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## A Donkey in Church

*Then it happened: in came Mark McKay astride a large Jerusalem donkey, which went straight down the centre aisle, up past the pulpit and communion table and out the back door.*

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## Body Language

*Stephen Curkpatrick puts his finger on it.*

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## Churches of Christ Theological College

*Annual Appeal*

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## Guest Editorial

*Have we lost the zeal with which our movement began?  
Is it too late for us to renew our responsibility as post-  
resurrection disciples to tell the good news that Christ lives?*

# The Risen Lord

by Harold Watkins

It is Easter evening as I write this. The day was filled with joyful moments—attending Sunday School with a supportive group of Christian friends; celebrating communion with our family and our larger "faith family" during worship; and, dining together with our daughter and her family, sharing the special hugs and thank you smiles from granddaughters. Finally, a long-distance call to my 93-year-old mother who, together with my deceased father, led me to Christ 52 years ago. As the day winds to a close and the joyful moments, rich remembrances of past Easters and the recognition of hope that this day brings to so many begins to fade away, I struggle once again with the recurring question that has burdened me over the past few years. Namely, do the Disciples, the Christian Church, the Churches of Christ, really believe in the Resurrection?

We, of course, all say that we do believe in it; and especially is that stated over and over again in our churches on Easter Sunday. But the living out of that is where it becomes less clear!

Prior to the resurrection, after he had performed miracles and healings, Jesus asked Peter the critical question: "...who do you say that I am?" To which came the immortal words: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Shortly thereafter, in Matthew 16:20, it is recorded that Jesus "...charged the disciples to tell no-one that he was the Christ."

Following the resurrection, when he appeared to the disciples in Galilee, it is recorded in Matthew 28:18-20: "He told his disciples...go and make disciples in all the nations...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

Given the reported statistics of our congregations in most places worldwide, it would appear that we are content to follow Jesus' pre-resurrection admonition—"Go and tell no one!" We have done that well and thus, in recent years we have not been an evangelistic people. That is a statistical and well-known fact.

Have we lost the zeal with which our movement began? Is it too late for us to renew our responsibility as post-resurrection disciples to tell the good news that Christ lives?

The time is now at hand for us to resolve that we will no longer keep the message quiet or as a secret but will celebrate Easter daily by expressing publicly—as evangelists—that we, as members of Disciples, Christian Church, and Churches of Christ congregations believe in the resurrected Jesus as the hope of the world!

See you in Long Beach, 5-9 August 1992, to celebrate the Risen Lord!



• Harold R. Watkins is President of the World Convention of Churches of Christ. He is also President of the Board of Church Extension of Disciples of Christ (the Christian Church) with international headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Harold Watkins joined the Board of Church

Extension as a General Representative in 1958. He was named President in 1980 after serving in every executive position of the international church planning and financing unit. He is a graduate of Bethany College, Bethany, West Virginia, and Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, Kentucky, where he earned his BD degree. He holds an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Phillips University, Enid, Oklahoma.

He was ordained into the ministry at Wauseon, Ohio, and served Christian Churches in Tucson, Arizona, and Tuscaloosa, Alabama. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Harold Watkins counsels local congregations and their organisations on the development of capital expansion programs.

He serves as Chairman of the Board of Discipledata Inc., a non-profit electronic data processing corporation serving the Christian Church, and is on the Board of Church Finance Council. He is also on the Board of Trustees of Bethany College and National City Christian Church Corporation; the Board of Directors of the Ecumenical Church Loan Fund, Geneva, Switzerland, and is Past President of the Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art and Architecture (IFRAA). In 1988, Harold Watkins was awarded the Elbert M. Conover Award by IFRAA for his contributions as a non-architect to religious art and architecture.



## Baptism in the Ocean...

On 11 February a baptism took place at windswept Mundy's beach, Mentone, Vic. More than 100 gathered to witness the baptism of Steve Jackson, a young father.

Steve, his wife Anne and three sons have been worshipping with the Cheltenham church for close on a year. They had been actively associated with churches in the UK and Canberra.

Steve requested baptism in the ocean so it was decided to conduct the service on the same beach that the first services of believers immersion were conducted by our churches in the area.

It is recorded that a group were baptised at Mundy's beach in the late 1850s by W. Judd.

On that occasion a horse and dray were driven into the wa-



Gerald Rose and Steve Jackson at Mundy's Beach

ter to allow those to be immersed to enter and leave the water with decorum. That part of the procedure was not copied—instead senior minister Gerald Rose and Steve waded into the ocean and Steve then knelt for his baptism.

Steve has since commenced part-time studies at CCTC, Mulgrave.

## ...and in the Swimming Pool

The atmosphere was cold and damp but hearts were warm at three recent baptismal services in a swimming pool.

These were held at Stanwell Tops, NSW.

Ten were baptised in April and four in May.



Graeme Rattan (left) and Timothy Hall, minister (right) baptising one of the candidates

## • A Donkey in Church

### Palm Sunday at Hawthorn

The Hawthorn, SA, church was packed as the 70 teachers and children entered singing "Hosanna! Hosanna!" followed by the kindergarten children dressed as the disciples. Then it happened: in came Mark McKay astride a large Jerusalem donkey, which went straight down the centre aisle, up past the pulpit and communion table and out the back door.

A donkey in church at Hawthorn!

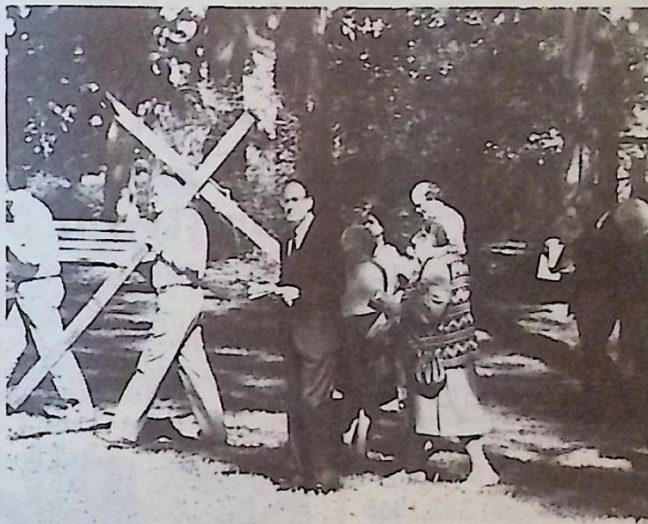
Jo-anne Lawry sang "He Rode on a Donkey" and Tim

Way read the Bible story of the entry into Jerusalem. Some of the children lead in special prayers that they and their classes had written. Hannah Flight read the scripture introducing communion.

Ron Hewitt spoke about the significance of the special day and the Sunday School concluded the service with the victory song "He Is Alive".

The joy and message of the morning remained as the church shared hot cross buns at morning tea with the special guest—a donkey.

## Not Just an Ordinary Walk!



The cross being carried through Corroboree Park

The place was ordinary enough, a small grassed park with trees and shrubs, and the people were ordinary, too, if they will pardon my saying so. But what they did was out of the ordinary. On Good Friday, a small group of the Ainslie, ACT, church congregation took "A Walk with the Cross" in Corroboree Park, just near the church. One man carried the 6 ft high cross and led the way. He paused and set down his burden and at each of his six stops there was a Bible read-

ing, a responsive reading and a hymn.

The group was small, perhaps as small as the cluster of Jesus' family and disciples who dared be at the foot of the cross. That day the crowds passed by heedlessly. This Good Friday in the park life went on around as usual, children played on the swings and magpies carolled. But those who took part made again a public celebration of what was originally a very public event.

—Mary Goldberg



## Prize



James Pearce, minister of the Strathmore, Vic, church, has been awarded the Field C Prize for his work in the discipline of church history. This prize is given to the student with the highest marks in that discipline at the constituent colleges of the Evangelical Theological Association—CCTC and Whitley College.

James also won the prize last year, the first year it had been awarded. He is currently studying for an honours degree in church history with CCTC.

### L. C. F. Higgins

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## Glens and Irises Celebrate in Adelaide

Family and friends gathered at his Nailsworth, SA, home to share in the birthday anniversary of Ron Saunders, wartime missionary in the New Hebrides (Vanuatu). At 70 years of age he was joined by some of the students of the College of

the Bible at Glen Iris in the 1940s. Ron, after his many ministries, arranged the ceremonies for the centenary of the South Australian Temperance Alliance and had final ministries at Ulverstone, Tas, and Salisbury East, SA.



Left to right: Alice Saunders, John Baker, Ron Saunders, Ron Holmes and Dorothy and Ted Heard

## Ministry at Doncaster

At the end of this July, Dr Lew Born concludes his five-year ministry at Doncaster, Vic. He and Betty will be moving back to Queensland, where they will begin a ministry at the Redcliffe Uniting Church.

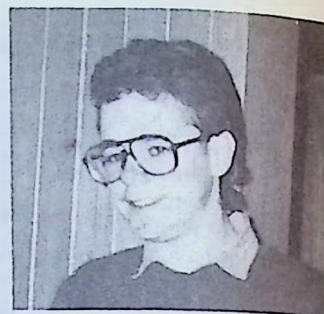
Alison Pitt, a recent graduate from CCTC, commenced ministry at Doncaster last February, and her special area of ministry is with youth.

Next year Paul Cameron will join the ministry team.



The present Doncaster ministry team: Glen Wegner, Allison Pitt, Lew Born

## Baptism



The first baptism for the year at the East Keilor, Vic, church took place when Gavin Beasley followed his Lord through the waters of baptism after making his commitment earlier in the month. Members of the church, family and friends were thrilled to witness Gavin being baptised by minister Ron Schepis. Gavin's parents took an active part in the service: Lynette read a Bible reading and Tony led in prayer. Gavin was welcomed into membership and presented with a Bible and a discipleship manual.

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## New Developments at Midway Point



Tim Jacobson positions a large section of flooring into place on the new Midway Point church site

With joint sponsorship from the Vic-Tas DMED and the Collins Street, Hobart, Tas, church, progress is being made on the establishment of a new church at Midway Point, an outer eastern suburb of Hobart.

With the recent purchase of a building suitable for relocation and the appointment of Carlingford graduate student, Craig Humphris, to a part-time ministry beginning early 1991, the young Church is excited for the future growth.

The project is part of a wider development strategy that in-

cludes new house churches at Kingston-Blackman's Bay and Berriedale.

Following a successful lay part-time ministry by Collins Street Elder, Errol Gilbert, the Hobart churches have continued to supply leadership assistance and pastoral oversight to the Midway Point church of 15-20 average attenders.

