

SPCK **A** News

TANZANIA

From guarding a house to guarding the faith

One day Jill Morshead observed the night watchman earnestly reading a Bible. When her husband, John, asked him about his new passion, John Kayange explained that he was trying to understand the Bible's teaching on salvation.

On a visit to Tanzania, Jill's sister was so impressed by John Kayange's hunger to learn that she decided to sponsor him to study at St Mark's

village, John began sharing his new understanding of salvation in Jesus. One woman who heard him preach came to him by night and said: 'I am afraid to come to Jesus, because I am a witch. I have killed children.' John Kayange read to her these words from Isaiah: 'Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow.'

The following day the woman brought her charms to be burnt.



John Kayange and Jill Morshead, St Mark's Theological College, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Theological College in Dar es Salaam where, CMS missionaries, John and Jill Morshead teach. For John Kayange this was a dream come true and an answer to prayer.

John Kayange arrived at the college with his entire worldly possessions in a single plastic bag and no money at all. He had given up his job; there was no turning back.

The Morsheads gave John a few text books to help him with his studies. However, as books are either unavailable or unaffordable, other students were envious. Students have only their own lecture notes and whatever they can borrow from the library. A search of the library shelves turned up very little of use to the students, especially to those with poor English.

At the end of his first semester John Kayange asked John and Jill to pray for him as he returned to his village, where witchcraft was common. Once in the

She wanted proof that God had power over evil. John set fire to them, but they were not consumed. So he added more wood and prayed in Jesus' name that God would show this woman his power. The charms were consumed by the fire and the woman wept as she accepted salvation in Jesus Christ and her burden of guilt left her.

Despite a period of serious illness and the tragic death of his mother in a road accident, John Kayange managed to get through his first year. He desires only to fulfil his calling to proclaim and teach the good news in Tanzania.

John Kayange and his fellow students need clear, basic textbooks they can read comfortably.

We have received an urgent request for a \$1500 grant for the purchase and delivery of 57 carefully chosen new text-books for the library. Your participation is encouraged.

INSIDE

AST appoints Arabic-speaking faculty

2009 Christian Literature Awards

Search the Scriptures in French

1931-2009

Vale Graham Wade

Pioneer Christian communicator, **Graham Wade**, died in Sydney on 26 August, aged 78.

Graham is best known for his collaboration with missionary physician, Dr Paul White, which began in 1950. He illustrated nine of the twelve Jungle Doctor comic books. The series was translated into numerous languages



Graham Wade plays Peter in the Bible Society's 2006 Word & Song Celebrations.

© Ramon Williams

and the full-colour editions published in 1981 alone sold more than one million copies.

In 1964 Graham founded the Christian communication company, Pilgrim International, and remained a director until his death. The Pilgrim group prepared exhibitions and advertising for QANTAS, annual reports for the Reserve Bank of Australia, films for the Papua New Guinea Government and helped establish World Vision as Australia's biggest charity. While Pilgrim International no longer operates as a media company, it continues to award grants and an annual \$10,000 prize for the best Christian media work.

www.ozcomics.com/publishing/history/jungledoctor.html

FRANCE

Search the Scriptures in French

It isn't always easy to read and study the Bible every day. Yet it is essential for our spiritual growth. God has given us his Word so that we can meet him, know him, love him and keep trusting him.

Ten years ago a fellow student gave me a copy of *Search the Scriptures*. This daily Bible reading guide proved to be a priceless gift and a decade later continues to help me spend precious time with God. The excellent introductions to each book of the Bible, the apposite and searching questions on each passage and the notes on difficult texts are particularly useful.

This book was instrumental in leading me to undertake theological training. After university I worked for a while in journalism, but I returned to the world of lecture theatres and studied for three years at the Vaux-sur-Seine Theological Faculty, Paris, where I obtained a degree in theology.

Since December 2008 I have been on the staff of the GBU, a French Christian student movement, working mainly in Lyon, the second biggest city in France. I spend much of my time training students to read the Bible with



Jonathan Chaintrier (right) is a staff worker with GBU, the French IFES-affiliated student movement.

their heads and hearts, and to lead small Bible study groups.

I would love to get *Search the Scriptures* into the hands of every French-speaking student who wants to read and study the Bible.

Jonathan Chaintrier

The GBU is seeking a \$12,000 loan to publish a French translation of *Search the Scriptures*. Portions available at gbu.fr have been successfully trialled. This project has the potential to reach francophone students in Europe, Africa, the Caribbean and Quebec.

