

Newsletter – Autumn 2018

VAST – The 3ABN Australia Miracle Story

In February 2017 John felt impressed that God wanted 3ABN to reach a larger audience within Australia. He prayed for God's leading on how to accomplish this. One day following prayer, a man phoned and asked, "Have you considered VAST?" and said 3ABN should be on there because the number of people accessing VAST is growing. Then John remembered his prayer. He told John it would cost a lot of money, but that didn't deter John as he felt God was leading.

John phoned the VAST (Viewer Access Satellite Television) sales representative. He said 3ABN could go on VAST, but did John know about the high cost? The sales representative told how others had wanted to go on VAST, but when they heard the cost they never came back. He thought 3ABN would be the same, but John was not discouraged. A quote was given and negotiations occurred. Contracts were considered, re-considered, and later signed. Praise God!

On July 1, 2017 3ABN International channel began airing on the VAST Platform alongside ABC, SBS, reaching some 308,000 homes across Australia on channel 603. Praise God!

Optus did a press release across Australia informing people of 3ABN, a new Christian lifestyle channel, channel 603 on VAST. Praise God!

Since then callers have told us that they have found 3ABN on VAST and can't take their eyes off the programs. Again we praise God!

For full report see enclosure.

3ABN Australia Staff Travels

John and Rosemary Malkiewicz look forward to seeing you at the Victorian Big Camp, 29th March – 2nd April, Easter weekend. They will also be at the NNSW Big Camp 20-22nd April and NNSW Grey Nomads Camp 11-13th May 2018.

Testimonies from our viewers and listeners

Sarah, an Aboriginal lady, phoned from remote NT and reported she "always watches 3ABN". She is glad to have found 3ABN on VAST channel 603.

Michael phoned from Victoria. He has been listening to 3ABN and phoned to notify us that he has been blessed by 3ABN and that he will be praying for us that God grows the ministry.

John installed a 3ABN dish for Kay. A couple of months later Elizabeth called her to see how she was enjoying 3ABN. She said, "I absolutely love it. It is fantastic. I couldn't be happier. The programs are so interesting and uplifting. I've started going to the Adventist Church. 3ABN is life changing".

Lyndall and her husband make visits to far north Queensland (half way up the west coast of Cape York). "We really missed our satellite [3ABN Christian] channels which we have back home and there is rarely anything worth watching on regular television. We are back here for 6 weeks and have been here for 2 weeks so far. Imagine how excited I was to flick through the channels and find 603! I couldn't quite believe my eyes when I saw the little 3ABN [bug] in the corner of the screen. All television here is via satellite dish and your ministry is the only one available this way. Thank you so much for your insight to support this work. It reaches not only all the Grey Nomads in their caravans, but all the Aboriginal communities. I know Kowanyama is set up like this and I expect all the other Cape communities will be the same. What a blessing! God bless."

Help Promote 3ABN Australia!

Distribute 3ABN Australia TV Fliers, TV and Radio business cards and Information Sheets at your local fairs and in your neighbourhood. Contact us for more information.

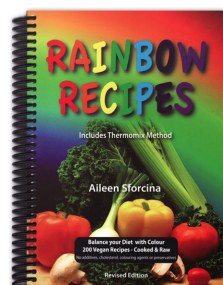
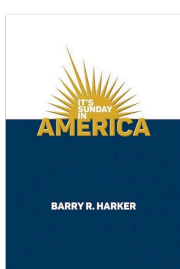
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Products – postage is extra

To view our online store go to our website and click the *Shop* button. Orders can be placed online (Australia only) or by phone (02) 4973 3456.

*** NEW * It's Sunday in America**

is a timely warning about the emerging threats to religious liberty in the world's greatest democracy. Authored by Christian philosopher, Barry R Harker. \$27.50



Rainbow Recipes cookbook by Aileen Sforcina ~ Are you looking for a whole food plant based cookbook using ingredients from your local supermarket? Every recipe has instructions for thermomix in addition to conventional preparation. With 200 vegan recipes, both cooked and raw dishes, life in the vegan kitchen will never be boring again. \$35.00

*** NEW * Healthy Living Cooking DVD** Watch Aileen Sforcina as she demonstrates, using the thermomix, 16 quick and easy, colourful, whole food, plant based recipes. \$11.00



What new programs are you interested in?

