

# EDITORIAL

I just finished reading a book, a book filled with mystery and intrigue. It filled my mind during the time that I was reading it: I found myself closing my blinds as soon as it started getting dark, having the subconscious thought of men lurking in the gathering darkness; I wondered if the police were looking for someone on the run when I saw the same cops twice in 10 minutes. I was amazed how reading this book before I went to bed even impacted on my subconscious at night – I had dreams of being interrogated about who my mother *really* was; I woke up in the middle of the night and the story was instantly on my mind.

Reading that book had a definite impact on my subconscious.

That got me thinking. If a harmless novel could make me, in a small way, behave like an undercover agent during the post WWII years, I wondered what impact my other reading was having on me. Or, what would be the effects of reading rubbishy worldly novels. Our minds

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## ***EDITORIAL (continued)***

obviously become very busy with what we are reading at the time, so how clean can they remain when we are reading trash?

But there's more than this – something that is far more important. What if we are busy reading God's Word? The results are likely to also be the same. If we are constantly busy with it – reading it in the morning, at meals, before we go to bed, then our minds will also be filled with the righteous works of God – His great sacrifice for us, His promises to us, and His requirements of us. We will be thinking about it consciously, but it will also be in the back of our minds – it affects our subconscious also.

And in this, we will also begin behaving as children of God in all we do. Instead of looking for men lurking in the shadows, we will look for those on the fringes who need friendship; we will find ways to show love to our neighbour; we will find numerous reasons to praise and glorify God.

Keep **the** Book open – let it fill your mind, and become part of your life – your every-day life.

*Your Word I have hidden in my heart,  
That I might not sin against You.  
Psalm 119:11*

Rose Vermeulen

## ***The Love of God in the Cross of Christ***

Nobody would ever have expected that the events that occurred in Jerusalem and particularly on Golgotha on the weekend of the Lord's death and resurrection, would be of such historical significance that it would be remembered and celebrated thousands of years later. The death by crucifixion of a teacher in Israel, was never ever associated with the ultimatum, in the Lord's plan for deliverance of humankind. This coming weekend, as has been done for many years, we commemorate Easter; more specifically, the bitter and shameful death of our Lord on the cross, and his glorious resurrection three days later.

We are on the one hand called to remember the death of our Lord. And we do. We recall the testimony Jesus gave to Pilate, the calls for crucifixion, the scourges, the crown of thorns, and the heavy cross. We are also reminded of the inscription, the nails through Jesus' hands and feet, the robbers, and soldiers dividing the Lord's garments.

And we consider the pain, the anguish, the bloody sweat, the darkness and God's rejection of His own Son. Reflecting on the event, we would say that it is sad, it's brutal, it's violent and it's unjust. And yet, as we consider this shocking event, we are at the same time called to see the Lord's goodness toward His people. We need to meditate on the mercy the Lord shows to sinners, as well as the love that He demonstrates to His own people. Further we can rest assured in the peace which He leaves with believers.

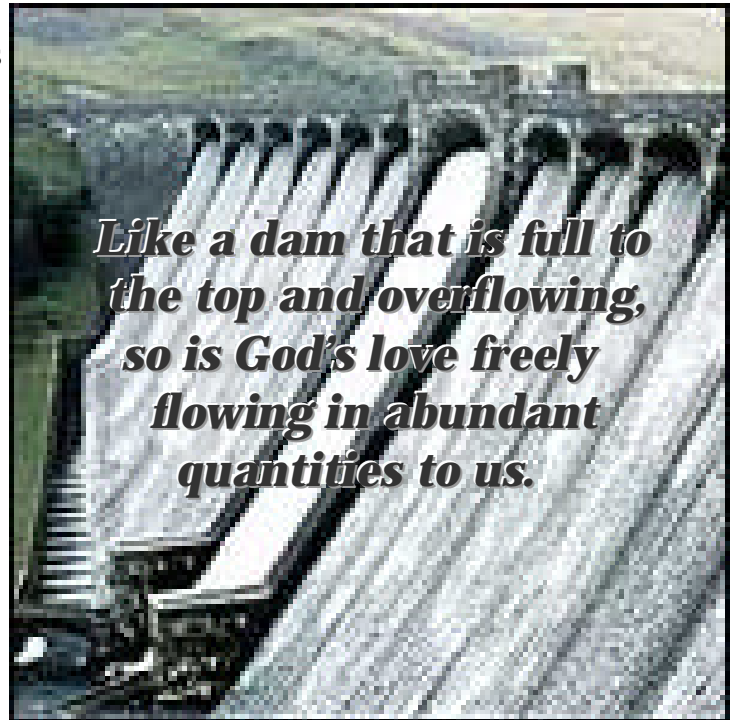
The two streams of thought are very contrasting. The horror of Jesus' death results in the delight and love of the Lord toward believers. The anguish and pain of Jesus' suffering, contrasts the peace and joy for God's children.

