

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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Worldwide Photos

## Aussie Awakening

People from four directions converge on Sydney Town Hall to form a "Human Cross of Witness" as part of "Easter '90—An Aussie Awakening"—story page 3



# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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## Guest Editorial

*We find it just so hard to give unconditional, accepting, non-judgemental love: love for the unlovely, love for those who make a mess of life, love for those who disagree with us. When Jesus said, "Love God and love others as yourself," he left no room for doubt as to what he meant*

# Unconditional Love

by Ruth Edge

I believe that one of the most difficult aspects of being a Christian is to truly love all others as we love ourselves.

Last year at our Tasmanian Women's Camp I prepared a study on "Love". I began the study by a simulated introduction to the group of an alcoholic woman I had found sleeping under some building material behind the camp buildings. She was unwashed, smelt of a combination of cheap wine and methylated spirits, was poorly dressed and, when asked to express her feelings about having been woken up, proceeded to swear at the ladies. The group were then sent away to discuss how they felt about the woman: whether they could have put an arm around her to comfort her or invited her home for a meal.

Some of the ladies found it very challenging, because they felt it really helped them work through the issue of unconditional love. I think some ladies, however, felt I had asked too much of them. They realised they just felt revolted and could not respond positively in any way to that woman.

As the name Christian suggests, we are followers of Christ—not the Old Testament and its laws, and not Paul's interpretation of Christ's teaching. Both are important—they support, explain and point to Jesus. However, if there is ever a difference of emphasis in the attitudes expressed, Jesus must always be the final authority.

Some of the teachings of Jesus may be open to interpretation and debate, but most are clear and direct. When Jesus said, "Love God and love others as yourself," he left no room for doubt as to what he meant. He also made it clear that forgiveness and not judgement was to be the focus of our living.

Maybe the statement by Jesus about how difficult it is for us to get into the Kingdom came from his understanding of how difficult it would be for us to put these two concepts into practice. We find it just so



hard to give unconditional, accepting, non-judgemental love: love for the unlovely, love for those who make a mess of life, love for those who disagree with us. Judgement on the other hand is so much easier. We seem to delight in the faults of others, often being so much harder on them than on ourselves. How unlike Jesus! He is able to understand what it is like to walk in their

shoes. We see the now and often don't allow ourselves to get close enough to understand the why.

When I drive my car too fast, endangering the life and property of other people, not showing them the love and consideration I expect from them, I sin, just as much as the fellow who gets angry and kills someone. It is so easy for us to condemn others and make excuses for ourselves.

Next time we feel like passing some judgement on homosexuals, who desperately want someone who understands how they feel and to share their life with them, or the young persons, unemployed and sleeping in the street because their families have broken up and they have tried and no one will give them a job, perhaps we should first ask them home for tea and listen to their story and try to feel what it is like to walk in their shoes.

You can never tell, judgement might turn to understanding—understanding might turn to love and we will both be that much closer to the Kingdom.

• Ruth Edge, currently in a joint lay ministry with her husband Tom at Ulverstone in Tasmania, served previously in the Churches of Christ Welfare Centre in Adelaide, SA, 1978-87. Mother of six and grandmother to 16, her heart and home have always been open to homeless young people. Ruth trained as a marriage guidance counsellor in the 1970s and, moved by a deep concern for people, served her Lord through her local church of Brighton, SA, and then through the work of the Brotherhood's Welfare Service.



## "Aussie Awakening" Awakens Aussies

**T**he greatest combined churches' effort to present the Easter story to Sydney, NSW, took place over Easter, through a wide variety of events, called "Easter '90—An Aussie Awakening".

"Easter '90" can be traced back to the National Gathering in Canberra in 1988, when 40,000 from around Australia encircled the new Parliament House and prayed for the nation.

That show of unity and co-operation again became evident when **Mal Garvin** approached the heads of churches in an endeavour to challenge Australians with the true meaning of Easter.

The special Good Friday rally in Parramatta Park and the "Human Cross of Witness" in front of Sydney's Town Hall on Easter Sunday left no room for people to say that Christians could not work together or that they had no idea what Easter is all about.

It was the heads of churches who led the way in working together to present the meaning of Easter.

On Good Friday up to 6,000 gathered in Parramatta Park for the first major public rally. The compere was radio personality **Kel Richards**.

Leading personalities gave their testimonies and told of what Christ meant to them. **Jeanine Treharne**, yachtswoman; **Glenn Nissen**, rugby league player, and Aboriginal ex-senator **Neville Bonner**, AO, told of their personal experiences with the Lord.

Musical items were presented and led by **Trisha Watts** and **Fr Kevin Bates**, SM, followed by the **Tim Edwards Band**.

Young people were also involved in the program. Three teams of runners brought in the torches lit in Canberra two weeks before, which had been throughout the state to regional rallies.

The **Halieus Theatre** presentation of part of the rock opera "Follow Me" was a moving sight. Actors in period

costume portrayed the Easter story on stage, including the crucifixion scene.

An all-night prayer vigil from 6 pm until 6 am was held in a park at a busy intersection on the outskirts of Parramatta.

On Saturday evening, a special youth meeting was held in the **Homebush Sports Stadium** by **Youth Alive**. The featured artist was well-known American singer-songwriter, **Matthew Ward**, supported by local talent.

**Wesley Mission's "Sunrise Service"**, televised nationally by Channel 7, was held "indoors" at the Sydney Opera House. First-class entertainers, **Jacqui Hall** and **Steve Fry**, presented meaningful items. The **Kings Kids** were also included in the program.

**Dr Gordon Moyes**, preached and TV actor, **George Mallaby**, shared his moving and personal testimony of finding Christ.

Just after noon, the first group of marchers participating in the Easter Sunday program, marching across the Sydney Harbour Bridge to join up with a further group at Observatory Park in the Northern area of Sydney. Meanwhile, another group was gathering at Hyde Park in the centre of Sydney and a further group were meeting near Central Railway Station in the South. At prearranged times, and informed of the progress of each of the other groups through the broadcasts over Sydney radiostation 2CH, all three groups converged on the Sydney Town Hall. A conservative estimate was that 15,000 people had gathered as one.

Then it was time for the combined marchers to head for an open-air rally in Sydney's Domain.

Although a fine drizzle of rain was interspersed amongst the items, people gathered under umbrellas to watch the **King's Kids** from **YWAM**, Canberra; to hear the band **Glass Canoe** and be entertained by **Dennis Clare**; soloist **Vanetta Fields**; super-soprano

**Ben Hawks** and excerpts from the "Young Messiah".

**George Mallaby**, told the "Story of the Granny Smith Apple". A lady grew the first of the apples named after her by discarding what she thought to be "rubbish—unuseable off-cuts of crab apples", only to find later that they grew into a new species of apple. This Christian lady, **Maria Anne Smith**, commented, "Isn't it just

like God that the very stuff we chuck away he uses to bring in a new thing?"

**John Hunter**, NSW Churches of Christ Conference President, brought a Bible reading.

It was a moving sight to see people, unknown to each other previously, break up into small prayer groups on the wet grass and sharing umbrellas as they prayed for the nation.

—**Ramon Williams**

## Recycling Clothing

"Community Care means more than the church caring for the community...it could also mean a community caring for itself," argued members of the **Northcote, Vic.** church. They put to the **Vic-Tas Department of Community Care** their idea for a clothing bin placed outside their complex. Other organisations use such bins, so why not the Department of Community Care? Members of the church would

monitor and empty the bin, arranging for the forwarding of the donated clothes left in it.

**Northcote** wants to get involved with the Department in an ongoing manner; this is their way of doing it. The bin clearly advertises that donated goods assist the Department in its care for persons and families within the community.

Local people are invited to help Churches of Christ in this task.



**Bruce Alcorn**, minister of the Northcote church, with **Heather Carbis**, testing the bin



## Who Is Captain Blackeye?

Captain Blackeye is a 20th-century pirate, created by his alter-ego, Ian Kissock, of Edwardstown, SA.

Captain Blackeye sets out on exciting journeys, not only all around the world but through time and space as well. His adventures lead him through the high seas of the 17th century, aboard his pirate ship, battling the knights of the 11th century, as well as ridin' with the posse out west, and shooting off into outer space in his 20th-century space ship.

Ian Kissock studied at Word of Life Bible Institute and has a Graduate Diploma in Community Work from the South Australian College of Advanced Education. Through his involvement in church youth work and children's ministries Ian became aware of the need to present the truth of God's word to the youth and children of today in a new and exciting way. In 1986 Ian lost the sight of his right eye due to a benign tumour on the

optic nerve, which was successfully removed. During his recovery his mind remained active in the endeavour to create a character that young people could relate to, and hence Captain Blackeye was born.

Ian is endeavouring to present God's word with the help of Captain Blackeye through a series of fun and challenging Bible puzzles. Ian's puzzle books have been received successfully overseas.

Anyone who enjoys a true adventure will find Ian's puzzle books both challenging and inspiring and a great aid in presenting the Gospel of Christ to the young people of today.

—Warren Hall



CAPTAIN BLACKEYE  
HAS DISCOVERED AUSTRALIA.  
BUT HAS AUSTRALIA  
DISCOVERED CAPTAIN BLACKEYE?

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## WA Conference President

WA Conference inducted David Pyne as Conference President for the 1990-91 conference year.

Prior to his appointment David was an elder and a past secretary of the Warwick, WA, church, having been in membership there for the past 15 years since returning to Perth from the country.

He is a member of Conference Executive, having served 12 years as Conference Treasurer and 20 years as a member of the Home Missionary Committee, which included being a representative of the South West Conference of Churches and Home Mission treasurer.

While in Bunbury David served as South West Conference secretary and Secretary of the Bunbury church.

Employed as a Westrail officer for the past 33 years, he is currently administering in computer application.

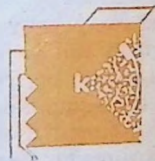
David, son of Allan and Jean Pyne, is married to Thelma, daughter of Harold and Edith Fitch, retired minister. Both fathers also served as conference presidents. Thelma is also actively involved in church life



with a God-given gift in floral design. David and Thelma have three daughters. Their eldest daughter Corrine is married to Mark Law-Davis, who is secretary of the Alexander Heights church. Roslyn is married to Russell Ward (son of Barry and Margaret Ward of Castlemaine, Vic), and they are in active membership at the Warwick church. Susan lives at home and is also active in membership at Warwick.

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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.

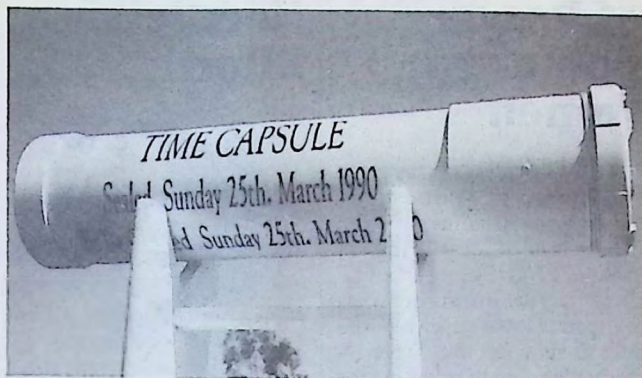
## INVITATION

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

TELEPHONE (03) 391 5598  
234-236 DOUGLAS PDE,  
NEWPORT, VIC 3015



## Berwick Turns the Sod



The time capsule

On 25 March the Berwick, Vic, church met for the first part of its morning service in the leased temporary factory premises and then adjourned to the 5 ha site for its new complex at Centre Road.

Estimated numbers of attenders were between 300 and 350.

The purpose was to continue the worship service in the open air and to "turn the sod" for the

new building foundations to the glory of God.

Actually more than one sod was turned that day. Families brought all the shovels they could find and at a given time stood round the estimated position of the external wall of the future complex and dug energetically.

It took some energy to penetrate the baked soil and to get the reluctant sods to surface.

Peter Holt, Berwick minister, led the church in a prayer of dedication, thanksgiving and hope.

Children had been encouraged to bring decorated spades and shovels and there were prizes for the most imaginative. Adrian Holdsworth decorated his shovel with the theme "I dig the church".

A time capsule made by Colin Heath was filled with records and handwork by Sunday School children. After being interred on the site for 10 years it is to be dug up on 25 March 2000.

After the ceremony families adjourned to the shade of trees on the boundary to enjoy lunch together.

The Berwick church is presently engaged in a capital stewardship program to receive offerings for the new building and they hope to be out of the factory and into their own worship centre within a year.

## Turning a Hall into Home

The tennis courts never materialised; the huge hall outlived its usefulness due to demographic changes. The Maidstone, Vic, church was conscious of its stewardship obligations for the land. It wanted to use its property effectively to meet community need. The church decided, in February 1987, that this meant making the land available for use by the Ministry of Housing and Construction to construct eight independent living units for elderly people. Next to the church one now finds not a hall, but a very appreciative community of people assured of affordable, decent and secure housing.

At the official opening on 25 March the Mayor of Sunshine, Cr Don McKay, and the Hon. Barry Pullen, MLC, State Min-

ister for Housing and Construction, paid tribute to the community-minded conscience of the Maidstone church. Trevor Giles, Executive Director of the Vic-Tas Department of Community Care, emphasised the Christian basis for that attitude by explaining that the Maidstone church "had a very deep conscience about the need to use their property in a way that extends the Kingdom of God in its widest sense within the community..." This Christian base was re-emphasised when Clive Ward, Secretary of Vic-Tas Conf. prayed a prayer of blessing over the units and those who lived within them.

