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In This Issue

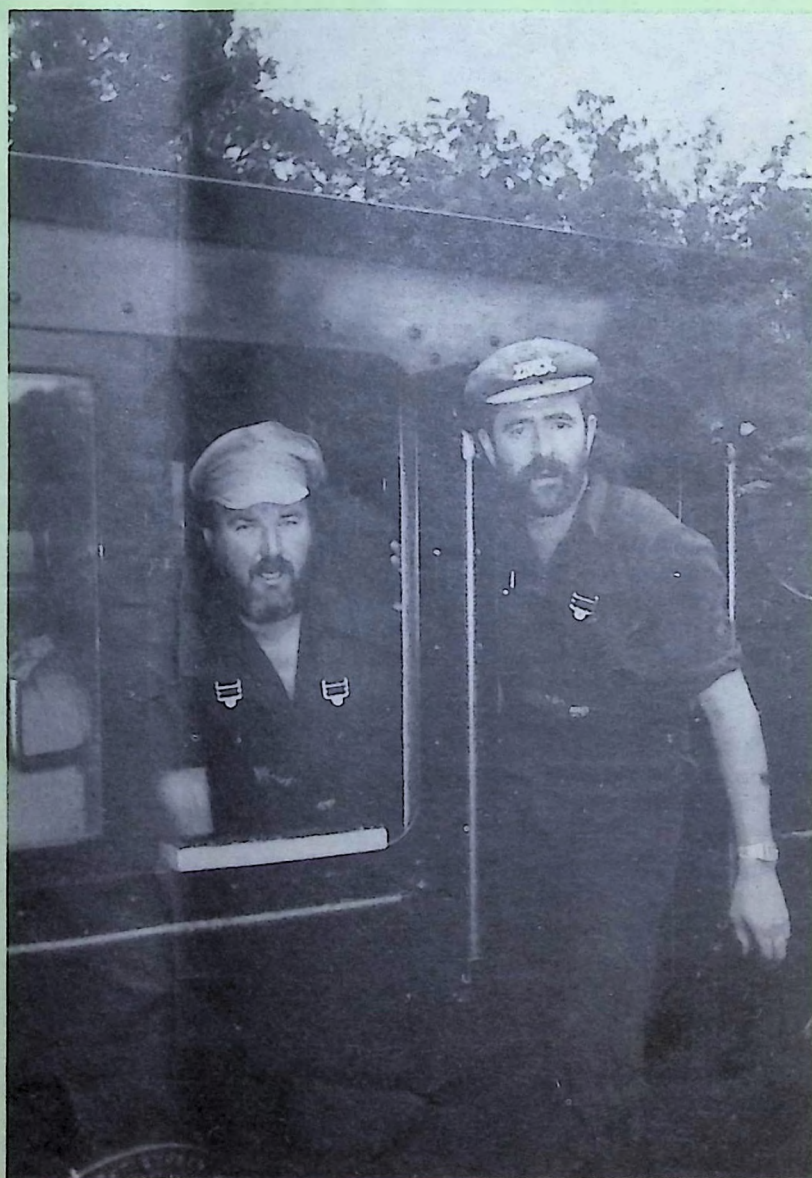
**Carnarvon:
Interaction of Two
Cultures**
page 22

**The Question of
Integrity**
page 2

**Easter 1990:
The Reality of
Christ's Pain on the
Cross**
page 20

**Federal Board of
Christian Education
Special Feature
Christian Education
Youth Ministry
Resources**
pages 13-16

**Going to Church on
"Puffing Billy"**
Driver Ross Gorman
and fireman Mal Austin
take Berwick church to
Emerald Lake→
page 3



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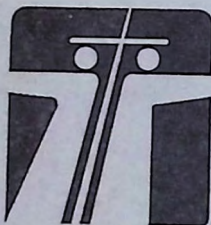
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Guest Editorial

Lack of integrity is not a new problem for Christians—it began with Ananias and Sapphira. What can we do to guard against it?

The Question of Integrity

by Lionel Berthelsen

Lack of Integrity. It's not a new problem for Christians. So far as we know it began with Ananias and his wife Sapphira, who presented to the Apostles part of the proceeds of a property sale, and pretended it was the total amount. They died for their deceit—fortunately God doesn't always punish lack of integrity on the spot!

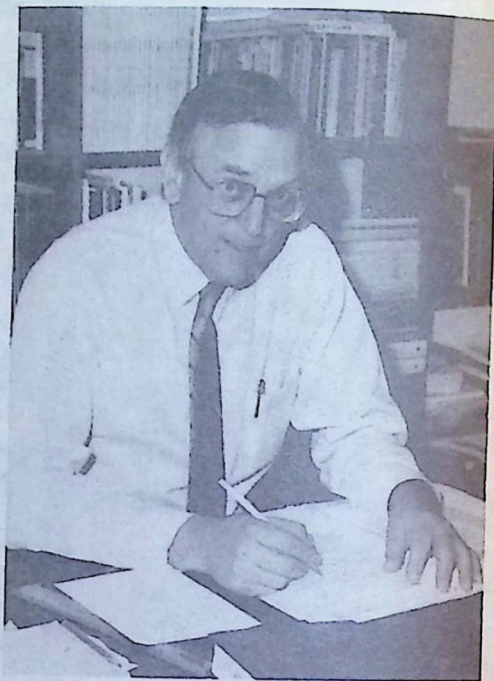
Nor should we think of this as a problem only for television evangelists. We too have some stocktaking to do. We hear from time to time of church sports teams famed for their dirty play. We hear of church leaders whose children look at their fathers at church and then at home—and give up the faith in disgust. We can cope with that, but then we are shocked when we hear from time to time of a minister leaving his wife for some other woman. But it is all lack of integrity.

What can we do to guard against a failure of integrity? I'd like to suggest these responses:

First, close the gap between our public and private worlds, between what we believe and what we do, between how we behave at home and how we behave at church. To be honest, I find that this is very hard to do. Once a gap has grown between what we say or think and what we do we become blind to the gap. We just don't see our own lack of integrity. It is far better never to let the gap arise. As we learn what God wants of us, begin to practice it. And honestly acknowledge failure. Those of us who are leaders need caution in our teaching and preaching. For example, preaching on prayer is no substitute for practising it. No wonder James said, "We who teach will be judged more strictly."

Secondly, we can seek release from those persistent sins that we struggle with. We must never excuse ourselves—"I've inherited that quick temper from my mother, and she is just like her dad. So I can't help it." No, if we don't find release from that sin it may well prove to be our undoing further down the track. So take it to God, and keep on asking until he breaks the power of that sin in your life. It may even be necessary to seek out someone to pray for you who has experience in this area.

Thirdly, we can pray for each other.



While the first two responses dealt with how we can build integrity into our own lives, this is a contribution we can make for each other. In particular, since a failure of integrity in one of our ministers is especially serious, here is a contribution we can make to our ministers' lives. Pray for them. Pray that God will make them strong to withstand the special pressures of ministry. Remember, the Christian life is spiritual warfare, and if your minister is at all effective, he will be on Satan's hit list. So pray for him (or her).

As for myself, I want to be able to say at the end of the day, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

• Lionel Berthelsen graduated from Kenmore Christian College in 1968. He has a BA and BD from the University of Queensland and a DMin from Fuller Theological Seminary. He is currently Registrar at Carlingford, and Lecturer in Church Growth and Biblical Studies. He was previously minister at the Beverly Hills, NSW, church, following seven years as lecturer at the Bible College of South Australia. Lionel is married to Jo-Anne, and they have three teenage children. The whole family attends and loves Telopea Church of Christ.

Going to Church on "Puffing Billy"

The idea arose from the fact that some members of the Puffing Billy Association are also members of the Berwick, Vic, church. If other organisations chartered the well-known train, running through the Dandenongs on its narrow-gauge railway, why shouldn't the church?

So it was that at 4.30 pm on the last Sunday of daylight saving in Victoria 400 men, women and children heard the shrill echoing whistle as the little train steamed out of Belgrave to Emerald. They were on their way to church.

The staff for the trip were all Berwick members. The driver was Ross Gorman, his fireman Mal Austin. The guard with whistle, flag and lantern was Andrew Rayment.

An hour later volunteers who had arrived at Emerald Lake earlier were ready to serve the alighting passengers 1,500 bar-

becued sausages, 500 hamburgers and countless rolls, with salads to garnish. During most of the day saturating rain squalls had roared across the hills, but from departure to return the winds subsided and the clouds withheld.

After tea everyone proceeded to what they had journeyed for, the Berwick evening service, this time not in the factory but in the vast natural amphitheatre alongside Emerald Lake. A small orchestra provided music, Gary Frysang, George Mallaby lead a voice speaking choir for the reading and Gordon Stirling preached.

As darkness fell the little train with its 400 passengers made the return journey with the light of the full moon filtering through the bush.

While it was hoped to recover costs, it was a pleasant surprise to find that the building fund had gained \$1,635.



Guard Andrew Rayment



Berwick church aboard Puffing Billy

"New Beginnings"

"New Beginnings" was the title of Peter Pitt's first sermon at Hampton Street, Vic, church after his vacation. It was a spirited sermon and, at its conclusion, an invitation was extended for anyone willing to make a recommitment of their lives to Christ and the service of the Kingdom of God. During the singing of the last hymn, first one by one, then couples, then family groups came to the front of the chapel till almost the entire congregation were gathered at the platform. It was an exciting and very moving sight which will certainly be remembered by all who shared. A prayer of dedication and benediction closed the service.

1990 Foundation Scholar



Ross Burton

Christian Projects and *The Australian Christian* are pleased to announce that Ross Burton of the Busselton, WA, church is the 1990 Australian Christian Foundation Scholar.

Ross has been awarded the scholarship to complete course work towards his Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California.

Before ministering at Busselton Ross was minister to the church at Hervey Bay, Qld. While at Busselton the church has commenced their own Christian Primary School. During Ross's ministry at Hervey Bay the church commenced a family day care centre that was meeting the needs of 100 families each week.

The Australian Christian Foundation Scholarship is sponsored by Christian Projects, who have supplied funds of up to \$2,250 for the previous 10 scholars to travel overseas for short-term studies that would benefit Churches of Christ in Australia.

Ross gives details of the Doctor of Ministry program below.

He writes:

Living in Melbourne?

You are welcome at the Richmond Church of Christ cnr Coppin and Murphy Streets Morning service 11 am (03) 428 4844

Why This Course of Study?

Having given 15 years of my life to pastoral ministry in two churches, which I undertook after 11 years in a business setting, I needed a fresh challenge for my personal growth and ministry. In re-assessing my priorities, I determined that I needed a specific program to pursue my goals and achieve my desire for spiritual, academic and practical growth. These were the areas that needed revitalising after ministering in the country areas away from the centres where ideas and information are exchanged.

After researching many theological college programs, I chose to enrol in the Doctor of Ministry program at Fuller Theological Seminary because the courses offered were exactly what I needed to pursue these aims and I could do much of my work "off campus".

Whereas the Lord Jesus spent nights alone in prayer to his Father, I am setting aside time to read, research, pray and study. I plan to travel to Fuller Theological Seminary to complete my study units in mid-1991.

What Is This Course?

My study relates very much to management and leadership and its theological and practical applications in the church at Brotherhood and local levels. It is through my thesis that I will develop a model to implement. I intend refining and applying this through studying development of the minister's personal growth and skills and building a church community through small groups in the fellowship.

Where Will This Course of Study Lead Me?

I was called to the local church ministry, and I have a strong desire to encourage the local church as I am able. This extension work may lead me to consult with local churches and even help prepare the young people training for ministry.

Max Carter Vic-Tas Conference President



Max and Stella Carter

Vic-Tas Conference has announced the appointment of Max Carter as President-Elect for the 1990-91 Conference Year.

Max is an elder of the Footscray, Vic, church, having been a member there since his baptism at the age of 13. He is currently the Secretary of the Advisory Department and an elected member of Conference Executive.

He is a charter member of the Rotary Club of West Footscray of which he is now President; and is a member of the Council of the Footscray College of TAFE.

A professional engineer, he has been employed for 40 years by Olex Cables. He has been responsible for many of the expansion programs of the company, including the current establishment of a cable factory in China.

Max is married to Stella, who is also actively involved in the church life at Footscray and is a member of the Executive Committee of Christian Women's Fellowship. She has already been chosen to be the President of the Christian Women's Fellowship in the same year that Max becomes President of Conference.

