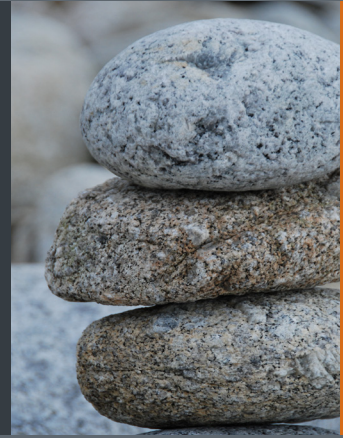


# Towards Belief

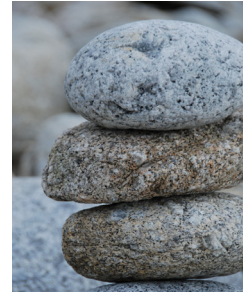


A ministry resource  
that will change lives...

...help the seeker **overcome their  
blockages** to Christian faith

...help the Christian move **from fearful silence  
to confident engagement** of their faith

...help the **Christian Church regain  
credibility** as the people of God



## Vision

- ❖ To help non-believers overcome the barriers which are currently blocking them from considering Christian faith
- ❖ To move Christians from fearful silence to more confident engagement
- ❖ To re-invigorate Christian churches with the task of evangelism by building the confidence and skills of Christians.
- ❖ To help build a coalition of partners committed to raising up the next generation of apologists and evangelists to impact people with the gospel of Jesus.

## Reach

### TELEVISION

**Towards Belief** will be used on the same networks our past series have been featured on. Each of these networks repeat the series regularly and air multiply times per week. These include:

- ❖ Australian Christian Channel
- ❖ Shine TV New Zealand
- ❖ U Channel Indonesia
- ❖ UCB-UK United Kingdom
- ❖ Al Hayet – Arabic-speaking satellite programming
- ❖ Good-TV Korea

### CHURCH ENGAGEMENT VIA WEB & DVD

In addition to the television exposure, there is an even larger audience via local Churches and Christian ministries. The series is designed to be watched as a DVD series for small groups in homes, churches or in community venues. **Towards Belief** will work in a similar mode as the *Alpha Program* with a DVD segment to watch (23 minutes) followed by a discussion using the available guide. Each country that takes the DVDs will be encouraged to work with a national evangelistic ministry to engage local churches across the country to release the DVD series into small groups and ministry groups.

The cost of DVDs will be comparable to similar products on the market. The proceeds of these sales will go towards the cost of distribution and the administration expenses of Olive Tree Media, the producer of **Towards Belief**.

# Series Overview

According to recent research, four in ten (40%) Australians consider themselves Christian. 1 in 5 (19%) indicate they are spiritual, but not religious. 3 in 10 (31%) do not identify with any religion or spiritual belief at all.

**Towards Belief** searches for the answers as to why our culture has grown to where 1 in 2 Australians do not identify with a religion. The series will follow Karl Faase on a journey to come face to face with the blockers to Christian faith in contemporary society.

Australians seem to be moving away from their religious roots, with 29% expressing they grew up in religious households but were now no longer religious.

Simply, the research for the series has provided 10 main blockers to Christian faith that will form the basis of the journey for Karl Faase to explore. The final episode is an assessment of the future for Christianity based on the evidence provided on Karl's journey.

## TOWARDS BELIEF

1. God and Science
2. Exclusivity
3. Homosexuality
4. The Supernatural
5. The Obsolete Church
6. Suffering
7. Religious Wars
8. The Good Book
9. Church Abuse
10. The Future of Faith

In each episode, Karl clearly outlines the concerns surrounding the issue and then sets off on a journey to meet with experts to address the issue head on. The dramatic impact of the series is founded on Karl's commitment to get to the heart of the blocker and address the issues with honesty. Each episode concludes with a personal summation by Karl as to what he now understands about the blocker. In this way, he becomes a bridging character for the audience.

