

The Oyster

“...Because we all have faith in things unseen.”



March 2015

A Sneaking Suspicion

By David Trounce

It is a common question that stumps many. “What about ‘that innocent guy’ living in the deepest, darkest jungle who has never heard about Jesus or God or the Bible: Will this guy go to heaven?”

It’s a great question and my answer would be “Yes. No doubt about it. That guy goes to heaven. He will spend eternity in heaven.”

But here’s the problem. ‘That guy’ doesn’t exist (and by ‘that guy’, I mean, ‘That innocent guy’).

Throughout time all people have had two sneaking suspicions about the world we live in.

The first is that there is such a thing as right and wrong, and everybody seems to know about it. It’s almost like something is written into the heart of every human that tells them when they’re doing the wrong thing. Murder is a universal example.

All day long, something is declaring us either innocent or guilty regarding the things we do, and, knowing you don’t get something from nothing, we suspect that there must be something beyond ourselves to which we must give an account. This is our first suspicion.

The second suspicion is that we all



seem to acknowledge that there is something beyond death. Now, I know it’s easy to ignore that when you’re playing poker, but it’s not so easy to ignore when your doctor announces you have secondary bone cancer. It’s not easy to dismiss it when you are sitting beside that person and you see the fear in their eyes.

In his book, *Eternity in Their Hearts*, Don Richardson demonstrates how ancient cultures, no matter how isolated, held to two beliefs, one being that they had wandered from the true God, and the other, that someone would come and tell them what to do about it.

Deep down we all suspect there is a God. But, like the futile attempt to keep a beach ball under water, we strive to keep this suspicion buried. Why? Because, if there is a God, I know darn well I am not “innocent”. What to do? Better to come clean and admit that the two of you are not on good terms than to keep hiding behind a coconut palm pretending you didn’t know.

Fifty Shades of Prey

"Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare." (Isaiah 55:2)

Fifty Shades of Grey is the way many are describing the newly released porn-for-teens flick, "Fifty Shades of Grey".

The publishing phenomenon of Fifty Shades began as Twilight fan fiction and the two books use the same basic device: Women who learn to view themselves as prey.

Like Bella in Twilight, the girl in Fifty Shades feels frumpy, dumpy, and entirely unworthy. She is one of the "little people".



Christian Grey, the twerp of this sorry business, is way too beautiful for her, and his beauty justifies whatever pain he wants to inflict. She is unworthy of the perfect one – that man over there with straight teeth and crooked desires. If a man hurts you, then what did you expect? Isn't he worth it?

The abuse that women once suffered in silence is all there in spades. Having liberated themselves from chains, they now find themselves in handcuffs. It is all there – the moodiness that keeps her off balance, the aggression that makes her blame herself, his desire to hurt, her desire to change him.

Now some will maintain that the whole thing is consensual, so that makes it OK.

Really? There are many women who accept into their lives men who treat them like dirt (and sure, they technically choose it), but they typically got to that point because their self worth was shaped by men who had treated them like dirt growing up, and they most certainly didn't choose that.

So do we seriously want to maintain that kicking a woman when she is down is not a problem provided she has been previously starved of genuine love and kicked down, and has stopped trying to get up? Fifty Shades is abuse-prepping class for girls and women who are currently in training to view themselves as prey.

If your daughter brought Christian Grey home as her new date, would you be happy to see him? Fathers, if the answer is no, and you love your daughters, then don't send them off to the cinema to meet the four fanged selfish creep in the first place. And if we think that our little girls would never fall for junk food like that, then we have not been paying attention. (Acknowledgement: Doug Wilson)

News and Events

Pete's Kitchen is a combined churches' open kitchen run every Thursday Night from 6-7pm during school term time at the Baptist Church in Beatty Bvde, Tanilba Bay.

All are welcome to come and share a meal among friends in the community. A gold coin donation is appreciated. For more information, call Anthony Gentle on 49823022.



Why Trust the Bible?

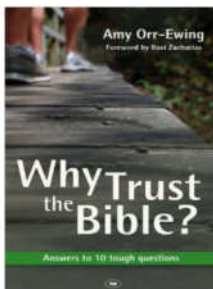
Are the original manuscripts reliable?

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.

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.

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

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. 4984 5442

What's on This Month

Women's Get Together

The local get together for women on the peninsula for a chat over a meal 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, Lemon Tree Passage.

This month Saturday
March 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.

Men's Breakfast

Come join other local men in our
community for a Hot Breakfast at
Henderson Park, Lemon Tree
Passage on the 1st Saturday each
month February to December at
7.30am. All are welcome.

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.

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.

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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