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The Word by Wheel Chair

Jeff Hutchison, minister of the Dubbo, NSW, church, recently purchased a specially designed motor scooter that allows him to ride around the town in his wheel chair. "Ideal for visiting people and carrying out my pastoral duties," he says.

—Story page 5

Photo from Dubbo Sunday Liberal

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Scrolls Debate
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Habitat for Humanity—The Theology of the Hammer

Habitat for Humanity Comes to Australia

Housing is a major issue in Australia these days as interest rates climb and people all across the nation struggle to keep a roof over their heads.

This crisis affects people on society's margins even more dramatically than those who are trying to pay for a home with a variable interest rate mortgage. It is estimated that 40,000 Australians are homeless and 60,000 are on the verge of homelessness. 700,000 families live in poverty as a result of paying for the high cost of housing. More than 200,000 Australian families live permanently in caravan parks.

The lack of decent secure and affordable housing is the most important contributing factor to the growing demands on welfare agencies and Church groups involved in crisis support.

A New Christian Ministry in Australia

Habitat for Humanity is suggesting ways of tackling the problem. "Habitat" builds or renovates houses and sells them to needy families. They build simple, decent housing that complies with local codes and council requirements. An average three-bedroom house would be about 120 square meters in area.

The answer, they suggest, to providing low-income families the opportunity to purchase



Gordon Moyes, far left, accepts a gift of \$30,000 from John Chatterton, General Manager of the Westpac Bank, NSW

their own homes at an affordable rate is quite simple in concept but profound in its implications.

The Habitat Package

There are three basic principles to the Habitat package.

First, they recruit volunteers to help build the houses. The goal is to build homes with no labour costs. The work is done by unskilled workers under the supervision of skilled tradesmen.

In Sydney, Dr Gordon Moyes, Chairman of the Australian Board, has secured the

enthusiastic support of several unions linked with the building industry.

An important component of the volunteer labour is the efforts of the beneficiaries of the scheme who are required to invest a minimum of 500 hours of their own time in the construction of Habitat houses. This concept is known as "sweat equity", and it is vital to the entire program.

The second principle of Habitat is that no profit is added to the cost of the houses. This not only includes the builders' profit, but suppliers are asked to provide materials at cost or at a considerable discount.

The third principle is a non-interest mortgage. As a Christian ministry, Habitat looks to the Bible for guidance.

Exodus 22:25 states: "If you lend money to any of my people who are poor, do not act like a money-lender and require him to pay interest." Habitat does not say that interest is always inappropriate, but in relation to the disadvantaged, it can be forgiven. The cost of a house is repaid over a fixed time period. These repayments are then recycled to build more houses.

Habitat plans to sell its first houses in Sydney for \$70,000 and families will pay approximately \$300 per month on 20-year no-interest mortgage.

How Can You Help?

What Habitat needs is people who will donate land, materials, money or their labour to help construct houses. Investigate the housing situation in your area. Are there rundown houses? Vacant lots? Families trying to survive in substandard housing or caravans?

Initiate fund-raising projects to help build up resources.

Invite a Habitat speaker to your group, church, service organisation or school to introduce Habitat for Humanity.

Involve yourself in the construction of a house. Volunteer to saw boards, mix concrete, paint, plant shrubbery or feed workers. donate timber. wiring, fixtures, hammers or paint.

If you would like to help write to the Director of Habitat for Humanity (Australia), 40 Carrington Place, Castle Hill, NSW, 2154, or the Secretary, Habitat for Humanity (Victoria), c/o Melbourne City Mission, 472 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy North, 3068.

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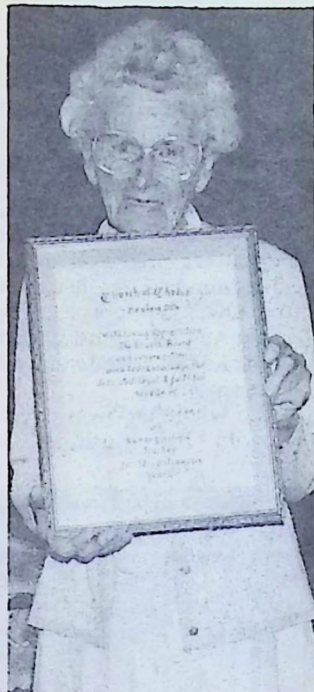


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56 Years a Sunday School Teacher



Elna Petersen with award

On 17 March the Bexley North, NSW, church made a presentation to Miss Elna Petersen. This award was made in recognition of her 56 years of Sunday School teaching.

Elna committed her life to Jesus Christ in April 1932 at a tent mission on the block of land that now houses the Bexley North building. She was subsequently baptised at the Rockdale church.

In January 1933 Elna commenced teaching Sunday School at Bexley North and continued without a break until December 1989—and she is still available to assist during teachers' absences.

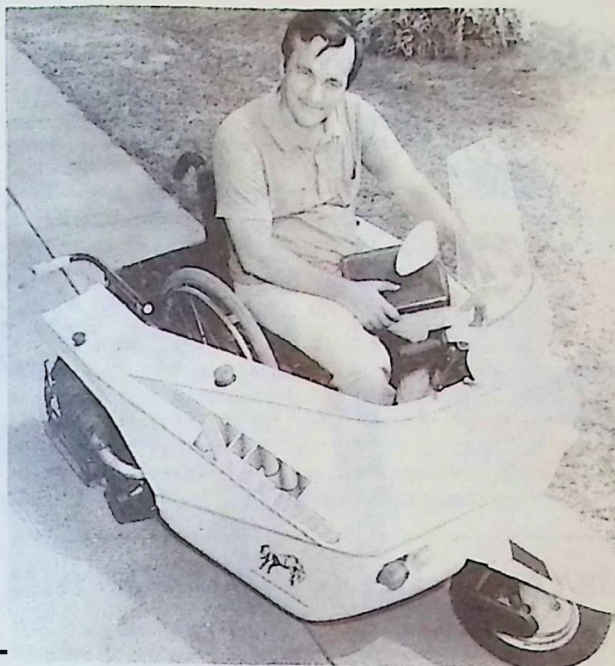
Elna has been in membership with Bexley North longer than anyone else. Her record is followed closely by her sister, Mrs Elsie Baker. She too has been a stalwart of the Sunday School, teaching for 32 years.

Sunday School has not been the only area of Elna's service. She was actively involved in Christian Endeavour as Superintendent and for many years was CWF President.

Elna worked as a secretary for Scripture Union for many years until giving up full-time work in 1979.

The presentation was made by Mrs Jean Smith, who enrolled in the Kindergarten at the same time Elna commenced teaching in the Sunday School. Jean and, subsequently, her four children were all taught by Elna.

There are many people today in leadership positions in churches throughout Australia who owe their early grounding in the Christian faith to Elna. She still regularly supports these people in prayer.



Spreading the Word by Wheel Chair

Jeff Hutchison went from salesman to minister in just under a year.

Jeff, who suffered a crippling car accident in 1989 and spent more than six months in hospital with spinal injuries, returned to Dubbo only to find he had a new role, that of preacher for the local church.

Although he had worked in full-time church ministry in Wollongong, Jeff said he was surprised at how quickly everything fell into place.

Previously Jeff was working as a travelling salesman for a confectionery company but just two months after arriving in Dubbo, while driving between Cobar and Bourke, his car veered off the road and overturned.

As a result of his injuries he

was later diagnosed as an "incomplete" quadriplegic, which meant he still had the use of his arms.

"It just happens that I had already started thinking of ways of getting back into full-time ministry. It wasn't the way I would have chosen but it did the trick," Jeff laughed.

"As it turned out God was opening doors for me while I was still lying in hospital. The timing was right. Just as I arrived back in Dubbo the minister of the church was preparing to leave."

Jeff said he will be continuing with his studies through the Institute for Contemporary Church Leadership in Wollongong as well as following an intensive rehabilitation program.

In the meantime the congregation has got together to make things a little easier for their new minister.

A special ramp and elevated pulpit has been constructed and modifications are also being made to Jeff's home. In addition Jeff recently purchased a specially designed motor scooter which allows him to ride in his wheel chair.

"All I have to do is hop into my chair and I can drive around town."

"It is ideal for visiting people and carrying out my pastoral duties," he said.

The New South Wales Department of Church Development and Education helps subsidise Jeff's ministry.

—story from the Dubbo *Sunday Liberal*



Legacies Keep Counting

A legacy will keep counting in the future. Your commitment to evangelism, church planting and areas such as youth work and camping will be sustained. You are invited to discuss these matters with Department treasurer, Terry McCredden, or your solicitor.

Department of Mission, Education and Development
52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne 3000

Mildura's Centenary



Doug Clark and David Ratten outside Mildura church

The Mildura, Vic, church is to celebrate its centenary on the Queen's Birthday weekend, 9-11 June.

A great city has grown out of the vision of the Chaffey brothers who came from America to develop irrigated horticulture in what was then a remote and inaccessible corner of Victoria.

The Chaffey's plan for the city included reserved parcels of land for churches in prominent positions on Deakin Avenue. The Church of Christ grasped the offer, and following meetings in members homes from 1890, in 1908 officially opened the primary struc-

ture that stands today, on land that used to be sparsely covered by mallee scrub. Reuben Mansell started the ball rolling with an advertisement in an 1890 issue of *The Mildura Cultivator* saying: "Wanted: The acquaintance of any member of the Church of Christ in this settlement, with a view to having Christian fellowship. Apply R. Mansell, Irymple."

The church leaped ahead in those early years and especially with Hagger-Clay and later two Hinrichsen missions. It became the parish for a number of our foremost evangelists and ministers over the years. Today the

Northern Districts Conference

On 11 March, the Kadina, SA, church was host to the Northern District Conference. Representatives were present from Balaklava and Owen.

The theme for the day was "Co-operation" and at the inter-generational session practical demonstrations proved that people working together in harmony can be a great force in the church and in the community.

The guest speaker for the conference was John Curtis from the Broken Hill, NSW, church. He had been the speaker at a men's breakfast on

the Saturday at Sarah's.

Ron Roberts and Keith Aird, representing the State Board, assisted by local representative Peter MacPharlin, informed of matters relating to the board and answered questions.

The theme was extended into the afternoon session when items were presented by the three churches: a male quartet from Owen, a puppet show by Balaklava and a musical item by the Kadina woodwind and brass ensemble.

The whole day was one of joy with bright music, fellowship and praise.



Left to right: Peter MacPharlin, State Board Rep., Brian Roberts, Conference President, Steve Kitto, Kadina minister, Keith Aird, State Administrator, and Ron Roberts, State Minister

church is experiencing a strong growth cycle, and in preparation for the centenary, another chapel enlargement program is being undertaken and will be used for the first time on Centenary Sunday, 10 June.

David Ratten is now senior minister and last year, Doug Clark, a retired builder, was appointed part-time minister.

A book is being prepared to mark the 100 years history and will be available at \$10 per copy on application to the church secretary, Doug Beasy.

Mildura extends a warm invitation to all who have had association with it over the years to share this celebration occasion. Celebrations will commence with a roll call and barbecue lunch for out of town visitors on 9 June from 12 noon, and will include a memorabilia

display in the hall, a centenary banquet at Mildura's Lawn Tennis Centre on Saturday evening and special 10.30 am and 7 pm services on Sunday with Ted Keating (Nunawading, Vic) as guest speaker. Home hosting for the day is being arranged. A river cruise for visitors on Monday on Ian Mansell's paddle boat *The Impulse* is also planned.

—L.M. Stafford

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Geoff Whiting in Kaniva



Dr Geoffrey Whiting, educational psychologist (retired), visited the West Wimmera, Vic, towns of Kaniva and Serviceton for a week in March. During his stay he engaged in seminars and conducted counselling.

The invitation extended by the Co-operation Committee of the Kaniva Church of Christ and Uniting Church commenced on 18 March with a combined worship service in the Uniting Church. Every listener was encouraged to respond positively to the grace and the love of God as fulfilled people. A celebration of the Gospel was hosted by the Church of Christ for the evening service.

ning service.

Monday saw a counselling seminar, "How do I help people?" 35 attended and appreciated the presentation focusing on the "wider picture" of human behaviour. The humanistic approach to understanding ourselves and others stimulated the thinking of the group.

Tuesday and Wednesday evenings were geared to parents with children.

Programs in the two local schools were conducted on Wednesday and Thursday. Visiting the secondary college on Wednesday afternoon, Dr Whiting addressed the student body on "How To Be More Effective in Study." Later he met the teaching staff on an informal basis. A number met Dr Whiting again during a youth group meeting on Friday evening.

Thursday morning in the consolidated school enabled years 5 and 6 to meet and hear Dr Whiting on their chosen subject matter: "How To Deal with Grief and Understand Death". Two tragedies involving sickness among them in the past 12 months have caused much anguish. After an initial address to 50 children many remained to ask questions and discuss issues further.

Friday afternoon included a seminar on "Coping with Grief" sponsored by the local hospital.

Sunday brought preaching engagements at the Serviceton Church of Christ in the morning and Kaniva Uniting Church in the evening to conclude an eventful week.

Numerous people responded to Dr Whiting's approach and took the opportunity to seek his counsel at a deeper level of need. As the week progressed the community became more open to his contribution. As one mother enthusiastically stated later: "I came to find out how best to bring up my daughter, and went away finding out about myself, too!"

—Martin Goldup

Minister Serves 20 Years

Allan Webb with his wife Val and family commenced ministry at the Swanston Street, Vic, church on 1 April 1970.

Since then the church has experienced significant growth. Hundreds of overseas students have been encouraged and have returned home to take active roles within churches throughout South East Asia. Missionary giving has risen from \$15 per week to over \$3,000 per week. Allan has exercised an outstanding Bible teaching ministry.

An informal celebration of

the 20th anniversary was held on 1 April. A formal recognition will be made at the 125th church anniversary celebrated over the weekend of 19-21 October. Local and overseas guests will join to celebrate 125 years of faithful witness to the Lord Jesus Christ, 20 years of faithful ministry by the Webb family and the official opening of the new lower hall facility. Stuart Robinson, a long-time friend of the Webb family and senior minister of the Blackburn South Baptist Church, will be the guest speaker.

Jim Wallis to Visit Australia

Baptist pastor, social activist, preacher, editor and author, Jim Wallis, will visit Australia from 22 July to 10 August.

The visit is being organised by a coalition of Christian organisations. The visit will include a major national conference to be held in Sydney, as well as lectures, seminars and worship services in all mainland states.

Jim Wallis has achieved international recognition among Christian communities for his preaching, writing and strong commitment to building justice and peace. He is a key figure in the global network of people helping to break down the old divisions between evangelism and social justice, prayer and politics, worship and action.

Jim is the founder and pastor of the Sojourners Community in Washington, DC. The community is a centre for Christian growth and ministry in a low-income area of the inner city. It has perhaps become known internationally through *Sojourners*, a monthly magazine that seeks to engage a biblical faith with current social issues.

Jim is the author of a number of books, including *Agenda for a Biblical People* (1976), *The Call to Conversion* (1981), *Revive Us*

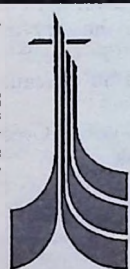
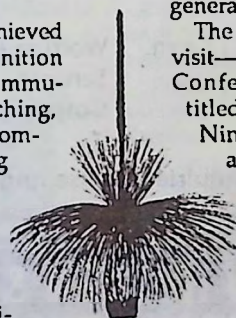
Again (1983), *The Rise of Christian Conscience* (1987) and most recently *Crucible of Fire: The Church Confronts Apartheid* (1989).