Currently the building is being relocated to a site leased from the local council. Being in a high-profile position on the main road, and in an area that is becoming the housing growth area of Hobart, the church's future is exciting.

As one Midway Point member puts it: "This is the beginning of something big."

—Jeff Weston  
and Don Smith, DMED



Caroline and Chris Humphris

## Graeme Hush to New Hobart Work

Recent strong growth in the Collins Street, Hobart, Tas, church has led to the need to appoint more ministry staff. This has been despite the trend of a decreasing population growth in Tasmania.

Youth ministry is seen as a priority growth area for the church's work in Hobart. In light of this, the church has appointed Graeme Hush to the new position of full-time youth worker.

Graeme and his fiancée, Edwina, will relocate to Hobart following their marriage in late June this year. Although Graeme's ministry will be primarily to the Hobart area, it is envisaged he will still be avail-

able for some ministry consultations and special programs to the wider Church.

With overcrowding in worship services, the church has also decided as a temporary measure to move into multiple morning services.

A new complex is being sought to accommodate not only the present needs, but also those of the future.

The building at 184 Collins Street is currently on the market.

With the appointment of Graeme and developments of the new work at Midway Point, Hobart is an exciting growth area of ministry.

—Jeff Weston



Collins Street minister, Jeff Weston, welcomes Graeme Hush and his fiancée, Edwina, on their appointment to the Collins Street church

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## How To Lead a Church

The Canberra churches faced a challenge for the future when Ian Allsop from the Churches of Christ Theological College in Mulgrave, Vic, led them in a Leadership Seminar for Laypersons at Lyons church.



Over six sessions during 25-29 April they explored how and why churches behave the way they do, how to enable the local church to function better and aspects of effective leadership in different sizes and styles of churches.

Practical areas were looked

at including the role of the minister, the leadership of elders and deacons, the management of volunteers and local church planning. An examination was made of the personality of a particular church and how it was possible to change and the reasons to implement change.

A very effective and positive week concluded with a combined Conference service at Belconnen church. The music was led by young people and Ian spoke on Christ in our world.

## Centenary River Cruise

The Saturday afternoon of the WA Conference weekend was chosen by the Christian Welfare Centre for its contribution to the Centenary Celebrations. The Avis Party Boat was booked for a river cruise, a band was engaged to entertain the crowds, and much food was prepared. All that was then needed was a perfect day—we almost got it.

Perth's autumn can be glorious, and 7 April was one out of the bag. It was 25°, the sky was clear and the river was calm. Then there was the fine company. Nearly 70 were able to sit

at tables, talking, drinking and enjoying each other's company, while "God's Country" entertained them with a blend of country and gospel music. And, as if these were not enough to make it an altogether pleasant trip, the navigator soon had the boat in the midst of a glorious fleet of racing yachts with spinners at full spread.

All who attended felt that as a contribution to our Centenary Celebrations here in WA, it was a wonderful event in bringing the people of our churches together.

—John Clapp

## CFA Scholarships

Last year, it was decided to close the operation of the Christian Fellowship Association in WA. However, there was a significant amount of money that was designated for the CFA, and it was felt important that those funds should not simply revert to the general fund of the Christian Welfare Centre. So it was decided to retain the lump sum to be available for interest-free loans when needed but, more importantly, it was decided to apply the money earned in interest to

provide some small scholarships for the children of needy families in our churches.

The CFA Scholarships were awarded this year to Tammy Taylor and Crystal Thompson from the Collie church, David Barker from the Foothills church, and Ryan Steere from the Southern Hills church. These young people are to be congratulated, and it is our hope that the assistance of the scholarship will encourage them to continue with their schooling.

## Dinner Honours Over 55s

Candles twinkled, silver shone and glasses gleamed as guests arrived at the Balaklava, SA, church Ed. Centre one Saturday evening. The 40 guests were the "over 55s" of the congregation, who were being feted by the younger ladies of the church at a dinner party worthy of any city restaurant to honour the contribution made to the church life by these older members. A delicious three-course hot meal was served, and a variety of bubbling drinks were capably dispensed by the waiter, Roger Ingram. Musical items were provided by pianist Yvonne Webb and flautist, Sharon McPharlin. Soft background music was supplied by the Colin Clark orchestra. Each

guest received a floral tribute on arrival—a buttonhole for men and a long-stemmed rose for the women. Thanks were expressed to Di Chivell and Merrawyn Hearnden and their helpers for their capable organisation. Graham Lawrie compered the dinner program and together with his wife, Judith, enjoyed the company of the oldies. As a special treat for the Balaklava people, Keith and Gwen Horne were invited as guests of honour.

Everyone voted it a night to remember and can recommend it to other churches as a kindly thank you gesture for those old enough to have long memories, but never too old to be sharing in the life of the church family.



Gwen and Keith Horne and Graham and Judith Lawrie at Balaklava

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## The Lord at Work—Let's Take a Look!

One of the most rewarding things as a Christian is to be able to fellowship with a group "discovering" Christ. The joys of finding new depths in God's Word, and sharing the changes as the Lord reaches in and rearranges lives.

To watch the Lord at work is mighty indeed!

Back in late 89 it was thought that there was a need for some sort of "youth" group in the Townsville, Qld, church but there was only one problem—no youth! Or at least not enough to start up instantly.

In response to the need, a Monday night Bible study group began praying in earnest for young people to be brought into the church fellowship.

When this prayer was added to the long-standing prayer of the church for a youth group and the fervent heartfelt prayers of individuals... well... things began to happen.

Today less than six months down the track, two groups have literally "popped up" and continue to grow in line with prayer support.

The older group consisted originally of a couple of young people from the church fellowship, a couple of invited friends and a contact through the *Doulos* visit.

As the weeks passed the group swung into "topics" (war, euthanasia, abortion etc.) and the group grew and changed in size and members. 19 young people have attended meetings from all sorts of church or non-church backgrounds—high Anglican, charismatic, Baptist, Catholic, Churches of Christ, university students, workers and school students. Commitment to the group is high and not a week was missed through the Christmas-New Year period—and still the prayer support continues.

—John and Bronwyn Carriy

## Reunion and Thanksgiving in WA



Anzac Day 1990, the 75th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli, was a day when Australians everywhere remembered. For 130 people associated with Churches of Christ in Western Australia, Anzac Day 1990 was also an opportunity for remembering, renewing friendships and giving thanks to God for a "sacred site" at 12-14 Lennard Street, Marmion (previously known as Watermans Bay).

From as far afield as Albany in the south and Geraldton in the north—and even Lorna Gough (nee Seaby) from the ACT—they gathered together at the Kum Ba Yah Christian Conference Centre to pore over old photographs, re-read camp magazines, compare balding

scalps and sing hymns and songs from their youth.

Reflecting on the 1940s decade it was discovered that four of the ladies, Muriel Ryles (nee Beerling), Gwen Wortlehook (nee Wells), Stella Walkington (nee Seaby) and Violet Marshall, had attended the first "mixed" Christmas Youth Camp at Watermans Bay in 1940-41.

Movie films reminded viewers of the worship times and camp concerts in the HM marquee, erecting the weatherboard and asbestos girls' dormitory, "high jinks" on the beach and across the road in the bush, demolishing the J. Rhodes Camp and opening Kum Ba Yah. In her inimitable manner, Barbara Prangnell

(nee Johnstone) presented "An Ode to Watermans Bay" and "An Ode to Merle" and had the assembled campers of the 60s era "rolling in the aisles" (well almost!).

John Somerville, a previous camper, camp leader and chairman of the Youth and Christian Education Committee, led the group in a prayer of thanksgiving for 12-14 Lennard Street. The fact that Kum Ba Yah was to continue as a Christian Conference Centre was cause for great rejoicing.

In their centenary year Churches of Christ in WA were encouraged to look forward to the future and the building of the new camping complex on the beautiful 54 acres at Parkerville in the Darling Ranges.

## Anzac Day

Retired Army Chaplain Rodney Tippett led a company of Kenmore Christian College faculty and students through the suburban streets of Brisbane, Qld, in the early (3.15 am) hours of Anzac Day. Sleepy bodies were invigorated by thoughts of the commemoration of the 75th anniversary. In a symbolic endeavour our early morning adventure re-lived the excitement.

With the confidence of a military leader, Chaplain Tippett hurried his pedestrians towards King George Square. Our early arrival allowed him to post us high above the dimly

lit stage area on an elevated walkway. The crowd increased as hundreds, then thousands, amassed. Military and civilian dignitaries alighted from chauffeur-driven cars into the media's bright lights.

A distant drum-roll echoed down the corridor of skyscrapers. Ears leaned as the drumbeat grew louder and moved toward the Flame of Remembrance. With humble dignity elderly veterans shuffled their march to lead the procession into position. The drummer's last beat rolled across the crowd. The lights dimmed.

The bugler played those famous notes of the last call that famishes the soul. Silence

thickly filled the air. Children stopped playing. Parents stopped scowling. Smokers stopped puffing. Cameramen stopped moving.

Silence drew the crow to the fields of Gallipoli... Normandy Beach... Kokoda Trail... Guam... Silence reigned supreme as imaginations raced across the battlefields.

(As an American, I envisioned Dale, my father, knee deep in the heat of machine gun fire in New Guinea, the Philippines, Guam...).

Those moments of silence were indelibly imprinted on our minds as a memory of Anzac Day dawn 1990.

—Donald Spencer



# Letters to the Editor

## Letters are limited to 200 words

### Theocracy versus Democracy

To the Editor,

Indeed, nothing so becomes a believer as a deep humility; yet so elusive is this virtue that the moment we proclaim we have it is the moment we lose it. Allan Clark claims the want of it equals blasphemy. A solemn and serious charge to many believers who have often to mourn their shortcoming in this regard when compared to our Lord.

Bruce McIntosh warns of an "imported neo-authoritarianism dressed up as theocracy". Maybe both are right. I wish them both well.

The ship has drifted far from where I came in, in support of 1 Timothy 2:12, so I now withdraw from the discussion and concede that the Churches of Christ are indeed a democracy.

I do not concede that 1 Timothy is wrong, a contradiction, or requires any sanitising to accommodate "modern thinking".

—Bill Woff  
(Southport, Qld)

### Persecution

To the Editor,

Have you ever heard it said that what today's church needs is a good dose of persecution so that greater faith may come?

Sounds OK. But it's nonsense.

It's exactly the other way round. The faith has got to be there first, or persecution will never come.

Maybe today's compromised, "relevant" church has so little faith left that nobody will ever again bother to persecute it.

—Arnold Jago  
(Mildura, Vic)

### Inner-Link

To the Editor,

I am currently engaged in setting up an international organisation called "Inner-Link" which I hope will be of use to religious people of diverse backgrounds, especially those interested in mysticism—

the direct personal realisation of religious truths which we all experience.

