

FREE September - November 2015

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inform • inspire • encourage

Faith and Deliverance

by Henry Olunga

How Many Chances?

by Renee Kobelt

Hope in the Hardest Places

by Tim Costello

Poised to Present, from Postcards to Prayer Breakfast

with Lisa McAskill

SA Prayer Breakfast Edition

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Cover: Henry Olonga, former international cricketer and speaker at the 2015 SA Prayer Breakfast



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I visited a family the other day where the father, Joe, had only been released from prison two weeks earlier. He had been inside for over two years. There were six kids, ranging from two-and-a-half to fourteen years, and as soon as I got there they turned excited-crazy and bounced off the walls.*

Thankfully, I had the genius idea to bring some lollipops with me to bribe them into staying still long enough to take a family photo.

The mother, Sarah, understandably, looked tired. Joe was quiet, stood to the back and greeted us with a nervous half-smile. He disappeared and came back wearing a black buttoned shirt, changed from the t-shirt he was wearing when we arrived.*

I had been invited along by our PK (Prisoners' Kids) Family Care Team Leader, Mel, who had been visiting Sarah and the children for a year and a half while Joe was in prison, helping her through some hard times. The family had come up on our radar when Joe registered his children for our PK Birthdays program.

I don't know what Joe's crime was; in fact I made a point of not knowing. I don't want to allow myself to be affected by making judgements on who he is from something he did three years ago.

Three years, I thought to myself, is a long time. As I drove away I realised that I had only been a Christian for 2 and a half years, the same length of time Joe had been in prison. I had changed a lot in the past couple of years; I was a completely different person. A lot can happen in two years.

How many

By Renee Kobelt

What do you think?

There is a lot of public opinion on prisons and prisoners, but very little understanding. January last year *The Advertiser* opened up a public forum on the prison system where words like 'failure', 'excuses' and 'action' were thrown around, closely followed by sentences starting with 'to be honest', 'I hate to say it, but' and 'bring back'. While the comments represented a moderate cross section of what the community thinks, they still echoed a residual tough stance, one that overflows into the justice system. This hard-line mentality fed by public opinion has meant that anti-social behaviour is often dealt with by focusing on punitive, rather than restorative and preventative measures.

There is even less understanding about the families of prisoners. They are hardly mentioned; the children are largely ignored. That is, until they resurface as a statistic later on as one of the many children who become an offender themselves. Research has shown us that Prisoners' Kids (or PK's as we affectionately call them) are six or seven times more likely to offend later in life than their peers. Surprisingly, even with the understanding that they are at particular risk, there are no formal records of how many, who or where they are. They are essentially invisible.

Joe is one of the 'lucky ones'; he had a family and a house waiting for him when he was released. Most have lost everything, their family and friends give up on them and drift away, and there is no one to trust with even their basic possessions like a wallet and phone. That's where Second Chances SA comes in. Every week volunteers go into the prisons and visit prisoners who request help. The prisoners respect volunteers; volunteers don't have to be there and they aren't a part of 'the system', they are there because they care (as hard as that might be for prisoners to understand). The volunteers offer to store a small amount of property, do their banking and most importantly, be a reliable and friendly listening ear.

Through the volunteers prisoners hear about the programs like PK Birthdays and Christmas Angels for their children as a way of showing they still care, love and think about them. Through us, the children receive a present from their parent in prison so they don't feel forgotten. And because we are invited into their lives, the families and children don't feel like we are 'charity', telling them that there is something wrong with them and they need help. Instead we can be their friends, and visit them in their homes, work with the children to set goal plans, encourage them and invite them along to our PK Mentoring Camps where they can feel they belong.



chances?

Second Chances SA is about keeping the family unit intact, giving children the best opportunities to grow, and helping prisoners find their way.

Not Beyond help

Perhaps the most famous parable Jesus told was that of the Prodigal Son.

While prodigal means 'wasteful', these days the son represents any one who has completely blown it. Our prisons are loaded with many, many prodigals.

There are many different interpretations and perspectives within this story; it is so rich in detail. But let's take it back to the beginning, the reason why Jesus told the story in the first place: he was constantly faced with criticism for being a friend to sinners, visiting them at home, eating with them...forgiving them and helping them change, giving them another chance.