He is no stranger to Australia, having been the main speaker at the National Christian Youth Convention in 1989, and guest speaker at the Australian Council of Churches general meeting in 1988.

The opening event of his visit—a three-day National Conference in Sydney titled "Agenda for the Nineties"—is planned as a meeting of church and community leaders, grass roots initiators, policy makers and theologians from around the country. They will

identify key issues and challenges for the churches and will develop strategies for action in the coming decade.

Detailed programs can be obtained from—NSW (22-29 July) Peter Stone (02) 746 2144 or Andrew Curtis (02) 356 7057, ACT (1-2 August) John Harris (06) 273 1634, SA (4-5 August) Val Bennett (08) 49 3050, Alice Springs (7-8 August) Rev Doug Turnbull (089) 52 6955, Vic (10-12 August) John U'Ren (03) 347 8388, WA (14-15 August) Rev John Neal (09) 221 1732, Qld (17-18 August) Dave Andrews (07) 844 2109.



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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Theocracy versus Democracy

To the Editor,

Is it theocracy?
Or just Diotrephes
Claiming supremacy?
Is it theocracy?
Or want of humility
Equalling blasphemy?
Is old Diotrephes
Opposing democracy
Knowing equality
Frustrates autocracy?
Just asking.

—Allan B. Clark
(Croydon, Vic)

Theocracy versus Democracy

To the Editor,

As Bill Woff ("AC" 4 April)
does not give quotes by Newell

and Grant, it is impossible to assess their interpretations. I have looked up 10 different translations and two Greek texts (Souter and Nestle), and save for the King James (1611), not one supports the translation "of the Laodiceans" and even the KJV offers "in Laodicea" in the margin. This is not a reference to "people rule" (democracy) as Bill claims, but simply the name of a town. Incidentally the only reference to "your house" by Jesus was to the Temple, not the synagogues.

A few quotes to support my statement that theocracy and democracy are not opposites: "Among the ancient Israelites there is evidence of democratic institutions." Zeitlin, *Ancient Judaism*. "Paul's understanding of the church is democratic."

MacDonald, *The Legend and the Apostle*. "Christian freedom, as given expression by the reformation, lies at the base of all modern thinking about democracy." Maddox, *Australian Democracy*. "The early church spoke in Greek and thought in Greek." Livingstone, *The Legacy of Greece*.

Let us not give up our precious democratic heritage to an imported neo-authoritarianism dressed up as theocracy.

—Bruce McIntosh
(Boronia, Vic)

Problems of Overpopulation

To the Editor,

I watched a show on TV tonight. There was the World Vision team, saving the lives of children by medical care, by water supplies, by food productions: saving children to add to the 5.4 billion people that crowd our crowded planet, starving out other species, pol-

luting our heritage for our children to mourn, spreading, ever spreading across the verdant arable land, lowering the water table, rendering the springs dry, the wells dust pits, the water holes mud bowls. In 1934 there were 2.3 billion people on this earth. In 1968 there were 3.4 billion. In 1990 there are 5.4 billion (a conservative estimate).

How odd that in our humanitarian love, our Christian care, we add to the very problem that has placed so many of Adam's offspring in the very position from which we wish to save them. We are placing band-aids on a spreading cancer. We must do what we can, but it is not the answer.

The danger is that in doing what we are doing, we think we are solving the problem.

I grieve for God's creation. There is so little we have left as God created it.

—Bruce Waldron
(Warragul, Vic)



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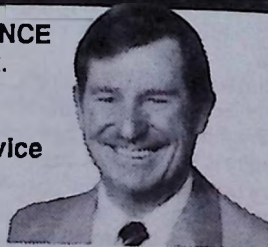
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Letters from Tertius

In Christ

To the Editor,

Our minister doesn't miss much. He's been leading a Bible study on Philippians and pointed out to us that even the best translations don't always get it right. For instance, in the very first verse the RSV talks about the Christians being "in Christ at Philippi". He says that the "at" should be translated "in", because the original Greek says so.

Well you've got to take his word for it; he's always got his Greek testament and dictionary and grammar on his desk.

Being a rather slow thinker I didn't pick up the significance of what he was on about until much later. I've always been puzzled about what "in Christ" means. How can you be "in Christ"? But I can understand someone being "in Philippi".

So I brought it up to date. I can be in the city. I can be in the house. I can be in the water when we go to the river. So obviously to be in something is to be totally surrounded by it, and in the water, totally immersed in it. So being "in Christ" has to be like that.

I've got no problem about being immersed in his teaching, or involved in his life style or living in his spirit. But I don't think that's what "in Christ" means. I wish it did. I could cope with it better.

So I can't help coming to the conclusion that being "in Christ" is being surrounded by his presence. It's embarrassing because I don't always behave as though he's round the place. But I like it just the same.

Yours in Christ,
Tertius

A Calling Renewed

As we boarded the MAF plane in Madang for Momonup, our final destination, the pilot was notified of the buffalo on the airstrip. The pilot prayed before take-off and it was with thankful hearts to God that when we arrived the buffalo had been removed and we could land safely. It really is lovely to have the airstrip so close to the station.

The welcome we received from our national brothers and sisters in Christ has been heart-warming and it's great to be here. One thing that hasn't changed out here in the bush is the eager, ready hand of the children to help one up slippery river banks, or over the small logs (called "bridges") to cross creeks.

We appreciated very much also the welcome our missionary co-workers have extended to us. Out here in the bush you don't expect to walk into a clean, prepared house, but I did so. We had very thankful hearts to the Bassetts for going the second mile to welcome us.

One memorable occasion was to share in a farewell to Rosalie Rofe from the nearby village of Yar. We spent the afternoon and evening in the proceedings of killing a wild cow and all the cooking preparations, followed by the traditional feast and the speeches. Gifts given to Rosalie were a fitting tribute.

For Bob and me it was good catching up on what God has been doing here on the Keram River in the hearts of these people over the past 10 years. It was uplifting to hear them giving God the glory as well as appreciating what Rosalie has been willing to do in service for her Lord. The proceedings went well into the night and then the people were down at our house early next morning weeping and wailing as we walked to the airstrip to see Rosalie leave.

This began a busy time for the next two days of MAF landings bringing in some 26 girls for us to send on by river (canoe) to the Yamen Women's Bible School. We were very

glad to have Diana Catts arrive in the midst of this to give us some updated orientation and other practical assistance.

One week later there were 12 landings by MAF to bring in the Momonup Bible School students. The pilot ran out of time so he stayed the night with us. We enjoyed fellowship with this man, who was a pastor in Holland before entering MAF.

It was interesting to greet one of our students, Koke, who was one of Bob's school pupils some 22 years ago when we first commenced at Pir. He showed Bob a scar on his leg where we had sutured it and he recalled how Bob had carried him in his arms down to the aid post to get help. He had not forgotten. It was exciting to hear him tell of the Spirit's working in his life and how he wants to learn more of God's word to share with his people. Moments like these indeed cause us to praise God.

It's great to be back and to experience a calling renewed after 10 years. We look forward with anticipation to what our tomorrows will bring.

—Rhonda Whan, PNG

Mexican Mountain Melee

Religious intolerance and violence against evangelicals and other religious groups by Mexico's majority Roman Catholic population has escalated in the last four months. Groups targeted include Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, Pentecostals, Adventists and Jehovah's Witnesses.

Numerous examples of persecution in several states have recently been extensively documented, detailing physical attacks, deaths, antagonistic misreporting by several Mexican newspapers, injustice, beatings, imprisonments and mob violence.

The worst example occurred about 10 pm on 2 February, on an isolated mountainside near Mexico City. 160 evangelicals held a prayer retreat at Ajusco, overlooking Mexico City, to intercede for the city.

After a few hours of prayer and singing, the intercessors became surrounded by an angry mob of locals, inflamed by alcohol after a local religious fiesta and reports that the visitors were squatters and satanists. The mob swelled to 10,000, attacking the fleeing

Christians with threats to kill or rape—hurling stones, beating them with sticks, lashing out with machetes and firing guns into the air.

Ten squad cars and seven Red Cross ambulances arrived quickly, then federal and mounted police. They tried to rescue the victims, but many rescue workers were themselves attacked and their vehicles damaged.

Dr Juan Isais, a leading Latin American evangelical who was spearheading the prayer vigil, was stoned and badly beaten up. Miraculously, no one was killed. No charges will be laid.

Some of the police who rescued them became Christians when they walked into a prayer meeting a few days after the melee. This has also brought new unity among evangelical groups.

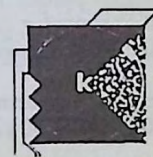
However threatening phone calls continued after the event, until a delegation of eight evangelical leaders, from the Baptist National Convention, Presbyterian and Methodist churches, approached President de Gortari—the first audience granted to evangelicals in recorded memory.

Widespread attacks have occurred from Mexico City to Puebla, Oaxaca and several townships—all predominantly Roman Catholic. The complaint in most cases of religious persecution in Mexico is that the evangelicals won't support the Catholic fiestas (where drunkenness and immorality are common).

From popular newspapers to Catholic prelates and priests the standard allegations charge that these "sects" jeopardise the cultural and religious autonomous identity of the people, dividing the population by proselytising and imposing a new religion. They also allege massive financial backing from America. If the converts are freed from bondage to evil spirits through fetishes, ritual dances and relying on witch doctors, such persecutions are understandable.

—Jenni Howell

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Construction is now completed and we take this opportunity to invite church boards and members from the Churches of Christ, Victoria, to the newly renovated Church of Christ, 46-48 Montclair Avenue, Glen Waverley.

INVITATION

We are pleased the church members at Glen Waverley are proud of their new building complex, citing efficient planning, good light and a freshness that welcomes people from the community to the church. The church's motto, "A community church...in the heart of the community with the community at heart", has very much been enhanced by this building program. Rejoice: the church is growing!
Robert Blenvenu

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Books

Women's Words

(Northcote Christian Women's Book Project) \$10.50

Women's Words is a very interesting and moving collection of personal writings by Christian women from the inner-city area of Northcote, Vic, who come from many denominational backgrounds to share experiences, both happy and sad. These women reveal their feelings about themselves and their bodies, their children, friends and neighbours and their relationship with God.

Through writing these poems, short stories, memories, meditations and letters the women of the project were able to celebrate their femininity and the way it has shaped them and their spiritual lives.

They were also able to express their dreams for the possibilities for women living together with their families in the city. *Women's Words* is a great collection of local writings and creates for the reader a sense of enduring faith and Christian community.

Available from Department of Mission, Education and Development, 52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne 3000.

101 Prayers for Worship

Compiled and edited by Ian Tippet (Vital Publications) \$7.50

This is a collection of prayers written by people within Churches of Christ from around Australia and is designed to be used both in public worship and in private devotions. There is a large number of topics that are covered by these prayers, which are grouped under 11 titles: Seeing God in Life; Jesus, God with Us; Living in the Body of Christ; Lift up My Eyes and My Heart; Tinging with Vitality; Entering into His Mission; Sharing Lives Together; Comfort When Times Are Hard; Strength against Life's Pressures and Finding Meaning for Living and Prayers for Australia. The text is supplemented by some excellent photographs by Ralph Petty.

Available from the Federal Literature Department, Mrs E. Rankine, 5 Atkins Ave, Glen Iris 3146, for \$7.50 plus postage.

—CRA

Truth and Community

Diversity and Its Limits in the Ecumenical Movement by Michael Kinnamon (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company and WCC Publications)

Michael Kinnamon is Dean and associate Professor of Theology and Ecumenical studies at Lexington Theological Seminary. In this book he examines the perceived tension between Christian truth and the acceptance of diversity, and contends that the "diverse community of fellow Christians is an essential component of, and context for, the search for truth".

The theme of the limits of diversity is traced through 60 years of ecumenical debate since the 1927 Lausanne Conference on Faith and Order, and is then related to the general theological foundations of the ecumenical vision. Ecumenism, expressed as a "diverse, liberating truth-seeking community", is seen as a sign and foretaste of God's Shalom.

The author then examines in detail doctrinal diversity with regard to Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry (WCC 1983), social diversity—apartheid is seen to be outside the limits of acceptable diversity—and confessional diversity, asking, "Is denominational

identity an acceptable diversity?" He then goes on to consider the future agenda of the ecumenical movement in respect of the teaching authority of the church and the dialogue between evangelical and ecumenical Christians.

This book is a valuable and clearly expressed overview of the issues confronting the ecumenical movement in the late 20th century.

—Graeme Addicott

How Can I Help?

Reaching Out to Someone Who Is Grieving

by June Cerza Kolf (Baker Book House) \$14.95

This appears to be a sensible book. Many different manifestations of grief are described and the constant theme is that everyone is different and will deal with grief differently. There are no "rules" about the time and stages of a person's grief. Each person has a different timetable and different needs.

June Kolf advises great sensitivity to the bereaved, being there to be a presence to allow them to work out their feelings and constantly emphasises that people "do not get over it" in any fixed time.

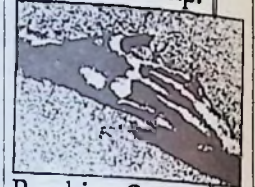
—Mary Ambrose

How to Plant Churches

edited by Monica Hill (MARC Europe) \$12.50

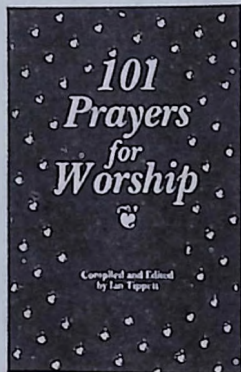
This book is the collection of the papers of a conference held in England in 1983 to look at church planting. The conference was organised by the British Church Growth Association and the Evangelical Fellowship for Missionary Studies. While the papers were written for the British situation, where only 9% of the population attends church and there has been a very staid church, the situation is not all that much better in Australia. Readers should realise that not all the concepts mentioned in this book are transferable to the Australian context but there are still enough

How Can I Help?



Reaching Out to Someone Who Is Grieving

June Cerza Kolf



ideas about starting new churches that have great application in our situations.

Roy Pointer, who visited Australia in 1987, contributes an excellent paper on Biblical guidelines for church planting, which he has written from within the Church Growth movement. This is excellent material that all churches should be considering. Another paper discusses the experience of planting churches in Europe and tries to draw out some of the implications of this for the British situation. Further papers look at church planting in large housing estates, in cross-cultural situations etc, all of which exist in Australia.

—CRA



Out of Darkness, Out of Fire

A Workbook for Christian Leaders under Pressure

by Ross Kingham & Robin Pryor (Joint Board of Christian Education) \$14.95

This is a book about stress in ministry. People not in pastoral ministry wonder why ministers are stressed. They preach one or two homilies a week whereas teachers give up to 30 lessons; they have more "discretionary time" than other professionals, and so they preach, Christians have access to peace and power that are out of this world.

But stressed they are. There must be reasons for the exodus of gifted ministers from local ministry. In the US (and probably in other Western countries) the divorce rate among ministers is climbing faster than the national average. Ministers know they are the most significant human factor in the church's health: church growth studies have "proved" that. So when attendances and offerings (the two most tangible indicators of growth) are down, the minister "cops the flak" from all directions. They are caught in the cross-fire of many incompatible expectations, and they feel it. After all, they wouldn't be in pastoral ministry without some sensitivity.

Ross Kingham and Robin Pryor are two of Australia's most gifted "pastors to pastors". Their book is excellent. It is easy to read, with a lot of white space on which to write notes and reactions. It is practical: both of them have "been there". It is balanced: they have a warm, evangelical (in the best sense of that misused word) spirituality, which is not so mystical that it is unrelated to rubber hitting the road.