The local committee can be justifiably proud of the leadership and hard work that went into transforming an old, disused hall into eight homes.

## Tenpin Bowlers Set To Strike!

980 are expected to participate in the World Vision 40 Hour Famine Tenpin Bowling Strikathon in NSW.

Four bowling centres, Balgowlah, Rushcutters Bay, Sylvania and Fairfield, will conduct the unique fundraising event over the famine weekend of 16-17 June.

Teams of five players each will bowl four games each, during which their strikes or pins knocked down will secure sponsorship moneys for the appeal.

Strikes have been made easier to obtain in that men need knock down nine pins or more, women eight or more and children (under 18) seven or more to record a "strike".

The reduced fee of \$12 per player indicates the commitment of the bowling centres to assist worthy causes.

In addition to the request for Sydney's churches to field teams, AMF are also conducting a "Beat the Champ" contest for their weekly league bowlers, featuring Terry Wenban.

Similar Strikathons have

raised over \$20,000. A target of \$25,000 has been set for the World Vision 40 Hour Famine appeal.

Team entries can be lodged at the nearest centre. The \$60 fee should be paid prior to 15 June. Contact: Balgowlah (02) 94 7656, Rushcutters Bay (02) 361 0558, Southgate Lanes Sylvania (02) 522 7926 or Fairfield Bowl (02) 72 3282.

## 1989 Index

Each year an index of many of the articles in *The Australian Christian* is prepared and sent to those people who request a copy. The 1989 Index has finally been completed.

Readers who would like to be sent a copy of the 1989 index and be put on the mailing list for future years should contact *The Australian Christian*, PO Box 101, Essendon North 3041. Phone (03) 379 1219.



Cyril Minns turns his sod



## Planting Trees in Africa

More than 3 million trees are being planted in Ethiopia as a part of an ambitious reforestation program run by the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Only 4% of Ethiopia remains forested out of an estimated forest cover of 40% at the turn of the century.

Many African people cook with firewood they gather themselves. Trees are cut down reluctantly just to provide the fuel needed for day-to-day survival. However, this has caused widespread destruction of forests, resulting in erosion, drought and the spreading of deserts. The church program responds to the urgent and immediate need of the Ethiopian people as well as the long-term well-being of the Ethiopian ecology.

The reforestation program provides seedlings, trains local people to plant and look after the trees, and pays for fencing material. 20 tree nurseries have

been established, growing a total of 20 different species including eucalypts, acacias and a number of indigenous species.

According to the UN global environment report "Our Common Future", Australians use on average about 17 times the energy used by the poorest half of the world's people. According to Graham Tupper, the Executive Officer of Force Ten, "By living more simply we can reduce our demands on the environment and use the savings to support much-needed restoration work in other places."

The Ethiopian program is just one of a number of projects in Africa being supported by funds raised in this year's "Simply Sharing Week" beginning on 13 May. Simply Sharing Week is conducted by Force Ten, a joint program of the Australian Council of Churches and Australian Catholic Relief.



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Course dates are 11 June-8 September 1990  
and 24 September-15 December 1990

For more information and a prospectus contact:  
Macolm Rankin, Fusion Training Registrar,  
Lot 1, Woodward Road, Orange 2800  
or phone (063) 61 4578

Fusion also offers a similar course at Mornington,  
Vic, specialising in youth housing work. Phone (059)  
74 1442

## World Day of Prayer Comes to Yamen

On 2 March there was great excitement and a sense of anticipation as 50 ladies gathered in the chapel building at Yamen, PNG. Sitting in a half circle, they were unsure of what to expect. However, two hours later as they left they were already planning the meeting for next year. World Day of Prayer had come to Yamen.

The teachers of the Conference Bible School at Yamen did an excellent job preparing, organising and running the program. Using the English youth service as a springboard, they presented a lively program of drama, singing, Bible readings, sermonettes and, of course, prayer. The students in their second year also took an active role in the presentation. Topics prayed about were many and varied. It brought a vision to the ladies of the power of prayer and the need to be concerned about others in the world.

Plans for next year are well underway.

The ladies are planning to set aside the whole day for prayer with a program in the morning and evening.

But whatever happens the ladies of Yamen will be joining with people all over the world to pray.

—Hazel Bassett

## 17 Million Needlessly Blind



"The eyesight of every second blind person throughout the world could be restored with a 15-minute operation," said John Jeffries of the Christian Blind Mission International.

John, who has just returned from a seminar in West Germany, said that there are over 17 million people in the world who are blind from cataracts, yet cataracts can be treated quickly, inexpensively and successfully.

Most blind people are living in developing countries, where there are very few eye surgeons.

A cataract operation takes just 15 minutes using a local anaesthetic. The doctor needs a good light and some form of magnification.

Operating glasses are cheaper and quicker to use than microscopes. The doctor makes an incision in the front of the eye, removes the lens with forceps and a cryoextractor, and stitches the incision back together.

After the operation, the patient requires a new lens to replace the one that has been removed. This is most easily done with cataract glasses, which are relatively cheap and provide good vision.

Last year Christian Blind Mission restored the eyesight of over 100,000. Each operation cost just \$20.

### Chadstone

**35th Anniversary**  
10.30 am  
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## The COCKE Playhouse

The Children and Family Life Ministry Committee in SA were searching in 1986 for new and creative ways to minister to children and their families. Consequently, in February 1987 a children's ministry group called the COCKE (Churches of Christ Kids Everywhere) Players was formed for children to develop and learn skills associated with drama, dance and music; giving them an opportunity to express their talents.

The COCKE Players have produced and presented two short musical dramas, "The Way, the Truth, and the Life" and "One in the Body" for state conferences. All the group's scripts and songs are written by the leaders, so they can be applied or used liberally by clubs, schools, camps etc. free of copyright infringement.

KIDSMIN Publications was established in November 1988 as a registered business to publish and market their works. *Kids Everywhere*, the first book and tape, was released in July 1989 and is selling very well throughout Australia. The Christian Television Association used one of the songs, "Remember That God Loves You", and the COCKE Players in a spot on commercial television. (Currently, they are in the recording studio producing a sequel, *More Kids Everywhere*.)

On 30 September 1989 at the

Royalty Theatre in Adelaide, the COCKE Players presented the premiere performance of a musical drama "Put Me in the Picture". The story is about Paul, an ordinary boy who believes he is destined to do big things for God. Angela, an undercover angel, and her munchin sidekicks take Paul into a world of dreams to meet three children, who are experts in serving God. But there are shadows. Paul is faced with doubts about his ability and self-worth, which he alone must conquer. "Put Me in the Picture" was written and directed by Robyn Page, the drama director, and the musical score composed and presented by Paul Grant, the musical director.

A search was then underway for a place to store props, costumes etc. The Torrensville, SA, church not only graciously donated storage space, but an entire theatre and facilities for the COCKE Players use. (30 years ago the church specifically built a theatre for cinema scope movies, but it has been shut for some time.) All were much in awe of such generosity and extremely excited, but finding it hard to believe that they could have such liberal use of a valuable asset for their ministry. Apart from the stage and projection-box facilities, there are separate rooms to store props and costumes, and a meeting room and canteen with servery for shows, all of which adjoin the theatre.

The theatre has been called the COCKE Playhouse and was commissioned by Jim Keatch, Associate State Minister, on 4 March at a handing-over and dedication service for the Torrensville church, COCKE Players and KIDSMIN Publications.

A three-stage plan is being drawn up to restore the theatre as a functional venue for productions, a studio to teach skills and a centre to administer the COCKE Players and KIDSMIN Publications ministry to kids everywhere.

—Brian Busbridge  
(Chairman, CFLM)

## News from the FBCE

### New Educational Policy Statement

"Directions in Educational Ministry" is the title of a new educational policy statement released to local churches in March. The statement was prepared from a national conference of Churches of Christ Christian educators held in the late 1980s under the auspices of the Federal Board of Christian Education. The statement covers four areas—adult education, lay training, family life education and children's ministry. The policy statement was mailed to all churches in late March and is intended to be a guide to local churches in their planning for the new decade. Further copies, at 40c per copy, are available upon request by writing to the FBCE, 52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne 3000. Detailed statements and resources covering each of the four areas are planned for release commencing in late 1990 through to 1993.

### New Initiatives at Annual Conference

The Annual Meeting of the Board will be held in Melbourne, 29–30 May. All state departments plan to be represented. Important agenda items will include directions in youth ministry and policy, a new publications and resources program and new educational initiatives under the "Australia Grow" theme. June Doster, an Associate Regional Minister of the Christian Church Dis-

ciples of Christ in Georgia, USA, will attend some sessions as a consultant. June has special responsibilities in educational ministry, resource writing and women's ministry. She has also directed a successful statewide evangelism thrust among the Georgia churches.

### New Structure

Following discussions in 1988–89, state departments and state conference executives have endorsed a proposal to integrate education and evangelism roles in a new national structure, the Australian Board of Church Development, which will replace the Federal Board of Christian Education. These proposals will be presented to Federal Conference in Brisbane in October this year. The Board is currently seeking financial support from the churches for its programs. Gifts should be sent to the Treasurer, Bob Barreau, at the Melbourne office. Other enquiries should be directed to the executive director, Don Smith, or made through state department staff.

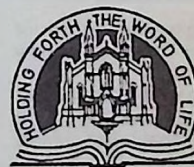
### New Study

In April the first in the new "Growing Faith Bible Studies" was released. *Possessing Life*, a small group study on the "I Am's" of John's Gospel, has been written by Cath Greatbatch of Hobart. The material is designed for any adult group. This attractive booklet costs \$2. A second study—*Being Sure*—will be available shortly.

Has your church considered a weekend camp? Young people's weekends—times of fun and friendship?

Allambee Camp, situated 13 km south of Yarragon, Vic, in the Strzelecki Ranges, can provide for your camping requirements, with self-catered or fully catered weekend or weekday camps. Tariff is very reasonable, from as low as \$7 per day. Facilities include a large heated dining-room, recreation room, library and craft centre, pool table, table tennis, in-ground pool and animal nursery. Barbecue, ropes course, initiative and fun and fitness circuits, campfire circle etc. Call in and inspect, or write for further details to

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# Letters to the Editor

## Letters are limited to 200 words

### E.L. Williams

To the Editor,

EL is as bright as ever! His latest pamphlet, *What Is Man?*, written to answer a grandson's question, is as clear, logical and compelling as books written in the vigour of his middle years. It is the result of solid scholarship, a well-stocked and pene-

trating mind and a concern that young people appreciate the Christian perspective on human existence. Insights are illustrated from classic works in philosophy and literature and from personal experience. The pamphlet, which is one of the fruits of his mature years, highlights the fact that Mr Williams maintains a lively interest in life and a continuing commitment to the Gospel. The only

suggestion I would make, reflective of a difference between generations, concerns the title. I would have preferred "What are We?"

—Graeme Chapman  
(Melbourne, Vic)

[What Is Man? is available for \$2 plus postage from the Federal Literature Department, c/o Mrs E.M. Rankine, 5 Atkins Ave, Glen Iris 3146.]

### Overpopulation

To the Editor,

It is suggested by Bruce Waldron ("AC" 28 April) that World Vision-type projects may be harmful by reason of compounding the world's overpopulation problem.

This idea, akin to a pronouncement by Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, may not be entirely valid.

Perhaps, if overpopulation

causes poverty and ignorance, it may also be true that poverty and ignorance cause overpopulation.

The answer may lie in breaking this circle. Education may prove to be a more effective control than famine or epidemic.

I am no demographer, but I recall seeing figures that, pre-war, the birthrate of coloured people in the various states of America was in inverse proportion to their socioeconomic status. Affluent societies come closest to zero population growth.

Economic and education aid, given on a much more heroic scale, may prove in the long term to be more of a population-reducing than a population-increasing factor.

—Wal Johnson  
(North Essendon, Vic)

## Letters from Tertius

### Excommunication

To the Editor,

In history books I've read about excommunication of such people as Henry VIII and Martin Luther and others, and I've often wondered what Churches of Christ believe about it. So I was interested when our minister mentioned it in his sermon last Sunday.

He was talking about the church as the body of Christ and said that only Christ himself has the authority to add or to remove people from his church. He went on to say, "That's why there is no excommunication in Churches of Christ." Then in an aside he said, "Except perhaps mental excommunication."


He didn't explain "mental excommunication", but I think he meant that we can be at the same communion with people and still be out of communion with them in our minds and feelings and attitudes.

And I think he was referring to the way in which we can mentally excommunicate people by putting labels on them such as liberal and conservative, fundamentalist and radical, traditional and modernist, and so on. We wouldn't dream of usurping Christ's authority to remove them from the church, but we can excommunicate them from our hearts and minds and friendship.

I was meditating on these things when suddenly it dawned on me that I have been mentally excommunicating Tim. We had a very strong difference of opinion last year. Not theological, just personal. I've felt very cool towards him since. We are still polite to one another and shake hands at church if we have to. But to all intents and purposes we have been usurping Christ's authority and excommunicating each other.

I'm going to see him right away and get it sorted out. I miss the friendship we used to have anyway.

Yours penitently,  
Tertius



THOUSANDS ARE ASKING,  
"WHO IS CAPTAIN BLACKEY?"

### South East District Womens Conference 30th Anniversary Naracoorte, SA

Wed, 23 May, 10 am  
Any ladies associated  
with this conference are  
invited to share in this  
special day

Further information:  
Mary Simons  
122 Jenkins Tce  
Naracoorte 5271  
Phone (087) 62 1656

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### CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION

The Clinical Pastoral Education Unit is inviting people to apply for 12 months or 3 months training in Pastoral Care in this new program.

