



INSIDE

Christian Surfers Australia Newsletter - Issue 1 Summer 08-09

New Surfers Bible Launched

Rise Up Update on CSA Girls

Praying up a storm for CSA

'Because of Who we follow'

Welcome to the first Inside for about 4 years! The world of Christian Surfers Australia has gone through some massive changes but one thing has remained constant and true, and that is who we are and what we are about – being a Christian presence and witness in this amazing country of ours.

When I took over as National Director with Nic Gilmour as National Manager, we decided we didn't have the resources to keep the old Inside going so we finished that season of it. With this new publication we aim to keep you all connected to the mission with great articles and some frothing pictures of what is happening around our country in Christian Surfers. Whether you are a Mission leader, Soul Surfer, sponsor, Pastor of a church or anyone else involved in the wide family of Christian Surfers, we hope you enjoy the read and are inspired by what God is doing in the surfers of Australia.

I was talking with our Regional Coordinator for QLD, Jono Bailey, about the comment that we hear so often from people who have been involved with us at one time or another, that CS provided some of the

best times in their life and they have so many great memories from when they were involved. We were wondering what was it about CS that prompted this. Then Jono said, "It is not what we do. CSA has such a positive outcome because of who we follow, and what that makes us become."

I wrote this on a piece of paper and stuck it on my pin-up board because this is so true. It's what Christian Surfers is all about. As you read this I hope you think about Him, the King of Kings, and what He has done in your life and what that makes you become. In Matthew 6 Jesus said: "Seek first His kingdom and righteousness and all these things will be added unto you." In this passage Jesus is talking about worrying about earthly stuff and how we will live. I think this passage covers so much more in how we prioritise things and the peace that brings in our lives. If we follow Him first and seek His kingdom and righteousness, things are in order.

God bless,

Steve Bailey
National Director
Christian Surfers Australia

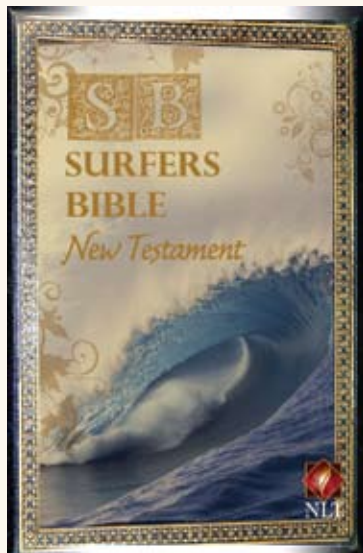


New Surfer's Bible Takes Off

After six years, the popular Christian Surfers Bible has expanded into a new edition, with not one new cover but three. "Australians are more likely to surf than attend church regularly," says International Director of Christian Surfers, Brett Davis, whilst speaking at the launch of a new edition of the much sought after Surfers Bible. The Bible has racked up more than 75,000 sales worldwide over the past six years since it was first released in 2002. "Aussies are not alone in their love of surfing," said Brett. "In coastal communities of every continent, more and more young people are enjoying the excitement of what, for many is a lifestyle. The exhilaration of riding the wave and being at the mercy of God's creation is for many surfers, a kind of spiritual experience. 'Surfing is my religion' is a slogan of a key surf brand. Instead of trying to get surfers to church, Christian Surfers aims to get the church to the surfers with the 'Surfers Bible' a key way of doing that," he said.

The Surfers Bible is a regular modern translation of the Bible, plus there are great personal stories from well-known surfers, who are also Christians, and who share how they have made sense of life beyond their surfing. With so many copies of the first edition distributed, Bible Society and Christian Surfers knew they had a winner. This new edition comes in three versions; a complete Bible with a surfer friendly waterproof zip cover, a New Testament, plus a pocket-sized Gospel of Mark.

In keeping with the surfing media trend of providing a surfing DVD with related surfing magazines, the new Surfers Bible includes a FREE DVD, featuring a surfing documentary shot on a surfing trip to Nias in Indonesia



(L-R) Brad Whittaker - CSI Board member, 'Nias Rediscovered' director and professional longboarder, featured in Bible and film; Brett Davis - CSI Director; Daniel Wills - CEO Bible Society of NSW; Brenden Newton - professional bodyboarder, featured in Bible and film.

in mid-2007. The DVD features top-line surfers, including Glyndyn Ringrose, Bethany Hamilton, Brendan Newton and more.

"We wanted to share a 'faith in action' story of these surfers using their surfing to help the tsunami affected areas of Indonesia," says film director Brad Whittaker. "The idea is that readers will become interested in the lives of these well known surfers, read their testimony in the Bible, then read the Bible for themselves."

Well known shark attack victim Bethany Hamilton surfs and competes with just one arm. She features in the DVD and the Bible and says, "People can do anything God calls them to if they just set their heart to it, and never give up."

All new Bibles were released on October 31 with launches in various parts of Australia. Suss out www.christiansurfers.org.au for more.



Rise Up

Update on CSA Girls

CSA Girls has come about through a need to encourage and inspire females to everything God has created them to be. We are not a separate group, but a united part of the CSA movement and something the organisation has long prayed for.