On the Ordination of a Friend

Galatians 3:13–14

'Oh who am I,
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh, and die?'

Oh who am I,
for my frail flesh
is spoiled
and wrestles
with the tree,
that I should have hands laid on me
to bring His news
of life and joy
and lead His people
to that tree?

Oh who am I,
that my Great God
should use frail flesh
to win His way, His work,
through me?

Adrian Lane

Southpaw: A Matter of Reversal

ISBN 978 1 74027 533 0 | www.ginninderrapress.com.au

SUDAN

Dinka song lines

The Revd Abraham Ayur Mayor Dit studied theology and was ordained in Khartoum. Before escaping Sudan's civil war, Abraham was a member of a diocesan committee working to update liturgical resources in Dinka.

Methods for writing Dinka were developed by missionaries during the 19th and 20th centuries, and Christian prayer books and hymn books first published in the 1930s remain the most significant and widely used Dinka literature.

While settling in Sydney where he coordinates a Sudanese congregation based at St Albans, Belmore, Abraham has completed the massive task of compiling new songs and digitalizing classic material.

Please pray for the Dinka church leaders and our Grants Committee as together we explore the best way to deliver this resource to the global Dinka community.

EGYPT

AST appoints home grown faculty

The Alexandria School of Theology has realized two of its original goals: launch a Master of Arts in Theology program and appoint 'home grown' faculty members.

The Masters in Theology program was launched on 24 August 2009. Visiting Australian academic, Dr Peter Bolt, is teaching Biblical Theology and an intensive course in NT Greek.

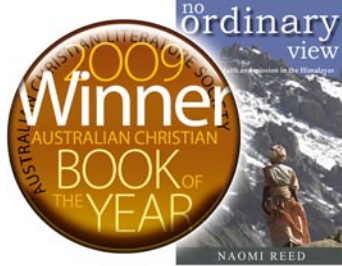
Four AST Bachelor of Theology graduates became the school's first full-time faculty members when they were appointed as assistant teachers on 3 September 2009.

The BTh program continues to attract new students. A further forty-five students will start the four-year course this year.

The expansion of the courses taught and the increase in the number of Arabic-speaking faculty are exciting and important developments in the history of the AST. We praise and thank God for the continued growth.

Offering an MA degree required the expansion of library facilities. SPCKA provided \$10,000 in July for the purchase of new theological textbooks.

AUSTRALIA



Naomi Reed's *No Ordinary View* declared 2009 Australian Christian Book of the Year

The 2009 Australian Christian Literature Awards were presented at a ceremony at St Michael's Anglican Church, Vaucluse, Sydney, on 26 August. Awards were made in three categories.

The 2009 Australian Christian Book of the Year is *No Ordinary View* by Naomi Reed. Judges described the winning book as 'a gripping story, compellingly told'. Naomi won second prize last year with *My Seventh Monsoon*.

The Australian Christian Book of the Year Award recognises a work written by an Australian author and published by an Australian publisher. In accepting the award, Naomi thanked the Australian Christian Literature Society for its commitment to Australian Christian literature, and her publisher Ark House, since 'it takes more courage to publish than write!'

No Ordinary View is set in Nepal during the recent civil war which 'taught us to trust God at a difficult time, to fix our eyes on the unseen not the seen, the eternal not the temporary.'

Sharing second prize were *Catherine's Gift: Inside the World of Dr Catherine Hamlin* by John Little, *Leadership on the Front Foot* by Zachary Veron, and *Preach or Perish: Reaching the Hearts and Minds of the World Today* by Donald Howard.

The Australian Christian Theological Writers' Award is open to works written by Australians but published anywhere. The winner was Paul Barnett, for the third volume in his After Jesus trilogy, *Finding the Historical Christ*. Judges acknowledged Dr Barnett as 'one of the most productive and important Australian Christian writers of this generation.'



Naomi Reed, author of *No Ordinary View*, heads up this year's writing talent.

by Ramon Williams

In his acceptance speech, Dr Barnett said his book sought to vindicate 'the New Testament as history, not conspiracy. I have come to this conclusion after examining the impact of the Messiah on his followers using ordinary processes and methods of historical analysis'.

Honourable mentions went to Michael Bird for *A Bird's Eye View of Paul: The Man, His Mission and His Message*, Andrew Sloane for *At Home In a Strange Land: Using the Old Testament in Christian Ethics*, and Roy Williams for *God, Actually*.

