

SALT & LIGHT

a black and white voice in a grey world of politics

Jesus said: "Ye are the salt of the earth ... Ye are the light of the world ..." (Matthew 5:13-14)

the Online journal for

Christian
Democratic Party
(Fred Nile Group)



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General Editor

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December AD 2008 Edition includes:

- Welcome & Editorial
- Bible Devotion
- President's Report
- Deputy's Support
- Office Update
- Young CDP
- Branch News
- Hot Topics
- Helpful Ideas
- Views & Reviews
- To cheer & To challenge
- Health & Humor
- Prayer & Benediction

Welcome to a very special edition, our FIRST issue of 'Salt & Light' - the online journal of the Christian Democratic Party. Our mission is to be 'a **black & white voice in a grey world of politics**'. We also aim to equip, empower and encourage YOU - our large CDP family and friends in your political ministry. We trust that you'll find 'Salt & Light' informative, instructive and inspirational and that it keeps YOU up to date with what 's going on in the life of our one-of-a-kind party, the personal ministry of our founding president, Rev Fred Nile and the State & the Federal parliaments.

Friends we have an amazing window of opportunity before us at the moment on the political scene. Consider this:

1. The NSW State government is held by a thread. It could collapse at anytime. It is so weak and vulnerable on so many levels that even the media dares to call for its resignation.

2. On the federal scene, the opposition/Liberal party under the leadership of Mr. Malcolm Turnbull are not a much better alternative to the conservative voter, since Mr. Turnbull has defended abortion and a woman's right to choice at a speech given at this year's national [Australian Christian Lobby \(ACL\)](#) conference held in Canberra. Mr. Turnbull said women had the right to

end an unwanted pregnancy. "It is their choice," he said. (source - Rev. Dr Ross Clifford's email 11/11/08)

This situation creates a natural void which will certainly be filled sooner rather than later. Will it be CDP or the Greens????

We, the CDP, believe Government is a God-ordained sacred institution with a God-given specific instruction to: promote justice, provide freedom, protect order, punish evil, *and* praise what's good. Good government will, therefore, serve its citizens with justice, freedom and order, rather than subject them to control, corruption and political correctness.

The Greens don't believe that at all!!!!

Unlike the Greens and others who cast their lot according to political correctness and/or party line, we the CDP are willing and able to stand up for and to speak out on family & marriage, freedom of speech, funding for education, free enterprise, financial integrity, etc... That's why it is crucial for our nation's future that we secure this void for CDP.

We ALL want to preserve traditional marriage and protect family values, then for the sake of our future generations, we need to secure this void for CDP. Now let's put our energy and effort in working strategically and effectively in synergy ,together as ONE, towards ONE goal, with ONE purpose to tell our story and share our message .

In closing, we wish ALL of our wonderful CDP family and friends 'a happy Christmas AD 2008 & a blessed new Year AD 2009'

With the Love of Christ
Peter
General Editor



BIBLE DEVOTION

Rev. Peter Rahme - CDP Deputy President

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God..... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.(John 1:1,14)

When Jesus Christ graced our planet over 2000 years ago, heaven and earth embraced! The impossible made possible and the unreachable reachable, the invisible God who is out sight is now dwelling within reach!

His life is unique, His love is unconditional and His leadership is unparalleled!
His grace is undeserved; His mercy is unmerited and His peace is unsurpassed!
His person is unchanging, His power is unlimited and His passion is undeniable!
His mission is unmatched, His message is uncompromising and His ministry is uncomplicated!

The wind and the waves obey His voice. Death and disease jump at His command. Because of Him the blind could see, the deaf could hear, the lame could walk and the hungry is fed.

Jesus Christ is the most amazing person ever lived!!! Never before was there and never again will there ever be such a person like Jesus Christ! He is the only figure in history that one can refer to in past, present and/or future tense and still makes sense out of the sentence!

His supernatural entry through Mary's virgin womb, and spectacular exit of Joseph's empty tomb! Jesus of Nazareth is simply incomparable. Immortal in his omnipotence, immeasurable in his omnipresence and immutable in his omniscience, the attributes of the Lord Jesus Christ are naturally incomprehensible.

