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Reformation Series

Leviticus 16:20-34 & Hebrews 10:1-25

Every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God ...

For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified ...

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

The Suffering Church | ISIS Defeated - What Next?



“The situation for Christians in Iraq has always been unstable. All I can do is trust in God ... It is our mission to live here in this place as Christians, the place of the root of Christianity.”

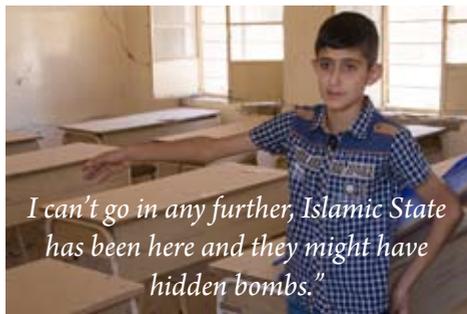
The Iraqi government has declared victory over Islamic State in Mosul. After nine months of fighting, only small pockets of extremists remain in parts of Mosul. But this

doesn't mark the end of Islamic State, who are still active in Iraq and Syria. And though Mosul has been liberated, now the huge task of rebuilding begins.

“We want to return home. This is our land.”

In the Christian town of Karamles, 30km east of Mosul, residents are only now starting to rebuild. Karamles was under Islamic State control for over two years until it was liberated in October 2016. Most of the 797 homes in Karamles have been completely burnt-out, and 97 have been reduced to rubble. A Return Centre has been set up next to the church to accommodate people returning to repair their homes. So far, 250 families have said they would like to return and rebuild before the end of the year. 12-year-old Noeh (pic) and his family were one of the first to return. The family returned to find their home as a hollow shell, almost completely burnt-out. Noeh walked through his home with Open Doors' contacts, finding belongings in the ashes—his marbles, the family computer, his dad's church book. But Noeh tells us, *“We want to return home. This is our land.”*

The government has said the local school will reopen later this year. But it isn't safe yet, and there's still a lot to be done. The local school has weeds growing between the concrete and the floor is littered with rubbish. We were with Noah as he returned to his old school for the first time. He walked around the playground and soccer field, and took us to his old classroom. He said, *“I can't go in any further, Islamic State has been here and they might have hidden bombs.”*



“I can't go in any further, Islamic State has been here and they might have hidden bombs.”

After many of the town's Christian population returned to Karamles for Easter celebrations, Father Thabet (pic top) is helping families choosing to return for good. Father Thabet is leader of the local church. He fled to Erbil when Islamic State invaded in 2014, along with many Christians from Karamles and surrounding towns. Once homes have been rebuilt, the danger won't be over for Christians – who faced persecution even before Islamic State. But that won't stop Christians like Father Thabet from returning. He admitted that he is afraid, saying, *“... the situation for Christians in Iraq has always been unstable. All I can do is trust in God ... It is our mission to live here in this place as Christians, the place of the root of Christianity,”* he said. www.opendoors.org.au

Upcoming & Notes

• **New Life 2017 Christian Women's Conference Aug 25 & 26** > @ Carinya Christian School Tamworth. Organised by the Anglican Diocese of Armidale for the women of the New England/ North West, New Life aims to provide quality Bible teaching to encourage women in their relationship with Jesus and equip them



to serve Him in their local communities. Theme: *'Waiting for the Day'* - Studies in the book of II Thessalonians and on prayer. Flyers in church foyer. **Early bird rate closes 30th July.** Rego and more info at newlifeconference.org.au/



• **Prayer for Armidale 7.30 pm Monday July 17** > Armidale City Church, 68 Markham St. Come along and pray for our city. The meeting runs for about an hour with supper after.

What has God joined together?

our marriage laws. If you haven't already read it, grab a copy from the foyer and be informed about this current and contentious issue.

• **What has God joined together? Jesus' good message about marriage for Australia** > Published by Sydney Anglicans this booklet addresses commonly-asked questions, outlines the Biblical view of marriage and considers three main consequences of changing

- **Confirmation with Bishop Rick Lewers October 22** > Contact Matt in the Office 6787 4015.
- **Colin Buchanan Concerts** > PLC Astra Arts Centre. *Kids Concert 2pm Friday 11 Aug* \$8pp tickets. *Adults/Family Concert 7pm Saturday 12 Aug* \$20pp. Tickets www.trybooking.com
- **Young Life Dinner Saturday Sept 2** > Warm up from winter with heart-warming Young Life stories at the annual YL dinner - St Peters Cathedral Parish Hall 6.00pm for 6.30pm start. Cost \$20 (includes two-course dinner and non-alcoholic drinks). If you wish to host a table or help with catering, please contact Gillian Traise on 0414 674 519 or gill@ioha.com.au

Family Prayer

- **Baking** > Henry & Candy Yeomans (due end July); Heidi & Hunter Gerberich.
- **'Tent' Wear & Repair** (2 Cor. 5) > Matthew Devenish-Mearns; Samantha Guilbert; Luke McCleneghan; David Meares; Owen Chapman.
- **Betrothed** > Annikki Reader & Joel Klein Aug 19 (Birnbach in Germany); Ben Lukins & Laura Millican Dec 9.
- **SunAM Prayer Ministry** > See Robert Baker.

Family Finances

Giving 1/7-7/7	\$10,672
Needed to meet Budget	\$8,484

Support St Marks uneChurch via direct debit

Regional Australia Bank BSB
932 000 | Acc. 609 753
(add \$1 for internal transfers)

