

DELIBERATIONS

from David d'Lima - July 2017



Commending wisdom in the civic arena and encouraging God's people as salt and light

Bringing the media to account

Nearly fifty pastors have added their names to a letter I recently sent to the editor of *The Advertiser*, firmly but politely chastising the paper for its misrepresentation of FamilyVoice and for allowing columnist Tory Shepherd to run a persistent anti-Christian agenda. The letter replied in particular to Tory's 13th June news article which falsely portrayed FamilyVoice as negative towards mental health sufferers. The letter stated (in part) the following:



The Advertiser columnist Tory Shepherd

The Advertiser

In our opinion, the inaccuracies of the article and its judgmental tone have brought unwarranted harm to the reputation of FamilyVoice Australia and to Christian groups which may share its policy and in fact to the wider body of churches in general.

... Ms Tory Shepherd has consistently levelled attacks on the Christian faith and upon various groups with whom she personally disagrees. While all the leaders of Christian congregations ought to accept fair and factual criticism of our wrongdoing, we should not be subjected to Ms Shepherd's personal anti-Christian perspective. We find the concluding sentence of her opinion piece that was published on 14th June to be gratuitous and highly offensive. It further debased an already problematic article. We do, however, pray sincerely for Tory Shepherd.

... To allow publication of a grossly offensive swear-word incorporated into a quotation from the New Testament about Jesus Christ is extremely disappointing. It brings discredit to your newspaper. We urge you to urgently revise editorial policy in the light of the above concerns.

Points for praise ...



- ◆ Lord, we give thanks for sponsorship of the forthcoming visit of Andrea Williams from Christian Concern in the UK, by Australian manufacturer Seeley International.
- ◆ We give thanks for pastors who added their names to the letter to *The Advertiser*, in defence of FamilyVoice.
- ◆ We give thanks that smokers are quitting in record numbers and fewer young people are smoking in SA.

... and points for prayer

- ◆ Father, we pray for journalist Tory Shepherd - that the truth would set her free.
- ◆ We pray concerning allegations that several forced marriages involving South Australian girls have occurred in recent times.
- ◆ We pray for the family and friends of Kirsty Boden of Loxton, who was killed on London Bridge on 3rd June.



FamilyVoice
AUSTRALIA

PRAY

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GIVE

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A Christian voice for
family, faith and freedom

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Commending an emerging leader

It was a privilege to have introduced MP David Speirs as he gave the opening address to a Christian Worldview conference in Adelaide on 23rd June.

David Speirs was a student of law in 2006 when he heard me address a meeting at SouthWest Baptist on the role of Christians to shape society.

"I recall politely locking horns with David Speirs during the question time, on voting systems," I said to the worldview conference. He advocated the 'first-past-the-post' voting system, I recalled from that hopefully formative meeting.



State MP David Speirs

In 2006 I explained the difficulty with that system, namely that it could lead to the election of a candidate preferred by the *fewest* number of voters - if no candidate wins outright (that is not gaining more than 50% of the vote).

Since then, David moved into local government as a councillor and as the deputy Mayor of Marion City.

He also became a national director of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, and in 2014 was elected to State Parliament. He is now Shadow Minister for the Environment.

"Yet David is so young that one man quipped that he would vote for him when David himself was old enough to vote!" I told the conference.

Fool-proofing the freeway

While travelling to Adelaide from Karoonda on 11th June, I noticed an ambulance driving on the wrong side of the freeway, on its way to attend to a potentially disastrous accident that involved an elderly motorist. *The Advertiser* printed my remarks in response, as follows, on 13th June:



Trouble on the South Eastern freeway

Multiple fatalities nearly occurred when a senior citizen drove along the wrong side of the South Eastern Freeway during a busy long weekend (The Advertiser, yesterday). This exact problem has occurred before, and will happen again within our aging population - unless urgent reforms are taken.

Firstly, radar-controlled traffic lights must be installed overhead at five km intervals on the freeway to shut down the overtaking lane and flash "No passing". Those same lights would shine red in the abnormal direction.

Secondly, driver's licences held by people aged seventy or more must be renewed annually, accompanied by a statutory declaration made by a family member or close friend stating there are no concerns about the applicant's capacity to safely drive.

Thirdly, privacy laws that prevent family members raising concerns with government departments (including the police and medical practitioners) must be scrapped.

Sport versus faith

On the day we saw disturbing reports that the percentage of Australians who self-identify as Christian has declined to 52%, there was a good news story about Crows footballer Hugh Greenwood - who kneels in prayer publicly at each match he plays. Unfortunately, sport is part of the reason faith in Christ is declining, as I pointed out by my letter in *The Advertiser* on 1st July.

Footballer Hugh Greenwood is personally and prayerfully bucking a steady trend away from Christian spirituality ("Faith guiding Crows young gun: May the Lord be with Hugh", The Advertiser, 28/6/17).



Hugh Greenwood

Sadly, the proliferation of sports on Sundays (including important AFL matches), and shopping on the Lord's Day, have totally upset the traditional rhythm of family and faith. Whether society will benefit from this historic departure is yet to be seen.

Thank you for taking time to read my remarks which I hope you find helpful. Thanks also to all who pray for the work and financially support my ministry. We can't do it without you!

Sincerely in Christ,

David

David d'Lima, SA / NT Director