So what does it look like from where I'm standing? To explain it meteorologically, it was like seeing a great big low pressure system sitting off the coast – there is definitely something there, but when it hit, would it materialise into the greatest swell you've ever seen, or just be a complete fizzer that everyone was initially talking up? Hmmmm.

For me, the forecast from the Bureau of Heaven (God!) was too great to deny, so I packed it all in to chase this swell. It was risky; it had never been done before. It was almost as corny as Bodhi chasing the 50 year storm in Point Break....but I just knew, this one was good.

It has been a steadily building swell, and now I am seeing the fire being lit in the hearts of girls as they come to realise who they are in Jesus and the deep, intricate and purposeful life that accompanies it. It's the stuff that makes them dream big, crave the impossible and get that unflinching glint of determination in their eye.

How does it look practically? I see girls embracing who they are in Christ and being themselves. I see them living unashamedly and openly for Jesus. I see them stepping up faithfully in the small things, only to fast-track to amazing opportunities. I see the overwhelming joy in their hearts as their secret hopes in God are far exceeded as they follow Him.

It breaks me in half with pure happiness to see these girls totally in the barrel with God; taking the courage to ride this swell, in spite of every reason inside them that says "don't go out". They take a deep breath and commit their souls to something greater, only to find that "Greater" comes through... and it's the most AMAZING ride of their life (Isn't that always the overwhelming punch line in a life with God?!)!

This swell in Australia is so big, it has even had a direct impact on other nations around the world & we are seeing girls being unleashed and inspired to rise up. But at the end of the day, this is not a drum-beating glory story about how great girls are, but about how great our God is, rising up within us.



Jodene Watling
National Women's Coordinator

To find out more & receive the national CSA Girls newsletter, email jodene@christiansurfers.org.au



Give, but give with a difference

I just wanted to put pen to paper to try and trigger some thoughts. My name is Andy and I literally live on the other side of the world, in the UK. I have had the pleasure of visiting the amazing place that is Australia on a number of occasions, one of which changed my life forever.

I became a Christian when I was 19 through CS. It was amazing and changed my life forever. I then went to the Leadership Training School when I was 21. It was all a bit of a shock, to tell you the truth, and the scariest thing that I have ever done. The reason for this is I was expelled from school and I didn't really read and write, and despite playing the sympathy card, I had to study every day!

The highlight was meeting a young groom and spending a bit of time with him surfing. He made some great choices for God. 4 years later I went back and there was a full-on thriving CS mission (not there before) and the groom's dad was extending his house to fit all the people in. What a legend, totally inspirational!

After the LTS I got some confidence. I am now in business (random, considering I wanted to be a CS missionary!), and last year developed circa \$1.8bn of property and planned \$69bn of regeneration. Through this I have had the opportunity to channel cash into many projects, the finest moment of which was when I was able to see the Lord provide \$60m to local churches through government funding.

I just want encourage people to give! I would not be here were it not for you good people giving. I want to encourage you to give, but to give with a difference. When you give you should not feel guilt or a sense of "I ought to", but excitement coupled with a bit of, "Oh I could have bought x with this".

I know most of the Christian Surfers leadership from my time in Australia. If I were to try and 'buy' their time (in terms of coaching and

training) in a business context you could easily pay up to \$5k per day to hear them speak at a conference. If you think that I am joking check out the costs for attending a top motivational speaker's conference. And believe you me the CS guys have more to offer than those jokers! To draw some analogies, BD has pioneered a global brand from scratch one that constantly grows and reinvents itself and his role, just like Bill Gates (a more hairy Bill Gates). Likewise, Steve Bailey gave up a top business to run CS OZ and has taken it to the next level, like a Google takeover perhaps?

Should you give, it is to people with top integrity and talent! Just imagine guys, it doesn't have to be big. You could give \$10 per month and that would provide \$120 a year and that would pay for a car tyre – and you would then know that you have enabled the gospel to travel 25,000 kilometres that year!

Give a bit guys. Invest in yourself through your leadership's input, invest in your community through their evangelism and invest into God's kingdom. And give with expectancy; expect to know that you have saved some lives. The amount of young people committing suicide is on the up and your \$10 could make a difference, which is just amazing.

Go for it people! Oh and just in case you wondered if I give, ask the CS guys and my local church. They know who I am.

Thanks CS, you changed my life around into something amazing. You know who you are!



Andy Gardner



It's been a long, winding journey for us from West Oz to Crescent Head. It was almost a decade ago when I first found out about Christian Surfers. I was sitting on the dunny reading Tracks magazine at the time, and could hardly wait to get off so I could tell my wife V! Fast-forward to now and you'll find us on the North NSW coast, serving the awesome CS missos up here. We're a bit older and crustier maybe, but we're still stoked on Jesus and His mission to 'bind up the broken hearted...to set the captives free' (Lk 4:18; Isa 61:1).