Out of Darkness, out of Fire begins with some true to reality stories of parish conflict. We are invited to identify sources of institutional and personal stress and anxiety, and then engage in personal reflection.

Then we are led through the general and specific causes and symptoms of "distress" in ministry. We meet the notion of "promiscuous ministry"—the drivenness to meet every need that arises instead of concentrating on that specific ministry to which we are called. In the chapter "Broken but Loved" we share the experiences of some biblical "ministers" like Jeremiah and David.

But there are also paths out of darkness: reviewing the spiritual journey and the journey of one's own life, devising a personal growth manifesto, the use of a prayer diary or spiritual journal. Finally we look at outside sources of sustenance—peer support groups, spiritual direction etc. The footnotes and bibliography will take you further.

Suggestion: Set aside 3-8 days and go away to a retreat centre armed with it. If you follow the suggestions faithfully, you won't be the same again!

—Rowland Croucher

The First Epistle of Peter

Tyndale New Testament Commentary
by Wayne Grudem (InterVarsity Press)

This new commentary, based on the RSV, replaces the original volume by the late Alan Stubbs and Andrew Walls. The introduction provides a careful discussion of the authorship, date, purpose and destination of the letter and an extended excursus is devoted to the interpretation of the notoriously difficult passage about our Lord preaching to "the spirits in prison" (3:19-20). Throughout his commentary, Dr Grudem seeks to make the meaning of the text clear to the general reader and to show its application to life today.

The Theology of the Churches and the Jewish People

Statements by the World Council of Churches and Its Member Churches

with a commentary by Allan Brockway, Paul van Buren, Rolf Rendtorff, Simon Schoon (WCC Publications) \$25.95

The title of this book might tempt you to dismiss it as another irrelevant, expensive publication suited only to those with peculiar interests in interfaith dialogue and/or ecumenical theology. And it isn't particularly exciting reading. But I for one certainly didn't find it boring, either!

It contains a selection of statements about Jews and Judaism by the World Council of Churches and some of its member churches. These are followed by a series of astute theological analyses by four eminent ecumenical theologians, plotting the history and major trends in this important area of theology.

I was both fascinated and pleased to note the increasingly polemical stand against antisemitism. The church, it seems, has begun to confess her historical and theological faults in this area.

Also exciting is what appears to be a major reassessment of what can be called "replacement theology" or "supersessionism"—the idea that the church has replaced Israel in God's plan and purpose.

This involves a reaffirmation of the ongoing election of Israel in spite of her current spiritual rebellion.

Admirable too is the oft-repeated call to redefine the church's identity vis a vis Israel and the Jewish people.

In my estimation this is one of the best publications released on this topic.

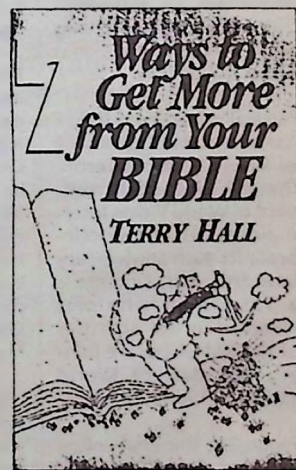
—Alan Hirsch

7 Ways to Get More from Your Bible

by Terry Hall (Moody Press) \$5.50

Most Christians have trouble settling into a meaningful pattern of daily Bible reading. Those who achieve this generally use a Bible reading study guide. In this booklet Terry Hall offers seven suggestions to help Christians gain more from reading God's word. The suggestions are easily set out and include step-by-step approaches to achieve your aims in reading the Bible. Many of the suggestions are very basic and yet too often young Christians are never given these basic tools and thus struggle in their personal Bible reading. The suggestions are all very practical and easy to use. An excellent resource.

—CRA



Happenings

The Caring for Family caregivers program of the East Kew Uniting Church is offering two separate two day workshops (31 August-1 September and 6-7 September) for suitably qualified people who wish to be trained in leadership training that will enable them to become group leaders for the program. The registration fee is \$40. Details from Caregivers Project, Leadership Training, 142 Normanby Rd, East Kew 3102.

Heavy fighting in recent weeks has halted delivery of food aid to the estimated 2.5 million hungry people of Eritrea.

After 45 years the Salvation Army is returning to East Germany. Its work was forbidden by the former Communist government.

During the 16th Baptist World Congress next August in Seoul, Korea, there are plans to have a mass baptism of more than 10,000. Baptist World Alliance General Secretary Denton Lotz has endorsed a proposal to "show our togetherness in a worldwide day of baptism".

The Hong Kong Christian Institute estimates that by 1993 about 20% of the Christians of Hong Kong will have emigrated, and the figure for clergy and other church workers will be 25%. There are an estimated 500,000 Christians in Hong Kong, whose population is about 5.7 million.

Australian Graeme Irvine has been named President of World Vision International. He is the 5th president of World Vision International, which will celebrate its 40th anniversary later this year. Graeme is a Tasmanian who was involved in the activities of the YMCA before joining the staff of World Vision in 1968.

Recording star Phil Collins provided Australian charities with the opportunity to collect donations to assist the homeless during each

of his Australian concerts. In NSW he chose the Sydney City Mission. His 6 Sydney concerts raised \$40,000.

As many as 900,000 in 4 southern Angolan provinces are in acute danger of starvation. Another 1.1 million are seriously affected by food shortages in these regions. Severe drought and continued fighting between the government and rebel UNITA troops are the reasons for the food shortages.

Hundreds of thousands of migrant workers from less developed countries in Asia are streaming into the more prosperous countries of Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore in search of jobs. Their illegal status makes them easy targets for exploitation by employers and recruiting agents. Japan has as many as 200,000 migrant workers, there are about 100,000 in Taiwan, more than 60,000 in Hong Kong and an estimated 30,000 in Singapore. The workers are often forced to pay large amounts of money for forged papers, live in fear of discovery, in miserable housing conditions, doing the dirtiest and lowest paid jobs and are easy targets for extortionists who threaten to expose them if they do not pay. The workers usually come from the Philippines, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, South Korea, India or China.

More than 70 choirs from around Australia are expected to contest the inaugural National Open Choral Championships, to be held in Wagga Wagga 30 August-2 September. Prize money of \$16,500 is being offered in 4 sections: Open Choral Championships, Mixed Church Choir, Female Choir and Male Choir.

High rates of adolescent suicides are forcing many South Australian schools to use private grief counselors. At least two Catholic schools have established their own grief program to

help students deal with traumas.

Keston College reports 2 new Soviet laws that "appear to give religious communities substantial new rights". One allows religious organisations to have permanent or temporary tenure of land for "the purpose of agriculture or forestry", and the other says religious bodies may own buildings or facilities "essential to their activities".

The Spanish government has signed an accord granting first-ever recognition and rights to non-Roman Catholics. The agreement provides legal recognition of Jewish and Evangelical mixed marriages, will allow religious instruction in different faiths in public schools when parents so desire, and opens the way for non-Catholic clergy to enrol in the social security system.

Only 4% of West Germans would describe themselves as "pious", 38% no longer believe in God. This is in spite of the fact that 85% of all Germans officially wear the name "Christian" as members on the books of the Roman Catholic and Protestant State Churches. Only 7% of the population attend church regularly. 23% of all citizens and 60% of the youth view the church as a political entity and feel that it should be more involved in the political realm.

The WCC has admitted 4 new member churches. They are the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Zimbabwe, the Reformed Church of Zimbabwe and the Christian Protestant (Lutheran) Angkola Church in Indonesia. WCC membership will now be 311 member churches.

In America a national study of 11,000 from 561 congregations of 6 church bodies including the Disciples of Christ says the

quality and duration of Christian education at the local level has a direct link to the number of church members who are loyal to their denominations.

The Dead Sea scrolls, which include some of the earliest known biblical texts, are to be subjected to carbon 14 dating for the first time. At least 12 of the 799 scrolls will be dated using carbon 14 techniques.

Eye witnesses confirmed that a demonstration took place on 11 January in Shkodra, northern Albania. There were 400 arrests from a crowd of about 1,000. The authorities still hold 120. The people were protesting not only against the political regime, but against the Albanian government's atheistic policy.

Laszlo Tokes, the Hungarian Reformed pastor around whom the Romanian revolt against Ceausescu began, has been elected Bishop of Oradea.

The Cambodian Government has granted permission for a consignment of over 7,000 pieces of religious literature for delivery to the newly legalised Cambodian Protestant church.

HCJB World Radio has initiated daily broadcasts to the primarily Muslim populated Soviet republic of Uzbekistan.

The Turkish government has indicated that it will clarify the rights of Christians in Turkey, saying recent actions against religious groups were not necessarily a suppression of Christianity but of control over "quasi-religious" political sects that may be using religious gatherings as a cover for political rallies.

Though the religious climate in Vietnam has improved in recent years, there may still be more than 30 religious prisoners in jail for their faith today, either detained without trial or are

serving long sentences.

After 15 months of extensive renovation work involving more than 13,000 skilled and unskilled volunteers, Operation Mobilization's new ship, the *Logos II*, has been launched into ministry.

The Bill Newman Crusade ministry and Silvers Circus have an unusual alliance. The circus owners have agreed to make their main tent available for Bill Newman crusades in towns where the circus is performing, either on a Sunday night or the last night before the circus moves on. The crusade ministry will receive circus itineraries 2 years in advance, and make their own arrangements with churches in selected towns to hold rallies at the same time.

10 prisoners from Palen Creek prison farm in Queensland have been baptised by immersion in the Tallebudgera Creek, at a special service led by Pastor John Pasterkamp of the Christian Community Church on the Gold Coast.

The Lutheran Church in Australia has called on members to show compassion to persons suffering from HIV/AIDS illnesses irrespective of how they contracted disease, and to refrain from persecuting or ostracising those infected with the virus. However, the church also says it is conscious of its duty to "warn people against breaking God's commandments and to point to the potential consequences of such action, especially when people indulge in intimate physical relationships which are forbidden in God's Word, and engage in intravenous drug abuse".

Israel is experiencing one of the largest influxes of Jews in its history. The Israeli government estimates 500,000 Jews will enter Israel by 1992. 95% of them are expected to come from the Soviet Union.

The High Road Challenge

The bush has always had a special fascination for Australians. We have been raised on the concept of bush mateship binding the country into a nation and listened to the great tales of the outback. As Ross Franks, the executive chairman of High Road Australia, will tell you, "Put a group of Aussie Christians in the true harsh environment of Australia for two weeks and the true meaning of mateship (that is, others before self) is just one of the objectives achieved."

Ross Franks initiated High Road Australia with the help of the Southport, Qld, church during 1989, after experiencing the American High Road course.

"The course is designed as a practical way of developing Christian leadership skills and spiritual maturity in the life of

the participant," says Ross. "But that and the words 'high road' is where the similarity between the US and Australian program ends."

When Ross arrived back in Australia he felt the Lord prompting to set up a program that would promote Christian maturity and enhance subsequent life performance, would allow for self-evaluation of values and personal capabilities, encourage a greater commitment to the practice of biblical principles and increase each participant's capacity for effective leadership and service. So the first High Road Australia course, with the emphasis on the Aussie way of doing things, began being planned.

Ross says he believes that the Australian Christian community and its young people "to a

large extent, are languishing in an environment of affluence with the consequent effects of lack of commitment, spiritual immaturity and inadequate leadership." It's because of these concerns that High Road has been designed to address such issues.

The Old and New Testament scriptures abound with instances where God used the wilderness to train and prepare his people for leadership. Hard experiences were used to refine and prove character and commitment.

Each course revolves around a process of experiential learning during an expedition in the bush with adventure activities such as a ropes course, rock climbing and abseiling, backpacking, journal keeping, map and compass reading, a solo experience and a post-course project. In the first year High Road has mapped a course area in the wilderness of south-east Queensland and northern New South Wales. Instructors facili-



tate the efforts of the participants and offer encouragement. Pre-course reading and studies are part of the preparation needed for the High Road adventure.

In 1989 29 Christians from several denominations joined in three different courses.

According to Ross, "Now the challenge is on for High Road Australia to become a self-funding multi-denominational ministry in the long term, able to be used by Christian groups and individuals Australia wide, to encourage and to assist in training the future leaders of God's church in Australia and the Pacific region."



Sharon Todler stepping over the edge

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Brian White

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Course Content:

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Registration Fee: \$35

Contact: Graeme Wigney
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Exciting Workshops Program for Federal Conference

Details have been released by the Arrangements Committee of the Workshops program planned for Federal Conference in Brisbane 8-14 October.

The President, Don Stewart, said, "The aim of the workshop program is to provide for a wide range of areas of work in which the Churches are engaged and find the best qualified people to lead each one, so that there can be a sharing of the best information available and to encourage a forward thrust for the Kingdom of God".

Workshops planned:

Wednesday Morning—Growth and Development for Churches of Over 150 Members, Growth and Development of Smaller Churches, Workshop on Prayer, The Use of Movement in Worship, Computers in the Church, Expressing my Worship to God, Around the Lord's Table.

Wednesday Afternoon—The Local Church and Youth Work, Christian Education Workshop, The Overseas Mission Thrust, Domestic Violence—What Can We Do?, Music in the Church.

Thursday Morning—A Clinic on Preaching and Communication, Calling on People in their Homes, Churches of



"Now Is the Time to Serve the Lord"

Christ: Our Distinctive Witness, Churches of Christ and the Ecumenical Movement.

Thursday Afternoon—Workshop for Writers, Ministry among Aborigines, Aged Care Today, Publishing Our Products, Church Papers and Magazines, Report on the Church in Russia and Eastern Europe.

Friday Morning—Planting New Churches—Strategies and Methods, Pastoral Care Support for Those Who Grieve, Youth Culture, Developing Home and Community Care Services, The Operation of Early Childhood Day Care Centres, Ministering to the Family.

Friday Afternoon—Twelve Keys to an Effective Church, If Men Are God's Gift to Women—What Are Women? Training Ministers for Service in the Local Church, A Workshop on Current Social Issues, Personal Devotions.

Bill Nottingham, President of the Division of Overseas Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is expected to bring the special workshop report on the church in Russia and Eastern Europe following his extensive visit to the area this year.

200 Registered for Federal Conference Already

With six months still to go there are already 200 registered for Federal Conference to be held in Brisbane 8-14 October.

Federal Conference, which is held approximately every two years in the states by rotation, is not expected to return to Queensland for another 14 years. The planning committee is endeavouring to prepare the kind of program to which forward-looking congregations can respond. Based on the theme "Now Is the Time to Serve the Lord", the 43rd Conference will deal with business on Monday and Tuesday before entering into the more interesting side of

Conference on Wednesday through to Sunday, when the program will culminate in a great worship celebration in the Brisbane City Hall.

While past Conferences have had displays from agencies the Arrangements Committee sought to upgrade the displays and are having professional

display areas provided for those agencies that book space. There is also going to be an opportunity for those firms that support the work of the church to have business display areas.

The 43rd Federal Conference is being held jointly with the Queensland State Conference. The rally programs are common to both conferences and the Queensland Conference will conduct its business on Saturday. Day and half-day tours of Brisbane and the surrounding areas of the Sunshine and Gold Coast and the Lockyer and Toowoomba areas will be provided. There will also be special small bus tours of Churches of Christ facilities in these regions as well with vis-

its to churches, child day care, children's homes, retirement villages, youth camps, theological college etc.

A post-Conference Tour to North Queensland is still being planned.



