience where our perspective changes to a Kingdom perspective.

The repercussions of this mean that God is not only interested in your tithing (giving a tenth of your income) – He doesn't only care about the portion that goes to the church. God demands that all of our money is spent with a Christ-like attitude. This means that tithing is not your ticket to buying three Ferraris and six coffee machines. Sometimes ethical spending will mean paying more. But why you're buying is just as important as what you're buying. Jesus sets us free from having our identity as consumers. We instead understand ourselves as His children and stewards of the many good and bountiful blessings He has given us.

Own your church. Never in the Bible is the Church understood as a place to sit back, relax and warm the pew. It seems to be a common misconception that as Christians we attend church; when in actual fact we are the church. When we truly begin to view ourselves as the living, moving, serving body of Christ, the Church as our brothers and sisters, then the world is our mission field. It is then that tithing becomes a team effort in furthering God's mission to see the Kingdom here on earth. God calls us to invest in His story of restoration mentally, emotionally, spiritually, physically and financially. It is then that we understand giving as not just putting money where our mouth is, or supporting our spiritual team, but as reinvesting in our spiritual family.

realise that money is a good servant but a poor master. We don't give because we are blessed, but Jesus promises us that in giving we are blessed. That is affirming to hear when we think about this task that is often uncomfortable in Australian culture.

Lose control. When it comes to money, losing control can be both easy and difficult. It's easy for us to lose control to our own desires; seeing what we want, and spending in terms of our emotions, or so called 'needs'. It's difficult to lose control by dying to ourselves and surrendering our finances to a sovereign and loving God. However, we are called to the latter.

So what does Jesus say about money?

Greed kills. Jesus told the story of the foolish rich man who thought he could sit back and "eat, drink and be merry" but God demanded his empty life of him. Polite Christianity generally couches greed as "financial stability" or "financial independence". But who are we seeking to be independent from, God? Surely, our financial security is never really secure (the danger of the next GFC is always looming) so why pretend that we are independent of God. He longs to set us free from the deception of this world and its deadly embrace of greed.

Be rich. Jesus longs for us all to be rich, not financially rich, but rich towards others. Let us be rich in relationship, rich in love, rich in kindness to our brothers and sisters in Christ, but also to treat all of his creatures richly; just as our Creator does.

Go for the treasure. In Luke 12:33-34 Jesus spurs us on to give what we have to the poor. He encourages us to provide ourselves with "*purses that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.*" Whatever we store up for ourselves here on earth is momentary and fleeting compared to the infinite and incomprehensible riches with which God blesses His disciples. There is something much greater, a story much more intricate than we know. Let us invest all that we have into the only thing in this life that is certain.

Verse 34 is the clincher. "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" What is of utmost importance to you? What is your number one priority? What can't you live without? What are you willing to chase? That's where your heart is. How many of us could wholeheartedly proclaim that God is the answer to those questions? He calls us not to apathetically tithe a portion of our income to aid His mission, but to radically sell all we have in order to buy the field in which we found that precious treasure (Matthew 13:44). But that is something we can only do when our heart and will are aligned with His. So what is your heart aligned with?



Melinda Tankard Reist,
founder of Collective
Shout

Collective Shout has made plenty of waves recently, but in case you haven't felt the ripples, here is the lowdown.

The sexualisation and exploitation of women and girls in the media is something that is so prevalent that it has become lost in the background noise of social norms. But the fact we don't always notice it doesn't make it right. Collective Shout is a grassroots campaigning movement determined to turn all of that around and begin working towards a society and a media that has a healthy, constructive view of women and girls.

So what have Collective Shout been up to?

Most recently, Zoo Weekly magazine has hit the headlines with a controversial competition searching for 'Australia's Hottest Asylum Seeker'. The magazine published a two-page spread asking female Asylum Seekers to send pictures and a short story of their tragic past. The competition read, "If you've swapped persecution for sexiness, we want to shoot you (with a camera — relax!)".

The uproar began with a petition on social change site, Change.org, by social justice campaigner, Matt Darvas, who called people to support him in his fight against the Zoo Competition. Matt currently works for Compassion Australia and is on the campaign

group for Stop the Traffik. When Matt saw the competition he was appalled.

"I live amongst, and count as close friends, a number of female refugees from several war-torn nations in East Africa. Their stories of fleeing their countries include horrible accounts of sexual assault and even rape at the hands of militia and the military. Many of them lost husbands, children and other family members. They still suffer symptoms of post-traumatic stress, including frequent nightmares, flashbacks, depression and other associated health problems."

In support of Matt's campaign, Collective Shout founder, Melinda Tankard-Reist quickly joined the discussion.

"There is no woman Zoo does not think worthy of objectifying and offering to its readers for sexual gratification and pleasure - even women who have experienced the worst possible human rights violations. Zoo offers these women the opportunity to swap 'persecution' for 'sexiness'. This is degrading and dehumanising for all female refugees."

Melinda not only condemns Zoo Weekly, but questions the mixed agendas of the magazine's publishers, ACP, who are also responsible for publishing Australian Women's Weekly, Woman's Day, and teen girls' magazine, Dolly.