Max and Stella have four

daughters and seven grandchildren. Their eldest daughter, Anne, is married to Milton Oliver, who is currently in his final year of study at CCTC. Susan is married to Vincent Hutton and they are in membership at the Westside Christian Centre. Loris and her husband, Geoff McLean, are members at the Greensborough, Vic, church. Helen lives at home, strongly supports the Footscray church and is a librarian with World Vision.

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CCTC Plans to the Year 2000

The Churches of Christ Theological College has a clear sense of direction for the next 10 years. A realistic timeschedule has been set for the achievement of each of its goals, and there is within the College Board a spirit of excitement as it works toward the year 2000.

This is the result of the visionary thinking of the board, which met several times to produce a development plan to the year 2000.

Provoked by the lateral thinking of the Principal, Dr W. Tabbernee, the board has developed plans relating to the board itself, the faculty, the students, the administration, the property and finances. These plans have been subsequently endorsed at a plenary session and shared with the department directors of Vic-Tas Conference to permit increasing co-operation and an integrated approach.

Plans include the refinement of current courses, the establishment of a Centre for Church Management, a Centre for Creative Learning and a Pastoral Counselling Centre, the introduction of intensive courses during the summer and mid-year semester breaks, ongoing faculty professional development, the participation of ministers and elders in the selection of ministerial candidates and the participation of selected students in specialised ministries to churches. It is also exploring ways by which the college can work with Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development to complement new initiatives in church planting.

Naturally, all these plans are dependent upon the necessary finance.

Currently, the board sees the need to consolidate its financial position before taking any new initiatives.

Once that is done the board will be in a position to take the next step.

"Oh, Jonah!"



The premiere performance of the musical "Oh Jonah!" by the children of Cheltenham church

Under the direction of Julie Stokie about 20 children of the Focus Department of the Cheltenham, Vic, church presented "Oh Jonah!" at the church's "Christmas Bowl Appeal" service in December.

"Oh, Jonah!" is a fun-filled half-hour musical. The music is very catchy and it took about 12 weeks for the children to learn the lines, music and the movement. They were dressed

in contemporary clothing, jeans, T-shirts (with an "Oh Jonah!" logo on the front), sneakers, colourful socks and sailor hats. The King of Ninevah arrived riding a motor cycle. David Brooker provided the "voice" for the "singing whale".

The children will never forget Jonah and how God used him for good in spite of his rebellious nature.

Magill's Day of the Congregation

Adapting the model set out in Dr Lew Born's book, *Countdown to Church Renewal*, the Magill, SA, church instituted during February and March a "Day of the Congregation" program.

The program ran over a period of four Sundays and a section of every worship service was committed to it.

On the first Sunday, members of the congregation were invited to think about their good memories of the church's life. These were collated and presented on the following Sunday, when the emphasis moved to a consideration, using Romans 12 as a basis, of the

life and purpose of the congregation. Those attending were invited to review the history of the church and to think about its effectiveness.

The next Sunday those attending presented their personal aims as to what emphasises the church should adopt. These were collected, summarised and presented to the church the following Sunday as a list of six major aims in areas of Bible study, worship, mission to the community, emphasis on social and community issues and family issues.

On the final Sunday the congregation chose for the next 12 months to place a strong emphasis on mission to the community. A dinner for the congregation climaxed the "Day of the Congregation" with a celebration of community.

Lo, Here Is Fellowship

For seven years now, through the Box Hill Friendship Group initially, we have conducted a five-day tour for "Seniors". The eighth tour began early, destination Warrnambool. On board the coach were 44, average age 77, from Box Hill, Balwyn, Williamstown and Greenways Retirement Village.

On the way through Colac we shared lunch with David Home, minister, and members. Then we settled into our motel at Warrnambool, enjoying a week of perfect weather, interesting daily tours and wonderful Christian fellowship.

One highlight was an evening spent with Peter Broadbent and a number of the Warrnambool folk. Daily tours took us to Port Campbell, Port Fairy, Portland and around Warrnambool.

Only 12 of the "originals" were on board. All 44 voted for a further tour in March 1991. One 87 year old making her first trip with us exclaimed, why wasn't I in it before?

—Don Thomas

L. C. F. Higgins

Chartered Accountant

7 The Parade
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Phones (08) 362 1665
& (08) 362 8619

Box Hill Church of Christ 79th Church Anniversary

6 May, 10 am
Speaker: Greg Elsdon
Lunch to follow
For hospitality contact
V. Clare
(03) 898 1562
or M. Marchant
(03) 898 4291

International Dinner at Chatswood

On 3 March the Chatswood, NSW, church held a multicultural event—an international dinner. All 80 present were members and friends of the Chatswood fellowship, giving testimony to the truth that we can be one in Christ Jesus whether we are from Singapore, China, Korea, Australia or wherever.

The menu consisted of a variety of dishes from French, Asian and European cuisines, prepared by church members.

During the evening there was a roll-call to find out exactly where people were born. Interestingly, the Australian contingent was made up of people from nearly every state and territory. There were people whose birthplace was Scotland,

Germany, France, Italy, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Korea, China, Indonesia and Guatemala.

The program, compared by Thomas Alves, the MC for the evening, ranged from Scripture songs sung in French to the piano playing of concert pianist Josha Tsai. The youth group members read Australian poems and gave a hilarious rendition of Waltzing Matilda, while those with a Chinese background told how they celebrated the New Year.

It was a wonderful evening and an excellent way of getting to know each other better, through a growing appreciation of our diverse cultural backgrounds.

—Ian Alves



Enjoying the international cuisine at Chatswood

Blackwood Induction

Colin Dredge was welcomed into ministry at Blackwood, SA, on 4 February. A crowded church watched the ceremony, as elders laid hands on Colin and asked a blessing upon his commitment. Conference President, Trevor Lawrie, spoke with respect of Colin's abilities and achievements in his former position with Retirement Services, and expressed his confidence in Colin's ability to richly fulfil his new position. Speaking of his call to Blackwood, Colin described it as a call that "could not be dismissed".

He reported himself delighted with the warmth of welcome he felt extended to

him by his future congregation, and spoke of his prayerful hope to fulfil the expectations of those who had called him to serve in this church. Both Colin and his wife Marjory expressed a sense of privilege in their call to servanthood in Blackwood, and with their children, Leanne, Kent, Craig and Andrew beside them on the platform, pledged themselves cheerfully to their future tasks.

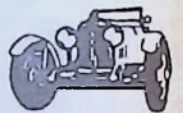
Colin will work alongside Rob Combridge in ministry in Blackwood. Rob is in his third year of ministry there, and it is expected the two men will integrate their workload to give each the opportunity to express their gifts.



Blackwood's ministry team: Rob Combridge and Colin Dredge

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104th Conference

*Church of Christ, 46 Montclair Avenue
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Thursday, 3 May 1990

Theme: "Go Forward in Prayer and Service"

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Speakers: Ian Allsop, Bessie Horn, Ian Corlett

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Overseas Aid Organisations Adopt a "Code of Ethics"

The member agencies of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid, which includes such well-known organisations as World Vision, Australian Catholic Relief, Freedom From Hunger and Community Aid Abroad, have adopted a Code of Ethics.

The Code is mandatory and more than half of ACFOA's 92 member agencies have already indicated their formal adherence to the Code.

Adoption of the Code comes after three years' debate within the Council.

"Overseas aid agencies are acutely aware of the need to maintain public confidence in their work. By adopting this Code of Ethics the aid agencies are showing their commitment to public accountability and to building creative and trusting relationships with their donors and the people of the developing countries", explained ACFOA Executive Director, Russell Rollason.

Code of Ethics

Goals

A member agency of ACFOA seeks to:

1. demonstrate—through its by-laws and practices, fundraising and fund-disbursal methods, information, education and promotional materials, its field programs and relationships with the people it seeks to assist a fundamental

- commitment to overseas and Australian humanitarian service, through the provision of resources to programs that include development assistance, relief, refugee assistance and/or development education;

2. build creative and trusting relationships with the people of the developing countries, treating their needs and interests as paramount; and

3. affirm that development is a process in which people change their own lives by their own efforts and that the agency should facilitate this process by providing assistance that encourages self-help and self-reliance and avoids creating dependency.

Activities

A member agency of ACFOA commits itself to:

1. comply with all State and Commonwealth Government laws and regulations in Australia which are applicable to the agency;

2. prepare, and make freely available, an annual report that includes:

- (a) a description of the organisation's major program activities during the year; and
- (b) informative annual financial statements audited by an appropriately qualified, independent auditor;

3. clearly and publicly report all funds received by way of

grants or subsidies from Government;

4. follow ethical fundraising practices at all times;

5. oppose, and not wittingly be party to, any misrepresentation, false guarantees, hiding of costs or inadequate accountability in all its activities;

6. make every reasonable attempt to ensure that the agency at all times uses accurate, factual information and is honest in the use of advertising, audiovisuals, written materials and presentations;

7. promote itself in ways that do not denigrate other member agencies, or make misleading or false public statements regarding other member agencies;

cies;

8. not make misleading or false public statements in respect of their own work or create public expectations in respect of their activities that they are unable to fulfil at the time of the public statements;

9. regularly monitor, evaluate and report on the efficiency and effectiveness of their programs;

10. respect the dignity of recipient communities in its advertising, audiovisuals, written materials and presentations;

11. oppose and not wittingly be party to any corruption, oppression or exploitation of the local recipient community.

Visit to Australia of Professor C. Ellis Nelson

In the 1960s a significant redirection in educational ministry took place within churches in Australia. Attention was given in a systematic way to adult education in the church. This change focused attention on the life of the congregation as the nurturing centre for such education. The catalyst for this redirection was a book by Ellis Nelson, *Where Faith Begins*.

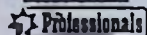
Ellis Nelson, a Presbyterian minister, has during his career written at least nine books and his 10th is soon to be released. Professor Nelson, currently visiting Professor of Christian Education at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, is to visit Australia in May. He has been invited by the Uniting Church Theological Hall in Melbourne to deliver the Love Lectures in 1990 and by the Victorian Council of Christian Education to present the C.J. Wright address on Education and Ecumenism. The topic of that address will be "Concerning Moral Education", a discussion of current research in the area of teaching ethics and moral directions. It will be held on 20 May at 4.30 pm at



the Catholic Diocesan Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne (inquiries (03) 529 4377).

The topic of the Love Lectures is "How Christian Faith Matures" and the four lectures will address: "Why Is Religious Experience Necessary?", "What Is Authentic Faith Experience?", "Life Together" and "Congregational Edification".

These lectures will be held on 2, 9, 16 and 23 May at 2.15 pm at the West Hall, St Mary's College, Swanston Street, Carlton (inquiries (03) 347 7199).



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Dean Sander

Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Safe Sex!

To the Editor,

The media hype makes sex sound great and implies a condoning (or should I say "condoning") of pre-marital escapades because the risk factor is controlled. In some recent articles in various magazines young people are equating maturity and love to a play of passion now made acceptable by a skin devised by science.

There is much more "OW" than "WOW" in the aftershocks associated with so-called safe sex. There is more "O.O.O." than "AAH" when people realise the impact on their personalities and their impaired integrity of grief or shame, guilt or stupidity.

The standard of the Christian church has never been popular with a society seeking to find ways to have safe sex and maintain its sanity. You cannot surrender or bury the spiritual dimensions of love and sex and be unscathed.

There is a great deception being foisted on our young people by the media blitz for safe sex. The deception is readily accepted because we have bought the other lie that we are merely moral-less products of evolution.

The Christian faith talks a lot about safe sex from the Creator's viewpoint. That is within the framework of the commitment of love in the covenant of marriage. Within this realm dwells beauty, care, safety and pleasure that makes the sexual experience more than a clash of bodies. That is why the Bible calls the embrace of bodies, souls and spirits in marriage "one flesh" and a "knowing". That is what makes sex safe.

—R.N. Hawkins
(Maitland, NSW)

Christian Leadership

To the Editor,

Morrie Munyard has taken the first step in setting out the priorities for Christian leadership (Guest Editorial "AC" 3 February).

In one sense it's the easy step. For as he recognises, power and authority are the crucial dilemmas confronting leadership issues.

And it is the relationship between priorities and these issues of power which is more complex. What does this relationship mean in the day-to-day conduct of, for example, a conference department?