Three stipends of a minimum of \$12,000 each will be available or those undertaking the 12 months course. Applicants for the 12 months course are expected to have a reasonable amount of expertise in pastoral care.

Training commences in November 1990. The training program is an education experience, and the aim is to promote theological and professional growth and a greater effectiveness in ministry to people.

Applications close on Friday, 6 July 1990.

Enquiries and requests for application forms should be directed to: The Reverend Dr John E. Paver, Director, Pastoral Care Unit—Repatriation General Hospital (Oncology Unit), Private Bag No. 1, Heidelberg West 3081 (Phone (03) 490 2111)

RGH 344



## Kingdom Music

Publishing music used to be a very difficult business. In 1975, when Paul Copeland wanted to publish a song "When Love Is Born" by Ross Langmead, he found the technology needed to set music was very expensive, time consuming and prone to errors.

The music was produced in a darkroom using a device called a Photofont. Only one line of music could be set at a time and if a mistake was made the whole line of music had to be reset.

Now all this has changed. Kingdom Music, Paul's new business, is now able to provide the Christian community with an economical means of typesetting music to publishable standard by using a computer.

There are many advantages of setting music by computer:

- Music can be instantly transposed into any key—great

for congregational songs that are too high (or too low).

- An orchestral score can be printed in full for the conductor then the parts extracted individually for each instrument.

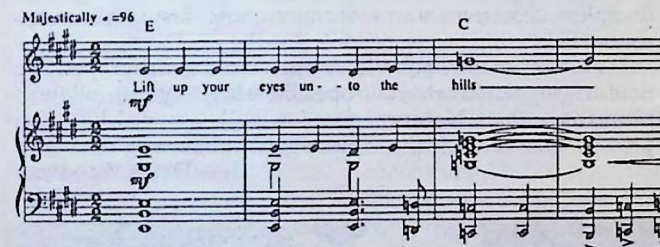
- Almost any music sequencer can be connected to the computer, which will then transcribe the sequence into standard musical notation.

- Composers who find it difficult to notate music can play the music on a keyboard in "real time" for the computer to notate.

To show just what can be done, Paul is willing to typeset up to 32 bars of music free.

This offer for readers of *The Australian Christian* expires on 30 May.

Kingdom Music is situated at Lot 8, Hands Road, Kalorama, Vic (PO Box 32, Kalorama 3766). Telephone (03) 728 5995.



Music set on a computer

## Worship via Telecom

A telephone conference link and simple loudspeaker attachments on home telephones are enabling house-bound families connected with the Collins St, Hobart, Tas, church to participate in worship.

The scheme began when one parishioner was too ill to attend church, and now 10 families are "plugging in" to the

church's services each Sunday.

Apart from using the standard conference call procedures—which Telecom is providing at a nominal rate—the process only requires a simple amplifier, which is attached to the telephone by a suction plug available at most electronics shops.

—Hobart Mercury

## Melbourne Fire Engine for War-Torn Beirut

An SOS from war-torn Beirut, Lebanon, has been answered by the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade and World Vision Australia.

World Vision's program director in Beirut, Jean Bouchebl, telexed the urgent need for a fire engine because almost continual war has caused immense destruction in the city, with numerous fires gutting buildings and claiming innocent lives.

World Vision approached the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade, which made available a superseded fire engine in top condition.

New Victorian state Police and Emergency Services Minister, Mal Sandon, handed over

the keys to the fire engine to World Vision Executive Director, Philip Hunt.

Mr Sandon said he was pleased the engine would be able to continue its useful life in Beirut.

The fire engine and its equipment is worth \$35,000, but the Department of Police and Emergency Services has made it available for \$17,000.

It has been paid for by a generous donation from Ron and Delia Fisher of R and D Electronics, Mt Waverley, Vic, who have had a long and active interest in the region.

World Vision has previously sent three ambulances to Lebanon, and is preparing to send a further five ambulances.

### Three Great Youth Nights Frankston Church of Christ

**Sunday Evening, 13 May, 7 pm**

Young people bring a MUM for Mother's Night Service

**Sunday Evening, 20 May, 7 pm**

Film Night—Award-winning Youth Film—"The Next Time I Fall in Love"

**Sunday Evening, 27 May, 7 pm**

"Youth Worship"—Theme: "Living for Others"

Frankston Church of Christ  
130 Cranbourne Road  
Frankston 3199

Ministers: Allan Avery, Pam Bowers, Harold Bischoff  
Phone (03) 783 3235 or (03) 781 1371

### Three Nights To Grow in Personal Faith and Development with Pat Greig

10, 17, 24 June

**10 June** Handling Stress

**17 June** Towards a Healthy Self-Esteem

**24 June** Communicating Effectively  
Every night at 7 pm

Pat Greig, BA (Hons), has majored in psychology. She is currently Director of the Ringwood Counselling Centre and is also an authoress of a number of books and articles. Pat is married to Bruce, has four children and is a member of the Ringwood Church of Christ.

Frankston Church of Christ  
130 Cranbourne Road, Frankston 3199  
Phone (03) 783 3235 or (03) 781 1371



## Media Review

### Papers

#### Women-Church

An Australian Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion, published twice a year in autumn and spring. Subscription \$15 (Australia) or \$5 each for 10 or more. PO Box 2134, Sydney, NSW 2001

#### Voices from the Silence

National Ecumenical Women's Journal, \$5 individual subscription, \$20 organisational subscription, published by the ACC Commission on the Status of Women, c/o Conference of Churches of WA, 10 Pier Street, Perth, WA 6000

These two journals contain items of interest to Christian women. The first is now in its third year of publication; there have been two publications of the second. *Women-Church* contains letters, conference reports and news items of interest as well as original contributions of both academic and other articles and poetry. Liturgies, ceremonies and blessings with comments on their use are also included. Book reviews and an annotated bibliography point to further reading for interested women. Everything in this journal is of the highest possible standard. The cartoons are outstanding!

*Voices* is a different journal altogether. Although there is news, poetry, letters, articles and reviews, the emphasis is focused on women and their relationship to the ecumenical movement. Where the former journal runs to about 40 pages per issue this one is of a modest 8 pages. Nevertheless, the standard of presentation is attractive and, perhaps, more accessible to the reader. Some unfortunate typesetting errors spoil the last issue but these may be "teething troubles". Both journals are rewarding and enriching reading, each in its own way.

—Rosslyn Reed

### Books



#### Possessing Life

by Cath Greatbatch (Vital Publications) \$2

This is the first in a new series of "Growing Faith Bible Studies" that have been written by Cath Greatbatch, who is a member of the Hobart, Tas, church, where she was the co-ordinator of the church's small group ministry program for nine years.

There are eight studies in this booklet, which can be used in a variety of small group situations. *Possessing Life* is a study of all the "I am" sayings in John's Gospel. In

each of the studies there is an introduction, a section for personal reflection and study and the main group material. A suggestion for prayer is also given with each study. With the "I Am the Bread of Life" study there is a communion. This could well fit into and provide a highlight for a family camp.

Excellent material, well written and challenging to all who would take part these studies are available from the Federal Board of Christian Education, 52 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne 3000 (Phone (03) 662 2377), for \$2 plus postage.

—CRA

#### International Children's Bible

(Word Publishing) \$12.95

This is an excellent version of the Bible for children. This particular version is a full Bible and not just passages that are felt important for children. The version used is the New Century version, which was first copyrighted in the US in 1983. It is the first time I have heard of this particular version. There is a short

(two-page) preface that explains the thinking behind this particular version. On reading various passages I feel that this would be a very suitable version to give to children. The language is simple and yet true to the original, there are some interesting cartoon-like illustrations, and some easy-to-read maps and a good basic dictionary. Excellent value at the price. The text size is a little small (many children also have sight difficulties). I wish the back-cover recommendations about Bible versions for older teenagers had never been printed—it is an example of the worst of American fundamentalism thinking—as this version would be excellent for all ages, not just children.

—CRA

#### Restoring Fellowship

Judgement and Church Discipline

by Ken and Joy Gage (Moody Press) \$7.50

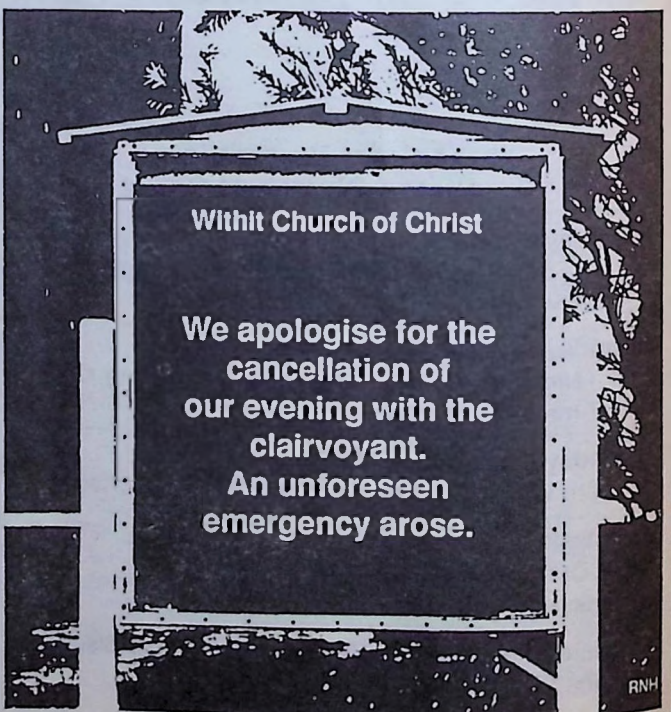
The subject of judgement is, potentially, one of confusion in the Christian church. To judge, or not to judge, is often the question. What should we do when faced with situations in which we honestly believe that things are not right? Ken and Joy Gage attempt to face some of the contemporary issues of church judgement and discernment in this little book.

Basing their study on 1 Corinthians, the Gages seek to draw out biblical principles that go beyond "Judge not that you be not judged." The book covers four basic areas of judgement: condemnation or censure, arbitration, critical evaluation and discernment.

I believe this book goes a long way towards filling the gap in published material on the subject of judgement. The church has been largely ignorant of all the biblical teachings on making judgements. While I may not agree with every conclusion drawn, I certainly appreciate the objective that any form of judgement, discipline, discernment or arbitration must, first of all, seek to restore fellowship between God's people.

The brevity of this book allows it to be read in a short period of time. It is suggested to have an open Bible beside you to follow the idea of the authors. Not every question will be covered, but it does present some valuable principles on the subject.

—David Woodward





## Confronting Poverty: An Australian in Thailand



A mysterious presence gripped Stuart Whitman when he met a leper's son during a recent study tour of Thailand organised by World Vision.

Stuart, a 17-year-old student from Melbourne, felt the mysterious presence while wandering within the apparent desolation of a leper community on the edge of Thailand's capital Bangkok.

The young Australian was in Thailand with five other students who had won overseas trips by writing essays in the World Vision 40 Hour Famine study tour competition.

Stuart's path led him from Bangkok airport to the city's rubbish dump and then into the heart of Bangkok's most disturbing reality—the leper community of Phra Pradaeng.

"After visiting Bangkok's rubbish dump community, I didn't think anything else could shock me more than people living in and off rubbish," says Stuart with a sad smile.

However, that was before he entered the leper community that World Vision assists with child sponsorship, which funds schooling, health care and other community development work.

Shortly after walking into the leper community, Stuart felt a

tiny, rough hand embrace his fingers. He looked down and saw Puchong Boonma, a leper's son, smiling up at him.

"As he placed his small, poverty-worn hand into my own, an overwhelming sense of emotion strongly intertwined with humility overcame me. I felt unworthy to be welcomed into his life, a life that many people in Australia could not possibly understand.

"From all directions my senses were bombarded with the startling atmosphere and squalid conditions of poverty that existed around me. I began to ask myself: 'Is this all humanly possible? What kind of world do I belong to?'"

"My attention was drawn back to the young boy eagerly clasping my arm. At first I thought he was seeking some reassurance. But it soon became evident that I was the one being comforted..."

The group then approached a dirty church, almost hidden.

"As we walked into the church, where 20 or more lepers had gathered to pray, we were welcomed by a spirit of belonging and a deep sense of the presence of God.

"As they began to sing 'Amazing Grace' in Thai, the little boy placed his arms

around my neck and looked into my eyes. The power of the moment was too strong, my pathetic attempt to smile could not hold back the flood of tears which soon followed."

The tears kept flowing during that day and into the night, as Stuart struggled to understand what had happened to him and exactly who he had met in the person of Puchong Boonma.

Drawing on his Christian faith, Stuart eventually concluded that in Puchong Boonma he had somehow met Jesus Christ. Turning to the

Jesus story in Matthew 25, Stuart saw his experience mirrored in Christ's evocation: "Whatever you do for the least of these you do for me."

His experience of meeting God amid human suffering and human hope had an unforgettable impact on Stuart.

Experiencing life overseas is open to high-school students who enter the 1990 World Vision 40 Hour Famine study tour essay competition. Winners will go to Zimbabwe in September–October. Write to World Vision at PO Box 9944, Melbourne 3001, for details.



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# Happenings

The executive director of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid, Russell Rolason, has been appointed chairman of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, the world forum for the largest non-government aid and development agencies.

