

INDIA

Locally written resources for Indian church planters

Indian evangelists and church planters working amongst unreached people in northern India, Nepal and Tibet are largely trained and equipped with material written by Westerners and translated into Hindi. We have the opportunity to provide these church planters with a personal library of books written in local languages and relevant to the theological and pastoral challenges they face.

Empart church planters are making disciples among people who have never heard the name of Jesus. Books enable these church planters to deepen their understanding of God's Word so they can teach and disciple others as they grow in faith.

As 380 church planters graduate each year, there is an urgent need for material to be written to help them establish and lead their new churches effectively. Experienced church planters are uniquely placed to prepare culturally appropriate material that people in the villages can understand



We firmly believe that a good church planter will develop a good church, and make good disciples. Therefore, we seek every means to help the church planters develop and grow. Thank you for your support to do this.

James P Samuel

and to encourage younger church planters with varied levels of literacy in their ministries.

The Society has pledged on your behalf an initial investment of \$5,000 with ongoing support depending on the success of the books published.

CHINA

Equipping Chinese church leaders

One of the principal needs of Chinese Christian leaders is quality theological resources.

While studying they have access to a college library, but when they graduate and commence their ministries throughout China, their access to good resources is limited.

Despite their positions in leadership, Chinese church ministers usually receive a very low income. Where the average wage is 2100 RMB per month, a theologically-trained, full-time minister (a graduate of Yanjing Theological Seminary for example) might only be paid 600 RMB. The ability to purchase useful resources is therefore restricted.

This project addresses a dire need for resources in rapidly growing and under-resourced churches.

Final year students will be invited to choose a set of books from a recom-

mended list to a total value of 500 RMB (about AUD 85).

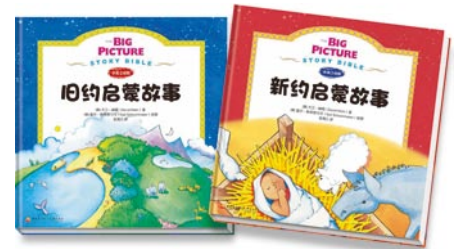
The resources are offered in a variety of media including printed books, audio, video, digital references and software. Each personal library will be presented during a special event at participating campuses.

These quality resources will be vital for personal growth and informed preaching and teaching over many years of ministry. They will also be an encouragement to our brothers and sisters working in a sensitive environment.

For \$15,000, 154 graduating church leaders from three seminaries will receive the resources they need to exercise their calling. This is a strategic opportunity. We invite you to participate.

CHINA

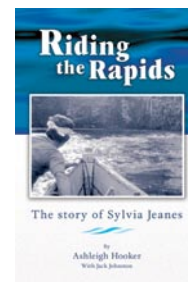
Chinese Big Picture Story Bible on sale in Australia



A bilingual edition of *The Big Picture Story Bible* published in China by SPCK Australia partner, ZDL Books, is available in Australia at a cost of \$60. Contact Colman Chan on 0419 816 666 or at colman_chan@yahoo.com

MALAYSIA

Sylvia Jeanes 'retires'



Sylvia Jeanes has retired as a CMS missionary after 50 years' service in Sabah, Malaysia. She will continue to teach New Testament at the Sabah Theological Seminary and literacy

at the Rainbow of Hope primary school. An inspiring biography, *Riding the Rapids*, written by Ashleigh Hooker with Jack Johnston, was published by SPCKA during Sylvia's 40th year of service. Only \$24 from the SPCKA office, posted anywhere in Australia. To purchase your copy, call 1300 13 7725 or write to: admin@spcka.org.au