Minds cannot sufficiently explore the amazing grace of His redemption story! Mouths cannot adequately explain the awesome greatness of His resurrection glory!

The finest philosophers in the world, if they're unable to step outside the box of human reasoning and unwilling to see inside the Book of divine-revelation, will be unreliable in their definition of *God of all the earth* and unreasonable in their description of *the Lord of Glory*. The best that their finite mind can come up with, in a sort of a hit-or-miss approach or a sincere-but-poor attempt, is to present Jesus Christ as *a mythological person, a mysterious puzzle, a mystical poet, a melancholy philosopher, a mad preacher or at best a mere prophet*.

On the other hand, the infinite wisdom of God proclaims Jesus Christ as '*the light of the world*', '*the bread of life*' and '*the hope of glory*'. The Bible says that *by Him* all things were created [Colossians 1:16](#), *in Him* all things consist [Colossians 1:17](#), *with Him* all things are possible, [Mark 10:27](#) and *through Him* all things can be done [Philippians 4:13](#)

History, from Creation to Revelation tells HIS story. He is called the Prince of Princes, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

He is bigger than the biggest miracle worker ever lived, better than the best master teacher of all-time and holier than all the holy prophets put together. His book is perfect, His blood is precious and His bride is pure! His word is alive, His will is empowering and His way is narrow!

An encounter with Jesus Christ is an encounter with God. His authentic figure is true and His authority on faith is trustworthy. He paid for your sins in full, provided your salvation for free and promised your security forever. So take Him at His word and trust Him with your heart.

In Closing –

The beauty of CHRISTmas is appreciated most, when we reflect on how God graced our planet with his *presence* in the person of His Son - The Lord Jesus Christ.

The blessing of CHRISTmas is enjoyed best, when we remember *God's reason* and realize *Man's response* to the personal visit to earth by the KING of Kings and LORD of Lords. **Jesus is the reason for the season and you are the reason for his coming.**

May all the beauty and blessing of CHRISTmas be upon you and your family now and for evermore!!!

With the Love of Christ
Peter



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rev Fred Nile MLC - CDP Founder & President

Introduction

Elaine and I have greatly valued the many emails of prayerful support, especially at this time of Elaine's illness. Elaine is recovering during the chemotherapy treatment with no serious side effects. The cancer of the liver is responding to the treatment and the specialist is very pleased with Elaine's progress. On Saturday 6th of December 2008, Elaine and I will be celebrating our 50th Wedding Anniversary with a special luncheon with our friends and supporters and an evening dinner with our children and grandchildren. We thank Almighty God for His abundant overflowing blessings all the days of our lives.

2. Right Rev Dr Sebastian Bakare, Bishop of Harare, Zimbabwe, Australian Tour

Bishop Bakare accepted my invitation to speak at Christian Democratic Party sponsored meetings in NSW and WA to share news about the suffering and hardship of the Zimbabwean people, under the murderous regime of President Mugabe. An extensive itinerary has been arranged for NSW as per the attached [schedule](#) and [publicity leaflet](#).

3. CDP Financial Support

We need your vital prayers and financial support for the tour and CDP's ongoing campaign for Godly Government, as CDP is completely dependent on your donations. You can be assured that we maintain a careful watch over all expenditure, as good stewards of the Lord's provision. Please ignore all mischievous gossip concerning our CDP funds, the future of CDP and the Family World News. We have great plans for 2009 as we prepare for the next Federal and State Elections. Our CDP Executive Committee has granted Wally Vanderpoll, our CDP State Manager, four weeks stress leave on his doctor's advice, and has appointed Pastor Peter Rahme as Acting State Manager. For family reasons, concerning his wife's mother, Wally and his wife have now moved to Kendall, near Port Macquarie, so they can provide personal

care and support. Please pray for Wally and his wife Sue at this stressful time in their lives.