Inner-Link is an informal postal communication network which allows people to exchange religious ideas and insights and to investigate the common heart of all religions. It will provide a chance for people to increase their understanding of what religion means and interpretations of their own faith on a personal level.

I hope the network will promote spiritual understanding between different religions, as well as proving interesting to those using it. Full details can be obtained by writing to me at the following address. No fees are involved, but an International Reply Coupon should be included with all enquiries to cover the cost of mailing information back.

—Chris North  
(Inner-Link Co-ordinator  
19 Rockingham Close,  
Shepshed,  
Loughborough,  
Leicestershire LE12 9PR,  
England)

### National Workers Data Base

To the Editor,

I am endeavouring to develop a data base which can be used to put Australian Christians in contact with national workers in poorer countries. My aim is that Australians correspond directly with national workers and provide them with financial support.

The tyranny of distance makes the earmarking of the appropriate people difficult but we have begun to find some. They are so far restricted to India and the Solomon Islands. My definition of "appropriate people" is those who are already living and working in places where the Spirit of God is evident through the presence of local revival.

The reason for supporting these people is very simple. Relative to us they live in varying degrees of poverty. Providing support will better enable them to spread the outpouring of God's Spirit and will fan the

flames of their local revival.

A variety of motives result in the frequent decision to send Western Christians to do jobs that nationals could do equally well or better.

It is not my intention to ask for donations or to act as a clearing house for donations. Rather, I seek to put people in direct contact with those they are lead to assist.

Readers requiring the resumes of those already vetted or if they can provide resumes and names of those who may fit our criteria should contact me.

—Lyle K. Taffs  
("Fan the Flames", c/o L. Taffs, PO Box 897, Portland 3305. Phone (055) 23 6107)

### Overpopulation

To the Editor,

I've never been compared to Scrooge before! Although my

wife is a Scot.

I'm glad Wal Johnson ("AC" 12 May) made his comments. I agree. It is an intelligent addressing of the issue. I would like to plead a slight misunderstanding of my intent, implicit in Wal's reply. My thrust is not that we should leave the starving to their fate but that overpopulation by the human species is destroying the beauty of God's creation. I care deeply about the suffering this brings to all of creation, including so many people, often the most vulnerable and powerless, and as part of my concern I have coordinated and promoted the World Vision 40 Hour Famine in my own school for many years. I go hungry too. I intend to continue. I do hope that we in the affluent West do not complacently think that this is all we need to do. I welcome

## Letters from Tertius

### "Lord, Teach Us to Pray"

To the Editor,

We rattle through the Lord's Prayer fairly quickly at our church and you don't get much time to think about it. But on Sunday night I did.

Suddenly it struck me that it is all in the plural. It's our Father, give us daily bread, forgive us as we forgive. It's lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

I think I could cope with it better if it were kept private to my daily needs, my trespasses and temptations and my struggle against evil.

It seems that in the "daily bread" bit I am not only praying that God will look after me. I seem to be accepting some sort of solidarity with every one else's needs as well. A sort of "Look after me Lord, but there are Ethiopian children and Aboriginal fringe dwellers as well. Does your prayer mean that we are to share our providence with them Lord, if we are to expect you to meet our needs too?"

The "lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil" bit seems to identify me with every one else who is struggling to live like a Christian and not doing too well at it. In one sense this identification is a good thing. It means that I am not alone in my struggles and failures and successes. But in another sense it probably means that we should be struggling together and helping each other with our trespasses and temptations and problems with evil, and helping each other to get God's deliverance. This worries me a bit. I don't mind God knowing what I'm like...I can't stop him from knowing anyhow! But I'm not much into "washing our inner dirty linen in each others tubs". But if it's to get God's help to get us all clean together, that wouldn't be so bad would it?

Yours plurally,  
Tertius



the common sense of Wal's comments.

—R.B. Waldron  
(Warragul, Vic)

## Overpopulation

To the Editor,

The state of world population, now 5.3 billion, has been the subject of recent discussion. Unfortunately, as demonstrated by Bruce Waldron ("AC" 28 April), there are many myths held about world population, which need exploding.

The greatest increase in population occurs in third world countries. While there are environmental concerns in these nations, by far the greatest environmental pollution occurs in developed nations. Our industry creates the significant pollution which gives us acid rain, smog, water pollution, ozone layer damage and global warming.

Environmental damage which occurs in less developed nations can be reversed. World Vision has reforestation projects in Africa which have completely transformed the land in three years, with returning rainfall, animal and plant life and soil retention.

Why is it that people in third world nations have such large families? There are economic, cultural and security reasons all tied together. The surest way of reducing the birth rate is by reducing poverty, not by increasing the death rate.

These are issues we as Christians must think about and act upon. By helping people stay alive we do not add to the population problem, but we save spiritual lives as well as physical ones.

We all grieve for God's creation, but sin means this is a doomed world. We can only do what we can in obedience to God until the new heaven and the new earth come to pass.

—John Van Klaveren  
(World Vision of Australia)

## Ecumenical Easter Event for Chadstone

For the first Easter of the 90s, the Mt Waverley Chadstone Inter-Church Council of which Peter Bradley, minister of Chadstone, Vic, church, is vice-president agreed to present to upper primary school children a Christian perspective of Easter. The code name for this project quickly became the "Easter Event". For many children these days, Easter means holidays and chocolate eggs and not much more. Direct contact with Christianity or actually stepping into a real church is rare for children today. With this in mind it was decided to attempt a project that has been experienced in Adelaide communities.

The theme of the Easter event was "From Darkness into Light" and the whole experience for each group took 45 minutes. The children would arrive at Holy Family Catholic Church in Mt Waverley and be greeted by clowns, receive a drink, and a biscuit bearing a cross. Hostesses would divide the larger group and guide smaller groups to story tellers explaining Easter traditions, following this they would travel through caves where there were audio visuals and puppet shows that told of the life of Jesus. Finally the groups would gather in the church and participate in the Easter story from Palm Sunday to resurrection through the medium of music and drama.

This attempt to bring the Christian perspective of Easter

to more than 1,200 children representing 13 schools meant the need for much co-ordination and involvement from the members of the various churches in the Mt Waverley and Chadstone area. Under the guidance and enthusiasm of Rev Dr Rodger Bassham from St John's Uniting the 1990 Easter Event taking children from Darkness into Light came to be a resounding success. Many talents were exercised including biscuit making, hostessing, story telling, construction of caves, music and drama to mention a few. Chadstone Church of Christ, although small in number, gave much towards this mammoth project. The ministry team of Peter and Cathy Bradley and Isobel Roberts from St Mark's Uniting took responsibility for the 15 minute music and drama presentation of the Easter story from Palm Sunday to the resurrection, members of Chadstone

participated as actors, hostesses, biscuit makers, baby sitters, costume and prop constructors.

The Easter event spanned three days and one of the highlights of the experience was the time of prayer at the commencement of each day. Linked by held hands in one circle around the altar of the church, people from different traditions of faith shared together in prayer for the one common goal—to minister, to be used by God as instruments of the gospel.

Many lessons were learned and many individual experiences of God's presence added to the experience for those involved. The original aim was met with perhaps a greater success than was ever imagined. The gift of meaningful bonds between people from different traditions made the Easter event the most significant ecumenical venture ever experienced by Chadstone.

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## Books

### A Century of Worship and Witness, 1890-1990

by Gordon Ewers (Churches of Christ in WA Inc.) \$10

This fascinating history of Churches of Christ in WA will be quickly "snapped up" by members in that state, but just as eagerly by exported Western Australians over East. Its attractive cover consists of a coloured panorama of Perth City with its sky scrapers and freeway networks with insets of the old Lake St chapel and the Churches of Christ Centre. This "window dressing" is an example of the colourful material within as it presents the story of people (large numbers of them) and churches. Part One tells the story of the Movement overseas, Australia and then in the West where T.H. Bates spearheaded Eastern concern, coming to the West himself as first evangelist on 1 October 1890. 11 attended the first communion service. Early baptisms were in the Swan River, the first before 500. Part Two is a pictorial record of each church. Part Three gives a thumbnail sketch of the history of Conference Departments. Part Four is a profile of significant people. Gordon Ewers has lived historical facts with lots of human interest, such as a converted Aboriginal in Marble bar changing his name from Pixie Demon to Pixie Christian, the Merridin minister recording his radio talks at midnight when railway shunting over the road ceased, early Perth baptisms in the baptistry of the Trinity Congregational Church, the title of the first Conference Sermon (1898) "The Common Ground of Infallible Safety" and ships carrying missionaries leaving Fremantle wharf to the singing of "God be with you till we meet again".

This book is available from the WA Conference Office, 142-146 Beaufort Street, Perth 6000, for \$10 plus \$3 postage.

—Gordon Stirling

### Miles and the Computer

by Taffy Davies (Scripture Union Publishing) \$4.95

An excellent story for children about forgiveness and the forgiving of others. The illustrations are brilliant and very attractive. This book, and others in the same vein, is suitable for children in the 6-12-year-old group. The text is not too long so that children just learning to read could read this themselves or else they are excellent as read-aloud books. While highly recommended, the final page where the moral of the story is linked to Matthew 18:21-35 is a little strained.

—CRA

### Exploring the World of the Jews

by John Phillips (Revised Edition) (Moody Press) \$16.50

In this book Phillips attempts, and to a large extent succeeds, in describing the history and development of the highly complex culture of the Jewish people from earliest times (the Old Testament) to the modern state of Israel. This he does in 250 pages and the feat lies not only in the sparking brevity but also in its sheer readability. Phillips is not a Jew and as such he writes as an outsider, but as an outsider who writes with compassion and understanding and who has attempted with great sincerity to understand the Jew and his history.

Most Christians have some sort of understanding of Jewish history and faith as it developed in the Scriptures but after that it

is a rare individual who can relate anything regarding the subsequent history of the Jewish people. This book goes some way in filling that glaring gap in Christian knowledge.

Phillip's description of the development of Talmudic/Rabbinic Judaism (chapters 5-9) alone will justify the purchase of this book. It is written for the layperson but is both accurate and highly informative. Jewish history is a complex interweaving between culture and religion and the way these have both influenced each other. Anyone seeking to comprehend the Jew must therefore have at least an outline of Jewish national and personal identity as it is formed by its religion. I believe that you will not find a more readable description of Judaism from a non-technical and Christian perspective.

Phillip's eschatology is dispensational and he devotes a chapter in setting forth his understanding of how world history is inexorably linked with the future of the Jewish people. Whether one agrees with him or not does not in the least detract from the value of this book.

