

MEDIA RELEASE

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TOO BRAINWASHED TO READ THE BIBLE?

Australian churches launch campaign against mainstream misinformation

The number of people worshipping Jesus is growing worldwide, but you wouldn't know it.

That's the message according to *Outreach Media*, a not-for-profit Christian media organisation that has launched a campaign across Australia to combat a rising tide of misinformation about Christianity communicated by mainstream media and literature.

According to Malcolm Williams, director of *Outreach Media*, Jesus and the Christian faith are often portrayed in a negative light through the use of false or misleading information.

"Documentaries trumpet 'startling new revelations' that apparently undo everything written in the Bible. Unfortunately all these 'revelations' don't fit together. They contradict. Which means they can't all be true at the same time. But this doesn't seem to bother the TV networks," Williams said.

Internet surfers may have watched the film 'Zeitgeist'. This film asserts that the major ingredients of the Christian story are all based on mythical ideas from other cultures such as Egypt and Greece. But the claims of the film are a muddled mixture of distorted facts and just plain falsehood. Despite this, it's being received widely as truth.

Perhaps the book that's received the most attention recently is Richard Dawkins' 'God Delusion'. Yet how many people have bothered to read a book that responds to its strong claims? It may not be easy because mainstream bookstores don't promote them - for example, Oxford academic, Alistair McGrath's 'The Dawkins Delusion?'.

Mr Williams said that during September, a confronting poster will be displayed outside more than 100 churches across Australia featuring the slogan, "Too brainwashed to read the Bible?".

"Many Australians think they understand Christianity and know who Jesus is, but how many have actually read the Bible and considered its claims carefully? The aim of this month's campaign is to challenge Australians to read the Bible – the reliable, authoritative, God-inspired best-seller – that's all about Jesus", said Mr Williams.

The campaign will be run across denominations and around the country. A website has been also released with resources that respond to some of the current claims made about Christianity – check out www.thatposter.org.

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Outreach Media is a not-for-profit Christian media organisation that seeks to equip churches to confront and delight Australians with the truth about Jesus. For more information, please visit www.outreachmedia.org.au.