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Photo courtesy of the Canberra Times

Gavin Pritchard, Lyons Church of Christ, and Andrew Constance (Anglican minister) carry the cross, when 90 from churches in the Lyons, ACT, area walked 2 km and climbed Oakey Hill on Good Friday

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Guest Editorial

The Authority of Holy Scripture

by Ronald W. Graham

The whole church affirms that the Bible is authoritative for its life but beyond that consensus Christians move in quite diverse directions.

Inspiration

Throughout much of the church's history it is the inspiration of the Bible that has been regarded as the ground of its authority.

The early church inherited the Jewish Scriptures. They were the Christians' first Bible and only in time were some Christian writings given the same exalted status. Not until the end of the fourth century are there lists of authoritative Christian writings that agree with the New Testament.

The early church also inherited the Jewish understanding of the nature of Scripture's authority, namely, that every word in it was guaranteed against imperfection by God. It was with the Hebrew Scriptures in mind that the writer of 2 Timothy affirmed, "all scripture is inspired by God" (3:16, RSV).

When the question of what Scripture comprised was raised by the Reformers, the Council of Trent in 1546 set the bounds for the Catholic Church and claimed that the New Testament at least had been "dictated" by the Holy Spirit.

The inspiration of Scripture has been given a variety of meanings. For some, it is the original manuscripts that are inspired, although what we have long had are not originals but copies of copies. For others, it is a particular version, as for Trent it was "the old Latin Vulgate". For yet others, it is the authors who were inspired rather than every jot and tittle they wrote. For others again, the stance is, "The Bible is inspired because it inspires." (For me, to take some examples, Isaiah 53 and John 13 are inspiring; Proverbs 9 and Jude, somewhat so; Psalm 137:7-9 and 1 Timothy 2:14a, not at all.)

What brought about a sea change in our understanding of the nature of the Scriptures was the rise last century of Biblical Criticism. (Here "criticism" means "the act of analysing and judging the quality of a work".)

Uniqueness

Mostly I have neither asserted that the Scriptures are inspired nor denied that

they are. I have let them commend themselves: "We read now from the Gospel according to Matthew."

The key term is "according to". The first Gospel is Matthew's witness to Jesus Christ. The writings are evidence, testimonies, and as such are unique. (When the New English Bible footnotes differences in early manuscripts it uses the language, "some witnesses have this, but other witnesses have that".)

The Bible is the supreme witness to the origins of the Christian faith. It is the successor to the apostles, the first Christian missionaries. (I say "Bible" because, as Paul understands it, the gospel consists of: facts—"Christ died"; interpretations of facts—"for our sins"; and categories of interpretation—"in accordance with the scriptures", 1 Corinthians 15:3.)

The New Testament cherishes, gives concrete form to and witnesses to the Christian faith as the early Christians taught it and lived it. If we want to know what the Christian faith was like at the beginning, how it started, and what Jesus Christ and his early followers did and taught—the gospel comprises deeds and words—we must turn to the most authentic evidence that the early Church could garner.

The New Testament is unique because only its writings met these four criteria: ecumenical acceptance (although some gained that more readily than others), conformity to the church's memory of Jesus (although some were judged to be nearer the centre than others), authorship by or association with apostles, and earlier rather than later dating.

John said that his Gospel was written "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name" (20:31). All that we should require of the evidence, the Scriptures, is that as a whole they carry the weight of this truth and enable us to make a decision on the right side.

• Ronald Graham graduated from the College of the Bible in 1944 and served the Newmarket and Boronia churches in Victoria and Ann Street, Brisbane. He is Professor Emeritus of New Testament, Lexington Theological Seminary, and lives in Johnston, Iowa, USA.

Hampstead Gardens' Easter Garden

Lil Whitmore in the garden

A spectacular garden setting in the chapel greeted worshippers to the Easter services at the Hampstead Gardens, SA, church this year.

The garden was created from a huge range of pot plants supplied by members under the direction of florists Shirley Foote and Marj Menhennett. It included an indoor fountain, a bird bath and a pathway leading to the cross at the rear of the stage.

Minister Keith Ridge used the garden theme as a basis for the Easter services, commencing with a play-reading of "Gethsemane" for Maundy Thursday through to "Garden Encounters" on Easter Sunday.

This scene also proved to be a drawcard, with several members bringing family and friends to attend services over the period.



Kenmore Christian College Units Opening

The stage was set and the chairs were aligned awaiting the arrival of guests. Soon hundreds ambled under the soft warmth of the autumn sun to tour the eight three-bedroom family units at Kenmore Christian College.

The crowd faced speakers who drew us back to the bush days of KCC's jasper hillsides. Architects Don Cranston and John Packer reminded us of God's marvellous resources past, present and future.

The crowd heard David Lowe, Graham Knott and Grant Spangenberg recall the courageous efforts of hundreds of volunteers who recently completed a \$1,000,000 building project for \$440,000.

Songs praising God arose across the landscape and colourful balloons floated into the blue sky in celebration.

Rod Tippett and Graham Warne drew our attention to the humble beginnings of KCC when C.R. Burdeu turned the

first sod for the first building. In memory of that occasion and her parents, Beryl Wiltshire re-enacted that historical event. Behind her stood some of the members of the original Queensland Bible College Establishment Committee (1962): John Christensen, Gwenda Watson (representing her father, the late H.J. Payne), Maurie Pieper, Prof. Allan Wilson, Jack McCormick. (An apology was received from Stan Chalmers.)

Others to serve on that Committee were: C.J. Connell, L.G. Read, H. Trudgian and D.W. Mansell.

In honour of their service to Christ and the College, various family names will be used to identify the KCC campus buildings: Burdeu Building, Machin Hall, Ellis Lecture Room, Hammer Lecture Room, Rosevale Hall, Ewers Chapel, Byard Library, Jauncey House, Butler House, Mobile Mission Maintenance House, Wilson House, Buhse House and Christensen House.

—Donald W. Spencer,
Principal

SA Ministry

The following SA appointments by churches will take place at the end of 1990: John Gilmore (Magill), Jim Tillson (Glennelg), Ross Pelling (Noarlunga).

Other movements include Dennis Lord (Golden Grove), Graham Wade (Salisbury East), Anthony Boucher (Mt Gambier), Adrian Clark (Colonel Light Gardens), Steven Schmaal (Prospect), Doug Wallage (Owen), Ray Patterson (Victor Harbor), Daryl Telfer (Nailsworth).

The churches at Berri, Barmora and Moorook have committed themselves to the establishment of a regional ministry. A "Day of Celebration and Thanksgiving" has been set for 24 June in the Kingston Community Hall. Guest preacher will be Keith Horne, who, with Brian Phelps, will represent the Ministry Committee.

The new Minister's Association committee is Joan Fewster (Chairperson), Jim Keatch (Secretary), Roger Brown (Treasurer), John Gilmore, Dorothy Heard and Wendy Ridge.



The crowd gathered at the opening of the new units

People

Whites Celebrate 50th

Couples from the combined Churches of Christ in Ballarat were part of the 50th Marriage Enrichment Seminar conducted by Brian and Joan White recently.

The Whites have conducted seminars throughout Australia.

Just on 1,000 couples have attended the 50 seminars to experience growth and enrichment in their marriage.

Couples of all ages, newly weds and retirees, from different backgrounds, professional and non-professional, Christian and non-Christian, and in various stages of relationship have attended. The couples invariably go away from the program very positive about their marriage and determined to continue growing in their relationship.

Joan states: "The joy of seeing marriage partners experience growth, some in sensitive



Brian and Joan White and participants of their 50th marriage enrichment seminar

relationships, and in some cases experiencing real breakthroughs in communication, gives me the strength and desire to continue giving my time in this ministry to couples.

I believe that as couples in

our churches are helped to maintain their marriage relationships as God intended, and as their own hearts usually desire, these couples will be more effective in the work of the Kingdom."

Brian and Joan are Field Directors with both the Federal Board of Christian Education, and the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development, and are currently living in Melbourne.

Brother Baptises Sister



At the Northside Community Church, NSW, on Mother's Day, Craig Gibbon baptised his sister Linda in a moving ceremony during the evening service. The Northside baptistry is in a special garden setting

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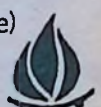
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Telecom Gives Housebound Telephone to Church

It's not often that big corporation helps people to listen to the word of God. But that's what has happened in Hobart, Tas—thanks to a lateral-thinking minister. 10 housebound families have been able to listen to the Sunday service at the Collins St church.

They have been able to do so because of a device used in the corporate sector—a telephone conference line. The line normally links business executives, allowing them to have a round-table conference by telephone.

But now it can be used to link people with God.

In February, when one of Jeff Weston's members was too ill to attend church, he rang him and put a speaker from the public address system next to the receiver. It worked—and Jeff was inundated with calls from regular worshippers unable to go to church.

He realised many people were cut off from regular Christian worship by ill-health or old age. And it was then he hit on the idea of a conference line.

Telecom agreed—even reducing the normal rate to a nominal fee—and now up to 10 families can be linked to the church on Sundays.

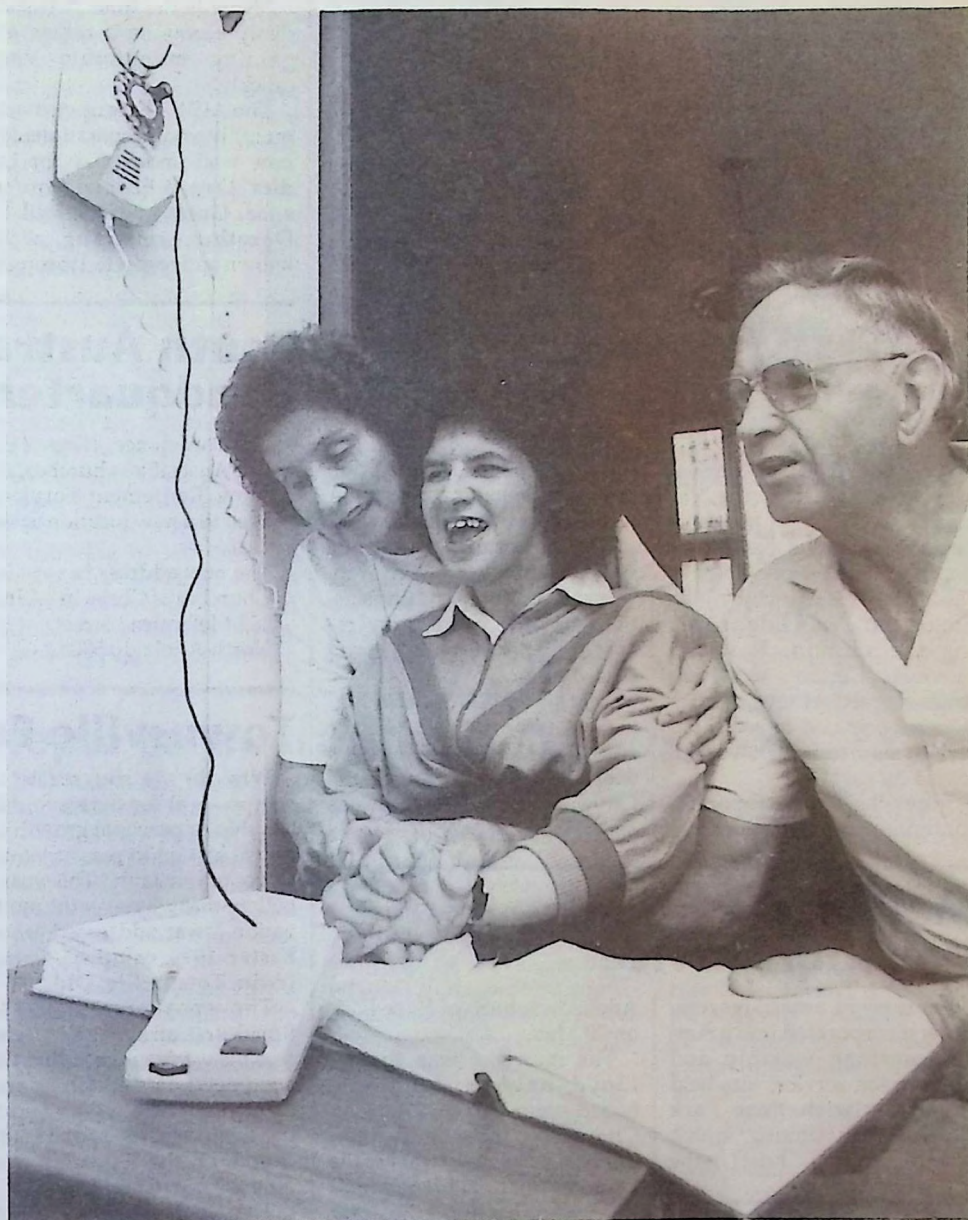
Each has a telephone amplifier, which can be bought at most electrical shops, attached to the telephone by a suction plug. This allows the whole family to hear the service.

For the Clifford family of Bellerive, the link-up has transformed their lives. They are housebound. Geoff Clifford suffers from kidney failure, and for the past three years has needed dialysis treatment every few hours.

His daughter, Janet, 31, is severely handicapped by cerebral palsy and her mother, Avis, can't take her out alone.

"We haven't been able to go to church together as a family for nearly three years," Mrs Clifford said. "We've felt very cut off and it's just lovely to hear the service and feel part of it again."

—Margaretta Pos in the
Hobart Mercury



Avis, Janet and Geoff Clifford and their telephone link to their church services

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First Baptism for Rowville



Cecilia Whalan with Rowville ministers Tom Ede and John Sutton

Cecilia Whalan is the first person from the Rowville, Vic, church, which commenced in late February this year, to be baptised. She was baptised at the Springvale church by John Sutton, with Tom Ede preaching the sermon. Rowville members, Cecilia's work colleagues and Springvale members participated in a well-attended service, which was followed by supper.