This is a good book and its purchase at the recommended price of \$16.50 will be money well spent.

—Alan Hirsch

### The Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians

An Introduction and Commentary

by Colin G. Kruse (Inter-Varsity Press & William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company) \$12.95

Over the last three or four years the Tyndale New Testament Commentary series has been gradually updated. This commentary (Number 8 in the series) follows the pattern of the rest in that it has a short introduction (40 pages) followed by an excellent section-by-section commentary of the biblical text. The commentary is generally conservative and aimed at helping the reader to better understand the text.

In his introduction Colin Kruse looks at the city of Corinth, examines Paul's contact with the Corinthian church, examines the literary problems of 2 Corinthians, including the question of the number of letters he wrote to the church, and discusses the opposition to Paul in Corinth before finally discussing the dating of the letter.

—CRA





# Happenings

Nick Kerr, a papal knight, has been appointed by the Uniting Church in SA as communications officer and editor of the synod newspaper *New Times*. Nick is a former director of Catholic Communication in South Australia and edited the State's Catholic weekly *The Southern Cross*, which closed in 1986.

Environmentalism could become the new religion of the 1990s because it fills an "ethical vacuum" felt by the ageing "Me Generation" of the 1960s, says a leading psychologist, Hugh Mackay.

Islam is set to become the main focus of Christian missionary activity worldwide over the next decade as a result of the demise of communism in Eastern Europe, according to Ron George, founder and international director for the People International mission to Muslim countries. Some missions working in communist countries are already changing their focus to the Islamic world, while new missions have started because of the need for missionaries among Muslims.

"Drugs In Work and Play" is the theme of the Alcohol & Drug Foundation Queensland's Winter School in the Sun being held in Brisbane 3-6 July. One issue being highlighted will be the spiritual dimensions of drug dependence. Further information from Bob Aldred, The Alcohol and Drug Foundation of Queensland, PO Box 320, Spring Hill 4004. Phone (07) 832 3798.

A Uniting Church minister in Brisbane is selling fragments of the Berlin Wall to raise funds for various church causes. Rev. Tom Rees-Thomas of St Andrew's Ann St Uniting Church, has obtained a carton of fragments from a church colleague in West Berlin. He is selling them as pendants or in satchels, at \$10 each.

A co-operative venture between Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran agencies in South Australia to help prevent families breaking down has been granted \$223,000 in government funding over 21 months to fund a pilot program sponsored by the 3 agencies, aimed at

enabling children to be maintained within their own families.

The Melkite Eparchy (diocese) for Australia has joined the Victorian Council of Churches. The Pope established the Melkite (Greek Catholic) Eparchy in 1987. In Australia the Melkite community mainly comprises migrants from the Middle East.

Indo-Chinese refugees in Asian camps primarily need friendship and compassion on an individual level, and the preservation of asylum on an international level. These were among the key points made at a recent 3-day seminar on the Indo-Chinese refugee problem, addressed by church and relief agency workers.

Egyptian Coptic Church leaders in the US are protesting the lack of Egyptian government and police intervention in what they claim is a Muslim campaign to obliterate Christianity from this predominantly Islamic country. The protests follow several March incidents in which 5 Christians were killed, and Egypt-

tian churches and facilities owned by Christian organisations in several cities were vandalised or destroyed.

Facing an annual growth rate of 3.3% and the prospect of the world's 3rd largest population by the year 2050 (about 564 million), the government of Nigeria has announced that it is taking serious steps to reduce future levels of population growth. 80% of Nigerian women now have an average of 6 children. The primary aim is to reduce this to 4.

Several Eastern Orthodox priests and other Christians were elected to various governing bodies in the Soviet Union.

The Christian Television Association has added to its line-up of TV programs the Hour of Power with Dr Robert Schuller, to be shown on Channel 9 in Sydney on Sunday mornings at 6.20 am. This specially produced half-hour program will be hosted by actor and committed Christian George Mallaby.

Paul Creasey, minister of the

Gardiner, Vic, church, was recently appointed as Vice-President of Amnesty International in Victoria.

Amnesty International Victoria is holding a candlelit vigil in the City Square in Melbourne on 4 June to mark the 1989 Beijing massacre. The vigil begins at 6 pm and will end with a walk through Chinatown. Details from the Victorian office on (03) 427 7055.

The world's largest cathedral has been offered as a gift to Pope John Paul II. President of the Ivory Coast, Felix Houphouet-Boigny, reportedly paid \$150 million at his expense for the building, which is so big that the Notre Dame in Paris would fit into it several times. Critics say it is an eccentric gesture made by the President of an African state beset by poverty.

4 million Bibles have been requested from the International Bible Society by the director of the Soviet Children's Fund. 1 million will be printed on a government press. The Fund provides for orphans and families in the USSR.

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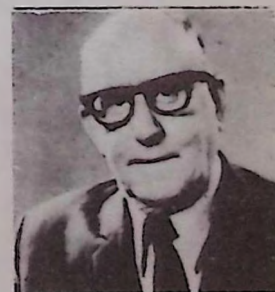
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# Churches of Christ

## Partners in Ministry in Kensington

Kim Thoday and Mike Esbensen are "Partners in Ministry". Kim and his wife Heather are originally from the Cowandilla Church of Christ in South Australia. They have two children, Sam and Miranda. Mike Esbensen is from the Warwick Church of Christ in Western Australia. Neither Kim nor Mike knew each other before commencing study at the College of the Bible, now the Churches of Christ Theological College. They live and work in Kensington at the Kensington Christian Network where they maintain a relevant, vital and dynamic ministry. Why did they decide to train for ministry? What motivated them to come to the College? What are the difficulties they face in Kensington?

**Kim** I'd been thinking about ministry during my years at the Cowandilla Church. I felt convicted to come to College to learn how to be a professional, full-time minister and the College of the Bible was, in my opinion, the only one to go to. I had met many good ministers who had trained there and who were great with youth work and that really convinced me that I should go to COB.

**Mike** I came to the College as part of my own personal journey. I'd always been left with a good impression of the students from COB who came to Western Australia every second year on deputation. So I got handbooks from all of the colleges and decided that I wanted to come to COB. It offered the most extensive and professional range of subjects.

**Kim** One of the most important things is not only deciding which college to go to but then staying there and seeing it through. A student has a range of options when he or she comes to CCTC. You can work out between yourself and God and with your peers which direction is the most appropriate for your own personality and your own spiri-

tuality. And I think that what helps in all of those decisions is the tremendous level of pastoral care offered by the lecturers.

**Mike** We went through five years together. At the end of the first year, having done the same subjects by chance and having become close friends, we sat down and planned out where we wanted to go with our course and what areas we wanted to explore further. We did not have any personal restraints confining us to complete the course in the four years, so we decided to take five or six years, also giving ourselves time to grow through what we were learning. We graduated at the end of last year.

**Kim** During my course I decided to chase up some student ministries that matched the theory that I was learning. I was interested in students living out what they were learning, for example missioning within the Australian culture, starting new community-based kinds of churches, grass-roots community type of ideas. I had heard about some of the work that was being done at the Kensington Christian Network so I rang them and they let me come along. At the beginning of 1989 Mike came and joined me and the Corletts, who had been ministering here, wanted to move on. The group discussed Mike and me becoming the new ministers and it was decided that we would stay.

**Mike** Kim was wanting a team ministry. We had worked together during our College course and in our earlier years we were co-ordinating our own student ministries with each other. So we had worked together before. We have a similar approach to ministry, although with different emphases so we were happy to complement each other.

**Kim** Mike and I would both agree that the idea of a team ministry is important in many contexts, but particularly in an area such as Kensington which is very much a mission kind of area. It's a biblical idea as well. Jesus sent people out in twos. When we arrived KCN could not afford to pay a half-time salary according to Churches of Christ wages. However, with our part-time jobs we can accommodate two full-time ministers.

**Mike** Some of our part-time work is directly related to our ministry in the area. One of the jobs I was able to get is at the local community centre, working with young teenage boys and that complements my own ministry. Kim has a similar job driving a bus. In this way we are able to network with various groups in the area. One of the difficulties we face lies in the open-endedness of this ministry. We have no buildings, just house churches. We don't have Sunday morning worship. We have services in the evenings around the area. Just the presence of the high-rise flats, the nature of them and the way that people are living intensely in a confined setting creates many problems and many needs. Another difficulty we face is how to meet these needs best with the few resources that we have. I'm starting to get involved with the Vietnamese community and am learning the language. Kim is involved with school chaplaincy, emergency housing and counselling for office workers and professional people as well as the people in the flats. It is a really positive and creative ministry. I don't believe that either Kim or myself would be here in this outreach area if we had not trained at CCTC.





# Theological College

## Annual Appeal, 3 June 1990

It has been over 12 months since the Churches of Christ Theological College officially opened at Mulgrave. During this time the College has undergone an exciting period of growth and it is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge the tremendous level of prayerful and financial support given to the College by so many churches, individuals and groups. This support and assistance is of great encouragement to the faculty, staff and students who strive together and commit themselves to the College's future mission and ministry.

This year, with approval from State and Federal executives, we have altered the date of our Annual Appeal from October to 3 June. The theme for this year's Annual Appeal is "Partners in Ministry", which highlights the relationship that exists between members of the churches and students who train for ministry at CCTC. Our students work and study in the best facilities for theological education and ministerial training in Australia. In order to maintain the high standards set, the College urgently needs your prayers, your support and your encouragement.

When you receive your next issue of the College newsletter *Access* you will find that it contains a letter from Dr Tabbernee, a response card and a reply envelope.

Your gift is of vital importance to the on-going work of the College.

The reply envelope together with your tax deductible donation may be mailed directly to us or placed into your church's offering bowl.

Please participate by becoming a "Partner in Ministry" and give generously on 3 June.



## Where Would Paul Be without Barnabas?

Paul and Barnabas were "Partners in Ministry". In order to spread the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ they trod dusty roads together continually praying for each other and supporting each other for the sake of the extension of his kingdom. This year the Churches of Christ Theological College has chosen the image of Paul and Barnabas to illustrate our theme of "Partners in Ministry" for the College Annual Appeal, which is to be held on 3 June. As the growth and development of the College has continued we can clearly see God at work in our midst. This year

185 full-time and part-time students have undertaken the broadly based and carefully planned courses offered by CCTC. Many more people have been challenged to enrol in one of the short term courses available.

At CCTC students from diverse backgrounds and experience, called by God to prepare for Christian ministry, study together so that in the future they may make a significant contribution to our society, which is in desperate need. It is the responsibility of the churches to identify and support quality ministerial candidates who, by their current Christian witness and service display the potential to serve God in a full-time capacity. The College therefore invites the members of the churches to participate and share the responsibility of identifying, encouraging and supporting students. Become a "Partner in Ministry" and share in this important task.



