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RISE

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When the supermodel met the designer

with Tracy Trinita

Labelled for life

by Chris Bowman



The power of unity

with Dr Graham Power

SA Prayer Breakfast Edition

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Cover: Tracy Trinita, former Indonesian supermodel, was in Australia to speak at 'When the Supermodel met the Designer' events



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when the **supermodel** met the **designer**

By Wendy Rush, with thanks to the City Bible Forum for their assistance.

Tracy Trinita is the very definition of an exotic beauty. But when she was young, this Balinese beauty with Dayak and Brazilian blood thought she was an ugly duckling – or giraffe - as her Brazilian heritage meant she was much taller than her school friends. When Tracy won the Elite Model Look International 1995 competition she was not only the first Indonesian to do so, but at 14 years of age she was offered a glamorous life in New York as a highly paid fashion model. Overnight, Tracy went from a figure of fun in the playground to being surrounded by fawning fashion industry workers, all focusing on her because... well, she really was beautiful.

As Indonesia's first supermodel Tracy went on to work for top designers such as Yves Saint Laurent, Jean Paul Gaultier, Kenzo, and Benetton on the catwalks of New York, Milan, Paris, Spain and Sydney. In Indonesia, Tracy's career moved into acting in films and television series and then to screenwriting and international music event promotion.

You might imagine this life was everything she'd hoped for. But surrounded by fame and glamour, she felt empty until she realised that people with faith were happier.

From the outside, the modelling industry appears to be very glamorous and many young people, particularly girls, aspire to be the next top model. What was your experience as a model like?

Tracy: I worked in various cities: Paris, New York, Milan, Sydney. After working as a model for some time I started to gain what I was looking for: fame and fortune, and I was hoping, as a result, for happiness. But there was a strange feeling that started to steal the joy in my heart that I couldn't explain at the time.

How did you become involved in the modelling industry?

Tracy: When I was 14 my mother sent my photo to the top teens magazines in Indonesia which hosted annual modelling competitions. One magazine chose me as one of their finalists and I became the winner. The same year my mother entered me into an international modelling competition held annually by Elite Models Management. I flew to Jakarta to compete and won, then flew to Seoul, Korea to represent Indonesia. I competed against 77 contestants from 65 countries and won: US\$50,000 and a two year contract with Elite Models in New York City.

How did you cope with the huge change from being a child in Indonesia one day, to being in the adult world of modelling in New York the next?

Tracy: When I first arrived in New York City, unaccompanied and excited, I suddenly found myself living in a new kind of paradise. The modelling agency forgot to pick me up at the airport so I just found my way to the posh hotel suite in Manhattan, with room service on demand and money to spend. At first I just went crazy and racked up a huge bill! But when I finally arrived at the model apartment the reality of my new life began to sink in as I started my new job. I felt like I was living in a dream world, but then the reality of hard, working life hit me. I had to stop thinking of Bali and start to make New York my home.

What were some of the challenges you faced?

Tracy: As a model, you spend your days going to auditions. You show up with your portfolio and the ones in charge will ask you a few questions. Sometimes, on a bad day, you will be scrutinized on everything about you: too skinny, too ugly, weird hair, not the right skin tone. Out of every 100 auditions you can expect to average about ten jobs. So I ended

up experiencing the same loss of confidence and self-doubt common amongst my model peers.

Then after a while, though I expected endless happiness through glamour and fame, I found myself discontented and lonely. When I would call home and speak to my friends and family they would fawn over how amazing and exciting my lavish life of travel and meeting celebrities must be. I found myself unable to tell others how I was feeling. After every day I would lie in my bed, stare at the ceiling, and just cry.

What did you most enjoy about being a model?

Tracy: I loved the traveling part, financial independence, and meeting new people every day.

What did you dislike the most?

Tracy: It was tough to be far from my family and friends, and the world of modelling is highly competitive.

What made you decide that modelling wasn't something you wanted to pursue?

Tracy: There was a point in my life when I just felt like I was going around in circles; everything was just the same, nothing new. I also felt really empty. And I just wanted to quit. But then I stayed.

But when I became a believer there was suddenly a new fuel in my life; not working for money or fame, but using my talent to bring glory to God. So at that point I quit because I wanted to try other work fields.

How did you come to make a decision to follow Christ?