Rowville church reports a continuing contact with first-

time visitors and a steady group of some 30 regular attenders. A recent gospel service saw 37 present. Other activities include Bible study and a prayer group. The young church is enthusiastic about the community response and believes it is well placed to grow.

For further information contact Tom Ede (03) 802 8479, or secretary, Kerrie Laird (03) 763 0582. Rowville is part of the CROP initiative for Vic-Tas churches.

Marriage Ceremony in a Worship Service

A rare event, a marriage ceremony incorporated into a Sunday morning worship and communion service, was held at the Dulwich-Rose Park United Parish (Uniting Church and Churches of Christ) in the

Adelaide suburb of Rose Park on 20 May.

The marriage was that of Lloyd Roberts, long-time board member of Dulwich Church of Christ, and Sami Spencer, former secretary of the United Parish. With relatives and friends coming from as far as Queensland for the occasion, the big Gartrell church chapel and gallery were packed full as the ministers Rob Williams (UC) and Roger Brown (CofC) jointly officiated. Prayers and readings were given by members of the families. Neil Bright presided during communion.

The usual tea/coffee period in the hall after the service was transformed into a celebratory session in which the church people united with the visitors and a cake was cut, however there were no speeches.

Ormond Church of Christ 65th Anniversary

10 am
Sunday, 24 June 1990

Guest Speaker
Lawrie Barker
(former minister)

Followed by luncheon

For further information
phone B.L. Cann
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ACWF News

"Now is the time..." It suddenly seems as if things are gaining momentum very quickly!

The ACWF Executive meets monthly and preparations are now well under way for Ladies' Day at Federal Conference. Guest speaker will be Dorothy Armstrong, well-known and respected through-

out our churches. Quite a number of tickets have already been sold for Ladies' Day luncheon.

Luncheon tickets can be obtained when registering for Federal Conference, or from the ACWF Secretary (Ann Parker, 51 Binnalong Street, Rochdale 4123).

Looking forward to welcoming you to Brisbane, 8-14 October!

South Australia's New Headquarters

The Conference offices of the South Australian churches, including Retirement Services, moved to a new location at the end of May.

The new address is:
Churches of Christ in SA Inc.
263 Melbourne Street
North Adelaide 5006

An official opening and inspection of the property will held on Saturday, 27 October 1990. The extensive, functional property is well located and after additions are completed will include a resource centre and conference room to cater for workshops and seminars.

Townsville Easter Camp

Why do we congregate at camps—is it for outreach, fellowship or personal growth or do we just go to reassure ourselves of our faith? This year I believe that whatever the motivation it was addressed at the Easter 1990 camp at Camp Irwin, Townsville, Qld.

The speaker was Dave Smethurst, an evangelist, who sees his work as spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and encouraging the building up of the saints. He first spoke to the church on the Thursday evening prior to Good Friday.

The initial camp introduction on Good Friday focused on

John 15 and the fruit of the vine. On the Friday afternoon Dave focused upon our purpose in creation.

On the Sunday morning the camp greeted the sun (son) in a dawn communion service. The study then looked at the "inspirational gifts" of the Holy Spirit.

The camp was a challenge for growth, a time of fellowship and an encouragement for the faith of many.

There are tapes of all the teaching sessions of the camp which are available to non-attenders.

—John Carrigy

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Famine Alert

Sudanese-born journalist, Jacob Akol, the man who alerted and led the BBC's Michael Buerk to the horrendous Ethiopian famine will arrive in Australia directly from Mozambique to report on the 4 million in desperate need of help there.

He is currently in Mugulama, an area in the Zambezia province of Mozambique reminiscent of the famine camps of Ethiopia. About 50,000 are in desperate straits, with 100 more arriving daily.

Up to 30 a day are dying, with thousands of severely malnourished children requiring immediate attention.

World Vision has begun an airlift of vital food and medical supplies. The agency has already committed \$400,000, but \$1.7 million is needed.

With few reports available on the Mozambique war and famine, Jacob Akol admits the situation reminds him of the way the Ethiopian famine was silent until it finally burst into the world's consciousness.

Jacob Akol, who is the World Vision communications manager for Africa, will be in Australia as part of this year's World Vision 40 Hour Famine.

Funds raised from this year's event will help get food to Mugulama, as well as famine relief in Sudan and Ethiopia.

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Handicapped Learn to Make Glasses

Thanks to supporters throughout Australia, Christian Blind Mission International recently opened its 50th optical workshop in Africa to produce low-cost spectacles for needy people.

Workshops employ handicapped people to produce spectacles, which are then made available in hospitals or given to mobile health workers who travel to isolated areas.

"In my role as an optical consultant I visit each workshop regularly," said CBM co-worker Peter Spoerer. "I always try to keep production methods simple so that tools and machines can be easily operated. 'These workshops are contributing to the development of Africa and instil a sense of achievement to our local staff. Most workshops employ disabled people, who we can



enable to lead a fuller life and enjoy a sense of purpose.

"In September we will start an 'opti-fundi' course—*fundi* is the Swahili word for technician—at which we will be training selected workers from all

over Africa in tool maintenance and repair methods for fitting optical machines. This will greatly improve the efficiency of the workshops, as well as teach valuable skills to the underprivileged and disabled."

Nepal to Guarantee Religious Freedom

In an address to Christians in Kathmandu on 7 May, leaders of Nepal's new interim government proclaimed a new era of human rights and promised to include religious freedom considerations in the new constitution.

Addressing a jubilant crowd of some 2,000 Christians who were gathered at Kathmandu's Royal Academy to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Nepal Christian Fellowship, Nepali Congress Party leader Ganesh Man Singh commended Christians for their contributions to the nation's history. Singh said he would push for full recognition of human rights and religious freedom.

The historic public rally would have been illegal prior to the mid-April upset of King Birendra's autocratic rule, which paved the way for the formation of an interim government. Until the new constitution is drafted, power will be shared among the King and the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, an alliance of the Nepali Congress Party and the United Left Front, which is

a coalition of seven left-wing parties.

Outspoken attorney H.S. Niraula, however, reminded government leaders in attendance at the rally of Nepal's 40-year history of religious repression, during which Christians have been arrested and imprisoned according to a restrictive application of the constitution and related legislation.

Christian activist Charles Mendies says he is optimistic over recent political developments in Nepal. Mendies was arrested in November 1989 and is currently serving a six-year jail term for his Christian activities.

According to Nepal's constitution, it is a crime to disrupt "the traditional Hindu community of Nepal". Thus, attempts to convert others from Hinduism to Christianity carry a sentence of three years in prison. If conversion actually takes place, the sentence could be as long as six years. Hundreds of Christians are currently awaiting trial and sentencing for crimes related to this legislation.

Government leaders, how-

ever, have already indicated that the new constitution may mean a release of religious prisoners, according to Edgar Metzler, executive director of United Mission to Nepal (UMN).

Three Nepali church leaders met with interim Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai on 18 April, the day he was sworn in, to discuss the law on religion.

Changes in Nepal's government and constitution follow two months of anti-government, pro-democracy protests which climaxed in a 6 April confrontation between riot police and protesters resulting in some 50 deaths. Bowing to pressure, King Birendra agreed to amend the constitution, allowing for a multiparty democratic system that would replace Nepal's partyless Panchayat political system, which has been in force for the past 28 years.

Pastor Iosif Ton returned to Romania in December after 9 years in exile. The following day he preached to 16,000.

Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Theocracy and Democracy

To the Editor,

There may be other ways than democracy of running a church, e.g. the early church selected Matthias by lot (Acts 1:26), but the Greek church was democratic and for them democracy was right. For us democracy is the only thing.

Theocracy seems to be accompanied by an even more pernicious and illogical practice, which, despite its utter lack of scriptural authority, is the practice in some churches.

I spent a number of years away from my own church helping another of a morning and attending my home church evening meeting, and this was followed by a number of years when I was very ill and attendance was spasmodic. Several years ago my illness stabilised and faced with the plea for more people on the plan my conscience pricked me into action. I asked to be put back on the plan. Nothing happened. Thinking the matter had been forgotten I wrote a letter. It took four years to force the elders to tell me why I was not acceptable: I had applied for the position and not waited to be asked. The illogic escapes our elders.

Churches of Christ stand for mutual ministry, perfection through service and personal commitment. Theocracy stands for a church run by a narrow little clique totally opposed to Churches of Christ philosophy and New Testament teaching.

—John J. Alderson
(Havelock, Vic)

Barnabas Club

To the Editor,

I was delighted to read the article "The Barnabas Club" ("AC" 12 May) and it reminded me very much of the Launceston CWF's scheme of many years ago. At the beginning of the year each lady was given the name and birthdate of another member, who then became her Peanut-Sister for that year.

During that time, events in the life of the PNS, such as birthdays and anniversaries were remembered, family achievements recognised by notes or cards or small gifts left surreptitiously in letter boxes, words of encouragement were sent in difficult times, appreciation given of a job well done, and assurances of a prayer-covering all the time.

While the scheme was a lot of fun, it also made us each aware of, and take a great interest in, our PNS and her family, about whom we may have previously known little. Many and devious were the ways we used to communicate with our sister and her family and it was only at the end of the year and amid great hilarity that identities were revealed.

I have often thought such a scheme could be made to cover the whole church membership, and the Barnabas Club seems to meet the situation. All power to it!

—Peggy Harrison
(Launceston, Tas)

Pen Friend Wanted

To the Editor,

I am a keen member of the Church of Christ (in isolation here). The nearest Church of Christ places of worship are all anti-musical instruments in service people. The brethren equivalent to your group are tiny in number in this country, but there are many more "Old Paths" groups, so I lack fellowship.

I would very much welcome Australian pen friends keen to discuss matters pertaining to Churches of Christ plus other matters.

—H.F. Cox
2 Peverel Close
Cambridge CB5 8RW
England

Excommunication

To the Editor,

I feel that Tertius ("AC" 12 May) is right about excommunication. It is interesting that of the 12 Disciples, one betrayed the Lord (and hanged himself so our Lord's attitude to him cannot be known), one denied him, one apparently sat by the

fire and said nothing so was not noticed (John), and the rest deserted him. We know only of Peter being asked if he loved him; of the rest all we have is silence. But they were sent out to save the world. Work for the Lord is the greatest of all healing processes. The proper course for one who may have stumbled is to put them about the Lord's work.

A heretic after the third admonition is to be treated as no longer in the church. The apparent sense is that they have already left the congregation rather than being thrust out.

A form of excommunication has crept into some of our churches. This is to deny the right to work for the Lord in his church, e.g. cut off the reading and presidential plan, or forbidden on the organ roster etc. This is a cruel, unchristian practice, at variance with the New Testament, and in oppo-

sition to the practice of our Lord, wicked and a heresy.

—John J. Alderson
(Havelock, Vic)

"Separated but Not Lost!"

To the Editor,

Alan Matheson ("AC" 26 May) reveals an unawareness of some significant developments with regard to ministry welfare in Vic-Tas.

The Advisory Department commissioned an extensive and thorough survey during the last 12 months to ministers to investigate the degree of stress amongst ministers and what should be the appropriate response to the modern issues of ministry. The survey was conducted by Dean Phelan, an industrial psychologist. It revealed that, amongst other issues, the percentage of ministers reporting high stress levels was slightly lower than the

Letters from Tertius

Unofficial Prayers

To the Editor,

I have spoken in earlier letters of my wandering mind during church services. I had thought that I had improved, until last Sunday. I should have been meditating on higher things, but my mind mused over a possible promotion at work that might come my way. I found myself hoping that I would get it when my wife ended the dream with a nudge for the offering.

Recalling this later it seemed to me that I was involved in an unofficial prayer, "Lord if that promotion comes up please see that my name is on top of the list."

Then I thought of the unofficial prayers that might be prayed in church by other sufferers with wandering mind disease.

"Lord, I wonder if I turned off the gas."

"Lord, I hope that the ladder isn't showing beneath my skirt."

"Lord, the sermon could have stopped at that point couldn't it?"

"Lord, if my husband snores I'm going to be terribly embarrassed."

"Lord, not that hymn again."

"Good Lord, I've left my purse at home."

And in the back seat: "Lord, please get Sara to notice me," or "Lord, Richard hasn't arrived yet. Please get him to come, I'll die if he doesn't!"

And from the pulpit: "Lord, where are the board members tonight?" or "Lord, some of your pearls were not appreciated either!"

O, Lord who gave us minds that are prone to wander, forgive our unofficial prayers, and hear the deeper needs that they reflect. Amen.

—Tertius

NSW CWF Conference

population as a whole even though they were exposed to more stressful events than the population as a whole. Generally ministers reported a higher degree of optimism about the future than the population as a whole.

There were some clear messages for those involved with the welfare of ministers, particularly in the areas of the relationship of the Advisory Department to ministers and the effectiveness of the "Pastor to Pastors" scheme.

At Dean Phelan's suggestion a group of ministers, independent of the Advisory Department, is meeting to evaluate the report and to make corporate suggestions to the Advisory Department.

The report answers many of Alan Matheson's questions and will become more widely available when the ministers have completed their evaluation and made their recommendations.

In the meantime, the Advisory Department in conjunction with the Minister's association will continue to support the excellent work being offered by Ken Clinton as Pastor to the Pastors.

—E. C. Keating
(Nunawading, Vic)

[This letter, which is longer than the 200 word limit on Letters to the Editor, has been allowed as a response to a prior article—Editor]

Loving the Brotherhood

To the Editor,

I have never had any difficulty with the apostle Peter's injunction to "love the brotherhood" (1 Peter 2:17 RSV). However, I think it might be time we stopped using the word "brotherhood" to describe our collective activity. It is now redolent of a 19th Century secret society and some may see it as a gender term.