**Kim** One of the things that has hit home for me now that I have finished my training is that the status of ministry has gone down over the last twenty-five years. There is an increasing need to be trained. Ministers in the future will have to earn their right to minister. Here in Kensington we have had to earn our respect with a whole cross-section of people. Our ministry training has been vital. We have no building, so we've got to go out there and make the contact—nobody is going to come knocking on our door.

**Mike** If Kim and I lived in another suburb we would not be seen as being part of the area. We get along side people.

**Kim** Christians who identify too closely with their "target group" (if you want to use community terms) can lose their identity. They become as irrelevant as those who distance themselves from their target group. Both have lost the Gospel along the way and that is a real danger. If you lose your spirituality you might just as well be another socialist worker here.

**Mike** One of the things that has really helped the nature of our ministry and our resources is the feeling of being part of a wider web. We rely a lot on donations through DMED and the letters of encouragement that people send us are greatly appreciated. We have to get back to the Kingdom of God, the idea of God's love sprouting in pockets within our communities.



## Pentecost 1990

*The following are excerpts from a message from the Presidents of the World Council of Churches*

Pentecost is a special celebration this year as the churches of all the traditions—Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant—celebrate the festival on the same day. "In that day," said Jesus, speaking of the Holy Spirit, "you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me and I in you." (John 14:20) God's love has communicated itself through the Spirit to us human beings. The Spirit transforms our human freedom into active love, communicating through us the love of God to all creatures.

The experience of the presence and action of the Spirit is not something extraordinary. In the struggle for justice, in the search for friendship, in each manifestation of human kindness towards fellow-human beings, in the stilled tranquility that follows prayer; in all that shatters our stony hearts and makes us aware of the beauty and mystery of life, we experience the action of the Spirit, making us sensitive to the overwhelming tenderness of God.

The Spirit calls all humanity and the whole cosmos out of death to new possibilities through the power of the risen Christ. The Spirit is at work in the search for justice for the little ones, for the poor of the earth, for those with broken

hearts. The Spirit inspires all those who work for peace, to announce the liberating power of God.

The wind of the Spirit is blowing today, in us, in our churches, and in historical events where barriers are falling down and where there are possibilities of new beginnings. With the people of Namibia we celebrate their independence; with the people of Chile their democracy; with the people of Central and Eastern Europe their newly acquired freedom.

But the Spirit also suffers. The dove of peace appears in many parts of the earth covered with blood. We grieve over the situation in the Middle East. Jerusalem, the City of Peace, where the Holy Spirit manifested itself powerfully in the winds and flames of Pentecost: that city does not know its own peace.

We will be praying together with the church universal, "Come, Holy Spirit Renew the Whole Creation," as we look toward the Assembly of the World Council of Churches next year in Canberra, Australia. We pray that the Spirit may call the church to a bold testimony of God's liberating action in history.

—Dame R. Nita Barrow, Dr Marga Buhrig, Metropolitan Paulos Mar Gregorius, Bishop Dr Johannes W. Hempel, Patriarch Ignatios IV, Archbishop W.P. Khotso Makhulu, Very Rev. Dr Lois M. Wilson

## Dog Show at Christian Guest Home



One of the Pal Super Dogs with residents of the Christian Guest Home, Oakleigh

11 May was a beautiful day and over 50 residents, staff and friends from the Christian Guest Home in Oakleigh, Vic, welcomed the Pal Super Dogs and their handlers.

The dogs gave a splendid exhibition of obedience exercises. However the best part of the day was at the conclusion when the six canines moved around the audience for some

"getting to know you" treatment.

It is often a wrench leaving pets behind when animal lovers move into hostel or nursing home care so visits of this nature are important. Certainly the happy faces on this occasion were proof of the pleasure and enjoyment brought by the four-legged visitors.

—Sally Bunston



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## Christian Rock on Adelaide SAFM



Disciple

Adelaide's FM radio station has no sympathy toward the Christian gospel, in fact its bias would be away from anything Christian, yet a group of young Christian musicians have cracked the secular charts with their first single.

The group Disciple was formed in December 1987 and their first cassette "Sacred Knights" was released in Adelaide in 1988. With a combination of hard rock, melody and harmony, Disciple have gained acceptance and airplay on SA's secular radio. The five young men are all committed Christians, balancing their love

and gift for music with Christian service within their own local congregations.

Mark Drilling, the drummer with Disciple, is a member of the Blackwood, SA, church. He teaches Sunday School, works as a counsellor in the youth project and adds his drumming talents to the worship services of a Sunday evening.

Mark and his friends are committed to sharing their faith through their talents in music and desire above all else to see the Christian gospel given airplay on secular radio and are making their contribution through their first single "I Wanna See 'em There".

Disciples are touring the Eastern states during September and October. Details of dates and venues could be obtained from their manager Mick Haywood on (08) 250 4528.

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# God's Word

• Malachi 1:6-2:9

## Second-Rate Service

by Chris Ambrose

Malachi calls on the people of Israel and, especially, the priesthood to show God the proper respect due to him. After calling the people to remember that God loves them and has given them a special place in his order of things, a place they did not especially aspire to, he now calls them to reciprocate this love by offering their best in worship of God.

At the time the people and the priests were cheating God. The standard of the animals being offering in worship were so poor that they would not have met the standard of the civil governor (1:8) yet the people and priests were offering these as a mark of respect to God. The Old Testament demanded that only the very best animals from the flocks were to be killed on the altar as a sacrifice to God (Exodus 12:5) and the Israelites were showing disrespect in not following his orders. The animal offered for sacrifice as an offering was to be a substitute for the sinner and therefore should have been perfect. The whole of the Old Testament emphasised the holiness of God and the fact that nothing should come before God that is not perfect (see Hebrews 9:13-14), not the cast-offs from the flock.

There are some very important implications in this demand on God's people for Christians. It is the same God whom we worship, the God who allowed his perfect son to die on our behalf on the cross. He is the perfect sacrifice. How much then is expected in our offering of worship to him. We should be giving our absolute best in worship to God. Our standard of worship should be of the highest quality, as it reflects the standards of the God whom we worship. We should give the highest service in anything we do for God.

The second half of the call by Malachi was to those involved in ministry and leadership in

the church. Malachi spoke God's word of judgement on the priests (2:1-9) because of their cheating of God in the matter of worship and in misusing the trust placed in them by God and the people. This is a call for the leadership of Israel to honour God. Verses 5 and 6 give a good example of the characteristics of the true leader of God's people in the description of Levi, with whom God made a covenant: "This called for reverence and he revered me and stood in awe of my name. True instruction was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin."

What a tremendous picture of a Christian leader. I realise that many of us fail to reach this standard but if as leaders we are open to God working in our lives then we will grow into this ideal as exhibited by Levi.

Tim Hanna (Director of Field Education at the Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College) commented recently that with the increasing media spotlight on Christian leaders they need to be "squeaky clean". Too often they fail in the areas of sexual temptation, in questionable financial transactions (greed) or in the pursuit of power. Malachi would add the complaint that the leadership were giving teachings that cause people to stumble in their faith.

God gives those in leadership the gifts to fulfil their task. Much is expected of them and if they fail then they will be punished for that failure. Those in leadership should reflect on this and seek to follow the example of Levi, whom Malachi clearly saw as his role model. Those under Christian leaders should support them and pray for them so that they will know God's support in their special roles.



## Classifieds

### BIRTHS

**OAKES (WHILD)** Richard and Janet praise God for the safe arrival of Matthew Richard at Southport 19.4.90. Healthy, beautiful and 3390 g. Brother for Natalie.

### GOLDEN WEDDING

**HEMER-RICHARDS** Janst, Christine, Alison, Donald, Marion and their families congratulate their parents John and Jessie on their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married at the Owen Church of Christ in 1940 by Mr Vic McKenzie. Open House Saturday, 9 June, from 2 pm to 4 pm at Blackwood Church of Christ. Your presence without presents welcome. Present Address: 2 Ewers Avenue, Coromandel Valley 5051.

**WILSON-BILLS** Lin and Glad together with their children, Rea and John, Keith and Joan, and Ross and Judy and grandchildren give thanks to God for 50 years of happy marriage. The marriage was celebrated by F.A. Jovens at the Chatswood Church of Christ on 25 May 1940.

### DEATHS

**SAUNDERS** Kenneth Graeme, beloved youngest son of Ron and Alice, brother to Ronald, David, Phillip and Margaret, on May 3rd, aged 35.

### IN MEMORIAM

**COLE** Ernest Francis (28.5.89) Isabella (11.11.81) We thank God for the wonderful parents he gave us. In our hearts and in our minds precious memories will always remain. Laurel, Maureen, Norma, Robert, Fran and families.

### ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

**HALL** Norma. With gratitude to God, and in appreciation of the churches at Winnipeg, Warracknabeal-Brim, Elizabeth, Surrey Hills-Wattle Park and Carnegie, Norma Hall announces the 25th anniversary of her ordination to the Christian ministry, at Cambrian Heights Church of Christ, Calgary, Canada, on 9 May 1965. Present address: 28 Blackwood Street, Carnegie, Victoria 3163.

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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.

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### An Open Door

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and Development**  
52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne 3000





# Separated but Not Lost!

by Alan Matheson

**A**ustralia has a problem. The church has a problem. Maybe!

The problem: The number of people who train for a trade or profession and then leave (or "separated" in government jargon).

A study of the 1986 census, not quite as boring as it first appears, shows that nearly 70% of engineers, for example, left their profession after training, some 56% of carpenters and 54% of librarians.

And ministers?

Well, of interest to both our leadership and training institutions is that 46% of those trained in religion and theology also left.

Now it is frequently argued, maybe with just a touch of an apology, that those who leave are not lost. That is, they continue to play a significant role in the life of both the church and the wider community.

Well, maybe.

## Facts

Of the 11,600 persons employed as ministers of religion at the time of the census:

- 2,700 (24%) had no recognised formal qualification or did not state their qualification (in 1981 it was 20%)
- 3,200 (28%) held other forms of post-school qualifications (25% in 1981)
- 4,000 (34%) held diplomas in theology (41%)
- 100 (1%) graduate diploma

mas (1%)

- 1,200 (10%) bachelor degrees (10%)
- 300 (3%) higher degrees (3%)

At the same time, only a slight majority (54%) of the 10,300 persons holding a diploma or higher qualification in theology were actually working as ministers.

A further 1% were working in related employment, while 28% were employed in work areas not directly related to the occupation of "minister of religion".