Tracy: I really never thought I would be a believer one day. I expected that fortune and fame would bring the ultimate happiness, but I found myself discontented and lonely. Nothing in the glamour and name recognition and adoring fans could fill that void. I wondered if what was missing in my life was God. Growing up I was never taught anything about any faith in my family. I heard about it in school, or from my grandma, but I never personally believed in it. So one night in my room in New York City, I cried out to any God who might be listening, to please reveal Himself to me.

Not long after, I moved to Paris where I met a fellow Indonesian friend. After a while she invited me to come to church with her. I knew that my friend would never give up until I agreed, so I gave in.

As I entered the church, I realised that there was something different: the people were so simple, but glowing. No one wore glamorous clothes, no one wore much makeup, yet everyone's face seemed to be glowing with happiness. I was intrigued.

That was the beginning of my curiosity about faith. I didn't want to easily believe in the Christian faith. I needed to do my homework. I studied a few religions, and decided that the one with the best answers would be the right religion for me.

I'm grateful for the many people and many books that helped me to see clearly. After comparing the answers I found that only Jesus offered words that touched both my mind and also my heart. After taking time to consider many things about faith, I turned to Jesus as my Lord and Saviour.

How did this decision change your life?

Tracy: When I became a believer, I was so excited about life like never before. It was like God gave me a new vision and mission, and there was meaning and purpose in my

existence. I wanted my life to be even more meaningful. I joined many organisations: I was the ambassador for the World Health Organisation in Indonesia for the anti-tobacco campaign; I joined an orphanage ministry and YCAB¹ (at that time it was a drug prevention NGO); I joined church missions; I shared about Jesus to my friends.

Then I returned to the modelling world back in New York, but with a totally different mindset. I no longer felt I had to impress the world or gain fame and wealth. I just wanted to use my potential and at the same time make my Saviour known. Being a Christian gave me such a freedom to say no to ungodly things, because the most important opinion about you is what God sees in you. Ultimately I wanted to please God through using everything He had given me.

It seems a big jump from being a supermodel to an apologist². What led you to make this decision?

Tracy: Ever since I became a believer, I have been excited about life. I want to try and enlarge my potential. I became a writer for a magazine, a music promoter inviting famous singers to perform, I acted in movies and soap operas, I opened a fashion boutique, and finally one thing changed my life: going back to school under a scholarship. I studied Theology and Apologetics at the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics (OCCA) in the UK.

Why did you go on to study theology?

Tracy: At first, I was so hungry to learn more about God and I thought I would do that through weekly Bible study and Christian conferences.

When I got the scholarship to study at Oxford, it was mind-blowing! It was too good to be true, and I didn't deserve it at all. It was just like a miniature of God's grace: freely given.

Did I want to accept it or not, that was my decision. I did say yes and a few weeks later I was a student at OCCA-Oxford. Truly life changing!

How did you come to work with Ravi Zacharias International Ministries (RZIM)?

Tracy: Before joining RZIM I started working as a pastor at my church in Indonesia. In my second year of theological school I prayed to God about the direction of my life. I asked for specific guidance: "Lord, if you want me to be a full-timer, please send a pastor that would offer me a job to be a pastor in his/her church." For me, that would be the final confirmation. I didn't expect much, but God answered my prayer by sending an American



pastor, Dave Kenney, who lived in Jakarta. He came to Oxford for Summer school where he offered me a job, and so I accepted.

I worked as a pastor from 2009-2013 at the International English Service Church in Jakarta, Indonesia, and then in 2013 I joined RZIM as an itinerant speaker. It has been a blessing being in God's mission.

How would you compare your current life with your life as a supermodel?

Tracy: It's like I've had two different missions in life. Back then, everything I did was just for personal gain. Now, I want to use everything God's given me for His glory. Life is now more simple, focused, and purposeful.

Do you have a specific plan for your life, and what is it that you would most like to achieve in the future?

Tracy: I'm looking forward to visiting various cities in Australia and sharing what the Lord Jesus has done in my life, and I trust He has an amazing future for everyone who puts their trust in Him.

I'm extremely excited for missions in Java, Indonesia. God has put this in my heart for two years and I'm trying to open the door to reach out and prepare church leaders across the island of Java, especially since I know God is with me and by His grace everything is possible.

I want to be part of God's work in preparing generations to go deeper into Scripture and to bring transformation.

In the future I would love to continue sharing God's love, empowering women, and teaching life skills.