Church of Christ SOUTHPORT

now meets in
Parklands Drive

8.55 am

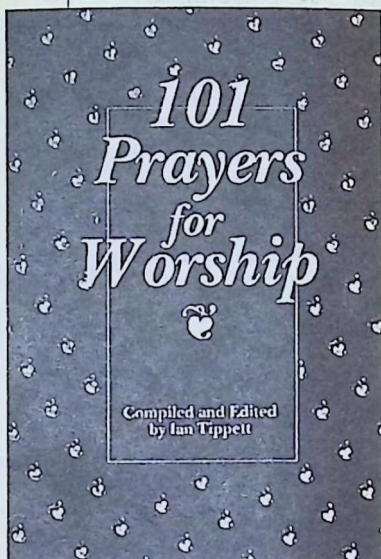
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prayers for
public worship
or for private
use written by
people from
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Carnarvon: Interaction of Two Cultures

by Betty
Sewell

CARNARVON

Interaction of Two Cultures



Betty Sewell

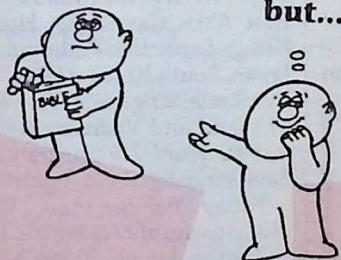
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but...



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questions of
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Pamphlets

Pamphlet Club publications also are available. These can be ordered individually or in bulk and many would be suitable for small discussion groups in the church. Some recent pamphlets:

"A Faith for Today's Australians"—Graeme Chapman (367)
"Towards 2000—A Theology of Change"—Alan Hirsch (366)
"The Relevance of the Declaration and Address to Churches of Christ in the 1990s"—John Sommerville (365)
"The Challenge to the Church"—Ranjini Rebera (364)
"Ministry & Church—Restoration or Ruin"—Keith Farmer (363)
"Turning the World Upside Down through a Contemporary Reformation"—Bill Tabbernee (362)

Price: 50c each (postage included)

Order Form

To: Federal Literature Department of Churches of Christ
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WA Women's Conference

6 April was an exciting day as 192 ladies from metropolitan and country churches gathered in the Christian Centre to enjoy the 85th Women's Conference in Western Australia.

The President's theme of "Let Him Lead" was highlighted throughout the day through messages in song, missionaries who brought testimonies of God's faithfulness, and from speakers Ailsa Maxwell and Bob Brown.

Seven new ministers' wives were introduced.

Roses for Remembrance is a very important segment in the program. Betty O'Meara read the names of those who had gone to be with their Lord during the year and Norma Moignard placed a rose in the vase of remembrance for each one.

New President, Lesley Hogben was inducted. Her text for 1990-91 is "Bestill and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). John Bolton offered a prayer of dedication for the new executive.

Aileen Draney, returned missionary from Papua New Guinea after 30 years of service, told of experiences while serving there.

Bob Brown, guest speaker, developed his message from Proverbs 3:1-6.

Office bearers for the coming year are: L. Hogben, President; B. McIlwraith, Secretary; M. Smyth, Treasurer.

—Betty McIlwraith

Victorian Christians in Sport

Sports and Leisure Ministries is launching Victorian Christians in Sport on 3 May at 8 pm, at the North Balwyn church. The minister there is Paul Burnham, who is the Melbourne Football Club chaplain.

Speakers include Rev. Barry Sutton, Victorian cricket team chaplain, David Lloyd, winner of the King of the Mountain endurance run, and Tony Dunkerly, Victorian junior soccer coach. Keynote speaker will be Dr Mark Tronson, SLM

founder, who has seen his vision grow until over 60 chaplains are serving in such areas as the Australian Institute of Sport, Sheffield Shield and test cricket, rugby league, soccer, tennis, motor racing, PGA golf, Australian football, national baseball and basketball leagues, yachting, surfing, tenpin bowling, rodeo and Olympic and Commonwealth Games.

"While other countries may be more famous for their work ethic, here in Australia most people appear to find their ful-

filment in sport and leisure," said Noel Mitaxa, Victorian SLM Co-ordinator.

"Today's top athletes are tomorrow's coaches, administrators, commentators and journalists, so we believe that SLM chaplains and Christians in Sport have a great opportunity to have a positive effect on the future direction of our national heroes.

Further information can be obtained from Noel Mitaxa, 98 Barrabool Road, Highton 3216. Phone (052) 44 2464.

OMF Celebrates 100 Years of Australians Serving God in Asia

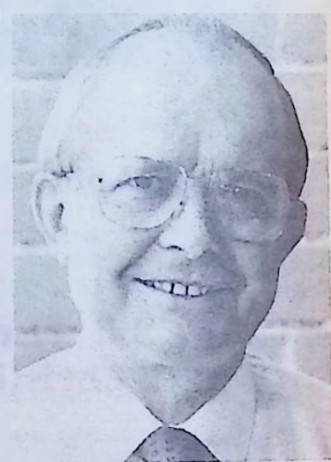
Dr James Hudson Taylor III, General Director of the Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF), is visiting Australia to take part in the mission's centenary celebrations. It is 100 years since his great grandfather, Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission (CIM now OMF), visited this country and established the Australian branch of CIM.

The theme of the year's celebrations is "Glory to God" as OMF looks back on 60 years of Australian missionaries serving in China and then a further 40 years in East Asia. As well as Dr J.H. Taylor, J.O. Sanders, an international speaker and author, will be in Australia taking part in special events around the country. The Source Theatre from New Zealand is bringing a musical drama "Edge of Tomorrow", which is based on the life of Hudson Taylor.

When Hudson Taylor visited Australia in 1890 he spoke at huge public rallies in Sydney, Melbourne, Launceston and Adelaide. The crowds were moved by his passionate concern for the unevangelised millions of China and by his strong conviction that God would raise up enough "willing skilful workers" to go. When he returned to China he took 12 new Australian missionaries with him.

In the next 60 years, 301 Australians joined hundreds from other countries who worked in China with CIM. They faced many hardships as they founded churches, schools and hospitals. The widespread Christian witness going on in China today is in part their legacy.

The Communist takeover of China meant the end of mission work and CIM looked to



Dr James Hudson Taylor III

new fields and a new name. CIM became Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) and began work in the countries of East Asia: Cambodia, Hong Kong, Laos, the Philippines, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. In the last 40 years 219 Australians have served in these countries.

Today OMF has some 1,000 missionaries of 27 nationalities, including Asians. 70 are Australians. They are engaged in church planting; urban, rural and tribal evangelism; leadership training and theological education; student and industrial outreach; translation and literature production; medical work and media ministries.

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Philippines—Help for Street Children

When 12-year old Hil was beaten by up a security guard for scavenging through a restaurant rubbish bin, he was pushing a small wooden cart. This was his office and his home.

He slept in it and kept his life's possessions in it. In a secret box in his cart was Hil's savings—enough for two meals and a month at school. He firmly believed that one day he would go to school.

He was found behind the bars of the Olongapo jail by two workers with the PREDA Centre. Today Hil attends classes and is learning a trade.

Life on the Street

The streets of Olongapo in the Philippines are home to over 3,000 children (out of a total population of 200,000).

Their work and life style expose them to a range of health problems. Children as young as 9 or 10 have taken to drug abuse. They are sometimes rounded up and sent to prison, where they mix with hardened criminals.

Some are children who ran

away from home; others have been abandoned by their parents.

"Childhood for Children"

The PREDA (Prevent and Rehabilitate Drug Abusers) Human Development Centre began its work in 1973. It began as an organisation to help young drug abusers.

PREDA now concentrates on the prevention of drug abuse and related problems.

Normally PREDA is able to finance most of its activities through its thriving handicrafts co-operative. Because more money is needed for its "Childhood for Children" program, Force Ten is providing funds for that program.

Two groups of children take part in the program. The first is composed of children who continue to live on the street but use the centre's "drop-in" facilities.

The second group are children who live permanently at the centre. PREDA pays for them to attend school, and they earn pocket money through the handicraft industry.

PREDA aims not only to feed and shelter them but to address the underlying problems that forced them onto the street. The staff try to reconcile the children with their families.

This involves counselling of both children and their families. If families are reconciled, the children—and their parents—are still welcome at PREDA's drop-in centre, activi-

ties and outings. Realising that poverty and family breakdown are often closely related, PREDA also aims to provide work and training opportunities for parents as well as children. It also provides legal aid for street children who are jailed without charges.

PREDA expects that the program will cost about \$41,000 a year for the next two years.

Papua New Guinea Revisited

After receiving a phone call from my daughter Fay, who had just arrived back in Papua New Guinea, to ask could I help Manis renovate a house for her at Chungribu, I was soon on my way. It had been six years since my last trip. It was good to be able to renew friendships, to meet and make new friends, and to see much development.

Besides building, I had the opportunity to go on four flights with Peter van Zanen, the MAF pilot, and landed on five of our mission airstrips; to travel by dug-out canoe (about a five-hour "drive") from Momonup to Yamen, where I spent three days; returning to Momonup for the graduation service of the Men's Bible School; and to drive the coast road from Bunapas to Madang.

I was impressed with the work being done both by our missionaries and the local Christians. It was pleasing to meet some of the national leaders: Pekene (Conference President), Atibam and Manis (both Past-Presidents), Mukok, Din, Paul, John, Jika, Yamuri, Raphael and others.

To see 11 men come to Chungribu for training with Hosea Bule, go out for two weeks on an outreach trip to share Christ and the Gospel in some isolated villages, and to see them return, and hear their reports of what God had done in the areas visited, challenged me.

At Yamen, I saw a group of men and women doing Bible

studies with John Bassett, after which they returned to teach others in their own villages what they had learned. I also saw what Aileen Draney has been doing with the Girls' Bible School, and the way the girls responded to her leadership.

Now she is back in Australia she will be greatly missed, not only at Yamen, but in our overall mission outreach.

The work of Rosalie Rofe, Hosea Bule, David Harmer and Graeme Batley as pastor advisers has to be seen to be fully appreciated. They have to leave home and families, to visit villages and churches in many areas.

Ian Flood is to be commended for his efforts as Director of Technical Services (with the help of Geoff Maxwell). It is no easy task to arrange for materials to be trucked out from Madang to Bunapas, and then to send them by dug-out canoe to Chungribu—a day's journey up river.

I could write, too, about the services of other mission personnel: Diana Catts, Fay Christensen and the Kerrisons in the business office, but the best thing I can suggest is to arrange to go and see for yourselves. You'll come home with a new vision of the great task to be done for God in that land, and a new appreciation of the work being carried out in a hot climate, under difficult circumstances.

—Horace Christensen



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105th Conference
9-12 May 1990

John Hunter
Conference President

- Wednesday, 9 May
 - 7 pm President's Reception (by invitation)*
- Thursday, 10 May
 - 10 am CWF Conference—Auburn
- Friday, 11 May
 - 10 am Ministers/Ministers' Wives Session—Telopea
 - "Leadership in the 90s"
 - 7.45 pm Mission Rally—Telopea
- Saturday, 12 May
 - 9 am Business and Inspirational Session*
 - 12.30 pm Lunch—BYO or order at Morning Tea
 - 2 pm Forum—"Churches of Christ—Possible Direction for the Future"
 - Group Discussion
 - 5 pm Close
 - 7.30 pm Conference Youth Event
- Monday, 13 May—Thursday, 16 May
 - Ministers' Refresher—Stanwell Tops

* At CYTA Centre, 2 Clyde Street, Silverwater (plenty of parking)

Classifieds

BIRTHS

JOHNSON (BANKS) To Lisbeth and Mark, a son, Kelvin Vere, born 31 March at Wm Angliss Hospital. Brother for Candice. Grandson for Trevor and Helen.

DEATHS

GALLOWAY Mary, at "Carinya", aged 94 years, on 31.3.1990. Beloved wife of Duncan (Dec). Loved mother of Betty, Keith and Don, and mother-in-law of Roger, Pat and Carolyn. Loving Grandma of 11 and 18 great-grandchildren. We thank God for a good Christian mother.

IN MEMORIAM

SCOTT Robert John (Bob). Just 12 months since you closed your eyes, Treasured memories keep you very near. Forever in our hearts. Betty and family.

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8.00 am & 10.00 am

St James' Anglican Church, King St, Turramurra
7.00 pm Chatswood Central Uniting Church
883 Pacific Highway, Chatswood

SUNDAY 13 MAY—Edward Muhima

8.00 am St Paul's Anglican Church, 65 Rosa St, Oatley
7.30 pm Combined Celebration Service, Kiama Showground Pavilion

MONDAY 14 MAY—Gresford Chitemo & Edward Muhima

7.00 pm AE Dinner at Mosman Town Hall, Military Rd, Spit Junction
For details: telephone Shane Marshall (02) 906 1252

MELBOURNE

WEDNESDAY 16 MAY—Gresford Chitemo

7.45 pm Blackburn Baptist Church Missionary Conference
27 Holland Rd, Blackburn
For details: telephone (03) 878 4622

THURSDAY 17 MAY & FRIDAY 18 MAY—Gresford Chitemo

7.30 pm Swanston St Church of Christ Missionary Conference
Swanston St, Melbourne For details: (03) 663 3854

SUNDAY 20 MAY—Gresford Chitemo

9.00 am 11.00 am 7.45 pm
Blackburn Baptist Church, 27 Holland Rd, Blackburn

SATURDAY 2 JUNE—Gresford Chitemo

Pentecost 90 Conference
Dallas Brooks Hall, Victoria Parade, East Melbourne
Workshops 10.30 am and 2.30 pm - Edward Muhima

SUNDAY 3 JUNE—Gresford Chitemo

10.00 am St John's Anglican Church, 86 Clendon Rd, Toorak
7.00 pm Christ Church Anglican Church
Cnr Mooreboole & McKillop Sts, Geelong

SUNDAY 3 JUNE—Edward Muhima

10.00 am St Paul's Anglican Church, Dandenong Rd, Malvern
7.00 pm St Hilary's Anglican Church, John St, Kew

TUESDAY 5 JUNE—Gresford Chitemo

7.00 pm AE Dinner at Melbourne Grammar School
Domain Rd, South Yarra

WEDNESDAY 6 JUNE—Gresford Chitemo

8.00 pm St John's Anglican Church, 86 Clendon Rd, Toorak

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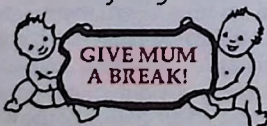


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New Directions



Michael, Ronald and Jenny Schepis

The induction of Ron Schepis into the full-time ministry of the East Keilor, Vic, church marked a significant and historical move, as this is the first full-time ministry fully supported by the church. 130 attended the service, at which Gordon Moyes gave a challenging address.

Don Smith brought the reading and a greeting from the Vic-Tas Conference. Church elders Lynette Leach and John Cheal inducted Ron into the ministry. Symbols were used to represent the shared ministry of the church: the Bible (preaching, teaching and study), water (new life/baptism), the church directory (pastoral care) and bread and wine (spiritual food).

During the service the Schepis family, Ron, Jenny, Michael and Rachel, were welcomed into fellowship.

On the following week Ron commenced a "Living the Je-

sus Life Style" series of addresses, looking at Matthew's gospel, to help the members discover how to live as Christians with integrity in the 1990s. The series began with "Understanding Easter", which culminated in Easter week services, a highlight of which was the newly formed group of singers and musicians.

A re-creation of a Passover meal on the Thursday evening before Easter was one of three special services held at the church. This meal was attended by 27 and provided an insight into the tradition, symbolism and history of the Passover. The importance of the Passover was brought out by Ron as he told the story of the Israelite people in Egypt, their slavery to Pharaoh and their release by God through the plagues and the death of the first born of the Egyptians. The Jews remember how the blood on the door post and lintel of their houses caused the Angel of Death to "pass over" and spare their first born.