The love which God has for us is remarkable and surprising given our human condition. Under normal circumstances, love begins to take effect when there is a

trait / characteristic displayed that is both likeable and pleasant. Normally there is some condition that is attractive in the eye of the beholder. But in the case between God and man there is nothing like this at all. The Belgic Confession uses adjectives such as wicked, perverse and corrupt when describing man's condition (Art 14). The Canons of Dort add descriptives such as rebellious, stubborn and impure (chapter 3/4 art 1). There is precisely nothing contained in man which would attract God's love. In fact, given that the descriptives are so opposite to God's image, it is a wonder that God *could possibly* love man in the first place.

The New Testament speaks quite extensively about God's love for his children. Every writer acknowledges the ultimate love shown by God was the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus Christ. It provided satisfaction for our most basic need. "*God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him, ...shall have eternal life* (John 3:16). The apostle John in his letters, twice states, "God is love." Whilst this statement is removed from its context by countless people trying to prove other things, to the believer it is one of the most comforting statements in the Bible. In essence, it describes a part of the emotion and intimate feelings of God, if we may put this in human terms. This statement also contrasts many other gods from history, who were frequently angry and often did not hear when people called on them.

What is the depth of God's love? In Romans 5:8 we read, "*God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were still sinners,** Christ died for us.*" God's love for His own people was there already before Jesus suffered on the cross. Already in Genesis 3:15 where the victory of Christ is foretold, God's love is shown in abundance. Right throughout the Old Testament, as God prepares the way to the birth, life and death of Jesus Christ we may be assured that the motive behind all this, is the Lord's love for



His people. God's love is omnipotent, it is divine. It is too much for our human mind to fathom.

In this same chapter of Romans, Paul tries in human terms to quantify God's love. Romans 5:5: "*...The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*" Another Bible version states, "*God's love has flooded our inmost heart.*" Like a dam that is full to the top and overflowing, so is God's love freely flowing in abundant quantities to us. That is the impression that we are given. The text also refers to the Holy Spirit as ministering this gift to the believers. This gift can be recognized in the peace and joy which fills the heart of a Christian person when receiving knowledge of the love of the Lord.

For us, as children of God, we rest assured in God's love. J I Packer, in *Knowing God*, picks up on Galatians 2:20 and applies it to Romans 8:28. It surely is comforting. Galatians 2:20 states, "*...the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me...*" Packer then writes, "*Knowing this, we are to apply to ourselves the promise that all things work together*

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## ***The Love of God in the Cross of Christ (continued)***

*for good to them that love God and are called to His purpose (Rom 8:28). Not just some things, note, but all things. Every single thing that happens to us expresses Gods love to us, and comes to us for the furthering of God's purpose for us."*

God's love for us can not leave us untouched. How can a Christian remain aloof, or be indifferent towards God, who has loved us despite our human condition? The apostle John urges his readers to love one another. This means loving the brothers and sisters in the church in a very visible way. The apostle also writes that those who do not love do not know God, for God is love. It is impossible for us to love God and to show little or no care for fellow brothers and sisters in the church.

