

The Oyster

...The Mother of Pearls.



May 2014

Makers of Humanity

By David Trounce

Intrigue or value. A week in the Bahamas or a bin full of dirty nappies. A company car and cocktails in Double Bay or split ends, a runny nose and four hours in a hospital waiting room.

A mother's sacrifice is considered pretty mundane. It lacks the intrigue and allure of career, travel, mango espadrilles and the latté crowd.

I am one of five children and I cannot recall a day growing up when the table was not laid with food, when my school clothes were not ironed by seven in the morning, when my hair was not brushed, or my splinters not removed, or my mother not attending the dozen or more weekly sporting events.

What was she doing? Why bother?

She was multiplying loaves and fishes. She was feeding her children bread, and through that meagre offering she was setting the stage for the feeding of thousands.

For those mums who feel that their efforts might be wasted on children, and that they would rather be off doing something else, take a look at the faces around your table for a moment.



How many people will they go on to serve?

How many grandchildren and great grand children, friends, spouses and neighbours will those little hands go on to love and cherish because you once filled their little hands?

“Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.”

Given with love, those Vegemite sandwiches that seem only to feed one will go on to feed a multitude as they are broken down and transformed into more serving hands.

Your laundry pile, selflessly tackled daily, will be used in the hands of God to clothe many.

Mothers, do not think that your work does not matter. In God's hands, it will be broken, and broken, and broken again.

The work of your hands is being multiplied through sacrifice so that a multitude may eat and be satisfied.

Honouring Motherhood

“She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.... Her children rise up and call her blessed... Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all... Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.” Proverbs 31:26-31

Contrary to popular myth, the Bible, above all ancient texts, extols the value of womanhood. The Bible honours women like no other book in the world.

It's a woman who is chosen to bring forth the Saviour of the world.

The Holy City is a glorious Mother; Jesus' death was for His Bride, and the first person to see Jesus after His resurrection was a woman.



Modern history also shows an indisputable correlation between the advent of the Gospel and the rising value of femininity and womanhood. Why in Pakistan do people think it's acceptable to burn a widow? Why in Iran is a woman's testimony despised in court in favour of the testimony of a man?

Where the Gospel has not gone, women remain oppressed. Where the Gospel has been welcomed, women have enjoyed the increasing liberty of a culture founded and transformed by that Gospel – a Gospel that honours all women with dignity.

That being true, one of the signs that we have abandoned that Gospel and removed the Bible from our culture is a return to the disdain of all things female and a despising of one of their chief honours – Motherhood.

The most dangerous place for a girl to find herself today is not in Pakistan, or in Iran, or in the pub. It's in the once safe place of a mother's womb.

It's May, and we are celebrating Motherhood while simultaneously preventing it with a suction pump. To add to the scandal, around half of those murders are female – future mums themselves.

This is not honouring Motherhood. Nor is it true feminism (or true masculinity for that matter) to advocate the death of the most vulnerable females in our society. It is a sin, it is infanticide and it is to our shame.

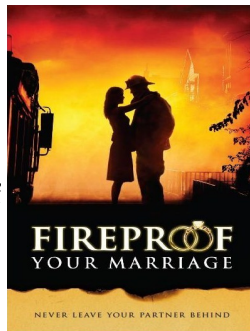
But where there is death, there is also mercy. Jesus died for His Bride, a Woman. He did this to cover the scandal of our sin and to restore the dignity of all women.

Every female is precious in His sight, and in coming to Him we will all find full and complete forgiveness. We will find a mercy that covers our shame and a dignity that restores the true honour belonging to Motherhood.

News, Views and Events

Fireproof Your Marriage

A marriage between a man and a woman represents one of societies most potent relationships. Civilisations have been built, and have collapsed, on account of how they honoured or dishonoured marriage. 'Fireproof your Marriage' provides resources, counsel and support for married couples. If you would like to know more about these resources, pop by the church or call 4984 5442.



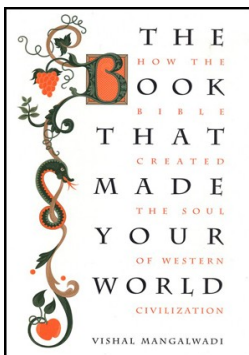
The Book that made your World

By Vishal Mangalwadi

Why do we have hospitals, universities, and welfare for the needy?

Where did these ideas come from and why do we think they are so important?

When did we conclude that women ought to enjoy the same education as men and that slavery was a bad idea?



In this well researched book about the prosperity and progress of the western world, a native of India looks on with wonder at how we have come so far, and why so many other cultures have not.

Whether you're an avid student of the Bible or a skeptic, 'The Book That Made Your World' will transform your perception of its influence on virtually every facet of Western civilisation.

Indian philosopher Vishal Mangalwadi reveals the personal motivation that fuelled his own study of the Bible, and systematically illustrates how its precepts became the framework for the most progressive society in the last millennium.

From politics and science to academia, health care, family life, economics and technology, Vishal demonstrates beyond any doubt how the Bible's sacred copy became the key that unlocked the Western mind.

What's it all About?

Come along to one of our 'Simply Christianity' get-togethers and find out what the Bible teaches about our world and the God who made it.

Phone David on 4984 5442

Women's Get Together

Join with other local woman on the first Friday of the month for an evening dinner and chat.

This month Friday May 2nd 7pm, Tanilba CRC church hall.

Call Ella on 4982 4507

Men's Breakfast

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

This month May 3rd 7.30am

For more Information call David on 4984 5442

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 the month.

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 meets on the
first Friday, March to December,
at 7pm in the church hall ,
Tanilba Bay.

Come share a meal and a
conversation on a Friday Night.

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Corner of Tanilba Ave and Peace
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Church Service: 9am Sunday

www.tanilbacrc.org.au