4. United States Election -

Finally, Barack Hussein Obama has been elected as the President of the United States of America, after an intensive campaign, with the backing of the Democratic Party, the Trade Union Movement, University students, Newspapers and TV stations and, sadly, young 'evangelicals'. The pro abortion media keep claiming that Obama won by a landslide, whereas in fact the popular vote was 66,760,924 for Obama and 58,279,894 votes for McCain – the USA is divided down the centre. McCain led the campaign under the burden of President George Bush, who is the most unpopular USA President, with only 25% popular support. A number of pro-Democrat Christian leaders cleverly promoted Obama to the Churches, especially the young evangelicals, whose votes would decide the outcome. Obama campaigned on the slogan "Change we can believe in" to which his audience was guided to respond "Yes, we can". However, Obama never clearly explained what "change"? Change to what? Obama's voting record in the Senate, from 2004 to 2008, gives a clearer idea of what changes he wants for the USA. Refer my Presidential Email No. 11 November, 2008 for Obama's voting record.

5. Threats To Remove The Lord's Prayer

There are vigorous efforts to remove the Opening Prayer based on Romans 13:1-14 and the Lord's Prayer from our Federal and State Parliaments. Christians, particularly Church Leaders, must be vigilant in ensuring the Australian Parliaments continue to commence with the Lord's Prayer. Write to Hon Kevin Rudd MP, Prime Minister, with a copy to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Mr Harry Jenkins MP, urging the retention of our Christian Heritage, a unifying value in our Australian society. I am pleased Mr Rudd and Mr Turnbull have stated their support for the Lord's Prayer.

6. Financial Collapse – An Economic Crisis

The dramatic collapse of the economic system and the failure of banks etc, has shaken the economic foundations of every nation, including Australia. Prime Minister Rudd has given \$10.9 billion to try and bolster Australia's economic system.

This economic collapse has shown the folly of greed and the relevance of the warning of Jesus Christ, who taught "for what shall it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul". It also should raise questions about churches that preach the "Gospel of Prosperity" which has deceived many Christians.

7. John Whitehead from The Rutherford Institute on politicizing abortion

Over the past three decades, pro-abortion and pro-life groups have raised and poured millions, if not billions, of dollars into political campaigns and legal battles aimed at furthering their agendas. Yet, as

John Whitehead reminds viewers in this week's vodcast, the politicizing of abortion has unfortunately done little to actually help women deal with the crisis of an unplanned, unwanted pregnancy.

[On Target](#) with John Whitehead is a video blog that provides viewers with Whitehead's insightful, relevant and provocative take on popular culture and constitutional issues. Whitehead is considered by many to be a legal, political and cultural watchdog—sounding the call for integrity, accountability and an adherence to the democratic principles on which this country was founded. As Whitehead often remarks, "Anytime people find themselves under fire from both the liberal left and the conservative right, it means that that person is probably right on target."

8. International Call for the Rights and Dignity of the Human Person and Family

I invite you to support this instrumental [petition](#) to the United Nations' General Assembly to request special protection for the unborn child, parent's rights and the importance of marriage and the family. The radical pro-abortion groups are presenting petitions to the UN to make abortion a universal right, so we must help to defeat them!

9. Please pray for my coming activities

December

- 1st ICAC Public Hearing, Romanian National Day
- 2-4 Sitting of NSW Parliament
- 2nd NSW Council of Churches. NSW Farmers' Association
- 3rd Bishop of Harare Luncheon NSW Parliament House
- 6th ACNA Christian Luncheon/Fred and Elaine's 50th Wedding Anniversary
- 7th Padstow Congregational Church Anniversary
- 9-11 Sitting of NSW Parliament
- 13th CDP Christmas Luncheon - Homebush
- 17th CFS Christmas Celebration



WHEN ONLY THE BASICS COUNT

Rev. Dr. Ross Clifford - CDP Deputy President

I have just conducted a funeral for the mother of a friend. This mother had served for 60 years in the church where the funeral was held. As a Principal of a theological college I don't get the same opportunity to share in people's lives at funerals as I did as a Pastor, and I appreciated being asked.