Within our organisational culture such relationships are rarely talked about openly. Those in the know, those who themselves are involved in the organisational culture of our churches, can keep each other entertained for hours on the "goings on", and the manoeuvrings of various leaders of our departments. Little is made public and even less is documented. And certainly, given the past policy of *The Australian Christian*, it would never, especially if it was unfavourable, make it to these pages.

I recognise that there are positive and committed elements in the leadership of Conference Departments both at staff and committee level.

However, too frequently, leadership is characterised by self-perpetuation, defensiveness, territorial dominance and exclusiveness.

One of the ways to ensure both change and continuity, to encourage creative leadership, is to build into our system of administration mechanisms for change itself.

I wonder therefore whether Morrie would move at the next conference that:

- Directors of departments be appointed initially for five years with an option for a further five years only;

- Chairs of committees be for five years only;

- One third of a committee membership change every two years;

- Half of all committees be women;

- President of conference, lay or ordained, be a woman each alternate year.

Do I have a seconder for the motion?

—Alan Matheson
(Hawthorn, Vic)

Theocracy Verses Democracy

To the Editor,

For Bruce McIntosh ("AC" 24 March), would the credentials of the late W.R. Newell, superintendent of the Moody Bible Institute, and the notes in F.W. Grant's Bible translation be acceptable to you?

Your general observations on democracy, Greek writing and the Eastern world would be riveting stuff in another forum Bruce, but of little profit for our instruction about order in the house of God.

If, as you say, democracy and theocracy have always been married together in God's covenants, then it is equally true that the relationship was always an adulterous one. Every dispensation ended with God's judgement on his people for departing from his word.

You say the synagogue in the day of Jesus was run by the people. Exactly, which is why he spoke of it as "your" house, no longer his Father's house;

and which is why, alone among all the churches, the address is to the church of the Laodiceans, not the church in Laodicea.

I was disappointed that you did not address your answer to my main query. Does democracy have the authority to fiddle the theocratic revelation to suit its own tastes?

—Bill Woff
(Southport, Qld)

Women in Church

To the Editor,

Several correspondents have taken issue with my letter ("AC" 16 December) on the role and status of women in the New Testament church. That letter was prompted primarily by the need to point out that there was no necessary contradiction between Galatians 3:28 and 1 Timothy 2:11-15 as someone had claimed. As a secondary point I argued that it was foolish for anyone to seek any kind of official appointment in the church based on some perception that certain positions held

Letters from Tertius

Love One Another

To the Editor,

I was drifting off to sleep as my wife read from our daily devotional guide. Then a sentence stirred me. "Can you read that bit again?" I said. Surprised to get such a response from me she read, "Instead of doing good to others to meet their need, we most often do good to them to meet our needs." We stayed awake talking about it.

I always thought that I love other people for their sakes more than for my sake. Now I'm not sure. I must admit that I enjoy the sense of satisfaction of doing good to other people and lap up the thanks and praise that I get in return. So I am wondering if I ever act in pure unadulterated love.

Of course it is better for us to meet the needs of others for our own sake rather than not to meet them at all. And self-centred love is a lot better than hurting other people.

On the other hand there's always the danger of becoming pathological do-gooders with potential victims ducking for cover as soon as we get near them. Maybe our love will be a bit purer if we keep in mind how muddy we can make it with our questionable motives.

But I think that my wife came up with the right answer. She said, "I think that our salvation is Jesus making us into unselfish lovers, because we can't do it on our own."

I wonder if that's the difference between Christian love and secular love!

With love,
Tertius

Letters

higher status. In my original letter, I pointed to Paul's metaphor of the church as the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12) in support of my contention, but this was edited out to conform to the letter limit.

Arguments on this matter should not be construed as my being opposed to women holding offices such as deacon, elder, minister or whatever. However, specific NT evidence

in this regard is thin, though there were undoubtedly small "d" deacons (servants) and unofficial apostles (messengers).

The case for women holding official forms of ministry must be based on broad theological principles deriving from the New Testament and a critical contextual understanding of key verses such as 1 Timothy 2:12. —Harold E. Hayward (Berowra, NSW)

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God's Word

• Philippians 1:1-11

Greeting, Thanks-giving and Prayer

by Dennis Nutt

The character of the Epistle is reflected in the introduction (vv 1-2): it is unofficial, affectionate and familiar yet solemn and earnest. The omission of any reference to Paul's apostleship accords with the familiar character.

In fact, Paul refers to himself and Timothy as slaves of Christ Jesus. This usage occurs only here and in Romans and Titus. The word slave (*doulos*) refers to someone who is owned by someone, is totally dependent upon the master, wears the master's name on a collar around his neck and has no rights of his own. Paul sees all these aspects as applying to his relationship to his Lord (Romans 6:18,22; 1 Corinthians 3:23, 7:22; Philippians 2:7).

Another key idea in the introduction is the use of the word saints (*hagioi*). Rare in classical Greek, this word is the standard word for "holy" in the Septuagint. The fundamental idea is setting apart for God and is used by Paul in all his openings except Galatians and 1 and 2 Thessalonians. It is his common designation for Christians. The other New Testament books do not use the word in this way.

Also included in the greeting are the church officials. The word "overseer" is identical with the word "elder". Elder (*presbyteros*) refers to the title or status of the office whereas overseer (*episcopos*) refers to the function of the office. In Acts 20:28 Paul refers to another function, namely that of a shepherd.

Paul now combines the Greek ("grace") and Hebrew ("peace") forms of greeting (v 2). Grace refers to the goodness of God to humankind, the worthy to the unworthy, the holy to the sinful. Peace, from the word "to bind together",

does not mean tranquillity or repose. It means a state obtained by binding together God and man after the remission of sins. Reconciliation is the direct result of God's grace.

In verses 3 to 5 we have Paul's thanksgiving. In verse 5 he introduces the idea of partnership (*koinonia*). The meaning is one of a joint partnership in a common interest and activity. Thus it refers to something that belongs to us all, something we share together. In this case it is distinctively connected with the gospel. Every Christian should be enjoying and expressing fellowship in the gospel. In chapter 1 Paul spells out five ways in which partnership in the gospel expresses itself: in thanksgiving (v 3), in prayer (v 4), in faith (v 6), in love (vv 7-8) and in ministry (v 12).

He finishes his thanksgiving with a note of confidence about them: God will finish his work of salvation in them. As followers of Jesus we can have the same confidence.

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Papers

Christian Faith and the World Economic Order

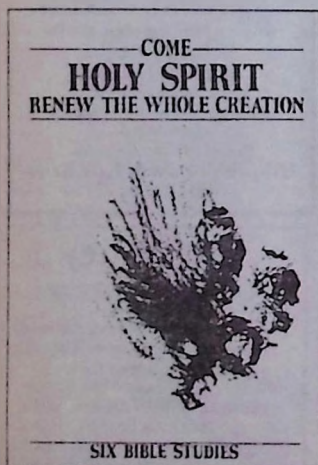
At an international conference at Oxford in January, liberation-oriented theologians affirmed free-market strategies and conservative-market economists demanded a special focus on justice for the poor. Harsh critics of the policies of Western democratic capitalism endorsed democracy while its staunch defenders condemned the centralised economic power, consumerism and dehumanisation in capitalist societies.

The Oxford Declaration on Christian Faith and Economics was issued by over 100 bankers, theologians, economists, ethicists, business leaders and development practitioners from every continent. Australian participants included Dr Kim Hawtrey, chief economist of the State Bank of NSW, Dr Joe Remenyi of Deakin University, and Prof. John Nevile of the University of NSW.

Economic systems must be judged by their ability both to create wealth and to distribute it justly. Both freedom rights and sustenance rights are important and are grounded not in societal fiat but in God's creation of persons in the divine image. The God of the Bible demands special attention to the weak (especially the poor) members of the community because of their vulnerability; in that sense justice is biased. Biblical values and historical experience call Christians to work for democracy while recognising that racism, materialism and concentrated economic power sometimes lead democracies to marginalise the poor and act unjustly.

A common commitment to Jesus Christ and submission to the authority of the Bible made possible this striking bridging of divergent viewpoints. The full text of the Oxford Declaration on Christian Faith and Economics has been published by the Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society, under the title *Christian Faith and the World Economic Order: The Oxford Declaration on Christian Faith and Economics*, Zadok Series 1 Paper S45. The Paper is available from the Zadok Institute, Blackall Street, Barton 2600, phone (062) 73 1634, for \$2 plus 80c postage.

Books



Come Holy Spirit—Renew the Whole Creation

(Joint Board of Christian Education) \$1.95

This book, of six Bible Studies for congregational and group use has been written to help churches prepare for the Seventh Assembly of the World Council of Churches, to be held in Canberra, 7–20 February 1991. The six studies, which elaborate the theme "Come Holy Spirit—Renew the Whole Creation", are biblically based and relevant to the life situations of ordinary Christians.

A strength of the book lies in the way that chapters are organised. Each study commences with biblical reflection, followed by a series of stories and faith testimonies from around the world that relate to a particular sub theme. Relevant questions for group discussion conclude the studies.

The dynamic of the Holy Spirit and our partnership in the renewal process underlies each sub theme. The book challenges the reader as we are confronted with the need for renewal in the light of societal injustices, and our destruction of aspects of God's creation, as well as renewal and reconciliation within the church.

A criticism of the book is that the work of Christ in creation and renewal tends to be diminished in the enthusiastic development of the Holy Spirit theme. However, this criticism must be tempered by the recognition of the Christ-centred themes of previous World Council Assemblies. A further weakness is that some studies and the selection of testimonies reflect an imbalance and bias towards the traditional areas of World Council concern and may feed critics who want more emphasis on personal faith issues.

Come Holy Spirit—Renew the Whole Creation is a must for churches to familiarise their members with the major aspects and concerns of the coming Assembly. It will enable them to prayerfully and actively participate in the process of the renewal of the whole creation.

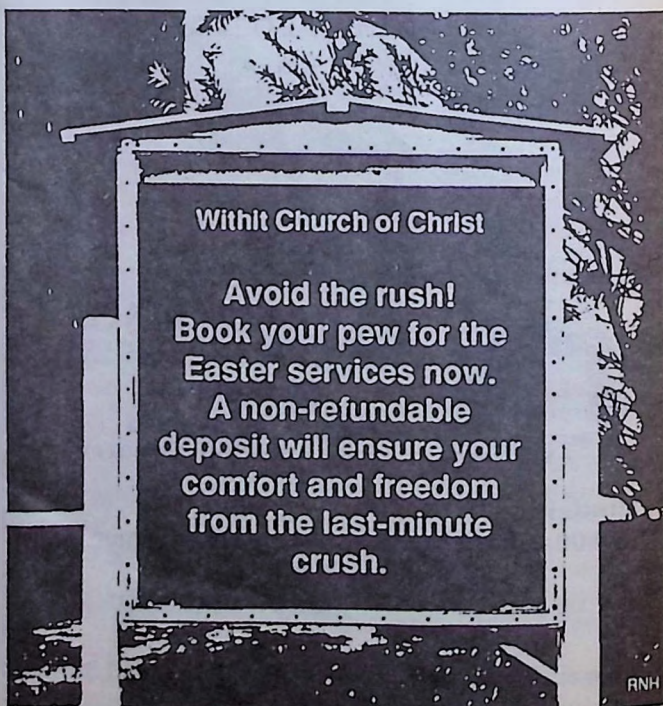
—Ian Allsop

Dead End Street: A Street Kid Comes Good

by Peter Johnson with Helen Oatley (Blackwood Church of Christ) \$5

This absorbing story of Peter's boyhood and youth is told with honesty, humour and humility. The difficult home life, street gang, commitment to Christ, struggles with old ways and sharing with his brother, a criminal, are unfolded in a series of word pictures. Some South Australians will recognise names like Harold Norris, Jack Chivell and John Halbert, but no prior knowledge is needed to enjoy and be inspired by this small book. It's an excellent present to give, including to non-Christian friends. God works marvellously through people. Hopefully this modest publication will encourage others to write their stories, especially if they use a gifted co-author like Helen Oatley. Available from Blackwood Church of Christ, PO Box 476, Blackwood 5051. Proceeds for Churches of Christ Theological College. The price of \$5 includes postage.

—Keith Bowes



Prahran is an inner area of Melbourne, Vic. A commercial and light industrial area, it has a cosmopolitan population of 42,000. Migrants make up 45% of this number.

The Prahran church was the first Church of Christ in Victoria, founded in 1853. Always strongly evangelical it has also had a large vision: people sent out from the mother church have founded congregations in such places as Malvern, St Kilda, South Yarra and Brighton.