Young people, Easter time is traditionally a time to get on the road, and get away for a week end, making the most of the extra public holidays. And there is nothing wrong with this, but I would like to encourage you to also devote some time meditating on the love of God. Consider the pain, and the anguish the Lord suffered for you, for the sin that you have committed. Meditate on Romans 8:28, and realize that God's purpose for you is motivated by His love for you. Finally, radiate Christian love to those around you, to your brothers and sisters in the church, to your friends, to your parents, to the elderly people, to your spouse and to those you meet out on the street. It was after all God who first showed love to you.

**Eric Terpstra**

## **The Great Promise**

**"...and lo, I am with you always, even till the end of the age." (Matt. 28:20b)**

At the end of the gospel of Matthew, Jesus gives the Great Commission to His disciples to bring the good news of salvation to the whole world. Jesus knew that His disciples would not be able to do this in their own strength and so He also gives them a great promise to draw hope and comfort from whenever the going gets tough. "...And lo..." Jesus says *"I am with you always."*

Jesus was given the name *Immanuel* at birth (Matt. 1:23) which is literally translated as 'God with us.' Have you ever stopped to consider what this meant for Jesus? He left the full glory of heaven and eternity to enter a finite world disgraced by sin. He became one of us; He became *God With Us*. What a sacrifice! Even after He experienced life on earth He does not pull out on mankind. Jesus was tempted, He suffered, He was murdered, and yet He still says to His disciples "I am with you always."

There is great power in this promise. Jesus does not say 'I was with you' or 'I will be with you' but "I am with you." In the same vein, He does not say "I am with you now" but "I am with you always." We know that God keeps His promises, and there are many examples of this promise being carried out, even in the Old Testament.

God was with our first parents, Adam and Eve. They disobeyed God and plunged the whole world into darkness, but God had a plan for salvation – *Immanuel, God with us* would come. God was with Abraham as he journeyed to Canaan, leaving all he was familiar with behind. God was with the fleeing Jacob, eventually giving him the name *Israel* – 'Prince with God.' God was with Joseph, who was sold into slavery but in time saved his people from a great famine. God was with

David, who was hunted by King Saul yet rose above the peril to become King of Israel.

God was with the Israelites. Who could forget the great power of God displayed during the forty years they lived in the wilderness? He reminds them of His nearness when He says "Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years" (Deut. 8:4). God has been with all of His people; He is also with us today.

Have you ever faced a seemingly insurmountable problem? Have you ever doubted God's power, or questioned His ways? Those who are tested and tried by God are often told by others that "all things work out for good..." However, when walking through some of the dark tunnels of life it is impossible to see the light at the end. You know that God will work everything out for your good but when? Why is He taking so long?

David expresses some of these sentiments in one of his psalms. "I am weary with groaning; All night I make my bed swim; I drench my couch with tears. My eye wastes away because of grief; It grows old because of my enemies" (Psalm 6:6,7).

Nevertheless, God knows how we feel. He knows our thoughts; He hears our cries and prayers. He became one of us and experienced life on earth at its worst. As it says in Hebrew 4:15 - "For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted as we are - yet was without sin." How beautiful, that our Lord Jesus Christ, who sits in majesty at God's right hand, knows exactly what we are going through! He reacted to suffering in the same way that we do. He could see how His death would work out for the good of humanity but still He groaned - "Father...let this cup pass from me" (Matt. 26:39). He bore the separation from His Father so that we need never be separated from God ever again.

Our human minds are small. We do not know what is ahead of us. We may not be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel - but we know one thing that makes this life bearable. GOD IS WITH US! As we look at the long road ahead of us we can almost hear God whisper in our ear - 'I am here, my child. I will provide. I will be near you. I am your Saviour. I am with you always, even till the end of the age.'

**Heidi Muldenburg**

### ***Food for Thought:***

*How can we prepare ourselves for the final day? The book of Ecclesiastes makes this clear. It points out how, because of sin, life on this earth, under the sun, without God - is empty and meaningless.*

Godless greatness leads to sorrow,  
Godless pleasure to disappointment,  
Godless labour to a hatred of life,  
Godless philosophy to emptiness.  
A Godless life leads to depression,  
Godless wealth to trouble,  
Godless existence to frustration,  
Godless wisdom to despair.

*Thus the author of Ecclesiastes summarises his message with the words: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man (Ecc. 12:13).*

Submitted by a reader who thought this part of Rev Poppe's sermon was appropriate for 'Food for Thought.'