As I was preparing the service with the two sons, one of whom has a Ph.D and is a graduate of my college, and the other is a leading professional in our community, it became evident they were drawn to their mother's 'simple' faith as she approached death. 'Blessed Assurance was her favourite hymn',

and 'she faced death so bravely just trusting in her Lord', I was told. She focused on faith and family and was so strong.

As the two sons were sharing my eyes were drawn to a poster in my study. It is a poster that is based on Robert Fulghum's book, 'All I really need to know I learned in kindergarten'. The poster declares true wisdom is not found in graduate school, but in the lessons learnt at kindergarten and the sand pile of Sunday school. Isn't that so true. I have hung the poster in my study so I won't be carried away by the thick scholarly tomes on the shelves!

At the funeral service the eulogies focused on this woman's 'basic' faith and principles she taught her children. I reminded the mourners of Paul's promise that nothing will separate us from the love of Christ and he said this is true for all who meditate upon and trust in Jesus' cross and resurrection (Romans 8:31-39). In facing death, and the trials and struggles of life, only the basics count.

Mystery writer Agatha Christie apparently grasped the reality of the 'basics'. The evidence for this is a prized possession she left by her deathbed. It was a Thomas à Kempis's little instruction book, 'The Imitation of Christ'. On the fly-leaf in her own hand were found the words of Romans 8.

In my legal days my mentor was an old barrister, Harry May. He used to say to clients and lawyers if they were going on and on about something, 'Gee you annoy me when you confuse yourself!' It is easy to annoy when we think our words and thoughts are showing the Gospel in new and eloquent ways.

We should have an informed, well thought out, Christian world view. But Evangelicals are known for their ability to follow the 'KISS' principle. May our churches be places where the 'basics', yes a simple faith, truly counts.



OFFICE UPDATE

Acting State Manager – Rev. Peter Rahme

New CDP Office / Headquarters - We are very pleased that it has been possible to move from our former CDP Office at Pymble, to our new headquarters at 9 Exeter Rd Homebush West (next door to Inner West Baptist Church) . Our new CDP headquarters includes our CDP Office, conference Room and kitchen, so our CDP Management and Council meetings can be held there as well as our future 'Fred Nile School of Politics'.

CDP Christmas Party Luncheon -Our Annual CDP Christmas Celebration, for all CDP Members and Supporters, will be held at 12:30pm on Saturday 13th December, 2008. Please RSVP to the CDP Office. Phone Narelle on (02) 9144 4568. Donation per person \$20.00. Our monthly Management Committee meeting will also be held at 9 am and the NSW Council meeting at 10.30 am.



YOUNG CDP

Pastor Sean & Jeanette Nolan – Chairman, Young CDP & Liaison Officer

2008 has been such an amazing time for YCD. On behalf of the YCD team we are thankful for God for all that He has done in YCD this year. Two highlights to especially thank God for. The first being the first YCD convention being held in August this year, we had 35 attendees and God really open the door for young people to catch the vision for YCD. The second being the YCD Formal Dinner. Our theme for that evening was Operation A.R.K "Leaving a Legacy", there were 90 people who attended the evening. Many of these young people through this event have committed to the vision of YCD and we are all looking forward to what God is going to do with YCD in 2009. All glory to God for this amazing and exciting ministry.



BRANCH NEWS

HUNTER BRANCH - J M Kendall and M Caine.

A Report on a pro-life meeting held in Wheeler place on a day of God's compassion For small person and others affected by abortion.

It was our privilege and opportunity to attend a gathering in Hunter Street Newcastle, to show the heart of God, and his compassion for those affected by the acts of abortion carried out in our fair country. The meeting was organized by Doctor Glenda Lattimore, Convenor of the National Day of Mourning and Compassion and her friends. Milton was able to invite the attendees to write to the attorney general about the issue and a sample letter was handed out to all present. We all went for a march of compassion, to show that God's heart is the one that is broken about this issue, and we each clasped the Golden cord that joined us all together (symbolizing the umbilical cord).When our heart beats with God's heart, we will see this issue resolved. There were many meeting on the same day in many cities and town throughout Australia, it is hoped that this may be the first of a national day of action.