The prodigal son returning home from feeding the pigs and sleeping rough would have been stinking and filthy when the father ran to embrace him. It can be hard sometimes to embrace those who are filthy, covered with the stigma of prison and crime.

Especially when they have 'done it to themselves'. But Jesus doesn't see us, or them that way.

The mandate to reach out to those in need is echoed in Matthew chapter 25, where we are compelled to visit those in prison, assured that when we do we are in fact visiting Jesus himself; we are reflecting his compassion for the poor, lonely, hungry, disassociated.

There but for the grace of God go I isn't meant to make us feel special or privileged to have escaped the hardships that others face; it is meant to point to our dependence on Him. It's meant to humble us and draw us into gentle compassion for those around us. One of our volunteers, Gregg, who visits in Mount Gambier prison once described a turning point for himself in understanding and compassion. After speaking with a prisoner one day he found himself thinking that if he had lived the same life, experienced the same brokenness, neglect and abuse, it could be him on the other side of the wire.

There but for the grace of God go I. There are many people who want to change

but do not know how. Often they are victims themselves. People make mistakes, sometimes serious mistakes that hurt a lot of people, but can change with the right help and guidance.

Second Chances SA

In 2015 Second Chances SA was established to give people the chances to turn over a new leaf; to help prisoners turn their life around, and help their families, who are too often paying a high cost for their loved one's poor choices.

Through principles of rehabilitation and assistance for prisoner's pre and post release, Second Chances SA is working to create a safer, crime-free community where offenders are able to reintegrate as purposed individuals.

Second Chances SA also works with the families and children of prisoners as an early intervention prevention strategy, conducting home visits and running mentoring camps to instil good values and direction into young, vulnerable, at-risk lives.

*Names have been changed for privacy

Renee Kobelt is the Community Education Manager at Second Chances SA. She has qualifications in Politics and Communications, a passion for the Word and a heart for justice.

A few months ago I was in Nepal, supporting World Vision's extraordinary staff as they responded to a devastating earthquake.

The earthquake struck on April 25, the very day we in Australia were marking the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings.

Within hours the scale of the disaster started to emerge. Transport and communications are difficult in Nepal, and it took some time just to locate all our staff. But very quickly the relief operation began to swing into action.

Though I have been in disaster zones on many occasions, it is something you never really get used to. The physical shock of ruined places, and the spiritual shock of being among distraught people who have lost everything are always confronting. Yet I never fail to be amazed at human resilience. Even in a dark corner of a darkened world God's gift of hope continually reasserts itself.

Three days after the quake I found myself sitting with a man by the name of Bhoj Kumar Thapa in a small village on a mountain close to the epicentre. It was a profoundly humbling experience.

Bhoj had arrived back in his village, just outside the city of Gorkha, on the night of the earthquake to find his wife, Sushila, dead. She was eight months pregnant. He said he felt lost, "like I was in another world", and that something within him had also died. He could not imagine how he could carry on and hoped that time would show him a way.

But Sushila had done something extraordinary before she died. During the terror of the earthquake, she shielded their five year old daughter, Sudikchhya, underneath her pregnant body, protecting her from the rocks that fell around them as their village turned to rubble.

Sudikchhya was found unconscious by her grandfather, Sher Bahadur Thapa Mager, who wept with both sadness and joy when he found them, for a life sacrificed and a life saved.

Only hours earlier, thousands of Australians had stood above the beach at Gallipoli to honour the sacrifice of the young Anzacs 100 years ago and heard the words of John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends".

But here, on a mountainside in Nepal, there was no greater love than that of a mother who lay down her life for her daughter.

Arriving in Kathmandu after the earthquake was an assault on the senses. Smoke rose from the banks of the Bagmati River, which is considered holy by both Hindus and Buddhists, where bodies were being cremated and the ashes scattered in the water.

In the centre of Kathmandu, we walked in the ruins of the UNESCO-listed Dharahara tower. The earthquake took many lives and



Hope in the hardest places

By Tim Costello

many of Nepal's historical treasures too. Days after the earthquake, police suspected there were still many bodies in the ruins.