TANZANIA

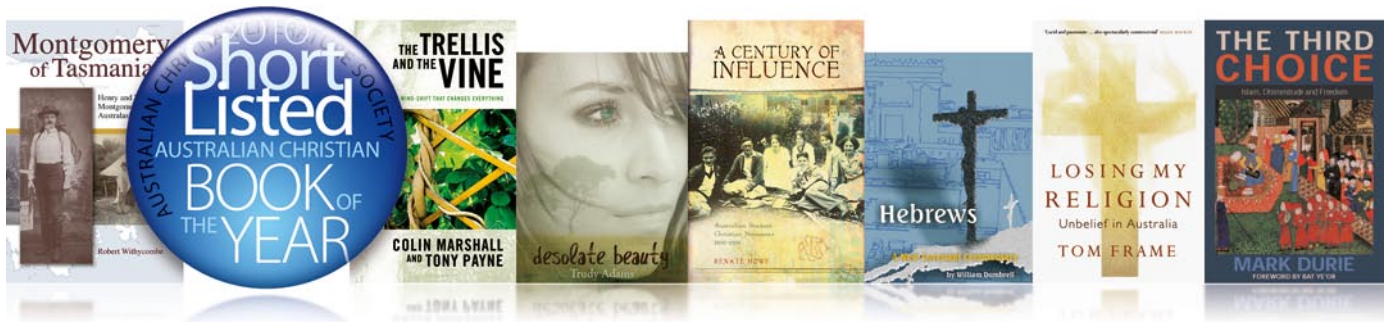
Correction



Staff at St Mark's Theological College, Dar es Salaam, **Cyril Maghembe**, **Rev Yohanna Mkokambali**, **Revd Canon William Mndolwa** (Principal), and **John Morshead** were incorrectly named in the Autumn newsletter. They are pictured here unpacking library books purchased with an SPCKA grant.

AUSTRALIA

2010 Australian Christian Book of the Year Short List



The Australian Christian Book of the Year Award recognises and encourages excellence in Australian Christian writing. The winning book will meet a need for Christian writing in Australia with originality, flair and excellence.

This year's Short List was announced on Tuesday, 8 June. The 2010 ACBoY short-listed books are:

A century of influence: Australian Student Christian Movement 1896-1996 by Renate Howe (University of New South Wales Press)

Desolate beauty by Trudy Adams (Ark House Press)

Hebrews: A New Covenant commentary by William Dumbrell (Redeemer Baptist Press)

Losing my religion: Unbelief in Australia by Tom Frame (University of New South Wales Press)

Montgomery of Tasmania: Henry and Maud Montgomery in Australasia by Robert Withycombe (Acorn Press)

The third choice: Islam, dhimmitude and freedom by Mark Durie (Deror Books)

The Trellis and the Vine: The ministry mind-shift that changes everything by Colin Marshall & Tony Payne (Matthias Media)

2010 ACBoY judges

Alex Crawford holds degrees in arts, law and theology. He is a practising barrister in Brisbane. Outside the law, he is interested in books, music and seeing the Brisbane Lions win. Alex is married to Penny. They have three children and attend St Mark's Anglican Church, Clayfield. He is the secretary of the Mathew Hale Public Library based in Brisbane.

Nancy Kroeger combines her passion for books and literature with her love of numbers and people by working at Ridley Melbourne Mission and Ministry College. She is celebrating her eleventh year working in the College Bookshop as bookkeeper. Her most recent read was the challenging *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel. Nancy is married to a Presbyterian minister and church planter. They have three adult children, two sons-in-law and one grandchild born this May.

David Starling teaches New Testament and Theology at Morling College in Sydney and is a member of Macquarie Baptist Church. He studied English and History at Sydney University

and worked as a high school English teacher in Western Sydney before theological study at Moore and Morling Colleges and pastoral ministry in Sydney's inner west. He is married to Nicole and has three young children.

Join us at the award presentations

The 2010 Australian Christian Book of the Year will be announced and prizes awarded during a lunch at the **Robert White Hall, Level 1, 156 Collins Street, Melbourne, on 10 August 2010** at midday (for a 12.30 start). Tickets cost \$40 per guest (\$10 for Teen Writer contestants). To book seats, grab your credit card and call 1300 13 7725 or write to: awards@spcka.org.au



AUSTRALIA

Naomi Reed to speak at this year's ACBoY awards

The 2010 Australian Christian Book of the Year awards lunch will feature an address by inspiring writer, Naomi Reed, and an engaging performance by poet, Cameron Semmens.



Naomi Reed is the author of the bestselling book *My Seventh Monsoon* and the 2009 Australian Christian Book of the Year, *No Ordinary View*.

