

FREE December 2011 - February 2012

RISE

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The Leigh Cunningham Band

an amazing and
unexpected journey

Suing the Devil: The Best Christian Film Since 'The Passion of the Christ'?

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Publisher

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www.risemagazine.com.au

Managing Editor

Wendy Rush

info@risemagazine.com.au

Graphic Designer

Kirstan Leane, kdesign

Contributors

Wendy Rush, Kristen Theologou, David Turrell, Adrian Blenkinsop, Leigh Cunningham, Michael Chant, Pete Whiting, Anne Hamilton, Paula Vince

Advertising Enquiries

Loan Leane

loan@joiecreative.com.au

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info@risemagazine.com.au
0400 773 851.

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Heart on Sleeve and

Wendy Rush talks to Leigh Cunningham about the band's journey, and the passion and power of making music.

Their latest album is titled 'Don't Look Back', but Leigh Cunningham is happy to take time out to reflect on The Leigh Cunningham Band's journey so far.

Leigh was given his first guitar by a youth leader when he was about 14 years old, after commenting that it was something he 'might be interested in'. As a teenager he found learning the guitar and writing songs to be a great release for a lot of stuff that was going around in his head. Over the years he started to compile a collection of his original works, but was always too shy to play them to anyone or, as he says, to 'put himself out there'.

At 19, Leigh dropped out of a degree course in commerce to travel and think more about the things that were most important to him, and how he could reflect these things in the way he lived his life. He back-packed across the US and worked at a summer camp just outside New York City where he discovered just how powerful music can be as a tool for communicating with other people.

"Through playing my music to the kids I was working with and the people I travelled with I really gained an appreciation for the way that music can disarm us, open us up and encourage us. I felt more comfortable playing to people overseas because there was a high likelihood that I would never see them again", says Leigh. But it was through these experiences that he gained the confidence to put himself in front of an audience and be himself. "I learnt that being honest in front of people encouraged them to do the same, and I found a real passion for music and the power it has to influence people in a positive way."

The Leigh Cunningham Band was formed about 12 years ago and consists of Leigh, Steve Cunningham (bass), Geoff Payne (guitars) and Pete Lucas (drums). Their first gig was at The Wakefield Hotel in Adelaide.

"I chose the Wakefield because it was across the road from the Fire Station where I work", said Leigh.

"As a band we wanted to put on a night at the pub that was positive and people focussed. It was a great night and started us on the journey that we are still on today, using our music to communicate a message of hope to the people we have the privilege of playing to."

Leigh says it's been an amazing and unexpected journey. "When I started out I would never have dreamed that I would have the opportunity to play to the audiences I have, or that I would have recorded two CDs that have

found their way into people's lives all over the world. Success for me is about being faithful to the gifts and talents I have, making the most of the opportunities that come my way and enjoying the ride wherever it takes me."

With a family and a full time job as a fire fighter, Leigh admits that the challenge is to get his priorities right and make choices that reflect what he truly values. He tries to make sure that his commitment to his music and the travel that can go with it is balanced and in perspective to the other things that are important to him. "I think the music industry can try to tell you that success is about money and fame and that your decisions should be based around those priorities. It has been a challenge to operate within that industry and still hold strong to a different set of values that puts people and relationships first."

Leigh says he is inspired most by people that practically demonstrate love and overcome adversity no matter what the cost. This comes through in the band's music which can best be described as 'heart on sleeve rock'.

Leigh says "I want to write music that challenges, inspires and encourages my audience. I would like to influence people to see life as a gift that is too short to take for granted, and to take a stand for what is important to them."

How does Leigh approach the writing process? "I try and find a bit of creative space mentally and physically. I generally start the song writing with an idea, a message that I think is worth constructing around. I like my songs to be positive and reflect truth. I then usually write a chorus that reflects my idea and build a story

into the verses around that. Musically, I play the song on my acoustic guitar to the band and we start the creative process as a band from there. We contribute ideas, experiment, and see where the song takes us."

'Don't Look Back', the Band's latest CD, highlights the things have been important to Leigh and that he has been challenged by on his journey over the last few years. "It crosses over a whole range of issues relevant to everyday life. I believe the album makes a statement that taking risks, making positive change, being a person of forgiveness and grace, valuing relationships and choosing sacrifice over self are all life giving attitudes to carry into each day."