In the villages, where so many perished, food, water and shelter were also destroyed. With the monsoon approaching, World Vision rushed to get aid to those people.

In the days after the earthquake, the anguish we felt for the Nepalese, some of the gentlest and poorest people on Earth, was coupled with frustration as much-needed aid, including medical supplies and shelter, was prevented from arriving through the small funnel of the Kathmandu airport. Time and again our planes were turned back until finally we were forced to resort to trucking in supplies from India. Nepal's government had appealed to the international community for help, but help could not get in. Time and again people would ask us, "Where is the help? When is help coming?" And all the time we were there, more bodies were being found in the rubble.

Nepal sits at the meeting point of the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates. Those same massive forces of nature which created the Himalayas still clash and create earthquakes. The last big one, claiming a similar number of deaths in Nepal and Northern India was in 1934. It was a different world then – Mahatma Gandhi famously and controversially suggested that earthquake

was "divine chastisement" for India's "sin of untouchability" - yet eighty years on the irrevocable destruction wrought by these primordial forces was in scale and pattern chillingly similar.

Was this earthquake "the big one" that the Nepalese have dreaded for decades? We can only hope that it was. But many Nepalese fear otherwise. This anxiety makes the task of rebuilding Nepal – and rebuilding better than before – all the more urgent.

It is very easy to become jaded or complacent about natural disasters. So easy to think that these events are happening to people thousands of miles away, and don't concern us.

But we need to recognise that disaster strikes hardest at the people with the least resources to respond. Of course we felt frustration and anger at Nepal's poor infrastructure and difficult bureaucracy – but these are the product of unjust structures and systems that Nepalese live with all the time, not just when disaster hits.

As followers of Jesus we are called to love mercy and act with compassion, and our works of emergency relief are an answer to that call. We are also called to seek justice,

and we should never accept as normal the poverty and disadvantage that leaves people so vulnerable when disaster strikes. As Nelson Mandela taught us, extreme poverty is like slavery and apartheid – created by human wrongdoing, and capable of being addressed by humans doing right.

Returning home, I was so proud of the generous response of many Australians to the awful plight of the Nepalese. World Vision's church partners were so strong and fast in answering the call.


For people like Bhoj's family, this generosity makes it possible to provide relief and restore some hope. Most importantly it is also a reminder in a time of crisis that no one is alone. Even in the hardest places, God and God's servants are there to stand alongside those touched by tragedy.

Tim Costello is one of Australia's most sought after voices on issues of social justice, leadership and ethics. Since 2004 Tim has been CEO of World Vision, Australia's largest international development agency. Trained in economics, law, education and theology, Tim has practised law, served as a Baptist minister, and has been active in church and community leadership, local government and national affairs.

worldvision.com.au

Tim was in Adelaide to speak at the 2015 LifeWell Conference. lifewellconference.com.au



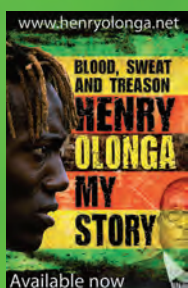


Henry Olonga was born in Zambia in 1976 to a Kenyan father and a Zimbabwean mother. He spent the first few years of his life growing up in Zambia and Kenya before moving to Zimbabwe in 1981 just after independence was attained.

At school he did well in athletics and had aspirations to represent Kenya at the Olympic Games. He also cultivated a passion for all things to do with the creative arts.

Henry made his international cricketing debut in 1995, becoming the youngest player and first black cricketer to play for Zimbabwe and helping his team to its first ever Test victory. Henry achieved international recognition (along with team mate Andy Flower) in 2003 by wearing a black armband in a Cricket World Cup match to protest against the policies of Zimbabwe's government. Following this incident Henry had to flee Zimbabwe in fear of his life, finding refuge in England. At the time of writing, he and his family are planning to re-settle in Adelaide, South Australia.

Guest speaker at the 2015 SA Prayer Breakfast, Henry writes about how he came to be where he is today, and how God has guided him.