Some 17% (12% in 1981) were not employed.

## Churches of Christ

The census data does not enable us to identify the trends in Churches of Christ.

Charles Wilson's research ("AC" 4 March 1989) found that 35% of our ministers leave in their first ministry, and a further 65% do not see themselves staying in congregational ministries.

A further thread in our understanding of what is happening to our ministry is hinted at in the Bouma report ("Leadership, Autonomy and Democracy: The Role of Conference Executive in Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania").

He found that, at least in Victoria, the role of leadership and central co-ordination was in the hands of an informal group or single person without

formally or constitutionally being given the authority to do so. Departments, in fact, lacked accountability and as a result "Conference and its structures lack focus, waste resources and suffer a sense of organisational frustration".

Put all that together with the occasional article in this publication, for example note the troubles confronting senior ministers and their exposure to "venomous criticisms" ("AC" 7 April 1990). Language like that provides a most interesting insight into how ministers feel.

Well, what does it all mean?

## What It Means

Well, at this stage perhaps more questions than answers.

If the census data reflects our ministry patterns what does it mean to have, perhaps, 52% of ministers without training? Where do they get their training and insight into the history and meaning of the existence of Churches of Christ? Does it explain why there are so few joint, co-operative ministries with other denominations? Is this the reason why our Department of Christian Union is poorly resourced and ignored by our larger departments?

A related enquiry might find that in fact it is our trained ministers who are leaving: trained, committed, with a firm belief in our purpose and message. Ecumenical ministries

and denominations actually implementing our traditional plea of One Body (e.g. Uniting Church of Australia) are providing an effective alternative to a Movement that appears little interested in the issues of unity. Has our leadership lost its way? Are too many buildings being built in too many new areas without any regard for why we were called into existence?

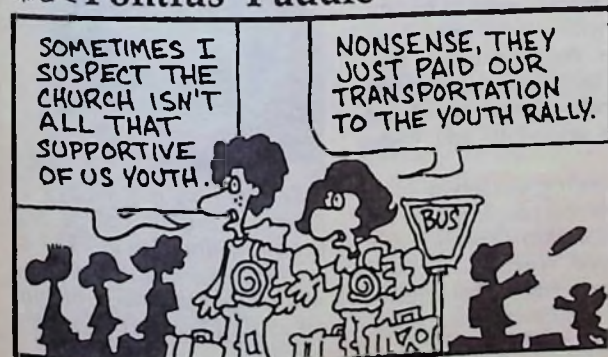
Or take another set of questions: Charles Wilson found a "lack of support from denominational leadership" a factor in ministers leaving. What role do the informal power brokers in our Conference leadership play in the significant rates of separation? To what degree do they marginalise or deny support to ministers?

Currently the leadership, whether of departments, committees or Conference, is predominantly male, restricted to a narrow range of occupations and middle aged. Is that a major factor in the significant loss of women who, following training and ordination, are denied a church? Is this why a woman has never headed up a Conference Department?

A good start in trying to get answers to such questions might be a round-table discussion between the leadership of our Conference and those whom Conference defines as "separated". Perhaps we'll then know whether they're lost or not? We might then end up with a whole new understanding of ministry?

• Alan Matheson is a member of the Camberwell church. He trained at the College of the Bible and is currently Ethnic Liaison Officer with the ACTU.

## Pontius' Puddle





## Growing Spiritually

• Psalm 46:10

### "Be Still and Know That I Am God"

by Wendy Ridge

**D**uring the hustle and bustle of everyday life we are constantly surrounded by noise. We are often too busy to be alone—to pause and be still; to listen to our own thoughts; to listen to God. We need to take time to wait on our God and tarry with him. In solitude we become acutely conscious of our relationship with God. In the quietness and stillness we become aware of his presence and reality, recognising that he dwells within rather than being a vague presence "out there somewhere". Thus relaxation and meditation become a blessed spiritual

experience.

We often overlook the fact that meditation is part of the Hebrew heritage from which our Christian tradition grew. (See Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2; Psalm 63:6; Genesis 24:63.) The Hebrew word *haggath* means "meditation" or "mutterings" and refers to the Jewish practice of repeating over and over the passages of scripture. The word *siach* or *suach* means "to muse or to ponder". It is denoted by phrases such as "be still" and "wait upon the Lord".

Eastern meditation tries to empty the mind and heart, to empty self of pain, trouble and

joy. Christian meditation seeks to direct the mind in order to experience the presence of God, to hear his voice, to discover his will for life. Eastern meditation teaches detachment from confusion and stresses of life, while Christian meditation is for the purpose of achieving a richer attachment to God. John Main says in his book *The Inner Christ*, "Christian meditation is simply the openness to the Spirit of God, allowing the Spirit to blow where he will."

Freedom in a meditation sense is being so attentive to God that I forget myself. I centre on God rather than myself, my

schemes, my plans. (Romans 12:1-2)

In silence at his feet, we hand the control of our own lives over to him. This is a difficult thing to do, because we like being in control. To meditate therefore, is an act of faith where we recognise we are always safe with him. There is no right or wrong way to meditate. The aim is to centre attention of body, mind, emotions and spirit upon the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

• Wendy Ridge is a member of the Hampstead Gardens, SA, church.

## Comment

### Leadership...A Reality?

by Kerri Arthars

**E**ffective leaders are real people.

Have you ever confided in Miss, Mr, Mrs or Ms Pious Perfection? If you have, you will probably recall that the experience was rather more down-putting than it was uplifting. In fact, you probably chose never to seriously expose yourself to that person again. Perfect, pious people shatter, rather than invite the confidence of others.

As Christians in leadership we need to be approachable—to invite, nurture and protect the confidence of those with whom we mix. For others to feel that they can approach us, we need to be perceived as real people.

A favourite childrens story illustrates this vividly—"The Velveteen Rabbit" by Margery Williams. Early in the story a toy rabbit is talking to a stuffed skin horse—an old, favourite toy. They are discussing what it is to be real.

"What is REAL?" asked the

Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender..."Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?"

"Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse. "It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real."

"Does it hurt?" asked the Rabbit.

"Sometimes," said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful...

"Does it happen all at once, like being wound up?" he asked. "Or bit by bit?"

"It doesn't happen all at once," said the Skin Horse. "You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't often happen to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the

joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand."

If, as leaders, we snap easily, we will deter, rather than invite the approach of others. Sharp edges will damage, rather than nurture trust and respect.

If we are like ticking time bombs, needing to be carefully handled, we do nothing to protect the security of those who cross our paths.

To have integrity and credibility leaders need to be honest—with others and themselves. We are called to have eyes that see and ears that hear the truth—the reality of situations around us and within us.

Allowing ourselves to be seen as real people means taking a risk. We risk being misunderstood. We risk being hurt.

Often, when challenged—when misunderstood or hurt—we feel inadequate. We use

faulty mechanisms to gain a false security. We need to remember that we are acceptable to the Lord as we are. Through our desire for his righteousness, through Christ, righteousness itself is credited to us. We can be thankful that he has chosen the weak and foolish things of this world to shame the wise. We can afford to take the risk of being seen as real people.

To be effective leaders, we need to take the risk of being real.



• Kerri Arthars is a student at Kenmore Christian College. She became a Christian in 1984 at the Kingaroy, Qld, church, and was a registered nurse at Longreach, Qld, hospital before going to college.



## A Church ABC

**S**pringwood is situated in Logan City, between Brisbane and the Gold Coast. With 120,000 people, it ranks as Queensland's third-largest city, and is doubling in size every ten years.

Its population is young—74% are under 35 and only 10% are over 50. Home ownership is almost

80% and there are 60 schools. The Springwood church, too, has a membership the majority of whom are young marrieds under 35 with primary school aged children.

The Springwood church's origins were in a Bible study in a home, and began officially in 1974 with 60 members, some of whom came from other churches to start the work. Currently there are about 130 members. There are two services, morning and evening. The former has an attendance of about 110, and the evening 70. Both services feature commun-

ion and teaching.

The minister at Springwood is Geoff Charles. Geoff came originally from the South Perth, WA, church. He studied at Kenmore Christian College from 1974 to 1978, and from

idly approaching the point where it will not be big enough, and thought is being given to moving the walls under the current roof line to enable 250 to be seated.

Springwood has two Bible

and evangelism: there have been Bethel and ACEF courses and two groups are currently doing EE3. Visitation is considered important; the elders and deacons go visiting once a month, and ladies visit during the day.

In the past year the church has tried to listen to God for their strategy to

## Focus on Springwood

1979 to 1981 was youth minister at Harlaxton in Toowoomba. Geoff has been at Springwood since 1981 and sees his ministry to the area as long term. He is married to Wendy and they have two boys, Andrew, 5, and Craig, nearly 2.

The Springwood church like the rapidly developing area it is in has always had a big vision. It was soon realised that the first block of land they had purchased was not going to be big enough, so the present one acre site was soon bought. The buildings were erected in 1980 with voluntary help. It is rap-

schools—one at the church, the other held to the south at Shailer Park High School, in a large growth area near the Logan Hyperdome, which has 40 acres of shopping. There are four playgroups, one of which is connected to the church, a youth group for high school ages, a young adults group, "Youth Unlimited", and seven home groups.

The membership is by nature warm and open and prepared to try new ventures. Many at Springwood have undertaken courses to better equip themselves for ministry

witness to the community

An example of the results of this was detailed on the back page of the last issue of *The Australian Christian*: the Springwood church screened a Dobson film series at a local drive-in.

Advertising drew large crowds and a wide coverage in the community and some nights there were almost 100 cars there.

The Springwood church, ministry and people continue to grow in numbers and maturity, and are attracting more and more people each year.

## Body Language

by Stephen Curkpatrick

**W**hat do these expressions have in common? Chin up, shoulder a burden, get it off your chest, hair-raising, grit your teeth, broken-hearted, stiff upper lip, keep in touch, shrug it off. They are all body words that we frequently use to describe feelings and actions.

The church is all about "body language". The church is the Body of Christ and, being part of it, we are all involved in using a lot of body language, like...putting our shoulder to the wheel, putting our finger on some important goals, giving our leaders a hand, knuckling down to helping in auxiliaries, keeping in touch with what others are doing, itching to come to worship services, or sink our teeth into a few jobs.