It's been a long and interesting journey for Leigh. One that has taken him from a place where he was too shy to play to other people, to performing in front of 20,000 people at Adelaide Oval for the opening of the World Police and Fire Games in 2007. "I will never forget looking out over the ground under lights as I played 'I Am Australian' and thinking what an amazing opportunity this is."

The Band has featured on Network 10's 'Cry Bali' and 'Around Midnight', and Leigh has been a regular guest artist on the Nine Network's 'Rise and Shine'.

"But", Leigh continues "when someone shares with you that one of your songs is significant to them, that is an absolute highlight as well."

And looking forward? "Hopefully", says Leigh "we can continue to write and perform life giving music for as long as we believe it is making a difference."

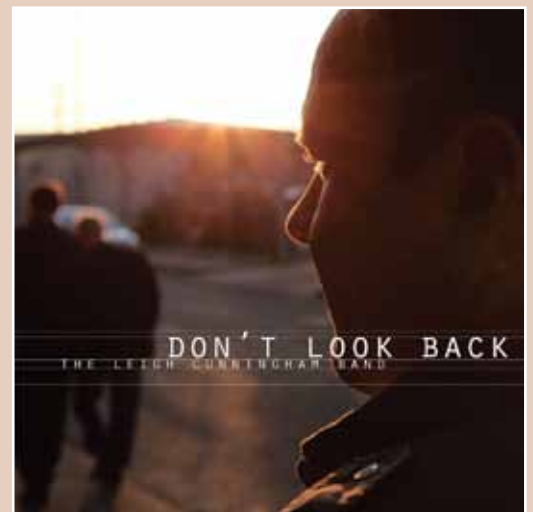
The Leigh Cunningham Band's Upcoming Gigs

Sunday, 18 December,

5pm-8pm: The Stanley Bridge Hotel, Onkaparinga Valley Road, Verdun, SA

Friday, 10 February, 7pm-

10.30 pm: The Acoustic Peacock, Lot 80 Norman Road, Willunga, SA



See more on The Leigh Cunningham Band and their latest album

Guitar in Hand



THE LEIGH CUNNINGHAM BAND
www.leighcunningham.com

'Don't Look Back' at www.leighcunningham.com



Wendy Rush talks to South Australian producer David Turrell about his new movie which is being referred to as the best Christian film since 'The Passion of the Christ'.

Clockwise from above: A cameo appearance by SA Pastor Paul Newsham; Film producer David Turrell with Malcolm McDowell; A courtroom scene during 'the trial of the century'; Filming in progress

When he read the script for 'Suing the Devil' Malcolm McDowell said "this is the best script I have read in 30 years and I want the part of Satan in the film".

When the movie opened in select cinemas in the USA in August this year, it had the second-highest grossing average of any independent film in the nation.

'Suing the Devil' exposes Satan's greatest lie: that he doesn't exist. It turns the spotlight on the spiritual battles that ordinary people face every day.

The story revolves around Luke O'Brien, a washed-up janitor turned night law student, who decides to sue Satan for \$8 trillion dollars. On the last day before Luke files for a default judgment, the judge is about to throw him out of court because she thinks he is a 'nut case', when Satan appears and says he wants to defend himself. On Satan's legal team are ten of the world's best trial lawyers. The entire world watches on Legal TV to see who will win 'the Trial of the Century'.

Starring alongside Malcolm McDowell in 'Suing the Devil' are Rebecca St James, Corbin Bernsen (LA Law), Shannen Fields (Facing the Giants), Tom Sizemore, Ros Gentle and Bart Bronson. There are also some notable cameo appearances from Australian pastors including Phil Pringle, Jeff Crabtree and South Australia's own Paul Newsham.

It is the fifth feature film for writer and director Tim Chey.

So how did the former head of a community radio station come to be involved in such a significant project which is already having a huge impact in the US and in Australia? David explains that he met Tim "by divine appointment" when he visiting Los Angeles as a tourist after attending a National Religious Broadcasters convention in Nashville in March 2009.

"We were having dinner together and Tim said he would love to make a film in Australia. I spoke to some investors, also through a number of 'divine appointments', and raised the budget for the movie", he said.

