

# AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENT BAPTIST NEWSLETTER

Dr David C. Bennett, Editor

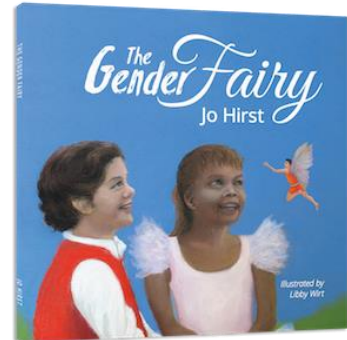
2Timothy 4:2 *“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”*

SEPTEMBER, 2016 ISSUE #2

<http://www.thegenderfairy.com/> “ONLY YOU KNOW WHETHER YOU ARE A BOY OR A GIRL. NO ONE CAN TELL YOU” – Yes, “The Gender Fairy is a simple story about two children feeling the relief of being heard: Of two children who are taking their first joyful steps toward living as their true selves.



For children aged four and up, The Gender Fairy is designed to be read aloud in the classroom, or at home. It includes notes for parents and teachers to



aid discussion and

learning, completed in collaboration with Roz Ward (La Trobe University).” As unbelievable and absurd as it sounds this is all so true. What’s next?

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Churches-told-to-hire-bouncers-and-install-panic-alarms-in-IS-warning> CHURCHES TOLD TO HIRE BOUNCERS AND INSTALL PANIC ALARMS IN IS WARNING 31/08/2016 – Now in the UK, “Churches are being warned they must take more security precautions to tackle the rise in threat from Islamic extremists. The Counter Terrorism Advice for Churches booklet says clergy should hire someone to watch the door, install CCTV and have panic alarms.” It is said “...small parishes are most at risk of an attack from Islamic State militants.” This follows just “...weeks after the murder of French priest Fr Jacques Hamel by two IS extremists.”

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/World/First-victims-of-Russian-ban-on-evangelism> FIRST VICTIMS OF RUSSIAN BAN ON EVANGELISM 28/08/2016 – In Russia “An American man is among the first group of people to be targeted under new anti-evangelism laws”. These laws ban anyone “...from discussing their faith outside of churches and other designated places.” The American, Donald Ossewaarde, “...was arrested in his own home, where policemen came to establish the fact that a group was meeting with him for prayer and Bible reading, which they say is illegal.”



<https://284532a540b00726ab7e-ff7c063c60e1f1cafc9413f00ac5293c.ssl.cf4.rackcdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/160818-Birth-Certificates-To-Reflect-True-Identity.pdf> 18/08/2016 BIRTH CERTIFICATES TO REFLECT TRUE IDENTITY – Strange but true, in the state of Victoria, Australia “The Andrews Labor Government will remove barriers for trans, gender diverse and intersex Victorians seeking new birth certificates. Delivering on another equality agenda election commitment, the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Bill 2016 to be introduced in Parliament today removes the need for applicants to have undergone

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sex affirmation surgery before being able to apply for a new birth certificate. Importantly, the Bill also ensures couples will no longer be forced to divorce if one partner wishes to apply to change the sex recorded on their birth registration. Adults will be able to apply to alter the sex recorded on their Victorian birth registration and birth certificate. Under the changes, an applicant will be able to nominate the sex descriptor in their birth registration as male, female or specify a gender diverse or non-binary descriptor.” Victoria’s Attorney General Martin Pakula said “Nobody should be forced to undergo major surgery or choose between maintaining a legal relationship with their spouse just to get a birth certificate that reflects who they are.”

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/discrimination-in-religious-schools-faces-crackdown-20160831-gr5mot.html> 31/08/2016 - DISCRIMINATION IN RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS FACES CRACKDOWN- Again in Victoria, “Religious schools and bodies could soon find it harder to discriminate against employees because of their sexuality or faith. Proposed legislation “...reinstates an ‘inherent requirement test that would weaken the powers of Victorian religious bodies and schools to turn away employees because of their sexuality, sex, gender identity, religious beliefs or marital status.”