Its building is 120 years old and the facade protected by a heritage planning order, but with the adjacent halls dilapidated, the vision now is pull these down and rebuild, providing a larger new chapel to accommodate more people and turning the present chapel in the front into a community hall.

The membership is currently around 100, but this is subject to change in what has become an area of transient population. In the post-war period Prahran saw an influx of migrants; now the population is changing again as rising housing prices and the cost of loans mean that people are moving out and new

people moving in.

Prahran has its service at 10 am. About 120 attend (plus children), including about 90 adults. The congregation is predominantly young—there

also held. A "Kids in Worship" committee organises family services, held about every six weeks.

Home fellowship groups are also very important. On Wednesday nights four home fellowship groups cater for 40, and 20 participate in a discipleship group. A church camp this month will emphasise prayer and evangelism.

There are also a young adults group, an art group and a youth group, and the women meet together regularly.

As the population of Prahran changes, so does the church. Eight years ago about 80% of the church membership lived in the local area. Now 60% come from outside the area. They come from as far away as Mt Waverley and Blackburn, retaining their membership with the church, or attracted to it by

its style of worship. Prahran caters to a need for those within Churches of Christ who need a charismatic form of worship. Because so many come from other areas it is planned to form community cluster groups, in different geographical areas, for informal meetings and outreach possibilities.

However, the local community has not been forgotten, as Ian Bunnnett's release to his new appointment indicates. As the most active church in its area it has a responsibility to those around it. Ian has become involved in local committees, e.g. the community services advisory committee, and there has been an outreach to local children. A school-holiday activity in a local park has led to the formation of a Friday night club. Prahran church has a strong emphasis on relationships, demonstrating what fellowship is all about. The openness, unity and honesty of its people demonstrate this. Prayer is seen as vital.

As the first church in the state, Prahran still feels a responsibility to pray for and nurture other churches, often organising visits to other places. Its vision is still just not local.

Focus on Prahran

are only a handful of elderly people. A high proportion are under 35 years of age.

There are two ministers, Ian Bunnnett and Graeme Bradley. Ian used to be the senior minister but he and Graeme have changed roles and now Graeme is the senior minister, while Ian has become community pastor. Ian grew up in Prahran, and his great-grandparents, grand parents and parents were members of the church. He has been a minister to the church since 1971. He is married with five children. Graeme trained at the Melbourne Bible Institute and has been at Prahran since 1974. He is married with four children.

Worship has a high priority at Prahran. A charismatic church, services are characterised by celebration, combining communion, teaching and

Growing Spiritually: Are Yours Fears Showing?

by Florence Rosier

It has been said by many of the great writers and thinkers of our time that loneliness is the greatest fear of the twentieth century. I do not dispute that. But what of fear itself? That too can create loneliness, isolating us from one another. We live in a fear-filled world and whether openly admitted or not, fears of the past, present, and future are daily companions of us all. They must be dealt with if we are to live responsibly with each other.

But there is one fear that I believe we need to be much more aware of as Christians than we are.

That is the fear that results in failure to trust God and take him at his word. This crippling emotion retards our spiritual growth and hinders our ability to do what God asks of us and to be what he knows we can be.

When the challenge to write for our church paper each week was put before me my immediate response was to back away, and the words of Moses found an echo in my own heart: "Lord I am not eloquent..." (Exodus 4:10)

It seemed such an enormous task! The questions were endless, the excuses loud and long!

How could I, a non-writer, write? From where would the

ideas and inspiration come?

How could I fit it into an already full round of commitments? Deep down I wanted to accept. Hadn't I always dreamed of being a writer? However fear was busy pointing out all the pitfalls!

For three days I agonised over the decision to reject or accept the task. Finally, exhausted by my own mental gymnastics I realised that only one thing mattered. The one thing that Christ always asks of those who would follow him—obedience! With that would come the resources. Only then would the answers to all my questions fall into place.

And so it was. From the moment I accepted without knowing how, it was as though some interior floodgates were opened and words came faster than I could write them down.

When the minister called a week later I had sufficient articles for several months and God enabled me to fulfil that assignment for many years.

When God confronts us with a seemingly impossible task, he does not want a list of our inadequacies. (Who knows them better?) What he does want is the opportunity to develop our potential so that his promise of an abundant life (John 10:10) can be fulfilled in us and for the enlargement of his kingdom.

"For God has not given us the spirit of fear but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7) Without fear, we have a sound mind to think clearly, and the power to do his will.

• Florence Rosier is a member of the Cheltenham, Vic, church.

Happenings

A new art gallery has opened in Sydney featuring work by Christians. Artists, sculptors, photographers and potters can have their work hung or shown free. The new Henning International Gallery at 449 Darling Street, Balmain, evolved after June Henning staged the successful Eye to Eye Exhibition of Christian art last year. Only works by committed Christians will be hung and sold. Part of the profits will be used to further the work of young creative Christian artists.

Pastor Iosif Ton returned to Romania on 29 December after 9 years in exile. The following day he preached at 2 services to a total of 16,000 people.

Readers in Melbourne's Eastern suburbs can contact Ern Blake at the Box Hill church if they have any used stamps for the Overseas Missions stamp group. He can be contacted on (03) 233 4858 and he will arrange either to pick up the stamps or to have them delivered to the Box Hill manse. Sales from these

stamps assist in the costs of a Bible correspondence course in India.

"Scoop for Christ" has been formed in Wollongong. It is open to all Christians working in the secular media, or students studying journalism. On 10 March it held an all-day seminar "Can Christians Survive in the Media". Although only 15 were expected over 50 registered, all from the Wollongong area. Contact is Anne Simpson (042) 28 3770 (AH).

A campaign initiated by World Vision to convince both Labor and Liberal parties in the recent election campaign that overseas aid is a factor of concern to many attracted the support of 20,000 voters.

Aid officials have welcomed a Thai Government proposal for a neutral camp for more than 275,000 Cambodian refugees now living in 8 camps controlled by 3 guerilla groups. The current camps have high crime rates and are beds of

unrest. The guerrilla factions, which base their power on the camp populations, will not support the proposal.

According to the Worldwatch Institute half of humanity could be living in absolute poverty in less than 100 years.

Canton municipal authorities closed down China's most famous unregistered church, the Damazhan Fellowship, on 23 February. The church's pastor, Lin Xiangao (Samual Lam) was arrested together with his sister but released 23 hours later.

Despite threats by local Muslims, England's Archbishop of Canterbury proceeded with ceremonies in early February to lay the foundation stone for what will be the first Christian church structure in the staunchly Islamic city of Islamabad, Pakistan's capital. The actual construction of the church, however, could still be delayed.

Fuller Seminary is offering a course as part of its

Doctor of Ministry program in Australia. The course, "The Liberation of the Laid", is being offered 4-14 June at the Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College. Cost is \$US1,614 for credit (\$US400 for non-credit). Details and reservations from Bob Mabry, Doctor of Ministry Office, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California 91182. Phone 0011-1-818-5845312, Fax 0011-1-818-5845369.

Australia is sending a \$4.5 million emergency aid package to Ethiopia to help combat the worsening famine. The extra funding will bring the total of official Australian relief aid to Ethiopia to \$11.5 million. The latest contribution will be channelled through a consortium of Australian non-government organisations working with Eritrean and Tigrayan relief agencies, to help people in rebel held areas.

The South East Asian Assistance Committee reports that more than 1

million refugees have left Vietnam since 1975. Almost 10% have come to Australia.

An American businessman was expelled from China on 5 March for carrying on "illegal missionary activity".

Ted Heard, a retired Church of Christ minister of Adelaide, has taken up the cudgels in defence of the rejected application by a Sikh father and mother to be allowed to migrate to Australia so they can be reunited with their two Australian-born children, aged seven and five. The case involves a long story of the parent's troubles with the Immigration Department. They were deported to India in 1989. The children are in the care of foster parents. Ted, known as a campaigner for human rights, in a comment in *The Advertiser* questioned the validity of the rejection in view of the Geneva Convention requiring all possible assistance to unaccompanied children in refugee cases.

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Churches of Christ Federal Board of Christian Education Special Feature

Christian Education

Ministry with Children

Alan Hermann

Ministry with children is a wide-ranging subject covering all aspects of a child's life. This article will concentrate on the aspect of spiritual growth in the context of a Sunday School or similar situation. If our ministry to children is to be effective it is of utmost importance that we establish a context within which meaningful spiritual growth can occur. Children (particularly at early ages) are more responsive to the social and emotional atmosphere within which learning takes place than they are to the intellectual teaching they receive.

It is important that the atmosphere of the learning experience be one of welcome, warmth, trust, security and love. The children need to feel at ease and believe that they and their contributions will be valued and taken seriously. There must be genuine acceptance of them for who and what they are and real interest in them as individuals loved by God and made in his image. Thus with their human dignity and self-esteem secure they will be prepared to reach out and grow.

Spiritual growth involves much more than intellectual learning, although this is important. As well as passing on the facts of the Christian faith we are seeking to be used by the Spirit of God to transform attitudes and values resulting in changed lives.

We are communicating God's Word as a reality students can experience. We need to help develop attitudes of awe, wonder, peace, trust and joy at the presence of God, which will result in a wish to share his love.

What do I know that I want them to know?

What do I feel that I want them to feel?

What do I do that I want them to do?

Here is the crunch. We cannot teach what we do not know, believe and live. Anyone can teach about Christianity. To communicate Christ we must live in fellowship with him. Truth is communicated as reality when it is shared by those who are experiencing it. Not just the teacher, but the faith community within which growth takes place. The faith community in association with the parents and teachers provides a balanced program of nurture and education which complement each other in God's power to produce growth in faith.

The faith community provides:

1. Teaching for life response through parents and Sunday school.
2. Individual models in the person of parents, Sunday school teachers and other significant adults.
3. The corporate model of the faith community living as the nurturing and caring family of God.

All three influences are important for spiritual growth.

Ministering effectively to children also requires taking time to learn about them and their needs. The more we know of their needs, the better able we are to meet them. This takes commitment of course, and it takes time, and that's where we lose a lot of teachers. But there's no magic formula. Good teaching has a price tag—we've got to be willing to pour out our life.

It means getting personally involved with children, both in and out of class, both formally and informally. It means coming to class early and staying late just to talk with them. It means inviting them into our home, visiting them in their homes. It means writing to them and calling them on the phone. It means listening and remembering. It means discovering their interests and being interested in them. It means really caring.

**Children do not care
how much you know until they know
how much you care...**

Alan Hermann is Christian Education Officer with the Queensland Department of Church Development and Education



Ministry with Young Adults

David Ratten

In which areas of ministry should a church focus its energies and resources? This is a question that has exercised the minds of Christians for centuries. Obviously the answer to this question will be different for each congregation as they assess the particular needs of the community they seek to serve and their own capacity to meet those needs.

I would suggest that one area that warrants serious consideration is ministry to young families. The church that is willing to take seriously their outreach to this significant group in society will discover a harvest field ready for reaping.

There is no doubt that there is a significant and positive change in the attitudes of those in the 25-35 year age range towards spiritual issues. As I spend time with young couples I find a real openness to discuss the things of God, particularly in relation to their concerns and hopes for their young family. It seems that the materialism and secularism of the 60s, 70s and 80s has created for the church of the 90s a mission field of a generation who are seeking spiritual reality. Like any mission field, however, this group within society will not be breaking the doors of our churches down to get in. The challenge for us is to reach out in significant ways to meet their needs.

At Mildura in recent years we have seen significant growth in the numbers of young families attending our church. I believe several factors have contributed to this growth.

1. Contemporary Worship and Relevant Preaching. The 25-35 age group is, on the whole, not interested in traditional and rigid forms of worship. Many of them have negative memories of church from childhood days. They will, however, be attracted to worship that is bright and contemporary, and to preaching that relates biblical truth to everyday problems.

2. Children Being Seen as Important. The most important people in the lives of young couples are their children. We need to communicate clearly that children are welcome in our church. The provision of quality child care facilities and of "family space" in the chapel is important.

3. Offering Quality Children's Programs. At Mildura we average 90-100 children each Tuesday evening at our Adventure Club. Parents see the church as caring for the needs of their children.

4. Catering for Young Mothers. The development of a play group is opening up new opportunities to reach out to young mums. We are currently planning an aerobics class for young mothers to cater for a perceived need.