*While we now know the outcome of this debate, the points raised are perhaps more relevant than ever, since the drug may soon be on the market.*

## ***A Christian Viewpoint on the Use of RU-486***

In 1996, the importation of abortion pill RU-486 was banned. Taking the drug results in a woman's body rejecting her child's developing placenta by blocking a hormone necessary to maintain pregnancy, bringing about a chemical abortion. A majority of Australians are declaring that the ban should be lifted, giving our women access to the drug. However, they have not shown proper insight in their reasoning and much of it is immoral. If our nation would investigate and properly understand the consequences of lifting the veto and the morals breached when having an abortion, it would surely see that the pill will be of no benefit to Australian women. The Health Minister is correct in prohibiting RU-486 and it is to be desired that the current restriction will be maintained.

Those desiring the release of the pill argue that its availability will assist women living in rural areas. They claim that the drug can be sent to women who live too far from medical facilities to have a surgical abortion. The method of surgical abortion is said to be disturbing as women may need to stay from home for a prolonged period of time. This way, regular home procedures are disturbed, especially for rural, farming women, often in a way detrimental to family life. If an easier alternative is available for rural women many see no reason why they should be detained from using it.

However, those who argue in this way fail to see the full implications of RU-486 for rural women. While Australian Medical Association president Mukesh Haikerwal tells that the drug is "very safe although some women suffered minor side effects", RU-486 is clearly not as harmless and efficient as claimed. After taking the medication a woman can spend a number of days in excruciating pain before her child is aborted. Furthermore, the 'minor' side effects consist of no less than

serious bacterial infection, severe bleeding, ruptured ectopic pregnancy (when the child is outside the womb), hospitalization and death. Danco Industries, the manufacturers of the drug, have reported 600 such adverse events between the years 2000 and 2004. It is also known that five percent of the women require follow-up surgical procedure after the abortion. Rural women are particularly vulnerable to these side effects due to their distance from medical assistance. Doctors have advised that before taking RU-486 women must have an ultrasound and have easy access to emergency services. Ultrasounds are particularly important in order to determine the age of the baby who must be no more than eight weeks old, and its position in the womb. If these precautions are not taken, the pill can have devastating and even fatal results. In order to avoid infection and damage rural women will have to spend time in urban areas. Consequently, if the pill is used sensibly, the availability of RU-486 will not make a positive difference to rural women. On the contrary, it has the potential to be harmful for such women in the case that they take the drug thinking that they will not need the medical assistance. RU-486 should not be legalized. Clearly, in this respect, lifting the ban will have more negative than positive effects for rural women.

Those in favour of having the abortion pill released also claim that the drug will assist in killing brain tumours. The Public Health Association president Cathy Mead told that the pill was "a proved treatment for some cancers, fibroid tumours, inoperable meningiomass and glaucoma". Many believe that approval of RU-486 will be very valuable to patients of such as they claim that at present a laborious process must be followed in order to get hold of the drug. Society does not wish to be deprived of something that could prevent death and bodily harm.

Nevertheless, this claim is hardly substantial and cannot form any basis on which to legalize the drug. Since 1996 four women have had permission to get RU-486 imported into Australia in order to attempt to kill brain tumours. Obviously the pill is not the most effective means of killing tumours, or the statistic would show a higher demand for it. Moreover, if the pill had exceptional and worthwhile results, action would have been taken earlier to allow controlled numbers into Australia without having to go through the claimed 'laborious process'. The argument that the drug should be allowed for such a purpose has merely been used to attempt to back up the case for the legalization of RU-486. If the restriction was removed, no difference would be made to those with the said tumours.

The main assertion given by those who want Australian women to have access to RU-486 is that the women are entitled to get the drug. Many articles in Australian newspapers concerning the issue have phrases such as 'women's rights', 'it's their body' and 'women's choice'. It is commonly believed that each person can choose for himself and decide for himself what he, personally, wants. He has a fair claim to what he desires, being accountable to himself only. Consequently, it is commonly seen that if there is a possible alternative to surgical abortion, every woman is entitled to have access to it.