(Newcastle, Wallsend & Charlestown Branch meets on the 3 Sunday of the month. All are welcomed .For more information contact Milton on 0410 027 593)



KIAMA BRANCH –Lesley Kadwell (President)

We are happy to report a very successful visit from the Bishop of Harare on 26th November. Our Beach and Bush Café was humming with anticipation as 45 guests awaited the arrival of the Bishop to join us briefly on his way to Nowra. Cheryl, the Proprietor kept us supplied with a delicious Morning Tea and by the time the Bishop arrived he had our full attention.

He was a lovely gentle man of strong Christian convictions and we heard of the terrible effects of the repressive Mugabe regime on these simple, largely Christian people. The faith and hope they had put in Mugabe as their great new leader had gradually turned to distress and despair of an oppressive regime for many years to come.

The promised equal distribution of land never came about, only the elite benefited. As the white farmers were brutally turned out the land became fallow and crops failed under inexperienced farmers. There was much violence and thousands of families were displaced when their houses were destroyed because they voted against Mugabe. Many were killed, maimed or imprisoned.

When the Bishop condemned this evil he became the enemy of the government, but 15,000 people attended his installation as Bishop of Harare. Then the repression hotted up and Police were sent every Sunday to hawl the people out and lock the churches, preventing the Bishop and people entering.

They began meeting at the local swimming pool and the membership has increased. Praise God! The Bishop posed the question: Do people have to be persecuted to discover their God? But the situation remains very tough.

WHAT IS IT LIKE IN ZIMBABWE TODAY?

Many challenges – no clean water to drink – 500 people dying of cholera every day.

No electricity – back to the dark ages – use candles to see at night- no refrigeration – can't keep food.

Shops empty – shelves bare – the little bit of bread and meat costing more than a week's wages.

People are hungry – sick – can't afford school, doctors, transport – no pensions – become beggars. Only surviving through God's grace.

KEEP PRAYING



HOT TOPICS

HELP BEAT CHOLERA THREAT

Michael Darby, CDP Management Committee Member

Rt Rev Dr Sebastian Bakare, Anglican Bishop of Harare in Zimbabwe, has called on the Australian Government for help in applying Australian water-drilling expertise to save Harare residence from a potential catastrophe from the rapid spread of cholera.

Bishop Bakare, has since 20 November 2008 been touring New South Wales on the invitation of Reverend Fred Nile and the Christian Democratic Party.

"The authorities have now officially closed down the Harare water supply which has for weeks been intermittent at best and consistently dangerous to health. The only prospect of safe water for Harare residents is a major water drilling campaign throughout the city area. Fresh, clean water can usually be found around eighty meters depth."

Bishop Bakare is establishing a school meals program for Zimbabwe, commencing with the Anglican schools in his Harare Diocese. Presently most schools have closed because teachers receive less pay than the cost of commuting to school, and because they and their families are also facing starvation.

"For less than US\$0.50 (fifty cents) we can provide one meal per day to a school student. This will save children from starvation and also give them the incentive to attend school. By embracing teachers and their families in the one-meal-per-day program we will bring teachers back to the education system."

Book Bishop Bakare for interview by telephoning 0403 185 243 or 0413348 843. His direct line (for booked interviews only) is 0432 217 402.

On Wednesday 3rd December at 1pm Reverend Fred Nile will host a lunch at Parliament House Sydney for Bishop Bakare (bookings 9230 2478). Then at 5.50pm on Wednesday Bishop Bakare departs Sydney for Perth where he will address a major event at the Churchlands Christian fellowship at 7.30pm on Thursday 4 December before returning to Zimbabwe on 5 December.

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PERSECUTION IN IRAN

Graham Freemantle, CDP Management Committee Member

Open Doors, the Christian organization supporting persecuted Christians throughout the world, have advised that, "on September 9th, the Iranian Parliament approved a new penal code, by a vote of 196-7, calling for the MANDATORY death sentence for apostates, or those who leave Islam."