It is suggested that we replace it by the use of the equally biblical word "communion" (koinonia), which suggests both fellowship and a central aspect of our worship and witness.

—Harold E. Hayward
(Berowra, NSW)

The NSW CWF Conference was held on 10 May at the Auburn church with approximately 160 present.

A time of praise led by Joan Touzel featured musicians Bronwen Dixon, Peggy Cameron and Dorothy Wilson.

During the morning session Lorraine Hensby and Margaret Morris gave a duet accompanied by Val Stephenson.

Judy Gordon brought a Focus on DCDE, highlighted her work at the new church at Katoomba and told of her new appointment as associate minister at Castle Hill later this year.

Jack Murphy brought a Focus on the work of Community Care Department.

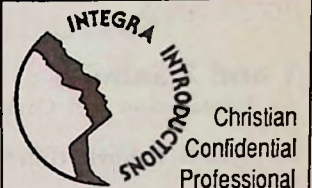
The "Special Effort" for the coming year will be for "furnishings for the new wing at the Pendle Hill Nursing Home".

Dorothy Holstein was guest speaker and she spoke on the work in India.

The afternoon session included a Focus on the Nursing Home at Pendle Hill by Cecily Duncan.

Avon Moyle told of the work of the Aborigines Missions.

Officers for this coming Conference year are Noelene



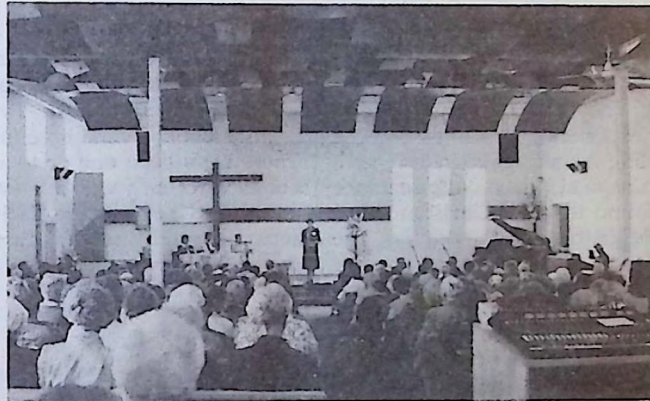
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Roose, President, Lyla Beckingham, Secretary, and Betty Broady, Treasurer. Noelene's theme is "Reach Out and Touch Him".

—Lyla Beckingham

Vic-Tas CWF Conference



"Go Forward in Prayer and Service" was the theme of the Vic-Tas CWF Conference held at the Glen Waverley, Vic, church on 3 May. The morning session featured singing, worship led by Aileen Draney,

business and reports. The Mornington CWF Singers gave several items. The amount of \$27,247 was given to the ongoing work of the Department of Community Care, Overseas Missions, Aborigines Commit-

tee, Department of Mission, Education and Development, and the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave. Ian Allsop gave an address.

In the afternoon session Julie Trinnick, Assistant Director, OMB, responded to the Conference Commitment Offering. \$5,210 was given towards the cost of security fencing at Madang, PNG. Items were sung by Brian Jacques, and Bessie Horn gave a devotional message. A service of dedication was held and Helen Hall was inducted as CWF President for 1990-91.

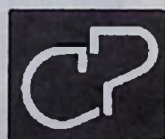
The evening session featured a musical program, which included the Nunawading Choir, Meredith Vincent, and Bruce and Leigh Verity. Ian Corlett, minister at the Sunshine church, was the speaker.

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Books

1 and 2 Samuel

An Introduction and Commentary

by Joyce G. Baldwin (Inter-Varsity Press)

This is one of the more recent additions to the Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. This set has expanded rapidly in recent years and aims to provide the student of the Bible with a handy, up-to-date commentary on each book, with the primary emphasis on exegesis.

This commentary is based on the RSV and provides a verse-by-verse explanation of the text. The introduction sets the books of Samuel in the longer history of which it is part and helpfully discusses their composition, theology and text.

TYNDALE
OLD TESTAMENT
COMMENTARIES

1 and 2
SAMUEL
JOYCE BALDWIN

—CRA

Personal Grieving

by Judith Michael Murray (Chi Rho Books) \$4.95

This recently published booklet of 62 pages is the best resource I know to give to a grieving person (bereaved or divorced). The statements are brief and realistic. They deal with the range of feelings and thoughts that many experience. Headings like "Be Gentle with Yourself" and "Feeling Anger against God" give some idea of the approach. Each page also has a one-sentence prayer that avoids clichés. I've found that non-Christians find help from the text and then they begin to notice the prayers. The attractive cover is an added bonus. This is one of a series of booklets worth looking at.

—Keith Bowes

Guidelines for Growing Christians

by LeRoy Lawson (Standard Publishing) \$15.95

Guidelines for Growing Christians was written by Dr LeRoy Lawson, pastor of Central Christian Church, Meza, Arizona, USA. Since becoming pastor of this church in 1979 the congregation of 490 has grown to almost 2,000. He is billed as a popular writer of more than a dozen books but this is the only one of his that I have seen.

This book, which is very easy to read, is divided into 13 chapters, each being a development of the general theme "Where do you go after you have arrived?" (Arrival for the purpose of this book is baptism!) As the title suggests it is a manual to help new Christians grow in their faith. Topics such as humility, forgiveness, fellowship and prayer are discussed, often with good illustrations for preaching. Each chapter begins with a relevant scripture passage and concludes with a set of questions that could be used as "discussion starters for small groups".

This book has lots of good things in it but the only things I marked for future reference were the sermon illustrations. Browse before you buy.

—KTW

Peacetime

by Katherine Scholes (Hill of Content) \$9.95

This book was pure delight! The writing style is excellent; the impressionistic illustrations by Robert Ingpen are beautiful, and

themselves evocative of discussion on the theme of peace; and the ethical content and developmental challenges are superb.

It is not an overtly Christian book, but Christian principles permeate it in a way that still leaves it highly attractive to non-Christians. A Christian family can use it with confidence. It lends itself to family use together, as it can encourage discussion by people with a wide variety of ages.

The book helps children understand what peace means, and its importance in their lives. A young reader can slowly put a name to that feeling of security and serenity that is already of central importance to him or her. Scholes extends this progressively to community and then world level, showing that the only lasting peace is brought about by everyone concerned being treated fairly, and that we must each be concerned with the needs of all people.

While recognising that sometimes conflict is desirable and even essential, the book also explores various routes to conflict resolution, and gives a sensitive discussion of co-operation and compromise as paths to peace.

It realistically shows peace not as a glossy, problem-free existence but as a special kind of feeling that lives inside you, that enables you to feel peace even when in fear or pain. It is here, simply but beautifully, that the importance of religious faith is shown.

—Maureen Stepanoff

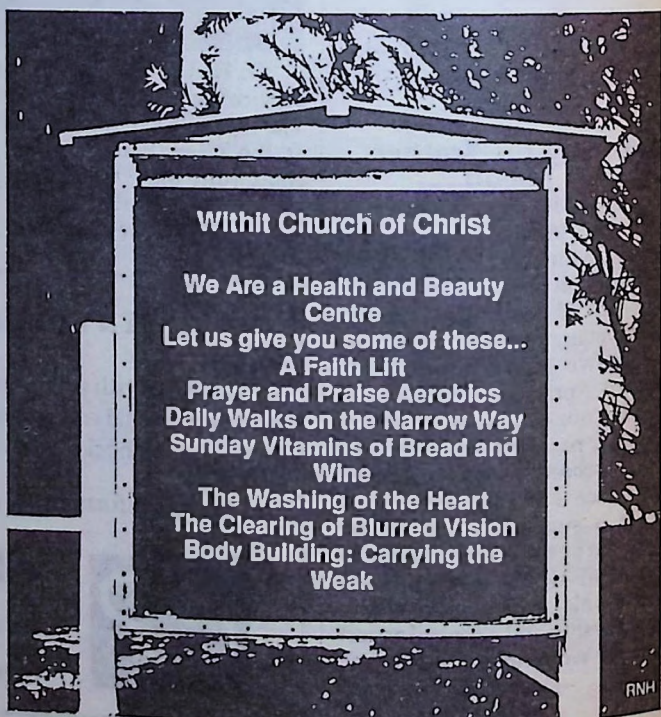
Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah

An Introduction and Commentary

by David W. Baker (Inter-Varsity Press)

A further addition to the Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries, this book covers three little-read Old Testament prophets. There have been one or two commentaries released on these books in recent years, however this commentary is a welcome addition to the literature. Each of the three prophets is dealt with separately and after five or six pages of introduction and examination of the main theological emphasis David Baker devotes the bulk of his commentary to a section-by-section exegesis of the text.

—CRA



Call to Refocus Aid

The first "Human Development Report" released by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has been welcomed by the Australian Council for Overseas Aid as a "breath of fresh air" in development thinking.

"ACFOA urges Senator Evans to study the document and refocus Australia's aid program in the light of the five key findings," said Russell Rolleston, Executive Director of ACFOA.

"Economic growth seldom trickled down to the masses," says the report. It goes on: "What matters is how economic growth is managed and distributed for the benefit of the people. Australia's aid policy has placed too much trust in the benefits trickling down to the poor and not enough effort into targeting aid and ensuring equity in the distribution of benefits."

"Social spending should move to the top of the policy agenda for development in the 1990s."

Despite the proven effectiveness of women as agents for social change in developing countries, Australia's aid program has given low priority to projects involving women.

The report says, "A participatory approach is crucial to

any successful strategy for human development. A comprehensive policy for the participation of NGOs is essential for any viable strategy of human development."

While the Federal Government has increasingly used NGOs to deliver food aid and relief in difficult areas such as Ethiopia, it has not developed a comprehensive policy to assist people-centred development, to increase popular participation towards giving or to involve NGOs fully in country programs.

"Poverty," according to the report, "is one of the greatest threats to the environment" and "environmental damage reinforces poverty".

The Government is moving to "green" the aid program but it is yet to move to give the aid program a "poverty focus", so essential if the environment is to be protected.

The UN report states: "The international community should earmark an overwhelming share of its concessional resources (aid) for Africa." Australia's stated aid policy is to reduce aid to Africa and focus in our region, but "there is a growing trend towards a concentration of poverty in Africa". Australia must give greater priority to aid to Africa.

Scripture Distribution Business Established

Four young Christians in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, have established a business that has increased their income, their monthly sales dramatically and given employment to 24 young people.

Less than a year ago the four young people attended a Scripture distribution workshop organised by the Bible Society in Tanzania. They were taught how to go out into the community, and not only share the Word of God but also sell Scriptures to provide a small income.

The four men and women saw the potential in developing a business that would help young Christians continue their education and at the same time achieve their target of reaching every person with the Bible.

After the seminar they began selling Scriptures at bus stations, markets, secondary and primary schools, and even

Islamic institutions. They also began making house-to-house visits. More devout young Christians were recruited and distribution rose from 63 Bibles and New Testaments to monthly sales of more than a thousand Scriptures.

Lucas Dismas Vuzo, the distribution organiser, said the monthly income of approximately \$240 helps pay for the distributors' clothing and rent and gives them a little pocket money.

Speaking of some of the problems they face he said, "People sometimes mock what we are doing and some of our younger distributors have been threatened for distributing Christian material, but these problems only strengthen us and encourage us to continue witnessing to Jesus Christ by selling Christian literature, which is so much needed here."

Eastern European News

With the unexpected and dramatic elimination of the Iron Curtain, the work of the European Evangelistic Society with its Institut zur Erforschung des Urchristentums and its Christliche Gemeinde in Tuebingen, Germany, is involved with rapidly expanding opportunities. Already, we have had personal contacts with congregations and colleges and seminaries east of the Curtain. Now, these contacts urgently demand attention and assistance.

Our current Institut Direktor, Dr Ronald E. Heine, has lectured in seminaries in Romania and elsewhere in the East. And, the pastor for the Gemeinde, Dennis Lindsay, has spent the past three years in study and personal contacts, which have sought to create mutual interest between the congregations sponsored in Europe by the three branches of the Campbell-Stone movement. At the same time, he has identified seven locations for the planting of new congrega-

tions. Our Institut and Gemeinde together are forming a program for the acculturation of families that wish to enter Germany as church planting families. This will enable them to be more effective and less frustrated in their efforts. Pope John Paul II has termed Europe as "pagan" and issued a call for the re-evangelising of the land of the Reformation. We find ourselves in the midst of demands that are breathtaking in their possibilities for Kingdom building now.

We appreciate the interest in this mission expressed by Dr Don E. Stewart and Gordon Stirling and others from "down under". We continue to offer our prayers and concern for the life of the brotherhood in Australia. We hope to see many of you present for the luncheon sponsored by the Society during the next Assembly of the World Convention of Churches of Christ, meeting in 1992 in Long Beach, California.

—Robert Shaw



TRIPLE SEVEN COMMUNICATIONS
Incorporating Melbourne Christian Radio

1990 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

IS CHRISTIAN RADIO A SOUND INVESTMENT?

What will our keynote speaker, John Smith (of Care & Community Concern) say about our renewed hope of a Christian radio station in Melbourne? Invest a couple of hours on Wednesday 20 June to find out. You'll also hear about our new board, new name and new image. Christian communication is John's concern. Is it yours as well?

Where/When? Parkview Room, Camberwell Civic Centre, **WEDNESDAY 20 JUNE** at 8.00 p.m.

TRIPLE SEVEN COMMUNICATIONS (the registered name of Melbourne Christian Radio Limited) is a non-denominational/non-profit organisation seeking to communicate Christian values through quality of life radio programs for the people of Melbourne. To find out more, ring George Morgan on 670 9661 or come along on Wednesday 20 June. You'll be most welcome.

STOP PRESS: Meet our new General Manager, Bruce Upton.