**Towards Belief** is designed for both a wide audience and church groups, intending to attract as many non-Christian viewers as faith based. Karl's personality and dedication to uncovering the answers will serve to guide the audience through territory to challenge contemporary audiences with reasons to believe.

# Presenter

KARL FAASE



*Rev Karl Faase has over 10 years experience in Christian media, hosting and interviewing some of Australia's most high profile Christians in fields of leadership, arts, politics and the business world. He has produced several television and DVD series such as The Men's Series and The Family Series which are shown on Christian television stations around the world. He is also Senior Pastor of a Baptist Church in Sydney. Through his radio, television and DVD ministry, Karl is committed to resourcing local churches as well as reaching out to the unchurched. Until recently, Karl was the co-founder and director of the Arrow Leadership Program and was the Co-founder of the Jesus. All about life media campaign run across Australia.*

# Director

SIMON HUNTER



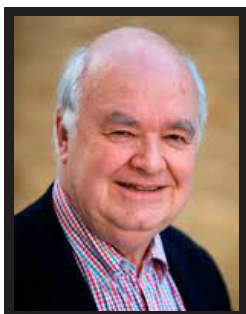
*Simon Hunter is currently the President of the New York Film Academy for Abu Dhabi and Australia. Simon has extensive experience as a teacher and freelance screen writer and director, working for many years with Columbia Tri-Star, Fox Television and the Nine Television Network. Simon will complete his Doctorate in Creative Arts in October 2012. Simon travels extensively in his role of teaching and mentoring with NYFA.*

# Guests

We have contacted an impressive line up of guests about their involvement in **Towards Belief**. So far, we have the following guests, with others still to be confirmed:

## INTERNATIONAL

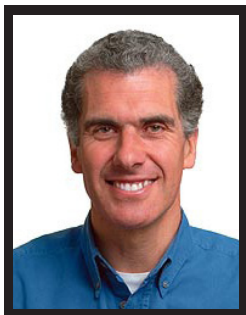
JOHN LENNOX



*John Lennox is Professor of Mathematics in the University of Oxford, Fellow in Mathematics and the Philosophy of Science, and Pastoral Advisor at Green Templeton College, Oxford. He is also an adjunct Lecturer at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University and at the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics and is a Senior Fellow of the Trinity Forum. He studied at the Royal School Armagh, Northern Ireland and was Exhibitioner and Senior Scholar at Emmanuel College, Cambridge University from which he took his MA and PhD. John has written a number of books on the interface between science, philosophy and theology. These include "God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?", "God and Stephen Hawking", "Gunning for God", and "Seven Days that Divide the World", on Genesis 1 (2011). John has debated Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens and Peter Singer and lectures extensively in North America, Eastern and Western Europe on mathematics, the philosophy of science and the intellectual defence of Christianity.*

*John will appear on the God and Science episode.*

## NICKY GUMBEL



*Gumbel was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. After graduating in law in 1976, he followed in his father's footsteps and became a practicing barrister. Meanwhile, he became a regular worshipper at Holy Trinity Brompton, Knightsbridge. Then in 1982 he announced his decision to leave the bar to train for ordination in the Church of England. Gumbel joined the staff of his 'home' church of Holy Trinity Brompton Church in London as a curate in 1986. He was ordained priest in 1987. In 1990 Gumbel took over the running of the Alpha Course that had been running there since 1973. The course was transformed under his leadership from being one designed for new Christians to one primarily for those outside the church who would not consider themselves as Christians. He is the author of a number of books related to the Alpha course, including Questions of Life, which has sold over 1,000,000 copies. Voted "Christian Book of the Year" in 1994, it has been published in 48 languages.*