By November 2009, just eight months after their dinner conversation, filming had begun. Tim and David both have a passion to use media to help people come to know and understand who God is and to grow into a relationship with Jesus Christ. "The main thing I hope for is that people will understand Jesus better and the very real spiritual battle we face every day. It is actually a fun movie with lots of jokes in it as well!

"I also wanted to make the movie because I am trying to encourage other Christian film makers to make Christian films in Australia", said David. "I did some research and discovered that this was the first full length Christian feature film produced in Australia in the past 100 years.

Others have been encouraged to have a go and now there are three other feature films being produced."

'Suing the Devil' was filmed mainly in Sydney and the courtroom was the 3C Church in

Darlinghurst. The TV news scenes were shot over a couple of days in Los Angeles. "There was a healthy mixture of Christian and non-Christian actors and crew and over the three weeks of shooting, a number of people made a decision to follow Christ and that was very encouraging."

The movie's Facebook fan page now has over 17,000 fans and David says the response has been overwhelmingly positive. At public screenings in South Australia the movie even drew applause from the audience at the end. There have been a number of reviews published, and David concedes that depending on which side of the fence the reviewer is on will depend on what they say.

"Christian reviewers say that every Christian should see the movie, non-Christian reviewers say it is just a silly fantasy movie. Atheist groups tend to hate the movie and have been quite vitriolic."

There will be a limited theatre release in Australia, when 'Suing the Devil' will be shown in a handful of cinemas. From February 2012 a major Church roll out is planned based on the "flick at your bricks" model developed by Heritage media. Group discussion resources, leaders' manuals and promotional materials will be made available to Churches wanting to get involved.

"The goal is to have the film shown in 600-800 churches across Australia."

It's been an interesting journey for the man who never set out to be a movie producer.



*'Suing the Devil'
exposes Satan's
greatest lie: that
he doesn't exist.*

"My background is in media, audio and radio – I was General Manager of Life FM for six years and now head up Christian Media Australia. Like many God things, He tricked me into it! There have been many times when God has intervened and made something happen in connection with the movie. But the flip side of that is that the spiritual warfare on a personal basis has been relentless. I guess you don't expose the greatest lie that Satan ever told - that he doesn't exist - without some form of counter attack do you?"

David believes there is a thirst and hunger like at no other time in history for all things spiritual. He chose to work in Christian media because of the influence media has on people and on our culture, and believes the world would be a much darker place without the positive Christian influence on screens, in papers and on radios.

"When I think about the movie, from both a production and story-telling point of view, I can just see the fingerprints of God all over it. For many people, when they see the movie, God speaks to them in a profound way. I just pray that people will be impacted by the film for many years to come. I am a firm believer that the media influences people and people influence the world."

For more on 'Suing the Devil' go to www.suingthedevil.com

If you are interested in finding out more about the Church release of 'Suing the Devil' contact David at tickets@mouthwateringproductions.com.au.

About the Movie

20,000 actors applied to play in the movie

Filmed in Sydney and Los Angeles

The audition process took 3 months

Screened across the US in August 2011

Select screenings in Australia in December 2011

Roll out of screenings in Australian churches from February 2012

The first full length Christian feature film produced in Australia in 100 years

Family friendly, rated PG – mild themes

Comedy thriller

The Cast

Malcolm McDowell (A Clockwork Orange, Star Trek – Generations)

Corbin Bernsen (LA Law)

Rebecca St James

Shannen Fields (Facing the Giants)

Tom Sizemore (Saving Private Ryan)

Rose Gentle

Bart Bronson

The Impact in the US

70 people accepted Christ at one US screening

After 17 years of a troubled marriage, on the morning after seeing the film, one couple restored their marriage and opened their house up for worship

An atheist went to the front of the theatre and got on his knees after a screening

A gang member accepted Christ after seeing the movie



Turning Up the **Volume**

If you listen carefully you can hear, above the noise of the many commercial offerings, the positive and uplifting sounds of Christian radio. And the signal across South Australia is getting stronger with two more radio stations going to air in recent months.

Inspire Digital is Adelaide's newest Christian radio station with a format of the best Christian music and teaching programs from around Australia and the world. Pastors and

business leaders gathered at the Mount Lofty Summit to turn on the new radio signal on 29 September. The new digital station is brought to you by Life FM, courtesy of the recent Federal Government expansion into new broadcast technologies.