5. Small Groups for Bible Study and Fellowship. Approximately 30 couples are involved in small groups designed for building faith and sharing fellowship.

6. Marriage Enrichment Seminar. A recent marriage enrichment seminar conducted by Brian and Joan White saw 35 couples share in this rich experience. Young marrieds do want their marriages to work.

7. Parenting Seminar. Planned for this year is a parenting seminar with Brian and Joan White, which will be extensively promoted in the community and, we believe, will be a significant outreach.

As a church we have a lot to learn about ministry to young families. We see that there is so much more that can be done. However, we are convinced that as we put time and resources into this area of ministry, we will share the joy of seeing many won to Christ.

David Ratten is minister at the Mildura, Vic, church



**Federal Board of Christian Education
Providing Churches of Christ with Christian Educational Resources**

Churches of Christ Federal Board of Christian Education

Forthcoming Releases

Effective People Care

Being written by Louis van Laar. This is a training manual on developing skills for people involved in local church pastoral care. Available late 1990.

Effective Assimilation

Written by Ian Tippet. This book will help local churches to be more effective in their assimilation of new members. Available late 1990.

Entering God's Kingdom

The next in the National Study Series is being written by Alan Hirsch. Five small-group topical studies around the doctrine of conversion. Available mid-1990.

Being Sure

The second in the new Growing Faith Bible Study Series produced by Cath Greatbatch from Hobart for small home groups. Eight studies on the First Epistle of John. Available mid-1990.

Video Bible Studies

Four studies on Philippians by Ted Keating. Filmed at Nunawading. Ideal for small groups.

Being Young—Being a Believer

A series of six Bible studies currently being written by Graham Hyman from Youth Specialties covering God, Jesus, the Church, Personal Growth, Relationships and the Holy Spirit. Especially for young people.

Australia Grow

At the Board Conference held in August 1989 representatives from all states agreed to present these new directives under the overall theme "Australia Grow". A new logo will identify the plan and the programs. The concept of growth is seen in the widest terms including the personal and corporate aspects. The logo suggests our growth as the gift of God. "I am like an evergreen cypress, from me comes my fruit." Hosea 14:8



Directions in Evangelism

During 1988 state departments sponsored a visit by Disciples consultant, Herb Miller, the Executive Director of the National Evangelistic Association. Once again there was a national representation of leaders brought together to look at our evangelistic task. It was agreed that new evangelism initiatives with the "Australia Grow" theme should be progressively implemented during the 90s. New resources in the evangelism, assimilation and pastoral care areas are in preparation. The bulletin "Directions in Evangelism and Church Growth" will be available to churches through their state departments early this year. The evangelism initiatives represent the Board responding to the new proposals for an integration of the educational and evangelism roles in a new Australian Board of Church Development.

The Future

Program

The Board's publication and field service program is reaching churches Australia-wide. New resources are being produced at record levels and selling well. The field program this year will service Queensland, New South Wales, the Northern Territory, South Australia and Victoria-Tasmania. A highly successful National Youth Convention was held in Perth.

Needs

Your church is invited to send a gift to help us meet our \$11,000 target. Let's hear from your treasurer by 30 June.

Change

Federal Conference in Brisbane will be asked to approve a change of name to the Australian Board of Church Development. The new Board will incorporate educational and evangelism roles at a national level in keeping with recent structural changes in state departments.

1990 Planning

Educational Ministry

Towards the end of the 80s the Board drew together a representative group of leaders nominated by state departments to assist in planning educational strategies for churches. In the March-April period the first of the resources will be forwarded to churches. Entitled "Directions in Educational Ministry", the bulletin will outline a range of policies and resources that churches are invited to consider. The areas will include Ministry with Children, Adult Education and Lay Training, and Family Life Education.

New Resources

During the 1990-1992 period more detailed helps in each of these areas will become available. Some will be regular publications. Churches will be able to work with the Board and their state departments in planning and implementing a range of initiatives in their educational ministry. A range of complementary resources will become available over the same period. These are currently being prepared by experienced leaders from within our Australian churches.

Churches of Christ Federal Board of Christian Education

Resources



You and Communion—Alan Niven

This is a companion booklet to *Your Baptism*, released in February. It is intended for new members and those seeking a better understanding of the Lord's Supper. \$2



Possessing Life—Cath Greatbatch

These eight studies on the "I Am's" of John's Gospel are the first in a new Growing Faith Bible Study series. They have been field tested in Hobart and are suitable for any adult group.



Beyond Your Local Church

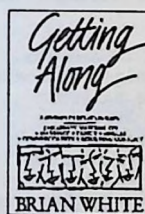
A four-page folder setting out brief details of the state and national co-operative work of our churches. Suitable for distribution to new members. 40c



Effective Eldership—Jeff Deuble

Now in a second edition, this training resource has won Australia-wide acclaim for its spiritual perception and practical help. The various sections are designed for study and discussion. \$8.50

A video, which introduces each section of the book, is also available for sale at \$40.



Getting Along—Brian White

Five studies on relationship issues comprise this study resource. They include the areas of marriage, family, singles, communication and conflict resolution. \$3



Churches of Christ—A Movement within the Church—Randall Edwards

Randall Edwards, the past principal of Kenmore College, has produced five studies on basic issues relating to our ongoing life. The studies include a leaders' guide. \$3.50



Build My Church—Barry McMurtrie

Now in its third printing, this resource contains five studies on the New Testament church, leadership, gifts and growth. \$2.50



Basics—Keith Farmer

Subtitled "Steps to a Christian Lifestyle", this resource has six sections on the themes faith, repentance, forgiveness, baptism and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The themes are examined in terms of ongoing discipleship. \$2.50



Your Baptism—Brian White

This booklet contains Biblical and personal insights on baptism. It is most suitable for those contemplating baptism or those recently baptised. Sales have been substantial. \$1.50



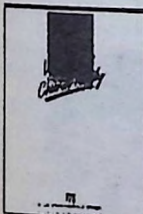
Lord Make Me Whole—Pat Greig and Brian White

This study is part of the National Study Program. Written by Melbourne psychologist, Pat Greig, and Brian White, it examines feelings—grief, anger, depression and self-esteem, all issues in personal growth. A best seller. \$3.50



Footsteps

This is a new discipleship study for adults and young adults. It contains six studies that have been extensively field tested prior to publication. The study also contains a six-week Bible study program. \$6



Welcome to Your Church Family

This is an attractive folder designed for presentation to new members. It takes A4 size papers, reports and literature. There are appropriate comments on the inside and back cover. A best seller. \$1.25

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Churches of Christ Federal Board of Christian Education

Youth Ministry

Make It a Priority

Ross Savill



In 1989 I attended a seminar conducted by John Bond. These figures were quoted by John in his presentation:

8 out of 10 Christians made their commitment to Christ before the age of 25.

1 in 5,000 people became Christian after the age of 35.

1 in 50,000 people became Christian after the age of 55.

1 in 500,000 people became Christian after the age of 65.

I am convinced that if our churches are fair dinkum about being obedient to Matthew 28:18-20 then we need to take youth work seriously. That does not mean that youth work in

our churches should have priority over everything else. Our young people must realise that they are a part of the church today, not the church of tomorrow. As such they don't have any extra privileges, only responsibilities.

But our churches must be prepared to make a commitment to examining ways of making their youth programs work.

Two vital factors are:

1. That the church leadership, i.e. ministers and elders, be willing to give their full support to the youth work. This means support in the allocation of resources and in being flexible enough to accommodate and initiate change. It will also mean supporting those involved in working with the young people. Two years ago an elder from our church, a man in his late 60s, took my wife and myself to dinner to show his appreciation for our work. During the evening he told me that, while he would not have always done things the way I had, he was excited to see the good things that were happening. I admired the maturity of this man, which allowed him to put aside his own personal preferences for the sake of reaching young people with the gospel. If the leadership of a church is not supportive of the youth work, it would really be in the best interests of the youth of that church to find another church.

2. That the programs don't embarrass our young people. This applies to both the youth programs and the church services. The programs and the services should be such that the youth of your church don't feel embarrassed to invite their non-Christian friends. We need to take care regarding the songs/hymns we sing, the length of our public prayers and the activities we plan.

We have a tremendous opportunity in the 1990s to reach many young people with the Good News about Jesus Christ. But with the opportunity comes the responsibility to do it right.

Ross Savill is a Youth Worker at the Margaret St, Toowoomba, Qld, church

Where Will They Be in Ten Years?

Glen Smyth



Youth Ministry in Australia is at the crossroads! As I talk with various youth pastors and leaders from our churches across the country I believe that there is a growing disillusionment with the philosophy of youth ministry that many of us have inherited from the last generation. A philosophy that centred on an emphasis on building a fantastic program that captured young people's imagination every Friday night.

However, the disillusionment has crept in because many of us who have come through this era are finding that so many of these young people are no longer committed to Christ, or even a part of his church!

We need to be looking for and building towards

Fruit That Remains!

Last year I was introduced to an idea which has changed the way that I view every form of ministry we undertake with our young people. It's simple, yet profound!

Do God's Work, God's Way—and God Will Bless!

We've taken our focus off programs and placed our attention on people—and how we can bring them to maturity in Christ.

The more we can do that the more we will know where our young people will be in 10 years time!

What is God's way? Well, without oversimplifying it, I believe we need a three-fold emphasis.

1. Get Our Young People into God's Word

His Word can change lives. The more they know and apply his Word, the easier for them to become more like Christ.

2. Get Our Young People into Prayer

We all know that prayer is the key to releasing God's power. Unfortunately, so does Satan. That's why we find it so hard.

3. Get Our Young People into Evangelism

The thrill of leading someone to Christ will excite anyone to live more and more like Jesus!

Heard it all before? Of course you have! Have you done it yet?

Glen Smyth is Youth Minister at the South Perth, WA, church

National Youth Convention 14

Andrew Ball

Take seven days in sunny Western Australia; bring together over 200 young people from around Australia; provide excellent food and accommodation; challenge, motivate, equip and inspire through worship and training sessions—and you have the formula for a very exciting and successful convention.

National Youth Convention in Perth this January was a very significant event in the development and future of youth ministry within Churches of Christ in Australia. The very fact that so many young people attended and enjoyed this event will have real benefits for local churches throughout Australia as these young people return to their churches committed to both Christ and his church.

Young people enjoyed the delightful insights and humour of keynote speaker Duffy Robbins as he challenged us to take seriously our commitment and soar on wings like eagles. He was brilliant! Worship was a highlight of the convention as each young person entered into times of praise and sharing at each session. These times brought us all closer as we shared and mixed with each other.

The convention also provided opportunities for recreation with a rather rocky trip to Rottnest Island leaving us with some evening coffee shop, a picnic in Kings Park and many late nights sharing together.

It is really a credit to the Western Australian organising committee for the success of this convention. Well done! We all look forward to the next one which will be held in 1992 in the Snowy Mountains

Andrew Ball is Director of Field Services of the FBCE



Student Profile

Ready and Willing

by Sean Bainbridge



As I surveyed the landscape around me, I felt very much like a missionary in a foreign place. Here was I, Sean Bainbridge, 21, from WA, in a strange land surrounded by unknown people with unfamiliar customs. I had no idea of what lay ahead of me. All I knew was that God had called me from my comfortable home to that distant place, and I had responded.

I was raised in a non-Christian environment as a child by very loving parents who tried to instil into me their high moral standards (yes, non-Christians do have morals). Their success was varied. When I was 16, my mother became a Christian, followed shortly afterwards by my younger sister Tracy. As part of their Christian duty, they began taking me along to their church—the Armadale-Kelmscott Church of Christ. For almost a year I attended without much of what I saw or heard making sense to me. Then one day something fantastic happened. Everything made sense; the reality of what Jesus had done for me hit me with force. I gave my life to Jesus that summer night in December 1984.

The next three years saw my Christian life fluctuate up and down, with periods of growth and periods of retardation. Towards the end of 1987, after a number of "wasted" months, God worked a miracle in my

life and got my heart and mind back on the right track: focusing on him.

Since that time in 1987, God has continued working his will in my life, maturing me, instructing, leading, strengthening, motivating, loving. Last year God made it known to me that he wanted me to be in full-time ministry. However I was unsure of where exactly he wanted me, and I was likewise unsure of the area of ministry. I sought God on these matters, and eventually he directed me to CCTC in Melbourne.

