

# Inspire

## He Is Faithful

Every year we do a series on The Character and Nature of God, and let's face it, it is a subject that will never run dry. Why? Because our God is a never ending story of greatness and magnificence. Just when you think you have worked God out, discovered Him or read the last chapter, another one unfolds.

I love what one preacher said;

He is august and unique.  
He is unparalleled.  
He is unprecedented.  
He is the loftiest idea in literature.  
He is the highest personality in philosophy.  
He is the supreme problem in higher criticism.  
He is the fundamental doctrine of true theology.

He is the miracle of the age.  
He is the superlative of everything good that you choose to call Him.

The names of God are many, all attributing to who He is and what He does.

### Faithfulness

One of those names is Faithful.

That's the attribute that I want to speak about...the faithfulness of God.

Read Psalm 89 and Lamentations 3:22

Faithfulness surely must be one of His greatest attributes and perhaps one with the utmost significance to the people of God.

God's faithfulness is:

- our ground of confidence
- our hope and expectation
- our reason to rejoice
- our reason for courage despite our failings and lack of faithfulness
- what fills our hearts with anticipation concerning the promises and possibilities of God.

It is one of the characteristics of God we need to get hold of, possibly more than any other, because we live in a world of great unfaithfulness, we see it in all areas of society. It creates such mistrust, unbelief, insecurity and

rejection, which in turn causes catastrophic effects.

People, organisations and institutions that we have looked up to have let us down—from parents to partners, politicians to pastors, family to friends, churches to councils, and social systems to the justice system.

### Parents and Pastors

It's interesting that we are let down in some of these areas, because it spills over into our trust of God. Whether we like it or not, people struggle in their trust and acceptance of God because someone has messed up and let them down, especially when it happens in their early years.

Until a child comes to the age of understanding, Dad and Mum are like God. Sometimes it is like that with young Christians. Their spiritual fathers and mothers, pastors and leaders are like God to begin with. When we are young of age or faith we view our heavenly Father from an earthly perspective, whether it be a parent, pastor or major authority in our lives.

I remember a time when my younger sister was about four or five years old and our minister was saying goodbye. My sister asked Mum if that was God. I remember another time when one of my church members came into my office, looking as if the world was about to end. When I asked him what had happened, he told me that Jimmy Swaggart had fallen. His faith was rattled severely. To him, Jimmy was like the fourth man in the Trinity—he was like God! He asked me how I felt, and I replied, "Saddened but unshaken. I don't follow Jimmy Swaggart, Jimmy Bakker or Jiminy Cricket, I follow Jesus Christ and unless He fails I have no excuse but to keep going forward.

Psalm 78:3-7 speaks of parents passing their faith on so that their children get to know God and put their trust in Him. Then they are to pass it on to others. That is what spiritual leadership is about. Whether one is a parent, a pastor

or a peer, our responsibility is to help people see God, especially when their beliefs and views are still being formed.

My mum's faith helped me to trust in God. It has certainly helped me be who I am. And although my Dad was not a believer when I was young, all through my childhood I admired his character and integrity. Also, I was trained up under many leaders who sowed into my life. We can see this passing on of faith in Timothy's life, when Paul said: *"I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also"*.  
2Timothy 1:5

### God is not a man

Mind you, the opposite can happen when people are influenced wrongly. I can remember visiting a youth remand centre and talking with the young people there. When they told me about their horrific upbringing, I tried to encourage and comfort one of them. I said, "God wants to be a father to you." He quickly replied that if God is a father he can get \*\*\*\*\*. How sad that this lad's father could so misrepresent God. But God doesn't lie to us or let us down. It says in Numbers 23:19: *"God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?"*

James 1:13, Luke 11:11-13 and 1Corinthians 10:13 all speak of replacing our humanistic image of God for a true image of Him. Many people are restricted in their lives because they don't really know whether God loves them or not. They don't know that He is faithful, that He is able and He is willing. They question it, like the leper did in Matthew 8:2: *"A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, 'Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.'"*

This guy had a revelation that God could, but wasn't sure that He wanted to!