Content consists of 100% Christian Music from artists like Chris Tomlin, Jars of Clay, Tim Hughes, Darlene Zschech and Third Day; and great Bible Teaching 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including Focus on the

Family, Leading the Way, Insight for Living, and Telling the Truth.

Inspire Digital's mission is 'to provide the best available Inspired Christian music and teaching to help our community live the life. A place you can easily go for inspired teaching and music to grow and refresh you in your faith.'

To hear Inspire Digital all you need is a DAB+ digital radio.

A new arrival in Adelaide, **Vision** experienced many obstacles and stumbling blocks in the eighteen months it took to install its high powered AM service here. Eventually, with the help of C3 church at Salisbury, it became a reality. During the test period earlier this year, keen listeners were thrilled to report a strong signal as far as 100 km away.

Vision Adelaide 1611 AM is now fully operational. It offers a mix of contemporary adult Christian music, the fun of the brekkie show *The Journey*, as well as *Kids Stuff* in the evening. There is also a wealth of practical teaching from a variety of presenters, including Focus on the Family's James Dobson and highly respected Bible scholars Chuck Missler, Ravi Zacharias and Greg Laurie.

Vision now has 500 stations transmitting the

Good News across Australia, with the latest additions commencing transmission in August from Freeling and Auburn, north of Adelaide.

When people tune in, lives are changed and Vision shares two recent stories:

'I live and work in a small Aboriginal community situated in the far north-west corner of SA where fellowship with other Christians is very limited. The daily worship program has helped to sustain, uplift my faith in God and has encouraged me to grow spiritually in many deep and meaningful ways. May God continue to bless your work.' M

'I have a friend who works as a pilot on the harbour at Ceduna. Ceduna is a little country town about 800km east of Perth and 500km west of Adelaide. It's out the back of beyond

basically. And he was telling me that it's tough being a Christian out there and one of the things that keeps him going is the local Vision radio station. It makes a difference to people in little towns like that.' RQ

Find Vision Adelaide at 1611AM, Auburn 88.0 FM and Freeling 87.6 FM.
www.vision.org.au



Lime FM has been refreshing the South East of South Australia for over 16 years. Formerly known as Rhema FM, two years ago the Mount Gambier based Christian radio station changed its name to Lime FM, identifying with its location on the Limestone Coast of South Australia. No-one knew what the word 'Rhema' meant, including Christians, so they were almost viewed as a 'foreign language' station. The name change has resulted in many more listeners and advertising has increased from \$5,000 per year to over \$50,000. In October Lime FM won its first ever community radio award for 'best community event', beating the secular stations.

Lime FM reaches 60,000+ people in the entire Limestone Coast of South Australia and deep into western Victoria, playing 100%

contemporary Christian music and programs. The station's vision is to refresh people with the good news of God. In a world where the media condemns and makes people feel that they are not good enough, rich enough, attractive enough, etc, Lime FM wants to be the voice of difference that provides hope and encouragement as well as good quality radio, reaching people in their homes, cars, hospitals, prisons and workplaces with the good news.

One person who listens to the station on the way to work rang last year to say he had pulled over while driving and given his life to Christ. On a regular basis Lime FM gets phone calls or emails from people saying what a great encouragement the station is to them. One lady is a school bus driver and she loves a family teaching program which goes to air at 3.00 pm.

She sits in the bus and listens every day while she waits for the students to board the bus.

If you are living in, or travelling through the area you can find Lime FM at 104.9 FM.
www.limefm.com.au



Life FM is a Christian community radio station which broadcasts in the city of Adelaide. It is licensed to cover the greater metro area, and the signal can be heard in nearby country areas. Life FM aims to present a positive alternative to the often critical, and sometimes 'crass', opinions expressed in secular media.

While Life FM serves the Christian community through the provision of quality programming, it also tries to reach those who do not regularly attend church with a message of hope. This outreach is of primary importance to the programmers at the station.

The station relies heavily on the support of its community in order to be successful. There are many more volunteers than staff in a wide variety of areas, eg on air, in administration and practical areas, on boards and committees, and helping out with practical activities and promotions.

Life FM aims to challenge and influence contemporary thinking by presenting a Biblical worldview, through broadcasting, that leads people to a revelation of God's grace and introduces them to the local Christian church as followers of Christ.