The move from Armadale to Mulgrave was a very big one, to say the least. To leave behind family, friends, and a beautiful fiancée, Johanna, wasn't easy, yet I know the move is the right one. God has me here for a reason. The missionary attitude that I had when I arrived in Melbourne still remains. Ahead of me are four years (and then more) of the unknown and unexpected. Combine this attitude with feelings of excitement, apprehension, inadequacy, joy, bewilderment and surprise, and you'll know how I feel.

The first three weeks of college presented me with the unit "Intro to Ministerial Studies". What a way to start! Such thought-provoking issues, so many problems, the variety, too many people to reach. What can I possibly do? My appetite is thoroughly whetted.

So now I look ahead to the next four years. There's so much to learn in so little time. I'm excited at the possibilities confronting me. I'm glad that my Lord and Saviour has called me here. I'm glad that he's with me all the way.

I remember a verse that meant much to me while I was preparing for this year: "Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'" (Matthew 9:37-38)

Here I am Lord, your worker!

Ministers' Workshop

Growing Pains of Growth

by Ron Elbourne

In any living organism, growing pains form part of the price for growth. The local church, which, spiritually, is a living organism, is no different. When a church totally commits itself to effective evangelism, then there are growing pains, both for the congregation and, particularly, for the minister.

Where a church has been static for sometime, and growth patterns develop, the growth can be painful. This is particularly true as the congregation grows up to 150 at worship. About this stage there are a number of newcomers who have become Christians and whom God has gifted with leadership qualities. They are very excited about evangelistic outreach and strongly supportive of the minister's philosophy of evangelism. However, the influx of these new people can be seen as a threat to the "power base" of the past leadership of the church. This situation can erupt into what Peter Wagner has defined as the "pioneer-homesteader conflict". Any minister with a pastoral heart finds this a painful experience.

When this occurs a scapegoat has to be found. This is almost always the minister. After all, ministers are expendable! We can always get another one. Our history of short-term ministries is testimony to this fact.

As the church grows through the 200 barrier, staffing becomes a primary concern. The minister, to maintain a growth pattern, cannot major any longer on a one-to-one basis with the whole congregation.

The minister's focus now needs to be on leadership development and planning. So multiple staff is necessary and a pastoral minister and other "specialist" ministers need to be added. The senior minister with a pastor's heart must learn to "let go" and to fulfil his particular role, which is essential to ongoing growth. This process, initially, is often painful

both for the senior minister and the congregation, whose expectations of the senior minister's role need to change.

Multiple services, which form part of the strategy for church growth, also cause growing pains. Initially, the congregation has to make a big adjustment. For the minister, Sunday becomes an exhausting day. Three or four sermons each Sunday on top of the "normal" things that also occur on Sunday make it a demanding day, particularly if the minister has disciplined himself to preach without notes on each occasion!

The senior minister will need to cope sometimes, especially in the early stages with some venomous criticisms about having a "big head" or being "egotistical". There can be accusations of "empire-building"; of being "uncaring of older church members" and of only being interested in the "newer members". (All of these are ever-present dangers of course). The minister's motivation will be called into question, not so much by the increasing newer group, but by the older group who want to go back to "the way we were".

Extensive building programs with appropriate technological equipment both for worship auditorium and office can also be a source of great pain for a church that has not travelled that path before. Why suffer the pain of growth? Why experience a lot of personal hurt and anguish? Because it is the price of life and development. And because Jesus said, "I will build my Church." Every minister in a growing church is committed to that goal of being a co-worker with the Lord in growing his Church.

• Ron Elbourne is minister at the Glen Waverley, Vic, church

Ministers' Workshop is edited by Brian White of the Federal Board of Christian Education

Interaction of Two Cultures

by Ern Sherman

My sister Betty Sewell has written a book, and I consider it a very good book. It's a history, the life story of the Churches of Christ mission to Aborigines in Carnarvon, Western Australia. The book, *Carnarvon: Interaction of Two Cultures*, has been published by Vital Publications.

It excites me to read of what has been done by the mission to help Aboriginal people. Let me tell you more.

I am greatly impressed by the enlightened way in which David and Doris Hammer set about establishing the work at Carnarvon in the mid-1940s. They began at the native reserve, meeting Aborigines, gaining their friendship, acting as a mediator between them and the white authorities and taking some of the needy children into their own home, even including a family with whooping cough. From the beginning they kept simultaneously in view the two cultures, black and white, always acting as agents of reconciliation. Accompanied by a young Aboriginal man, David drove through difficult country for five days to visit eleven sheep stations, meeting managers or owners and the Aborigines they employed, seeking their reaction to the proposed mission and acquainting himself with the problems and attitudes of the two cultures.

The children's homes, when established, met a real need. Aboriginal parents sought admission for their children in order that they might receive schooling or care that the parents could not give. Efforts were made constantly to meet as fully as possible the children's physical, educational, emotional and spiritual needs. Over the years changes occurred in organisation of the homes as thinking about education changed in

white society. The larger home unit gave way, for instance, to the cottage system where small groups, under the leadership of a missionary, approximated a normal family. Hostels in the

the children of school age attended the normal state primary school, where they had apparently been well assimilated, but then, because of the opposition of white parents, it was suddenly decided by the state authority to establish a school at the mission for Aborigines only. This was not welcome news at the mission, where the policy of assimilation with the white community was being implemented, but the mission co-operated and for a number of years the school at the mission prospered. In 1961 the state Education Department changed its policy again and the following year the 110 mission children returned to the town schools. It seems that it took those intervening years for the thinking of white society to catch up with the progressive policy of the mission.

I find particularly interesting the testimony of Dawn Gilchrist (née Noble), who looks back on her life in the mission as a girl, leading on to her training and experience as a nursing sister, to marriage and involvement in children's ministry through her home church and election to the Churches of Christ Aborigines Mission Board. Surely here is real credit for the enlightened approaches taken by the Carnarvon mission.

The interaction featured in "Carnarvon" involves a two-way movement: it is not only the impingement of black society on white, but of white on black. When thinking in white society brought an emphasis upon the importance of the relationship of children to natural parents, this resulted in legislation that took children away from the mission and back to their parents. One result of this was the making redundant of the facilities and equipment that had been pro-

vided at Carnarvon over the many years. Other uses have had to be found for these.

This was not the end of the mission. The blessings and the new hope that the Christian gospel brought to Aborigines was not restricted to the children. The mission had demonstrated over the years what life "in Christ" can mean. The spiritual awakening in the charismatic Bob Williams and others led to the present outreach of black to black. I find particularly exciting the way tribal leader Bob Williams sat down with other leaders from the many tribes to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of tribal law as it relates to modern life. He gave a Christian orientation to the law and this illiterate man of God was able to influence many to seek the better life. There is still need for white leadership, not to dictate to Aborigines, but to share with them in the commission Jesus gave his disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

Carnarvon: Interaction of Two Cultures is available from the Federal Literature Department, c/o Mrs E. Rankine, 5 Atkins Avenue, Glen Iris 3146. The cost is \$14.95 plus postage.

• Ern Sherman is a member of the Mooroolbark, Vic, Baptist Church and assists at the South Yarra Church of Christ.

CARNARVON Interaction of Two Cultures



Betty Sewell

town and a "teens cottage" were part of the changes.

Another thing that excites me is the oneness of purpose of the many mission workers over the years. There were necessarily many changes in leadership, but the general aims and dedication of the workers were consistent throughout. This does not mean leaders were always alike: they varied according to character, and changes in the mission environment called for variations in the shorter term goals. This is well illustrated in chapter 19 where several past missionaries tell of their satisfaction in being able to share their own lives with young people of the mission. At the end of the book the author lists the names and years of over 190 people who served at Carnarvon over the years.

The interaction of the two cultures is seen particularly in the education of the mission children. Up to the end of 1947

I'VE DECIDED THAT FAITH CAN BE REDUCED TO NOT DOING ANYTHING WRONG. THEREFORE, BY THAT DEFINITION, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS STAY ON THIS ROCK AND I'LL BE THE BEST CHRISTIAN AROUND.



Marathon Indian Ride a Miracle

Two Australian cyclists, Bob Forrest and Roy Smith, have completed a 1,500 km ride from Bombay to Madras in India. They said on the final day that they had cycled for 10 days aware they were always on the brink of death.

Bob Forrest explained, "Although the road surface on India's National Highway 4 is generally good, traffic is extremely heavy, with cattle, heavy transport and carts of all descriptions jostling for space.

We saw serious accidents daily and now that it is over we realise what a miracle it is that we have come through unscathed."

The cyclists undertook the ride to raise awareness of International Literacy Year and the Bible Society's work in literacy development.

They were given opportunities to speak to over 10,000 at various meetings organised by the Bible Society of India.

At one meeting the Indian Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Transport, K.J. George urged those present to take up Bible Society's initiative and approach the government for whatever help they need to achieve literacy. India's illiteracy rate is approximately 60%.

The cyclists were overwhelmed by the reception given to the Australian team throughout the long ride.

There were brass bands, welcome banners, garlands, gifts of roses, specially written welcome songs and many Indian cyclists waiting on the outskirts of towns to ride with the Australians.

Two Indian cyclists, Franklyn David and Richard Holland, rode from Bangalore to Madras and became the first Indians to raise their own sponsorship for the Bible Society in India.

Donations also come from Hindus and Muslims when the team spoke at public rallies.

Tanna Sends Missionaries to Mauritius

Vanuatu Churches of Christ first sent Pastors Alick and Gordon to Tanna in 1983. This was a mission situation as they faced a different culture including the John Frum Cargo Cult, a different language, separation from homes and difficulties in communications. Several churches had tried to penetrate the area to which we were invited but without success.

Pastor Jacob and his wife Jenny replaced Gordon and a school was started about an hour's walk up along the ridge where we are working. A church building was built closer to the sea at Leneai. The church has grown steadily. Six people, possibly more, were baptised on 4 March and this will bring the membership to over 80.

Among those who have been baptised are two teachers from Mauritius. The Vanuatu government recruited teachers from Mauritius because they are bilingual in French and English. Mary Pundu first taught at the Anglican school

The event also brought churches in India together in new way. Bob Forrest says, "Our desire is to harness the energy of youth around the world for the spread of the Word of God. Our trip to India has shown us that thousands of young people are ready and willing to do something for God. The "Bike for Bibles" message has been accepted in India with great enthusiasm. I believe we will see it spreading like a bushfire across India, not only proclaiming the need for literacy development, but drawing the churches together around the Word of God".

Putting Tertius Right

Tertius fans might like to correct his letter, "Burdens" ("AC" 24 March).

In the last line of paragraph 2 put "he" for "she" and in the third-last line of paragraph 6 put "sort" for "seat".



Pastor Shadrak

at Vureas on Ambae. She did make some sort of commitment there. Guysen had some family link with the SDA church.

These two, and Marie, a New Zealand lady, were the only expatriates at the secondary school on Tanna. Marie found Leneai Church of Christ, 20 minutes up the hill from the school, to be her spiritual home. She witnessed to her two friends.

She borrowed Corrie Ten Boom's *Tramp for the Lord* from Pastor Shadrak and after reading it passed it on to Mary, and she gave it to Guy. They were both very challenged and Mary went forward to commit her life fully to Christ. She then asked to be baptised. This was arranged for 29 October.

On the way down to the sea

Shadrak and his wife collected Mary and went past Guy's house. He indicated he was coming to witness the baptism. He asked lots of questions on the way and he and Shadrak got well behind the rest. At last he asked, "Who else is being baptised?" Shadrak said that Mary was the only one. Then, almost repeating the Ethiopian eunuch's words to Philip, Guy asked if he too could be baptised. Explaining the meaning of baptism, Shadrak said it was up to him. So two Mauritians were baptised.

Their growth over the next month was phenomenal and now their contract is finished. They have gone back to Mauritius. On leaving they gave generous gifts to the Leneai church. The church prayed over them as they went out—missionaries back to their homeland.

They saw God answer the church's prayers in that they had no tickets to get home. The government was finding it hard to pay their way back, but after two days in Vila they left for home ahead of schedule. Now they write that it is hard to find a church home in Mauritius and have asked the Leneai church to pray for them.