The Good Friday service was based on Matthew's account of the trial and crucifixion of Jesus.

People were invited to pin to the cross a piece of paper on which they had acknowledged the fact that Jesus died for their sins.

On Easter morning the focus was one of celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.

18,408 Communion Glasses —The Price of Growth

In 1989, the Marion, SA, church averaged 354 communicants per week for the full 52 weeks of the year (that's 18,408 communion glasses in all). The figure represents an all-time record for the church and an increase of more than 100% on the average number of communicants when the church first opened almost 11 years ago.

Jean McMurtrie heads up the team of people who serve on the communion washing-up roster and she can testify

that the job each week is a sizeable one. "But it's worth it," says Jean, "when you see the growth that has taken place!"

In fact, last year was a record year for Marion in other ways as well: 35 were baptised, total giving was \$212,000, over 1,000 were assisted through the ministry of the Community Centre and scores took part in the Small Group program.

"This year looks like being a fantastic year also," says Graham Agnew, leader of the ministry team.



Graham Agnew (senior minister), Jean McMurtrie (communion co-ordinator) and Brian Ricketts (associate minister for Christian education)

Tasmanian CWF

Margaret St, Launceston was the venue for the 68th annual state CWF Conference held on 18 March.

The afternoon meeting commenced with a time of worship and praise in song conducted by June Younger.

State President, Naomi Neville, welcomed the 65 who attended, especially Phyl Davis, President of Vic-Tas Conference, and Helen Hall, President-elect of Vic-Tas CWF, who as guest speaker introduced her theme "This is the Day".

Following the business session and election of officers Helen led in a prayer of dedication.

Incoming State President, Val Warwick, introduced her theme "Towards the Top—Together".

Musical items were presented by Leonie Cripps, Helen Peart and Doris Allen, accompanied by musicians Noreen Gibson and Gwen Byard.

Gwen Morffew gave a report of progress on the new building at Camp Seaview, Bicheno and the continuing need for various resources.

The closing worship segment was presented by Shirley Sinfield with an audio-visual meditation.

—Lilly Johnson

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Joint Chaplains



Lyn and Paul Cannon

Lyn and Paul Cannon have just commenced as chaplains at the Northam, WA, Senior High School. They have had an exciting time and God has answered many prayers from the inception of the concept by the Rev Murray Brown in 1986 to the enthusiasm by the Northam Christian churches in accepting and recommending them to the CCE, who have supported them in their desire to be joint chaplains.

Lyn and Paul trained at the West Australian Bible College, where Paul obtained a degree in missiology and Lyn is continuing towards a diploma. They have had experience in a variety of youth work, Lyn particularly as she worked with YCF for eight years. They are both continuing studies with

WACAE towards a comprehensive training in Scripture teaching. Paul has continued tertiary studies with Deakin University by extension.

They have two boys, Jonathan, 4, who has just started pre-school and Hayden, 2. They attend the Northam church and are excited by the support of this church.

Meeting the 60 staff and 690 students was less daunting knowing that people were praying for them in the Northam churches. Their ministry emphasis as joint chaplains is the need to show Australian youth the positive benefits of marriage in their role model, and their style of ministry is to build genuine caring relationships and to serve others as did Christ.

Local Leader Joins Ministry Team in Kensington Christian Network

Julie Mitchell, long-time member of the Kensington, Vic, Christian Network, has been unanimously endorsed by the house church group, to join the ministry team in the area. Julie has been ministering in a special capacity for a few years now, and Kensington Christian Network decided to recognise her gifts and service, by appointing her in a role alongside Kim Thoday and Mike Esbensen.

A resident of the high-rise flats, and active in various community groups, Julie is on the front line of ministry to local people in Kensington. She is mother of Wendy (6) and Susan (3), and has vital personal contact with other mums in the area.

Julie is undertaking part-time study in pastoral care and counselling this year through the Churches of Christ Theological College. She is keen to enhance her skills in this area.

Julie took up her appointment with Kim and Mike in February and they are thrilled with the opportunity to minister with indigenous local people.

Julie's work will involve person-to-person contact, pas-



Julie Mitchell

toral visitation in the high-rise flats, and heavy involvement with the mission of Kensington Christian Network. One person has pledged a small, regular amount to help provide Julie with an income.

Will you consider supporting Julie and Kensington Christian Network in this way, too? Gifts for Julie's ministry may be forwarded to the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development, 52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne 3000, marked for her support.

National Marriage and Family Week

(6-13 May)

As a counter to all the negative influences on marriage relationships and as a contribution to healthy family life the Marriage and Family Week National Council encourages and assists families to focus on their life together each May.

The theme of this year's leaflet is "Growing Healthy Families".

There are three studies. Each contains an introductory section, group discussion material and related activities for the whole family. Study 1 suggests ways of giving affirma-

tion and showing love in the family. Study 2 is about transforming our scarce resource of time with the family into quality time. Study 3 considers the way healthy families encourage change as essential to health and continuing maturity.

It was back in 1959 that the concept of a week focusing on healthy family life came to Dr Cliff Wright, then Director of Christian Education in the Methodist Conference of Victoria and Tasmania. A national council was formed.

After serving as chairman until February 1990, Dr Wright handed over this responsibility

to Canon Bruce Reddrop, director for 28 years of the Anglican Marriage Guidance Council.

Canon Reddrop sees the role of the organisation as "helping to make marriage the best it can be: helping those struggling with their marriage, and helping good marriages to become better".

Orders for this year's leaflet are now being taken by the Children's Aid Society, 376 Highett Road, Highett 3190, phone (03) 553 4511.

The cost is 10c per leaflet plus postage.

—Keith Tupper

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Delegates to the Christian Conference of Asia

The Department of Christian Union has invited Alan and Iris Page to represent our churches at the 9th Assembly of CCA to be held in Manila, Philippines, 4-13 June. Both Alan and Iris are committed to the call of Christ for his people to be one, and are involved in the ecumenical movement.

After graduation from the College of the Bible (now CCTC) in 1963, Alan ministered to several congregations in Victoria. He is particularly concerned about the "isms" that separate and deny the opportunity of "full life" to all. He served 15 years as secretary of the Commission on Social Questions of the Victorian Council of Churches and is currently a member of the Commission of World Christian Action of ACC.

Iris has also been active at the local churches and at conference level. She served over 10 years on the executive of Good Companions and in 1982-86 as treasurer of state CWF. She holds the dual positions of treasurer of the federal and state departments of Chris-

tian Union, is an executive member of the VCC and is on the Committee for the Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women.

When the Pages return they will be available to speak of their experiences, and the concerns of the Asian regions. The theme of the assembly is "Christ Our Peace...Building a Just Society".

The Department will pay half the expenses, while Alan and Iris meet the remainder. The department would like help to meet its commitment: gifts can be sent to D. Allison, 28 Potter St, Black Rock 3193.

The ACC has set aside an initial amount of \$10,000 in response to the call from the South African Council of Churches to help them with emergency assistance for the thousands of people injured and made homeless by the riots of Pietermaritzburg. 104 were killed in the riots, 300 houses destroyed and 14,000 displaced.

Persecution and Pressure in China

The church situation in China is deteriorating in the wake of hardline political policies. The following cases of persecution and pressure are based on the report of a former house-church leader who recently visited Shanghai, and obtained reliable information from a wide circle of Christians all over China and other information.

- 20 Roman Catholic priests and laymen were reportedly arrested in Beijing this February. 12 pro-Vatican Bishops were arrested last December in a systematic sweep of North and West China.

- In North China True Jesus Church and Seventh Day Adventist house-churches which refused to join the Three Self were closed down Oct/Nov 1989.

- House-churches in Henan have been broken up and closed down.

- In Shanghai, house-church leader Xu Guoxing who was rather overt in his evangelism was arrested last June.

- In Shanghai, a house-church was surrounded and forced to close on 9 December; other house-churches well-attended by young people have since been closed. Some attended by elderly Christians have been left.

- In Anging, Anhui, the Public Security Bureau have been investigating two evangelists (husband and wife) who went to Dongzhi County to preach.

- In another city in Anhui the police have been investigating a Pastor Chen who has engaged in itinerant evangelism.

- In Fuyang County, north Anhui, there are 200,000 Christians. Since 1987, 75% of them (150,000) have left the Three Self because of strong dissatisfaction with political control, and have faced persecution.

- In Lingbi County, Shandong, the Party's United Front Work Department forbade a Christian leader from preaching there last November.

- In Wuhan University a Japanese teacher who had taught there for four and a half years was expelled on 20 January for "conducting illegal religious activities".

- China's best-known house-church leader, Lin Xiangao of Guangzhou (Canton) was arrested and interrogated on 22 February, then released, but all meetings for his church of 1,000 have been prohibited.

- Soon after martial law was declared in Beijing on 19 May 1989 two house-church leaders in Linhe, western Inner Mongolia were arrested. On 14 September 1989, Liu Qinglin, a house-church evangelist in Zalantun, eastern Inner Mongolia was arrested, charged with "wide-scale superstitious healing activity" and sentenced to "re-education through labour". He had set up 20 house-churches and baptised nearly 3,000.

- In Dongyang County, Zhejiang Province, seven Christians are still in prison since the crack-down there in 1983.

14. FEBC have also had recent letters from Gansu and Shaanxi provinces detailing harassment and persecution of house-church Christians.

On 3 March Ron Wuzhi, the Head of China's Religious Affairs Bureau, stated in Hong Kong that reports of arrests of Christians were "sheer rumour".

—Tony Lambert (OMF China Program Research Officer, Hong Kong)

Noel Baxter, minister of the Kedron, Qld, church has recently been appointed chaplain to the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) of Queensland.

The Bangladeshi Government has lifted all bans on the importing and distribution of the *Injil Sharif*, the Bangla language edition of the New Testament. We reported the ban in the 24 March issue of *The Australian Christian*.

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Hobart couple Anne and Greg Foot have recently returned from an 18-day tour of World Vision projects in Bangladesh, India and Thailand. The tour had a profound effect on the couple, and they shared their impressions with Rosina Beaumont of the Hobart Mercury

Towards a World with No Have-nots

A new set of memories has entered the lives of Anne and Greg Foot: memories of human degradation and poverty, of life on rubbish dumps and in shanty towns beside swamps.

But much more numerous are the memories of the human spirit striving and surviving in even the most appalling conditions.

Now that life is once more routine, after their 18-day tour of World Vision projects in Bangladesh, Thailand and Calcutta, India, the memories that are brightest for the Foots are those of spontaneous hospitality and warm welcomes from people who have nothing, and of people who have never known more than poverty striving to create a future for themselves.

For Greg, the state manager of World Vision in Tasmania, the experience has had an huge impact, strengthening his realisation of the value of World Vision's efforts to empower people in Third World countries in the battle against poverty and hunger.

For Anne, a senior childcare adviser in Tasmania's Department of Community Services,



Greg and Anne Foot

it has also meant a depth of respect for the work of World Vision, and a questioning of assumed Western values of life style and affluence.

The general impressions of the places they visited have been fleshed out for them by the individuals who filled their lives for those 18 days.

For Anne there are the children she held in Mother Teresa's orphanage in Calcutta, little girls who had been abandoned in rubbish bins or the gutter; or the mother of the Foots' sponsored child in Bangkok and the tears that flowed down her face when the Foots offered some small help.

And there are the babies and small children in the World Vision childcare centre built in the very middle of On Noot, the largest dump in Bangkok, where there are 200 children

sponsored by World Vision.

For Greg the memories are of the dedication of the medical staff in a small World Vision project school in a slum in Dhaka, caring for young victims of accidents and comforting the parents.

Or there were the young men who attended a World Vision adult education class in a village in Bangladesh to learn about family planning, budgeting and management after a long day working in the fields.

Anne says the tour was not an experience she was looking forward to.

"I was very apprehensive about the trip, because I get very upset when I am confronted by people suffering, especially children in need," she said. "I was worried that it would be an emotional trauma, but the only times I cried were when we met our sponsored

child and Mother Teresa.

"The poverty and the suffering were there, but everywhere we went we saw positive things happening, so we were left with a sense of hope and not depression. The people were so positive and friendly you just couldn't feel sad."

Among the 11 World Vision projects the Foots visited were an outreach project in Dhaka providing presurgical care for sponsored children, a rural development project in Bangladesh, where women are taught sewing to supplement their income, a community development project in the Dum Dum slum in Calcutta and a community centre and library in Bangkok's biggest slum, Klong Toey.

"What struck me about the projects is that we are not trying to impose Western solutions or conditions," Greg said.

"In a number of places there are community councils which work with World Vision. Most of the World Vision workers are indigenous and the projects are carefully researched to find exactly what the community needs.

"Unless a community owns a project it will not be effective."

The Foots have returned to Australia acutely aware of the inequalities between the industrialised nations and the Third World and how effective Western money can be in the Third World.

When they visited their sponsored child in Thailand they were prompted to help the girl's family, which had recently lost everything in a flood.

The family's income had also been reduced when the mother, who laboured in the fields for the equivalent of a dollar a day, had injured her hand when a rock fell on it.

World Vision, with the help of village labour, was about to

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build the family a new home. "We bought them a mosquito net, two blankets, towels, clothes for the family, a sleeping mat and some toys," Anne said. "And it all came to just over \$100."

"The whole visit has made me committed to what World Vision is doing, and made me realise that what is really very little here in Australia can go a long way in the Third World."

"It is just not right to say the problem is so great that we might as well do nothing. A little can go a long way. One less ice-cream or Mars bar a week can make a big difference to a child in the Third World."

The pair were impressed by the resourcefulness of people in the Third World, how little they need to be content, and what little waste they produce compared with people in the West.

"It has made me question a lot of things about the way we live—simple things to do with conservation and with the proper use of resources so that what resources we have in this world can be enjoyed by everyone," Anne said.

Statistics comparing Australia's overseas-aid budget with its domestic welfare budget have made the Foots see the gap between industrialised nations and the Third World. Australia pays as much in a month to welfare recipients in Australia as it does in a year for overseas aid, and Australians spend every year the equivalent of the overseas-aid budget (about \$1 billion) on ice-cream.

"I think the most important thing is that we question what we do in our own lives and what we spend, and that we are always aware of the huge contrasts between our lives and those of people in the Third World," Greg said.

"I don't know if I will ever be the same again. I will now always be conscious of how these people really live, even though we shared their lives for only a short time. The world is a shrinking place—it is vital that we all become more aware of how other people live."

"We've taught them kids stuff and their minds are beyond that" Faith and Religious Studies

by Bruce Waldron

It isn't the first time it has happened. The student sitting in my office had just finished talking to me about a question in her VCE Religious Studies paper. I asked her how her faith was holding up. It was a question born of long experience.

Like many others who do "Biblical Studies" out of a desire to put their faith into their studies, her faith was in strife.

"I've done the other creation stories and the epic of Gilgamesh," she said. "But I really feel the rug has been ripped out from under me. They never told us any of this at Sunday School and it's really hard to know what I should believe."

Some of us will blame the Biblical Studies subjects for this and simply say that it proves again the danger of "theology". I think that's a bit like my friend who likes to keep his wind-screen dirty because all the traffic out there scares him.

There are several issues it raised for me and I want to talk about them.

