

TANZANIA

Desperately needed library books arrive in Dar es Salaam



Cyril Maghembe (Librarian, left), **Revd Canon William Mndolwa** (Principal), **Rev Yohanna Mkokambali** (Lecturer in Old Testament, Greek and Hebrew) and **John Morshead** in the **St Mark's Theological College library unpacking books purchased with an SPCKA grant.**

A strategic collection of books purchased with a SPCKA grant has arrived safely at the St Mark's Theological College library, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. College staff see this as a unique, God-given opportunity to put good literature into the hands of the students. And they are confident that these books will shape the thinking of future generations of clergy and, through them, the people to whom they minister.

The Society has agreed to give a copy of the *Africa Bible Commentary* to

diploma and certificate students as a graduation prize. It only seems prudent that graduates become familiar with the commentary before they leave St Mark's, so it is pleasing to see that there are now five copies in the college library and that this resource has been so enthusiastically embraced and endorsed by the college faculty.

The Society has pledged on your behalf to provide a copy of the *Africa Bible Commentary* as a prize to each certificate and diploma graduate.

CHINA

Chinese Big Picture Story Bible on sale in Australia



Please give thanks for the successful publication and distribution in China of *The Big Picture Story Bible* by David Helm. This superbly produced bilingual edition is proving popular with parents wanting to teach their children English. Copies have also found their way into the hands of the Chinese diaspora who use it to teach their children Mandarin!

The Chinese edition of *The Big Picture Story Bible* was published in two volumes: Old Testament and New Testament. Since May last year 5,000

sets have been sold. This includes retail sales and subsidised copies given to children in foster care and orphanages.

Research done by the publisher, SPCKA partner ZDL, indicates that each book is read by an average of ten children. Pray that this simple yet profound book will lead many to faith in Jesus Christ.

The twin-volume set is now available in Australia at a cost of \$60. Contact Colman Chan on 0419 816 666 or at colman_chan@yahoo.com

Intense II

- strong
- vibrant
- rich
- deep
- intense
- enlashed
- passionate
- beloved
- still
- intense
- firm
- bold
- courageous
- determined
- intense
- honest
- true
- direct
- availing
- intense
- humble
- selfless
- servicing
- giving
- intense
- awake
- alive
- afire
- aglow
- intense
- reborn
- renewed
- refreshed
- resurrected
- intense
- sustained
- committed
- willing
- sacrificing
- intense
- bruised
- red
- raw
- bleeding
- intense
- ravished
- seduced
- enslaved
- enraptured
- intense
- kindled
- burning
- fired
- spirited

AUSTRALIA

Publish or perish

Our book *Preach or Perish* took several years to come together. After writing a number of chapters, Donald recognised the richness of his subject and decided to incorporate the experience and wisdom of others who shared his zeal for preaching.



We approached numerous publishers with the manuscript. Most were positive but no one was prepared to publish it. While the manuscript gathered dust, friends joined us to pray about our vision.

One day, Donald was given a self-published missionary autobiography. We were impressed by the quality of the production and decided to give the printer a call. Within 48 hours we had a printing quotation. The company stressed that they were only printers; publishing the book would be our responsibility. So, we enlisted our two daughters. Sarah designed the cover and Elizabeth proofread the manuscript. Both assisted with the development of the website. Even before we had a product it proved to be our most effective marketing tool.

We all contributed ideas when it came to the finer details and together we prayed about every aspect of the job. God answered our prayers as the project progressed.

We launched the book in the centre of Sydney and again at Camden, attracting folk from as far as Cooma, the South Coast and the Southern Highlands. The book sold well at both events.

I had seen Australian Christian Book of the Year (ACBoY) medallions on book covers over the years and

the conditions of entry at the SPCKA website were clear. We submitted our book for consideration and prayed that it might receive some recognition. An ACBoY Award can make the difference between merely selling and selling well.

Reaction to being short-listed was immediate. Booksellers ordered or re-ordered stock. SPCKA provided a Short List medallion for our website and stickers for our books. An order for 100 copies from a retail chain meant that

A team effort.
Sarah, Donald,
Nan and Elizabeth
Howard at the 2009
Australian Christian
Literature Awards
night, Vaucluse,
Sydney.

📷 Ramon Williams

our book was now distributed Australia wide.

To receive Joint 2nd Prize at the ACBoY Awards Night was tremendous. The awards night itself brought further exposure as photographs and reports of the event appeared on the internet and in print media.

The ACBoY Awards highlight the important work Christian writers are doing in Australia. Without this vital SPCKA ministry it would be very difficult for local writers and publishers to receive such broad recognition.

We often say to ourselves that entering *Preach or Perish* for the ACBoY Award was one of the best things we ever did. We thank the Lord for directing us and pray that he will prosper the work of SPCKA.

Nan Howard

www.preachorperish.com.au

Teen Writer Award

The Young Australian Christian Writers' Awards serve to discover and nurture Christian writers of the future. This year we have introduced a \$1,000 prize for writers under the age of 18. Entries close on 31 May 2010.