Evangelicals in East and West Germany are the first among churches and Christian organisations to set a date for their reunification. The boards of the two Evangelical Alliances decided unanimously at a joint meeting to merge within one year. They represent more than 1 million Protestants from mainline and free churches.

The East German evangelical pastor, Uwe Holmer, has received about 2,000 letters and 2 bomb threats during the time he gave refuge to the deposed Communist leader Erich Honecker and his wife Margot. About half of the letters criticised Holmer's act of hospitality.

Two Evangelical (United) pastors—Markus Meckel, leader of the Social Democratic Party, and Rainer Eppelmann, leader of the Democratic Awakening party—are among the 24 members of the new East German government. Meckel is foreign minister, Eppelmann Defence and Disarmament Minister. Another member of the government, Finance Minister Walter Bromberg, has also long been

active in church affairs.

The Disciples may well be the only mainline denomination to increase its proportion of the general population in the next decade or so according to the finding of a major survey Religion in America 1990 by the Gallup organisation. They report that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is the only mainline denomination whose under-30 membership matches the percentage of under-30-year-old persons in the US population. It also reported that while church members make up 2% of the population, 2% of those surveyed in the poll who had been invited to a church had been invited to join a Disciples congregation.

There are nearly 15 million refugees, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, up from 14 million a year ago.

90% of Belgians over 40 years of age do not possess a Bible, according to Rev. Richard Haverkamp from Ghent.

Christians in Nepal paraded through the streets of the capital Kathmandu on Easter Sunday and now there are hopes for an end to persecution. The new interim Prime Minister, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, has promised Christian leaders there will soon be official freedom of religion in Nepal. In 1960 the church in Nepal had about 25 members. Today it has

an estimated 50,000 in a population of 18.5 million.

In Victoria the AFES Graduates and Friends are holding a weekend Bible study with Bishop Dudley Foord on 2 Timothy—"The Shaping of a Christian Leader". The weekend is being held at Booth Lodge, Kallista, 18-20 May, and the cost is \$60 per person for the full weekend. Children are at a reduced rate. Details from Mrs J. Quartel, 641 Whitehorse Rd, Mont Albert 3127. Phone (03) 898 5493.

A Brisbane District Court judge has upheld a man's right to reject women as jurors on religious grounds. The defendant said it was man's God-given right to judge and to have women sitting on the jury panel would be "an abomination of God" and against his Christian belief.

The Lutheran Church in WA has set a goal of increasing its membership by 50% by the year 2000. A Vision 2000 program also has the goal of establishing 3 new congregations. A goal for the next 12 months is to double the amount available for new mission projects.

Worldwide, diarrhoea is the leading cause of child mortality, killing an estimated 4 million children each year.

One-third of all child deaths occur in just 3 countries—Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

The United Bible Societies will launch its largest-ever appeal to raise money for Bibles. It is aiming to raise \$US58 million over the next 4 years to finance the production and shipment of more than 30 million scriptures for the USSR and Central and Eastern European countries.

Children as young as 5 are being abused in bizarre satanic ceremonies, according to the British National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. It called in March for government and police action after 7 of its investigating teams reported ritualistic abuse.

Blackmailers demanding \$325,000 have damaged transmitters of the Christian short-wave radio HCJB to show they mean business. They have threatened to shoot missionaries if the money is not handed over.

Baptists in Moscow booked the Olympic Stadium for 3 days over Easter for an ecumenical gathering with foreign speakers, Christian rock groups and local preachers.

Researchers told the 1990 World Conference on Tobacco and Health in Perth that tobacco will kill 19,503 Australians this year and cause 111,705 hospital admissions. Alcohol will kill 5,869 and cause 81,468 hospital admissions. Illegal drugs will kill 50 and hospitalise 9,794.

80% of the diseases that disable or kill people are caused by dirty water and inadequate sanitation.

Christian fundamentalist schools and independent schools with no church or religious links have become the fastest-growing elements in South Australian education, according to a Flinders University senior lecturer in education. He said: "A few years ago fundamentalist parents didn't want to send their children to a school like that because they were confident that a government school would not do anything against their beliefs. But a large number now consider that government schools are hostile rather than neutral towards their beliefs."

Industrial restructuring has been blamed for increasing the workload of industrial chaplains in Adelaide, with religious counsellors being inundated with calls from worried workers.

The Missouri State Senate has refused permission for the family of Nancy Cruzan to remove the food and water tubes that are keeping her alive. Cruzan has been in a vegetable state since 1983, and her family is seeking court approval to end her life by starvation and dehydration. The state's lawmakers refused to give their blessing to the plan, saying it would amount to state-sanctioned euthanasia.

## Travelling to Federal Conference?

CP can help with your travel arrangements to attend Federal Conference. We have negotiated special conference airfares and special bus rates. No matter what date you're travelling—check with us for a very competitive rate!

For further information, contact:

Marilyn Smith 008 24 2904

## Christian Projects

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## Caulfield Church of Christ 70th Church Anniversary

20 May  
10.30 am

Speaker:  
Dr Bill Tabbernee  
Lunch to follow  
Contact A. Carnie  
(03) 671 6025



# Passion Play tickets still available

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### Federal Conference Program

The Queensland Federal Conference '90 Arrangements Committee have announced the broad shape of the program for the 43rd Federal Conference in Brisbane on 8-14 October 1990.

The program will begin on Monday, 8 October, and Tuesday, 9 October, with the Conference business. The convention side of Conference will be held on Wednesday through to Sunday, 10-14 October, and is being combined with the Queensland Annual State Conference, which will hold its business session on 13 October.

QCWF and ACWF will hold their meetings on 11 October.

A youth program, called "The Hot Spot", will be held on Saturday, 13 October, in conjunction with the conference. A special primary school children's program will be held to provide for "Adventures in the City". This will involve visits to the Myer Centre, City Hall tower, river ferry cruises etc. Infants can be cared for in the Occasional Care Centre in the City Hall or the Churches of Christ Kiah Occasional Care Centre at Centenary.

The Wednesday to Friday program will provide for elective workshops and seminars on a wide range of subjects.

On Wednesday evening the Presidents' Reception will be held. All state conference presi-

dents and CWF presidents will be invited to co-host the reception.

The theme for the Thursday evening program will be "Now Is the Time To Serve the Lord in Mission" and on Friday evening "Now Is the Time To Serve the Lord for the Future", while the Saturday afternoon and evening program will involve the youth in "The Hot Spot". A great worship celebration is planned for Sunday morning in City Hall with the Conference theme, "Now Is the Time To Serve the Lord".

Provision is being made for about 10 trade displays of interest to the churches together with departmental and other display booths. There are only a few display areas still available so interested people should write immediately.

National Ministers' and Spouses' Seminar is planned for 4-6 October, at Camp Cal, Caloundra. As this seminar coincides with the annual Queensland Ministers' Seminar there is likely to be a limitation to the number of places available—probably 200.

A day and evening local tours program is being organised to the Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Dreamworld, Seaworld, the City and City lights. A post-conference tour to North Queensland is also being planned.

Register now!

### Federal Conference Travel Arrangements

Christian Projects is negotiating special fares for travellers to the Federal Conference in October.

The Ministers' Conference will be held at Camp Cal, Caloundra, 4-6 October, and the business sessions will commence in Brisbane on 8 October.

Special fares will apply for air travel and for those who wish to travel by bus to the

Conference. Bookings and inquiries are being handled by Marilyn Smith at the CP office in Sydney. Phone 008 242 904 for details.

A post-conference trip is also being organised to Cairns. Watch for details with your conference registration kit.

As the Federal Conference travel agents, CP is the only source for special conference fares. Don't miss out!



### Lunchtime Bible Lectures at Federal Conference

The Arrangements Committee for Federal Conference have announced that there is to be a new feature at Federal Conference this year—a lunchtime Bible lecture. Dr Ronald Graham is to be the lecturer.

Working on the theme of "Now Is the Time To Serve the Lord", Professor Graham has chosen to lead a study on Galatians.

Dr Graham is an Australian who is Professor Emeritus of New Testament at Lexington Theological Seminary, USA. He had taught New Testament at Drake University Divinity School before moving to Lexington.

Ted Keating, senior minister of the Nunawading, Vic, church, is the preacher for the Worship Celebration in Brisbane City Hall on Sunday, 14 October.

Bruce Armstrong, senior minister of the Margaret, Toowoomba, Qld, church, is the preacher for the Friday night rally on the theme "Now Is the Time To Serve the Lord in Opening up the Future".

On the Wednesday evening there will be a Presidents' Reception and on the Thursday evening a launch the Overseas Missions Board Centenary—100 years since the sending of the first overseas missionary.



## Visuals for WCC Assembly

Two projects are under way for the "visuals" of the 1991 World Council of Churches Assembly. One is the proposed 1,000-patches wall hanging, prepared by Christians Australia wide. Patches will be distributed to delegates at the conclusion of the Assembly.

The second project is the preparation of 9 m banners by

Aboriginal communities from around Australia expressing their spirituality. These banners will hang in the plenary hall as a part of the overall concept of decoration for the Assembly.

Margaret Gambold and Susan Daily visited Bathurst Island and Darwin to conduct workshops for these projects. On a hot tropical evening

Bathurst Islanders employed their unique skills in preparing patches, with exciting results.

In Darwin the women of the Women's Studies Centre at Nungalinga Theological College prepared patches with deeply personal tribal significance and a 9 m banner reflecting the geographic and tribal areas from which they come.

During this busy year of preparation for 1991 Assembly, the "visuals" workshops confirm that art speaks all languages and crosses all cultural barriers, uniting Australians in a common wish to express an inner spirituality as a means of worshipping our God.

### Australian Visitors at the Assembly

You could have an opportunity to participate in the World Council of Churches Assembly in Canberra, February 1991. Only a few Australians can be actual delegates but 700 Australians can participate as part of the Accredited Visitors' Program.

Another 500 overseas visitors will make up the full contingent for the Visitors' Program.

Participants in the Accredited Visitors' Program will join Assembly delegates in worship each morning, attend plenary sessions and have access to the Assembly documents.

In addition, they will have their own program of Bible studies, workshops and speakers' series, drawing on the resource people available at the Assembly.

Places have been set aside in the program for special interest groups. These include people with disabilities and their carers, Aboriginals and people from different ethnic groups.

The program fee is \$280 and reasonably priced accommodation is available for visitors. Applications for the Visitors' Program are available from the WCC Assembly Office, PO Box C199, Clarence Street, Sydney 2000. Phone (02) 29 2215.



Painting by Francis Xavier Puruntatameri at Bathurst Island during the Workshop

IAN F. KNIGHT, LLB, BCom

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## Classifieds

### RUBY WEDDINGS

**GREEN**—CHAPPLE Francis William and Olive Anne. Announcing the anniversary of their marriage on 13 May 1950 at the Mile End Church of Christ, Adelaide, SA, Will Marshall officiated. Our loving wishes to you from Bruce and Karen and Bev, Graham and family.

**ROBINSON**—COOPER Trevor and Irish have much pleasure in announcing the 40th anniversary of their wedding on 6 May 1950 at the Dandenong Church of Christ. The late Fred Youens conducted the service. Address: 6 Octavia Court, Burwood 3125.

### GOLDEN WEDDINGS

**SHERIFF**—MARSHMAN Cliff and Vina were married on 27 April 1940 at Horsham Church of Christ by C.W. Jackel. Love and congratulations from Ivan and Judy, Ken and Laureen, Dawn and Doug and their families.

### DEATHS

**BRYCE**, Geoffrey David, on 4.4.90 at Chelsea Hospital. Loved and loving husband of Lena, brother of Ruth and Glenda. Sadly missed.

**MICHAEL**, Ron. On 12 April at SCGH Perth. Loved father of Margaret and John Somerville, granddad of Kevin and Angie, Robyn and Susan. 57 Ventnor St, Scarborough 6019.

### IN MEMORIAM

**MURNANE** Cherished memories of Jack, passed away 11.5.73. Dearly loved husband, father and grandfather. Aimee and family.

### Moving to Melbourne?

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

### Balook

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### RIDE REQUIRED

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### TO LET

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## GROW VICTORIA



### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**JUNE DOSTER** is Associate Regional Minister, Christian Church, in Georgia, USA, with special responsibilities in adult groups, evangelism and Christian Women's Fellowship. She is a trainer for National Evangelistic Association programs, conducted a workshop in Evangelism at the National Evangelism Workshop for Disciples of Christ in St Louis, and co-ordinated a regional evangelism program in Georgia reversing a thirty-year decline. June has conducted workshops on "Helping CWF Grow" and will present elective sessions on "Ministry and Women in the 1990s". June is married to Harold, a Disciple of Christ minister. They have four adult children.

### ELECTIVES

The World of Women in the 1990s; Administering and Building a Growing Church; Evangelism with Young People; New Directions for Leaders in Smaller Churches; Issues for the Newer Congregation; Leadership Development in Women's Ministry; Building the Leadership Team; Evangelism in the Subculture; Issues for Leaders of Middle-Sized Churches; Worship in the Evangelistic Church; Program Directions; New Groups and Resources for Women's Ministry; The Local Church and Churches of Christ—Issues and Challenges; Implementing an Evangelism Program; Mobilising Volunteers; Using Small Groups for Evangelism

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You may attend this lecture even if you have not registered for the whole evangelism conference.