• It's not enough to say to emerging adults: "Don't look at it, it's too hard." Many of our children have left the church

feeling cheated because they get out into the world and find that we, as the church, have not been willing to look at the issues they are going to have to face. If kids hit Biblical Studies and can't handle it then we've not done our job. We've taught them kids stuff and their minds are beyond that. We need to look at putting people with some theological training in charge of teaching young students. The hard questions of an academic world must be addressed.

• Churches must take special care of our young people, who are facing hard questions and whose mind is developing past the simple faith stage. So often their faith is left at a 10-year-old's level, while their belief is at an undergraduate stage. If we don't address this and do something to help them develop an adult spirituality at a concomitant level with their intellectual work, they will become disenchanted, confused and distressed. It takes a pretty mature spirituality to handle adult academic questions about your faith.

People studying theology, whether at VCE or tertiary level, should have spiritual directors

who have been there and done it, and who have a strong faith themselves.

• It concerns me that we still have a rather naive idealistic view of education: an enlightenment mentality: "If we learn enough we will be wise." I know enough really smart people who add a lot less joy and light to the world than the "dumb" ones to realise that knowledge in the academic sense is only a part of the answer. It is good to educate people, but education is not only the information process. It is hollow without a deep and mature spirituality. We need both.

I feel angry tonight as I thought about that girl, and a little helpless. I have encouraged her to work at her spirituality, to train that side of herself too. I've encouraged her to spend time with a mature Christian lady who will help her in this side of her development. My frustration is that this is only one kid. It's the ones that no-one will know about that hurts me. Pray for them won't you?

• Bruce Waldron is the chaplain at the Warragul, Vic, High School.

Sticks, Stones and Bones

by Hazel Bassett (PNG)

Have you ever felt like you have bitten off more than you could chew? I was faced with such a situation when studying Genesis with the teachers at Yamen. We started talking about geological and archaeological finds that support Biblical accounts. It was then I realised my mistake. How do you explain digging up whole cities to people whose houses are made of wood and bamboo which rot very quickly? They have little concept of things lasting a life-

time, let alone being dug up centuries later.

Two hours and a lot of questions and answers later, the teachers left with a new appreciation for science. But even more importantly, they left with a new enthusiasm for God's Word. Each week as we have worked through the books of the Old Testament, their love for Scripture has grown. They have been inspired by Joseph, and taught lessons by the Israelites as they wandered in the desert. They have learnt about

good and bad qualities of leadership from Moses, Joshua and the Judges. The Bible has indeed become a manual on how to live. But how do we view God's Word? Is it just sticks, stones, bones and dead rotting wood or is it our manual on how to live the abundant life? We need to put God's Word back into its rightful position. We need to be opening our ears to what it is saying, just as the Yamen teachers are. Discover God's Word today. It has something relevant to say to you.

Last year when we got to the letter Q in our alphabetical tour of churches around Australia we said Queenstown, SA, was the only Church of Christ in Australia beginning with the letter. Now Quairading has joined the list.

Quairading (pronounced "kwair-a-ding") is situated in the middle of Western Australia's wheat belt, 167 km east of Perth. It is a small town of 600, in a shire of only 1,500. The surrounding farms are mainly wheat and sheep.

The first service of the Quairading Church of Christ was held on 12 February 1989. This followed 18 months of weekly Bible studies held in the town by Dean Smith, then associate minister at Kalamunda. The Bible studies were commenced after a couple from Quairading had made a commitment to Christ. The Bible study meetings were held in the couple's home and numbers began to grow into the twenties. Dean Smith had a desire for church planting, and the eldership at Kalamunda suggested Quairading was the place to plant a church, as he

already had a presence in the town and as there was no full-time minister there of any denomination.

The church began with 12 local people and it has now grown with new converts to the stage where there are 45 to 50 meeting on Sunday mornings. They meet in the Town

in 1983. He did an internship at Kalamunda before becoming the associate minister there. Dean's farming experience and practical abilities have been invaluable in the work at Quairading.

There are lots of things happening in the life of this very young church—new people

ing in the school. The Church of Christ and the Roman Catholics are the only people conducting this. The Church of Christ teaching team comprises eight parents, who teach 50–60 children of the school of about 150.

Already a need can be seen for an after-school group for children, and youth work is another priority that will have to be addressed as resources become available.

At the moment the youth do sometimes meet with Kalamunda on a casual basis.

The Town Hall may not always be available, so sometime soon the Quairading church will have to look for its own venue.

Dean Smith has a vision: "Why can't there be a church of 200 here?" he asks.

Already in the short time it has existed the church is recognised in the community as the Church of Christ, and it is estimated that it is ministering to 10% of the community in one way or another.

With God's help the vision could be realised before very long.

Focus on Quairading

Hall, but this can change if this venue is required for other functions. There have been shearing-shed services, baptisms in dams and dawn services. It is said people have to come every week to find out where they are meeting next. An evening praise and worship service is held in the Smith's home.

Dean Smith and his wife Heather have seven children, ranging in age from 15 down to nine weeks.

Dean was born and bred in South Australia and comes from a farming background. He took up farming in Esperance in 1979, was saved in 1981 and began at the WA Bible College

coming and people growing in their faith. There is much to do, but God is active in the church, which comprises mostly younger people. The emphasis, naturally enough, is on young families and young people.

During the week the mission of the church is to women—there are four discipleship groups that cater to almost all the women of the church—and in home fellowship groups. Three of these meet fortnightly on an evening, alternating with a "School for Christian Growth", a corporate teaching time attended by about 30.

A feature of the work in Quairading is Scripture teach-

Growing Spiritually

Quiet Times for Busy Mums

by Angelica Mason

My life used to be really organised. Every morning there was a half hour set aside for "quiet time". Then along came our daughter, Sarah, and neat time slots went out the window. I don't need to tell you that babies are a 24-hour-a-day job, not to mention unpredictable. In the mornings I would be trying to recover from night wakings; when she slept in the day I madly tried to cram in as much housework as possible; in the evenings I dropped into bed exhausted, knowing that I'd probably be woken again in

an hour or two. Help Lord! What's happened to my quiet time with you? I need it so desperately and yet all I seem to be capable of is feeling guilty for not having it.

I cried out to the Lord, and being the sort of God he is—faithful, loving, merciful—he answered me. No, not overnight, but a continuing progress began. He sent someone to pray for me, and through her promised to give me creativity in spending time with him and an ability to be "in the Spirit" quickly. He said, "Don't be a Martha, be a Mary, your housework won't be neglected by

spending time with me."

I came to see that a quiet time doesn't always mean a long period in a prayer closet (junior could be up to anything), but can be a series of "watering holes" throughout the day: reading a psalm over a cup of tea, praying for someone at feeding time, singing some praise songs with baby, reading a meditation while she is outside with daddy.

Each morning I like to ask the Lord to draw me to the quiet place with him during the day. More often than not it's when Sarah goes down for a sleep. On those days when it

just doesn't work out, I don't struggle any more, but realise that I need to depend on God's grace all the more.

Recently I read that being still is an essential ingredient of sanity. God knows that in our busy lives we so desperately need to come and drink in of his Spirit and resources. He also knows that little ones need a great deal of our time. His promise is: "He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms, he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young." Isaiah 40:11.

• Angelica Mason is a member of the Noble Park/Keysborough, Vic, church.

The Dead Sea Scrolls Debate

The theories of Barbara Thiering on ABC television regarding the Dead Sea Scrolls have caused much debate. Two responses:

Bruce Waldron:

There are many unanswered questions in Barbara Thiering's hypothesis.

- It is certain that the four gospels were written to different parts of the Roman Empire, to different groups. Why would this be done if the reality of the gospels could only be understood by the paisha method of reading the scriptures? If only a few indoctrinated people could understand why bother writing for different groups?

- John's gospel says that "these things are written that you might believe, and have life". Barbara Thiering talks about the hiddenness of Jesus' teachings but this is referring to those who don't want to hear or understand. The gospels are written to help people believe, not confound them.

- She says that the scrolls refer to Jesus as the "Wicked Priest" for softening the commandments, and to John as the "Teacher of Righteousness". They are both believed to be priests of Qumran. Yet there is no reference anywhere else to Jesus or John as priests, only prophets. The only exception to this is in reference to the Risen Christ who is referred to as our "Great High Priest".

- She suggests that there was enmity between the two yet all references suggest that John and Jesus were not only complementary to each other's work but supported each other: "John...is greater than any man

who has ever lived." "When John was dead his disciples came and told Jesus."

- If Jesus was in such poor standing with the Essenes, why would they save his life and take him back as Dr Thiering claims?

- Were the Romans such inefficient executioners that they would allow a potential Messiah to live and pretend to return to life? Would they not be able to find him and kill him? Surely they knew about the Essene community?

- Thiering claims a dating difference of from 150 BC (traditional dating) to at least 30 AD, a difference of 180 years. The strongest support she could get was an admission that a 25-year discrepancy either way is possible.

- There is no reference anywhere in the scriptures to the Essene community. Is this not strange if both Jesus and John were members of it?

- Dr Thiering points to similarities in language and symbols. This is not surprising as even in a rapidly changing society like ours many sayings and colloquialisms remain. How much more in the ancient world and Judaism where things changed very slowly and traditions formed the fabric of life. Similarities could remain for centuries, not just decades. They should be expected. Parallels are inevitable.

- Why did the disciples die and suffer? What caused their change of heart from the cowardice of the closing chapters

of the gospels to the courage of Acts? According to Dr Thiering they planned Jesus' resurrection, so where did their courage and conviction come from?

- If Thiering is right, Jesus was a fraud. Could truth come from such a person who had delusions of grandeur and whose disciples deliberately misled people after his near death? Do such people as this teach followers to adhere to the truth, to be moral?

- Dr Thiering does not propose a re-appraisal of the gospels. She is proposing a new philosophy. If our salvation comes by other means than that which Christians have affirmed for 2,000 years, Christ was not dead, there is no resurrection, there is no divine "yes" to his work and words. "Then we are of all people most to be pitied."

• Bruce Waldron is the chaplain at Warragul, Vic, High School.

Bryan Mee:

I am puzzled by the attention of late by the media to Barbara Thiering and her theories regarding the Dead Sea Scrolls. Though not an academic with the time or language skills to investigate the scrolls personally, a number of questions do arise in my mind.

- How can a teacher resident in Australia raise doubts or interpretations about documents that the resident scholars in Israel, Jewish and Chris-

tian, with constant access to the documents, have never raised? Is there something about our southern sun that gives her peculiar insight?

- How is it that one voice, to wit Barbara Thiering's, can be given such media coverage when the collective voice of orthodox scholars can only be heard in reaction? Is it still true that the only news worth printing is bad or in this case diabolical? Why is it that the evidence of history and numerous and diverse scholars is put aside in favour of the thoughts of a maverick academic?

It would seem to me that some people in the ABC or related to the media can't face up to the reality of Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection.

They would rather try and remake Christianity after their own image. People like this have been around for centuries.

200 years ago a Frenchman, Monsieur Lepeaux, tried and failed to win a single follower. He asked the statesman, Bishop Tallyrand, what he could do to improve his chances.

After much consideration Tallyrand said he hardly knew how to advise him, but he suggested he try crucifixion and returning to life three days later.

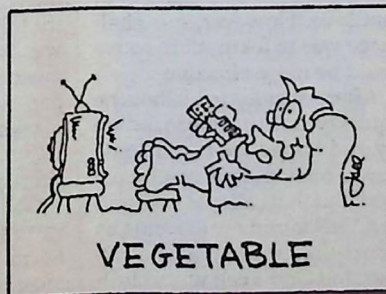
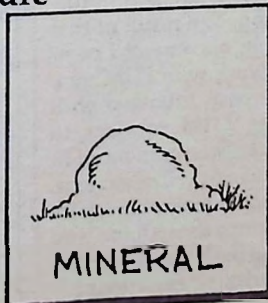
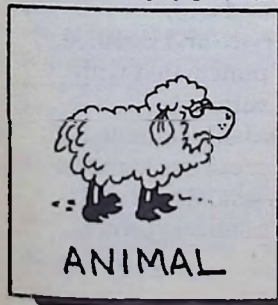
Therein lies the problem for Barbara Thiering and the media behind her.

Christ did die, he arose again and the promise is he will return once more.

St Paul, in the first letter to the Corinthians puts it like this, "Where is the wiseman? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?...but we preach Christ crucified: A stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."

• Bryan Mee is the minister at the Nerang, Qld, church.

Pontius' Puddle



Student Profile

• **Gerry Doyle**

Called To Higher Service

I sat in my boss's office with my mind racing. He had just asked me to take responsibility for the company sales operations. It should have been a dream come true.

The company was market leader in a multimillion dollar industry. As the conditions and salary package was outlined I was thinking, "Oh Lord, what about college? I have made up my mind to serve you, to go to college as a full-time student and now this!" It was so ironical. Just at the time I had decided to let go of my career a long-time ambition was fulfilled. I asked for 24 hours to think the offer over. I went back to my office, closed the door, diverted my telephone calls and tried to weigh up the pros and cons. After an hour of getting nowhere I picked up the phone and called Graeme Wigney, registrar of the Churches of Christ Theological College, to seek his advice. Graeme must have recognised a degree of anxiety in my voice for he told me to come over straight away.

As I drove to college I thought through what God was doing in my life. Until nine years ago I didn't know Christ—and I didn't want to. I was doing OK on my own thank you. It was only a serious illness in my family and a personal crisis that led me to see how shallow my existence was. One Friday evening in a crowded hotel I was celebrating the signing of a large contract with some colleagues when I met two Christians from the Salvation Army who witnessed to the saving love of Christ and told me that God had a plan for my life.

This meeting changed my life. It was the start of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. A relationship that radically changed views, values and priorities.

Sue had retained a faith that she had been brought up in but she rarely attended church. However, getting to know other



Sue and Gerry Doyle with their children Matthew and Katherine

Christians caused her faith to blossom and we soon found ourselves involved in the Christian community.

We both knew God was calling us to service. Yet we did not know in what direction he wanted us to go. The opportunity arose to manage a refuge for women and children in Broken Hill. We accepted this as a short-term assignment. Setting career goals temporarily aside and with two small children we became involved in this work. The barrage of hurting people was almost overwhelming. The one common factor was that each damaged person lacked love in their life. Their hurts could only be healed through love. Our human love ran out too quickly. They needed God's love and our job was to be a channel of that love. However, our challenge was to learn more so we could be more effective.

After returning to Melbourne I quickly took up a job in industry and hoped we could settle down, having done our bit for God! But that call was insistent and 1989 found me enrolling as a part-time student at the college. But God's call was to full-

time service and everything else was secondary.

I had developed a major interest in industrial mission. I could see how the Gospel could have a major influence in shaping business values and how vital it was to work in co-operation with God to help heal and transform people in the workplace.

At college Graeme listened to all this and helped me clarify my options, rapidly arranging for me to discuss ministry issues with other staff. The ready response of the college staff was remarkable. Graeme Chapman gave insight into how ministry and family issues related while Bill Tabbernee discussed opportunities in industrial mission. Bill later arranged for me to meet with the staff of the Interchurch Trade and Industry Mission. The result of that was that in November I commenced work with ITIM on a part-time basis involved with marketing ITIM services to industry. I also commenced in February as a full-time student.

God has a remarkable capacity to surprise us with the way he can lead us through even the most perplexing situations.

• **Comment**

Fund Raising Has Wrong Emphasis

Churches have institutionalised their incapacity to raise funds by promoting giving to the church rather than giving through it, according to Uniting Church minister Rev. Doug McKenzie.

Writing in the church's *Journey* magazine, he says the church should be seen not as a financial burden or a user system, but rather as a resources centre which enables shared spiritual goals to be fulfilled.