We want to produce some new programs for TV. Please contact us via email mail@3abnaustralia.org.au with your suggestions. We look forward to your comments. Thank you.

A Word from the Assistant to the General Manager

We have good news for those who enjoyed reading the **3ABN World magazine**. It is back! But, in a shorter version. For those who have internet, you can go to www.3abn.org and click on the magazine cover on the home page. From there you can choose which month's magazine you would like to look at. If you would like to receive it by regular post please call or write to us at 3ABN Australia (details are at the top of the front page) with your name and postal address and we will subscribe you to it.

This year our local children's program, **A Day With The King**, will be reaching even more children around the world. Firstlight Broadcasting Network, on Freeview TV in New Zealand, now airs it on Sabbath mornings, while this month it has started on 3ABN Kid's Network, thanks to Brenda Walsh (Kid's Network General Manager). We are planning to produce new children and youth programs at 3ABN Australia and Brenda is happy to use them all! Firstlight are looking to air more of our Australian programs in New Zealand too.

Almost everyone loves to get together as a family - and 3ABN is family to many viewers around the world. Now, you have the chance to join us for a family gathering in October this year when 3ABN Australia will be hosting a **3ABN Homecoming event**. Although we are currently only in the early planning stages and can't give too many details right now, we can confirm it will be the second weekend in October and the venue will be Avondale Memorial Church, Cooranbong. We plan to have information on our website as it unfolds, along with listing possible places of accommodation. So, make sure you check in there regularly to see the latest information.

We will be having some 3ABN USA personnel over for the meetings and other presenters as well. Along with that will be music with international and local talent. There will be opportunities for the rest of us to sing along too. So, plan to join us and have a spiritual feast over two or three days. And pass the word along. Bring a friend or two, or three.... All are welcome, so use this opportunity to introduce a friend to God's family. We look forward to seeing you in person in October!

Rosemary Malkiewicz



VAST - The 3ABN Miracle Story

By John Malkiewicz

Jesus' Gospel commission in Matt 28:19 begins, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations ..." and today the same call is close to all our hearts. Nations are growing and Australia is no exception. Australia is a **vast** country of 7.692 million square kilometres, a population of nearly 25 million. Much of that population is located in the major cities but there are many who live in rural communities that need to learn about God.

In 2016 3ABN Australia was going through a time of financial uncertainty. So the staff turned to God in prayer each day and witnessed God answer our prayers in a miraculous way that strengthened our faith.

As the General Manager, I felt that, because God was blessing, we needed to do more and reach a bigger audience. So, one Monday in February 2017, I prayed and asked God for His direction in how to reach more people with 3ABN. The next day I asked again and continued to work and wait, not knowing if and when He would respond. On the third day, after staff worship, I came to the office and my phone rang. It was a gentleman from Tasmania, whom I had not spoken to for some time. I asked him how he was, and his family, and he went on to ask, "have you considered VAST?" and said that 3ABN should be on there. I said I had been aware of VAST in 2010 when it was in its infancy, but never thought about it much after that.

As he began to tell me about the number of homes on VAST and how it was growing I suddenly remembered my prayer. I had to interrupt him and ask why he had called me at this particular time and not some other day. "I just felt impressed to call you now." He had no idea what I had been asking God but I knew this was an incredible answer to my prayer.

He then continued to tell me it would cost a lot of money to be on VAST. But that did not deter me in anyway as I knew God was leading. He gave me the number of the Optus sales specialist, in Satellite Sales, so I could call him.

As I finished the call from Tasmania I felt a sense of urgency and, as I passed Rosemary's office, I told her we were going to go on VAST. By the way, VAST stands for Viewer Access Satellite Television. The Australian Government provides the service to people around Australia who cannot access ABC or SBS (Australia's public broadcasting services) and the commercial channels, through a normal TV antenna. This service is growing currently by up to 800 homes per week. I thought, "what would it be like to have 3ABN on VAST alongside ABC, SBS and the other channels?" Yes, Lord, this is amazing!