*Nicky will appear on The Obsolete Church episode.*

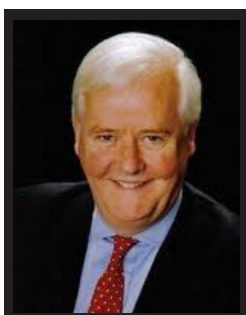
## ARD LOUIS



*Dr. Ard Louis is a Royal Society University Research Fellow and a Reader in Theoretical Physics at the University of Oxford, where he leads an interdisciplinary research group studying problems on the border between chemistry, physics and biology. Current research focuses on self-assembly and the physics of evolutionary biology. He has written over 70 research publications. Prior to Oxford he taught Theoretical Chemistry at Cambridge University where he was also director of studies in Natural Sciences at Hughes Hall. He was born in the Netherlands, raised in Gabon, Central Africa, and received his Ph.D. in theoretical physics from Cornell University, U.S.A. Dr. Louis is the International Secretary for Christians in Science and an associate of the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion based at St. Edmunds College, University of Cambridge. He has also served on the European board of advisors for the John Templeton Foundation. He maintains an active interest in international development issues.*

*Ard will appear on the God and Science episode.*

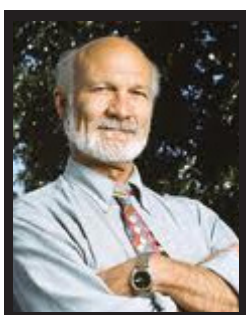
## OS GUINNESS



*Born in China, Os is the great-great-great-grandson of Arthur Guinness, the Dublin brewer. He was a witness to the climax of the Chinese revolution in 1949, and returned to England in 1951, where he went to school and college. He received a B.D. (honours) from University of London in 1966 and a D.Phil from Oriel College, Oxford in 1981. In the late 1960s, he was a leader at L'Abri, and after Oxford a freelance reporter for the BBC. In 1984 Guinness came to the United States, where he was first a Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center, and then a Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution. He was the lead drafter of the Williamsburg Charter, celebrating the genius of the First Amendment and setting out the signers' vision of a civil public square. He was also the primary drafter of "The Global Charter of Conscience," published at the European Union Parliament in Brussels in June 2012. He founded the Trinity Forum in 1991, and served as Senior Fellow until 2004. Guinness has written or edited over 30 books.*

*Os Guinness will appear on the Obsolete Church episode.*

## STANLEY HAUERWAS



*Stanley Hauerwas is an American theologian, ethicist, and public intellectual. Hauerwas is currently the Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics at Duke Divinity School with a joint appointment at the Duke University School of Law. Before coming to Duke Hauerwas was a longtime professor at the University of Notre Dame. He is considered by many to be one of the world's most influential living theologians and was named "America's Best Theologian" by Time Magazine in 2001. Hauerwas is known for his outspoken advocacy of pacifism and nonviolence, as well of his fierce criticism of both liberal Christianity and Christian fundamentalism. Hauerwas has achieved notability outside of academia as a public intellectual, even appearing on the Oprah Winfrey*



Show. Hauerwas's book, *A Community of Character: Toward a Constructive Christian Social Ethic*, was named as one of the one hundred most important books on religion in the 20th century by *Christianity Today*.

Stanley Hauerwas will appear on the *Religious Wars* episode.

## DALE KUEHNE



Dale Kuehne is the professor of politics at St Anslem College in New Hampshire, where he holds the the Richard L. Bready Chair for Ethics, Economics and the Common Good. St Anslem is a mainstream Liberal Arts college run by a catholic order (he is protestant). He was the founding director of the New Hampshire Institute of Politics. It plays an important part in both Primary and Presidential elections and hosts nationally televised candidate debates. Dale is regularly interviewed by broadcasters, such as CNN, ABC, FOX and Al Jazeera. He is also an ordained pastor of an Evangelical Covenant Church in New Hampshire and the author of the book *Sex and the iWorld.: Rethinking Relationship Beyond an Age of Individualism* (Baker Academic, 2009).

Dale Kuehne will appear on the *Homosexuality* episode.