People keep saying we are living in the YOLO (you only live once) era, and they think they can do everything under the sun. I believe people should think deeper things about their lives: What's the meaning and purpose of their existence, why we are here, where do we go when we die, and many more important questions.

Because we only live once, let's make it count and have a sweet ending.

¹YCAB is the abbreviation for the organisation's full name in the Indonesian language, Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa, which translates to "Loving The Nation's Children Foundation".

²An apologist is someone who offers an argument in defence of something, using information to counter criticism or objections.



Tracy Trinita was in Australia during August and September, sharing her journey from the catwalk to meeting the designer she's been modelling for since birth at the 'When the fashion model met the designer' events in Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.

Tracy was brought to Australia by Ravi Zacharias International Ministries and City Bible Forum.

For more on these organisations:
citybibleforum.org, rzim.org



The Universe and You

By Dr Nick Hawkes

The universe is nearly empty. If you felt like packing a picnic and travelling to another star, you had better pack a lot of sandwiches because the average distance between stars is thirty million, million kilometres. And if you were randomly inserted into the universe, the chances of you being on, or even near, a planet would be one in a billion, trillion, trillion. It's no wonder that the cosmologist, Carl Sagan said, "worlds are very precious".

Therefore, let's look after the one we've got. Despite listening to the electro-magnetism from many other suns, planets and moons, we have never found life on another planet.

All of this prompts the rather obvious question, why did God go to all the bother of making a very large universe – if we are the only intelligent life forms in it?

Well, as it turns out, scientists tell us that the universe needs to be as big as it is to allow life to develop on a single planet. If it were any smaller, gravity would have caused all the matter in the universe to crunch together before any life had time to develop.

I can't help thinking that God was also showing off. A 3,000 year old song in the Old Testament says, The heavens proclaim his handiwork.

So, when was the last time you looked up into the night sky ...and said, "Wow!" to God?

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

Labelled for Life

By Chris Bowman

Whether we like it or not, our labels shape how we see ourselves and how in turn the world sees us. When our labels tell us we are accepted, we belong and we have value – we will thrive. But what if your label reads: Prisoner’s Kid? What then?

This is a question we at Second Chances SA ask all the time. What labels has society given to prisoners’ kids? And more importantly, what labels do they give themselves?

The Labels They Carry

The first time I visited the home of a prisoner’s kid (PK) – the eldest daughter was at home in the middle of the day. Turns out she wasn’t at school after having been physically bullied there the day before.

At the second home I visited a few hours later, a teenage son was still recovering from the trauma of having been beaten up earlier that week by a pack of classmates outside his local fast food hangout. When I think of the label these two young people would have used to describe themselves that day, I fear it may be ‘worthless.’

I have since heard stories of young daughters of prisoners looking for affection and attention in the wrong places and of young sons getting involved with the wrong crowds. If we could ask them deep down what label they are looking for, I dare say it would simply be to be accepted and valued.

In listening to stories like these from our PK (Prisoners’ Kids) Family Care Team and our PK Mentoring Camps coordinators, the message is pretty clear – being the child of a prisoner is a tough gig.

The Cost of the Label

When a parent goes to prison (or in some cases when both parents go to prison), there

is always a huge impact on the family. There are emotional, practical, social and financial consequences. These can be enormous and in many cases it is the family, not the prisoner, who is left to deal with them. I recently met a grandmother in her 60s who had taken on sole custody of her four youngest grandchildren after both parents were sentenced to prison. This grandma loves her grandkids and has taken extreme measures to give them a fighting chance in life but you can hear it in her voice – she mourns her grandchildren’s loss of their childhood and laments the loss of her ‘golden years.’ She is no longer simply a doting grandma; she is now their mum and dad instead.

I was sceptical the first time I heard the statistic that prisoners’ kids are anywhere between five to seven times more likely than their peers to one day end up serving time in prison. ‘Crime isn’t hereditary’ I told myself so what exactly is the story here? I think it has everything to do with their labels. Unfortunately many of the prisoners’ kids we work with grow up being labelled unwanted and useless – sometimes by their families, sometimes by their peers, sometimes by society.

When these are the negative labels you grow up hearing and believing early in life there comes a point when the labels become self-fulfilling prophecies. This is why crime becomes intergenerational. As the saying goes, ‘Hurt people hurt people.’

A New Label

Jesus has some very different ‘labels’ for the children of prisoners. In Matthew 19, Jesus becomes indignant when his disciples try and block children from coming to be blessed by Him. He makes it very clear that children matter dearly to Him and that if anything, the disciples have much to learn from them and their child-like faith.