This year, the federal government has granted Life FM a second broadcast license to enable it to participate in the rollout of Digital Radio. Just like TV in Australia, a new type of signal has

been introduced to carry radio signals for which we need to purchase new digital receivers. Life FM broadcasts a completely new type of content on this signal which is known as Inspire Digital Radio.

Life FM, and its new sister station Inspire, receives many comments from listeners who appreciate the content, music and style.

"Through Life FM I found God and am forever grateful" Alex

"Life FM is basically the only station we listen to in the car and at home." Peter

"I just wanted to let you know that God has spoken to me so many times through the segments and music you air, and He continues to through Life FM, even though I am so far away from home." Miriam

"I listen to you throughout my work day and I find myself feeling quite happy even when the work environment can be quite strained. The music played throughout the day is for me positive and uplifting. The snippets of advice and words about God and Jesus is like fuel to the soul." Theresa

"I want to thank Life FM for being able to share a good wholesome message via the air-waves. I am a big believer in the work that you do." – Sally

Tune in any time to 107.9 FM on your car or home radio and enjoy the great music, friendly announcers and encouraging content.

Log on to Life FM's web page www.life.on.net for all the latest news competitions, updates and more. Join the discussion through their social media sites, such as Twitter and Facebook. See www.life.on.net for all the links.

Riverland Life FM began broadcasting in December 2005. Their vision is to provide the Riverland and Northern Mallee with access to community radio bringing wholesome contemporary music and quality programs that are relevant, positive and uplifting with a mix of materials reflecting the family and communication values that hold the region together.

If you live in the Riverland or are travelling through the area, tune in to 100.7 FM.

www.riverlandlife.org.au



Aussie Youth and the Bible

By Adrian Blenkinsop
of The Bible Society
- Children, Youth
and Education

Ask anyone in youth ministry about how they are going at engaging their youth with the Bible, then ask them, “And what about you? How are you going at engaging with the Bible personally?”

When I ask these questions of youth pastors, the response to both questions in most cases is, “It’s really hard. I’m struggling, and I don’t really know what to do.”

In 2010 the Bible Society approached Philip Hughes (Christian Research Australia) and asked him to do some research into Australian youth culture and the Bible.

Philip and his team spent 12 months doing group interviews across the country, with five to nine young people in each group. They conducted these interviews in pretty much every state, and covered every major denomination. More than 100 groups and over 70 youth leaders were interviewed. The young people were aged between 12 and 24, and all had a link with either a school chaplain, youth pastor, or a Christian friend – but not all were Christians.

We wanted to explore the ways in which youth are currently engaging with the Bible, and also, what motivates them to engage with the Bible, as well as what makes it difficult. Finally, we knew that in order to deeply engage youth culture, we needed to first understand the key social drivers for youth, and the opportunities for cultural influence.

The research, released in March this year, confirms that many young people are struggling to engage with the Bible. However, what we have as a result of the research is a very clear picture of the nature of the crisis, and of the opportunities and ways in which we can begin to address the situation.

The research has shown that 70% of young Australians never read the Bible, with only 4% of 13-24 year olds reading it very frequently and 15-20% occasionally. Of those young people who attend church, more than half of them read the Bible only occasionally or never.

Three key barriers that are keeping young people from the Bible have been disclosed:

- they have questions about the meaning of the text that remain unattended to and unanswered;
- they would like more involvement in class or group discussion to express their own thoughts and hear other opinions;
- students respond more positively when the emphasis is on topics which affect their lives and contemporary society.

It also came to light in the research that it is very likely that young people who read the Bible have friends or parents who also read the Bible.

If Bible engagement is about seeing young lives transformed as they encounter God through his Word, our understanding and approach to

Bible engagement must broaden to include all types of personalities and learning methods. Our approach needs to include strengthening communities (through modelling, training and resourcing) to engage with the Bible creatively. From the research, a particular question arises: Is our traditional method of Bible engagement of “daily personal Bible reading” only suited to particular personalities, or socio-economic group?