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## Knowing God

The greatest thing we can do is get to know God. This was what Moses wanted above all else, and He prayed a prayer that we should all pray:

*"Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You [progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with You, perceiving and recognizing and understanding more strongly and clearly] and that I may find favor in Your sight. And [Lord, do] consider that this nation is Your people." Exodus 33:13.*

Daniel 11:32 says that when we know God we stand firm and do great exploits. There is one thing that will enable you to stand firm in your faith and that is truly knowing God. Through relationship with Him you know that God is this or God is that! Compared to Moses, the people of Israel didn't know God, and that's where they missed it.

*"That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, 'Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.'" Hebrews 3:10*

For forty years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness because, although they saw God do marvelous things, they never allowed it to sink in to a point where they knew His ways and understood Him and His character.

When God rained manna from heaven they just went, "Wow!" They never let the love and the abundance of God sink into their hearts. When God faithfully provided manna for them and led them with fire by night and the cloud by day, they took it for granted instead of letting it sink in. Instead of believing God and trusting in His faithfulness, they continually doubted and complained when other problems arose. These people lived from one blessing to another, never coming to a revelation of God and of who He is.

## Letters of Support & Encouragement

God Bless you Kev, You are a man of love in Jesus and we can see it a mile away. Keep it up!!!

Kent Hodge



Yeraguidman Kev... Luby and lubyerwork  
Rev McJock

Thank you so much for continuing to send the Inspire. I Love to hear how things are going. Just want you all to know how much your support and love meant to us all in Melbourne at Northwest City Church. Though the address of the church may have a different name the people who are church are still going strong. Never feel that we have forgotten or dismiss your influence Kev we love you with all our hearts and will continue to hold you in high esteem. May words of encouragement be like cool refreshing water to your soul.

Sue Darrington

It's in knowing God that we develop faith, because then we know we can trust Him. Get to know His faithfulness!

Let me give you a couple of scriptures that speak about the character of God:

Psalm 145:13

*Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made."*

*"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God." 2Corinthians 1:20*

Don't you love this one! No matter how many promises God has made, He is not some politician that He has over-extended Himself concerning His promises.

Psalm 33:4 says He is faithful in all he does. And Deuteronomy 7:9 says: *"Your God...is the faithful God."*

*"He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just, a faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he." Deuteronomy 32:4*

Romans 3:3: *"What if some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God's faithfulness?"*

2Timothy 2:13: *"if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself."*

We serve a faithful God, so get understand and a revelation of His faithfulness. It will empower you in all that you do. We often refer to some people as having great faith, but what it really means is that they simply know that their God is faithful.

### The understanding of God's faithfulness

- ♦ Will cause us to stop worrying. John 14:1
- ♦ Will cause anxiety and fear to cease. Hebrews 13:5
- ♦ Will cause you to draw near to God.
- ♦ Will cause us to hold on to God.

Dear Kevin & Tracey,

I have just received the November Inspire and the email that went with it. Sorry to hear about the difficulties of the past little while, "real church never changes, people are always the same, yesterday, today and forever". I'm so glad that our lovely saviour knew what real people can be like, yes, even His own select bunch. He sure chose some odd ones in His twelve. And He did choose them. They did not choose themselves. He chose those whom He wanted to go with Him, even to the cost of them denying Him and disowning Him and betraying Him. He still chose them to be with Him. Just as we, who are pastors and priests choose those who are to be with us. I don't think we can 'forsee' the future any more nor less than Jesus. What we can do is, in Faith, choose those whom it seems right to us and the Holy

strongly. Hebrews 10:22-23

- ♦ Will give us an assurance of faith.
- ♦ Will cause us not to waver. Romans 4:20-21
- ♦ Will cause us to see God move.
- ♦ Will cause us to stand firm and be active in our faith. Daniel 11:32
- ♦ Will cause us to overcome temptation. 1Corinthians 10:13
- ♦ Will cause us to walk forgiven. 1John 1:9

And most of all it will bring us into true rest and trust in God. He is faithful in all He has promised. I think of the many times God has miraculously come through for me, even though it has often been at the 11th hour. We are not trusting in the hour or in the abundance of the others or the economy of this world.

