



Library Update

What a great encouragement it has been to see the work of the Mathew Hale Public Library grow since its establishment in 2004! Its commitment to nurturing Biblical ministry has been evidenced in a growing number of ways, including the public

lecture program, supporting participation in preaching conferences, the publication of *Please! No More Boring Sermons*, and the ministry of the library collection. Employing a Warden is a major ramp-up of the Library's ministry, and a great step of faith. I want to say a big thankyou to the Committee for their initiative. This is an exciting and encouraging time. Pray with me for great fruitfulness.

Jesus uses seeds as illustrations on a number of occasions. In the parable of the sower in Mark 4 we learn the sobering truth that much of the seed is stolen away, does not take root, or grows, only to be choked. Yet the seed falling on good soil produces an abundant crop. In this parable the seed is the word of God. The parable of the growing seed reminds us that the seed has a terrific power of its own, so that, irrespective of what the sower does, the seed grows and ripens for the harvest. The parable of the mustard seed reminds us that what becomes the largest plant in the garden started from a tiny seed. In these two parables the seed is the kingdom of God. However, in the parable of the weeds we are also taught that there is another sower, who sows weeds among the wheat. Not till the end of the age will the weeds be pulled up and burned. In this parable the good seed stands for the "sons of the kingdom," whereas the weeds are "the sons of the evil one." On that final day "the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father."

As I come among you to share a ministry of Bible teaching and mentoring, take heart and pray, knowing that the word of God, though initially small and often unfruitful will nonetheless produce an abundant harvest. Take heart knowing that the kingdom of God will grow into the largest plant, having an amazing power of its own. And take heart knowing that despite the enemy's work, the children of the kingdom will ultimately be vindicated and glorified.

In Acts 6 the Twelve remind the community of disciples of the foundational ministry of prayer and the word. In keeping with that spirit, we have decided to set aside a regular weekly time at the Library (at St Andrew's, South Brisbane) for prayer and Bible Study and will trial Tuesdays, 5.30-6.15pm, beginning on the 6th of July. Do come and join us as we study the word and pray for the work of

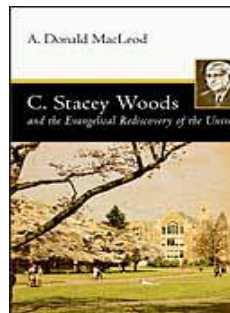
the Library. If you are unable to join us, you may wish to set aside this time to pray, using the prayer points which you can obtain by emailing info@mathewhalepubliclibrary.com.

Thank you again for your support and welcome.

With Best Wishes,
Adrian Lane

Book Review: Stacey Woods and the Evangelical Rediscovery of the University

By A. Donald MacLeod, C., published by IVP, 2007



C. Stacey Woods may arguably be the Australian with the greatest impact on the twentieth-century international evangelical scene, after the scholarly contributions of Leon Morris. MacLeod's biography skilfully traces his boyhood in Bendigo and Brethren roots through to his transfer to North America for theological education at the fledgling Dallas seminary, and then on to his monumental and foundational work in

leading three increasingly large and complex organisations: the Canadian InterVarsity movement, the United States IVCF and finally his role as the long-serving founding General Secretary of the IFES. An Australian-born evangelical spear-headed the birth and growth of all three – how astounding!

Woods' story has probably fallen victim to the tall-poppy syndrome, but here is a well-written carefully-researched and readable biography detailing his life and ministry. Four interesting themes stood out for me:

1. So much of twentieth-century evangelicalism centred around the same broad network of people and organisations. Billy Graham and Carl Henry, Martyn Lloyd-Jones and John Stott, T. C. Hammond and Howard Mowll – all feature. The Doctor noted 'the importance of personal contacts' in Christian ministry – especially in the international spread of evangelical cooperation in mission and evangelism. John Stott is quoted in similar vein in his biography, about going to conferences for the contacts, not necessarily the content. It is a lesson many contemporary leaders need to learn, for the sake of the Gospel mission to the world.
2. The key ministry of converting and encouraging young people into ministry was another recurring theme. Edmund Clark, a Children's Special Service Mission (CSSM – the pro-

genitor of Scripture Union beach missions) worker, raised up Woods, converted Marcus Loane and was influential in Don Robinson's family. Sadly, the Clark's 'failure' and ejection from Australia cut short this ministry here and, in God's sovereign purpose, led to Woods' departure for the US. I remain struck by how few individuals there are with these both gifts. There are evangelists among us, and there are encouragers of others into ministry – but we have too few who do both at the one fell swoop. We must pray for them.

3. The key ministries of financial giving and business acumen run through each episode of ministry growth in the book. Woods may have been the charismatic networker and speaker, but it was a succession of well-heeled generous Gospel-hearted men and women who bankrolled staff salaries, travel costs and organisational costs. Additionally, they brought wisdom from the cut-and-thrust of the business world to bear on the Gospel enterprise and played an important role in offering encouragement and personal support to Woods. A similar story has yet to be adequately told of Christian business workers' major part in the progress of much evangelical effort in Australia – both in giving and in leading. Woods linked the 'increasing preponderance of academia over business' on boards and councils as a reason for IVCF's weakness. We might say the same of the preponderance of clergy over capable laity in some of our organisations and committees.

4. Woods' passionately innocent pietism – appealing to prayer and unity in Christ in the work of evangelism whenever conflict threatened to erupt – was a striking feature. The portrait painted is of a compelling preacher and writer, a charismatic visionary leader, but a poor administrator and team leader. Someone whom God used to achieve much, even as he caused and created tension in his wake. This is a biography that, as Timothy Larsen observes on the back cover, is 'full of grace and truth'. It deserves many humble, self-reflective readers.

Rev'd Wei-Han Kuan is editor of Essentials, an Anglican Minister and Historian.

May 20: Naomi Reed - Book Launch of the ACLS 2009 Book of the Year "No Ordinary View"

7:30pm. St Marks Clayfield, Bonney Ave, Clayfield
Entry fee by donation.

June 5: The Mathew Hale Public Library Annual Dinner

6:30pm for 7:00pm. Emmanuel College (within The University of Queensland), Sir William McGregor Drive
St Lucia QLD 4067
\$55 per head

Come and hear Adrian Lane and others speak about the crucial importance of the Library's ministry in Queensland. He will be the full-time warden of the Library from 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2010.

If you would an invitation please contact us via phone (07 3236 4399) or email (info@mathewhalepubliclibrary.com).

Upcoming Events

Support the Library The Mathew Hale Public Library relies completely on gifted financial support

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