Happenings

3 million Australians will be attempting to break a record in raising \$7.25 million by either fasting or sponsoring those fasting in the 1990 World Vision 40 Hour Famine, from 8 pm 15 June until 12 noon 17 June. Last year's 40 Hour Famine raised \$5.8 million. The focus of this year's event is on Mozambique, Sudan and Ethiopia, the 3 most needy countries in Africa.

According to a report in *Moscow News* all religious organisations and clerical personnel in Georgia, USSR, are to be exempt from taxes. Previously clergymen and other employees of religious groups were subject to higher tax rates than the rest of the population, but now the republican Council of Ministers has lifted taxation completely in the hope that the church will more effectively be able to contribute to the restoration of church buildings and charitable activities.

The Moscow Patriarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Soviet Ministry of Health have signed an agreement to co-operate in a campaign against alcoholism and drug abuse.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics says that the number of women having babies out of wedlock has declined for teenagers in the 1980s but increased for women aged between 20 and 34 years. Women are having their first child at an increasingly older age, the average age now being 27.1 years.

A Christian worker in Kachin, in the north of Myanmar (formerly Burma), estimates that 90% of the 4 million in Kachin are Christians. Myanmar is undergoing a tumultuous upheaval politically at present, with hardships for Christians.

Catholics now number 878 million worldwide (17.6% of the world's

population). The Vatican says there are 402,000 priests, and the number of seminarians has risen from 62,000 in 1978 to 90,000 in 1987.

The SA Churches of Christ Social Justice Committee is holding a workshop "Children in Poverty" on 13 and 14 July at Colonel Light Gardens church. Keynote speaker will be Mark Henley (Service to Youth Council). Details from Jean Roberts (08) 356 9158, Ted Heard (08) 276 8979 or Bruce Whyatt (08) 370 2311.

A report published by Africa Watch, a New York-based human rights organisation, estimates that at least 500,000 non-combatants have been killed by war and man-made famine in Sudan since 1986, due to the actions of the Sudan Armed Forces, militia groups and the Sudan People's Liberation Army. Millions more have been forced to flee their homes.

The Evangelical Alliance of Romania had its application for registration approved by a judge on 10 April. The approval followed a period of negotiations between the alliance and officials of Romania's provisional government.

One in 10 ministers have had affairs with members of their congregations, and about one in 4 have had some kind of sexual contact with one of their followers, according to a major study by the US Park Ridge Centre for the Study of Health, Faith and Ethics. The researchers gathered data from hundreds of ministers over a 4-year period. Almost all those interviewed who admitted to illicit sexual contact said they felt guilty about it, and blamed their immoral behaviour on the intimacy of counselling situations.

Missionaries in Liberia are evacuating parts of the country where fighting has increased significantly in recent weeks. In late March

a veteran missionary couple were killed by guerrillas.

The Melbourne Youth For Christ annual benefit concert is being held on 21 July at the Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University. Guest artists include Joint Heirs and Doug MacFarlane. Tickets cost \$10. Details (03) 887 9199.

The New Revised Standard Version Bible, in preparation since 1974, was released in early May. Its predecessor, the RSV, appeared in 1952.

A spokesperson for the bishops of the [Eastern Orthodox] Church of Greece says several posts in the new government, secretaries of state for education, worship, culture and sciences, should be held by clergy or others endorsed by the church.

Michael Sushil Adhikari, a well-known Baptist leader in Bangladesh, is the country's new Prime Minister. 90% of Bangladeshis are Muslims, and most of the rest are Hindus. Christians account for 0.3% of the more than 110 Bangladeshis.

The future of Australia's premier award for religious art, the Blake Prize, is under threat because of a lack of sponsors. The prize was almost not awarded last year, until a person who wants to remain anonymous donated funds to the Blake Prize Society.

The Australian Council of Churches general meeting being held in Adelaide 29 June-3 July will be a curtain raiser to the WCC Assembly to be held in Canberra in February 1991. The opening worship will be at 8 pm on 29 June in St Peter's Cathedral. The preacher will be Dr Philip Potter, former general secretary of the WCC.

Dr Philip Potter, former general secretary of the World Council of Churches, will speak sev-

eral times in Melbourne during a visit 23-25 June. On 23 June at 7.30 pm at Wesley Uniting Church, Lonsdale St, Melbourne, he will speak at an ecumenical rally to celebrate the beginning of the Year of Ecumenical Sharing (Pentecost 1990-Pentecost 1991).

Paul and Josuena Mortiz, who in recent years have been planting and overseeing house church fellowships in the suburbs of Manila, are visiting Australia with International Needs during June and July. They will be speaking at several Churches of Christ during their visit including Harvey, WA, on 6 June at 7.30 pm; Warwick, WA, on 10 June at 6.30 pm; Maylands, SA, on 17 June at 10.30 am; Bordertown, SA, on 18 June at 7.30 pm; Ringwood, Vic, on 27 June at 6.30 pm and at Nunawading, Vic, on 28 June at 9.30 am.

International Needs are holding a dinner at the Nunawading, Vic, Church of Christ on 30 June at 7 pm. The cost is \$10. Details are available from Glenda de Jager on (03) 873 2138. Speakers will be Paul and Josuena Mortiz from Manila on their ministry in the Philippines, and Nicholas White from the Nunawading church, who recently spent six months in Europe and Asia, will share his experiences.

Australia's Catholic bishops have established an annual \$15,000 scholarship to enable an Australian lay person to study social justice at an appropriate institute overseas.

The Muslim community has announced plans to establish their first Australian university in Perth. The announcement was made at the opening of the nation's first Muslim high school at suburban Thornlie, WA, in May.

The Houston International Film Festival, the world's largest film and video competition, has awarded

the Australian Bible Society's video "New Scriptures for an Old Land" its Silver Award. The video portrays the work undertaken in Papua New Guinea by the Bible Society. The award was in the religious film and video category, which had 85 entries.

Radical changes in Albania's penal code have been introduced at a session of the People's Assembly. Legal reforms, including repealing a law banning religious propaganda, were announced to the Albanian Parliament on 8 May. The law demanding the death penalty for defection has also been lifted.

The German Lutheran Church in the USSR, which was allowed to organise as a church only 2 years ago, has been accepted as a full member of the Conference of European Churches, the Geneva-based European ecumenical body.

The management of Hungarian television has agreed with church leaders to air programs for the Catholic and Protestant churches. Catholic programming will last 25 minutes per week, divided into Bible readings, church news, children's catechism and counselling. The Protestant churches will have 15 minutes air-time per week to share between them.

After 15 months of renovation work involving 13,000 volunteers, Operation Mobilisation's new ship, *Logos II*, was launched in April. The former Spanish ferry, with 190 workers from 39 nations aboard, will shortly visit East Germany, Poland and the USSR.

The Baptist Missionary Society plans to mark, in 1992-93, the 200th anniversary of the arrival in India of English missionary William Carey. Among other things, republication of all known works by Carey and a feature film on his life and work are planned.

1990

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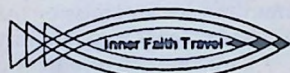
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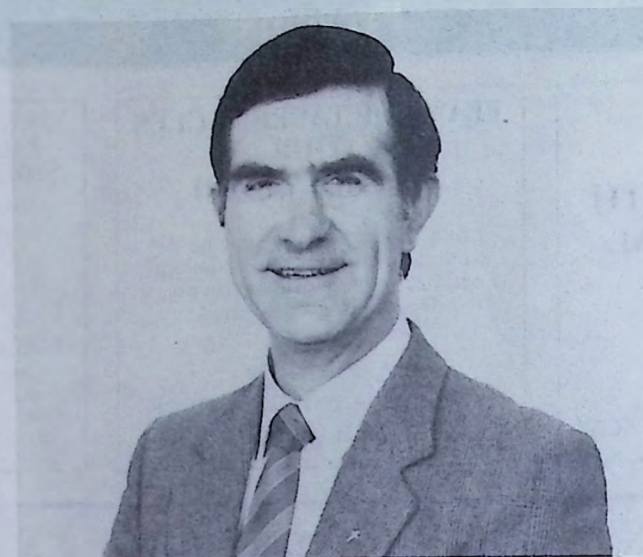
Reflecting the Person of Jesus

The 116th Annual Conference of Churches of Christ in South Australia has been and gone. Led by Trevor Lawrie as President, it has been rated one of the best attended and certainly one of the most positive meetings for some years. There is a growing spirit of excitement and hope in South Australia and this came through in every aspect of the program.

- Reunion Day is always the opening event and it brings together people with 45 years of membership or over 60 years of age. Led by the Women's Ministry Committee, it was a day of great fellowship and sharing.

- Women's Day was ably led by Julie Adams. This was the second year in the new format. It was the first occasion at which the guest speaker, Dr Keith Farmer, spoke on the President's theme, "Reflecting the Person of Jesus".

- President's Night was a smooth, well-organised event with a high degree of inspiration and encouragement. Ron Roberts was inducted as State Minister of our churches. A well-produced audio-visual of church development; a dramatic presentation of a church on the move presented by Noarlunga Centre; Joanne Lawry, a 13-year-old singer, capturing the hearts of the



SA Conference President, Trevor Lawrie

people; a presentation on the work of CCTC at Mulgrave by Jenni Ashton (Student President); Keith Farmer speaking and supper following made up 90 minutes of challenge, inspiration and encouragement.

- Ministers' meeting led by Joan Fewster at Dulwich-Rose Park brought together 103 ministers and their wives for lunch and a further address from Keith Farmer. This gathering and the Magarey Lectures (a residential conference), where 87 registered to live in, was the largest gathering of

ministers in the state and reflects the growing sense of togetherness in the ranks of the full-time ministry.

- Business sessions went well with some good debate and an honest facing of a wide range of issues. Friday evening was given to Dr Farmer to develop stage two of his coming Pamphlet Club article, "Churches of Christ: Possible Directions for the Future". Warm applause greeted the welcome of the new church at Golden Grove into membership of Conference. Dennis Lord, the minister, received the hand of fellowship extended by the President.

- Reflections was the theme of the Youth Ministries presentation held at Marion church. A capacity audience of young people and a stimulating program presented by Jim Keatch and the Youth Ministries Committee was well received.
- "Conference Celebration" in the Maughan church featured the Magill group "New Connexions", the final address of Dr Farmer and a thank you to retiring President, Trevor Lawrie.

- Our new President for a period of two years is Robert Leane. An elder of Blackwood church, he is also the Director

Triple Seven

What will John Smith of Care and Communication Concern say about the renewed hope by Triple Seven Communications for a Christian radio station in Melbourne? Interested people are invited to invest a couple of hours on 20 June to find out. They will also hear about the new Triple Seven board, new general manager and new image. The occasion is the annual meeting of Triple Seven, incorporating Melbourne Christian Radio, and will be held in the Parkview Room, Camberwell Civic Centre at 8 pm.

Triple Seven Communications is a nondenominational/non-profit organisation seeking to communicate Christian values through quality of life radio programs. (See advertisement on page 11.)

of the Independent Schools Board in South Australia.

The Conference is committed to three major emphases in the next two years.

- Celebrating the 100 years of work in Overseas Missions, and the commitment to the new fields of Fiji and Zimbabwe.

- Endorsement of Kennon Callahan's *Twelve Keys to Building Effective Churches*, to ensure that local churches have a program and sense of mission that is relevant to their community.

- Directing the resources of the Committees of Evangelism and Church Resources, Ministry, Building Extension and Retirement Services to the development of a new work at Aldinga in the southern areas of Adelaide and an investigation of the developing area of Gawler East.

—K.D. Horne

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& Scott Gve)

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10.30 am

Guest speaker

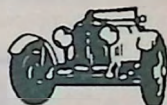
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STALEY (PRESTON) Sue, Tony and Jessica welcome with love, Jayden Anthony, born 12 May at CGH Traralgon. First grandson for Jennifer and David Preston, Traralgon.

ENGAGEMENTS

PRESTON—ROGERS Jennifer and David of Traralgon, together with Marilyn and Frank are pleased to announce the engagement of Jacquelyne Elisé and Matthew James. Love and best wishes to you both.

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SHARP—TULLY Keith and Joyce announce with gratitude the 50th anniversary of their marriage at Church of Christ, Doncaster, on 15 June, 1940 by A.W. Connor. Present address 65 Winterley Road, Point Lonsdale 3225.

DEATHS

CLINTON, Frances Evelyn, on 24 May at Churches of Christ Nursing Home Murrumbena. Loved wife

of Harold Edwin (dec.). Loving mother of Harold (dec.), Russell, Colin (dec.) and Ken. Mother-in-law of Betty and Norma. Loved grandmother of Roger (dec.), Heather and David, Wayne, Janis, John, Andrew and Peter. Fond great-grandmother of 20. Aged 106 years. At rest in Christ. Grateful thanks to sisters and staff of the Nursing Home for their loving care. **KILLEY (CHIPPERFIELD)** Jean Doris. On 22 May 1990. Dearly loved wife of David. Loving mother of Marilyn, Jillian and Ian. Mother-in-law of Paul, John and Tiz. Dear grandma of Julian, Karen and Amanda. Loved sister of Ruby (dec.), Stan, Ettie and Mavis. Now and forever with her Lord. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

IN MEMORIAM

BARRENGER, Winifred Louisa 7.6.89. In loving memory of a very dear Mum and Grandma—Gwen, Keith, Winston, Debbie, Jenny, Ross and Cathy.

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Airport Chaplains Fly In

29 attended the inaugural Conference of ITIM Airport Chaplains recently in Melbourne, Vic.

One New Zealand and 14 Australian chaplains were joined by six aviation representatives, four denominational representatives and four guest speakers. Only five airports in Australia and three in NZ were not represented.