However, as clearly shown in God's Word, people have no rights whatsoever and cannot claim access to the pill on such grounds. The mindset that humans have rights over their lives is morally incorrect. We cannot demand anything 'by right', especially after the fall into sin. People are on this earth to give praise to God and worship Him. We have been put on earth by His almighty hand and have no claim to anything. "I have rights" indicates a worldview which elevates man over God and fails to acknowledge Him as our Director. The

correct and biblical stance on man's position in this world is one of humility, remembering that we are subject to God and His Word. Consequently, to use rights as an argument to legalize RU-486 has no superiority over, for example, the Christian worldview to have legalization. As Christians, knowing that God is King over the whole world, we have a duty to show that rights are no legal argument at all and therefore no basis on which to lift the ban on RU-486.

By maintaining the restrictions on the drug, Australian mothers will be protected from severe emotional trauma. Legalization of the drug will most likely increase abortion rates as many will see the drug as easier, quicker and cleaner than the surgical abortion. As many women do not realize beforehand, abortion causes great psychological trauma. Increased abortion rates will also increase the numbers of women who result in living with a terrible scar in their memories for the rest of their lives. The disturbance created is said to be far more severe in women who have used RU-486 than those who have had a surgical abortion, as these are conscious of the process and very involved in it. Also, it is highly probable that many women will secretly use the drug, in order to cover up a pregnancy from others. This way, a woman will be

**RU-486 will not benefit society at all;  
it will encourage godlessness in our society.**

**Where God has given life, let us not kill it.**

isolated from others and receive no support and assistance, or the encouragement to keep the child. Evidence of the trauma many women experience is shown by in quotes such as "No support, no choice, unimaginable pain... I regret my abortion" and "Something inside me died after my abortion". RU-486 will only increase the mental pain that many women endure. Encouragement to have an abortion should be prevented by maintaining the current restriction on the pill.

Furthermore, RU-486 should not be legalized because of the immense negative impact it

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## ***The Use of RU-486 (continued)***

threatens to have on Australia's population. At present our nation has a declining birth rate and a high abortion rate. As said previously, access to the pill will increase abortions. Current population pyramids already show that the current generation of youth, and those following, will have trouble supporting the older generations. Employment and trades will also suffer when coming generations dominate the workforce. Australia's economy is continually expanding. However, a low population will slow the running of our economy. In turn, this has the potential to increase Muslim influence in our nation. As expressed by former Liberal minister Danna Vale, "We are aborting ourselves out of existence". Many Muslims are eager to escape their disturbed countries and seek peace and freedom in multi-cultural Western nations. Western countries, as is currently evident in Europe, accept the Muslims because of the impact they have in the economy. Having a pro-life cultural heritage, Muslims have large families and thus are a healthy contribution to our economies. However, while it is important to keep the economy running smoothly, Muslims will not be beneficial to Australia in terms of religion.

Most importantly, abortion is in direct opposition to God's Word and will only be encouraged by the legalization of RU-486. When declaring that the pill should be made available to women, the claimants do not stop to think whether abortion is correct, an indication of how secular our society is. Bluntly, abortion is murder. Women who wish to take RU-486 or have a surgical abortion are killing a life, a child with fingers,

toes and a beating heart. We are clearly instructed by God in the sixth commandment of His Law that "Thou shalt not kill". He alone controls life, as expressed in Ps 139, "For Thou didst form my inward parts, Thou didst knit me together in my mother's womb". Our Creator is the only one who can decide on or dispose of human life. He gives and takes away and every decision of man must be subject to His commandments. We do not live for ourselves and our own pleasure, but for God. He has commanded that we serve and glorify Him in all things. If Australian women are given access to that deadly pill, abortion will be encouraged and the murder of unborn children will increase as will the godlessness of our society.

It is a pity that so many in our society have so blatantly disregarded God's commands in their selfishness. Hardly considering the fact that abortion is morally wrong, most leap right into weighing the positives and negatives. Clearly, RU-486 will not benefit society at all. While many claim that it will be beneficial to rural women and those with tumours, it is evident that these assertions are no base on which to lift the ban on the abortion drug. The arguments against the pill, notably God's command against murder, far outweigh those expressed by the people who desire the legalization. Where God has given life, let us not kill it. Lifting the veto on RU-486 will encourage godlessness in our society. Let us pray that the ban on RU-486 will be maintained.