Later on in Matthew, Jesus tells his disciples on the Mount of Olives that in serving the hungry, thirsty, sick, and imprisoned they are in fact serving Him. Jesus seems to have a deep heart for children and for prisoners. I dare say His labels of love for the children of prisoners would read: created, cared for, and celebrated.

Jesus sees beyond the superficial labels we carry and instead sees deep into our hearts. In 1 Samuel 16:7b we read, ‘The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’ What if we could follow this example too?

As a society and as individuals, we cannot dictate the choices people make. The societal and economic gaps that perpetuate generational poverty, unemployment, and incarceration are enormous. But we are not helpless and we are not without options to advocate for the voiceless.

The children of prisoners are the invisible victims of crime because we as a wider society have allowed them to be unseen and unheard. What if we followed Jesus’ example by seeing beyond the superficial labels and began to use our words and our actions to reshape the labels prisoners’ kids carry? What if we instilled and championed value, belonging, and acceptance into their hearts?

At Second Chances SA our goal is to uplift prisoners’ kids. All our programs are custom-designed to help these kids by equipping them to make good choices in their own lives so they can create crime-free futures for themselves.

Together, we can change the labels and in doing so, we can change lives.



Second Chances SA has recently compiled a report, prepared by Nova Smart Solutions, titled Prisoners' Kids: The Invisible Victims of Crime. If you would like to know more about the plight of prisoners' kids here in SA and would like a copy of this report, please email office@secondchances.org.au or call 8272 0323.

Chris Bowman is Prisoners' Kids Community Advocate for Second Chances SA. He has a passion for human stories and for the lessons we can learn from them. He blogs on his website WheresTheScript.com





Sanctuary Corner: An Oasis of Hope in Outback SA

In South Australia's mid-north, a quiet revolution is happening as a result of the collaboration of a number of churches, and the care of individuals for those who are struggling.

Article by Felicity Squires

Sanctuary Corner Café and Gifts is a small, unobtrusive store in the Ellen Centre carpark, so much so that the occasional customer will exclaim, "I didn't even know this was here!" You could be forgiven for thinking that the advertising team needs to step it up if newcomers are still surprised at its existence after two years of trading. God has provided this little café and gift shop with endless opportunities to help those who are struggling and feed those who are hungry both physically and spiritually.

When you take a closer look at Port Pirie's statistics, you could be forgiven for thinking the town is in trouble. Unemployment is high, drugs and alcohol are wreaking havoc on families, homelessness and health issues are occurring around each corner. You'd also be forgiven if you didn't realise that so much was happening. For many of its residents,

Port Pirie's problems are kept at arm's reach inside the shadows.

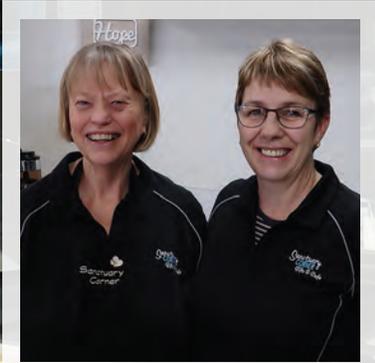
But all is not lost. There are many people working to improve the lifestyle and future of Port Pirie. This humble café in the carpark is working to help combat the issues surrounding Port Pirie's residents, in particular, its youth. The café was opened with the intention of helping those on the fringes of Port Pirie have a safe place to come and sit awhile surrounded by love and compassion. It has become a refuge for many customers and staff that work each day.

It all started with a group of dedicated individuals who met for prayer weekly in 2012. This group of people wanted to help the residents of Port Pirie and build up the town. In September of 2013 the Port Pirie Christian Bookshop was asked to leave the building it was renting and by the grace of God an empty building appeared. So the bookshop moved into the current location with an empty space next door. Prayer continued for guidance as to what to do with the empty space.

In May of 2014 the café began with donations from many kind people. The coffee machine was donated by Café Connex, a café that had previously closed. The tables and chairs were donated by a church in Adelaide. The outdoor pavers and latte glasses were donated by the manager's son and daughter-in-law Lee and Kendall.

The café and bookshop are run by Barbara Jackson and staffed by a dedicated team of volunteers. The proceeds of the two shops go towards helping the youth and people of Port Pirie. In 2015 a Community Project Officer was appointed with part of the profits. Louise Bellefemini works with churches of Port Pirie as the Community Project Officer, helping local families.