Read the full story in Henry's autobiography 'Blood Sweat and Treason', available in Australia from September 2015.

Faith and Deliverance

by Henry Olonga

At this point in time in my life I am about to immigrate to Australia after living in England for over a decade, travelling to different parts of the country, singing, speaking, and videoing as well as sharing the gospel every opportunity I get. I love being able to use what God has given me to point people in the direction of the good news of Jesus Christ. I am currently working on my second and third albums, one of which will be a gospel album. Not sure which one will be released first but I am hoping to have one of them completed by Christmas this year. I am also attempting to pick up my painting again in what little spare time I seem to have. It is quite a different lifestyle to the one I once had.

Don't get me wrong I am thoroughly enjoying what I am doing now. I often get asked if I miss playing cricket. I miss the competition and camaraderie of being part of a team. However, I don't miss losing so often and being hit all over the place. It was hard work being a bowler for Zimbabwe!

Although I enjoyed my time and feel privileged to have played international cricket there was always a lingering emptiness at times about what it was I was really achieving in life. At the age of sixteen I became a Christian at a youth camp. I had some friends who were Christians who invited me along to the camp. We heard messages each night and on one of the final evenings a man got up and preached the message of the gospel and it was to this message that I responded and gave my life to God. Since that time I have attempted to the best of my ability (with God's help of course) to live a life that is pleasing to Him.

Through reading my bible and listening to mature Christians in the faith I have come to realise there is more to life than just achievements. My faith was one of the

reasons I did what I did (Black Arm Band Protest in 2003). Prior to making the stand I was reading the scriptures when a particular verse stood out to me. Isaiah 1:17 *"Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor, Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow."* I believe God placed on my heart to stand up for those who could not stand up for themselves.

This of course is what led to many changes in my life. I have now lived in a different country to the one I grew up in. I have changed careers and am happily married with two beautiful little girls. However, the biggest impact that it had on me would have to be my spiritual walk with the Lord. I received death threats after making the stand which meant I had to leave the country I called my home almost immediately. God became more real to me than ever before. I experienced His help and deliverance to get me out of Zimbabwe, through a cyclone called Japheth, and again His provision in enabling me to get to England, a complete stranger bought me an air ticket.

Experiencing the Lord's help, deliverance, provision, and protection in a time of trouble has strengthened my faith incredibly. Each of these experiences I believe has been the Lord leading and guiding me to where I am now both spiritually and physically. He uses many different ways to communicate with us be it through scripture, acts of kindness, miracles or even our circumstances. It has and continues to amaze me that when the Lord asks us to partner with Him, He always pays the bills!

Henry Olonga is available to visit churches, sing, preach and tell his story. You can contact him, or find out more about him, via his website www.henryolonga.net or email manager@henryolonga.net

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Lisa McAskill, MC for the 2015 SA Prayer Breakfast, talks to Wendy Rush about some of the highlights of her career, her top tips for delivering a successful presentation, and why she loves the opportunity to share what she has learned.

How did you come to work in the media – was it something you always wanted to do?

It all started with me getting some modelling work while I was still in high school. My plan was to become a teacher but I deferred, thinking the whole modelling thing might only last a year but it continued on for over a decade! It was all very exciting and gave me an introduction to the media industry. I was fortunate to have been around when the industry was booming. I soon worked out that I enjoyed the more interactive side of working to camera and by the time I was thirty I'd been in about fifty TV commercials, presented on all the morning programs, and had worked on a couple of pilot projects for children's shows so I was well placed when the Postcards audition came up.

Can you remember the first presentation you ever gave? How did you feel and what did you learn from that experience?

My first speaking presentation was to a group of surgeons at a pharmaceutical conference being held in Adelaide at the Wine Centre. I was booked to showcase the "Best of the State" (talk about jumping in full on ...not a big one ha ha). I can remember waking up feeling physically sick every morning in the lead up. But I prepared thoroughly with video clips, interesting information, even a quiz and prizes and the feedback was encouraging. It's a great feeling to know that you have an audience's interest, and to hear them laugh in the right places! Ha Ha! From this first experience I learnt that when I spoke from memory and didn't use my notes I was most engaging. This was a great lesson in trusting myself and my knowledge and what I had to bring.