**Charlotte Plug**

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### ***Editorial Note:***

*We might be disheartened by the passing of this bill, but we ought to remember that RU-486 could have been introduced almost 10 years ago. In 1996, Senator Harradine put forward the motion to restrict access to RU-486. Since then, the drug has remained unavailable since it has been in the hands of pro-life health ministers in a pro-life government.*

*This did not happen by chance.*

*Although the veto on RU-486 has now been lifted, we can still express our disapproval of this by writing to the Therapeutic Goods Administration. However, be aware that this is a scientific body which will not be examining the ethics of the drug, but merely its safety and efficacy. Hence objections are more likely to be addressed if they include evidence of significant adverse effects associated with the use of RU-486.*

The Contender Editorial committee have appointed a number of agents in our non metropolitan area. Their main function is to act as a contact point between yourselves and the editorial committee. If you would like to write an article for Contender, or if you would like Contender to address a particular issue you can get in touch with this person.

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Due to a publishing technicality, the following did not appear in the last issue of Contender:

*A big thank-you to Michelle Bosveld for the time and effort that you put into the thought and design of the new Contender cover. Thank-you also for the explanation provided with it, in which you drew our attention to some of the finer details which could easily have been missed to an untrained eye. It is very much appreciated.*

EIC

## AFL 2006

It was in a shopping centre down Bunbury way that I saw a sign which was part of an advertising promotion. It read something like this:

SOMETIMES LIFE IS BORING.  
THAT'S CALLED THE OFF SEASON.

The sign was displayed in one of the stalls which you often find in shopping centres. This one was advertising Foxtel, a service enabling viewers to tune into almost any sports action anywhere, and guaranteeing viewers not to have to miss one single moment of live football action. I really wasn't interested in Foxtel but I did have to chuckle over the sign. For in a clever sort of way it drew attention to something well beyond a product, namely that sport, and Aussie

Rules Football in particular, is a big part of Australian culture.

Well, the off season is behind us again. In fact, as I am writing this article, the Geelong Cats and the Adelaide Crows are battling out the NAB pre season grand final and it's only a matter of a few weeks before the real season starts.

So, the whole show is about to start up again. Clubs from Queensland, NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia are ready to commence the battle for supremacy, leading up to the month of September when the top eight teams fight for the right to play on that final Saturday in September, for the ultimate prize, the holy grail, the premiership cup. Coaches and players have been in training for months already. Injuries have had time to be treated and to heal and every one is playing up their club's chances of playing finals football this year.

It goes beyond the scope of this article to go behind the scenes and to detail the activity at club level, the memberships, the tradition, the management and organization, the sponsorships and the money, but take it from me, it's huge. Likewise, I wouldn't like to hazard a guess as to how many Australians will attend matches or listen to or watch them on radio or television. Television rights run into the hundreds of millions of dollars and then, just to capitalize a little more on Aussie infatuation with the oval shaped ball, there are shows like The Footy Show, where the likes of Eddy McGuire, Sam Newman and others extract every detail of every action and every decision and milk it for what it's worth.

I must say that I like (Aussie Rules) footy, for a number of reasons. I love the speed of the game. High marks and other skilful executions also spin me out. I like the physical-ness of it too, the tackles, the bumps and the spills. I enjoy the team play and there is something interesting about the way the competition builds up over the season. I can understand why young people are attracted to footy. Speed, skill, raw power, physical-ness, competition and bragging rights are the sorts of things young people (boys especially) revel in.

It sounds like I'm whitewashing the game doesn't it? So, I had better say that I don't enjoy everything about the game. I don't enjoy player melees, nor do I admire players targeting other players with the

intent to hurt. I don't admire players shouting abuse at umpires, or engaging in on field racist taunts. And I wished they wouldn't play on Sundays.