Ministers are generally good at keeping their nose clean, keeping their ear to the ground,

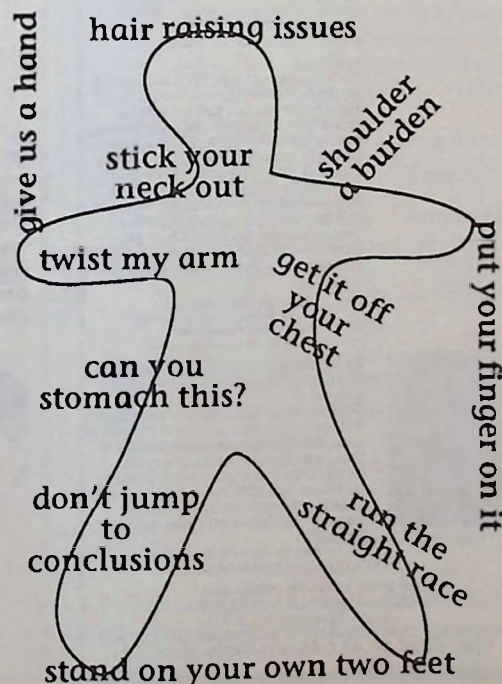
helping to shoulder a burden, helping you to stand on your own two feet or twisting your arm to do things, but hopefully they won't raise an eyebrow if you make a mistake.

What we don't like to see happening in the church is people...getting their nose out of joint, being a pain in the neck, jumping to conclusions, being thin skinned or tight fisted. After all there are numerous ways for Christians to get their exercise other than having the gall to tread on corns.

As Christians we can all do plenty of...running the straight race, fighting the good fight, bearing one another's burdens, wrestling with issues,

leaping for joy and pressing on to the goal. That's good body language, all quite Biblical, and the kind of exercise we want to motivate our church members

to do, for there is no better way to discover what it means to be the Body of Christ than putting some body language into action.



Being the Body of Christ means having the nerve to become involved and sticking your neck out for the kingdom of God, and believe me, you'll always get a kick out of that. But keep these thoughts in the back of your mind, otherwise you may not want to come to worship, to save face in case your minister catches your eye while getting a sermon off his chest.

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



# Obituaries



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Obituaries are limited to 100 words

**Bradshaw, Reginald Walter**  
(25.4.90) Born in Adelaide, coming from the Prospect church where Reg married Emme Rees in 1934, they noticeably enriched the West Preston, Vic, church. Reg became Kappa Club leader and Emme leader in Phi Beta Pi. Reg gave valued service as a deacon and in the choir. Business transfer took Reg to Hobart then Sydney. Emme died in Sydney in 1978. Latterly because of health, his son John brought him to Melbourne, but within weeks this quiet, genial man of much sincerity died. We commend John and Pamela and Reg's four grandsons to the love of God.

—A.B. Withers

**Bryce, Geoffrey David**  
(4.4.90) Geoff was associated with Churches of Christ all his life. His parents were foundation members at Parkdale, Vic, where he was baptised. He trained as a school teacher and prior to World War II served at schools in the Western District. He served in the Ambulance Corps in the South Pacific. He took up membership with Black Rock where he was for many years church secretary. He married Lena Coleman, who for many years worked with our Social Services Dept. Geoff was a quiet and scholarly gentleman whose deep faith and gentle humour endeared him to all. In recent years Geoff and Lena worshipped at Cheltenham.

—Gerald Rose

**Hovard, William Henry (Bill)**  
(13.4.90) Born Brisbane, Qld, 19.3.1907. Early years spent in the Windsor area. After leaving school began apprenticeship as a boot repair man and later established his own business as such. Married Jean Burnham on 24.12.1929. Their marriage was blessed with two children, Joan and Bill Jr. Bill was baptised at the Albion church aged 19. He served on church boards at

Ann St, Brisbane, and Kingaroy. In later years he had membership at Maryborough, Nambour and Bribie Island. Bill will best be remembered for his poems and his uncomplaining disposition. We thank God for Bill's life and for the Christian example he set.

—Wayne Kirk

**Palmer, Violet**  
(29.4.90) Born in 1902, her father was a cordial manufacturer. The family lived at Renmark, Port Pirie, Wallaroo and Balaklava, SA, before settling in Broken Hill, NSW. There she married Walter and became mother to Barbara and Judith. Their home was always open and hosted many visitors. A move to Adelaide brought them to Ascot Park and then Marion as foundation members. For some years she has been resident at "Parkrose Village". The church has lost a warm caring lady with a big heart and unswerving loyalty. A service of thanksgiving was conducted at "Parkrose" to celebrate her life and witness.

—KDH

**Roberts, Ray**  
(14.4.90) Ray married Rita 44 years ago. They had two daughters—Shanaene, who died aged 20, and Jenny, who is married to Allan. They have three children. Ray and Rita spent 12 years at Norseman, WA, and established the Christian Centre in the town. They also cared and nurtured many girls in the home and were greatly loved by the Aboriginal community. From there they went to Esperance for four years and established Fairhaven Girls Home. They later worked at the hostel for Aborigines in Perth. Ray and Rita also worked at the Newcastle City Mission for about four years and the people at Fairfield, NSW, will always value the ministry they enjoyed with Ray and Rita. Sickness has been a continual companion of Ray particularly in recent years. Everyone who came into his life was a prayer concern.

—Judy Gordon

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

**COST**  
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Day \$13 per day (no men's provided)  
\$17 per day (basket lunches provided)

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Dr Gordon Moyes, Superintendent, Wesley Central Mission in Sydney since 1979. Author of numerous books, including *Discovering Jesus*, producer of "Turn Round Australia", a national television program and a Sydney talk-back radio program, Gordon was 1986 NSW "Father of the Year" and Chaplain to the Australian Olympic Team at Calgary in 1988. Married to Beverly, they have four children.

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  
Eleanor Roberts (03) 874 5510

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## Deaths

•Amie Miles, Nunawading, Vic  
•Clarrie Newham, Tootgarook, Vic  
•Mrs June Wisby, Nubeena, Tas

## Changes

Maylands: Minister—Richard Lawton, 16 Appelbee Crescent, Norwood, SA 5067. Phone (08) 363 2536.

Churches of Christ in SA Inc: 263 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, SA 5006. Phone (08) 239 0233. Fax (08) 239 0914.

Churches of Christ Retirement Services Inc: 263 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, SA 5006. Phone (08) 239 0055. Fax (08) 239 0914. Carnegie: All correspondence to—The Secretariat, Church of Christ, 40 Toolambool Road, Carnegie, Vic 3163. Phone (03) 568 7228 or 569 5028.

Golden Grove: Senior Pastor—Dennis Lord, Pastor—Keith Fehner, Pastors—Bruce & Fluer Tucker: P.O. Box 58, Golden Grove, SA 5125. Phone (08) 281 0399.

**Recommend "The Christian" to a friend.**

## 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 Adermann Nursing Home, a 50 bed Aged Care Hostel, 10 Studio Units, 8 ADPHA 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

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Applications, expressions of interest and further information: Rod Foster, Senior Minister, Launceston Church of Christ, 76 Margaret Street, Launceston 7250. Phone (003) 31 9425 or (003) 31 5266



## The Inter-Church Trade and Industry Mission (SA) Inc. Applications are called for the position of STATE DIRECTOR

1. The appointee will be responsible for the development and implementation of corporate goals and strategies that will enable ITIM (SA) to be pre-eminent as a provider of care for people in the workplace in South Australia and the Northern Territory.
2. The appointee will be the chief executive officer, with overall responsibility for administration, financial control, marketing, management of the chaplaincy service, and liaison with churches, clients, government, and employer/employee organisations.
3. The appointee will work with the Board of Management in order to develop policies appropriate for the attainment of the objectives of ITIM—

To provide a service of care to people at work.

To foster the relevance of the Christian faith to the workplace.

To develop effective relationships between the Church and industrial society.

The appointee will need to be a committed Christian, spiritually aware, and capable of transferring his or her particular skills, qualifications and experience to an interchurch organisation.

Applications close 27 July 1990

and should be addressed to:

The Chairman  
ITIM (SA)  
28 Franklin Street  
Adelaide 5000

Further information is available from the above address or by phoning (08) 231 0120.



# Church News

## Vic

**ARARAT (Rodney Beer)** Alf White, interim minister prior to arrival of Rodney Beer, especially invited to conduct Beccy Sladdin's baptism. He preached at same service attended by more than 50 ... Church organising an outreach 13-21 October with Ken Bond, Campbelltown, NSW, as speaker. Ken is also chaplain to the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra. Assisting will be Gordon Barr, his associate.

**BORONIA (Kelth Milne, Andrew Henley)** Easter week meditation led by ministers ... Combined service Good Friday, Easter Vigil Saturday night, climaxed by Easter Day worship ... Church dinner followed by Harvey Miller relating family experiences in America ... Yvonne Hargrave, Pris Burnham, Dick Tutton all hospitalised recently ... CWF conducted recent Sunday evening service ... Election day fete raised \$2,000 for Knox chaplaincy work & own local renovations.

**PRESTON (T. Armstrong)** Open Door celebrated 15th birthday ... 80 attended Agape meal ... Lynette Armstrong was speaker at CWF Sunday service ... There were 13 visitors at special Mother's Day service. Lynette & Tony presented all ladies with a bunch of flowers after the service ... Marjorie West spoke to CWF on her work as Liaison Officer at 3RPH, Radio for the Print Handicapped.

**YORK ST, BALLARAT (Jim Cunningham, Gary Berry)** Offerings:

January—COCOA \$1,039, CS5M \$202, MAF \$562, BBMI \$339, Geon Christian Children's Home \$533 ...

"Youth Specialties" training nights hosted by York St led by Graham Hyman, Andrew Ball ... Jim Cunningham speaker at Ballarat Jazz Festival outdoor worship service ... Combined with other Churches of Christ for Begonia Festival & Good Friday services ... Easter Gap at Halls Gap well attended. Led by Gary Berry & Gordon Buxton.

**LA TROBE TERR, GEELONG (Dr C.J. Mackenzie)** 130 present at dedication of chapel which has been tastefully & comfortably refurbished ... Excerpts of service & several interviews recorded & broadcast over 3YR along with a "live" interview of Dr Mackenzie ... Morning tea being served after morning services ... Students from Theological College led service on 20 May ... Three delegates attended CWF annual conference, others present at general conference.

**COBURG, PASCOEVALE (L. Clun)** 70th Anniversary services—Alf White speaker. 150 at morning worship including Natalie & Ron Wright from Busselton, WA. Afternoon period of fellowship & reminiscing led by Russell Williams ... Covenant Players contributed meaningful message at recent morning service ... World Vision acknowledged gift of \$300 ... Morning Prayer group continuing ... Friendship Group & "Drop-In"

Centre providing warmth & fellowship ... Doris Barkley now resident at Brunswick Lodge.