It is evident that different learning styles affect Bible engagement – because young people learn in many different ways. Small groups where the leader is more of a guide in the discussion are very effective. In these groups hard questions, disagreements and personal stories are accepted and encouraged, as are multi-sensory and creative input. Young people need to be given every opportunity to be engaged with and transformed by God’s Word. This response stage of the research project is well underway. In October I presented at the National Youth Ministry Convention on the findings of the research, and of ways in which youth leaders can respond. Together with Naomi Swindon (Scripture Union Victoria), an outline of the research was presented. We then explored different learning styles of adolescents, and practical models of youth Bible engagement which have been gathered from practitioners across the country.

The response was really positive from the youth leaders and chaplains who attended, which mirrors discussions now occurring across the country. There is a growing recognition of the need for Bible engagement amongst youth, and a desire to learn from each other, and find ways of partnering in our response.

For further information, email:
adrian.blenkinsop@biblesociety.org.au.

“many young people are struggling to engage with the Bible”



Tools to engage youth in God's Big Narrative

RISE journalist Kristen Theologou attended the 4D Leadership Conference where Adrian Blenkinsop from the Bible Society spoke on engaging young people with the Bible. She outlines some of the tools Adrian shared that youth leaders can use to engage young people in God's Word.

When the disciples shared God's Word, people were enthralled, passionate, and even enraged. What they shared challenged their society, questioned their context and generally turned their way of life on its head. It was certainly not bland. The Bible is a passionate account of people's awesome encounters with the living God- something to be shared in community with one another, leading us closer towards God and drawing us deeper into relationship with our family of believers. So when we realise that it is the spirit that works in our hearts through the Word, we can find our freedom and creativity to share God's Word in ways that will engage youth in the Bible, that they may experience their own passionate encounters with God.

Here are a few tools to engage your young people:

Crafting the Question for the Narrative:

The Bible is engaging when it is applicable. Part of helping youth to understand God's Word is helping them to understand that it's meant for them, in their life, their context, their struggles. To do this we can craft questions in such a way:

Which character reminds you of you?

What would you do if you were in this situation?

What does the story say about God's character?- Where do you see this in your life?

3 Ways of Reading the Psalms:

Because the psalms are such close up encounters with human struggles and celebrations, they are great in allowing young people to identify with such authenticity. You can look at Psalms in three different ways and ask youth which they identify with most.

1. Psalms of Orientation: these are Psalms in which the author is speaking positively and expressing a joy in their situation.
2. Psalms of Disorientation: The author of these Psalms exhibits struggles and negativity, not sure of where God is or is lost in their own problems.
3. Psalms of New Orientation: These depict the author in a new or unfamiliar place, and the journey of exploring God's leading, or the peace of God's sovereignty.

Three Circle Lens:

Helping youth to understand the different roles they play in God's story, and the different ways the Bible should impact their world is important. Questioning the different aspects of the story illustrates this.

What is my story in this?

What is our story as a community?

What is God's story?



Story About Forgetting Wins Award to Remember

RISE Magazine caught up with Adelaide author Paula Vince about her latest, award winning novel.

Caption: Adelaide author Paula Vince has won the prestigious Omega Writers' CALEB Award for her latest novel, *Best Forgotten*

At the CALEB Awards dinner and ceremony in Brisbane in November, Omega Writers announced their surprise decision to award their prestigious Grand Prize to a fiction novel. Adelaide author Paula Vince was 'overjoyed' that her novel '*Best Forgotten*', winner in the faith-inspired fiction category, was also recognised as the best overall entry, chosen over memoirs, devotionals and general non-fiction for the top honour.

For years, Paula has been asking herself, "To what extent is a person's personality shaped by his sum of experiences?" In *Best Forgotten*, she has delved into her fascination with the relationship between our thinking patterns and what we make of our lives. Her protagonist, who suffers from amnesia, is the story's hero and detective, and is afraid to find he may also be the villain.

In the words of reviewer, Dell Saddler, "Readers are now accustomed to expect a quality book with Christian undertones from Paula Vince but even so, her latest book, *Best Forgotten*, surpasses others with romance, suspense, murder and intrigue interwoven with empathy and concern."

A wife and homeschooling mother of three children who resides in the Adelaide Hills, Paula has always loved writing fiction because she believes a well-written story has the power to stir hearts like nothing else. The author of seven novels, one of her earlier works *Picking up the Pieces* was the winner of the religious fiction category of the 2011 International Book Awards.