If you would like to encourage a young writer to enter their work, an Entry Form can be downloaded from www.spcka.org.au.

AUSTRALIA

Being on the same page

What would happen if members of your congregation decided to read the same book at the same time? Would it bring people together and generate discussion? Would it encourage them in their Christian walk?

In 2007, St Michael's Anglican Church in Vaucluse (NSW) decided to find out. August seemed the perfect time to snuggle-up with a good book.

We wanted an up-to-date and well-written book that would address the challenges we face. For our first book reading we chose the 2006 Christian Book of the Year, *Unseen Footprints* by Sheridan Voysey. This book's relevance and attractive layout proved irresistible.

Each year, choosing an ACBoY finalist has broadened our reading experience and made this an ecumenical activity that attracts participants from all the Christian dominations in our area.

Choosing an Australian book makes it financially feasible for our small church to conclude the month with a 'Meet the Author' evening.



2009 ACBoY author Simon Carey Holt
speaking about the God Next Door
at St Michael's Vaucluse.

📷 Ramon Williams

Has it worked? Yes! The August Book Reading is now a keenly anticipated fixture in the St Michael's calendar. It has stimulated discussion, encouraged us to engage with our neighbourhood and spurred us on in our witness to Jesus Christ.

So, what book will we read this year? The current ACBoY Short List and finalists can be found at www.spcka.org.au

Revd Michael Palmer

www.vaucluse.anglican.asn.au

PEOPLE

Thank you Peter Adam

The SPCKA Council has reluctantly accepted the resignation of **Revd Dr Peter Adam**.

Peter's desire that all people might come to a fuller knowledge of God's love in Jesus Christ bore fruit in many of the projects that the Society is privileged to support. The Australian Christian Literature Awards in particular were enriched by Peter's erudition and enthusiasm. His wit and wisdom will be sorely missed.

Peter is the Principal of Ridley Melbourne and a Canon of St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne. He also serves on the General Synod Doctrine Commission and the Board of the Australian College of Theology.

He enjoys reading history and fiction, playing the piano and organ, and being walked by his dogs George and Bella.

Peter caused a stir last year with his John Saunders Lecture: 'Australia. Whose land? A Christian Call for Recompense'. The full text can be found at: www.ridley.edu.au/ridley-resources/australia-whose-land/

Welcome Sue Bazzana



Sue Bazzana has agreed to serve on the Society's Council and Management Committee. She brings to this responsibility over ten years' experience applying sound business practice in not-for-profit organisations.

A natural networker, Sue currently liaises with churches as a marketing manager with World Vision Australia.

Sue loves to cook, entertain and spend time with friends ... and their children.

'Probably the most satisfying thing I do is lead a Bible study group for young people aged between 17-22 at my church. The questions they ask really keep me on my toes.'

G'DAY FROM SPCKA

Where angels fear to tread

In January 1961 the USA put Ham, a four-year-old chimpanzee into space for 17 minutes. Back-slapping scientists on the Mercury programme were pretty damn confident they would put the first man in space. Eleven weeks later, the Russians launched Yuri Gagarin, not just into space, but into a complete orbit of the Earth. It was a coup for Moscow.

I was visiting the zoo at the time and overheard two chimps talking. One told the other 'We're a little behind the Russians but a little ahead of the Americans'.

Stung, President Kennedy told Congress in May that the USA should, would, aim to put a man on the moon and return him safely to Earth before the decade was out. A glorious adventure, a farce, folly, or fraud?

Buzz Aldrin, the second man to step onto the Moon, said recently: 'The achievements of Apollo were so bold and our subsequent efforts so timid that the energy of those years seems like a youthful dream.'

According to the minutes of the SPCK, on Tuesday 28 November 1786 in the Bartletts Building, London, 'the Revd Mr Johnson, appointed Chaplain to the convicts going to Botany Bay, was introduced to the Board and presented with books and tracts from the Society's stores for the use of his charges. Mr Johnson mentioned that he expected about 700 convicts would accompany him besides soldiers, sailors and some volunteers. The Board expressed its most fervent wish that the Divine Blessing might go with him in his undertakings and requested Mr Johnson to favour the Society from time to time with his correspondence.'

The brevity and sobriety of the Society's records written in copperplate



Michael Collie addresses the 2009 CMS Victoria Annual General Meeting.
 © Tim Dehn

script 224 years ago belie the audacity of this initiative. A gift from SPCK, Australia's first library arrived at Port Jackson aboard the *HMS Sirius*, flagship of the First Fleet.

The vision that sent 4,000 books and tracts (including 100 Bibles, 400 New Testaments, 500 Psalters, 400 children's readers and 100 spelling books) to the other side of the world as a foundation for the new colony is one I cherish.

I too share the conviction that the need for Jesus Christ is universal and that his Kingdom can only grow if its subjects are students and practitioners of the Word. If we have been called to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything he has commanded us who can stop us?

We are better equipped than our forebears to make Christian literature available in difficult places. With your help, we can. With your help, we will.

Michael Collie

National Director

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SPCKA

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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**
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