—Lyall E. Muller (Vanuatu)

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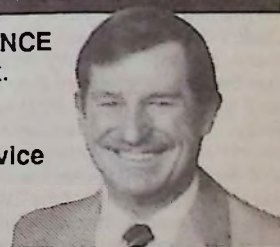
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Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Bergman, Otto

(25.3.90) Otto succumbed to cancer at the age of 54. When 15 he came from Holland and eventually became an automotive engineer with the Pakenham Shire Council for the last 28 years. Alf White married Jan and Otto in 1964. They set up a Christian home, with Otto devoted to his Lord, his wife, his children, Leanne, Gavin and Ian, and to his church. Faith and fun were his ways of facing adversity, especially his final illness. Jan and the family planned the thanksgiving service, similar to a typical Berwick contemporary morning service, which Otto loved, with full orchestra and "all stops out on the resurrection". —GRS

Clutterbuck, Alec Clemson

(26.2.90) Born at Yackandandah, Vic, to farming parents, at 18 years Alec enlisted in the RAAF. He later trained for air crew in Canada. A friend brought him to the Gilmour family and Surrey Hills church. He was baptised by E.L. Williams. 45 years ago he married Joyce Gilmour. They had three children, Rodney, Neil and Alison. Alec served congregations at Malvern-Caulfield, Ringwood and Wattle Park. He used his talents in the community and on Brotherhood committees. Elder son Rodney with Arthur Withers, Viney Longthorpe, Rod Brown and Jack McCormick led a service of thanksgiving. —Jack McCormick

Cook, Ethel May

(17.3.90) Ethel would have been 86 on 31 March. She was the daughter of Charles and Alice Collins, pioneer members of the Taree, NSW, church. Ethel was baptised during the ministry of P.E. Thomas (1918-21). On 30 December 1930, she married a school teacher, Harry Cook. His profession took them to many places, including finally Cundletown, from where they retired to Taree in 1963. Ethel was always faithful in her attendance at church and her devotion to her Lord was evidenced in her life. She was a faithful member of the CWF. Ethel is survived by her son, Colin, his wife Sue and three granddaughters. —LD

Hall, Dr Geoffrey John

(18.3.90) A member of Churches of Christ for over 70 years, his first association was with the Bassendean, WA, church when his name was entered on the cradle roll following his birth in 1916. For

his service to medicine, particularly for cancer detection in women Geoff was invested with the Medal of the Order of Australia. From 1962 until 1984, Geoff served on seven different committees, including Conference President in 1974-75. His total service amounted to 83 years. A thanksgiving service led by Alan Morris was held at the Wembley church, when tributes were given both in respect to his Christian and professional ministries. —Allen Smyth

Harper, Hazel

After several months in Strathmore Hospital, Preston, Vic, Hazel Harper died. Her whole life was involved in the presentation of the Lord. She was deeply interested because of the influence of Bible school teachers, a fine religious instructor at school, girls' club and an active church. She capably filled the role of deaconess, specialising in visitation, assisting those who were unwell, helping the poor. During her first marriage she and her husband went through hard times, a world war and sickness. Two daughters mourned the passing of their father Len, whom Hazel nursed through a terminal illness. 20 years ago Hazel and Jack Harper decided to marry. A large number of family and friends met at Preston to pay tribute including members of the women's convention, the Bible study that had met weekly for 18 years and local church members. Geoff Crossman, a former minister, and Jack Manallack shared the service. —J. Manallack

Hinds, Edith Sharp

(7.3.90) Edith Sharp Hinds, born in Qld on 4 January 1912, completed primary school then remained home to help her ailing mother. Edith attended Rosalie Gospel Hall. Baptised at Conference Hall Church, Ann St, Brisbane. At 17 Edith began a career as a shoe machinist spanning 41 years, retiring to care for her mother. Edith spent her last 19 years living with her sister Dorothy, the first four years at Annerley, the last 15 at Bribie Island. During this period Edith attended the Bribie Island Church of Christ. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her. —W.R. Hill

Kirwood, Mrs B.E.

(21.2.90) The church at Geelong, Vic, is sad at the death of Mrs Kirwood at the age of 93. She joined the church on 6 June 1915 giving her almost 75 years continuous membership. She married S.G. Kirwood and had two children, Mrs

June Drayton (deceased) and I. Kirwood, who cared for her in her later years. Her husband died in 1979. Through her years of service to the church she served in many capacities—as a choir member, in the ladies Mission Band and as secretary of the Ladies' Aid Society for 23 years. Mrs Kirwood will be remembered by the whole church for her witness over the years for her service, her constant attendance and for her love. —David Drayton

Lawrie, Thursa

Thursa Margery was born at Avon in 1903. She was taught by a governess because of isolation. She learned piano and became a music teacher. Her introduction to Churches of Christ was at Maylands where she was baptised in 1928 and was to meet and marry Donald Lawrie. They farmed in the Northern Districts and were deeply involved in the District Conference. On their return to Adelaide they linked with Croydon, where she is remembered for her work with the Ladies Guild, floral work, music and, on a wider level, the Social Service Department. Don died in 1967. In 1984 she resided at Wesley House, Semaphore. Brenda (Mrs Noel Beaumont) is her only child. This artistic, sensitive, caring lady with the smiling eyes will be sadly missed. —KDH

Leng, Alexander (Alec) Davies

(12.12.90) The Mildura, Vic, church and community came together to give thanks to God for the life of a remarkable man. Born at Bellipar, Vic, in 1902, Alec came, as a young lad, with his parents to Mildura. Converted to Christ during a Hinrichsen Mission in 1921, Alec took up membership with this church and maintained an unbroken active membership till his death. He served with distinction as church secretary, board chairman and

elder. Alec was a pioneer in the local citrus industry. His development of the Leng Navel orange, a variety known world-wide, was a remarkable achievement. Alec was also a first-class sportsman, excelling in cricket, tennis and lawn bowls. Taking up bowls in his twilight years he won his club's singles championship on 12 occasions. We thank God for his life and witness. —DR

Phillips, Hilary

(4.3.90) Hilary was 78. He was converted at an early age, and at 18 he preached his first sermon. From that time he became a regular preacher within South Australia. His three-and-a-half-year ministry at Stirling was a very significant one. He held membership and served as elder in several SA churches. He was senior counsellor for Life Line and board member for ITIM. There was a quality about Hilary that was unmistakably Christian. Through the death of his first wife his faith was not shaken. A memorial service was conducted at Stirling. Condolences to his wife, Dawn, children Lorraine and Carolyn and step-children Daryl, Julie, Gayle, and grandchildren. —MWM

Enjoy a day with Roger and Jill Dyer, authors of *What Makes Aussie Kids Tick?* at a Seminar at Ridley College, Parkville, 160 The Avenue, on Saturday, 26 May
Topic: "Loving Your Missionary Family" with special emphasis on missionary kids
Chairman: Barry Jenkins
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Registration: \$10
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The seminar is sponsored by the Evangelical Alliance Missions Commission of Vic.

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Marriages

•Michelle Vicars to David Hubble,
Denise Mansell to Nick Pragt,
Mildura, Vic •Roslyn Sherriff to
Stephen Kelly, Susanne Crouch to
Graeme Leahy, Greensborough,
Vic •Kerin Dowling to Andrew
Nordin, Brighton, SA

Deaths

•Edith Sharp Hinds, Bribie Island,
Qld •Reg Elton, Bundaberg, Qld
•Alex Leng, Mildura, Vic •Eric
Mahoney, Stawell, Vic •Mrs Hazel
Harper, Preston, Vic •Ethel May
Cook, Taree, NSW •Mrs B.
Kirwood, LaTrobe Tce, Geelong,
Vic •Mrs Campbell, Black Rock,
Vic

LIVE-IN LADY

companion of mature age is
sought for elderly lady in Mt
Waverley. Accommodation in
comfortable unit, shops,
transport & churches nearby.
Pleasant helpful companion
in return for full board plus
small salary negotiable. No
heavy work. Free to follow
own interests. References.
(03) 807 0356 (from 9.30-
9 pm) or (03) 560 0841 after
6 pm or anytime weekends.

Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Board

seek the service of
a married couple for missionary service
at the
Olive Laird Frail-Aged Persons' Hostel
at Carnarvon, WA

This couple will be viewed as future managers.
Nursing or similar background is an advantage but
not essential. The hostel currently caters for 16
residents.

Full details of duties, working conditions, salary and
commencement date are available upon request
from—

Executive Director
PO Box 1199
Wangara 6065

Phone (09) 309 3922
Fax (09) 309 4101

Belgrave Heights Easter Convention

We invite you to the
Convention Avenue, Belgrave Heights
(Melway 84 E3)

Friday morning, 13 April
to Tuesday afternoon, 17 April

Meetings each day in auditorium seating 2000

Hear:

Rev. Dr John Balchin from England
Dr George Sweeting from Moody Bible
Institute, USA

Meeting times are 10.45 am (11 am Sunday), 3 pm
and 7 pm

Day Visitors Welcome

Picnic facilities, light refreshments, bookroom, CSSM
and teenage program

Further details from Convention Office
5 Court Street, Box Hill 3128
Phone (03) 898 4318

Southport Church of Christ

Assistant Pastor Assistant Youth Worker Church Administrator

Applications are invited and will be received up to
11 May 1990 for three key personnel to add to the staff
of the Southport Church of Christ in a vibrant minis-
try centred in a rapidly expanding area on the north-
ern end of Queensland's Gold Coast.

The Southport Church has a strong evangelical,
conservative and fundamental approach to the word
of God. The current membership of 650, with
enormous potential for growth, is housed in modern
premises which were opened in 1988.

The positions available are:

(a) Assistant Pastor to assist the Senior Minister
majoring in pastoral care, counselling, teaching and
evangelism.

(b) Assistant to Youth Minister A part-time (20
hours per week) position to assist the Youth Minister
in youth activities within the church program for high
schoolers and young adults up to 25 years.

(c) Church Administrator A Ministerial position,
responsible for the functional administration of all
Departments of the Church.

It is envisaged the personnel appointed will com-
mence duties immediately.

Job descriptions are available on application to:

The Secretary
Southport Church of Christ
PO Box 974
Southport 4215

Telephone enquiries could be directed to the
Church Office (075) 94 6154

Church News

Qld

BUNDABERG (Alan Leane) John Bond Crusade 3-11 March. 36 decisions. Nightly attendance 280. Thanksgiving offering \$5,700. Social events—youth raft race, men's dinner (73), over 50s (105) ... TWAM second car wash \$120. Outreach ... ICA loan \$30,000 reduced \$12,486 15 months ... John Thompson House third worker. Planned added quarters ... Four new members welcomed into fellowship ... Gary Baxter, DCDE & Men's Work at Crusade ... Doug Leane visits Alan prior to Bruce's wedding.

KINGSWOOD PARK Unprecedented growth has seen a need for us to purchase an extra bus. A 30-seater will shortly be fully utilised ... Growth occurring in all auxiliaries. Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade, youth group all experiencing dramatic growth ... Existing facilities being stretched to the limit, which necessitates using the local school for all youth and junior church programs ... Ladies had first NODS (Neighbourhood Outreach Day) where 30 attended & shared in crafts, devotions & lunch.

MAROOCHYDORE (Geoff Risson) The church has been preparing for Crusade '90 with John Bond & Richard & Shirley Pearce, song leaders. Special events planned throughout week were mid-week banquet & garden party venue for ladies' day. An inspiring time with hard hitting messages from John Bond. A warm spirit of renewal was engendered & youth night was a packed house. Many recorded decisions in a memorable week.

PINE RIVERS (N. Proellocks, I. Todd) Church participated in Christianity Explained Bible studies ... Junior high youth group visited funeral parlour ... Lifelighters (over 50s group) meet last Friday of month ... 29 families with over 50 children meet each Wednesday morning for Playgroup ... Dedication of "Kieseker Close" held at Shaftesbury Campus 19 March ...

Marriage Enrichment Seminar with Brian White held 23-25 March ... Average attendance Feb 136 am, 84 pm, 65 Sunday School.

Vic

MILDURA (David Ratten, Doug Clark) Attendances continuing high at am services—200+ ... Work commenced on further chapel extension ... Recent "New Attenders' Dinner" had 30 attend ... 20 young people attended camp at Lake Benanee on long weekend ... Kaleidoscope presented "First Love" at Northern District Conference in Echuca on 3 March. David Ratten was guest speaker ... Preparations well in hand for the church centenary celebrations in June.

BELMONT (R. Clymer) Three clubs are growing ... Plans for church building program presented to congregation for comment ... New organ in place for first Sunday in May ... During Jubilee year we have looked at first decade with Ron Watt & second decade with Jack Barnes ... Offerings ahead of budget ... This year giving to others project will be split between Overseas Missions & homeless youth in Geelong.