The Federal Airports Corporation (FAC) Melbourne Airport, Ansett Airlines, Australian Airlines, FAC Adelaide Airport, Qantas Airways and the ITIM Federal Executive sponsored the two-day event.

Many at the conference were meeting for the first time.

Civil Aviation Authority staff counsellor, Michael Clarebrough, spoke of the beneficial past and future working relationship with chaplains.

Training was given in critical incident stress debriefing from ITIM's Peter Hill, to be better equipped for any crises, and the Victorian State Director, Dr Peter Marshall, widened the vision for airport chaplaincy throughout Australia.

The Manager of Finance and Corporate Services for the FAC at Melbourne Airport, Graham Muir, after outlining the history and plans for the FAC spoke of their plans for further developing the relationship with chaplaincy.

This included accommodation and quiet rooms or chapels.

At an evening dinner at the airport's Top Air Restaurant Australian and Conference Convener, Dare Stevens, spoke of his role as Senior Vice-President of the International Association of Civil Aviation Chaplains, and the involvement with chaplains overseas and the Association.

One of the important involvements of Airport Chaplains is in the Airport Emergency Plan, principally in the area of human recovery.

The group inspected Melbourne Airport's AEP facilities, and discussed participation at respective airports.



Back row: Stephen Tregloan, Tas (C of C), John Connor, NSW (Bapt.), Dare Stevens, Vic, (C of C), Dennis Hughes, WA (C of C), Peter Holloway, Vic (Retd) (Anglican), Anthony Taylor, SA (Anglican)
Middle row: Bob Ellor, NSW (Anglican), John Bowyer, WA (Anglican), Max Woolcock, Vic (UCA), Craig Ellis, Tas (Anglican)
Front row: Neville Ross, Qld (UCA), Bob Burn, WA (Anglican), John Swift, Vic (Anglican), Pat Barton, NSW (RC), Ivan Powell, NZ (Presb.)

Missing Worlds in a Changing World



It was Oswald J. Sanders who once wrote: "There has never been a significant outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the mission field without a previous outpouring of the human spirit in preparatory prayer."

Taking to heart these words the Swanston Street, Melbourne, Vic, church decided to commence their 19th Annual Missionary Convention this year first with a 40 hour prayerathon over the weekend of 11-13 May and then with a half night of prayer on 16 May. Several hundred members participated in these special times of extended prayer.

As the Convention meetings commenced on 17 May, the fruits of these extended periods of prayer became immediately evident. Record attendances marked this year's Convention peaking at an attendance of 640 on the final Sunday morning. There were 70 primary decisions (mainly from among Mainland Chinese) at a Mandarin-speaking service on the Sunday afternoon, and another 60 commitments for full-time missionary service on the final Sunday evening.

The offering response was an all-time high. The love gift cash offering on the final Sunday morning was \$30,695, while the faith promise renewal response was for \$172,000.

This means that over \$200,000 will be given this year in support of the Swanston Street missionary family, which presently consists of 26 adults and 18 children.

The theme chosen for this year's Missionary Convention was "Missions in a Changing World". The two guest speakers were Bishop Cresford Chitemo from Africa and Dr James Hudson Taylor from Asia.

The opening meetings, which were addressed by Bishop Chitemo, the team leader for African Enterprise in East Africa, were held in the

church building at Swanston Street. However by the Friday night, even with seats down the aisles, the church building was no longer able to accommodate the crowds and so the final three meetings with Dr Taylor, the General Director of the Overseas Missionary Fellowship, were held at the Pharmacy College in Parkville. Attendances at each of these three meetings exceeded 500.

On many occasions the congregation was moved to tears as Dr Taylor recounted thrilling testimonies of the suffering church in China. Dr Taylor shared many of his own personal experiences and the congregation was deeply challenged by his ministry.

Other major highlights of this year's Convention included magnificent worship experiences led by a 10-member orchestra, the singing of a 20-voice Chinese choir, and exciting interviews with Aileen Draney—a veteran missionary with Churches of Christ in Papua New Guinea, who has seen over 6,000 believers come to the Lord and 70 new churches planted, and with Shirley Low, a full-time staff worker with the Navigators, who has led many overseas female students to the Lord on campus at the University of Melbourne. At each meeting, personal audiovisuals were screened from the various members of the overseas-based members of the Swanston Street missionary family.

—Allan Webb

Church of Christ SOUTHPORT

now meets in
Parklands Drive
8.55 am

Worship and Communion
6.30 pm

Gospel Celebration

Minister: Noel Newton
(075) 94 6154, 94 6633
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A Church ABC

The picturesque Dandenong Ranges near Melbourne, Vic, noted for rainforests, lyrebirds, market gardens and flowers, is a popular area for picnickers and tourists. In a valley over the other side of the ridge visible from the city is The Patch. It is close enough to the city for people to commute to it yet still retains the feeling of a rural area. The church, isolated in some ways, is actually the only Church of Christ in a very large area and virtually serves as the regional church of the Dandenongs.

The Patch is growing. With development in the area and new families joining the church, the current chapel is inadequate, so it is being extended to double its size. The frame and roof has been completed so the extension should be completed in a month or two. At present an average of 85 to 90 people meet for the weekly 10.30 am service in the back hall. The

church, after saving to extend the chapel, were told by the council that the other facilities—the hall and kitchen etc.—had to be upgraded first. This was done and saving started again. Perhaps, with more growth, even the new extension

a considerable amount of travelling involved, much of it on dirt roads avoiding wombats and kangaroos.

The ethos of the area and the Shire of Sherbrooke is for a careful balance between development and conservation. The

rial) and is currently looking at a vegetable co-operative to help people.

Although no evening services are held, there are outreach and teaching programs held on Sunday nights. Seminars, such as in effective parenting, have

been open to the community, and Bible studies are held between 4 and 6 pm with a separate program for children and tea

Focus on The Patch

sion will not be big enough.

The Patch's first full-time minister was appointed this year. Previously there had been student ministries, and Glynthea Finger served on a part-time basis. Mike Folland graduated from CCTC last year and The Patch is his first full-time church. Originally from Blackwood, SA, Mike and his wife, Ruth, have two children, Aaron, 7, and Brooklyn, 5.

The Patch is an exciting church for Mike to be in, as it is set in a beautiful area with a responsive community. There is

church is part of this community and fits into it well. The shire refers community care matters to the church, and the church serves the community. The church youth group caters mainly for non-church youth and is led by Paul Fry, from the Churches of Christ's Camp Waterman at nearby Monbulk. There is a "Love and Justice" committee that researches areas of need, concern and mission in the community. This committee initiated a recycling program (since forced to cease by the glut of recycled mate-

after. An active CWF also works for the community. The church is involved in an interchurch council and a combined ecumenical service is held each month.

The potential of The Patch church is exciting with possibilities for significant growth evident.

The elders and deacons are looking to the future with innovative ideas, and with the church's responsibility to the community there is an expectation of growth, and not just in numbers.

Student Profile

600 km return journey to college—weekly

That's Commitment!

To travel 600 km on a weekly basis to attend college involves commitment of a very high order. But this year one of the part-time students of the Churches of Christ Theological College does that each week of the semester.

Allan Blyth is the pastoral minister at the Albury, NSW, church, where he serves with Alex Tilson, the senior minister. Working towards his Bachelor of Divinity degree, Allan is enrolled in New Testament Greek. This year he attends the Monday Greek class and uses the college's "excellent library" for study, both for Greek and also Medieval and Reformation Church History.

Allan's routine is to catch the Sunday 4.45 pm train from Albury. (Once he actually "caught" it as it was departing

from the platform!) From Spencer Street he travels to Glen Waverley station and then by taxi to the college.

On the first Sunday of each month when the Albury church has a gospel celebration, the routine changes to catching a 2.45 am bus, which gets him to college right on 8.30 am as lectures start.

Greg Elsdon (who lectures NT Greek) is not offended by Allan taking his pillow to class!

For Allan, college is great. Having tried to study Greek independently some years ago, he really appreciates Greg's lectures and the encouragement of other students. He also enjoys the opportunity to forge links with staff, both full-time and honorary, and with the ministers and others for whom the college is a great meeting

place. One of the fringe benefits of his weekly visit to college is the inspiration he gains from the many voluntary and honorary workers who support the college so faithfully.

There are two things about the college that Allan would like all Christians to make a matter of prayer: the outstanding loans on the new college and the pressures this places on staff, especially the Principal, Bill Tabbernee; and the burden of fees on students. He feels especially keen that students entering their second or third years of study with an obvious call to ministry should be relieved of that burden.

Back home, Allan's wife, Julie, and his children Katherine (15), Mitchell (13) and Benjamin (11) are very supportive (although they don't enjoy



him being away three nights a week, especially when he's sometimes out another two or three).

Allan also appreciates the support and encouragement he gets from his many friends at the Albury church to continue the studies to which he feels so committed.

Growing Spiritually

Growth through Participation

by Beverley Grenfell

It was a wet Sunday morning. Instead of walking to the back of the church and then around outside to the Sunday school hall, the children came forward, crossed the platform and exited through two doors into the hall. There were so many—it thrilled me to see them and to recall with gratitude my own Sunday School days. The same morning a young man who had recently been baptised and welcomed into membership was growing spiritually by helping to distribute the communion emblems. Then I noticed a

young man amble across the platform and find himself a seat—only to move twice more before settling. His intellectual impairment does not preclude him from participating in worship within an accepting congregation.

As we participate we grow. As we grow we do not merely exist as a living being—we can advance to maturity, and reach full size. To do this we need to tap into the wisdom and strength available to us. A growing plant can produce fruit. As Christians our growth can be evidenced in compas-

sion, concern, hospitality, patience, tolerance, our availability to others and willingness to be a "listening ear".

Before visiting Charleville, just two weeks after the recent disastrous floods, I tried to imagine what I would want to replace as soon as possible. One staff member had lost most of her possessions—so I first selected a Bible, then some National Geographics, novels and a book on rainforests of Australia.

However this lady had never owned a Bible in her life and didn't think she would read it,

so gave it back to me nicely. I got to thinking about how many others we associate with who have never owned a Bible. I'm praying for this lady, and hoping some of the novels I selected from my bookcase will influence her. Some of our older people are great examples of spiritual growth. While bidding farewell to folk well in their 80s they assured me that they would be praying for me every day without fail. And they will not fail. Our interaction with people can help or hinder our spiritual growth. Let us be careful to grow.

• *Beverley Grenfell is a member of the Margaret St, Toowoomba, Qld, church.*

Ministers' Workshop

Ministers Can Learn!

by Ian Allsop

Ministers have been continuing their education as interest and enrolments in various postgraduate programs offered by the three Churches of Christ theological colleges indicates. Each college offers an excellent range of options for ministers to develop and grow in their theological understanding and ability to minister:

CCTC

The Churches of Christ Theological College, Vic, offers a number of programs. Of most interest to ministers is the two-year Graduate Diploma in Ministry. The teaching component is during a one-week residential period at CCTC with regular seminar activities located in the minister's home state supplementing this program. Assessment is through the submission of a field report and a field education program. The emphasis is on practical ministry with a particular focus on the development of larger churches. Over 20 ministers from four states have enrolled for 1990.

Through CCTC, the Melbourne College of Divinity degrees of Bachelor of Theol-

ogy, Bachelor of Divinity, Master of Theology, Master in Ministry and Doctor of Theology can be taken. Churches of Christ ministers are currently enrolled in each of those courses either with the intention to complete the degree or to take single subjects which they know will assist them in their ministry. Further details can be obtained from the Registrar, Graeme Wigney, 40-60 Jacksons Rd, Mulgrave 3170. Phone (03) 790 1000.

Carlingford

A number of ministers have decided to convert their current Diploma in Ministry into a Bachelor of Theology degree. Such can be achieved through the Churches of Christ in New South Wales Theological College as a member of the Sydney College of Divinity.

Less rigorous three-day short-term courses are offered on a regular basis in seminar format for ministers who graduated from college over six years ago. All ministers have the opportunity to enrol in the current programs offered to the students and some have en-

rolled for single subjects of the Bachelor of Theology degree.

Short courses of two weeks duration in February and June are available as modules towards the degree and these are open to all ministers. Further details can be obtained from Dr K. Farmer, PO Box 140, Carlingford 2118. Phone (02) 630 7533.

Kenmore

The Kenmore Christian College in Queensland has retained an active program through the Institute of Continuing Education for Ministry (ICEM). This program has been widely accepted by ministers around Australia and particularly in Queensland and leads towards a Graduate Diploma in Ministry.

The conversion course from a Diploma in Ministry towards the Sydney College of Divinity Bachelor of Theology can be studied at Kenmore. Some subjects are taught on campus. Kenmore also offers for all ministers the opportunity to study specific areas of ministry and theology through participation in twice-yearly seminar

programs. The Bachelor of Theology degree offered through the Australian College of Theology is another program taught at Kenmore. Ministers are welcome and encouraged to enrol in this degree. Further details can be obtained from Principal Don Spencer, PO Box 55, Kenmore 4069. Phone (07) 378 1988.

Ministers therefore have a rich resource in their colleges and can select each year through these programs from over 100 possible subject areas. The theological and spiritual stimulation received can be expressed in relevant and practical ministry and the life of the congregation is enriched accordingly. Every encouragement is given to congregations and ministers to consider continuing education for ministry as an essential part of the life of their church and ministry.

• *Ian Allsop is lecturer in pastoral theology at CCTC.*

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

God's Word

• **Philippians 1:12-18**

The State of the Gospel in Rome

by Dennis Nutt

This small portion of Philippians indicates something of the joy and the pain of Paul's ministry in Rome. It captures the way in which he sees "all things working together for good". Yet his joy is tinged with sadness because he was under attack: not from without, but from within the church.