Most of us remember you from the popular South Australian television series Postcards. How did you come to be a presenter on the show? How did you prepare for the role?

The audition came up through my model agency Tanya Powell. I had regularly worked modelling and presenting on Channel 9's morning program, Adelaide Today, so I did have an advantage as I was known and recommended to the producers. I had to memorise a paragraph-length piece and present it walking and talking to camera. It was about kangaroos and a waterhole, but the audition was held in Wellington Square. I then had a trial day out with the crew and was immediately thrown in the deep end having to interview a curator at an art exhibition at Carrick Hill. I had ten minutes or so to learn a piece to camera and deliver it on the spot. I think I got it in the first take and the story even went to air! I had the job - which then lasted for fourteen years! So to be honest I didn't really do any prep, my previous experience was an advantage and from there I just learnt on the job.

What is your best/worst/funniest/scariest memory of your time on Postcards?

I was kind of the stunt person on the show. In my first couple of weeks I had to cable hang glide, do acrobatics in a glider and learn to belly dance on camera! Probably the scariest was learning to water ski on camera because whenever I'd attempted it in the past I had come away injured! There were a few frightening moments when I was pretty scared in helicopters too! I'm still amazed at what I can do when there's a camera rolling!

I am naturally a fairly shy, reserved person, happiest reading a book actually so how I landed this job guess it was the white lie I told in the interview, where I said that I was adventurous!

Challenging your fear is very empowering and for me it's where faith has played a role in giving me the courage and I guess a sense

Poised to Present

From Postcards to Prayer Breakfast





Preparation is key, you need to spend some time really thinking and working on what it is you are going to speak about. Most people will start to prepare just the day before and this is where nerves can get the better of you. If you've spent a lot of time on something it shifts to a point where you are excited to be able to tell others about it! The best presenters look like they are just making it up on the spot but usually they have spent at least a few hours if not days working on their presentation.

Practicing it out loud is the other key. Most people write in a far more formal style than they speak, so by practicing it out loud you can hear "how it sounds" (and you may end up changing your notes accordingly). Doing this will make your presentation more natural and engaging.

Once you've put in the work, and have your notes as back up you can then rely on your instinct in the moment to take the presentation to where it needs to go.

How long have you been training others and when did you decide that you wanted to share what you had learned?

Over the years I had taught deportment and acting at model agencies but I started looking at it seriously after coming back from a two year stint living in Stockholm for my husband's business. Remarkably, even though I had left the country, I still kept my Postcards job! I came back to Australia to visit family a couple of times and while I was here we would film a run of Postcards stories and then I would record the voice overs in my walk in robe back in Stockholm and send the tapes back.

of calm/peace to attempt all these things and with gusto!

When did you discover that presenting was something you enjoyed and wanted to make a career out of?

I attended acting classes for a number of years and what this taught me was actually not to act, that just being your natural, authentic self was what was most engaging for an audience. This suited me. I actually really like people and the opportunity to work in a creative team and travel the State interviewing fascinating characters was such a blessing!

They say that most people fear presenting more than anything else. When faced with the prospect of presenting to a group of people, what are one or two things we can do to help alleviate that fear?

Firstly you need to shift the focus from yourself and onto your information or the message you are bringing to the audience.

This highlighted the fact that there were very few people at the time prepared with the skills or show reel to impress the producers and take over my job! So after some extra confirmation and encouragement from one of my ex-producers working at the ABC (who was also complaining of the difficulty in finding presenters) I decided to set up a television presenting course. In 2010 I started teaching this at SA Casting and then in 2011 set it up under my own banner. It has evolved from there to working with a diverse clientele, with other workshops on dealing with the media, public speaking and video production.

I particularly enjoy mentoring and helping participants get show reels and video together to promote themselves and their businesses. I have people of all ages and careers attending my TV and Web Presenting Course because the skills are very transferrable - from journalism students, to CEO's, people who want to set up You Tube channels, people who need to present in

Poised to Present From Postcards to Prayer Breakfast (continued)

their jobs and those who just want to be in TV commercials.