For further information please contact  
Don Smith or Ian Tippett (03) 662 2377  
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### Statewide Evangelism Conference

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9-11 June 1990



## Montrose Moves Ahead

The church at Montrose, Vic, has been experiencing significant growth over the past few years. They are also aware of the need, highlighted by the Church Growth philosophy, to develop strategies to enable new people to be successfully incorporated into the total life of the church. Over the past 20-30 years the Church Growth movement has brought valuable insights into focus within many churches. There has, however, been a certain degree of resistance to the strategies put forward. Nowadays the focus is directed more towards the fulfilment of the "great commission".

With this in mind it became apparent that an atmosphere where existing and potential members are encouraged to develop a greater capacity for mutual nurturing and spiritual growth would not only enhance the life of church members, but would also touch the lives in a positive way of those still outside the church.

It was agreed that for the goals to be achieved in an orderly fashion, an evaluation of the existing leadership structures was needed.

A committee was set up to review the existing leadership structures, to have a fresh look

at scriptural principles, to examine other church structures and report back.

This committee undertook an extensive research assignment in churches throughout Australia. They canvassed thoughts from members of Montrose, attended a six-week series on church leadership conducted by the Churches of Christ Theological College and, in June 1989, presented their final report and recommendations.

A new constitution was put to the church and overwhelmingly adopted. A new leadership team has been formed—a council of elders, at present seven, elected by the church, together with the minister(s). This team has overall responsibility for spiritual guidance and the general oversight of pastoral care, church policy and strategic planning.

The total implementation of policy and plans is entrusted to a number of small, autonomous groups known as key area committees. With the exception of the administration key area all the committees are headed by a deacon elected on the basis of gifts in the area. Key areas include Christian education, pastoral care, family fellowship, worship and music and outreach and mission.

## New Disciples



Three young men, Ran Tao, Li Huan Zhong, and Jian-Guo Ye (back row), are new disciples baptised at the Vietnamese church, Richmond, Vic, on 8 April, following a period of instruction by the minister, Nathan Nhan (second from right). These young men are all from China and have been evangelised by the church through its special outreach ministry. The Vietnamese church is sponsoring this Chinese outreach through their minister, who is fluent in both Vietnamese and Chinese languages. Thanh Chao Pham (front), whose family are part of the Vietnamese congrega-

tion, was also baptised. At the Easter services on the following weekend the services were crowded with members, visitors and enquirers. Further commitments were made at this service. Nathan Nhan will be ordained to the ministry of Churches of Christ, having previously graduated from the Bible College of Victoria and more recently completing additional study at the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave. His wife, Esther is working to help support him in his ministry. The Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development assists the church with a subsidy.

## 150 Catholics at UC-Churches of Christ Service

Some 150 Roman Catholics swelled the ranks of the usual Uniting Church-Churches of Christ congregation to fill Gartrell, SA, church to capacity at the 10 am Sunday service on 29 April in the Adelaide suburb of Rose Park.

It was an ecumenical worship gathering arranged as a preliminary to the 1990-1991 Year of Ecumenical Sharing leading up to the seventh Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Canberra (7-20 February 1991). The visitors came mainly from the Dulwich-Burnside RC parish, plus official representatives from ecumenical and Uniting Church groups.

A Catholic lady read the first Bible lesson, and Gloria Bills (UC) the second. UC student minister Peter Wilson led the approach to worship. Roger Brown, Churches of Christ minister in the Dulwich/Rose Park United Parish, handled the "focus for children". The Rev. Rob Williams (UC) was preacher for the occasion.

After the worship service ended a short discussion session was held with Kevin J. Flynn, a leading Roman Catholic layman, as spokesman for his church. He dealt with issues on which non-Catholics question Catholic beliefs and practices. He spoke first of the objection raised to Catholics

"worshipping" the Virgin Mary.

Mr Flynn said: "No well-instructed Catholic worships Mary. We regard her as a pre-eminent saint. We venerate her. You may have some difficulty in your minds over prayers being addressed to Holy Mary, Mother of God. But Catholics believe we have a relationship with the saints in Heaven, including Mary, as well as those on earth.

"We believe we can pray to Mary asking her help in asking her Son to do something for us."

The use of the rosary—praying by 50 or 100 beads—was another matter with which non-

Catholics did not agree. The practice had slipped somewhat in popularity, but the rosary was primarily device to count how many prayers were to be said.

One question asked was what importance was attached to the giving of the last rites. Mr Flynn replied that the church regarded this sacrament as of great importance. "How effective it is depends on the state of mind of the dying person," he added. "If a person were dying in a state that rejected Christ, the blessing by the priest would do nothing. It depends on the disposition of the person receiving the blessing."

—A.J. Ludbrook



## Ministers' Workshop

# Planning Makes the World Go Round

by Don Smith

**T**he Book of Proverbs is a great source of wisdom, humour and homespun truth. On the issues of planning ahead or not doing so our century has produced its own share of wisdom with comments like—"The future never just happened, it was always created in the minds of men and women." Or Page Smith's dictum—"The leader with a system, however inadequate it may ultimately turn out to be, is at a vast advantage over a systemless rival however brilliant." These sayings strike at the core of church life where the prevailing mood can be to let things happen or merely respond to issues as they emerge. Volunteer groups are especially vulnerable to this danger.

### Alien View

Such a view of life is alien to the great leaders of the Bible. Moses, David, Nehemiah and Paul are examples of leaders with a clear mind and a steadfast commitment to a plan. Jesus himself becomes the ultimate example. An assessment of developing churches of any size will show clearly that those that make progress have a leader with vision and a plan. The leadership and personality styles will vary greatly, but the ingredients are always there—a vision, a plan and a sacrificial commitment to the task. For the minister or church leader interested in these issues, there is a considerable body of research available on issues of leadership as it relates to church size and program directions. For me, Lyle Schaller is the great exponent on these matters. He is practical and easy to read. In plain terms, the issues for any leader are: where are we? where do we want to go? how do we get there? who will drive? and what will it cost? All this can be said much more elaborately and

each point made the subject of considerable thinking and talking. How you handle this matter is determined by your situation. In the end, a good working rule is to keep it simple, although the leader may spend considerable time on investigation and analysis.

### Starting Off

The minister, as leader, will start off in thought, analysis, reflection and prayer. Driving around your area, talking with people, sharing in groups, will all provide stimulus and ideas. It is good to share these with co-workers, both to test the ideas and to widen your support base. Most of us are prone to impatience. The statement about patience being a virtue is actually true! In these brief comments I have not considered the possibility of a minister having no plans. Sometimes I hear vague plans. Schaller pleads for a rigorous analysis. I warm to his questioning about what's not getting done, which causes no current pain, but creates a situation in five years time for which the church pays a great price. His reply touches four basic areas for any church. The areas are: poor assimilation processes, no expansion of groups or adequate leader development and, finally, no action plan for growth. Failure in these areas eats away at long-term viability for any congregation. How is it with your planning?

• Don Smith is Executive Director of the Vic-Tas Churches of Christ Department of Mission, Education and Development.

*Edited by Brian White, Field Director of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development and the Federal Board of Christian Education.*

## A Church ABC

**R**ockdale is located only a few kilometres from where Cook first landed in Australia. It is a well-established inner suburb of Sydney, NSW. In an area commonly known as St George, Rockdale is part of a municipality that extends over twelve suburbs on the western shores of Botany Bay, from Tempe and St Peters in the north, south to Sylvania and west to Bexley.

others who meet at Rockdale is now 43 plus 29.

There are two services each week, morning worship at 10.30 am and a new evening Body Life service at 6.30 pm. Other activities of the church include home groups, a CWF and a bookshop.

The minister at Rockdale is Brendon Workman, who only commenced this year, assisted by Steve Kearns, a 5th year stu-

## Focus on Rockdale

The Rockdale and district church is central to these suburbs and has been in existence for 103 years. In such a large area you might imagine a large, vibrant and active congregation, however only the latter two are true. In the past the church had a membership of up to 200, producing many who took up the challenge of full-time service. But over the past 20 years the church has had a dramatic decline in membership. There were two basic reasons for this, one external, the other internal. In this period Rockdale has seen a large influx of people from overseas, including people from 26 different nationalities. These new members of the community have brought their own religions, the most prominent being Islam, which is exceedingly strong in the area. The other reason for the decline in membership was as a result of confrontations between different individuals within the fellowship. Many people left disillusioned and hurt. Divisiveness can destroy relationships and the church's witness to the community. But there is also hope for those who have been through such situations. As a result of what has happened some are taking up the challenge to serve the community more and others are continuing faithfully, regardless. The combined membership and

dent from Carlingford college, who helps with preaching, visitation and youth work. Brendon is a graduate of Kenmore, married with four children, and has been in ministry since 1987. He came to Rockdale from the Leichhardt, Qld, church. He has been involved and committing himself to working with individuals within the congregation to minister and to evangelise.

The Rockdale community lends itself to person-to-person activity. Contacts are created by different activities, such as an Old Timers group, youth and Sunday school programs and general visitors to the church. Seminars on such matters as financial and family management will build a community awareness of the church as caring. The church has endorsed this concept.

It is hoped that all members will see themselves as ministers and use their unique gifts to serve the community so the church can once again be a large, vibrant church. The Rockdale church has a willingness to stop mourning about what has happened and to mission to a hurting community. Just as Mary when she saw the risen Lord changed her mourning into joy, telling others what she had seen, Rockdale is willing to take up the challenge in a practical way and from another humble beginning.



# Ministry in Rural Churches

by Steve Kitto

**H**istorically ministries to the majority of rural Churches of Christ have been relatively short term. Until recent years three-year terms for ministers was the normal approach. Some churches still think along these lines, like many of the businesses such as banks and stock firms in rural areas. Educational institutions did almost the same. My feeling is that this approach saw a divided community: those seen as "locals" and those from "away". The qualification of a local was that they were either the original settlers or that they were born into one of those families.

When this problem is transposed into the church it creates difficulties for the local congregation. There becomes a divided spirit, although not always clearly stated. It has been my experience, and that of many ministers that I have spoken with, that the changes that are made in the church often come from what we would call the transient population. These are the people who have had broader experiences in church programming because of their temporary nature in any community. These people do not have tradition.

Those who are the stable ones in terms of the previous definition play a very important role in the life of the community and the church. Some for many years have carried a tremendous burden in maintaining the community as well as the church. They do react to change, mainly I believe because of the enthusiasm of the "imports" and the fact that they are often left with carrying either a debt burden or the lack of resources to continue the programs that are started.

An area that I have only recently become aware of is "burn out". Many of our members of the rural community have or are suffering the burn out syndrome. They are exhausted for many reasons:

- They have run out of new ideas. Sometimes they have not had opportunities to gain new ones.

- They have carried the burden for a long period of time. They have seen people come and go, and rightly come up with the expression, "We have done it all before."

This is an area that needs consideration and understanding by ministers. It develops, I believe, as a direct result of short-term ministries, and the very mobile population of our communities.

Many of the members of our rural churches have seen the decline of their district to the point where many towns have ceased to be viable stand-alone communities. This has brought about negative growth attitudes in people.

The problem can be rectified by the development of long-term ministries in rural areas. Understanding the community to which ministry is being offered is of utmost importance. I would suggest that students from our colleges should, as part of their courses, spend time working in rural communities with ministers who have spent many years in the country.

I feel that there has been an emphasis on becoming program orientated. Often this has become the main issue, whereas the church, and especially those in rural communities, should be people orientated. This will change from community to community, depending on its economic basis. The pressure on the minister is to strive to find the balance. As minister of the word to the community that call always needs to be remembered. The changing role of ministry in the 80s and the 90s presents an inner conflict to the minister and the members. For many of the members of our rural churches the minister's role is seen largely in visiting the members and sharing in the delicious scones and a cup of tea, preaching on Sunday

and conducting weddings and funerals. The minister on the other hand sees the role as much wider. The demands are greater, and usually the minister has most of the responsibility for church administration (especially the more program orientated the church becomes). This inner conflict, which sadly often becomes an external conflict, needs to be understood by both the minister and the congregation. Communication is the key to any conflict resolution. An honest sharing with the eldership of ministry goals, working relationships and methods are essential. The communication and understanding is a two-way responsibility. The minister must take the time to understand the "culture" of the community into which the minister is attempting to minister. Not all areas of our country are the same. There are many differing backgrounds to the population of any community, so time needs to be given to understanding. Likewise the church needs time to understand its minister.

Maybe we need to approach ministry in rural Australia in relation to the workings of the overseas and Aboriginal mission organisations. Both these fields of service are long-term to the expectation of life commitment. The approach of the missions, while not necessarily perfect, sought to understand the culture and the language of the community to which ministry was being given. It seems to me that our expectations for missionaries are far different to that of ministers of our Australian churches. My question is, should they be?

For too long rural ministry has been viewed as a stepping stone to the city. The rural church has been the subconsciously forgotten cousin of the city church. Many ministers have taken rural churches as their first ministry as a way of building credibility towards the

city ministry and not always as the "call" to a specific ministry. Ministers have been recommended to country churches because they are not wanted for the city or to see if they can "make it". This attitude has not helped the image or the ministry of the rural church. Advisory boards need to take a very careful look at this practice.

Rural ministry is a "specialist ministry". Ministers recommended to country churches need to be selected on their capability to minister to the rural community. While many rural churches are not large numerically, and do not have the capacity to become large numerically, they do have a large influence in the community and are an important part of it. In most cases they minister to a higher percentage of the community than do city churches.

Ministry to the country should be seen as a long-term ministry. Churches will need to adjust to this concept. Most churches follow the recommendations of Conference. Maybe the thought that I have heard expressed that a minister's term be for an indefinite period of time with a minimum of five years become the pattern. It is necessary for long-term ministry that adequate in-service training be given to ministers. I would suggest to conferences that they recommend that at least two weeks in-service training be recommended as well as the annual ministers' retreat.