High school students and young adults are given the opportunity to volunteer at the café learning skills necessary to work in the hospitality industry without the need for prior experience. Everyone is welcome and trained up in a supportive and calming environment. This training and the atmosphere allows them to excel at the skills they acquire and gain employment in the future. The management team work



Joy Quin and Barb Jackson are the two leading ladies of the café and bookshop.

“a safe place to come and sit awhile surrounded by love and compassion.”

diligently to place people where their strengths are, allowing workers to flourish.

As a registered charity, individuals both young and old are able to work the hours required to qualify for their Centrelink payments. It can be a tough journey having to look for employment in a town with a high unemployment rate. Self-esteem gets beaten down by the constant rejection, and hope for the future dwindles. Sanctuary Corner Café and Gifts is a place of nurturing and acceptance where anyone can help out. There are always serviettes to fold, dishes to wash or vegetables to chop if front of house work isn't for you.

Although run by the churches, it is not a brazenly religious place. Christian music plays quietly in the background and a majority of the staff working each day have a faith. They are happy to pray with any of the customers or staff who are struggling at any time. Many of the young workers don't know Jesus but feel comfortable enough to ask questions of the older staff.

Sanctuary Corner is just as its name suggests, a refuge from the harsh world outside its

doors. Some of the young people who work in the café have very real struggles outside of the café walls but Sanctuary Corner is a place of peace, encouragement, acceptance and love. Dylan, who has been working for a couple of months, says that to begin with he didn't want to work in the café. He was used to working in the trades but his friend told him about everyone there and how kind the staff are. He says that before he started at Sanctuary Corner he used to get angry about thirty times a day but since working in the café he hasn't even been angry thirty times.

Dylan is a different young man as a result of his time at the café. When he first arrived he was nervous about all the tasks which gave rise to his anger. With the constant encouragement, care and love of the staff Dylan has flourished and now you can see him laughing and joking with the others. Sanctuary Corner has the ability to calm you down and make you smile. You will find many customers who will tell you the very same thing. So if you find yourself in Port Pirie, stop in to Sanctuary Corner Café and Gifts. The staff are always happy to chat, pray and encourage. Everyone is welcome.



Felicity Squire is both a Schools Ministry Group pastoral care worker and a Uniting Care Wesley Country SA support worker while working at creating a freelance writing career in her spare time. She hopes to be a conduit for God to speak to his children and remind them of his glory and love. She strives to help anyone she can in her everyday life, using the lessons she has learnt to help others to succeed.

The Power of

Dr Graham Power, Executive Chairman of the Power Group of Companies, South Africa, talks to RISE about running an ethical business in a corrupt environment, his vision for his company and for his country, and the power of prayer.

Article by Wendy Rush

In 1983 Graham Power started Power Construction with one staff member and one vehicle. He never envisaged that the Power Group would one day employ nearly 2,000 people and become one of the largest privately owned civil engineering companies in Southern Africa. In those early days of small beginnings, Graham was a young man who had worked for one of the largest construction companies in his province. He had worked hard and climbed the corporate ladder but he found there was a cost to every promotion, the greatest of which was his family life.

“I was married to Lauren, my childhood sweetheart, who encouraged me to take the bold step of leaving my ‘safe place’ and going out on our own. My father-in-law assisted with some financial seed money and together we set out on a journey that would last for the rest of my life.

“We never set out with a well-defined vision, we just wanted to be able to secure the benefits of my hard work for my family and to escape the red tape of a large corporate company. We wanted to determine our own destiny and not march to a tune being played by someone else.”

Graham believes that the growth of the company and the exponential doubling of their turnover in the first five years was due to the quality of the people he surrounded himself with.

“Many of my colleagues from my first company indicated that they would count it an honour to join me should the opportunity present itself. These people had a desire to improve their status; they had a strong work ethic and were faithful. Interestingly some of these people have been with Power since our inception.

“We also set about creating visual graphs and charts, setting clear goals and targets for each operation on every project. This meant that employees who had been doing

manual labour such as brick laying or truck driving for many years could now see the hourly progress and results of their labour and could get excited about their work. As we set goals, achieved our objectives and created a strongly participative and competitive work force we saw the company expand. Self monitoring and goal setting allowed us to get the best out of every staff member.”