Paul considers what he is about to say to be important so he begins with a phrase that calls special attention to it. His "circumstances" will "advance" the gospel (v. 12). The word "advance" (*prokope*) is used only three times in the New Testament (Philippians 1:12,25; 1 Timothy 4:15) and refers to pioneers cutting a way before an army and so furthering its march. Paul applies this to his own situation as a trail-blazer for the gospel.

The joy lies in the fact that his imprisonment for Christ (v. 13) has become a matter of notoriety: for Christ's sake alone he is imprisoned. It is especially known to the "palace guard". This is the Praetorian Guard, which consisted of 10,000 picked men who formed the imperial bodyguard. They had special privileges and were the military elite. To these men Paul witnessed. But the notoriety didn't stop there—it was known "to all the rest": beyond the limits of the guard. A second aspect to his joy is the effect it has had on the Christians in Rome (v. 14). There is a lesson here. Adversity from the world can be used by the Lord for his glory. The sufferings of God's people can encourage and

embolden others in the proclamation of the gospel.

But there is some pain for Paul in all this. Verse 15a introduces a new feature of the condition of the gospel in Rome. There are some who preach with the wrong motives. Their motives that are described as "impure" are highlighted in verse 17: to stir up trouble from Paul. Who are these people? They are not Judaizers because Paul never regarded them as preachers of Christ (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:4). They are probably Christians who were jealous of Paul and who sought to undermine his influence.

The clue to this is in the word "strife" (*erithos*), which is used before New Testament times to mean the self-seeking pursuit of political office by unfair means. Such self-seeking is in operation here.

Still, Paul can finish up rejoicing: Christ is still being preached (v. 18). Regardless of the other people's motives the gospel goes forward. Paul leaves the annoying side to take care of itself and passes on to the encouraging aspect: the enemies of the truth proclaim it by their opposition. What a message and exhortation for us today: get on with the job and don't worry about the opposition from without or within.



Pontius' Puddle

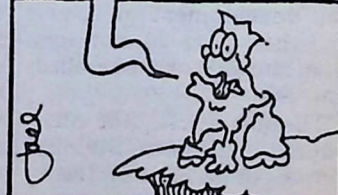
I HAVE A DREAM--
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THEIR SKIN, BUT BY
CLASS AND
IDEOLOGY.
WHERE THE
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OF THE WORLD...



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Curkpatrick

We can easily become empty lifeless shells of flesh and bone, "walking corpses", with no joy, enthusiasm or spirit in us. That's why its important for us to keep hearing the Good News

Good News and Walking Corpses

by Stephen Curkpatrick

I was five years of age when our teacher told us one afternoon at school that "Mr Toop had gone to heaven". Mr Toop was an old man who lived across the railway line near the school.

I knew from Sunday School that what the teacher really meant was that Mr Toop's soul had gone to heaven. But I thought a person's soul was in their head, and walking home from school that afternoon, I looked up at the sky watching for Mr Toop's head flying to heaven.

My ideas continued to develop at Sunday school, where I learnt that we have a spirit and body. Our spirit "is that part of us that makes us laugh, smile and be happy, and when we die, our spirit leaves our body". At least that was how our teachers explained it.

At our church, which we attended after Sunday school, there was a woman who gave me the distinct impression she

was dead! I never saw her smile, laugh, or be happy, so I assumed she had no spirit; it was gone, and she was just a dead body. The perplexing bit was how she could still walk and talk, and why nobody had buried her!

We can easily become empty lifeless shells of flesh and bone, "walking corpses", with no joy, enthusiasm or spirit in us. That's why its important for us to keep hearing the Good News, which can bring enthusiasm

and spirit into our lives. Ezekial's vigorous preaching to the exiles in Babylon gave God the occasion to breathe life back into their skeletal existence, and give them enthusiasm and joy. Telling and hearing the Good News can do the same for us today, if we will only believe that it can.

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



Some burning issues for our churches in Australia

Churches of Christ—Directions Ahead

by Steve Downie

In previous articles in this series I attempted to suggest that Churches of Christ is worth promoting, that there is much that is worth protecting, that there are elements in the movement that have great potential for spirituality in Australia and that we need to examine again the system we have to determine whether we are serving the system or the system is serving us.

It is one thing to give diagnoses, it is quite another to offer ways to improve and give guidelines for the future.

At the risk of being presumptuous, I offer some suggestions for possible consideration to develop a more contemporary model of management and ministry for Churches of Christ.

1. A Summit

A think tank is needed to create a forum for discussion and policy directions for the future of Churches of Christ in Australia.

We need to have initially a small group meet to give the inspiration and wisdom for setting a national agenda. Such a group could report to Federal Conference and be debated in the states and churches for endorsement or amendment.

It would seem to me such people as Don Stewart, Keith Farmer, Bill Tabbernee, Keith Bowes and Don Smith are the type of people who have the credibility, minds and perceptions for such a group.

The group would not be an elitist or power group, but a gathering of personnel who have the weight of our prayers and respect to form recommendations for the next century.

2. Conference Executive

One of the sacred cows of Churches of Christ is our outdated system of decision making, both in federal and state conferences. It seems conference executives meet in the re-

active rather than in the pre-active mode. The former waits for each crisis to develop and handles it with its wisdom, the later sets directions and acts upon them in full consultation with its accountability. The former sits in committee to faithfully carry out conference discussion, the later leads with vision and calls the membership to endorsement.

3. A Church Strategy

If we were to change the parochial names of many of our churches and identify them with their regions they would take a leap forward overnight in policy and direction.

Were we to jump to a regional ministry, we would site our buildings in different places, we would rationalise neighbouring buildings and form a more viable ministry of stronger resources and skills.

This decision would be possible if all parties were prepared to put the Kingdom first before local identity. So many of our churches are operating from a position of weakness. There is no faithfulness in taking a building with us to the grave.

4. The Ministry

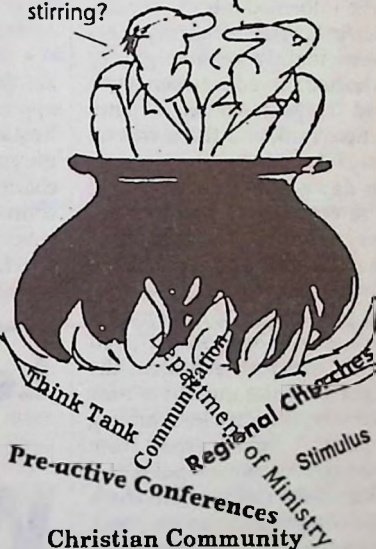
Churches of Christ have an outstanding quality of ministerial personnel. They are often at the forefront of community respect and have taken on board seriously the relevance of the church and faith to our times and culture.

Ministers are without exception deeply reverent of Biblical authority and any deviation of scripture does not come from our theological colleges. There is a desperate need for the overall well-being of the ministry to be addressed and

for conferences to give fair dinkum endorsement to the esteem ministers need to have.

Advisory departments and preacher placement committees no longer represent the contemporary needs of the ministry. A fully funded Department of Ministry with a Director for Pastoral Care would give attention that is long overdue. A pastoral ministry is required to protect the gift of ministry.

Who's stirring?



5. Terminology in Churches of Christ Culture

A language develops in any group that expresses the treasured overtones of its heritage and purpose.

The vernacular can rally the troops to victory after victory and then it tires and is unrecognised by those not indoctrinated.

The term "brotherhood" is no longer appropriate for our times. It has a masonic ring and club mentality to it.

We should shelve such terms. "The Christian Community" would be more understood by the church and non-church.

6. Mechanisms for Dialogue in Churches of Christ

Just as the ABC is an institution to the Australian community in terms of its independence for engaging the minds of the public, so *The Australian Christian* has a role in our churches that must be protected to the point of death.

It is one of our ministries that is not bogged down by the time-consuming dynamics of church politics. It is a journal that deserves to be on every coffee table of our membership.

The theological colleges of our movement could be expected to offer the intellectual stimulus for discussion and change into the decade before us. CCTC, Mulgrave, Vic, has a brilliant image in its new location and would be expected to offer a powerful model of leadership to the churches.

These suggestions may meet with the great Australian yawn, but I am attempting to suggest accountability is more sacred than autonomy; Kingdom values have pre-emptive rights over possessiveness; millions of dollars would be released for ministry; contemporary communication skills are critical; a vigorous ministry is there to be supported; there is a management model that protects our congregational government and offers vision for the future; the morale of our membership is geared for a challenge to step forward or sink into despair; and the cry goes up for anointed leadership to promote a Christian and prophetic role for Churches of Christ into the Australian community.

It's a mouthful and it's one attempt to articulate the dreams that many of us have for a church that is loved.

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

An appropriate title for an ordained minister or a meaningless and dangerous "courtesy title"?

First Among Equals

by Eric Durrant

Recently, I sat talking to a minister friend who had just filed his "totally unplanned resignation" with the board of his church. Interspersed with expressions of grief and anger came a phrase that I had never in a 50-year working life span ever heard before: "first among equals".

Within Churches of Christ (and similarly in other denominations) the title (or a similar title) when viewed strictly from a management viewpoint lacks credibility and definition:

- Nobody appears absolutely sure just what it means—either to the bearer or to the audience (in terms of entitlements and responsibility).

- If the title is to be continued (and I strongly urge its discontinuance), then the most appropriate person in the existing structure of most Churches of Christ surely would be the chairman of the board?

- Titles are usually awarded for high, not just satisfactory, achievement (or they are inherited). Allan Border, captain of the Australian cricket team holds that title because he is recognised both by his peers and "management" as having an excellent strategic ability plus other top-class qualities, e.g. "equal batsman", "equal bowler", "equal fieldsman" etc. Once he performs to an ordinary standard in any of those spheres, he can expect to relinquish the title of "captain" to someone else.

- Titles can be properly used as part of a "leadership kit" or as part of a "survival kit". Within Churches of Christ, my advice to current "bearers" of the title would be against "leading-from" or "leaning-on" the title for any purpose whatsoever. Since I am no longer a member of any Churches of Christ church, having resigned when my minister "resigned" my emphasis must rely on experience gained during a

very diverse and long working career.

For example, in World War II, I was allowed to finish a toolmaking apprenticeship before being awarded direct entry into the Royal Navy as a petty officer (say sergeant's rank). In the fullness of time, as I recall, I reported, resplendent in my uniform of gold crossed anchors, to what was organisationally my "equals" mess. I was met, literally at the entrance, by the mess president, who informed me, in very colourful language, that my peers were mainly seaman-grades who had served between seven and 12 years to attain petty officer rank and there was no way I'd be treated as an "equal" on day one or even year one! The equation is simple (and very relevant to our subject): the empowering authority (the Royal Navy) that had given me the power to say to these men—"come and they cometh", had given the mess president the right to make me, for a time anyway, the very least among equals! I believe that from management's viewpoint and ultimately from a minister's and congregation's viewpoint, even the lowly status of being an accepted "equal among equals" has to be both learned and earned. Churches of Christ executives should be the first to acknowledge, just from minister turnover figures alone, that all is not well in the typical 1990s local church management committee—the very place where "equals" are expected to respect and use each others' talents! Often the minister is seen as someone of outstanding scholastic achievement but inexperienced in business ways, day-to-day temptations and the frustrations of the income earner in today's money-orientated world. Recommendations

- Delete the title "first among equals" from all Churches of

Christ present-day thinking and forthcoming action. It is an unnecessary, ill-defined, powerless, meaningless and dangerous title!

- Encourage "grass-roots" level and executive-level thinking that it is a sign of good denominational health when differences of opinion are openly aired at committees of management level. A reasonably experienced minister may indeed have better and more practical input on a subject than (say) a 50-year-old building contractor.

- As a matter of routine denominational expectations, appoint all ministers with at least some secular full-time employment experience to be chairpersons of their respective church management committees.

- Introduce at theological college planning level, the

concept of an added desirable ministerial attribute, the evidence of some "blisters on the hands" type of secular work experience. (Depending on the average age/experience of the intake, this could well be a course prerequisite or the "sandwich"-type approach (say) in Year 3.) I recommend "monitoring" by the college of such work but certainly no "hand-holding". As a typical target, one year as a trades assistant on an oil-rig would be excellent equipping for any subsequently ordained minister.

I accept sole responsibility for the opinions expressed herein and I offer them from an experienced management consultant's viewpoint.

- Eric Durrant is a semi-retired senior management consultant whose hobby is painting.

Leadership Insights

by Herb Miller

Worship service quality is a major predictor of congregational vitality. One study places a positive uplifting worship service among the top six reasons why people say they join a congregation. Another study reports that 82.7% of all new members rate the quality of the worship service as an important reason for joining. In still another study, 64% of the church dropouts cited "worship service not meaningful" as a major cause. The pastor/people ministry team in a vital congregation adopts attitudes and methods that spiritually nurture people in worship services. The quality of a worship service is determined by the degree to which 22 factors are present.

The following questions

identify 11 of those that are especially potent.

1. Does the leader of our worship service communicate warmth, friendliness and enthusiasm?

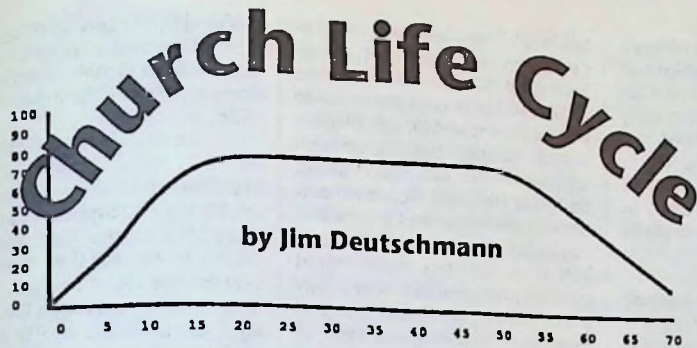
Worshippers tend to photocopy the "feeling" state of their leaders. If attitude, body language, facial features and voice tone are positive, worshippers tend to feel that way, too.