Since we escaped the big-smoke of Sydney only 5 months ago, the feeling of 'newness' in our surrounds hasn't yet worn off. I was delighting in that newness the other morning as I went to check the surf. I also found myself talking with God about some of the changes we've recently experienced. I mused how 'the more things change the more they stay the same' – that people, no matter where they are, are essentially alike. That all of us, deep down, yearn to be loved and respected. When you cut through all the superficial gunk, everyone (whether they're aware of it or not) exists in nothing more than their relationships. Absolutely nothing has 'realness' other than our intimacy with God and with others...

Anyhow, as I legged it to the point that morning I noticed Vaughny – a burly, larger-than-life local surfer – squashed into his Suzuki 4x4, absent-mindedly ashing a durrie and gazing out to sea. I stood beside his car as we watched a couple of sets stream down the point, and chatted about our local boardriders comp the weekend before. Though he has a rough exterior, Vaughny has a heart of gold, and I enjoy chewing the fat with him.

The first time we met he asked me about some CS crew he'd known years ago before he moved North. He spoke of them with real respect.

Amazing how often that happens. That morning on the point we ended up touching on some deeper issues, why people get on together and why they don't. As he drove away I silently thanked the King that He'd taken V and I on the wild-ride of the last decade or so. That through CS He'd provided us with a family, a mission and a purpose far deeper than merely existing to ride lumps of water. And that He'd now brought us up here on the North Coast to care for its surfers and to point them towards an ocean of love far deeper and far broader than their wildest imaginings.

Nic Gilmour



Praying up a storm for CSA!

The Chicks of CSA - JODENE WATLING

- That girls would be saved & transformed through their interaction with CSA & be inspired/encouraged to seek Him with all their heart.
- For continued growth & opportunity in women's ministry, that is God honoring & maintains unity within CSA.

Cross cultural missions - RICHARD AGIUS

- Girls Outreach team to Peru for Feb: Cath James and Lindsay Young, and Ally Joy Working with Christian Surfers Peru.
- ReActiv8 Outreach team for Jan. pray that the location is finalised shortly.
- Japan Outreach team. Working with Walking on Water and Christian Surfers Japan in Okinawa.
- For all these teams, pray that they will accomplish all of God's plans and purposes whilst on outreach and for the leaders to know God's heart and mind over the various issues, decisions and situations that they will face.

Queensland - JONO BAILEY

- Administrator for CS QLD: pray for an administratively gifted worker to help in the CSQ office. For a person that knows God's calling to this and believes in the vision of CS QLD.
- Mission Coordinators of QLD: pray that our hearts will be prepared after recent mission co-ordinators gathering and that God will move mightily in showing us His purposes.

Nth NSW - V and NIC GILMOUR

- Spiritual growth and mentoring for every CS misso, that we would each yield to 'His energy which so powerfully works within' (Col 1:28-29).
- Unity between all parts of the Body of Christ (including us – the crusty toenail!), as a powerful witness to the lost surfers (Jn 17:22-23).
- Discernment regarding 'the powers and principalities' running amok in this area as they hold people in bondage, and that with kindness and sensitivity the CS crew would 'fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel' (Eph 6:10-19).
- That the Lord would spiritually and materially provide for the CS missons and the RCs, so we might 'abound in every good work' (2 Cor 9:6-11)
- That we would never give in to hopelessness, but rather would 'overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit' (Rom 15:13).

Sth NSW - CHRIS WELSH

Praise God for:

- Paul Campbell for his recovery after surfing incident where he basically died and was revived and his faith in JC!
- Jed Garkut for his recovery from a nasty surf accident and his fantastic attitude and faith in JC!

Prayer requests:

- Jed for full healing of his eye and complete sight restored.
- For the good and faithful servants of CS in the region who bring the Gospel to many groms and their families.

Board report

The CSA National Board is made up of a great group of guys who all contribute something unique. We have become mates in the process of being board members but that does not mean in any way that it is a bunch of 'yes men'. In fact some of our board discussions are pretty vigorous and not for the faint hearted.

Over the past couple of years Governance issues have dominated our board meetings. If that seems boring to you, then think of us. It has been a necessary part of our role in making sure that CSA is governed in a godly and legal way. Steve has worked tirelessly outside of board meetings to get the details of this sorted.

In July we got together in Perth for a strategic planning weekend. Once again robust conversations, together with laughter, prayer and more talking were the order of the day. At the end of our time together we had a sense that the Holy Spirit had led us clearly.

We came up with five areas of focus for CSA. The first was the most important and quite obviously was about the local missions. Our second area of focus was to do with CSA's connections with local churches. Third was to do with building networks of supporters and parnters. Fourth included relationships and initiatives with key surfing influencers, and finally organisation and administration.

After we spent a couple of days pouring our energy into these areas we sent Steve away to do the detailed work of making it all happen.

Special thanks must go to Jeff Miller who has volunteered time to work with Steve and get our operating plans happening.

We still have some challenges before us, especially in the area of administration. However we are confident that in due course we will overcome.

Stuart Wesely

If you want to donate to CSA

BSB: 032-096

Acct: 290888

Snail: PO Box 5213 Busselton, WA 6280

Web: www.christiansurfers.org.au