## JOHN POLKINGHORNE



The Rev Dr John Polkinghorne is an English theoretical physicist, theologian, writer, and Anglican priest. He was professor of Mathematical Physics at the University of Cambridge from 1968 to 1979, when he resigned his chair to study for the priesthood, becoming an ordained Anglican priest in 1982. He served as the president of Queens' College, Cambridge from 1988 until 1996. Polkinghorne is the author of five books on physics, and 26 on the relationship between science and religion. He was knighted in 1997 and in 2002 received the £1 million Templeton Prize, awarded for exceptional contributions to affirming life's spiritual dimension.

Dr Polkinghorne will appear on the *God and Science* episode.

## RICHARD SWINBURNE



Richard Swinburne is a British philosopher of religion. He is an Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the University of Oxford. Over the last 50 years Swinburne has been a very influential proponent of philosophical arguments for the existence of God. His philosophical contributions are primarily in philosophy of religion and philosophy of science. He aroused much discussion with his early work in the philosophy of religion, a trilogy of books consisting of *The Coherence of Theism*, *The Existence of God*, and *Faith and Reason*. A member of the Eastern Orthodox Church, he is noted as one of the foremost Christian apologists, arguing in his many articles and books that faith in Christianity is rational and coherent in a rigorous philosophical sense. In his book, *Providence and the Problem of Evil*, Richard looks at why a loving God allows suffering.

Richard Swinburne will appear on the *Suffering* episode.

## AUSTRALIAN

### JOHN DICKSON



John Dickson has a PhD in ancient history from Macquarie University and is a highly regarded speaker, writer, historian, minister and Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Ancient History at Macquarie University. He is co-founder and director of the Centre for Public Christianity, a media company which seeks to "promote the public understanding of the Christian faith". He is also the part-time senior minister of St Andrew's Anglican Church, Roseville, Australia. John's books focus on the relevance of Jesus in the contemporary world. He won Australian Christian Book of the Year in 2000 and 2005. Before starting his writing career in 1993, Dickson was a singer-songwriter with the band *In the Silence*, with whom he continues to perform occasionally. One of Dickson's books, *The Christ Files*, was made into a documentary and shown on Network Seven at Easter 2008 as well as Christmas Day in 2009.

John will appear on several episodes including *The Good Book* and *Suffering*.

## GREG CLARKE



*Dr Greg Clarke is CEO of Bible Society Australia and Co-founder of the Centre for Public Christianity. His doctorate is in literature, with special interest in how theology is discussed in the arts and humanities. Greg has written books and studies on topics ranging from the Bible to sex to The Da Vinci Code to the end of the world. He is author of over 200 articles and reviews in publications such as The Sydney Morning Herald, Southerly, kategoria, Books and Culture (US) and onlineopinion.com.au. Greg splits his time between writing, academic work and public lecturing, and is primarily interested in talking about the importance of Christianity for understanding the meaning of life.*

*Greg will appear on the Exclusivity and The Good Book episodes.*

## PATRICIA WEERAKOON



*Patricia Weerakoon has an honorary senior lecturer position with the new Masters in HIV, STIs and Sexual Health in the Sydney Medical School. Up to December 2011, as the Director of the internationally recognised Graduate Program in Sexual Health in the University of Sydney, she leads a team of dedicated sex researchers and educators. In 2009, the program was granted the award for excellence and innovation in sexuality education by the World Association for Sexual Health. Patricia has retired from full time work but works part time as a sex therapist. She consults with couples and singles on sexual and relationships issues. As an Evangelical Christian she works within the worldview that sex and sexuality is a gracious gift from God.*

*Patricia will appear on the Homosexuality episode.*

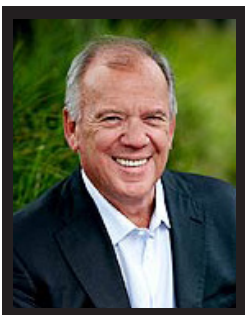
## PATRICK PARKINSON



*Patrick Parkinson AM is a Professor of Law at the University of Sydney. He was chairperson of a major review of New South Wales law concerning child protection which led to the enactment of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998. He served from 2004-2007 as chairperson of the Family Law Council, an advisory body to the Federal Attorney-General, and also chaired a review of the Child Support Scheme in 2001-05 which led to the enactment of major changes to the Child Support Scheme. He is President of the International Society of Family Law. Professor Parkinson was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2009 for service to the law and to legal education, particularly in the area of family and child protection law, as an author, through contributions to policy reform, and to the community.*