• Steve Kitto is currently minister of the Kadina, SA, church.

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## Student Profile

# "There Will Be a Church Family Waiting for You"

*James Robert Brooks is currently studying at the CCTC as an exchange student from Lexington Theological Seminary. He has a BA degree from Purdue University, Indiana, USA, and is "rejoicing in the opportunity to study in Australia"*

**M**y mother said to me before I left the United States for Australia that she felt somewhat relieved knowing that wherever I go there will be a church family to greet and care for me. I have found that to be true of the brothers and sisters in the Churches of Christ in Australia, a denomination which shares the same founders as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to which I belong in the States. Every encounter I have had with the Churches of Christ—from the wonderful family who picked me up from the airport to the Churches of Christ Theological College at Mulgrave and to the several congregations with which I have worshipped—has had a marked presence of Christian hospitality.

It has been quite stressful to leave everything that was familiar behind and come to a country that I only knew through textbooks and travel guides. In a way, it has been my Biblical time in the wilderness. I have left the comfortable surroundings of the congregations in which I have grown and the fiancée, family and friends that mean so much to me. Now I worship, live and study in an environment that, while being somewhat similar to my own, has a history and tradition unique unto itself.

The first noticeable difference was the weather, for it was freezing and snowy when I left home. Other differences I noted included the European style of cars, the Aussie accent, different names for similar things, and such colourful



money as well as more frequent use of coins of larger denominations. After living in Australia for a month and a half, I have begun to notice more and more subtle differences: a different respect for authority and the church by the general populace, taking the time for morning and afternoon teas as well as longer holidays.

The analogy of two living tapestries comes to mind as I compare our two nations. At first glance the overall picture is rather similar with only vague differences in contrast to some of the nations of the world. Yet as one looks closely at the tapestries, a world of differences spring forth. The threads vary in origin, weaving and wear. The longer one watches the tapestries however, the more one notices that they are living, moving and developing in subtly different ways; more emphasis here and less emphasis there.

When it comes to comparing the Churches of Christ in Australia and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada and the United States of America, similarities and differences become apparent. The most noticeable differences are in the Sunday morning worship liturgy. The church in Australia tends to use choruses, lay members preside, the minister does not wear a robe, the minister only preaches. There are

no robed choirs, sometimes no choir. There are no worship bulletins. Churches are less ornate. As I fellowship and worship with the Churches of Christ I find more subtle differences. These differences are related to each denomination's unique history, tradition and culture. I find most of the differences are appropriate within their own culture, yet acknowledge that we must continually evaluate our tradition, and an excellent way of doing so is by looking to other traditions and histories.

Both denominations seem to be experiencing similar struggles and joys. Both are struggling to effectively minister to a society that is dominated by the dollar and consumerism. Both are attempting to stay relevant and remain faithful to the Word of God. Both seem to be looking for an identity as a denomination and congregation, when our very foundation calls for "unity in diversity" and "no creed but Christ". Both denominations share at least one joy, which has been a mainstay for me as I live in Australia. Both denominations share a common faith in the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. As we experience the bonding of baptism and communion to the congregation and denomination in which we worship, we must remember the bonding these bring to the whole of God's Church.

For me, the most memorable experiences have been the heightened consciousness of spiritual growth I have experienced while in the wilderness of my unfamiliarity, and the ongoing consciousness that God is God and God's Children are God's Children, whether I be in the United States of America or Australia or China. My mother was right. There will always be a church family waiting to greet and care for you and me. Will we always be a church family waiting to greet and care?

## Family on a Journey

**Stephen Curkpatrick**

**I** have often discovered the most enriching time families have spent together have been on journeys, sometimes long journeys of epic proportions. Although such journeys may have had "their moments" in terms of family harmony, they have forged an understanding and appreciation of one's family, which doesn't often surface in the daily routine of life lived together.

Since ancient times, families have gone on long spiritual pilgrimages together. For Jews, it was an imperative to celebrate Passover in Jerusalem, at least once in a lifetime. So Jewish families from all over the Mediterranean world made the long journey to Jerusalem for Passover.

For some, the journey took months, and in the evenings no doubt they sat and talked about their progress so far, their joys and difficulties, which were many. They talked about the journey ahead, and the goal of their pilgrimage, with anticipation and excitement.

During these times, families grew closer, as they shared a deeper vision of life than the daily routine that they were immersed in back home. They began to understand what it really meant to be a family, and the journey itself became a living metaphor of a spiritual journey within.

As Christians, we are on a similar "journey of faith", and we share a deeper vision of life by sharing the journey, as family, together. On this journey of faith, we always need the church family, to share the joys and difficulties of the journey, to excite and inspire us in anticipation of reaching the goal of our pilgrimage and, in the meantime, to discover new depths to ourselves and those we call our family of faith.

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



# Binding Satan

by Bruce Anderson

**T**he practice of "binding Satan" in prayer has become popular in certain Christian circles. The practice raises many questions but my main objective here is to challenge the validity of the usual Biblical basis given for it.

The practice of "Binding Satan" is somewhat presumptuous. I am particularly concerned when in prayer people start addressing Satan, "I/we bind you..." It seems to me dangerous to turn the target for our prayers from God to Satan. The only incident I can find in scripture of a human (other than the incarnate Christ) addressing Satan was that of Eve talking to the serpent. If we feel we have authority to bind Satan from influencing a particular situation or meeting, why do we not also have the power to bind his influence in a town, region, state, country or the world? It can't be that simple. How long do the "ropes" last? And when do we need to bind him again?

## Based in Scripture?

Two passages of scripture are often mentioned as a basis for the practice. These are Matthew 16:19, where Jesus says to Peter, "Whatever you bind on earth will be [or have been] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be [or have been] loosed in heaven," and Matthew 12:29, where Jesus says, "How can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man?"

Let us look at each of these in their contexts and determine if they really are a basis for the practice of "binding Satan".

## Matthew 16:13-20

The Matthew 16 passage is the one where Jesus was asking his disciples who they thought he was. With God-given insight Peter responds, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God." (verse 16). Jesus excit-

edly responds, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah," (verse 17) and among other things says to Peter, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (verse 19)

Some say this is where Jesus gives to his church the authority to bind Satan. However, that is not how most Biblical scholars understand the passage.

## The Keys of the Kingdom

Most Biblical scholars take the "Keys of the Kingdom" to be referring to Peter's right to enter the kingdom himself and by preaching the gospel to open the kingdom to Jews and Gentiles

This corresponds with the ministry of reconciliation placed in the hands of all believers (2 Corinthians 5:17-). God changed us from enemies into his friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also.

But God has not just given his church the keys to the kingdom; He has also given us access to his mind and will.

## Binding and Loosing

"Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

There are a number of things to notice about this portion of the text that make clear it cannot be taken as a reference to binding Satan.

## "Whatever"/ "Whomever"

As Richard Lenski in *The Interpretation of Saint Matthew's Gospel* puts it, "This neuter [whatever instead of whom-ever] does not signify persons, but the acts of persons." His conclusion is supported by all of the 17 other authorities or versions whose positions on this matter are recorded in a commentary compilation used by Wycliffe Bible Translators.

This is not a reference to binding persons or beings, but rather, as the Good News Bible makes clear, a matter of prohibiting or permitting certain behaviours.

## Bound Already

A further point made by Alan McNeil in *The Gospel According to Saint Matthew* is that this binding or loosing in heaven is something that will have been done already. In other words the prohibiting or permitting that is done on earth will be in accord with that already prohibited or allowed in heaven.

This understanding is quite different and contrary to the interpretation given by the Satan binders. Their view is that when they pray (bind on earth) heaven jumps to attention and also binds in heaven. They see the choice in their hands and that heaven goes along with their choice on earth. On the contrary, the passage means that the reverse happens; what has already been prohibited in heaven is that which the Spirit-lead Christian will also prohibit on earth.

Other scriptures make reference to this as the law written in the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 8:8-12, Romans 2:14). In the church age when we have the Holy Spirit within us we have an amazing and powerful authority to decide moral issues for ourselves. If we heed the Holy Spirit within us then what we prohibit on earth shall be prohibited in heaven and what we allow on earth will be allowed in heaven.

Matthew 16:19 is not seen by serious scholars of the Bible as a basis for the practice of binding Satan.

## Matthew 12:29

Let's look at the second passage that is often used as a basis for the practice of binding Satan—Matthew 12:29. "How can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house."

Many view this as a reference to a Christian strategy for overcoming Satan's domain.

However I doubt that Jesus would refer to Christian ministry as a thief breaking in, taking what belongs to another and plundering his house. Christian ministry could be described as rescuing or recovering stolen property but not as theft, because as Psalm 24:1 puts it, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."

I think that Matthew 12:29 is a reference to what the Pharisees were trying to do in undermining Christ's authority by claiming his power was of Satan (verses 24 and 27). They were seeking to bind Jesus by undermining his power.

This interpretation better fits the context in which Jesus made the statement. In the previous verse Jesus has just asserted his power given by the Holy Spirit (verse 28).

Thus Jesus is the strong one referred to in verse 29 and the thieves are the Pharisees who were trying to undermine his authority. This is emphasised by the following verse that continues to talk about those who are against Jesus. Both before and after the verse in question Jesus was talking about those who were against him; so verse 29 also should be understood as a description of the strategy of those against Jesus not as a strategy for Christians.

## No Biblical Basis

I find no basis in either passage for the practice of Christians "binding Satan" in prayer.

To me the practice of "binding Satan" seems presumptuous. Jesus is working on his long-term plan to finally overthrow Satan and cast him into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10) but until then the Lord restricts Satan's power. I don't see myself as having power to bind Satan. In fact I don't need such authority for myself. I can call on the Lord Jesus Christ to do any binding or restricting of Satan when and how he chooses.

• Bruce Anderson is minister at the Maryborough, Vic, church.



## "Let Us Stand and Sing!"

by Allan Male

**L**utherans traditionally sit to sing their hymns and stand for prayers and reading of the gospel. They are programmed to do it. If you wanted them to stand and sing you would have to tell them to!

A tendency is creeping into our corporate worship where we are told every hymn to "stand and sing". It is becoming as habitual as the words, "close the honours of the feast" or "the central portion of our worship" came to be in times past.

When I have asked preachers and presidents why they

say it, the replies have been: "Oh, well, I really mean at the appropriate time." On further pressing as to when that might be, they say, "At the end of the first line of the organist's introduction," or "When the organ music swells."

We are so conditioned in Churches of Christ that we automatically stand when the organ music swells.

Now, I know it may be appropriate to announce it sometimes, but surely it is not necessary for every hymn in a service.

I have seen some visitors

(Churches of Christ and other communions) very embarrassed when they stand when they are told to, only to find that others who are "in" on the jargon know it was not meant to be right now.

Some suggestions:

- "We continue to worship god by singing hymn number..."

- Illustrate the background of the hymn.

- "As we sing together hymn number... let us rejoice in the experiences of knowing we share a faith in the Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us."

What message are we conveying?

From an objective point of

view we are teaching people not to act on what we say. We are giving them the message, "When I say it, I don't really mean it."

What army could function if the commands (leading in worship) were to be acted upon 20 seconds after receiving them?

Churches of Christ—don't let this little tradition take hold. Toss it out along with the other clichés. Please and let our directions in worship be clear and precise!

• *Allan Male, OBE, is a Churches of Christ minister who is currently Director of the Shaftsbury Project. He is a member of the Pine Rivers church.*

## The Barnabas Club

by Tom Napier

**"J**oseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet." (Acts 4:36-37)

Criticism seems to come easy for the human nature. Encouragement is another story. There is a sincere need for encouragement in the body of Christ. Barnabas, whose very name means "Son of Encouragement", is a great example to the believers.

In the book of Acts we see that Barnabas was a great supporter of the ministry of the apostle Paul. Prior to Acts 13 we see these men recorded as "Barnabas and Saul (Paul)". Then a change takes place. Future references are to Paul and Barnabas. It would appear that Barnabas encouraged Paul so much that he even took a back seat and let Paul stand out in the forefront. Such is the beauty of the manner in which Barnabas encouraged.

When Barnabas appeared to be in the back seat, what did he do? Did he grow jealous and find a comfortable corner? No, he continued his ministry of encouragement.

Barnabas teaches us by example what Paul described in Romans 11:19, "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification." The Bible teaches a clear need for "building up" the body in Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).

Obviously, encouragement must begin at the leadership level. Leaders must build up rather than tear down the body of Christ. The purpose is clearly defined—"until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature".

Let me share with you an idea that has worked at First Church of Christ in Lynchburg, Ohio. We call it "The Barnabas Club". It is a ministry of encouragement.

Our example is Barnabas. We use as a theme 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17: "May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word."

Our desire is to encourage the entire body of Christ by way of cards, letters, special gifts etc. When we send a note

we simply sign it "The Barnabas Club." By not using our personal names, we direct the thanksgiving to God. All praise, honour and glory goes to him.

Who do we encourage? We encourage Sunday school teachers, elders, deacons, vacation bible school workers, song leaders, missionaries, flower arrangers, janitors, people who care for the lawn, those who make calls, nursing home and hospital patients, the discouraged, Bible college students, university students, armed servicemen and women and any others we can think of.

We praise strong points and look for needs.

