

The Oyster

“...What God does with a single grain of Sand”



February 2015

Grounded in Reality

By David Trounce

I carry a story around in my head. It's not a true story, but it's a story that's hard to escape. It goes something like this: 'I am usually right, I am generous and I can beat anyone in a 100 metre sprint.'

That's the story I have to listen to sometimes. I have to listen because the narrator is in my head, and even though I can poke holes in the story, if I'm tired, or the stress is high, that voice can easily step forward to re-tell its story.

I suppose many of us live with these kinds of false narratives running around in their head. We like to paint a better story for ourselves.

These false histories are an especially attractive means of dealing with our guilt. Sometimes, they become so persistent we actually start believing them.

“That marriage, well, it fell apart, but it was nobody's fault and it all worked out OK....” says the man, five years after deserting his wife. Reality check: Your gambling debts cost you the house, you hit the bottle, the kids are on drugs, your 16 year old daughter is pregnant and your abandoned wife is renting a one bedroom dump.



In the face of reality, such false narratives are hard to maintain.

Eventually the real world bares its fangs and bites down hard.

Jesus was tempted to entertain similar false narratives. That old serpent the devil came along saying, “I'll give you the world if you bow down and worship me.” Wrong. “Jump off the roof of the Temple and some angels will pass by and swoop you up.” Wrong.

Jesus rejected the voice that offered a pain free path to glory. He chose the real world because He actually does love the real world.

But that meant being bitten by the serpent ...and the wound was fatal. He died the death we deserved for our sin so that we might live in the real world without fear.

His death for our guilt is an invitation to full confession and complete pardon, to free us from the deadly pleasure of believing our own lies. It's time to come clean.

Is the Bible Reliable?

“...these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

(John 20:31)

The Bible is an open book. Unlike many other religious texts, the Bible has remained open throughout the centuries to scrutiny, enquiry, scepticism and historical comparison along with other scholarly disciplines such as archaeology, science, geology and philosophy.

Both the academic and the curious bystander have been invited to read, study, pull apart and investigate the 66 books of the Bible, to test its claims and find hope in its pages.

Since the Reformation, more and more people have been invited to find out for themselves whether the Bible and its claims contain truths which unlock the mystery of the universe, or is the Bible just a collection of entertaining myths.

When was it written? By Whom? Is it fact or fiction. And, perhaps most importantly...



Is the Bible a Reliable Guide to the Truth?

If you are someone with a genuine interest in finding out, we invite you to come along and find out for yourself.

Can the Bible Be Trusted? You are invited to Find Out.

- Is the Bible a reliable source of truth?
- Is it historically accurate?
- How does it compare with other “Holy Books”?

Over two weeks, we invite you to join us for an open, honest forum where we will be investigating the origins of the Bible, its claims and its place in human history.

All are welcome to attend, ask questions and find answers as we investigate the world's largest religion and the most popular book ever written.

When: Sunday March 8th and 15th. 4pm-5.30pm (includes afternoon tea)

Where: Tanilba CRC, cnr Peace Parade and Tanilba Ave, Tanilba Bay.

Contact: David Trounce. 49 845442

News and Events

Lemon Jam

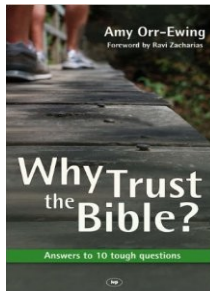
Mixed local market stalls
10-2pm. A local band
plays from 1-4pm.



Lemon Jam is a series of music events being held on the waterfront Henderson Park, Lemon Tree Passage on the fourth Sunday of every month. Support local musicians and get down to the waterfront for a jam!

Why Trust the Bible?

Are the original manuscripts reliable?
What about other holy books?
Isn't the Bible sexist?
What about all the wars?
How can I know?



You don't honestly believe all that stuff in the Bible, do you?

Challenged by her friends, and later as a student by theological staff, Amy Orr-Ewing, an Oxford Scholar, was determined to leave no stone unturned in her eagerness to investigate the truth, reliability and unique claims of the Bible and its origins.

This book looks at some of the most asked questions and provides clear, documented answers, and not simply more opinion.

This book does an excellent job of answering the kinds of questions about the Bible which bother people most.

Drop in and Request a Free Copy from the Church Bookshelf on any given Sunday.

Also, check out our 2 week open forum,

Can the Bible be Trusted?



What's on This Month

Women's Get Together

The local get together of our women folk resumes on Friday March 6th, 7pm, Tanilba CRC Church.

Call Ella on 4982 4507

Men's Breakfast

Meets on the first Saturday of the month at Henderson Park.

This month Saturday February
7th 7.30am

For more Information call
David on 4984 5442

Published By Tanilba CRC.

02 4984 5442

Corner of Tanilba Ave and Peace
Parade, Tanilba Bay. NSW.

About our Church Community...

Tanilba CRC is a Community Church that began on the Peninsula over 50 years ago. We believe in the Bible. We believe that Life is a Gift and we believe that God has created us to know Him and to live for Him in true family and community through His Son, Jesus.



If you would like to find out more about our Church's activities on the Tilligerry Peninsula, we invite you to contact us or attend one of our Regular Activities for more information.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting

At the church. 7pm.
All Welcome.

Social Groups

Make New Friends.
Soup Nights, Kite Flying,
Cricket, BBQ'S, Day Trips,
Family Games and more.
Join one of our Social
Community Groups in Lemon
Tree Passage or Tanilba Bay.
These Groups are open to all and
meet in February, May, August
and November each year.

Weekly Bible Study Groups

We run two Bible Study Groups.
Our Family Bible Study and
Supper Group meets at 4pm on
most Sundays at Mallabula.
Our Ladies' Bible Study Group
also meets at Mallabula on
Fridays at 10am.

Men's Breakfast

Come join other local men in our
Community for a Hot Breakfast
on the 1st Saturday of February.
All are welcome and we meet
at 7.30am at Henderson Park,
Lemon Tree Passage.

Women's Social Group

This group is open to all women
and next meets on the
first Friday in March at 7pm in
the church hall ,
Tanilba Bay.
Come share a meal and a
conversation on a Friday Night.

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Christian Reformed Church
02 4984 5442
Corner of Tanilba Ave and Peace
Parade, Tanilba Bay. NSW.

Church Service: 9am Sunday

www.tanilbacrc.org.au