



# Media Matters



Lutheran Media - Connecting people to Christ

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Listen to Face to Face  
[www.facetoface.org.au](http://www.facetoface.org.au)

## Resources for you

When something bad happens it's easy to feel abandoned.

People may mean well and try to say encouraging things but they just don't seem to hit the mark.

To help you wrestle with the question 'Why do bad things happen?' we'd like to offer you a free booklet titled *Where's God in all This?* It's not about trite answers but an honest investigation into the question and also contains interviews with people who have lived through a variety of tragedies.

For your free copy phone FREECALL 1800 353 350



## Something good in every Chocolate

In the film of the same name Forrest Gump says, "My momma always said, 'Life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get.'"

It's true. Most of the time we have no idea of what lies ahead and for many life is difficult. Even in this 21st Century, with its emphasis on technology, education, fame and fortune, life is still full of unwelcome anxiety, uncertainty and disappointment for most people. Our best laid plans often end up with unexpected results.

It can all be traced back to Adam and Eve who ate the fruit in the Garden of Eden. As a result of their actions we are affected by fear, broken relationships, disappointments, illness and suffering. Therefore as we look at what is happening around the world today it's not surprising if we feel uncertain, disillusioned, depressed and filled with fear about our lives and the lives of our loved ones. As we struggle with our problems it's important that we don't focus only on them. Our attitude and the way we manage them is vital so that we do not give up in despair.

The truth is that we do not know what the future holds for us and we have limited control over what is happening to us right now. However we do know who holds the future. Although the world and its people seem to be out of control, God has the world and us in his dependable, powerful and loving hands.

He reveals himself to us in the Bible and through

his Son Jesus Christ, who came to earth to put things right through his death on the cross and his resurrection. When we trust Jesus and benefit from the love which he placed into our hearts he changes everything. He helps us face the present and the future with hope and certainty. Jesus helps us manage our difficulties in positive ways and what a difference that makes.

When we fear love and trust in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit we can take heart during the difficult times we face. We can say with St Paul that there will be something good in every 'chocolate' we receive in life.

*We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him.* **Romans 8:28 GNT**

**Pastor Richard Mau**  
Director



## FUN

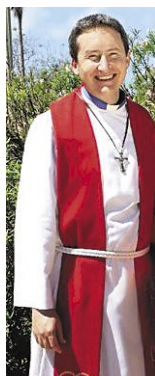
A shipwrecked sailor who had been alone on a tiny island for months was elated when he saw a ship approaching. He watched with excitement as a rowboat was lowered from the ship and began to make its way to shore. When the rowboat arrived, two officers from the ship tossed the sailor a bundle of newspapers. "Captain's compliments," one of them said. "You're to read these and then decide if you really want to be rescued."

**Lord Jesus, come. Fill me with your peace and hope.**

From: Beckmann, Martha J, 1997. More Meditations To Make You Smile, Dimensions For Living, Nashville

## Face to Face with Face to Face

### Introducing Richard Fox



*Richard is husband to Kate and father to two beautiful girls, Sophie and Maddison. After working in the Department of Transport SA and later Business Manager for Lutheran Community Care, he studied at Australian Lutheran College and was ordained as a*

*Pastor of the Lutheran Church of Australia in 2009. In that year he was elected to the Board for Media Ministry.*

#### What ministries are you currently involved in?

I am currently the Lutheran Pastor of the Waikerie Lutheran Parish in South Australia. There is a Lutheran Primary School and many other ministries in the area.

I enjoy being on the Board for Media Ministry and actively support the spread of the good news of Jesus Christ through media.

#### What are you passionate about?

I am passionate about my Lord Jesus Christ and following him. I have worked for Lutheran Community Care for many years in the past and have a passion for caring for people.

I love my family and spending time playing with my girls including bouncing on the trampoline.

I enjoy playing and watching almost any sport. I am currently a field umpire in the Riverland Football League which I am enjoying.

#### What do you like about being a speaker on Face to Face?

Telling people that God loves them brings me great joy. It's a real privilege to have the opportunity to share this good news with so many people.

It is important to use current technologies, such as the radio and internet, to communicate with people where they are at, using mediums they are familiar with.

**Pastor Richard joined the Face To Face team in March 2011**

## New LCA website waits in the wings

### The sparkling new LCA website is waiting in the wings, with the stage curtains due to rise in September.

LCA Business Manager Debbie Venz, who is project managing the enormous overhaul, says that the much-anticipated website will be a huge boost in communication and engagement across the LCA. 'We are going to have a facility that not only provides up-to-date information about all the ministries and functions of the LCA, but also ways of engaging people with them and motivating them to get involved.'

The project was initiated by Lutheran Media Ministry (LMM) as part of its commitment to use information and communication technologies to spread the gospel message as widely as possible.