How important is your Christian faith to your life and to your work?

My Christian faith gives me that extra strength and confidence when I doubt my own. The focus shifts off self when you believe you are not in this alone and it's part of your destiny. Prayer calms and anchors me and gives me courage. And I always pray that I will be a blessing to others by sharing what I know and for the insight to know just how to help and work with someone.

What do you enjoy most about what you do?

I get to meet and work with such a diverse and wonderful mix of people, from eighteen year olds aspiring to be famous through to university students, researchers, and business people in their sixties just to name a few! And I love working with a creative team of videographers, editors, sound engineers and make up artists with the common goal of producing something wonderful! It's very rewarding to feel you've helped someone gain the confidence and skills to move forward, reach their potential and get them closer to achieving what they maybe only ever dreamt of!

Any other reflections on your life, faith or career?

"A candle loses nothing of its light when lighting another"

I love this quote because some people are afraid of sharing what they know for fear that someone might do it better and take opportunity from them. In my experience, sharing what I have learned over thirty years in the media industry has only brought me greater opportunities to extend my talents and potential and meet and work with some amazing people.

And I believe the best is still yet to come!!

Lisa's Top Tips for Nailing a Presentation

Preparation is key. You need to spend some time really thinking and working out what it is you are going to speak about. As soon as you know you have to give a presentation, start making some notes, jotting down ideas and thoughts - they don't have to be in order initially. You will find that you will be more attuned to picking up on relevant information. It may be something you hear on the radio, see online or someone is talking about. This is where you usually find the gems of your presentation.

Practice out loud. Re-write your speech if you need to, so that it sounds just like you and the way you talk.

Trust yourself. Once you have prepared and practiced and have your notes as back up, then trust your instinct in the moment to take the presentation to where it needs to go.

Express yourself. Use your hands to help express what you are saying - and be

aware of your body language when you are feeling most confident and replicate that.

Engage. Make eye contact and smile! Don't just smile with your mouth smile with your eyes too! If you are speaking about something good, look happy about it!

Work in some humour early on. If you can make your audience laugh, they will keep listening in the hope you will do it again. It doesn't have to be hilarious, mildly amusing will do. It shouldn't seem to be added in but arise naturally from what you are saying - keep a lookout for it in your information in stories, look for things that are weird, or incongruous, or ironic or silly.

Connect with your audience. Allow yourself some time to do a bit of bonding with the people in your audience beforehand, that way you will have some supporters already on side and willing to engage straight up.

Be yourself and be natural. But be a slightly heightened, slightly more confident, extroverted and enthusiastic version of yourself.

And finally - enjoy the experience!

Lisa McAskill is an experienced presenter with a successful career in the television, modelling, film and training industries. During her 30 year career she has:

- Presented on Channel 9's Postcards program for 14 years
- Presented on numerous local morning programs, corporate and training videos
- Featured in more than 70 local, national and international television commercials

- Been a successful model for 20 years
- Worked in production for Grundy's Wheel of Fortune

Lisa's technical skills and experience are underpinned by a lifetime passion for teaching. She is delighted to now share her knowledge through her training and workshop programs.

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MORE IN OUR BABY BOX. THAT'S ALL I WANT."
PASTOR LEE JONG-RUK

Over the past decade, Pastor Lee Jong-ruk has rescued hundreds of babies who would have otherwise been abandoned on the streets of Seoul, South Korea. The Drop Box is a heart-wrenching exploration of the physical, emotional and financial toll associated with providing refuge to orphans, yet it is also a story of hope – a reminder that every human life is sacred and worthy of love.

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Imogen's Chance

by Paula Vince

This is an engaging novel about Imogen Browne, a young woman who travels to Australia from the US after a prolonged absence

to face - and hopefully help restore - circumstances and relationships that were impacted by an unfortunate accident many years before. We discover another incident has occurred and it appears Imogen is the only one who knows the truth. Carrying significant guilt she promises God she will do anything to right the wrong she feels responsible for.

Invited back into the Dorazio home 15 years after she last stayed with them Imogen lands in the midst of yet another family crisis and wonders whether her timing could be worse.