2. Does our worship service have variety and innovation within a general format that remains similar each week?

Boredom is the root of much non-attendance. Something new grabs attention and recharges commitment.

3. Is the tempo of the music in our worship service upbeat and fast moving?

Music is 40% of the service. Its tempo can either resurrect or murder all the other parts.



90% of churches

peak in the first 20 years of their life, then they plateau, followed by decline. This statement was made by Bob Orr, who is part of the Win Arn organisation. He was in Brisbane in February 1990 to lead in a Church Growth Seminar. Another statement made by Bob Orr is worth considering: 80% of Churches in Australia are in plateau or decline.

Let's follow what could be called the typical life of a suburban church. The cost of land close to the city is rising. Young couples and others wishing to

have their own home move out into the growing suburbs. Someone has an idea. We have several families living in area, let's start a new church.

In the inception everyone who becomes involved shares the same dream or vision. They work together. Everyone is willing to get involved. The decision making is spontaneous. A member's home or rented building is used. The first goal is to reach people and encourage them to join the new work. Meeting the needs of the local people is a priority.

The next goal will be one of two things: purchase land and

build a building or employ a full-time or part-time minister.

Both of these decisions have an important effect on the future of the church:

- Is the land purchased large enough for future development, including a car park?
- Does the minister share the same vision as those who started the church?

It's about this time that the structure of the church changes. The need for formal organisation is felt. A board of officers is elected. A mission statement and purpose of the church is written. With clear goals the group work together to achieve them.

When the building and minister are in place we could say the church has reached maximum efficiency. This is the crucial stage in the life cycle of the Church.

- With an increase in numbers and several of these com-

ing from churches with a different background, it is more difficult to agree on future direction.

• Churches stretch themselves too thin trying to have all the activities of bigger churches without the people to run them effectively.

• Because new people are coming less attention is paid to members and it becomes easy for some to go out the back door unnoticed.

Unless there is a clear vision and purpose and a way found to involve all members in the future dreams this is where many churches move to the institutionalisation stage and start to plateau.

The plateau stage can go on for a long time if the church is in a good location and its buildings are adequate. New people replace the ones who leave.

There are observations like:

- It's hard to get people to volunteer.
- Members become less regular in attendance.
- Little loyalty to local church programs.
- Poor prayer life in church.

If these things are not corrected the church will move into disintegration. There will always be the faithful few and so the doors are kept open and memory of the good times becomes stronger than the hope of the future.

The above is an interesting story. We must however address two questions.

Is it possible to turn the situation around?

How do we start the growth pattern again?

The answer seems all too simple. There needs to be a rebirth of the dream.

If the people do not have a vision they will not grow. Most churches decide to call a new minister at this point in the life of a church and expect a miracle. Praise God, he still does perform miracles.

• Jim Deutschmann is Executive Director of the Queensland Department of Church Development and Education. This article originally appeared in The Christian Echo.

4. Do we select hymns that most of our worshippers know?

Between one-third and three-quarters of the people who have joined any mainline congregation since 1980 came from some other denominational background. Worshippers do not automatically know the same hymns as they once did.

5. Does our worship meet the needs of more than one kind of person?

Every congregation contains three musical generations that prefer three different types of hymn. Using only one kind of hymn means that several people leave the service feeling like they have not been to church.

6. Is our worship service and preaching biblically centred?

Because young adults believe far more in the authority of the Bible than was true ten years ago, their expectations in this area have increased.

7. Does our worship service provide for participation by chil-

dren and youth?

Personal involvement significantly increases the meaning that children and youth obtain from worship—and also sends a positive message to parents.

8. Does our church have a well-trained corps of greeters?

Ask two of them to serve at each door after as well as prior to worship. They should encourage visitors to attend the coffee fellowship after church.

9. Does our church have sufficient parking space?

The off-street parking, plus the street parking adjacent to the property, should total one-half of the average worship attendance at the largest morning service. The absence of these parking spaces can silently strangle worship attendance.

10. Is our nursery space, furniture and staff adequate to satisfy the average young adult parent?

What visitors with infants see in the nursery often influences whether they return more than

what they experience in the sanctuary.

11. Is our worship service seating space adequate?

If the present seating is filled to more than 85% capacity on the average Sunday, we have three options: (a) add an additional worship service; (b) build a larger worship area; or (c) remain below potential in attendance and offerings.

A young pastor said, "Do we hatch eggs in the refrigerator? No, in an incubator." Without an effective worship service the Christian faith cannot hatch a new generation. Nor will present members experience a sense of vitality in their congregations.

• Herb Miller is executive director of the National Evangelistic Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the USA. This article first appeared in The Disciple and is used by permission.

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Bannam, Edgar Hansel (Tim)
(14.5.90) After a short and painful illness Tim passed peacefully away. A convert of the Hinrichsen Mission 52 years ago, he remained a faithful and loyal member of the Hamilton, Vic, church. He will be greatly missed because of his service, especially his gracious smile and kindly handshake at the door. For many years Tim was an appreciated board member and an excellent Chairman. The writer, who had a ministry at Hamilton 30 years ago, was a firm friend. Tim was a fireman, and for years was in charge of the Hamilton Brigade. We commend Harold, Lorraine and Lynette and families to the love of God.

—R. Will Marshall

Brown, Raymond Peter
(11.5.90) After some years of restricted health Ray said his farewells; expressed thanks to those who cared for him, shared in the celebration of the Lord's Supper, prayed quietly and moments later entered the place his Lord had prepared. The earthly pilgrimage of a man of quiet endurance and strength of conviction has come to

an end. Over the 77 years of Ray's life many precious relationships had been built and most significant his relationship with Jesus. From early manhood Ray knew the Lord and endeavoured to serve him. His quiet, deepening faith has been his hope and strength, particularly in later days.
—Peter Broadbent

Collins, Cora
(9.5.90) Cora was born in Ballarat, Vic, in 1915. She was raised and educated at Mt Clear, where she attended Sunday School at the Mt Clear church with her sisters Edna (Alblas) and Vida (Reed). At 16 she accepted Jesus as Saviour and was baptised at Dawson St. She married Ivan in 1941 and he predeceased her by three years. Cora was a faithful church member acting as a hostess for the Bible studies, preparing communion and having involvement in the ladies fellowship. Cora's funeral was conducted by Dale White. She will be missed by the church at Mt Clear and all who knew her.

—D. McPherson

Connell, Carol Ann
(12.5.90) Born Hamilton, Vic, in 1952. Carol's infancy was marked with sickness. Committed life to

Christ at nine, baptised and became a member at Ararat. Joined Swanston St church when she moved to Melbourne. Secretary to paediatricians at Monash Medical School. Gained her BA through Gippsland IAE. Married Howard, daughter Elizabeth. Became member at Essendon where Carol helped run Bible study group and children's activities. Church involvement gradually reduced as cancer slowly prevailed. Showed great faith and peace of mind during final weeks at Cabrini Cancer Centre. Church filled to capacity at memorial service, when Ian Corlett gave eulogy.
—Ken Stothard

Hall, Alma May
(20.5.90) Mrs Alma May Hall (nee Taylor), wife of Les Hall, died peacefully on 20 May. Buried from chapel attached to Eastwood Baptist College. Service conducted by R.N. Hawkins and Rev. John Giles, Baptist Chaplain to Wilandra Retirement Village, and son Max Hall. Mrs Hall was formerly associated with our Erskinvale, NSW, church and later with Mosman and the Baptist churches at Blaxland and Eastwood. A noted pianist and lovely lady and mother of three girls and two boys, she led her

husband to the Lord and together they established a warm Christian home. Born 1904, married at Congregational Church Newton in 1928.

—R.N. Hawkins

MacDonald, Lindsay
On 10 May a large congregation assembled at the Hartwell, Vic, church to express their thanks to God for the life of Lindsay. Three things sum up Lindsay's life. First: loyalty. Lindsay was loyal to family, work and the church. Following a stroke his wife Ann was admitted to the Churches of Christ Nursing Home. Daily Lindsay visited her for over four years. For around 50 years Lindsay held the position of doorkeeper at Hartwell. Secondly Lindsay will be remembered for his sporting achievements. He represented Victorian churches' cricket and football teams. Thirdly Lindsay will be remembered as a man of humility and service.

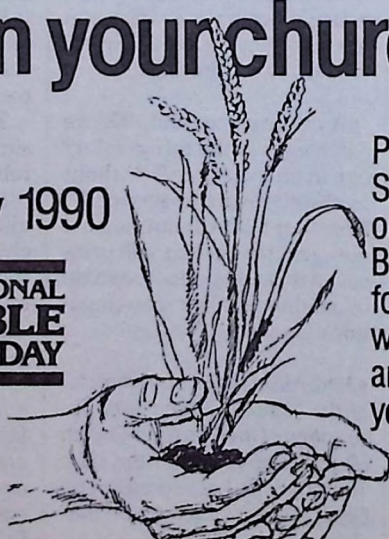
—Graeme Rogerson

Morris, Charles Kenneth
(16.5.90) Ken, born Ballarat 1922, worked with Morris and Walker for 46 years, retiring as sales manager of Pak Pacific Corp. Ballarat, Brighton, Doncaster churches all benefited from Ken's service. He married Merle Moebus; their home was ever warm and welcoming. Ingenious and innovative, practical and visionary, Ken expressed faith in action in Lifeline, Doncare, school councils, homes for aged etc. Doncaster church was filled for service of thanksgiving in which son, John, gave eulogy and daughter, Margot, read the Bible. Love and prayers from many surround Merle, Ken and Margot and their families.

—Neil Gilmore

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bury East, SA •Joanna Oldland, Paul Lebbos, Dietra Herron, Kalamunda, WA •Lorraine Wollmer, Peta Wollmer, Essendon, Vic •Jeanette Poole, Kerry Stewart, Laura Bradley, Nikki Simpson, Patricia Tan, Jeremy Lamont, Scott Ward, Prah-ran, Vic •Andrew Deck, Heather Morrison, Michael & Crissey

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MacDonald, Tuggeranong, ACT
•Terry Sherriff, Warrnambool, Vic
•Teresa Carew, Werribee, Vic

Marriages

•Alice Hyam to Robert Stephenson, Croydon, SA •Genni Dybing to Michael Smith, Horsham, Vic •Julie Maxfield to Sam Bull, Tammy Turner to Paul Linderberg, Bundaberg, Qld •Chris Brittain to Jim Freind, Trish Smith to Paul Balinski, Judith Shannon to Andrew Bruce, Jillian Schofield to Neil Rankin, Dalkeith Road, WA •Sandi Parsons to Lewis Nasr, Kalamunda, WA •Wendy Gawthorn to Eddie Bates, Warragul, Vic

Deaths

•Mrs Beatrice Furr, Dalkeith Road, WA •Mrs Melva Randell Snr, Keith, SA •Mrs Annie Burns Baxter, Mrs Alma May Hall, Maitland, NSW •Coral Collins, Mt Clear, Vic •Carol Ann Connell, Essendon, Vic •Ray Brown, Warrnambool, Vic •Wayne Horton, Werribee, Vic

Changes

Boronia: New phone numbers—
Ministers (03) 762 1277, Day Care/
Secretary (03) 761 1926

Manifold Heights: All mail to be addressed to—Manifold Heights Church of Christ, 163 Church Street, Geelong West 3218. Telephone: Pastor Max Ball—(052) 43 2633; Secretaries: R. Hawker—(052) 78 7480, M. Bennett (052) 29 8792.

Boort and Pyramid Hill: Minister—Tom Frazer, 25 Kintyre Street, Boort 3537. Phone (054) 55 2341.

Preliminary Notice

**Echuca
Church of Christ
Centennial
Celebrations
11-18 November
1990**



NATIONAL DIRECTOR THE LEPROSY MISSION

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PHONE: (03) 890 0515
FAX: (03) 890 1231**

90 4601

Church News

Vic

HORSHAM (H.A.L. Clark, I.N. Hunt) During Chaplaincy Week church hosted Sunday services with secondary school chaplain John Mathes as speaker & mid-week rally addressed by Bishop John Hazelwood ... Members shared in performance of "Jerusalem Passion" in Lutheran Church ... CWAFF enjoyed picnic-style meeting with Harcourt & St Arnaud ladies at St Arnaud ... Visit by John Smith & "God Squad" to Horsham much appreciated.

GREENSBOROUGH (George Warren) Members give gift on their birthdays for mission lawnmower fund ... Easter services included Maundy Thursday service & Greensborough Inter-Church Council Way of the Cross March ... Max Grant rededicated & welcomed into fellowship with wife Joanne ... Tennis club donated new communion plates ... members participating in inter-church study series ... CWF service Stella Carter guest speaker ... Social events—Hospitality Sunday, car rally & working bee.

MORWELL (Graham Woodward) Morning services building & widening community ... Rejoicing in Leanne Anciller's baptism ... Christian Caring Seminar lead by Brian White. Care Group starting ... Church bus almost completed ... CWF successful fundraising for CCTC ... Wednesday Bible study & Sunday evening fellowship exciting ... Women's & Sunday School services a joy to all.

CHELSEA (I. Whitelock) CWF enjoyed visit to Christian Blind International, Kew ... Jean Whitelock gave address CWF Sunday. All leadership roles taken by women ...

Early Sunday morning prayer meeting commenced ... \$672 raised at street stall ... Several carloads travelled to Dallas Brooks Hall for Conference Celebration ... Monthly "Outreach Outview" part of morning service, giving information on the church at work, e.g. Aborigines & local youth problems.