The Barnabas Club does not meet weekly. No one really knows who is in the club. (Club members need encouragement, too.) One person oversees the entire project, giving encouragement assignments to ensure that needs are met. Only that person actually knows all of the members. Once a year we meet to see who was involved. Then new members are privately selected and another year of encouragement begins.

Why keep it secret? When people read a note of encouragement they have a good feeling. They begin thinking, "Who could have sent this?" Soon, they are praising God for the entire church family. God gets the praise and we develop an

appreciation for the church as a whole. Before long, the congregation is encouraging one another personally each day. A positive attitude spreads as the work of the Lord moves forward.

By the way, the club has dues. Romans 13:8 says, "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow man has fulfilled the law."

The real success to this ministry is in prayer. Every individual or couple involved in this work is asked to pray for each person they are encouraging. They are instructed to tell the person they are praying for them and then to pray. Husbands and wives gain much from this time of praying together for the needs of others. The prayer closet is the regular meeting place of "The Barnabas Club".

Some may ask, "Do we really need another committee, or group within the church?" Maybe not. But until we "build up" one another unto good works we will not have the strength needed to press forward in the restoration of New Testament Christianity, and do the work Christ has for us.

• *Tom Napier is evangelist with First Church of Christ, Lynchburg, Ohio, USA.*



Ministers also need what they are supposed to offer those in their congregations

# Who Feeds the Minister?

by John D. Taylor

In my work I enjoy frequent opportunities to be a guest preacher. On one occasion not long ago the elder of the day handled the portion of the communion service normally assigned to the minister. Then something strange happened! The deacon, who I assumed would serve me the bread and cup, passed right by without so much as a glance.

The oddest feeling came over me—I was forgotten! Was it because I was sitting in a chair that was usually vacant at that moment? I wondered. Didn't I look as if I needed it? Or deserved it? My name was even in the bulletin. How could the server forget me?

As I watched the congregation, each person in turn, be served and eat of the bread and drink of the cup, I realised just how much I wanted to participate. Should I stand up and call out? No, that would not be proper. Then I thought, "The deacon realises that a mistake has been made. He will offer the elements to me when he returns to the front."

Yet again, he passed me by and I—out of some set of rules implanted deep within my consciousness—could not bring myself to speak up and ask for communion. The lids were then replaced on the trays and the Lord's Supper was concluded.

The time for the benediction was at hand, and so I stood and dismissed the people. Everyone passed out of the sanctuary, commenting on how meaningful the worship was. But the preacher didn't get fed!

How and when and where does your minister get fed—spiritually, socially and culturally? Some clergy are smart enough to speak up when the "hunger pangs" hit. Others put on the proper facial appearances and go on about their tasks, never giving the slightest hint that they need a prayer

said for them. They need someone to bless their cup; someone to listen; someone in whose presence they can relax. But they didn't ask! After all, these ministers reason, it's not the proper role of the preacher to be needing this sort of thing. After all—he or she is the one who is set apart to be in charge of all that spiritual and emotional sort of stuff. Surely, such people ought to know how to get "food" on their own!

Does your minister ever need someone to pray for him or her? Someone to hear—really hear?

There is an aspect of the events of the Upper Room that intrigues me. Looking at John 13, we find the disciples too busy with their own importance to offer common courtesy to one another. So Jesus gets up and washes the feet of each of them.

But notice what is missing! No-one offers to wash Jesus' feet. Were they not dusty as well? Did his feet not need the cooling, refreshing service? Apparently Jesus broke the bread and offered the cup with unwashed feet. He prayed for his friends and spoke of the greatest act of love—with unwashed feet.

Are there times when we are so busy doing the functions of the church that we fail to function as the church for the minister of the congregation?

In 1 Kings 17 is the story of the holy man, Elijah, during a famine. As he walked toward the place God had directed him he encountered a widow and her son. They were preparing the last meal they would ever eat, because there was only a handful of flour or meal and a little oil, and they were too weak to go anywhere else. Elijah was willing to ask for what he needed and so he asked if he could share in this last supper. The woman gave of her meagre supply.

In that giving, there was still

more to give. And for many days, the Bible says, they all ate from that meal jar. The oil, too, did not run dry.

Some of us might look at our minister and ask, "How can I, with the little spiritual understanding I have, pray for such a person as our minister? Clergy have the training. They read a lot. They have had much practice in the disciplines of faith." But who knows? The prayer you offer or the time you spend in listening to the minister in confession may be just the miracle that will feed both you and the minister for many days.

Even the great evangelist, the Apostle Paul, asks in his letter to the Ephesians that they pray for the saints and for him. And if Paul needed to be fed, I'm sure that every minister also needs to be nourished!

I have a few suggestions if you would like to feed your minister, even if the minister is hesitant to ask:

- Ask the minister out to coffee and ask, "How is it going?" Then be quiet and listen. And listen in such a way that the minister will know that you can be trusted as a friend.

- Remember the date of your minister's ordination or birthday—and send a card or simple gift.

- Make a reservation at the fanciest restaurant in town for your minister and spouse some Friday night, and take care of the bill.

- Make sure your minister takes a day off. To make certain, invite the minister and family out to your vacation retreat occasionally, or consult with some other members who know of a pleasant, no-cost getaway place.

- Call the church sometime, out of the blue, and just say you are praying for the minister.

- Get a fund started to send your minister on an educational trip or to make possible attendance at some important ecumenical event or the 1992 World Convention.

menical event or the 1992 World Convention.

- Make sure the minister goes to retreats and services of worship as a participant on occasion, not just as a leader.

- Finally, as "dessert", volunteer to teach a class or lead a youth group or choir. Your minister will be ecstatic!

In that story in 1 Kings, what might have been the result if the widow had not shared her meagre meal with the prophet? All three might have died of starvation. Yet in her giving, new life was found by her, her son and Elijah.

This week remember to feed the preacher!

- John D. Taylor is director of development for Barton W. Stone Christian Home in Jacksonville, Illinois, USA, a facility of the National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This article first appeared in The Disciple and is used by permission.

### BIRTHS

**FERGUSON-WRIGLEY** Robert and Chris give thanks to God for the safe arrival of their first child, a beautiful boy, Daniel John, born at Sydney Adventist Hospital, Wahroonga, on 4 May 1990; a second grandchild for Jan and Colin Wrigley.

### HOLIDAYS

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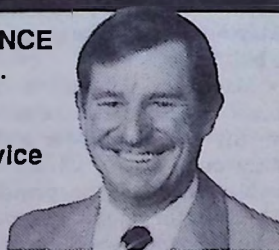
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### Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department

#### Administrator for Bribie Island Retirement Village

The Social Service Department invites applications for the position of Administrator for Bribie Island Retirement Village

This is a full-time position which will involve responsibility for the administration of the 30 bed Sir Charles Adernann Nursing Home, a 50 bed Aged Care Hostel, 10 Studio Units, 8 ADPA Units and 60 Resident Funded Units. The Nursing Home has an approval in principle for an additional 20 nursing home beds and there is opportunity for the further development of additional Resident Funded Units.

The successful applicant will be required to co-ordinate the operation of the retirement village, work in close co-operation with and under the direction of both the Social Service Department and the Bribie Island Regional Social Service Department Committee. The Administrator will need to develop working relationships with other Social Service Department Administrators and with local churches. The Administrator is responsible to the Executive Director of the Department and to the regional Committee for the local management of the Village.

Commencement Date: 27 August 1990

Bribie Island Retirement Village is situated at Foley Street, Bongaree, on Bribie Island, Queensland

Terms, conditions and job description are available on request. Salary is based upon the salary of a Director of Nursing for a 36-65 bed Nursing Home in Queensland and a Village vehicle is available for the use of the Administrator.

Applications will be treated confidentially and should be made on the form provided and supported by the names, addresses and phone numbers of at least two referees.

Applications close 22 June 1990 and should be addressed to

The Executive Director  
Churches of Christ in Queensland  
Social Service Department

PO Box 508

Kenmore 4069

Phone (07) 378 0802 Facsimile (07) 8781268



## Personal

### Discipleship

• Geoff Bartlett, Annerley, Qld  
 • Michael Hatherly, Pendle Hill, NSW  
 • Mrs Billie Newberry, Mrs Sylvia Elton, Bevan Thwaite, Timothy Thwaite, Rachelle Habermann, Sonia Grayson, Bundaberg, Qld  
 • Mrs Glad Forrest, Ormond, Vic  
 • Margaret Rodger, Lyn McAllister, Edna Dunne, Debbie Rodgers, Maldstone, Vic  
 • Paul Dahlitz, Murray Bridge, SA  
 • Kylie Herft, June Scullion, Dandenong, Vic  
 • Karen Else, Greg Else, Ruth Tilley, Bendigo, Vic  
 • Christine & Liz Wallbank, Peter Blades, Knoxfield, Vic  
 • Beccy Sladdin, Ararat, Vic

### Marriages

• Peg Lake to Neil Blake, Burleigh Heads, Qld  
 • Marilyn Largaway to Peter Mamgold, The Patch, Vic  
 • Wendy Squires to Ian Stibbe, Ormond, Vic  
 • Vanessa Simon to Jamie Vincent, Ann St, Brisbane, Qld  
 • Sue Symes to Keith Pollock, Bendigo, Vic  
 • Evelyn Yap to Alex Hanin, Bee Ling Tan to Alan McLean, Quoc Lien Tran to Chen Kien Phan, Lisa Maxwell to Gregory Ward, Cowandilla, SA

### Deaths

• Joyce Parker, Annerley, Qld  
 • Sam Lowne, Edna Walker, Pendle Hill, NSW  
 • Reg Elton, Bundaberg, Qld  
 • Tim Burns, York St, Ballarat, Vic  
 • Mrs Edna Coombes, Burleigh Heads, Qld  
 • Ern Charles, The Patch, Vic  
 • Jessica Risk, Maldstone, Vic  
 • Lavinia Alice (Venie) Ellery, Kalamunda, WA  
 • Ella Ruth Hennig, Murray Bridge, SA  
 • Les Auri-sch, Dandenong, Vic  
 • Holley Thomas, John Powell, Bendigo, Vic

### Changes

Williams, E.L.—New phone number (03) 803 5964.

Arana Hills: Secretary—J. Gustafson, PO Box 1255, Stafford, Qld 4053. Phone (07) 264 2122.

### Carnegie Church of Christ Anniversary 27 May 1990

10.30 am—Communion and Worship

Guest Speaker: Andrew Ball, Director of Field Services, FBCE  
 Past members and friends are invited to share in worship and fellowship

1 pm—Luncheon (hot chicken)  
 RSVP if staying for lunch

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# Glory to God

## AUSTRALIANS SERVING IN EAST ASIA FOR 100 YEARS

The China Inland Mission was founded in England in 1865 by Hudson Taylor.

The Australian branch of CIM was established on May 22nd 1890. In the next 60 years, 301 Australians joined hundreds of missionaries from other countries who worked in China with

CIM. They faced many hardships and dangers as they founded churches, schools and hospitals. Their legacy is a part of the widespread Christian witness going on in China today. The Communist takeover meant the end of mission work in China, and CIM looked to new fields and a new name.

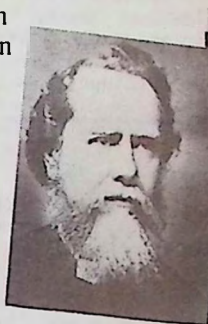
The Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) was born in 1951 and began work across

East Asia. Over the last 40 years, 219 Australians have served with OMF in this region. Today the mission has some 1000 members of 27 nationalities including Asians.

*To celebrate CIM/OMF's Centenary a number of special events are taking place across Australia.*

*Guest speakers include the current OMF General Director, Dr Jim Taylor III (the founder's great grandson), and former General Director and author, J.O. Sanders.*

*"The Edge of Tomorrow", a musical drama based on the life of Hudson Taylor, is also being presented by New Zealand's 'Source Theatre'.*



Jim Taylor



J.O. Sanders



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## Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

### Ellery, Lavinia Alice

(1.4.90) After several months of hospitalisation, Lavinia ("Venie") Ellery died. Her death was a blessed relief from an ailing body that in recent years caused her great frustration, which she bore with courage and Christian grace. Venie was born in Guildford in 1914. Her married life was spent "pioneering" an orchard at Pickering Brook with husband Bill. In that time, too, she and Bill also "pioneered" the establishment of the Kalamunda, WA, church, with both providing frequent duets in the services. Venie was much loved. She will be greatly missed by her sons, Robert and Ken, her husband Bill and her wider family.

—Mark Proud

### Hennig, Ella Ruth

17.4.90 Baptised 1929 Murray Bridge, SA, church, Ella was the daughter of the Bill Downings. She married Vic Hennig in 1941. Their three children are Geoff, Laraine (Bartlett) and Carol (Strathmont). Many years of Ella's life were spent caring for Carol's special needs, then for her mother, aunt and Vic's mother. Ella was a gardener, sewed well for her family, CWF Fundraisers and for Carol's home. Within the church Ella was a willing worker taking responsibility in CWF. She was a joyous singer and despite her deafness sang true soprano. Since it began Ella helped with Meals on Wheels. Ella knew a faith to live by, evident in her cheerful trust in God.

—BEMW

### MacDonald, Cecil George

Cec was born in Broadwater, NSW, on 20 September 1909. He worked in the NSW North Coast area in sawmilling, dairy farming and the sugar industry. Ill health forced his retirement at age 58. Cec and Bel were married at Murwillumbah in 1946. In 1956 they were baptised at Lismore by Dr Caldicott and have been faithful to their Lord since. In 1970 they moved to Queensland and were involved at the Leichhardt, Hervey Bay, Kingswood Park and East Ipswich churches. Cec received his home call in early March. This quiet man will be missed by family and friends. His memorial service was conducted at East Ipswich by Norm Flett and Don Gehrke.