STAWELL (Stephen McElwee) Three baptisms at Stawell & two at St Arnaud recently. A teenager & four adults ... Music session between all-age Bible study & service a real spiritual experience ... Ladies Fellowship recommenced ... Men's Prayer Fellowship commenced ... Indian dinner & slide evening resulting in money raised plus generous gift cleared pew debt ... 55 years of marriage celebrated by Lin & Pearl Mason ... Friends & Neighbours service & lunch 25 March.

GLEN WAVERLEY (Ron Elbourne, Lindsay Croxford, Doug Fitzpatrick) Backdoor drop-in & coffee shop for under 18s in the community opened two afternoons weekly ... CWF sponsored "Conflict" evening with guest speaker Pat Greig ... John Marshall, music

director, leading two sessions weekly ... Two camps held over long weekend: Youth & Cast 13 ... Another evening fellowship group formed ... Church fete raised \$1,500 for building project ... Recent guest artists Gloria & Don Hunt.

GREENSBOROUGH (George Warren) Yvonne & Steve Harrison brought son Luke for dedication ... Gwenda Green, Keith & Liz Roxburgh welcomed into fellowship ... Loris McLean leading aerobics group ... Music director Helen Watt co-ordinating items for services & Young People's Band ... Church exploring property redevelopment options ... Section 2 tennis team runners-up in summer competition ... Computer Club formed ... Other groups recommenced including Kid's Club, Bible study.

ESSENDON (K. Stothard) 4 March proved to be most successful 75th anniversary. Church filled to capacity. Many former members shared including Lindsay Croxford, the guest speaker. Interstate, country & suburban visitors. Encouragement to present members to see how widely the influence of Essendon was being felt in many churches ... Lebanese Bible study group continue their enthusiastic week night session.

PRESTON (T. Armstrong) Church saddened at the death of Mrs Hazel Harper ... Sunday night Bible studies commenced through March will culminate on Maundy Thursday with an Agape meal shared with the Greek Fellowship who meet in our building ... A surprise 80th birthday party was held at the church for Linda Morgan. Linda was thrilled to renew acquaintances with many old friends.

LA TROBETCE, GEELONG (Dr C.J. Mackenzie) Church saddened at passing of oldest member, 93-year-old Mrs Kinwood ... Mrs Drayton & Mrs Rowe at morning service following periods of hospitalisation & convalescence ... Retired men giving many hours volunteer labour to church renovations ... Allen Carr showed slides of Aborigine Dept work, at morning service prior to special offering day ... Members share in combined churches luncheon at Balliang Sanctuary.

BORONIA (Andrew Henley, Keith Milne) Gordon Stirling & Iris Lawson conducted services during minister's holidays ... Gordon & Lesley Stirling interim ministry recognised at service ... Harvey & Lynette Miller & family back from USA ... Church family picnic at Warburton ... Church represented at Mulgrave church commencement & induction services at The Patch & Nunawading ... Peterson

& Laird families from Boronia taking leading role in commencement of church at Rowville.

CAULFIELD (A. McMillan, M. Buckingham) CWAf birthday held 22 March. 90 ladies attended. Devotional slide presentation. Musical items & pageant of "Fashions through the Ages" followed time of fellowship over luncheon ... Church preparing for anniversary on 23 May ... Sympathy extended to Merle Greaves on the passing of her husband & to Thelma Cole on the passing of her mother ... Friday Night Buzz is quite a popular time.

RICHMOND (J. Schulze) John & Chris Sharpe regrettably farewelled ... John & Raelene Schulze welcomed into ministry ... Iris Lawson's preaching on alternate Sundays much appreciated ... Numbers at services being maintained & enthusiasm is high ... Recent visit to CCTC & meeting with Mulgrave church members ... Playgroup is very well attended by local parents & children ... CWF continues to function well with item in Project '90 & preparation for Maundy Thursday service.

HAMPTON STREET (P. Pitts) Cell group & morning Bible study group doing very well ... A young man recently rededicated his life at morning service ... Child dedication service for Sam Gent well attended ... A most successful barbecue lunch followed morning service on 11 Feb ... Death occurred recently of Mrs Campbell, foundation member of old Black Rock church ... David Allison & Paul Payne shared ministry during minister's vacation.

CHELSEA (I. Whitelock) Birthday cake as well as special prayers of thanksgiving were segments of 66th church anniversary, Rita Tagg, Andrew Augustine, as "oldest" members, cut the cake ... New format of board meeting has three sections: mission, administration, resources ... Sunday School increasing under leadership of Joanne Scott ... Two YP presented mimes on "Temptation" at Chelsea Youth Week combined civic worship. John Smith (God Squad) speaker.

SWAN HILL (L. Mayes, S. Willis) Christian singles "happening" held in Swan Hill on Labour Day weekend. Cheryl Johnson (Williamstown) study leader & morning speaker on the Sunday ... Brian & Joan White conducted parenting seminar during March ... Associate minister Stephen Willis & wife Yolande settling in ... Church will move to two morning services after Easter ... Graeme & Betty Sonsie from Dubbo, NSW, welcomed into fellowship.

IAN F. KNIGHT, LLB, BCom

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Church News

NSW

WA

YUNDA (John Thornhill, proud, Paul Sanders, Guy s) Robert Coleman con- worship/music seminar ... youth camps held at Bussel- the 120 young people at ... For Day of prayer (Sun- Borham, visiting mission- Spain, shared in afternoon g worship service ... Bettie speaker at mother and evening, 130 present ... ce with the church at ng in the celebration of anniversary ... JCE held artners and parents night. N HILLS Youth centre & facilities now in operation Brigade to commence nder leadership of Heather ... Excellent annual meet- McClaren & Charles Lith- appointed elder & church ... Structural alterations ing on the church includ- sion of a baptistry. Healthy for funds to finance the Recent country camp for n club resulted in four

A (Graeme Ritchie) evening held for youth athryn Skewes & Danny or to their wedding ... lson (Milang) guest morning service ... Har- l service held as thanks-

giving ... Tea & sing-along evening held at Dorothy & Linten Jacob's farm at Tooperang ... Members joined in Southern District Conference rally at Strathalbyn ... Sunday youth classes report increase in numbers.

HENLEY BEACH (Brian Hill) Annual meeting well attended ... Review taking place of evening services ... Combined service with Flinders Park & Cowandilla well supported ... Sunday School picnic postponed due to hot weather & National Park being closed. To be held end of March ... Women's Fellowship 1990 theme "Colours of the Rainbow". March speaker from Lion's Eye Bank, Flinders Medical Centre ... 30 girls on roll of Girls' Brigade.

DULWICH/ROSE PARK UNITED PARISH (Rob Williams, Roger Brown) Church congratulated Elsie MacIntosh on reaching her 80th birthday & she read a testimony of her life in Christ ... Heather Hartley elected president of parish fellowship group ... At combined annual meetings of Dulwich, Rose Park & Victoria Terrace congregations several Uniting Church members were included in Dulwich diaconate to facilitate necessary integration of functioning. An historic example of ecumenicalism.

CROYDON (Philip Stevens) Mid-week Bible study meetings continue ... Encouraging response to first of periodic Sunday night services ... Community Care Department & Park Rose Home benefited

from Harvest Festival gifts of food & money ... Joanne Stevens baptised.

BRIGHTON (Neville Moore, Keith Bowes) Christmas/January services well attended ... 1989 offerings well exceeded budget ... Jonathan & Tricia Moore given cheque prior to study at CCTC ... Shirley Alderton elected secretary ... Nearly 100 in groups considering *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church* ... Hall freshly painted by working bee ... Tea & service for 55+ a feature, Ted Heard preaching & Kiwi Country singing ... New families attending.

VICTOR HARBOR (R. Patterson) Church has bought house at rear of church to enable expansion of resources ... Farewell held for Adrian & Maureen Clark & family ... Church board held retreat to plan for the year ahead ... Ray Patterson inducted by Keith Home & welcomed into membership with wife Wilma ... Garage sale raised over \$2,200 for purchase of rear property.

Tas

LAUNCESTON (Rod Foster, John Rees) Elders holding regular prayer breakfasts & studying book *Effective Eldership* ... John Rees surprise birthday party a real surprise & great time of fun for all of us ... State Convention held over weekend 16-17 March ... On 25 March young people presented reflections on National Youth Convention in Perth.

FEDERAL CONFERENCE

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

8-14 October 1990

THEME: NOW IS THE TIME TO SERVE THE LORD

CONFERENCE PRESIDENT: Dr Don Stewart, PO Box 508, Kenmore 4069
CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS SECRETARY: Mrs C. Forster, PO Box 508, Kenmore 4069 Phone (07) 378 0400

CHAIRMAN OF FEDERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE: C. Ward, 52 La Trobe St, Melbourne 3000 Phone (03) 662 2377

FEDERAL CONFERENCE SECRETARY: Joan Pye, 52 La Trobe St, Melbourne 3000 Phone (03) 662 2377

FEDERAL CONFERENCE TREASURER: N. Allison, 381 Bluff Rd, Hampton 3158 Phone (03) 598 9847

DIRECTORY OF FEDERAL AGENCIES

AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: President: Pam Paddick, 373 Kingston Rd, Kingston 4114 Phone (07) 808 4639; Secretary: Mrs A. Parker, 51 Binnalong St, Rochdale 4123 Phone (07) 878 1609
AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Secretary: Mrs F. Morris, 27 Albert St, East Malvern 3145; Treasurer: Mrs A. Allison, 28 Potter St, Black Rock 3193 Phone (03) 598 5594
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CHURCHES OF CHRIST PROVIDENT FUND: Secretary: J.R. Ashley, PO Box 140, Carlingford 2118 Phone (02) 630 7784

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SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE: Secretary: C. Wilson, PO Box 140, Carlingford 2118 Phone (02) 630 7533

Human Rights Abuses

What do a Baptist Church worker in El Salvador and a Roman Catholic Bishop in China have in common? According to Amnesty International, both were arrested for carrying out their work in accordance with their religious beliefs.

To combat such atrocities, Amnesty International in Victoria is soon to launch a campaign calling the attention of Christians to human rights issues around the world.

"Each day we receive details of cases like those of Bishop Liu Guangdong in China and Vicente Garay in El Salvador," says Paul Creasey, a Church of Christ minister and the Victorian Executive Committee member responsible for Amnesty International's religious target work. "And it is not only church workers. Amnesty International is concerned about all prisoners of conscience who are detained for the non-violent ex-

pression of their beliefs and for political prisoners who do not receive a fair trial. In addition, Amnesty International is totally opposed to the use of torture and the death penalty."

Amnesty International is looking for a core group of volunteers willing to work at their office in Richmond. Alongside this team a Christian network consisting of individuals and church groups will be developed to handle such cases as that of Fr Moon Kyuhyun, a 44-year-old Roman Catholic priest recently sentenced to eight years in jail for supporting the attendance of a young student at the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students in North Korea.

Anyone interested in joining the volunteer team or in supporting Amnesty International through letter writing and prayer actions could phone (03) 427 7055.



Vic-Tas CWF "Project 90"

Once upon a time, on 21 March, some 370 gathered at Blackman Hall for a night of looking back on days of yore, sharing childhood memories, enjoying fun and fellowship and at the same time raising funds for "Project 90"—research into epidermolysis bullosa—DEBRAA.

The theme "One upon a Time", brought many interesting characters to join in the evening. Mary and her little lamb, Snow White and her seven dwarfs, Alice in Wonderland, Miss Muffett, Three Little Pigs, Red Riding Hood and her entourage, Wee Willie Winkie, nanny, old campers, graceful maidens, Old Mother Hubbard, Vegemite babies, and Eastern Magi. Displays around the hall of many old treasures and heirlooms, caused much interest, as also did a number of "dioramas" and

theme settings on show. Craft and cake stalls in the foyer did brisk business, and "fairy bread" and Teddy Bear and Tic Toc biscuits were served with tea and coffee during the evening.

As the curtain opened for a concert the stage was set with a spectacular backdrop depicting "High Diddle Diddle". Imaginations ran riot as 10 CWF groups presented a variety of items based on the theme. Guest soloist, Janine Clarke, delighted everyone with some "once upon time" songs.

At the conclusion of the concert items, Dorothy Quantrelle, CWF President presented Joan Donaldson of DEBRAA with a cheque for \$1,900, and then shared a brief devotional message.

—Eunice Reidy, Convener

The Last Word

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Don't you ever get curious as to what goes on here between Easters?



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