**HURSTBRIDGE (Andrew George)** Rowan Forster 3LO's sports commentator guest speaker at combined churches mens breakfast ... Church successful in supporting local council at Administrative Appeals Tribunal to stop the establishment of a local hotel ... Colyn Pietzsch, senior social worker with Community Services Victoria, guest speaker at Brethren Assembly camp site Lake Yellingbo, to train young leaders on integrating abused children into Christian camping.

**NUNAWADING (E. Keating, D. Hamilton, J. Wright, L. Smith, A. Spoelder)** Services Palm Sunday—am Choir presented Cross of Christ, pm Festival Easter music ... 32 families attended Easter camp Banksia. Target \$5,000 offering almost reached Response Sunday ... Board elections: Elder Gillian Cutler, Chairman Bob Bolduan, Secretary Bruce Graham, Treasurer Chris. White ... Visiting speakers David Ratten (Mildura), Robert Hough (Portland) ... Springfield Road CWF cake stall raised \$2,000 for Force Ten.

**TOOTGAROOK (M. Glezendanner)** Val Beckett, Muriel Bullock, welcomed by transfer ... Lowanna Singers' Concert enjoyed ... CWF—16 attended Women's Conference and supported Project '90 ... CWF Sunday with Helen Hall speaker ... 48 at Gippsland Regional Rally, speakers Helen Hall, Olga Mogg ... Fashion Parade raised \$220 for Indian Boys support ... Working bee held to paint buildings exterior ... Congratulations to Jack and Pearl Gittins 62 years married.

## SA

**ALDGE VALLEY (J. Gilmore)** 1990 will be a year of opportunity for the Valley because of the new possibilities being seen in new contacts, baptisms & study groups ... We have welcomed the Englehart family, O'Dells & others ... Mt Barker's growth is challenging us & the discipleship group, Kerygma classes & inter-church contacts are exciting ... We trust in God's guidance as we look to 1990 & beyond as we face a change of ministry. **BALAKLAVA (Graham Lawrie)** Graham Lawrie attended John Wimber seminar in Sydney ... Friendship Evangelism course being organised ... Murray Gates, Board Chairman, elected as President of Northern District Conference ... AGM submitted notice to increase number of deaconesses from four to six, set weekly budget of \$1,200

& elected Mrs Brenda Nankivell as first woman on board in 113 years of church's history.

**GOOLWA (Graeme Ritchie)** Vic-tor Harbor church joined us for family camp at lakeside Point Sturt ... Missionary evening held with Aileen Draney (PNG) as speaker ... Visit from Ron Holmes showing samples of Christian literature productions ... Kate Roberts came to Women's Fellowship from Aborigine Mission Board ... Youth group camp held overschool holiday weekend.

**ELIZABETH (R.L. Oke)** Gordon Moyes "Discovering Jesus" video series brought all home fellowship & Bible study groups together recently ... Three adults baptised 6 May & three other adults being prepared for baptism ... Young married couple & another lady were received into membership ... Trevor Lawrie, Conference President; Frank Green; Jim Stallard from CBMI have been guest speakers ... Youth group held camp ToCH Victor Harbor. **MT BARKER (J. Gilmore)** After five years of struggle by Aldgate Valley in church planting, Mt Barker has turned the corner ... Since Easter worship attendance & number of contacts have tripled ... Outreach is to people not comfortable in the other churches & with no church background ... We are confident of God's blessing in our future as we work on our own & in consultation with the SA Conference.

**HAWTHORN (Ron Hewitt)** 4 decisions, 4 commitments ... Sports service with Greg Shaw & Adelaide 36's ... Keith Miller guest annual missionary weekend ... Youth service visitors Adrian & Maureen Clark (Colonel Light Gardens) ... Basketball teams held family barbecue ... Bush dance, Sunday School picnic ... YP collected \$600 for Red Cross ... Dean & Daphne Sessle moved to Moana ... Greg & Debbie Caudle & family attending Blackwood ... 245 attended Palm Sunday/Childrens Sunday.

## NSW

**SEVEN HILLS (T.J. Beauman)** Church delighted to receive Mrs Ros Bell into membership ... Mother's Day service happy occasion with 38 in attendance. Deanne Van Twest made bouquets for oldest & youngest mother present ... Mr & Mrs Juber & their three children from Palestine attending morning services ... Peter Dixon spoke on Property Trust ... Young People's Fellowship growing with 18 ... Andrew Stott transferred from Carlingford to Wollongong College.

## KNEELER DESIGN PTY LTD

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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 Bienvenu

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



# Church News

## ACT

**LYONS** (Kevin Caulton) Lyons members participated in Leadership Seminar led by Ian Allsop ... "Bon voyage" wished to Helen Bennett on eve of overseas trip ... Les & Alison Davies & children enjoying a different life style in Sweden ... Service of thanksgiving held for the life of Desma Wight ... Lyn Swift raised \$100 for Lyons kitchen renovations at Devonshire tea afternoon, which included display of her 97 tea pots.

## WA

**CARNARVON** (Don Bone) Combined churches held Easter March of Witness with symbolic cross at head of procession. Commenced at our chapel, through township to water front. All age groups participating ... Door to door distribution of "Celebration" New Testaments ... CWF entertained residents of Olive Laird Hostel with sing-a-long, play & afternoon tea ... Don Bone presented message on local radio.

## Tas

**COLLINS ST, HOBART** (Jeff Weston) Church excited at the appointment of Graham Hush as youth worker ... 15 adults & four children are planning to travel to Normanton for "Mission to the Top". Many fundraising functions being held ... Two morning services to commence 27 May ... Small groups studying "Friendship Evangelism" this term ... Church still looking to relocate to larger premises. Current building on market.

**HUON COMMUNITY** (S. Warwick, J. Gray) Geeveston church raised in excess of \$1,000 for Nyngan Uniting Church ... Special Mother's Day service at Geeveston attended by many families of 4C's club. 4C's growing each week, now 60 children on roll ... J. Gray attended Vic-Tas Conference & Minister's Camp ... Val Warwick, State CWF Pres, attended Vic-Tas CWF Conference ... St John's Ambulance church parade at Geeveston well attended.

**NUBEENA** (Gordon Henderson) 64 attended Good Friday service, 90 Easter Sunday & 38 at evening service ... Memorial service held for Len Newell ... Recent speakers in absence of minister have been L. Cooke, D. Williams & I. Parker & items from Carol & John Kingshott from Hobart church ... Youth group meeting & Chris Dicker visiting speaker ... Kerry & Elaine Chilcott spoke on their work in Philippines & showed slides ... George Green,

Conf Pres, from Launceston guest speaker.

**DEVONPORT** (B. Butler) Letter drop to 4,000 homes ... Indoor bowls attracting new-comers, attendance reaching 22 ... Family camp, officer's retreat, half-night prayer, self-awareness course preparing way for evangelism, discipleship and pastoral care ... New members welcomed ... singles group commenced ... Evening family service combined with Girls' Brigade parade ... church packed to view "Creative Ministries" puppets etc.

## Qld

**TOWNSVILLE** (Greg Muller) Northern Convention 9-11 June rapidly approaching. Guest speaker Roland Croucher, theme "Marks of Christian Maturity". Pre-convention retreat for church leaders & spouses at Camp Irwin, Magnetic Island ... Welcomed into membership Jenny Faulkner, Carrigy family. John Carrigy baptised 22 April ... Congratulations Steve & Alex Nicholson on the birth of Joshua Thomas ... Community Care house has be-

come available to be used for homeless families.

**PINE RIVERS** (Neale Proellocks, Ian Todd) Two young people rededicated their lives, family welcomed into membership ... Junior Youth Group "Around the World in 60 Minutes" & visit by Drug Arm ... Successful tea for Playgroup mums catered by CWF ... family teas regular, popular & well attended ... Special service held to recognise Child Care Centre staff & families ... Neale Proellocks has regular column in local paper ... Number attended missionary camp.

## COCOA

*is involved in relief  
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Be a caring partner!*



**Send your cheque to Churches of Christ Overseas Aid. PO Box 320, Unley 5061.**

(Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible)

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## Student Profile

# Jonathan and Tricia Moore

**Jonathan and Tricia Moore are students at the Churches of Christ Theological College. Jonathan writes:**



Life is not to be found in scientific academia, athleticism, Triumph motorcycles or 1883 blue-stone railway cottages. Many a year was spent in or on each, but as most find during such endeavours, there remains a vacuous emptiness. From within that emptiness came the still small voice of God. The earthquake, wind and fire had passed.

The rest is history...but exciting history! The months spent in preparation for college were filled with heart-wrenching anguish at leaving family, friends and familiarity, but also jaw-dropping occurrences that provided us with a sense of God's presence and pleasure. In selling our charming old cottage and both resigning from professional radiographic careers, some might say we were fools.

We were spared any such accusations and labels however, as family, friends and even places of employment supported us immensely. While we recognise that is not

married and is now enrolled in two subjects at CCTC as well as working part-time in radiography.

With Tricia involved in what I am learning and wrestling with will mean an especially close relationship during our time here at College and beyond.

My next four years will be spent working on gaining a Bachelor of Theology and a Diploma in Ministry and in so doing, a brand of theology and ministry I can call my own.

Both Tricia and I love people and intend spending what time we have on the truly important things in life.

Fools?...For God, yes!

And so here we are. Where will we be at the end of the next four years? God knows.

always the case, we were fortunate enough to be assured of it.

The new house buyers offered \$23,500 more than the price we expected! A well-known South Australian Churches of Christ land developer facetiously suggested I might be mistaken in my call to ministry over real estate!

College has meant a rapid turnaround in Tricia's life, having moved to Adelaide from Tasmania four years ago. In that time Tricia has made her decision for Christ,

**We don't have to give in to temptation just because it comes. Jesus Christ provides a way of escape.**

—Roger C. Palms

I'm all for lowering the voting age. Then the kids can't blame everything on us!

★★★★★

It was the saddest wedding you could imagine.

The bride was crying, her mother was crying, her sisters were sobbing their hearts out. And even the wedding cake was in tiers.

★★★★★

Waiter: You ought to have some of our enthusiastic stew.

Diner: Why do you call it that?

Waiter: Because our chef puts everything he has into it!

★★★★★

Parent: Why, when I was a child I didn't think anything of a 20 km walk.

Child: (tired of hearing about the good old days) To tell the truth I don't think much of it either.

★★★★★

Hello, friend. What's happened to your nose? It's all swollen.

I bent down to smell a brose in the garden. What do you mean, "brose"? There's no "b" in rose.

There was in this one.

★★★★★

Playwright: Now when you speak my lines be sure you wait for the laugh before you continue.

Comedian: OK, I'll try, but remember I've got a train to catch at midnight.

★★★★★



For that matter, I haven't seen you down at the car showroom lately.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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