He lists eight commandments for promoting giving to the church:

- See the church, not as a user system, but as a resources centre.
- Enable people to give through the church.
- Focus on goals, values and human growth.
- Emphasise how the church is called into existence for service.
- Give the ordinary people an opportunity to engage in fiscal policy making.
- Provide people with multiple opportunities to give through the church.
- Broaden people's options for making gifts.
- Make sure that the committees which deal with the church's money include in their mandate goals for spiritual growth and service in the world.

The Washing

Basin and towel, table and cup,

Service and sacrifice punctuated with suffering.

Lordship humbled; greatness manifest

As sandals fall and followers protest.

—Garry Harris

Leadership

by Steve Downie

It is said there are three reasons why a church grows. They are: leadership, leadership and leadership. The Achilles heel of Churches of Christ is leadership.

It is not the leaders themselves. Churches of Christ leaders have the quality, scholarship and gifts to provide the knowledge and the direction for a sustained move forward for our movement in this decade and beyond.

Rather, it is the system, which is a millstone around our necks, preventing visionary leadership and decision making.

What was acceptable in the past, in the glorious days of our movement, when we gave liberty to authoritarian, charismatic leaders, is no longer welcome in our churches and conferences today.

This is not to say we should return to such a leadership style, it is to point out how differently we now interpret congregational government.

What we have now is a style of leadership that is in bondage to the conflicts of contemporary Churches of Christ culture.

Conferences at federal and state levels need to be overhauled to face the future with integrity and courage.

Churches should be endorsing the leadership to do the Will of God.

The distrust and suspicion often directed at our leadership can no longer be tolerated, because it inhibits the Will of God and white ants the unity of purpose for Churches of Christ in Australia.

Please note I cannot think of one person in conference positions at state or federal level whose head should roll. More importantly is the support we must give them to fulfil their prophetic gifts. We must ask them to take initiatives in ministry and policy (in keeping with normal consultation and the endorsement of the churches, of course).

Another area of major concern for Churches of Christ is the well-being of our ministers. Why some ministers feel alienated and stressed, why some ministers feel alone and burnt out, why some of our ministers leave the ministry and never attend church again require much review, repentance and research. We already know

some of the reasons for the dropout rate—the conflict of expectations, ministry areas that cannot be fulfilled by one person, mediocrity in the church, the loneliness in the prophetic role and the shock to ministers of the bankruptcy of our pastoral care.

There has been a subtle change taking place in the Churches of Christ ministry that is an improvement for the esteem and the anointed appointment that the ministry is under God. In earlier times a church employed a preacher, whose place in the scheme of

things was known: on a Sunday morning the president was in charge of the service, and the minister preached. The minister's status has now changed to that of pastor, with a greater role in planning and direction. In growing congregations of Churches of Christ today the minister is regarded more as one who has the right to lead and direct the worship style and the management model.

We may think these pastors in our successful churches are blessed with intuitive skills and persuasive gifts, and that may be so, but in my view not

enough credit is given to the teamwork and maturity of the elders and deacons of those same churches.

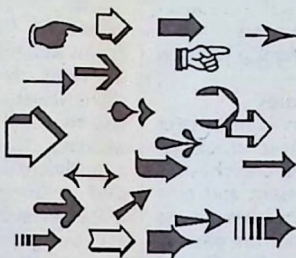
Churches of Christ ministers are trained to work with congregational government and most are happy to earn the right to be respected. What ministers do not need is small-minded pettiness, mismanagement and people elected to pastoral positions who are more adept at political footwork than the authority to implement the Will of God.

There is a haunting scripture in Ezekiel 44:10–14 that speaks of the Levitical priests who were permitted to serve the people but not allowed to serve God. The reasons for this in Ezekiel are not the same as those of Churches of Christ in Australia, but we do need to be watchful in this important period of our movement that we do not so institutionalise our system that we end up unable to serve God.

Now is the time to encourage our conference leaders to take initiatives, sanctify every professional skill and, with the weight of prayer, lead the Churches of Christ movement to do the Will of God in Australia.

Some internal log jams need to be freed to meet the new demands of ministry.

• Steve Downie is the minister at the Mayfield, NSW, church.



The Ghost of Disney

by Stephen Curkpatrick

A few years before I went to a boarding school in Adelaide the headmaster, Mr Disney, had died. Legend had it that he died in the college theatre, so a tradition grew up among boarding students that the "Ghost of Disney" now haunted the place.

Many a Friday or Saturday night was spent by boarding students clandestinely staying in the theatre all night to win a bet. "There was no Ghost of Disney," and they were going to prove it!

The old theatre, next to the boarding house, was full of spooky noises, with creaking doors and possums in the ceiling. Eerie moonlight seeped through high windows, creating deceptive shadows among stage props, which moved in the drafty stage. It was a perfect setting for an Alfred Hitchcock spine chiller. The atmosphere was such that any young boy well versed in legends of the Ghost of Disney was back in his dormitory before midnight, white as a sheet and

scared out of his wits, convinced he had seen the ghost. Losing his bet, he would share his sighting of the Ghost with a dozen wide-eyed dormitory mates in the middle of the night, further perpetuating the story of the Ghost of Disney.

When the disciples saw Jesus, they thought they had seen a ghost. No doubt others tried to convince them "they had only seen a ghost" when they claimed Jesus had risen from the dead. But ghosts, like the Ghost of Disney, only exist in a suggestive environment, in the shadows of moonlight nights and in abandoned houses with nocturnal residents. Ghosts

don't seem to ever appear in the bright light of day, for the same reason mediums must have the "right atmosphere" for a seance. Daytime is always too conducive to scepticism.

When Jesus returned from the dead, he did so in broad daylight, in the open, catching fish and eating breakfast with hungry fishermen. He did that deliberately, to show he was the real thing, not a ghost, for ghosts and conjuring tricks were as prevalent then as they are today.

• Stephen Curkpatrick is the minister at the Epping, NSW, church.

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Craig, Frank Donald (Don)
(5.12.89) Don Craig died at age 63. Before entering the full-time work as a minister Don was a student at the Churches of Christ Bible College, Woolwich, during the latter half of the 1940s. Following his graduation he had ministries with the Tamworth, Hurstville, Belmore, Bundaberg, Brisbane and Westside churches. He also had interim ministries at Georgetown, Hamilton and Charlestown. At his passing he was minister of the Westside Christian Church in Newcastle. Don loved the Scriptures, and was quick to advise and encourage both young and old alike never to stray from "where the Bible speaks". He was concerned that the moral standards of Australia be raised to those expected and commanded by the scriptures. In his own life he endeavoured to keep high standards and had high expectations of other Christians to do the same. He is survived by his wife Joyce, children Edna, Lorna and Roger and grandchildren Joshua, Samuel, Antonio and Stephano.

Galloway, Mary
(31.3.90) Born Mary Etherington at Morecambe, UK, in 1895, Mary came to Australia when 16. She married Duncan Galloway at North Perth in 1919. She served as Sunday School teacher and choir member. They moved to Cottesloe in 1927. 12 years later her husband was tragically electrocuted at work leaving her to support three children. This she courageously did. Later, when Betty, Keith and Don all married she lived with each in turn. For a time she served as cook at Emmaus Rest Home, Murrumbidgee, Vic. Her deafness prevented her from taking a more active part in church life. She loved the Lord and his church.

—Roger Ryall

Graham, Gwen
(23.3.90) Gwen Graham, of Johnson, Iowa, USA, died at 77 years. She was the wife of Ronald (46 years), mother of Beth, Jan and Kerry, all of Iowa, and grandmother of five. She joined the church at Chatswood, NSW, as a young girl and subsequently was an able supporter of her husband in ministries at Newmarket and Boronia, Vic, Ann Street, Brisbane, and in America. She taught school in NSW and Victoria, and in the USA for 25 years, in Iowa and Kentucky. In church life she was active in education, music and women's work.

—Ronald Graham

Peacock, Rolffe James
(16.3.90) Rolffe served his Master in the Semaphore, Prospect, Kilburn and Naislworth, SA, churches for many decades. Present and past members of these churches, friends and relatives saluted his passing (aged 82) at a victorious funeral service conducted by Geoff Payne (Prospect) and dear friend Harold Norris. He was known as an enthusiastic Sunday School Superintendent and caring deacon and elder. He has left to his three sons Rolffe, Morris and Dennis, and their families, an example of a man in contact with his God and the ordinary person.

—RWP

Young, Ida
(21.3.90) Ida began and ended her life with the Dulwich, SA, church. Her parents were some of the earlier members. They were members of the Norwood church for many years before returning to Dulwich in 1949. Ida played violin in orchestras and in several church services. She enjoyed her work as a finance officer and played competitive hockey for 15 years. She had major heart surgery in 1978 but continued to enjoy life, travel and her church. Her pleasant nature reflected her strong faith. She had been living with her sister, Hazel, and brother, Cliff. —Roger Brown

Church News

WA

NORTHAM (Graham Butler) 1990 a great year with several new families coming into fellowship causing us to arrange extra seating for worship ... Large growth in mid-week activities—youth group, craft groups & Bible studies ... Couple from fellowship appointed as chaplains of High School ... Minister invited to continue in ministry until the end of 1993 ... Church continues to share in ministering to Dowerin & Cunderdin, nearby towns.

WEMBLEY (John Timms) John Timms visits India check IVE leadership team ... Memorial service held church for late Dr Geoff Hall ... Jean & George Cugley celebrated golden wedding ... Discoverers' Club held camp Byford ... Beth Brand speaker CWF ... Congratulations & best wishes extended Lesley Hogben accepting position President Women's Auxiliary Conference this year.

CARNARVON (Donald Bone) Annual meeting held & all positions filled willingly. Gavin Law Davis deacon ... Ray & Peggy Schmitt warmly received as they began Aboriginal outreach ministry in Carnarvon, hoping to visit several times per year ... Betty Sewell here for launching of *Carnarvon: Interaction of Two Cultures*—history of Carnarvon mission. Betty speaker at CWF. Welcome visitor was Violet Lewin (Foley), first mission girl at Carnarvon under care of Mr & Mrs Hammer.

WARWICK (G.B. Carslake, B. Eagles, R.L. Mason) Church started strongly in 1990 with nine baptisms & new families attending ... New Bethel class has 18 ... Winter basketball season church fielding 19 teams ... Chip-Inn drop-in centre made major shifts in focus under leadership of Marcus Holt. 100–120 attending ... 92 members in newly formed Boys' & Girls' Brigades with 18 officers & helpers ... More than

40 regularly attending Tuesday night Bible teaching for young people.

SCARBOROUGH (Nigel Merrick) Counsellor training underway ... Fred & Sandy Hay on deputation prior to service in Gabon ... Richard Court, MLA, spoke at men's breakfast ... Evangelism taskforce established ... Wayne Tognolini sang at "Cele-Vision", which looked back at 89 then forward to the 90s ... Brad Parker conducting "Know What You Believe" classes ... Guest speakers Dwight & Norris Randall & a representative from Gideons.

MANDURAH (Bill & Gay Addison) Settlement finalised on 3 acre property with modern home, heated pool, tennis court & big shed, which will be lined & fitted for use as meeting place ... Sunday, 31 December, church held in manse, could seat 30. Des Croot & family attended. Praised congregation on dedication to relocate in a growing area. Picnic lunch outside near pool followed ... Queenie, Jo Winton, Lyn Williams out of hospital.

FREMANTLE (D. Good) Slides of work in PNG shown to Bible study group by Aileen Draney ... Bicton UC Choir shared with us the Easter cantata "The Day He Wore My Crown" ... ACM held. Church has membership of 55 & there are 13 Christians in Fellowship. Four elders & four deacons form church board ... Resumption of cooking fruit for Welfare Centre. Tom Price's orchard visited.

BRIDGETOWN (Errol Kirk) Church rejoicing at commencement of ministry of Errol & Carol Kirk after many years of praying for a leader. Bill Gaunson guest speaker at induction 4 Feb when more than 100 attended ... Morning services averaging 35 with visitors every week ... Fellowship tea & gospel meeting held first Sunday of month ... One decision ... 70 attended Easter Sunday service ... Church grateful for assistance from Home Missions & Foothills church of \$75 per week.

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Discipleship

•Dorothy Taylor, Alison Oliver, Berwick, Vic •Charles Van de Winckel, Tanya Carter, Dawson St, Ballarat, Vic •Tanya Budd, Timothy O'Sullivan, Northam, WA •Raylene Hurst, Julie McInnes, Richard Donaldson, Gerry Cebula, Wembley, WA •Kerry Berry, Robyn Gilbert, David & Bonnie Howard, Cameron Boaden, Dulcie Warren, Allan Bell, Tia Yeark, Ellen Dunkley, Melanie Wood, Neville & Gaye Mayers, Michael & Elenka Clare, Alex Nedselsky, Manning Valley, NSW •Jean Shephard, Colonel Light Gardens, SA •Kerry Hollams, Tracey-Lee Pike, Tracey Vawser, Annette Tanner, Steven Ivy, Brian Robinson, Mark Hall, Darren Jones, Jack Williams, Warwick, WA •Shelley Clarke, Michelle Polly, Padstow, NSW •Niki Hayes, Mrs Sally Haire, Springvale, Vic •Kerry McLeod, Frankston, Vic •Lin-Maree Hearps, Launceston, Tas •Tanya Clissold, Russell Bunn, Stewart Fewster, Russell Dow, Brian Thorne, Glen Waverley, Vic

Marriages

•Leonie Pace to Ron Clydesdale, Berwick, Vic •Yvonne Purdie to Tony Whitehead, Colonel Light

Gardens, SA •Coral McNamara to Malcolm Johnson, Springvale, Vic

Deaths

•Geoff Grigg, Harold Bowring, Otto Bergman, Berwick, Vic •Mrs May James, Dawson St, Ballarat, Vic •Harry Hutchinson, North Essendon, Vic •Dr Geoffrey Hall, Wembley, WA •Max Ellis, Colonel Light Gardens, SA •Rolfe J. Peacock, Prospect, SA •Mark Burden, Warwick, WA •Elizabeth (Betty) Lee, Padstow, NSW •Mary Galloway, Perth, WA •Desrie O'Leskin, Mrs Kit Seamer, Springvale, Vic

Changes

Colonel Light Gardens: Minister—Adrian Clark, 28 Winchester Ave., Colonel Light Gardens, SA 5041. Phone (08) 276 6605. Secretary—Trevor Williams, 9 English Ave., Clovelly Park, SA 5042. Phone (08) 277 1060. Ryall, Roger (part-time Chaplain at Repat Hospital, Hollywood)—2/7 Seaforth Rd, Balcatta, WA 6021. Croydon: Minister—Martin Burgess, 37 Grant Drive, Bayswater North, Vic 3153. Phone (03) 729 0374. Church office—New phone number (03) 723 6500.

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Brisbane Area Ecumenical Tertiary Chaplaincy Committee

Higher Education Ecumenical Chaplain

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons for the position of Ecumenical chaplain to replace the chaplain at Brisbane College of Advanced Education, who is retiring, effective 1 July 1990.

The successful applicant would be expected to begin on this date or soon after.

In view of the current changes and amalgamations, some flexibility in cross campus work would be expected—from 1 May 1990, the Kelvin Grove, Kedron Park and Carseldine campuses of BCAE will become part of the Queensland University of Technology.

The successful applicant would be expected to work closely in an ecumenical context with other QUT chaplains, and to liaise closely with other higher education chaplains in the Brisbane area.

The successful applicant would normally be an ordained minister or member of a religious order of a Christian church. However a suitable lay member of a Christian church would be considered.