The growth of the Power Group is all the more remarkable when you realise that Graham was determined to run his company ethically in a country where corruption is endemic. And the global Corruption Perception Index (DPI) shows that South Africa has dropped significantly over the past 10 years.

“We are currently number 72 out of 175 countries monitored by Transparency International, and there is no evidence that we are able to change this perception.

“Our situation is further compounded by the fact that many of our high-ranking government officials are either involved in corruption clandestinely or overtly. Our president, Mr Jacob Zuma, is currently facing corruption charges and there is a growing tide of public displeasure with the degree of wastage and misappropriation of government funds.

“Despite this situation most South Africans believe that our Constitution has within its scope to protect and purge our nation of this crime that ultimately affects the poorest. The truth is the corruption in Africa is systemic and the result is systemic poverty.”

Graham likens systemic corruption to a cancer that is chewing away at the very core of South Africa’s society, where the source is often greed and self-empowerment at the expense of others. He says the problem of corruption breeds in an environment where there is minimal or no accountability and where nepotism and cronyism become the accepted norms.

“It takes great courage to stand against the tide. The ‘flow’ of corruption is like a filthy, dirty river and it is only as we join together as individuals, government and businesses that we will be able to stem the flow.

Making a stand against corruption means standing up in the crowd and being willing to lose contracts or deals for the sake of justice. I believe that despite the difficulties and the challenges presented by running an ethical company it is possible to do clean business, make a profit and be successful.”

Graham’s desire to make a stand against corruption led him to found the Unashamedly Ethical Campaign which promotes ethics, values and clean living across all sectors of society. The campaign is currently sweeping South Africa, Africa and across the globe and is bringing about a tangible change to the lives of individuals, and even whole companies and industries.

“The decision to start Unashamedly Ethical was as the result of a vision that the Lord gave me. The words of 2 Chronicles 7:14 ‘if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land’ became the foundational call of this vision. First we called the body of Christ around the world to gather, unite and pray. This was the beginning of the Global Day of Prayer which over ten years became the largest prayer gathering in all recorded history.

“Then I believe that God impressed on me, with another vision, that now was the time for us to turn from our wicked ways. This was the beginning of the second wave”.

The first step in setting up Unashamedly Ethical (UE) was to encourage individuals and business owners to sign the UE pledge form. This would serve as a public reminder of the pledge to honour values, ethics and clean living. This meant that there would be accountability to expose collusion and corruption. There are currently tens of thousands of individuals and five thousand companies who have already signed this pledge form in South Africa.

The second step was to establish an electronic database that gives the public the opportunity to select and work with like-minded companies and individuals, knowing their practices are ‘above board’.

Unity

The third initiative was the implementation of an ombudsman to handle any complaints or queries from signatories regarding the non-ethical behaviour of UE members.

“There is no doubt that we are seeing a growing awareness amongst people of all walks of life and that there is a growing desire to do the right thing. There is traction and a growing brand identification with companies using the UE logo on vehicles and letterheads. We believe that we will soon be reaching a tipping point.”

But in the beginning, Graham recalls that aiming to be a totally ethical company was not an easy decision to act upon and even some of his colleagues and managers doubted the company could continue being financially viable.

“Looking back with hindsight, we can see that our company expanded and that we have impacted some of the practices within the construction industry, but at the time we did not know what the consequences of our decision would be.”

When Graham became a Christian he had no idea what God had in store for him.

“I accepted the Lord in 1998, at the age of 43 when my company was well established and I was financially secure. I had all the trimmings that made life exciting; holiday homes, fast cars, farms, boats and prestige in the corporate world.

“At this time I was a Christmas and Easter Christian and despite having a praying mother, never seriously considered the place of God in my life. I was frequently invited to men’s gatherings. One such meeting was a breakfast where the South African cricketer Peter Pollock shared his testimony. At the conclusion of the meeting I gave lip service to a prayer of commitment. Blindly repeating the words, I never imagined how that morning would become the turning point of my life. It was a watershed day.

“A few weeks later, alone in my study I got on my knees and with much repentance surrendered my life to Christ 24/7 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).”

When Graham felt God’s call to start Transformation Africa, the Global Day of Prayer and Unashamedly Ethical – each

in themselves significant initiatives – he understandably felt some trepidation.

“God clearly spoke to me about these movements in a vision. The words and clarity of the vision were so clear that I prefer to call them an instruction. As a new Christian my response was one of much apprehension. My strongest opposition came from the disunity and tension between Charismatic and traditional denominations. The church in our city was divided and in some cases even hostile towards the notion of working together.”