However, “These groups would still be able to discriminate against employees based on these attributes if they could prove that religious beliefs were linked to a job. While the changes would strengthen protections for employees in non-teaching roles such as gay gardeners, transgender administrative assistants and atheist librarians, it is unclear how they would play out for teachers. Schools might argue that as a community of faith, even the maths teacher must be religious.”

Victoria’s Attorney-General “...said that LGBTI job hunters had previously been vulnerable to discrimination. ‘We respect people’s right to religious expression, but not at the cost of equality’.” Watch this space.

<http://www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au/news-and-events/commission-news/item/1459-same-sex-couples-have-the-right-to-adopt-in-victoria> 1/09/2016 SAME-SEX COUPLES HAVE THE RIGHT TO ADOPT IN VICTORIA – The Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner Kristen Hilton “welcomes the commencement of the Adoption Amendment (Adoption by Same-Sex Couples) Bill 2015 (Vic), which allows couples to adopt regardless of their sex or gender identity.” However, she is very disappointed “...the amendment to the Bill allows agencies to discriminate on religious grounds.”

<https://emergentwatch.com/> **HARVEST CRUSADES AND HOLLYWOOD CELEBRITIES?** It should come as no surprise when “...Greg Laurie had actor/ director Mel Gibson as a ‘surprise guest’ at his 2016 SoCal Harvest Crusade on Aug, 28th.” It seems “...the simple, straightforward Gospel just not enough to win people to Christ anymore?” “Is Christ really being magnified in all this, and is the true Biblical Jesus really being presented to the Crusade audiences?” The simple answer would be; No! Mel will make millions from so-called “evangelicals” again!



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<http://www.pastorericdykstra.com/> The Crossing Church, Elk River, MN has what they call “At The Movies” during the summer. The pastor, Erik Dykstra, says he has “...heard some great stories of people making decisions for Christ or checking out God for the first time because of our sermons from The Avengers & Inside Out.” Of course this evangelistic outreach is all about “...bringing people, worshipping Jesus, eating popcorn, and being on this mission” with the pastor. With this evangelistic outreach Dykstra and the church are “...continuing to lead people to Jesus by preaching on friendship from the movie Dumb and Dumber!” Of course Dykstra told the people “...before you get all excited and spray ketchup and mustard all over yourself...



...or before some of you judge me...

...or think this is a terrible idea for a sermon...

Here is what I want you to know:

Dumb & Dumber is one of the greatest buddy comedies ever made!

YES - IT IS TOTALLY RIDICULOUS!

BUT...

it also shows the lengths great friends will go to, to help, support, and love each other.

So I am preaching from the BIBLE on FRIENDSHIP this weekend.

We are going to talk about what the Bible says about:

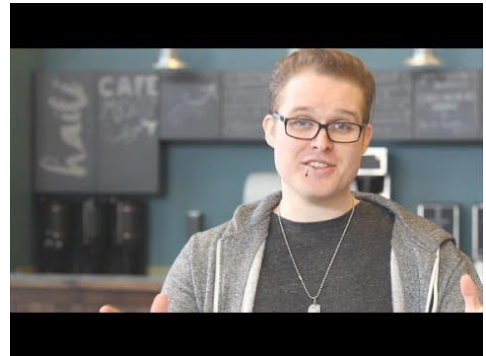
How to choose your friends wisely.

What to look for in a great friend.

How to be a great friend.

How to distance yourself from dumb or dumber friends.

AND JESUS - the ultimate friend - who sacrificed Himself to call us friends.” Sadly, this is not unique to The Crossing but is used by other supposedly “evangelical” churches and missionaries<sup>1</sup>.



<http://freegrace.tv/who-we-are/our-pastors> “Eric & Kelly Dykstra are Lead Pastors of The Crossing Church.” There is much that could and should be said about this pastor and church but for now just meditate on 1Timothy 2:12 *“But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.”*



Because of Calvary,  
David C. Bennett, D. Min.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.abwe.org/news/ministry-at-the-movies#.V8vlfph96Uk>