—DG

### Michael, Ron

(12.4.90) Ron grew up in a Christian home in North Perth, WA,

becoming a member of the North Perth church. During the economic depression of the 30s he worked as a gold miner in Wiluna. After World War II the family moved to Perth and he was a loyal member at Inglewood for 30 years. He was especially caring towards children and held Sunday School in his home for some years. Since his wife Dorrie died 10 years ago he lived with daughter Margaret at Scarborough. He was an important member at Wembley Downs serving specially in the Open House program. His children Margaret, Dorothy, Rae and Lindsay and families remember him with love.

—John Somerville

## Vic

ASHBURTON (K. Barton) Well-supported Harvest Thanksgiving helped local & Community Care ... Church outing visited Christian Blind Mission International a real spiritual experience ... Eric Hancock & Wendy Sowler guest artists at favourite hymn service ... Manifesto with 10-point plan for the future distributed to all members ... Congregation shared Good Friday service with Glen Iris Uniting Church.

NUMURKAH Four attended conference at Bright ... Weekly Bible study commenced in March ... Dr Bill Tabbernee guest speaker for PSA ... Coffee morning held May inviting ladies from other CWFs. Guest speaker was Dorothy Geyer, who was a missionary in India for 35 years ... Successful jumble sale & craft stall was held during the year ... Ladies busy knitting bed socks for elderly citizens.

YORK ST, BALLARAT (Jim Cunningham, Gary Berry) Sunday School enjoyed Palm Sunday breakfast ... 15-18 year old Bible study group enjoyed adventure camp at Ayre River ... Art 'n' Craft Company raised \$335 at stall/clothes sale for building fund ... Prayer of praise & thanksgiving offered for births of Amy Sharman, Kyle Frew, Helena Veal ... Church saddened by tragic death of Tim Burns ... Members working toward opening of new chapel 1 July.

THE PATCH (Mike Folland) Annual business meeting held 25 March. Colin Jones & Graham Archer elected deacons ... Church family mourns death of Ern Charles ... Youth group continues to welcome new members, also Church School is growing ... Progress continues on church extensions ... Series of Lenten studies held. Easter services well attended ... Mike &

Ruth's ministry much appreciated ... CWF visited Fred Combridge House with program & afternoon tea.

STRATHMORE (James Pearce) Chaplaincy dinner raised \$387 for Strathmore High School chaplaincy of Ruth Curtis ... Minister's wife now involved in local State School Parents' Committee ... First Tuesday each month an Educational Spiritual Seminar is held at 9.30 am ... 8 April good display of food for harvest festival ... Same morning Hettie & Doug Daws farewelled prior to moving to a suburb nearer relatives.

ORMOND (G. Stibbe, M. Adamson) Michael & Melissa Adamson welcomed as they commenced ministry ... Melissa & Glenda Daw taken over Nursery School as Hazel Clark resigned leadership after many years dedicated service ... New scholars in Bible School & "Teenscene" commenced for those entering teen years ... Church fair a success ... Tea table service held & additional special services during Easter, Thursday evening, Friday & sunrise Sunday.

MAIDSTONE (Wes Rodgers) Happy official opening of units after five years waiting ... Good Friday service with Tottenham Baptists ... Four ladies immersed by Wes at special service at Sunshine Baths. Welcomed into church 29 April ... Brian Smith welcomed by transfer ... Ilma Boettcher improving after stroke, also Iris Gates ... Oldest member Jessica Risk died 24 April ... Les Synnot congratulated for placing in photography competition in Hungary.

CHELSEA (I. Whitelock) Good Companion Girls Club increased. Additional helper needed ... Three prospective members being counselled ... Visit to Nepean National Park & OTC Centre, light plane joy flights, recent youth group activities ... Scott Milan resigned as hospital pathologist to begin pilot's course for MAF ... Song Leaders group formed to learn new tunes to teach to congregation ... Workshop held for those presiding, reading or helping.

NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn) Minister entered Freemasons Hospital for surgery early May & will go away on annual holidays afterwards ... During his absence Geoff Crossman will minister to the church ... Tongan group who use our chapel weekly conducted a Tongan wedding in the chapel recently ... CWF raised \$267 in a stall at the local plaza ... Some local people now attending services.

DANDENONG (Graeme Foon, Mark Butler) Church excavations

commenced ... Church picnic held Labour Day at Canadian Bay ... Two baptisms held at Lysterfield Park lake ... Letter drop done around school location ... Barbara Pitts guest soloist at morning service ... Young adult studies held every two weeks ... Youth service held commencing with a tea ... Young people raised \$188 from sale of Easter eggs for bus fund.

BENDIGO (John Sweetman) Successful family camp held at Halls Gap ... Over \$560 given to COCOA ... Church saddened by passing of Holley Thomas after illness ... Minister & family returned from holidays ... Three young people make confession of faith & were recently baptised & welcomed into fellowship ... Combined Good Friday service with Baptist & Brethren congregations ... GMC made & decorated float as outreach project for Bendigo Easter Fair procession ... John Powell tragically killed falling trees.

KNOXFIELD (Rod Brown) Brian Tunks to be inducted as new associate minister ... "Discovering Jesus" daytime Wednesday Bible studies popular ... Over past 10 months \$3,979 raised for Christmas Bowl appeal, \$3,031 from "Time & Talent" scheme & \$2,293 from other forms of fundraising ... Dr Geoff Whiting recently completed a review of our church structures & his recommendations are being examined for likely implementation.

RED CLIFFS (G.R. Sharrad) A well-attended & impressive combined Easter service on Good Friday. Feature was a seven-foot "old rugged cross". As Rex Sharrad read account of Crucifixion from John's Gospel items were placed on the cross—crown of thorns, nails, purple robe & inscription in Greek, "Jesus, King of the Jews". The cross remained in the church for Easter Sunday service.

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Qld

**ANNERLEY** (Russell Ritchie) Professor Alan Wilson speaker at combined Boys' & Girls' Brigades church parade... Continued need for prayer for minister's health & also for his family... Church very saddened by loss of Joyce Parker, an active & well-loved member... Bible-centred Timothy Club set up within Sunday School... Welcomed into membership Bijan, Pouran & Debra Binesh from Iran, Neil, Caroline & Michelle Bowden & Darren Hutley.

**BUNDABERG** (Alan Leane) Church rejoicing in seven baptisms & 10 members welcomed... Conference Presidential visit proposed 2 Sept... Church outing on Easter Monday to Woodgate Beach. Several new families attended... Bill Newman Crusade in the planning for March 1991... Church/BS picnic barbecue held on grounds... Engagements: Mark Linderberg to Jane Baldwin, Paul Linderberg to Tammy Turner.

**BURLEIGH HEADS** (S. Kelly) Recent mission week held. Allan Webb (Swanston Street) guest speaker. 11 missionaries again being supported. Faith giving promises totalled \$25,000... Visit by Conference President Allan Wilson 9 April... Construction of new youth hall completed. Officially opened by Judy Gamin, former MLA, on 29 April... Additional home study groups recently formed.

**ANN ST, BRISBANE** (R.K. Aldred) Church auxiliaries have recom-

menced activities for the year... Opening church activity boat cruise down Brisbane River... Boys' & Girls' Brigades parade held recently. Gillian Watson commissioned as Captain Girls' Brigade... Fancy dress party held. Well attended & great costumes... Upper Room service held Maundy Thursday... Congratulations to Ivan & Christine Law on birth of their first child Matthew William.

SA

**GLENELG** (Neville Bradley) 45 attended small home groups weekly in March... 95 attend Craft on Thursdays... Playgroup is now held Tuesday & Friday... Maundy Thursday service most effective... Church services over Easter very meaningful... Kids Club now held fortnightly, numbers are steady... Two weddings in church—Phillip Wolfenden & Michelle Watson... Visit of Heralding Jesus Christ Blessings & Conf. Pres. Trevor Lawrie. **COWANDILLA** (R.S.A. McLean) Morning services now 10 am. Chinese Alliance Church 11.30... CWF, Men's Fellowship combined for evening meal and update on F&B program from Kate Roberts... Monthly combined service with Mile End... Joined with Co-operating West Adelaide Churches for studies with Philip Carter and Sunday evening service to hear David Williams' on united churches Milton Keynes, UK... Aileen Draney's PNG news.

NSW

**PENRITH HILL** (Ross Zellinger, Chris Roberts, Allan Kay) Attendances are remain steady around 250. Continuing to provide complementary youth work, which is growing... Dr Keith Farmer to preach series on healing during May... Special one-day "See Them the Scriptures" seminar planned 2 June... New functional lay leadership covering 12 areas of church life to form basis for next stage of church growth... Lodge rebuilding program finally detailed. Stage one to commence soon.

**TWEED HEADS** (Richard Oakes, Guy Cooper) Annual church meeting brought encouraging reports from all departments... Leaders dedication service 11 March when over 20 leaders involved... Church praying & planning for Reachout with John Bond later in year... Over 80 meeting each week in study groups... Afternoon of prayer held recently... Guy & Stephanie welcome baby girl, Danika... Five baptisms, five received in... CWF hosted women's Bible Society rally. **EPPING** (S. Curkpatrick, D. Moyes) Judy Gordon recently spoke on commitment to Christian growth. Judy is going to team ministry at Castle Hill in 1991... Laurie & Lois Larcombe returned from living in Hong Kong... Deacons elected to give elders more opportunity to work with the ministers in areas of outreach & spiritual development... Two decisions

made at Easter youth camp.

**THORNLEIGH** (Franklyn Elliott) Kim Roberts conducted well-attended Good Friday service... Some young people attended Easter DCE camp at Stanwell Tops... Franklyn Elliott & Tim Hanna leaders at worship seminar for worship & music & others in church on 20 & 21 April... At least 288 visits made for prayer (often the same people) during the special month of prayer as the chapel was open each week night.

**BATHURST** (David Gurney) The church started in 1982 with seven meeting in members' homes. A new building was opened March 1989. Current membership is 40... During 1990 further work carried out to improve the outside amenities... Five baptisms recently been held in a member's swimming pool. Two were during a storm, the rain stopping to allow the service to continue.

Tas

**LAUNCESTON** (Rod Foster, John Rees) CWFs presented "A Christian Woman's Walk through Life", featuring 4 two-minute dramas followed by speakers on The Working Wife, The Young Mother, the Grandmother and The Woman Alone... 29 April the young people brought insights from their recent Easter Camp... A Quiz Night on 25 April raised over \$500 for Talent Endeavour... "Mingles" held a Car Rally on Anzac Day.

## 43rd FEDERAL CONFERENCE

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

8-14 October 1990

THEME: "NOW IS THE TIME TO SERVE THE LORD"



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Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until he has something to forgive.

—C.S. Lewis

The three sweetest words in the English language are "cheque enclosed herewith".

★★★★★

Business is like a wheelbarrow—it stands still until someone pushes it.

★★★★★

"Back home," boasted the Texan, "we've got a cattle salve that's so good you can cut off a cow's tail, rub the salve on, and a new tail grows on the cow in seven days."

"That's nothing," said the Queenslander. "Where I live, we've got an ointment that's much better than that. You can cut off a cow's tail, rub the ointment on the tail, and in seven days a new cow grows."

★★★★★

I was brushing my teeth when my seven-year-old came up and said, "Ah, so you're the one who keeps putting the cap back on the toothpaste."

★★★★★

A little girl had saved up enough money to buy her father a birthday present, but she was concerned about one thing. "I can't be going to town every month to make payments," she said to her mother. "Is there a shop where they'll let you pay the whole thing at once?"

★★★★★

Money can be lost in more ways than won.

★★★★★

Tomorrow is today's greatest labour saving device.

★★★★★

The new apprentice showed up for work at the building site and was told to help with some carpentry.

The apprentice set to work with a will picking up nails, examining them carefully. Some the apprentice kept; some the apprentice threw away.

"What do you think you're doing?" the boss enquired.

"Oh, I'm chucking out those nails because they have the head on the wrong end," the youngster replied.

"You idiot!" the boss thundered. "I've been saving those for the other side of the house!"

★★★★★

Money saved for a rainy day buys a smaller umbrella than it used to!



## Springwood's Drive-in Film Series

Following a day of planning and prayer by the board of Springwood, Qld, church, a decision was made to screen the Dr James Dobson film series "Turn Your Heart Toward Home" at a local drive-in theatre at Rochedale.

The site was offered free of charge on nights when the drive-in did not usually open—Sunday and Wednesday.

The series was screened over five nights in March.

Advertising was in local newspapers, on "Family Radio"—a Christian radio program, through churches in the area and on a 33 m banner outside the theatre, which is situated on a busy road.

Programs welcoming patrons and giving details of the film series and the church and its activities were handed out at the entrance. A book stall operated in the cafe-

teria area, where coffee was served after the films. Copies of the New Testament were freely available.

The series was well supported, by church members and the community alike, with up to 95 cars attending nightly. Sunday night services were not held in the chapel to encourage maximum participation. Members enjoyed the informal fellowship before the films, while appreciating an early finish, which benefitted young children.

The community was able to view a quality family-oriented film series in the comfort of their own car without feeling threatened and with the opportunity to make contact with a counsellor if they wished. The church achieved a wide coverage in the community and was able to promote its programs and services.

## Pontius' Puddle



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