Graham and his wife Lauren also ‘host’ Eagles Rising Ministry on Elandskloof Farm (from where the business operated for the first few years). Eagles Rising is home to teenagers who grew up in black-only townships or ghettos.

“When I started my own company in 1983, Lauren, our three young children and I lived on the farm, Elandskloof. Situated three kilometres from this place is a large squatter community where people live in tin shacks with no running water and exterior toilets. The poverty is overwhelming and unless someone steps in, the youth of this community are locked into a hopeless future.

“Lauren and I felt that we wanted this place to be a place of refuge and hope. Young people between the ages of 25 -30 are invited to join a one year program. Throughout the year they are trained in Biblical principles, equipped with technology and leadership training. Each student is empowered by mentors who walk with them and help them to discover their destiny. At the completion of the year we help them to find employment or to further their studies.

“The vision for the centre is to empower young people to discover their true destiny in Christ and to assist them as they find their calling and participate as responsible citizens, ready to bring about change in our nation.”

Graham’s family was his primary motivation for taking that initial bold step of establishing his own business all those years ago - and they are still at the heart of everything he does.

“Second to my relationship with the Lord, my family are the most important people in my life. Lauren and I have three children, of which the eldest two are married, and five grandchildren and nothing brings me more joy than spending time with my family.”

As for the future, Graham says that Africa is still regarded as the most corrupt continent but his desire and prayer is to see this change in the next few years.

“It is anticipated that by 2050 Africa will have the largest population, and so we need to prepare ourselves for what lies ahead. Our company’s 100 year goal is to improve the quality of life in Africa through infrastructure development. I intend to live every day of my life in seeing this goal accomplished.

“Looking back over the years I know that obedience and faith have brought the greatest joy to my life. There are no words to describe the joy of handing over house keys to an 80 or 90 year old woman who has never owned a home. Her tears of gratitude and her shaky hug make my heart fill with joy and I know that the best is yet to come.”

See these websites for more about the Power Group powergrp.co.za, Global Day of Prayer globaldayofprayer.com and Unashamedly Ethical unashamedlyethical.com.

Dr Graham Power is the founder and Chairman of the Power Group of Companies, one of Southern Africa’s leaders in the field of civil engineering construction, turnkey property development and infrastructure. He is the initiator and leader of the movement that has come to be known as the “Global Day of Prayer” and the founder of the Unashamedly Ethical Campaign. He is a published author and holds an Honorary Doctor of Letters Degree from Nyack College and the Alliance Theological Seminary in White Plains, New York. Graham was in Adelaide to speak at the South Australian Prayer Breakfast.





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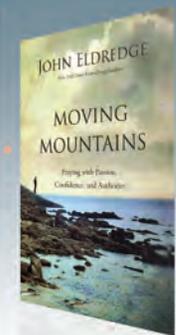
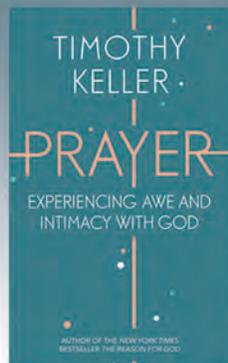
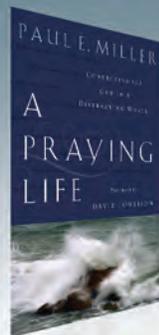
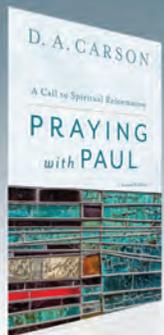


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6.30-7.00pm: Arrival

7.00-9.00pm: Session 1 (Edgar Mayer)

SATURDAY

9.00-9.30am: Arrival

9.30-11.00am: Session 2 (Edgar Mayer)

11.00-11.30am: Morning Tea

11.30-1.30pm: Session 3 (Rolland Baker)

Lunch

3.30-5.00pm: Session 4 (Rolland Baker)

5.00-6.00pm: Light Dinner

6.00-8.00pm: Session 5 (Rolland Baker)

SUNDAY

9.00-9.30am: Arrival

9.30-11.00am: Session 6 (Barry Manuel)

11.00-11.30am: Morning Tea

11.30-1.30pm: Session 7 (Rolland Baker)

Lunch

3.30-5.00pm: Session 8 (John Alley)

5.00-6.00pm: Light Dinner

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