"Is there no accountability? No discipline for such disgusting behaviour? If you can offer brutalised women for the pleasure of your readers, what is left after that?"

While this alone is appalling, it is symbolic of a much larger issue. Our nation's media has a tendency to label, categorize and package asylum seekers, ready for public consumption. Referring to them as 'boat people' and clumping them together as one ubiquitous presence on our shores, we are becoming desensitized to the pain and loss that they experience, and taking from them their individual stories, identities, fears and needs. Zoo Weekly is an extreme example of this, but perhaps this is an opportunity to examine how we consider asylum seekers.

This is not the first time Zoo Weekly has trivialized the horrific experiences of asylum seekers. They also offered to host 'the next boatload' in their office if prominent MP Sarah Hansen-Young agreed to pose for the lad's mag. When she refused, they chose to Photoshop her face onto the body of a near-naked woman.

Much more than a joke, this is a very public form of sexual harassment. While politicians may face ridicule for their professional decision-making, we must question our culture when not even a significant role in political leadership is enough to save a woman from sexual degradation.

Collective Shout: Making a different voice heard

by Kristen Theologou

With Matt's petition reaching almost 7,000 signatures, Zoo quickly withdrew the competition and submitted the following apology:

"Zoo Weekly regrets any offence caused to any of our readers, and to any asylum seeker or refugee and their families and supporters. We apologise for being insensitive."

Other Collective Shout Campaigns

Diva

Collective Shout has an ongoing battle with popular youth jewellery retailer Diva. The campaign began when Playboy accessories became a feature of the store's jewellery line. The prices and styles of Diva's products means that girls as young as nine make up a significant portion of the brand's consumers.

The line, featuring the Playboy Bunny, a symbol of the pornography industry, included 'Playmate of the Month' pendants (Miss January, Miss February, etc) inviting young girls to take on the title of porn stars. Diva defended their range, claiming it to be "in the name of fashion" After much back-and-forth with the retailers, and over 8,000 signatures on Collective Shout's petition, Diva removed the line from stores.

In June however, Collective Shout followers reported Diva quietly returning Playboy merchandise to stores, with prices as low as \$3. The petition has been reopened and now sports over 9,000 signatures. The saga continues.

The Duke

More locally, The Duke Hotel in Adelaide faced ridicule for an advertising campaign using pornographic images to promote their pizza. Along with these images, their slogans included "Duke 90 second pizzas – nearly as quick as your boyfriend", "Hot, moist, satisfying – Duke 90 second pizzas – get some" and "You wanna quickie?"

The Duke responded quickly to complaints, and within 4 hours of a petition being made, they removed the advertising and submitted an apology.

Other Collective Shout campaigns have ousted Lynx, the Lingerie Football League, Lance 'Buddy' Franklin, and Mossimo for the degradation of women. For more details, or to notify Collective Shout about your own concerns, visit www.collectiveshout.org

RISEWISE

by Nick Hawkes

What influences you?

If watching pornography is completely harmless, why has the Australian Government banned pornography on designated Aboriginal lands in the Northern Territory because it risks promoting a culture of sexual abuse?

If watching violent video games is harmless, why are the makers of the violent video game, Grand Theft Auto III, being sued for \$US246 million by families of two people shot by two teenagers? The killers, both boys, told investigators they decided to go on the shooting spree after playing the video game.

If watching violent films is harmless, why is there a policy banning them from the TVs in Adelaide's remand centre because of the risk of them inciting violence? When there was a lapse in enforcing this rule in November 2008, a Maori man hanged himself 24 hours after watching the portrayal of a suicide in the movie, Once Were Warriors.

The Bible says a lot about guarding what it is you let influence you. You can choose. If you believe that life has meaning, then surround yourself with the role models, films and literature that are in synch with that meaning. If you lazily go through life, entertaining yourself to death, you will hand over the formation of your character to a commercially driven film industry.

There was once a man of outstanding courage and character who said, "follow me". Maybe it's time for you and your kids to follow Jesus and be influenced by the one who really does give life meaning.

Nick Hawkes has two degrees in science and two in theology. He is the author of a number of books including The Country is Different, and The Dance Between Science and Faith. He is also the author of the Basics discipling series. Nick is a radio broadcaster and noted speaker who has been invited to preach in America and India.

Reviews this time around include artists that give traditional hymns their own unique treatment and a 'random' book by a very deliberate poet.



The Anti-Fall Movement 'Away My Needless Fears'

I'll be honest from the outset; I don't listen to worship music when I'm not at church. It's not that I dislike it, I just feel like I get enough of that style of music at church. The Anti-Fall Movement has changed this; their take on worship music for the everyday is fresher than that first breath of air when you arrive at that longed for coastal vacation. The angle of their approach is to take hymns from the 1700 and 1800's and ungird them with a timeless rock music sound inspired from the 1960's.