Always an avid reader, Paul has had a passion for a well-written story since she was very small. "Whenever I came to the end of a good novel, I'd be depressed for days because I wanted to know even more about all the characters I'd come to love. I used to imagine my own future stories for them until I'm sure I had enough ideas to fill several more books. One day, when teachers were asking us what we'd like to do when we left school, it dawned on me that I'd love to write fiction."

Paula knew that if she had characters of her own to imagine plots for, she could stay with them for as long as she pleased and craft their stories to suit herself. She also came to understand that a well written story can have a major impact on the reader.

"I've realised that a story has its own awesome power to touch readers' hearts in ways other genres do not. A personal development book may give us great advice but a story in which we grow to care for the hero has the potential to remain in our hearts for a long time. I love the challenge of making people laugh, cry and cheer. I enjoy getting scolded because my books have kept people up long past their bedtime."

Paula says she has been inspired by dreams, newspaper articles and passing remarks. "I've come to recognize a spark in my brain that tells me, 'I think this might work'. In *Best Forgotten*, I've tried to weave together elements of mystery, suspense and redemption in a way I've never done before."

Best Forgotten revolves around a young accident victim who wakes up in hospital

without a clue as to who he is. Not only does he have nothing in common with his family but he develops an aversion to the person he used to be. He cannot understand the way he used to behave or the choices he made. The more he learns about himself, the more puzzled and upset he becomes. He discovers that his best friend disappeared without a trace on the night of his own accident. His girlfriend is strangely aloof and he cannot shake off a feeling that the answer to the mystery will prove even more unpleasant than his amnesia.

The more he tries to investigate, the more likely it appears that he was involved in something really shady and sinister and he senses that something bad is pursuing him. So he's torn between wanting to find out and being frightened that he'll have to face horrible consequences when he does. He is both hero and detective of his story and terrified that he may also turn out to be the villain.

The book explores those questions that have always fascinated Paula, such as how is a person's personality shaped by the sum of their experiences? To what extent do the thoughts we choose to think make us into the people we are? Can our seemingly random choices come back when least expected and impact the rest of our lives?

"When readers discover the mystery, hopefully they'll let out a gasp and cry, 'Wow, I never saw that coming!' That's my intention, anyhow", says Paula.

Paula loves it when a work of fiction not only entertains readers but changes them at the

core by getting them to think about how what they've read within the pages may also apply to them. "These are the stories we like to remember, lend to others and call really special" she says.

"I believe novelists have a responsibility to offer readers our very best and it's a quest I take seriously. As readers, when we see believable ways in which God has worked in the lives and hearts of characters, we sometimes begin to notice similar patterns in our own. I hope that making people happy through my novels may spill over into other areas of their lives. I've read about a scientific experiment in which it was discovered that readers of fiction tend to be kinder and more empathetic than people who don't read fiction. I love to think that fiction authors are helping with people's well-being."

Writing and promoting her fiction has not been an easy road for Paula. At first, she was told not to bother because Australian Christians do not read fiction. She has found this to be quite untrue, and is keen to help people understand that providing readers with something wholesome and faith-filled during their leisure hours is a wonderful thing to do.

If the awards and reviews so far are anything to go by, *Best Forgotten* will be enjoyed – and remembered – by many readers for years to come.

Paula Vince's publisher is Even Before Publishing (EBP), the Christian imprint of Brisbane publisher Wombat Books. Her novels are available from Koorong, Word and other good Christian bookstores, Amazon.com and directly from her own website, www.appleleafbooks.com.

Paula Vince also features in the 2011 LifeWell Book 'RESTORED' published by RISE publications.

About Omega Writers Inc

Omega Writers is an association of Australasian wordsmiths writing faith-inspired work. They support Christian writers by

- providing Christian prayer support
- disseminating publishing and marketing information
- facilitating manuscript critiquing and assessment
- assisting with appraisals, editing, proofreading, reviews
- holding regular meetings and events

About the CALEB Awards

Initiated by Omega Writers, the CALEB prizes are awarded annually to showcase the pre-eminent works of Christian literature written by authors of Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. There are nine separate category winners. The most notable of these is presented with the CALEB Award Grand Prize.