*Patrick will appear on the Church Abuse episode.*

## MIKE WILLESEE



*Mike Willesee came to prominence in 1967 as a reporter for the ABC's new nightly current affairs program This Day Tonight (TDT), where his aggressive style quickly earned him a reputation as a fearless political interviewer. After TDT, Willesee hosted the ABC's flagship current affairs program Four Corners from 1969 to 1971. He then moved to the Nine Network, where he hosted A Current Affair, another popular Australian current affairs program. In his fifties Willesee rediscovered the Roman Catholic faith of his upbringing. Now 70 years of age, twice divorced and married for the third time, father of five, and a grandfather, Mike's come full circle and returned to the Catholicism of his youth. He's not proud of his years spent away from the church, and says that his return has been a life changing experience. In 2012, Willesee was joined the Seven Network's Sunday Night as a reporter.*

*Mike will appear on the Supernatural episode.*

## JOEL A'BELL



*Joel A'Bell is the Lead Pastor of Hillsong Australia alongside Senior Pastors Brian & Bobbie Houston. Joel is an innovative thinker, leader and communicator. He is passionate about building and growing the local church. His fresh leadership ideas and style have helped shape Hillsong's flourishing multi-campus church. Joel is a team-focused leader dedicated to seeing all involved reach their full potential.*

*Joel will appear on the Obsolete Church episode.*

## RON BROOKMAN



*Ron Brookman is a Uniting Church minister and the Australian Director of Living Waters Ministries. He has a moving story of his own battle with homosexuality. From as early as age 4 and into his early teens, Ron believes the wet cement of his emerging sexuality was well and truly set homosexually. Despite decades of torment with his sexual orientation and pornography addiction, he found healing and restoration in Jesus. In his testimony he states, "I could not have made the journey if it were not for my faith, and Jesus in whom I have my faith. He died to heal the broken hearted, to break chains which imprison us in destructive behaviour and to transform us back to God's original intention for us." Ron now ministers to other people who are dealing with unwanted and destructive sexual drives, fears or torments through the ministry of Living Waters, which was so instrumental in his own restoration. He believes that transformation of broken gender identity to wholesome masculinity or femininity is entirely possible.*

*Ron will appear on the Homosexuality episode.*

## SEAN GEORGE



*Dr Sean George is an Australian born in Kuwait to Indian parents. He did most of his education in Kuwait, then training to be a physician in India and worked as a consultant physician both in India and Malaysia. Sean lives in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia in his role as Consultant Physician and Head of Department of General Medicine at Kalgoorlie Hospital. On 24th October 2008, Sean had a heart attack and despite continual efforts by medical staff, was clinically dead for 1 hour 25 minutes. His wife, by his bedside, offered a simple, silent prayer: "Lord Jesus, Sean is only 39, I am only 38, we have a 10 year old boy, I need a miracle". Immediately, breath returned to my body as though somebody had breathed into him and his heart beat returned! Dr George has a powerful testimony of the miraculous power of God.*

*Sean will appear on the Supernatural episode.*

## Campaign

One of the most exciting parts of *Towards Belief* is the suitability of the series for a Church engagement campaign. This would be on two levels. Firstly, churches will be encouraged to sign up to a 10 week program, involving the whole congregation in outreach and small group discussions. Preparation DVDs will be provided to the participating churches leading up to the campaign to provide some training for the series. This will be based on the experience gained from the *Jesus. All about life* media campaign of which Karl was a co-founder. And secondly, *Towards Belief* can be broadcast on Christian television networks, encouraging people to watch the series each week in homes with friends and family members. A *Towards Belief* Discussion Guide will be written as part of the series.

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### Contact Details

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