When Asher, who is the same age as Imogen, reveals his battle with cancer she feels ill equipped to help him. Asher comes to appreciate Imogen's impartial view of his situation and she finds herself drawing closer to him as he relies on her support. The author describes with great sensitivity how Asher deals with surgery, chemotherapy and the battles of the heart and mind that he experiences along the way.

There is a chance meeting with a man who claims God healed him from leukaemia. Asher is sceptical, but curious. He and Imogen begin to question and to slowly hope that perhaps healing is possible. Having talked all his life about trusting God, Asher's cancer diagnosis challenges him to really put this trust to the test. Should he accept the diagnosis of terminal illness or did God intend something different? And why is it that God will heal one person but not another?

Interwoven with the story of Aunt Marian's accident and Asher's battle with cancer is the mystery of the circumstances surrounding Uncle Haydn's untimely death five years before.

This book is a reminder that God still has something to say to us through his Word. God is at work, but not always in ways we want or expect him to be.

The story is well written and beautifully descriptive. There is an unexpected twist towards the end and a level of suspense as we wait to see how things will work out for each of the characters.

'Imogen's Chance' is published by Even Before Publishing. It is available in paperback from Koorong (online and instore).

Reviewer: Wendy Rush



John Wesley: The man, his mission and his message

by David Malcolm Bennett

As the story of John

Wesley unfolds the beginning of Methodist teaching is revealed, with its foundational doctrine of salvation by grace, personal relationship with God, discipline in learning and understanding the scriptures, social justice, prayer and honest living. Wesley was ordained a Minister of the Church of England in 1728 but it was some time after he commenced preaching that he was overcome with the realisation of the saving grace of God. This was the start of fifty years of travelling and evangelising throughout Great Britain - he and his brother Charles, also an ordained Anglican minister and writer of many popular hymns, even travelled to the US for a time. To many, the message he brought was completely new, sometimes a shock, and often met with violent opposition.

Wesley travelled by horseback until well into his seventies, and reportedly spoke to crowds numbering in the tens of thousands. Angry mobs often tried to disrupt him but Wesley's quiet confidence in God's ability to deliver him from harm diffused situations that could have been dangerous.

This book reveals Wesley as a fallible human being. There was not much that stood in the way of Wesley's preaching - he once even preached on his knees when he had a broken ankle.

Wesley lobbied strongly against slavery, writing that 'slave holding' is never consistent 'with any degree of social justice' and is 'utterly inconsistent with mercy'.

Extracts from some of Wesley's sermons are interwoven with the narrative and give a real insight into the heart of the man and his passion for reaching as many as possible with the message of salvation.

This is a really interesting and inspiring story of Wesley's impact on so many. His influence extends beyond Methodism, with his legacy a key part of the history of Christian mission and evangelism throughout the world.

'John Wesley: The man, his mission and his message' is published by Rhiza Press. It is available in paperback from Koorong (online and instore).

Reviewer: Wendy Rush

By Dr Nick Hawkes

Leadership

Ours is an age in which people are crying out for leadership. We are weary of political expediency and are weary of managers who have no vision.

The Australian educationalist Tim Hawkes says:

- The easy bit of leadership is to use one's gifts for the betterment of oneself. The hard bit of leadership is to use one's gifts for the betterment of others.
- The easy bit of leadership is to be popular. The hard bit of leadership is to be unpopular.
- The easy bit of leadership is to wear the badge. The hard bit of leadership is to deserve the badge.
- The easy bit of leadership is to do what is popular. The hard bit of leadership is to do what is right.
- The easy bit of leadership is to deal with policy. The hard bit of leadership is to deal with people.
- The easy bit of leadership is enjoying its success. The hard bit of leadership is enduring its failure.
- The easy bit of leadership is to follow consensus. The hard bit of leadership is to follow conviction.
- The easy bit of leadership is conservation. The hard bit of leadership is innovation.
- The easy bit of leadership is coping with friends. The hard bit of leadership is coping with enemies.
- The easy bit of leadership is judging others. The hard bit of leadership is judging yourself.

The best example of any leader I know is Jesus. Why not follow it?

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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