This year, AFL was in focus a little earlier than it otherwise would be. Different players were in the news for the wrong reasons. Ben Cousins from West Coast abandoned his vehicle some 50 metres before a booze bus which got him seven pages of coverage in the West Australian newspaper. In the end the event cost him the captaincy, especially because old ghosts, suggesting connections between himself and underworld figures, raised their ugly spectre yet again. Likewise Ashley Sampi was in court over threatening his girlfriend's sister with a knife. Apparently Ashley Sampi is a person with lots of "private demons". Wayne Carey (The King), recently from Adelaide and prior to that from North Melbourne, was in the news having split from his wife, some six weeks after the birth of one of their children. It brings back memories of why Wayne Carey had to leave North Melbourne; an affair with the wife of his team mate made life pretty impossible for him back there.

What concerns me, is that I see in young people, also Christian young people, that these are the figures they admire beyond being good footballers. They are their heroes and their role models. They stand for everything that (young) people identify with: strength, power, fitness, fame, money, expensive cars, and matters relating to honesty, being law abiding, fidelity in marriage are so easily relegated to second place.

Young people who follow footy today, will have heard of Gary Ablett junior from Geelong. I remember his father who stands out as one of the most awesome footballers who ever played the game. He was so good, he became known as God and when he was referred to in print, it was written

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## AFL 2006 (continued)

with a capital G. Like Wayne Carey became The King, so Gary Ablett senior became God. When he retired from footy at the late age of 39 he suffered terrible depression and alcoholic and drug addiction. Much of this was exposed when a young lady, while spending the night with GA Senior in his motel room, died of a drug overdose and GA was suspected (but later cleared) of having a hand in her death.

That's why I want to warn young people today, as the 2006 AFL season gears up again. Let (all) the commandments of the LORD guide you **in setting limits** for yourself in the manner in which you get involved in football.

The first commandment speaks about giving first priority to God; no gods before Me! Let your enjoyment in the game not cause you to make an idol out of it or out of the players. I know; our age openly promotes idolatry. Shows like Australian Idol, are a clear testimony to that. But the LORD abhors idolatry; and He insists on being first in our lives. **Do not let football interfere with those matters which need to be priorities in your life. Also, seek your role models in men and women who are known for their godliness, rather than their football.**

The fourth commandment speaks of remembering the Sabbath Day, and so on.

*Enjoy your football ...,  
but do it within the confines of  
very clear boundaries which  
are determined by the Word of  
our God.*

So, when the footy is played on Sunday, keep your radio and TV off. That's the LORD's day; remember it, and engage on that day in activity which reflects the special character of that day.

The fifth commandment speaks about respect for authority. So, learn to condemn Ben Cousins' unlawful and law evading behaviour. Don't follow the mindless masses who still wave their placards promoting Cousins as Captain. His demotion from that position is deserved and fitting.

Likewise the seventh commandment speaks of being chaste in our relationships. Let that shape how we view Carey's off field dalliances and let's not make excuses for him, just because he was a superior footballer.

In fact, **apply the filter of God's covenant words to the whole AFL spectrum and let that guide you strictly in the manner in which you involve yourself in it.**

*The fourth commandment  
speaks of the Sabbath Day,  
... the Lord's day;  
remember it, and engage  
on that day in activity which  
reflects the special character  
of that day.*

To all of you: enjoy your football (if you must), but do it within the confines of very clear boundaries which are determined by the Word of our God. Don't give Satan the opportunity to use football to prize you loose from being faithful to your covenant God. Let your fun be complete, in the knowledge that you could appreciate and value God's gifts, and not compromise on His will.

**A Terpstra**

**Aim:**

Romans 12:2 teaches all of God's people:

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

This magazine will encourage its readers to earnestly contend for the faith, and to think and act biblically, in the good traditions of the Church of all ages. Its basis is God's word, as the Church confesses in the Three Forms of Unity. It is intended for the younger members of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia, and is produced in co-operation with the Una Sancta. Subscription to the Contender is automatic with subscription to the Una Sancta.

It is not meant to be exclusively for unmarried members who still attend the Youth Bible Study Clubs, but for all those who fit within the loose parameters of 16 to 30 years of age.

**Editorial Board:**

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