Psalm 20:7 says: *"Some trust in chariots and some in horses but I trust in the name of the Lord."* meaning that His name speaks of God's character and nature, of who He is and what He does.

We need to immerse ourselves in the knowledge of God's faithfulness. Then doubt will be dispelled and faith and trust will rise and cause us to walk in such peace and prosperity that others will be ministered to.

Let me finish with the scripture in Jeremiah that describes a person that has learned to walk in the faithfulness of God.

*"But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8*



Spirit to be with us in ministry and service. Sometimes everything is perfectly wonderful and O.K. Sometimes it is not! That's life. Be encouraged Kevin, God is not done with you yet and has, I believe a whole lot more to do with and for you in the future. One only has to read your articles in INSPIRE to know where you are at and where God is at with you. Keep it up, my brother.

Robert Legg





# GlobeReach

## Fiji - Peter Schultz

It has been 3 months since we bought you up-to-date and my apologies for the months that have flashed by. For the past six months the Fiji Prison Service have been conducting an awareness program—Yellow Ribbon—which is about giving prisoners a second chance and welcoming them home. It fits neatly with the work that we do and I can already see a difference in the community attitudes when I take men home from prison.

Being creative with employment is a challenge and so at present one scheme I've started is where I 'hire/loan' my brush cutter out to inmates who find lawns to cut. They have to pick it up and return it the same day and what they earn with it they keep. It's becoming an effective rehabilitative tool in all sorts of ways.

How do I sum up the past months:

- ♦ I've been yelled at by a magistrate in his court room about one of my ex-prisoners;
- ♦ Spoken to the heads of all the Pacific Islands Correctional Centres on rehabilitation;
- ♦ Taken a quick trip back to Australia to activate some things and came back loaded with wonderful books courtesy of SMBC;
- ♦ Been conducting one-on-one bible studies;
- ♦ Taken prisoners home and been taken for a ride by prisoners;
- ♦ Preached at a number of churches;
- ♦ Was interviewed on television about our work;
- ♦ Been frustrated and disappointed at persistent failures;

- ♦ Been overjoyed and humbled in seeing a village come out on mass all wearing yellow ribbons to receive a young man back from prison.
- ♦ What lingers as a memory is the young man who arrived at my gate early one morning, eyes like mirrors from a night spent smoking joints—my heart aches for his freedom;
- ♦ What I still enjoy is being with and building relationships with prisoners.

Peter Schultz



## Sure Destiny Cambodia—Donna Byham

A highlight this month has been six new boys who have joined Joshua House. We will introduce them slowly over the coming months, starting with the eldest.

Pisang is 15 years old and entering Grade 10. To join the Joshua House family, he has left behind his parents and five other siblings in Kandal Province. This large family relies on the income of his father who works as a building labourer and his elder sister helps prepare noodles for sale at the local market. It provides barely enough to live on so that

now he is old enough to work Pisang was facing the prospect of leaving school to support his family. Although they are not (yet) Christians, his parents are delighted that as a keen student, Pisang, can have this opportunity to stay at Joshua House and further his education in Phnom Penh.



Thank you for joining with us in prayer this month for Pisang and all the students who are so grateful

for this opportunity to study as a result of your prayers and support.

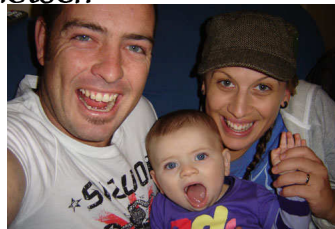
Donna Byham  
Email: [donnabyham@gmail.com](mailto:donnabyham@gmail.com)

Donna is returning to Australia for a pe-



## Bali—Michael & Bianca Zietsch

Michael & Bianca Zietsch will be heading off to Bali in 2009 and are looking for groups and churches to support them.