The album opens with a soul version of *Take Them All* with a funky feel and background female diva's crooning away "all I have I give to thee". The steady groove, cool moog synthesizers and repeated chorus of *Happy People* creeps into your psyche and reminds you that happy people are "in His love secure". While the rockabilly edge of *When We Cannot See* hits with a Johnny Cash vibe.

The River sees the sound stripped back to two singers and an acoustic guitar; it drops the pace and adds an extra sense of diversity to the album. The sweet vocal harmonies and treble focus of *Green Hill* is reminiscent of 10cc's soft-rock classic *I'm not in Love*; but lyrically it couldn't be further removed, as Cecil Frances Alexander's words testify to the unparalleled power of the cross.

'Away My Needless Fears' is blessed by never being too obvious; they resist "rocking it out" too hard or choosing over-played standards. Instead The Anti-Fall Movement have dug out hymns that have significant lyrical substance but are also still relatable and relevant to 21st century listeners. The album concludes with the title track which is a glorious reworking of Charles Wesley at his best, this song starts quietly and gradually builds up to a beautiful and modest crescendo.

Unquestionably, 'Away My Needless Fears' is the most uplifting new album I've heard all year. The Anti-Fall Movement could be described as alt-gospel, alt-soul or timeless rock but more than anything what they do breathes new life into the worship music genre.

The album is available online at <http://theanti-fallmovement.bandcamp.com>

Reviewer: Scott Berry



Cameron Semmens 'Random Cow'

Cameron Semmens recently travelled to India with World Vision to see the work they are doing with the most disadvantaged, and he experienced first hand the sights, sounds, smells of India – and importantly allowed himself

to touch and be touched by its people.

An award winning poet and performer, Cameron has been able to communicate in rich detail his experience of India in his new book *Random Cow: how India changed me*. I read it on a recent flight from Adelaide to Melbourne, but it did more than just fill the gap between airports. (And in fact it demanded multiple reads.) As with most of Cameron's work, it made me stop – and think about things I hadn't thought of before, feel things I hadn't felt before. He has a gift that enables him to tell you about his thoughts and experiences in a way that dares you to see things from a different perspective.

This Journey Starts with Weird Words, touches on the things we can inoculate against, and those we can't and *Random Cow* – also available on Youtube – sets up the reader's experience by bringing to the forefront the contrasts of life in India where 'man and beast still work and live together in modern/ancient ways, in modern/ancient streets'.

When Cameron watches the boy and the bubbles, or has an interchange with the begging woman and her baby, or a conversation with the Tamil shopkeeper (they don't speak a word of the other's language) we are there. We look through his eyes into the eyes of the man in the slum who holds our gaze longer than is comfortable, and we wonder which side we would take in the debate over 'to give or not to give' when surrounded by such need. Our heart is torn by stories of boys in the dirt sewing saris and polishing precious stones, and we are lifted by prayers on the wing, dazzled by grace and amused by insights of self discovery that Cameron shares along the way.

The Hidden Cost of Extra Baggage

tells us that Cameron probably will never fully unpack all that he has brought back from India.

I wrinkled my nose at the smells, heard the sounds, felt the burning, sweaty heat, laughed, wept and took on board some of that excess baggage. If you have ever visited India, you must read *Random Cow*. If you have never visited India, you need to read *Random Cow*.

Go to www.webcameron.com to view Cameron performing selected pieces from *Random Cow*. I recommend you take a look and then buy the book (which is available in book, e-book or soundtrack).

Reviewer: Wendy Rush



Bernard Hull 'Favourite Hymns'

Referred to by one of his admirers as 'a virtual melting pot of creativity', Bernard Hull is an Adelaide author, singer, actor, composer, photographer, recording engineer...and the list seems to go on. Probably best known for playing numerous roles in musical theatre and opera, including most of the male roles in *Phantom of the Opera*, Bernard has also recorded a number of CDs. His latest offering is his seventh album 'Favourite Hymns' on which he not only sings, but plays all the instruments including guitar, bass, drums and keys.

As the title suggests, this is a collection of Bernard's favourite

hymns, presented in a slightly different way to how we might remember them. Bernard's treatment includes, at times, an up tempo, catchy re-worked score, use of modern instruments, and additional lyrics. He injects energy and joy into some of the hymns which have traditionally been, dare I say, quite sombre.

Bernard adds some great

drumming and a catchy refrain to *All Creatures of Our God and King* and a military band feel to *Nothing but the Blood*. I like the gentle piano that weaves its way through *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*. *Amazing Grace* has been given the military tattoo treatment, and includes additional words written and arranged by Bernard that, in case you are in the habit of singing this well known and loved standard

without much thought, will bring you back to focussing on God's grace that is so amazing. And we finally hear the church organ feature prominently in the last track *From All That Dwell Below the Skies*.

If the voice of an operatic tenor resonates with you, you enjoy singing along to some of the best-known and well loved hymns and you don't mind a little

up tempo treatment (almost at times bordering on a bit of a rock feel) then give this recording a try. So if you miss the hymns of your youth, here's your chance to relive them with a touch of *Phantom* and a contemporary twist.

To purchase or find out more go to: www.bernardhull.com

Reviewer: Wendy Rush

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