www.omegawriters.com

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

John 3:16-17



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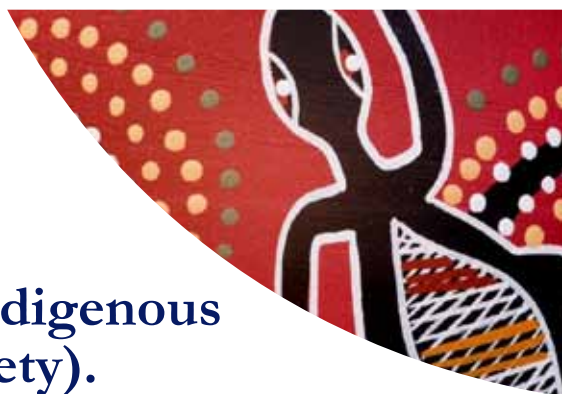
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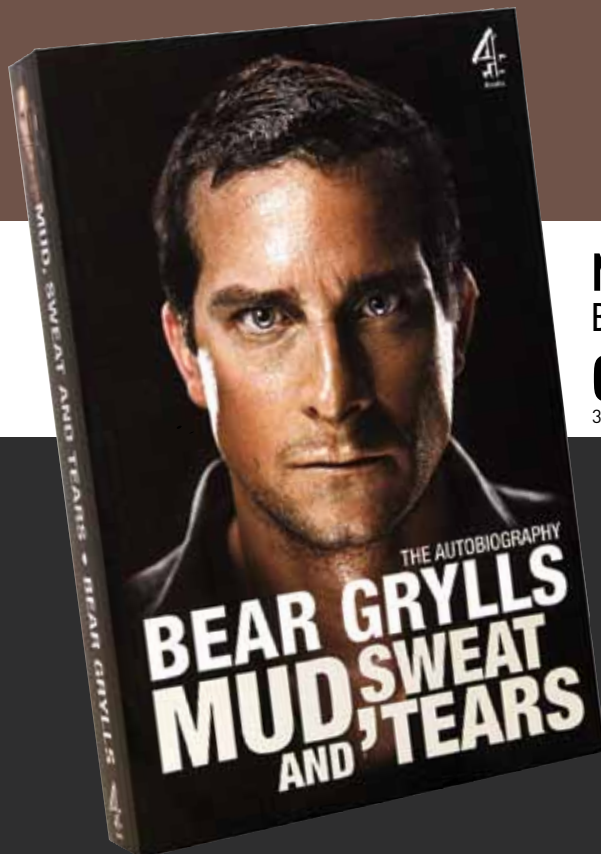
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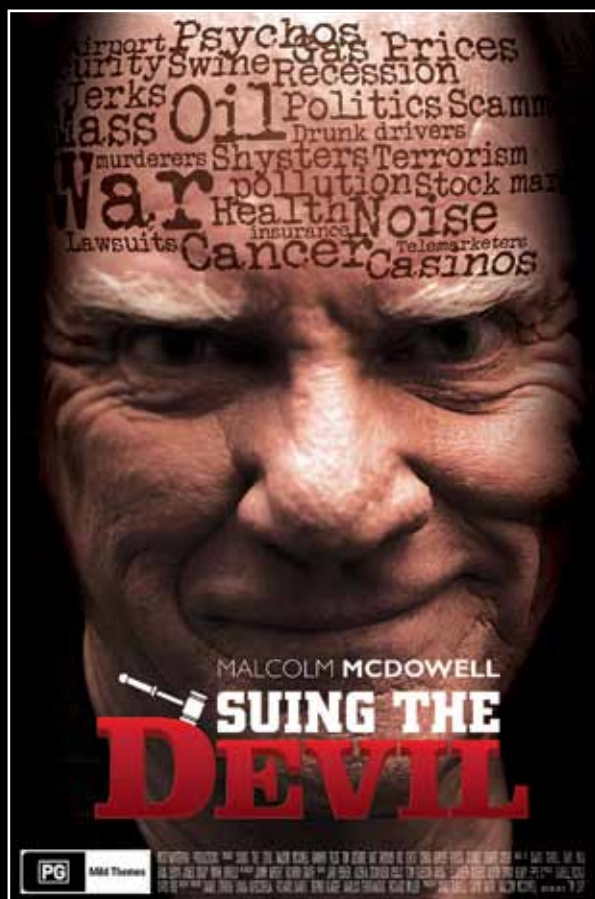
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