The final award was for an unpublished manuscript by an Australian under the age of thirty. **The 2009 Young Australian Christian Writer of the Year** was Leng Te for *Into Your Mystery* which 'interweaves autobiography, Biblical narrative and song lyrics into a conversation with the God of infinite surprises'.

Following the presentations author, Simon Holt, spoke about his book

God Next Door (last year's Australian Christian Book of the Year) encouraging us to recognise that as Jesus' followers we are all missionaries, and that loving our neighbour also means loving the people literally 'next door'.

Australian Christian Literature Society National Director, Michael Collie, commended all the entrants for their courage in writing. 'We celebrate your enterprise and creativity, and thank you for encouraging us in our Christian walk by your writing', he said.

The 2009 Australian Christian Literature Awards souvenir brochure can be downloaded at www.spcka.org.au. Go to: Christian Literature Awards: 2009 Winners Announced. Printed copies will be posted on request. Contact Carol at admin@spcka.org.au

Financial contributions towards the Australian Christian Literature Awards' administration and prizes will be welcomed.

PEOPLE

Thank you Vernon Sawers

Moving the SPCKA office from Adelaide to Melbourne has necessitated a change of Treasurer.

The good governance of the Society and the responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to it, depend in no small degree on the wisdom and diligence of its treasurer. In recent years that role has been filled by **Vernon Sawers**.

Vernon will be remembered with particular pleasure for his succinct economic forecasts and pithy financial reports which were, for many, highlights of Council meetings.

Vernon, the Society is most grateful for your faithful service. Thank you.

Bruce Millott becomes SPCKA Treasurer

Bruce Millott has been appointed Treasurer of the Society. Bruce is responsible for the Society's sound financial administration, its compliance with statutory obligations, and for the presentation of audited financial reports to the Society's Council and Annual General Meeting.

Bruce has practised commercial accounting since 1958 and was a Certified Practising Accountant and a member of the Australian Society of Accountants until he retired in 2007.

Bruce and his wife, Connie, have three married children and seven grandchildren. He has been a member of the East Doncaster Baptist Church since 1990, where he is a deacon. Bruce enjoys researching his family tree and harbours a life-long infatuation with cars.



Bruce Millott with 57.14% of his grandchildren. 📷 Ashley Humphreys

G'DAY FROM SPCKA

It takes courage

Courage is the least popular spiritual gift. This is not surprising as courage is only required when we confront danger, risk and uncertainty. Whether real or perceived, danger is something we instinctively avoid. Yet we know that going about God's business inevitably feels dodgy. As Hudson Taylor is reputed to have said: 'Unless there is an element of risk in our exploits for God, there is no need for God!'

When their enemies in the Sanhedrin 'saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus'.¹ We are not to suppose that the chief priests had only now recognised that Peter and John were disciples of Jesus. No, the apostles had been arrested for 'proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead'.² The leaders now concluded that Peter and John were Christ-like.

Peter and John had exercised compassion despite great personal risk: just like Jesus. They did so with humility, attributing credit to a greater authority; just like Jesus.³ They spoke with a wisdom beyond their training; just like Jesus. But, above all, they were fearless; just like Jesus.

This is Peter we are talking about. Cock-a-doodle-doo!

Did a day ever dawn without Peter being reminded that he was the world's most notorious coward?

After this triumphant display of courage, Peter and John returned to their own people. Together they prayed for boldness. Must be addictive! 'And after they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.'⁴



2009 ACBoY author, Naomi Reed, and publisher, Matt Danswan of Ark House Press, with Michael Collie (middle). 📷 Ramon Williams

Courage is not innate. It is given.

It takes courage to forgive. It takes courage to ask for forgiveness. It takes courage to do justice. It takes courage to love. It takes courage to grow. Talking about 'god' is easy; it takes courage to talk about 'Jesus'.

It takes courage to ask for courage. Asking for courage is asking for trouble. Or worse, embarrassment!

The Australian Christian Literature Awards are one way in which we celebrate the courage of Australian writers and publishers. It takes more courage to write than to talk. And, according to Naomi Reed, it takes more courage to publish than to write.

Of course, the best way to encourage authors is to publish their work. And the best way to encourage publishers is to buy and read their books. This year's short-listed books are all worthy of your attention.

Michael Collie

National Director

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¹ Acts 4:13. ² Acts 4:2. ³ Acts 3:6, 11-16. ⁴ Acts 4:31.

SPCKA

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Christian literature in difficult places

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