Islam is the official religion in Iran, and all laws and regulations must be consistent with the official interpretation of the Sharia law. Although

Christians are a recognized religious minority who are guaranteed religious freedom, they have reported imprisonment, harassment and discrimination because of their faith. Many church services are being monitored by the secret police. Believers are questioned, arrested and sometimes put in jail and beaten. Individual believers are being oppressed and they have difficulty in finding and keeping a job when it becomes known they are Christian.

I ask ALL readers of 'Salt & Light' to call upon the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to publicly denounce this draconian law and urges him to make representations to the Iranian Government for this law, which violates basic human rights, to be repealed.

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DEFINING ABORTION

Bruce Coleman, CDP Management Committee Member

The decision of the majority in the Victorian Parliament, to liberalise the abortion laws, says more about the biases of those members of Parliament than the arguments and abilities of the pro-life groups. The pro-life groups are a powerful force that makes their arguments clear, responsible and passionate. The misnamed 'pro-choice' lobby don't want to know – they want to remain willfully ignorant of the truth. They don't want to see the amazing ultrasound pictures that may convince them of the wonder of the unborn. They don't want to know about the destructive after effects of an abortion. That is why it is only the pro-life camp that provides the genuine support for those who have had an abortion. The 'pro-choicers' don't even seem concerned that young people are not being warned about these well documented consequences. My experience is they actively oppose any attempt to disseminate the truth. The avalanche of information that came across the desks of the Victorian Members of parliament failed to convince many because they had their minds made up. "Don't confuse me with the facts, my mind is already made up" could have been their mantra.

Abortion is the defining issue of our nation – indeed of every nation. Those Victorian Members of Parliament have now defined themselves as a state that cares little for the well-being of the most vulnerable in our society, and of those who will become vulnerable because of age or infirmity or economic circumstances. We are all implicated in that definition. And by implication our nation will suffer the consequences – just read Deuteronomy 28, culminating in the words of Deuteronomy 30 verses 19 and 20.

The battle is not over. Truth will prevail. There is a growing mountain of evidence describing and depicting the wonders of the unborn. The well documented research on the effects of abortion is so compelling that only the willfully blind will not see. We must use it effectively and strategically in the battle for life.

And we will win. William Wilberforce won! Against all odds slavery became an unthinkable evil and the dignity and humanity of the slaves was restored. As I speak in schools I am seeing a band of young people who understand the truth. I believe they will rise up against the iniquitous decisions of my generation. They will consider abortion an unthinkable evil and I believe that

they will restore the dignity and humanity of the unborn, and every vulnerable human being in our society. To that end we must work and pray.

(Bruce Coleman is also CEO of Choices of Life www.choicesoflife.com.au)



HELPFUL IDEAS

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

Bill Ellis, Special to ASSIST News Service

SCOTT DEPOT, WV (ANS) -- Does this time of the year become significantly meaningful for you and your family? In the Old Testament we read: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; . . .'" (Isaiah 40:3 NKJV). Ready or not, Christmas will soon be here.

Special events have a way of being most enjoyable if adequate preparation has been made. Here are some suggestions that may help you prepare for a Merry Christmas.

1. Remember, in a special way, those who have suffered the loss of loved ones since last Christmas.
2. Write personal letters and notes of gratitude to those who have meant much to you during the past year.
3. Sing and listen to Christmas music, songs about Jesus Christ.
4. Count the many blessings that have been yours and share them in the true spirit of Christmas with those who are in need.
5. Use Scriptural Christmas greeting cards and letters. Christmas is about Christ. Mention in cards and letters, the "Good News", that Christ came into the world to save sinners.

(To read the full article from Assist News Service, [click here](#))



VIEWS & REVIEWS

AUSTRALIA Serves Up Typical PC Myths

Dr. Ted Baehr & Dr. Tom Snyder - Special to ASSIST News Service

HOLLYWOOD, CA (ANS) -- For several decades now, the mass media has promoted the Rousseauian myth conception of the "noble savage." This is the false idea that the non-European, pagan cultures and indigenous people in North and South America, Africa, and Australia had an innate virtue and natural, peaceful simplicity prior to the arrival of hordes of Europeans who came and despoiled the land while killing thousands if not millions of people, including innocent women and children.