While the committee anticipates a full-time appointment, two (or more) part-time appointments may be considered. Further details of duties and remuneration are available from the chairperson, ETCC.

Applications, which should include a brief curriculum vitae, should be sent to:

The Chairperson, Ecumenical Tertiary Chaplaincy Committee, c/o St Leo's College, College Road, St Lucia 4067
Phone (07) 870 9316.

Church News

Vic

BERWICK (Peter Holt, Gordon Stirling) Lesley & Gordon Stirling welcomed. Commenced ministry for a year ... Lyle Yates co-ordinated church stand Berwick Show ... Capital stewardship campaign commenced for new church complex ... Members travelled on Puffing Billy (Relocation Express) to Lakeside, barbecue tea & service. Raised \$1,347 towards building fund ... "Turning of the Sod" ceremony on site for new complex. All members participated. Children decorated their shovels.

DAWSON ST, BALLARAT (Steven Templeton) Membership continually growing under leadership of Steven Templeton ... Special meeting 20 February, in a step of faith Tracey Wickham appointed to position of Ministry Support Worker. Initial period 12 months. Wholehearted response from members. Anticipated commencement 30 April ... Aged almost 103 years, May James died peacefully at Queen Elizabeth Home ... Planned giving well maintained ... Packed service combined Churches of Christ.

NORTH ESSENDON (Graham & Bev Burgan) Student ministers & family welcomed ... Board met with Strathmore, East Keilor & Essendon regarding future ... Sympathy to Hutchinson family on death of Harry after long illness ... Recommitment during recent service ... Mrs Andrew addressed CWF regarding hospital visitation showing various articles made & presented to patients. Members brought Easter

eggs ... Annual General Meeting 1 April discussed future directions.

SURREY HILLS (David Brooker, Julie Adam) Youth group activities included sharing in Goodies camp & camping at Rubicon ... SHOUT made puppets & used them at family service ... FISH visited funeral parlour ... Marge Brough speaker seminar on democratic parenting ... Interchurch study groups, led by local ministers, will study *Come Holy Spirit* ... Good Friday services combined with Uniting Church ... David Brooker accepted voluntary position as chaplain of North Melbourne Giants basketball team.

RED HILL (Wally Gibney) Church farewelled Ken & Norma Clinton on 25 March with special morning tea & presentation following dynamic & fruitful ministry of 18 months ... Gerald Rose guest speaker at well-attended induction service for new minister Wally Gibney. Wally, Betty, Christopher & Penny welcomed into fellowship by elder, George Daff ... Home luncheons planned for April-May as outreach & to meet new minister & family.

SPRINGVALE (Peter Lyne) 57 attended church camp at Cowes ... Big attendance to farewell Tom & Julie Ede ... Peter Lyne inducted as minister 11 Feb ... 1990 prayer partner program launched ... New manse dedicated 4 March by Conference President ... Church saddened by death of 21-year-old Desrie O'Leskin (car accident) & Kit Seamer ... Christian Passover celebrated as prelude to Easter ... 21 involved in full- or part-time courses.

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (Max Ball) Harvest festival ... Cell groups recommenced ... Healing ministry mid-week once a month ... Family camp Halls Gap. Studies "Peace with God". Following Sunday members planted shrubs to make a peace garden around church ... Local outreach food basket in foyer ... Graeme Barnett (BCV) & our members Ron Howard, Rick Wright, Paul Hills speakers ... CWF birthday speaker ACW ... Creche commenced for under three year olds. **OAKLEIGH** (L.S. Dewberry) Evening series focusing on missionaries ... Method of giving to Conference Departments changed from proportion of weekly offerings to attention to departmental promotional literature ... Betty Dewberry in hospital ... CWF visited Wycliffe Bible Translators at Kangaroo Grounds ... Church sympathises with Sylvia Weir in death of her sister Marjorie Arnel of Stawell ... Church attendance increased by residents from Christian Guest

Home.

HARTWELL (G. Rogerson) Theme for 1990 "All I Want Is to Know Christ" ... Tim Green, student minister, welcomed, ministry to youth ... John U'Ren addressed church on small groups. Six cell groups meeting for study & prayer ... 45 enrolled in Bible School ... Church hosted Lenten studies sponsored by local Inter-Church Council ... Treasures old & new raised \$1,500 for India ... Family service followed by church luncheon.

FRANKSTON (Allan Avery, Pam Bowers, H. Bischoff) Leaders prayer breakfast began year. Theme "Growing in Christ in the 90s" ... Special series with Graeme Chapman on "Spirituality" ... Don Wesley's resignation received ... Andrew Ball examining potential of youth work for future ... Time & Talents auction held for College fund. \$7,000 now raised ... Mrs Dot Rumble back after several months & neurosurgery ... Mrs Val Ferguson back also after months of illness.

EAST KEW (Ed Roffey, D. Jolly) Ministers arranged special service for Good Friday ... Tennis courts being leased to East Kew Uniting Church, who have invited us to join them ... Dept MED has set up Singles Club under leadership of Cheryl Johnson. Club has office at church open Wednesdays & Thursdays. There will be a 7 pm service second & fourth Sundays of month ... Friends visiting Ken & Marge Davies in new home at Croydon.

GLEN WAVERLEY (Ron Elbourne, Lindsay Croxford, Doug Fitzpatrick) Combined sharing evening held for all church Fellowship Groups to be held each term ... Ray & Alwynne Laird hosting Sunday friendship luncheons at the church periodically ... Many attended Easter camps ... Training session held for all who assist in serving communion ... Guest speakers during senior minister's holiday were Dean Hamilton, Ian Tippet & Andrew Ball.

NSW

MANNING VALLEY (Barry Rice, Ross Norling) Sharing at recent services—24-year-old Russian Christian Oleg Agafonov, foreign languages lecturer at Soviet University; John Stennett who spent university vacation with "ACTS 29", Turkey; Dorothy Holstein, India; Scottish musician/song writer Ian White ... Church participating in "Here's Life '90" combined church crusade with Campaigners for Christ 13-20 May ... 120 attended

AGM/Vision Dinner. Church growth videos used.

PADSTOW (Ed Holt) Two young people were baptised recently ... Those hospitalised have been Faye Hough & Claire Campbell ... Six home groups have been studying *To Walk and Not Grow Weary* ... The Cartini family suffered damage to their home in the recent hail storm in Sydney ... Church camp attracted 66 with Tim Hanna as speaker ... New church office is now fully operational.

SEVEN HILLS (T.J. Beaman) Youth club progressing under leadership of Andrew Stott & Christine Robinson. Average attendance 15. More boys coming ... Heide & Evelyn Taccin with Daniel Fredricks presented play "The Angels Point of View" 1 April ... Jeff & Joy Sander-son, Life Line, took part in service 8 April & Jeff spoke at church get-together lunch at Tuccin's home ... T.J. Beaman been busy visiting the sick.

Tas

LAUNCESTON (Rod Foster, John Rees) M. Charman (WEC) special speaker for Mission Focus 8 April ... John Rees baptised Lin-Maree Harpurs at 9.15 am service on 8 April ... Prayer Committee have prepared a prayer calendar covering all members of the church family ... 35 young people at Easter Camp at Bicheno over weekend ... \$250 raised so far this year from sale of used postage stamps.

CAVESIDE (John & Colleen Harrison) Stimulating prayer seminar conducted 1 April by Stewart Dinnen, Rob Beeston & Aloris Bakes ... New carpet laid prior to Easter ... Church filled for combined churches Good Friday service with representatives from Uniting & Presbyterian churches participating. J. Harrison preached ... Easter Sunday service involved three resurrection witnesses—Valerie Cramp as cemetery gardener, Margaret Head as Thomas & Beth Tribolet as Peter ... Enjoyable church/Sunday School picnic Easter Monday.

Qld

DALBY (Neil Melville) Two new families welcomed into fellowship, Pococks & Whittles ... Welcome new youth worker Sue Colyer from Southport ... Started year with working bee, BBQ & slave auction (raise money for camp) camp Shannon Park, Toowoomba ... Many enjoyed John Smith Australia Where campaign. Women's luncheon & youth rally ... Welcome back from Emmaus Bible College Sue Vogler.

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Church News

CROWN ST, TOOWOOMBA (Graham Hack) Graham, fourth year Kenmore student, his wife & baby son Daniel, spend Sunday & Monday with Crown St. Members enjoying his messages & visiting ... Crown St manned plant stall at Mylo fete ... CWF held jumble sale providing funds for Living Link & other projects ... Combined Sunday School & church picnic enjoyable ... New secretary Norma Hass & treasurer, husband, Neil.

SPRINGWOOD (Geoff Charles) Roots of Evangelism course well attended by church members & KCC students ... Dobson films "Turn Your Heart toward Home" screened at local drive-in theatre. 90 cars attending nightly. Community appreciated the presentation ... Six special Easter gatherings reliving the sights & sounds of the Passion Week, seeing the stage grow & come alive with the power of Christ's death & resurrection.

CAIRNS (Bruce Warwick) AGM held in March. Statistics show 14 baptisms for past year. Attendances at morning worship increased to 130 including children ... Gospel Celebration now held fortnightly Sunday evenings ... Senior youth group commenced ... Teenagers group continuing to grow ... Kid's Club functioning well ... Bible School averaging 50 children each Sunday ... Church excited at outreach opportunities with Kel Willis during May.

BONGEEN (B.M. Nowitzke) Good representation at Western District fellowship meetings at Hopeland ... Members viewing James Dobson videos "Focus on the Family" ... Ladies attended World Day of Prayer at Presbyterian Church, Cecil Plains ... Alan Hermann, DCDE, conducted seminar "How to Make Your Church More Effective" ... Visit by Conference President Prof. Wilson & also Conference Secretary John Godby on behalf of ICA.

SA

COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS (Adrian Clark) The church welcomed Adrian Clark & family to the ministry here in February ... Young people started meeting midweek ... Musical items included in morning worship services ... Women's Study Day held in our buildings ... AGM held in March ... Plans for repairs to weather decayed foyer under review ... Committees for administration, fellowship, worship & pastoral areas being formed.

BERRI The youth camp at Barmera

has now been upgraded under the management of Marj & John Rundle. Many thanks to the League of 2,000 for their gift of \$2,423 for camp improvements ... Several of our ladies attended the CWCJ Convention at Victor Harbor ... Audrey & Aub Kunoth celebrated golden wedding.

MURRAY BRIDGE Men assist leading services at Milang, Mt Compass ... Church represented at Sthn Dist Conf. Bert Coleman re-elected secretary ... Minister leads church group on visits to two aged homes. Laymen sometimes preach ... Tues-

day lunch hour is prayer time ... Church funded outreach special "Saul of Tarsus" ... Testimony by Pam Smith related her experience of faith when surgery became urgent necessity ... Monthly craft morning outreach is growing.

PROSPECT (S. Schmaal) Following morning service 1 April farewell luncheon to wish Geoff, Liz & family success in new ministry in Sydney ... 8 April induction service followed by sausage sizzle ... Instead of the usual home fellowship on Tuesday evening an audio-visual presentation by Audrey Barrell on a recent

tour of the Holy Land ... 19 May program & registration of forms for visit by Ray & Cheryl Jenner.

HAMPSTEAD GARDENS (K. Ridge) Playgroup & "Bright Spot" attendances up this year. Church advertising creating a flow of new faces at services ... AGM held. Mary Lundberg elected elder, Harry Kaye & Paul Turnbull new board members ... Five home study groups created for Lenten series ... Combined fellowship night at Nailsworth with Ron Roberts as speaker ... Chapel fully carpeted from fund raising last year.

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• Ephesians 6:14

Buckle Up with Truth!

by Greg Murphy

Perhaps Paul's intention in matching theological concepts to pieces of armour is more stylistic than theological. However there is much to be gained from an examination of the task of putting on these "pieces" of armour. How does one buckle up with truth? How can we be sure that "truth" is securely holding our spiritual battledress in place? Indeed, and at the risk of sounding philosophical, what is "truth"?

The fact is that "truth" had different connotations in Hebrew and Greek thought, both of which are represented in the Bible. As with many other concepts; the Greek rather than the Hebrew connotation more heavily influences contemporary Western thought. The Greek *aletheia* expresses truth as fact rather than fiction; genuine rather than false. Truth is therefore something to be known or understood. Seen in this light, Paul would seem to be advocating the use in spiritual warfare of the teaching ministry of the church. Indeed, Paul was concerned that some of his followers had "erred from the truth" into heresy (2 Timothy 2:18).

In the Old Testament there is a different dimension to the concept of truth. The Hebrew *emeth* occurs in the context of walking or serving "in truth" (translated in many modern versions as "faithfully") at significant points in the nation's early history. At the brink of the promised land Joshua challenged the people to "fear the Lord and serve him in truth" (Joshua 24:14). This appeal was repeated word for word by Samuel prior to the selection of Saul as monarch (1 Samuel 12:24). Sons who would "walk in truth" was the condition that God placed on the uninterrupted dynastic rule

of the house of David (1 Kings 2:4). Perhaps the difference between the Greek and Hebrew concepts is best seen in Psalm 86:11 where they occur in juxtaposition. (Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth.) For the pragmatic Hebrews truth was practiced rather than known.

A similar contrast may be seen in Ephesians 4:11-16. In verses 11-13 Paul presents the case that the risen Christ provides ministry gifts so that the body of the church will grow as individual Christians take their place of service within it (having been taught not what to know but what to do). In verses 14 and 15 Paul reveals that the result of this should be an immunity to unorthodox teaching as Christians concentrate "truthing in love". The word "speaking", which appears here in many translations is an attempt to make sense of an awkward construction where it may be that Paul is using a Greek word with a Hebrew nuance. Truth is not to be spoken or taught unless it is done.

Orthodoxy is not guaranteed by making sure we all follow the same creed and share the same conceptual truths. Rather, as Jesus intimated in his high priestly prayer, the world will recognise the "true" church when we "truth it out" in love. When Peter bowed to peer pressure and put creed before Christian unity in Antioch, Paul rebuked him because he had "walked not according to the truth of the gospel" (Galatians 5:7). Buckling up with truth is not so much about knowing the facts of the gospel as it is about obeying its implications for relationships. Let us hope and pray that more and more Christians will get the belt of truth buckled.

The Last Word

The best thing for an argument is not words and ideas, but to stop arguing.

—Henry S. Haskins

It was Denise's first baby-sitting job. Everything went fine except for one slight oversight, as she explained later to her mother, "The lady showed me where the TV was, where to find the soft drink and the potato chips and even the chocolates. But it wasn't until I heard someone crying that I realised she'd forgotten to tell me where to find the baby."

★★★★★

Following the Palm Sunday children's sermon, the little ones were given palm branches to wave as they marched through the church. The children were told to be happy and say, "Hosanna! Hosanna!" as they left for Sunday School.

One child looked quite bewildered for a moment and then his face lit up as he exclaimed, "Lasagna! Lasagna!" This joyful chant was picked up by other children as the congregation was left in tears of laughter.

★★★★★

Parent: Eat your spinach. Think of the thousands of starving children who would love some spinach like this.

Child: Name two.

★★★★★

"Here's one name on the committee that I never heard of."

"Oh, that's probably the person who actually does the work."

★★★★★

Talkative hunter: Once while I was having a meal in the jungle, a lion came so close to me that I could feel his breath on the back of my neck. What did I do?

Bored listener: Turned your collar up?

★★★★★

What is a father?

He is the guy who forks over a couple of thousand dollars for his daughter's wedding, then reads in the local newspaper that he gave the bride away.

★★★★★



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