The story now becomes even more intriguing as I was restless and felt a need to call Optus. As I introduced myself, and the 3ABN Network, the gentleman listened. When I asked if we could go on the VAST network he said it would be possible. Again the issue of money came up and he asked if I knew about the high cost, and he queried our ability to pay to broadcast on the Optus C1 satellite for television. He mentioned that others had enquired and, once they heard the cost, they never came back. He thought we would be the same. It was almost discouraging, but that didn't deter me so I asked for a quotation based on what I thought we needed.

I contacted Moses Primo when I received the quote and he helped me understand what it all meant and what we would need. Thanks to Moses, it became more affordable as I negotiated with Optus. When I presented the idea to the 3ABN Committee, they were united in going forward and having 3ABN on VAST.

I have to say, even before my initial prayer, God was preparing the way. For over ten years 3ABN Australia has been paying to broadcast on the Optus D2 satellite, which has been our greatest expense. To pay for another satellite during that time would have doubled our expense and I would have thought it impossible to afford.

What happened was nothing more than God doing what He does best. That is, arranging things that show what He can do when we allow HIM to be in control. In December 2016 our contract for Optus D2 came up for renewal. As Moses Primo negotiated with the company, we were able to secure a new contract price for 3ABN for considerably less than previously and we praised God for this blessing.

Now, here is how our amazing God works. Six months later, when we were finalising the contract for VAST, the saving we had from the Optus D2 satellite was nearly all that was needed to pay for 3ABN to be on the Optus C1 Satellite. I still shake my head and can only say, "God is good, all the time!" Now we were on two satellites for little more than what we had previously paid for one.

It becomes even more incredible! In the same month of December 2016, the Federal Government of Australia passed new legislation regarding contracts between large Corporations and small businesses. A small business is defined as less than 20 employees, and 3ABN Australia fits into that category.

In the past, large businesses employed a team of lawyers to draw up contracts in legal terms that could be used to the disadvantage of a small business, simply because the latter group had not understood all the legal terms because they couldn't afford lawyers for this work.

So, when it came to our contract and, as we are a small business, Optus now had to have their lawyers draft a new contract that complied with the new legislation. I was a little amazed and humoured with how long it took to complete a contract that could be understood by a layman! Eventually a draft arrived that we could read.

It still wasn't easy, but with the help of other staff, a barrister who supported 3ABN, and Moses Primo, we went through the contract.

When it came to program content, and some other issues, I felt we couldn't sign it. So, I spoke with Optus and was asked to list the areas of concern then their lawyers would look at the contract again. This is again how God works! The contract was altered! This enabled us to proceed and, by faith, sign the contract, leaving the rest with God.

This now meant we would need to install equipment at the Optus site in Sydney, NSW. God blessed us again with this. Even when the equipment we purchased did not function according to the manufacturer's specifications, Optus helped 3ABN Australia until new equipment arrived.

3ABN International channel began airing on the VAST platform on July 1, 2017, reaching some 308,000 homes across Australia on channel 603, and this was growing at a rate of hundreds of new homes each week.

If you think that's it, there is still more. Once we were on air I thought we needed to let people know and we produced new 3ABN leaflets for distribution, which included information about VAST.

Now, watch what God does in helping people to know about His channel. After we had been on air for a short time, the Optus representative called and informed me that their management had decided to send a press release across Australia, to inform people that 3ABN, a new Christian lifestyle channel, was now on channel 603 on VAST.

"Thank you Lord!" Does it end? No, because we have begun to hear from viewers who are finding 3ABN on VAST and how God's Word is reaching into new areas across Australia.

Indeed, this has been a story that continues to unfold showing there is a God who answers prayers and who wants people to know Him. Jesus makes it clear in John 17:3, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

Thank you, Lord, for hearing and answering prayer. May the Holy Spirit impress people to support 3ABN so that others can come to know You while there is still time and they can be ready for Jesus' soon return.