Of course, in promoting this revisionist notion of history, the mass media usually casts white society, especially Christian missionaries and political leaders, as the ultimate bad guys, who (the story goes) killed and plundered their way across the Caribbean, the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, Peru, Australia, etc.

That's exactly the portrait in the new movie epic AUSTRALIA, which opens today in many theaters around the world, not just in the United States and Canada.

In AUSTRALIA, Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman encounter a mixed race aborigine boy, Nullah, and his grandfather, King George, the leader of the aborigines in Northern Australia in 1939-41 when the movie takes place. In the movie, Christian church leaders and local police officers are labeled as complicit in forcibly rounding up the mixed race aborigines, separating them from their mothers, and putting them in isolated schools run by missionaries.

(To read the full article from Assist News Service, [click here](#).)



TO CHEER & TO CHALLENGE

HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD

Louie Giglio

[Part 1](#) ; [Part 2](#) ; [Part 3](#) ; [Part 4](#) ; [Part 5](#)

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FORTUNE FAVOURS THE SMART

Rupert Murdoch - 2008 Boyer Lecture No.4

As a child, I attended boarding school outside Melbourne. Bucolic and idyllic it wasn't. So I made myself a promise. I swore that I would never become one of those fogey who goes on and on about how his schooldays were the best days of his life.

Today I intend to keep that promise. But I do want to talk about schools. In particular, I would like to talk about why you hear so many business leaders talking about the problems with public education. Far from reminiscing about some glorious and largely mythical past, I want to focus on the challenges we face today—and what they mean for our future.

Let me say at the outset: it is not a pretty picture.

The unvarnished truth is that in countries such as Australia, Britain, and particularly the United States, our public education systems are a disgrace. Despite spending more and more money, our children seem to be learning less and less—especially for those who are most vulnerable in our society.

(To read the full article [click here](#) ; To listen/download all the lectures [click here](#))



HEALTH & HUMOR

THE DRINK THAT MAKES YOU EAT LESS

from RealAge.com

Once you get to the holidays, your calorie count can creep up without your realizing it. So save yourself that nasty after-the-holidays bathroom-scale jolt by not letting a single day slip by without drinking lots of water. Doing so could save you from consuming an extra 200 calories a day!

Douse Yourself for Fewer Daily Calories -Turns out people who regularly quench their thirsts with water consume a whopping 9 percent fewer daily calories than non-water drinkers. Not only do water drinkers seem to drink fewer sugary and calorie-heavy beverages (like eggnog, mulled wine, and champagne), but they also have healthier eating habits overall, according to a recent study. So tip the balance in your favor by sipping water throughout the day

(To read more, [click here](#))

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REPAINT JACK !

There was a tradesman, a painter called **Jack**, who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often would thin down paint to make it go a wee bit further. As it happened, he got away with this for some time.

One of the local churches in his area needed to do a big restoration job on the painting of one of their biggest buildings.

Jack put in a bid, and because his price was so low, he got the job. And so he set to erecting the trestles and setting up the planks, and buying the paint and, yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with turpentine.

Well, Jack was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, and the sky opened, the rain poured down, washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Jack clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint.

Jack was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got on his knees and cried: "Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?" And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke...

"Repaint! Repaint! and thin no more!"



PRAYER & BENEDICTION

THE SINNER'S PRAYER

Dear Lord God

I am sorry that I have sinned against you; and broken your commandments

I turn away from my sins.

Please forgive me, and be merciful to me a sinner.

I believe Jesus Christ died for my sins and rose from the dead.

I receive You, Lord Jesus, into my heart as my Saviour and Lord.

Thank you dear Lord for saving me and for giving a new and eternal life.

Live your life through me, and make me the person that You want me to be

In Jesus Name, I pray,

Amen

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1 TIMOTHY 1:17

Now unto the King eternal,

immortal, invisible,
the only wise God,
be honour and glory
for ever and ever.

Amen.



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