WARRAGUL (David & Debbie Buesnel) Our youth group "Fever" (secondary-school-aged students) experienced some street evangelism before Easter when they carried a five-foot cross through Mid Valley Shopping Centre. They enthusiastically distributed tracts to remind people of the true meaning of Easter. The group received many positive comments from shoppers & are keen to try again next Easter. **MT CLEAR** (Dale White) Church welcomed Dale, Wendy & Christopher in Feb ... CRE program recommenced with seven from Mt Clear teaching ... Playgroup three mornings ... Bible studies in three homes ... Church encouraged by Dale's musical talents ... Baptistry completed ... Youth group led by Craig & Belinda Farrow ... Four new members by transfer this year ... Many involved in Sunday School ... Peter & Joyce Fleming attending CCTC ... Darren Johnston joined MMM.

ESSENDON (Ken Stothard) Ken Stothard accepts further three-year appointment ... Ralph Hemsley new deacon ... Lorraine & Peta Wollmer received into membership ... Combined officers North Essendon, East Keilor, Essendon & Strathmore discussed future plans ... 60 enjoyed visit Vanuatu work party sharing experiences & slides ... Church saddened by passing of

Carol Connell. Inspiration to all in her victorious acceptance over her lifetime. Tribute donations \$1,500 to Cabrini Cancer Centre.

PRAHRAN (Graeme Bradley, Ian Bunnett) Successful outreach featuring singing, items, testimonies held in Prahran Community Market courtyard. Invitation by management to hold on regular basis ... 85 attended annual church camp at ESA. Studies by Noel Smith, New Life for All ... 160 gathered on 27 May to witness baptisms of seven young people ... Three informative Sunday evening meetings on the Second Coming by Graeme Jackel followed by combined churches Pentecost service.

WARRNAMBOOL (Peter Broadbent) Challenging combined SW camp held in March at Halls Gap with Rowland Croucher as guest speaker for adults. Children's program also ... Ladies attended country CWF camp. Olga Mogg CWF CountryRep ... Continuing to reach out to east area ... Currently showing James Dobson "Focus on the Family" films.

YARRAWONGA (W. Keddie) The ministry of Steve & Barbara Frazer concluded 13 May ... Bill & Ria Keddie commenced ministry 20 May. The Keddies are newly returned missionaries from Dadaya High School, Zimbabwe ... CWF met with Echuca, sister CWF, at Numurkah for a "get to know you" picnic.

WERIBEE (Roger Risson) 10 women attended CWF camp at Halls Gap recently ... Camp for whole church planned for November at Lake Eppalock ... Church board has been restructured ... members of church help out with emergency meals for families in crisis ... Church helps support Quarby family who run a hostel for missionaries' children in Irian Jaya ... Record number of people in 40 Hour famine.

THE PATCH (Mike Folland) Church congratulated Mike on attaining his Bachelor of Theology ... Six-week series of studies on the gospels led by Mike in progress ... Marilyn & Peter Mangold welcomed into fellowship ... Neighbouring churches in district invited to CWF luncheon & talk on antiques. \$125 raised for building fund ... David Hillier & Mary Nesbitt recovering from surgery & Glenda Erskine awaiting surgery.

KYNETON Lay minister P. Eades resigned unexpectedly ... Church continuing usual format. Congregation supportive. Presently inviting speakers from various churches to participate ... Accommodation for a minister who would like to avail themselves of this challenge.

NSW

MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins) Michael & Janice Dunn shared weekend in testimony, music & seminar. Excellent Church Council planning session & prayer Sat. set positive course for growth & ministry ... G. Jones of Practical Parenting spoke & led Sunday seminar. Very well received ... Childrens Club commenced Friday. Grown from six to 17 in three weeks. Linda Barrett leader.

LIVERPOOL (Peter Raymond) Church enjoyed picnic provided by Children's Church 19 May ... Commencing 23 May for five Wednesday nights church is gathering for time of learning & encouragement. Topics are: Accepting & Living in God's Love; Loving Each Other with God's Love; Loving Others with God's Love; The Message of Love & Reaching Out in Love. We want the church not only to be friendly but also loving.

EPPING (S. Curkpatrick, D. Moyes) Successful family camp with over 120 attending ... Recent elders' retreat for planning & review ... Kids Club continuing to grow, bringing new families into contact with the church ... "Churches of Christ, Who Are They?" course run by Stephen Curkpatrick. "Counselling New Christians" course run by David Moyes.

EAST TAMWORTH Church welcome Peter & Henni de Wildt as they commence ministry on 17 June for three months of evangelistic outreach. They will train us in discipling for Jesus & the nurture of young Christians ... East Tamworth began three years ago on 30 May 1987. Our Lord has blessed our work in many ways ... Weekend family camps have been held in January each year. Jim Cunningham, Jim Newton & John Oaksford have been the guest speakers.

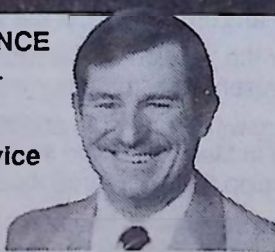
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Church News

SA

CROYDON (Philip Stevens) Presentation of posies to ladies over 80 one of the features of an inspirational Mother's Day service conducted by CWF. Speaker Philip Stevens ... Ladies had train outing to Constitutional Museum after mid-week lunch held at church ... Inside of church hall freshly painted by enthusiastic working bee.

SALISBURY EAST (Graham Wade) We rejoice in welcoming our new minister Graham Wade & wife Joan ... Annual Anzac Day picnic at Para Wirra National Park was well attended & enjoyed by all ages ... Nikki Height & Clare Best were baptised on 29 April ... Youth group had annual car wash. Many cars & people were washed ... Letterbox drop to 800 homes with basket tea afterwards.

KEITH (Ken Wray) Care & Share ladies enjoyed a special visit from the Walladges who spoke of their work in Vanuatu ... \$260 raised through a recent Bible Society stall ... People representing all churches in Keith brought the Easter story to Primary School classes ... Durhams graduating at WEC on 19 May ... Challenge magazine being delivered monthly ... Two house fellowships held recently.

BALAKLAVA (Graham Lawrie) Action Groups reformed as vital part of church ... Kids Club, new venture, led by Charlene & Glenda Shepherd attracts 40 5-11 year olds weekly ... 40 went to Adelaide

for Easter Praise Walk ... Money raised by Gideons catering shared between World Vision, Overseas Link & Bible School ... Recognised 50 years of ministry by Canon Philip Connell, Anglican minister, with gift of five Gideon Bibles.

DULWICH-ROSE PARK (Rob Williams, Roger Brown) Ladies of both groups in this parish joined in serving luncheon at Gartrell Church for 103 ministers & spouses from Churches of Christ on 4 May. A gift of appreciation from the ministers was passed on by the ladies to Queensland flood disaster appeal ... Parish weekend at Longwood was successful.

WA

DIANELLA (John Spencer) Autumn family camp well attended. Study emphasis on building a caring sharing fellowship ... Church appreciated hearing from Avon Moyle details of statewide Aboriginal groups ... Covenant Players entertained & challenged with Sunday morning message in drama ... Newly formed youth group reaching non-church families.

DALKEITH ROAD (Barry K. Ryall) Minister appointed as President Elect for State Conf ... Sacrificial breakfast held. Guest speaker Major Des Veal (Salvation Army). Aim \$15,000 (gifts & free of interest loans). Over \$17,000 received ... Sound system to be upgraded ... Over 60 attended family camp on life of Joseph ... Minister taking

Bethesda Hospital chaplaincy for three months ... Recent services involved Quakers, Rabbi, Aileen Draine & Shelley Taylor Smith (world champion marathon swimmer).

SUBAICO (Graham Johnston) 70 members & friends enjoyed annual camp at Serpentine Baptist Youth Camp. Peter Moyle, Bassendean, led studies ... Oro youth members organised church quiz night in May. 120 present ... Youth pastor Terry Dorrington & Paul Everall have started monthly after-school youth program for Year 7 students ... Two groups currently studying the 2:7 Navigator series prior to morning services. Ladies Bible study also held prior to morning service.

KALAMUNDA (John Thornhill, Mark Proud, Paul Sanders, Guy Roberts) Mid-year mission weekend, 18-20 May, theme "I in Them That the World May Know". Guest speaker Dr Ben Cummings of Radio HCJB. Program included ladies breakfast & family tea ... 60 ladies attended outreach luncheon, Graham Johnston guest speaker ... Re-enactments of crucifixion & resurrection were part of special Easter services ... Visit of folk from Quairading church. Shared in fellowship & luncheon ... Youth group involved in witness Kalamunda Show.

ROCKINGHAM (Kelth Ware) John Crosby welcomed as associate minister in March. John is accompanied by wife Robbie & son Brennan ... Numbers increasing in

membership both by transfer & commitment ... Auxiliaries active in all areas with marked growth in Playgroup which is now meeting twice weekly ... A most successful family camp was held early in May ... Church now preparing for Vacation Bible School.

Qld

BUNDABERG (A.G. Leane) "His Resurrection—Our Salvation" Easter theme. 187 attended ... Friendship meetings residents Argyle & Sugarland Villages very popular. Bringing some into fellowship ... Oswald Sanders speaker Bundaberg Missionary Convention ... Vacation Bible School planned for June ... Committee elected for planning for a hall to seat 300 due to 75% capacity being reached ... Church picnic Woodgate Easter Monday ... Mother's Day tea ... TWAM held horse riding & progressive supper.

Tas

LAUNCESTON (Rod Foster, John Rees) 200 at Brigades Parade when John Rees spoke, holding everyone in the palm of his hand ... CWF Mother's night featured a melodrama prepared by Jane Partridge ... Church visited Caveside on 6 May for annual day of fellowship ... Working bees at Sea View campsite making good progress.

43rd FEDERAL CONFERENCE

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8-14 October 1990

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

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One Man's Race

Today after church I prayed for an old Christian who is sick. He became a Christian in the 1960s, one of the first at Chungribu to do so. He's nearing the end of his race now.

He started the race, because when he heard the news about God he thought he'd rather go to heaven than to hell! So he got baptised. At the beginning, it seems he didn't understand too well what would be required of him in discipleship—not because he wasn't taught, but because the concepts were so different from his traditional thought.

In the world of spirits that he knew, you could get the spirits to do what you wanted. A man who knew the right rituals was in control of the spirits. He thought he could do the same with God. He realised that God had a lot of power. Once when he prayed to God when he was out hunting, a fat pigeon fell dead at his feet, ready for him to take home and eat. He thought that if he could harness God's power he would be a powerful man.

Gradually it dawned on him that God could not be controlled by men. He felt disappointed, too, that becoming a Christian did not automatically open for him the door to the material goods that white people had. He'd hoped the God of white people would give him the same things that he gave them.

When he became a Christian he tried to break with sorcery and the need to attend meetings of village leaders where this was talked about. It was hard, though, because if a Christian didn't come to a meeting, lots of the others assumed that he hadn't come because he was afraid, and therefore must be responsible for the sorcery that had killed the person. So eventually he had slipped back into the ways of sorcery.

He could not read, and had to rely on younger Christians to read God's word to

him. His love for God withered under the difficulties, and he tried to go back to his old ways. But somehow there was always a feeling that he had missed the best.

But God is not willing that one of his sheep should be lost.

An anthropologist visited Chungribu and selected the man as one who could help her understand traditional things. They spent a lot of time together, talking about old and new ways. The anthropologist called him "Dad" and he called her "Daughter". He was fond of her, and when she challenged him about his walk with God, he began to think about it again.

A little while later, he had a dream, in which God spoke to him, and said, "Go and pray in the temple." The next day he visited us. "What's a temple? God told me to go and pray in it." A long and serious discussion followed.

Each afternoon from then on, when we prayed in the village, he was there. When there was Bible teaching, he was there. It was hard for him to once again give up his position as a leader in sorcery discussions. One of my fond memories is of him (about five feet in height, and feeble) happily singing and dancing in worship beside a young strapping six-footer at the baptisms of 100 new Christians.

Since then, to the best of his ability and knowledge, he has followed God joyfully. He hits the drum to tell everyone to get ready for worship. He sits in the front of the chapel on a 20 litre kerosene drum, and as often as not nods off to sleep in the sermon. He beats time to the music, often just slightly off beat. People smile, but respect his faithfulness. And now he's sick. He may or may not get better. He's an old man by the standards of this place. He's nearly at the end of the race. I'm glad I've been able to run beside him for some of the way.

—Fay Christensen

The Last Word

When we have nothing else to lean on, not even ourselves, he is still there.

—Phillip Yancey

Comments seen recently on outdoor church signboards:

"People Recycled Here!"

"When Tempers Flare, Walk, Don't Talk!"

★★★★★

Be careful of your thoughts. They may break out into words at any time.

★★★★★

"You are certain to make a complete recovery," the doctor assured the patient.

"How can you be so sure, doctor?" asked the patient. "I thought this was a very serious disease with a pretty poor outlook."

"So it is," replied the doctor heartily. "The textbooks state that nine out of every ten patients with your condition die."

"Well, then, how can you be so optimistic in my case?"

"Just a matter of statistics," beamed the doctor. "You are the tenth case I have treated, and the other nine are already dead."

★★★★★

Disgruntled worker: "I've been here five years, doing the work of three for one wage. It's time I had a rise."

Employer: "I can't give you that, but just tell me the names of the other two and I'll sack them."

★★★★★

Customer: Would you mind taking the fly out of my soup?

Waiter: Do it yourself. I'm no life-saver.

★★★★★

One day when a young violinist was practicing, scraping dismally back and forth with the bow, the family's dog set up a plaintive wailing and howling. The rest of the family could stand it no longer. "For goodness sake!" they complained, "can't you play something the dog doesn't know?"

★★★★★

In the window of a hearing aid shop: "Trust us. Over 5,000 ears of experience."

★★★★★



It appears your financial problems are over, Mr Scott—you've no more money left to worry about.



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