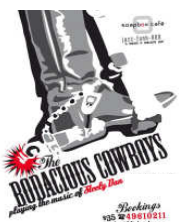


They will be working with Pioneers and Christians Surfers. To give into their mission please contact them at [zietsch@mailsnare.net](mailto:zietsch@mailsnare.net)



### 24HR EXPRESS @ LIFE

WILL BE ON THE 20TH TO 21ST FEBRUARY 2009.  
PLAYING AT SOAPBOX WILL BE BODACIOUS COWBOYS



Ministers' Getaway - 24hr express is a 24hr experience that will show you how a church can reach in to the higher levels of society and down to the lower levels. This program is simply to help ministers think outside the box, to do church differently, and to reach into the grassroots of society. For more information and accommodation suggestions, contact Life Church office on 4961 0211 or Kevin Wilcock on 0407 467 798.



To build an Australian based relationship of churches and ministries that work together in reaching our nation and beyond

To plant, parent and partner with churches to see them impact their communities through:

Outreaching—the unchurched  
Empowering—leadership and ministry by  
Providing—relational and visionary oversight

## CONNECTING IN 2009 Ministers & Leader's Gathering

**Monday 19th January 2009**

10:30am to 2:00pm at Kevin & Tracey's, (Murrakin Reserve Estate) 20 Murrakin Street, Kahibah. Steve Clarke will be sharing with us followed by a BBQ lunch (BYO) and enjoy a nice drop of little wine from Murrakin Reserve Estate vineyard.

**Friday 20 to Saturday 21st March**

Melbourne City from Friday lunch to Saturday lunch. Venue to be confirmed by next Inspire.

**Friday 21st to Saturday 22nd August**

Gold Coast from Friday Lunch to Saturday Lunch. Venue to be confirmed.

**Friday 13th to Saturday 14th November**

Hunter Valley from Friday lunch to Saturday lunch. Venue to be confirmed.



## Profile Kim & Maria Hammond

**How long have you been married?**

14 years getting married at 20!!

**How long have you been in ministry?**

At 7 I was part of a Christian Drama team that performed in front of high school kids around vic. I was ordained at 20

**Favourite things you like to do?**

**Kim:** Basket ball, tease Fred, watch movies and eat food.

**Maria:** Spending time with Family and holidays

**What do you like about OzReach?**

The realness, the bank of David's cave kind of people, the deep desire for evangelism to be authentic and transformational. The friendships. The good mix of social justice, the Holy spirit and the prophetic and good appreciation for shared life.

**What other work have you done?**

**Kim:** Meat Boner, JB Hi Fi,

**Maria:** Nurse & Carer of clients with intellectual disability.

**What's the hardest thing you find in ministry?**

Broken relationships and misunderstandings between people.

**When are your birthdays?**

**Kim:** 29th July 1974

**Maria:** 2nd May 1974

**What's your favourite food?**

**Kim:** Lasagna and all things pasta

**Maria:** Anything savoury. Thai food



## The Junction Melbourne

**For how long have you pastored the church?** 7 years

**What things are running well in your church?** Helping those in need, the ability to flex and be real. Casual and authentic. Not religious in any way. A gazzilion children.

**What is your vision statement?**

Motivating and mentoring grassroot movements and missionary leaders

**What things can you improve on?**

Strategic leadership, tithing, helping those burnt out to serve. Worship more, pray more serve more love my wife more. Eat less, stress less, talk less.

**Web:** [www.thejunction.info](http://www.thejunction.info)

**Email:** [info@thejunction.info](mailto:info@thejunction.info)

## OzReach Leadership Team

### Administration

Fred David  
0412 284 710

[fred4saints@gmail.com](mailto:fred4saints@gmail.com)

### Secretarial & Event Management

Kevin Wilcock  
0407 467 798

[twilcock@optusnet.com.au](mailto:twilcock@optusnet.com.au)

### Pastoral Co-Ordinator

Martyn Webb  
0412 979 874

[martyn@cafchurch.com.au](mailto:martyn@cafchurch.com.au)

### Finances & Treasurer

Emil Varga  
0412 440 335

[emil@sccc.com.au](mailto:emil@sccc.com.au)