Naomi and her husband, Darren, trained together as physiotherapists at Sydney University and worked for six years in Nepal with the International Nepal Fellowship. www.naomireed.info



Cameron Semmens performs his poetry and conducts writing workshops around Australia at a variety of venues and events.

He studied Performance Arts at the Australian College of Entertainment and has a bevy of awards and accolades under his belt, as well as 14 books and CDs. www.webcameron.com

Come and celebrate the enterprise and courage of Australian Christian writers and publishers at the ACBoY awards lunch. For further information call 1300 13 7725 or write to: awards@spcka.org.au

PEOPLE

Welcome Darren Russ



Darren Russ has agreed to serve on the Society's Council and Management Committee. He brings to this responsibility an avid enthusiasm for new technology and over twenty years' consulting experience. He is currently working with Accenture as Head of Information Management Services for the Asia Pacific region.

Darren enjoys helping Christians use information technology to promote the gospel. He loves reading and studying the Bible and learning to put what Jesus has to say into practice.

Darren is married to Judith and they have three teenage children.

Len Woodley OAM



The former SPCKA honorary General Secretary, **Len Woodley**, has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to the community and to the book industry. The award was announced in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours.

Len was the Federal President (1979–1981) and Copyright Spokesman (1979–1989) of the Australian Booksellers Association. His campaign to amend the Copyright Act resulted in more timely and affordable access to books in Australia. As Chairman of Standard Book (1964–1990) and ALS Library Services (1973–2007) Len pioneered the computerisation of retail bookselling.

He reviewed books on ABC Radio (SA) from 1984 to 2000 and was an ABC Radio National Religious Book Commentator from 1992 to 1996.

Len served as Chairman of the Australian Christian Literature Society from 1993 to 2005 and administered the Australian Christian Book of the Year Awards from 1993 to 2008. He continues to serve as a member of the SPCKA Council.

Congratulations and thank you, Len!

G'DAY FROM SPCKA

Your kingdom come



It's funny that Jesus should teach us about

prayer by telling a story about a helpless widow being ignored by a capricious judge (Luke 18:1–8). Because sometimes that is exactly what it feels like to pray.

Christians have been praying 'your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven' for 2000 years. And we're still waiting.

It's almost as if Jesus knew what it was like for us to pray.

Jesus often withdrew to lonely places to pray (Luke 5:16). Before choosing the twelve apostles Jesus spent the whole night praying (6:12). Jesus prayed for his disciples (22:31) and for his tormentors (23:34).

Jesus prayed for himself. He prayed about his imminent death. Jesus prayed the same prayer more than once. On the night he was betrayed Jesus knelt down and prayed, 'Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done' (22:40–42).

When the going got tough Jesus persevered in prayer. And when the going got even tougher Jesus prayed for perseverance. There is nothing more practical than prayer.

When the Son of Man comes will he find faith on the earth? Will the Son of Man find you praying? What must we do to remain faithful?

1. Prayer and faith stand and fall together. No prayer, no faith, no happy-ever-after with Jesus.

2. We cannot remain faithful alone. It is essential to explore what God requires of us together. If you are not a member of a small group of people who regularly pray and study the Bible together, can I encourage you to join one?

3. How should we pray? As if our lives depended on it. Remember the widow. Do your prayers lack the necessary desperation? Maybe you need something to pray about. Try reading a newspaper. Support a missionary. Visit someone with a terminal illness. If you fear God, you will become an advocate for 'widows and orphans'.

4. Consider how you might be the answer to someone else's prayer. How many Argentine grandmothers have prayed for a book that would appeal to an adolescent grandson? How many Chinese parents have prayed for a Bible that they could read with their children? How many Tanzanian students have prayed for a Bible commentary that addressed their pastoral challenges?

What a joy and privilege it is to make appropriate Christian literature available to those who cry out for it. Let's not keep them waiting.

We know that our heavenly Father is not like the capricious judge. We pray with hope, knowing that he delights in vindicating those who call on him day and night.

Michael Collie

National Director

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Christian literature in difficult places

Donations can be transferred electronically to our bank account: **SPCK Australia**

BSB **085-005** account number **51-670-1561**

Additional copies of this newsletter will be supplied on request. Don't forget to advise us of changes of address or other contact details.

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