

Promoting Crossan is offensive

Fifteen years ago, the UCA Assembly decided to remove the obligation on ministers to 'adhere' to the Basis of Union, and merely required them to be 'guided' by the Basis. The result has been very far reaching, since it now seems a minister can advocate anything without sanction.

For example, I find it personally offensive that the NSW Synod is promoting through its web page, the forthcoming visit of John Crossan. Crossan's views are well-known.

He may be an acknowledged student of life in first century Palestine, but his outrageous resurrection of the of the ancient discredited myth, that Jesus was the illegitimate son of a Roman Soldier named Panthera, should

disqualify him from UCA sponsorship. He also claims that Jesus was forsaken by the disciples when on the cross, and his body was devoured by wild animals. The apparent abandonment of orthodoxy by the UCA, has serious implications for the future of the church.

(Rev) Arthur Oakley

Carter and Corney

In his fine article in the June issue on the forgiveness petition in the Lord's Prayer, Ross Carter does not use the parable of the prodigal son as much as he might: the turning and returning (conversion) of the son and the receptivity of 'the Waiting Father'

(Thielicke's phrase). The article does not have a lot of illustration. It might have used Psalm 51 and the David narratives behind it. Also, readers would be interested in the relationship between the teaching of Jesus and the petition.

Peter Corney writes an excellent article on some aspects of the decline of the Australian protestant Church in the past 50 years.

However, some aspects are shallow. For example, GBRE and JBCE, and he uses only one statistic! He puts the decline down to liberal theology and liberal theologians, but he does not specify these. He should name names.

Rev Rowan Gill

BOOK REVIEW

Teen Sex

Teen Sex By the Book (pp 221) rated MA 15+ By Dr Patricia Weerakoon
Reviewed by Peter Bentley

This relatively short book is quite easy to read and is a timely resource. I am not sure if young people will buy it—after all they are spending their time on the web (as the book recognises), so a suggestion later.

Sex educator, researcher and therapist Dr Patricia Weerakoon accepts the reality of the situation for teenagers today and their sexual experiences and contact, for example, with regard to pornography, she is clearly not condoning, but also does not want to create a burdensome guilt, but to

liberate and help those caught up or who could be caught in this web.

ACCatalyst readers may know Patricia as one of the panellists from the excellent ACL Webcast 'Defining Marriage' held in June 2012.

I see this book more for Christian kids before they are sucked into the contemporary mores and culture, but it may be one parents and grandparents may need to buy. The discussion is clear and fulsome in parts, and has a helpful approach to a variety of sexual topics. I especially appreciated her subtle and reasonable approach to homosexuality. Overall this is a counter-culture book. It is actually refreshing to highlight the revolutionary aspects of a Christian approach to sex in a

world where sex is devalued and exploited.

Some thoughts for further work:

1. Produce a series of short booklets based on the areas discussed to be given away.

2. Produce a more readable print edition (this may depend who really ends up reading this, but the print, some of the font and type used are not helpful for print-based reading.

Having said this, I still believe this is a very helpful resource and reflective book for parents and grandparents. Helpful to know what is going on and also for the cyber world discussion, as your children or grandchildren probably know more than you do, or than you think. <http://fervr.net/teen-sex-by-the-book>

