



Library Update

In Ephesians 6:11 Paul commands Christians to put on “the full armour of God,” so that we can “take our stand against the devil’s schemes” (NIV). Interestingly, each of the pieces Paul lists is defensive or supportive: the belt of truth; the breastplate of righteousness; the sandals of gospel readiness; the shield of faith; and the helmet of salvation. The only “offensive” weapon Paul lists is “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

Recently I have been re-examining the references to the word of God in the Scriptures, and the task has been highly illuminating. God creates and sustains all things through his powerful word (Heb 1:3). In particular, He creates his church with that same power evidenced in the creation (James 1:18). God’s word saves, heals and sanctifies. It is the truth (Jn 17:17; Rom 10:14-17). It comforts and guides (Ps119). It equips and builds (Eph 4:17). It produces much fruit (Lk 8:15).

The Mathew Hale Public Library is committed to promoting the ministry of this wonderful word in the Province of Queensland, so that God is praised and glorified. We have been working hard to make the Library collection more accessible, attractive, and comprehensive. This has happily resulted in its greater use. The Library program has included a wide range of events, both on and off-site, often in partnership. Jim French (Youthworks) and Zac Veron have ministered amongst us with their specialist expertise. By the time you read this, Rhys Bezzant (Ridley) and I will hopefully have spoken at the Coorparoo “Going for Growth” Conference. We have also been praying weekly at the Library for the growth of God’s church in Queensland, and it has been so encouraging to be joined in this by a group who receive the prayer notes by mail. I personally have felt remarkably sustained by the prayers of others as I have preached and taught in a range of parishes including Kenmore, Roma, The Gap, Petrie, South Brisbane and Coorparoo, as well as at the Natural Church Development Church Growth Group. I have also been working hard to identify and encourage younger leaders to think about full-time ministry, so that Queensland would have a new generation of locals committed to outreach and service here.

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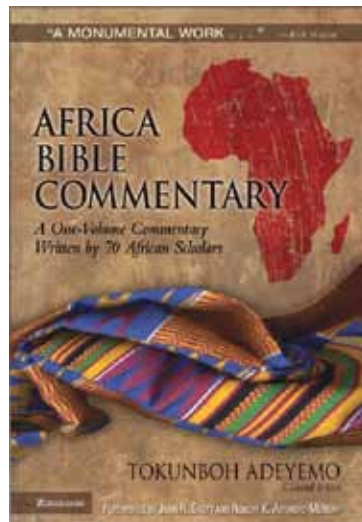
A particular thank you to the committee for stepping out in faith. “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Eph 3:20-21)

Adrian Lane
Warden

Book Review: The Africa Bible Commentary

Published by WordAlive Publishers and Zondervan (2006)

The Africa Bible Commentary is a one-volume commentary written by 70 African scholars. The commentary came about as a result of a meeting in September 1994 by representatives of Protestant churches, both ecumenical and evangelical, who gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, for the Second Pan Africa Christian Leadership Assembly. At that meeting, Christian leaders considered that a poor knowledge of the Bible and faulty application of its teaching was the primary weakness of the church in Africa.



The general editor is Dr Tokunboh Adeyemo, the executive director of the centre for Biblical Transformation.

Dr John Stott in one of the forewords to the book describes the book “As a publishing landmark ... Its foundation is Biblical, its perspective African, and its approach to controversial questions balanced. I intend to use it myself in order to gain African insights into the Word of God. Indeed, I hope it will have a world wide readership.”

This is an excellent book which should be widely used throughout the world particularly in the Australian context to give insights to people working within many different cultural situations including Australian/African churches.

Alex Crawford

For your interest and prayers:

The Library is currently involved with 4 research and publishing projects:

- Keith Weller is editing a second book, on preaching for special occasions and audiences;
- Michael Gourlay is researching Mathew Hale's ministry, with John Arnold focussing on Hale's ministry amongst Aboriginals;
- and Don Campbell is researching the ministry of Jeff Roper, with a view to a lecture in the first half of 2011. Please pray that these projects will delight, inform and inspire, promoting fruitful ministry.

Upcoming Events

Mathew Hale's 200th Birthday is on Saturday 18 June 2011

Keep this night free for a celebration!

Michael Gourlay will give a lecture on Hale's ministry in Brisbane and country Queensland; there'll be a display of Hale heritage items and there'll be prayer, praise and a party at the Library for the growth of God's church in Brisbane and beyond.

Reminder

Be part of something really worthwhile and strategic! Join us for Bible Study and Prayer for Brisbane and Queensland every Tuesday 5.30-6.15pm (except Dec 28 and January) at the Library, Blue Room, St Andrew's Anglican Church, 160 Vulture St, South Brisbane

If you can't join us in person, ask to be added to the mailing list for the Prayer Notes.

Adrian's Poem for Queensland

Sunshine Harvest for Queensland

O God who birthed this country
From Cape to Reef to Tweed
Give us a sunshine harvest
More glorious than our dreams.

O Lord of harvest plentiful
We see the crowds and cry
Send labourers into your harvest
So others will not die.

O Christ who reigns victorious
Rule us as we sow
Give us great faith for a harvest
In the face of a weed-planting foe.

O Spirit of truth and power
Convict and call we plead
So the earth will be filled with your glory
As the waters cover the sea.

O God of coal and cattle
Of city, surf and range
Give us a sunshine harvest
With hope for fear exchanged.

Adrian Lane

2 June 2010

Hab 2:14; Mt 9:35-38; 13:1-43; Jn 16:8-15; 2 Tim 1:7

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

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