'The internet is accessible to people all over the world', says LMM Director Rev Richard Mau. 'God has given us this remarkable resource, which costs relatively little to run and has the potential to reach literally millions of people. It is an opportunity we cannot afford to miss.'

Web manager David Mau, who is responsible for design and technical issues, and editor of The Lutheran Linda Macqueen, who is responsible for content and quality control, have been working hard on the project for three months.



'David and Linda are a formidable team, bringing together excellence in technology and communication', says Debbie. 'This is the first time they've worked together on a project of this magnitude, and it's clear that their complementary gifts are creating a communications tool that is going to be a real blessing for our church.'

'This is another example of what can be achieved when we work together, using the gifts God has given us through his people. I know many people are anxiously awaiting the website's unveiling.'

The website will contain regular features, news stories – 'we're aiming for an average of one new story up there every week day', Linda says – a Q&A section, and the ever-popular Daily Devotion page and Weekly Worship Planning page. An important innovation is the linking of the website to LAMP (Lutherans in Australasia Members Portal), which will ensure that details for contacting LCA personnel will be up to date on the website at all times.

The exact launch date will be announced shortly.

### LCA DVD Worship Service now available.

Filming has begun and Worship Services on DVD are now available each week for congregations and individuals. The DVDs are produced by Lutheran Media Ministry in cooperation with the Commission on Worship. In order to make the DVDs available as widely as possible there will be no charge for them. However donations to Lutheran Media Ministry will help to cover costs. To receive a regular copy of the DVD Worship service phone FREECALL 1800 353 350 or email [luthmedia@lca.org.au](mailto:luthmedia@lca.org.au)



# Happyland is churp! churp!

*Lutheran Media is delighted to welcome some new visitors to [www.happyland.com.au](http://www.happyland.com.au)*

Norm, the friendly old story teller, his amazing purple puzzle tree and story book characters. They've been on a long journey to find Happyland! They bring stories that reflect important moments in the Bible to help unlock the mystery of God's plan for this world.

The stories have been told, performed and discussed in schools, Sunday schools and families across America, Australia and beyond.

Now the Lutheran Church of Australia is taking the initiative to revive The Purple Puzzle Tree as a DVD with Norman Habel, now fifty years later, as The Old Storyteller sitting in front of a huge purple tree with leaves that bear images from the stories.

You'll find Norm the story teller with one of his colourful stories on [www.happyland.com.au](http://www.happyland.com.au).

Get churp! churp! with the young children in your life as they delight in the language and images of the Purple Puzzle Tree!



## The Purple Puzzle Tree

(Excerpts with permission from The Story Of The Purple Puzzle Tree by Norm Habel)

For further enquiries please contact Lutheran Media at [luthmedia@lca.org.au](mailto:luthmedia@lca.org.au) or Freecall 1800 353 350 or Dr. Norman Habel at [info@purplepuzletree.com.au](mailto:info@purplepuzletree.com.au)

## Happyland Christmas Cards



*Help to promote Happyland to the wider community by giving Happyland cards this Christmas.*

**Inside message:**

Let's celebrate God's gift of Jesus this Christmas and always!

**Text:** 'God has given us a mighty Saviour' *Luke 1:69*



**Inside message:** Let's join the shepherds and celebrate the good news of Jesus' birth!

**Text:** The angel said to them 'I am here with good news for you which will bring joy to all the people' *Luke 2:10*



**Inside message:** Let's join the wisemen to worship God's gift of Jesus this Christmas & always.

**Text:** We saw His star in the East and have come to worship him" *Matthew 2:2*



**Order your free Happyland Christmas cards for children at 1800 353 350 or go to [www.happyland.com.au](http://www.happyland.com.au) For large quantities in particular, a donation to help cover postage or to support the ministry would be very much appreciated.**

### Thanks

Thank you so much for your gift of video tapes and books. They will be put to good use. The other RE teachers were thrilled with the samples of happyland cards. When we've worked out what we want we'll be faxing an order!

**Culcairn NSW**

### Please pray...

- That Happyland continues to grow with resources that touch children's lives in a fun, positive way as it guides them to Jesus.
- For all those in need who have contacted us for help and prayer
- That our programs will be relevant and bring hope.
- For God's blessing on all those involved with the DVD worship project.

### Thank & praise Him

- for our wonderful volunteers
- for those who share Jesus' love with others through supporting and using our programs and booklets.

### In Memoriam

We wish to acknowledge with deep appreciation the bequest received from the estate of **Syd Mirtshin**.

And the ongoing gifts from **Freda Berndt, Friedrich Wilhelm Heinrich, I V Pietsch**.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints" **Psalms 116:15**

