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*The Sunshine, Vic. church family
celebrates 65 successful years and
looks forwards to many more
—story page 5*

Celebrating the Old and the New



*The Kelmscott, WA, church
officially opens its new
building next month
—story page 5*



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Guest Editorial

Unlocking the Door!

George Warren



Lindsay had received a transfer in his job and he and his family were on the move to another city. With some sadness he arrived at his final board meeting. He had enjoyed being part of this church and it was going to be a wrench for him and his family to leave.

However, this particular night something was heavy on his heart. He had been trusted with a vision of his church that he felt he had to share, but he was not quite sure of how it would be received.

In his vision he had seen Jesus at the door of his church. The Lord was inside trying to get out, but the door was locked. "That's how I see this church," Lindsay concluded. "The Lord has some great plans for us here, but we have to get out into the community and share Jesus with the people who are lost and hurting."

There was a silent appreciation of Lindsay's frankness in the thoughts of every board member. But the challenge was a sombre one and it made all wonder how to break open the lock and if it was possible.

Lindsay's vision applies to many churches in Australia today. There are not many that are breaking new ground and making inroads into the unchurched. Even some fast-growing churches in Australia are mainly recycling Christians rather than helping to birth new ones.

Some have suggested that the problem is one of relevance. Alan Nichols, in *Reluctant Conscience*, asks, "Is there an increasing inability for the preacher, locked up in the parish round and perhaps with little work experience himself in the commercial area, to understand the involved ethical issues facing Christians during the week?" and adds, "The thought is very worrying." Nichols goes on to suggest that the church tends to retreat into a world of the sacred and avoids dealing with the secular or this-worldly aspects of life in Australia.

Perhaps we could do with some passwords to unlock our door. No, not "Alakazam!" or "Open Sesame!", but words that communicate to ordinary people. One new Christian in our church recently told me that when she first attended services she thought to herself, "What's this guy on about?" Our Biblical meta-

phors and terms may make sense to us, but they are gobbledegook to the uninitiated. Many Biblical images and parables are drawn from a rural and agriculturally dependent society. Most Australians live in cities and therefore need to hear God's word afresh in urban, industrial or more up-to-date, technological concepts. I do not believe that we have to go as far as Australianising the gospel, but certainly ordinary Australians need to know what we are talking about.

However, changing our language will not alone unlock the doors of our churches. There is a deeper question that has to do with our confidence in what we believe and how relevant we believe it is for our friends, neighbours and acquaintances. It has to do with a "second turning" that Walter Trobisch speaks about in Rebecca Pippert's *Out of the Saltshaker*. He suggests that the first turning is the transformation from a natural to a spiritual person. The second turning is a change by which the spiritual person becomes natural again. It is in this second turning that a Christian is enabled to communicate faith, not as a duty but as a natural outflow of normal living. Pippert says because we do not know what it means to be human we have trouble in relating to the world in a human way.

Just as the individual needs to go through this second turning so does the church. Some years ago theologians called for the secularisation of the church. History tells us that some of them went too far and left the Lord out of the picture altogether. The church needs to become more involved in natural, everyday concerns and issues, but in a way that shows that Christ is there. This turning will help us to unlock the door and set us free and the Lord free in our communities.

• George Warren is the minister of the Regional Church of Christ, Greensborough, Vic, and is currently President-Elect of the Vic-Tas Conference. He is married to Lesley and has three children, Tim, Mark and Naomi. Graduating from the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, in 1973, George has also had ministries at Belconnen in the ACT, as a field director with the Department of Mission, Education and Development and at Balwyn-East Kew in the Eastern Suburban Regional Church.

Discovering Reality

CCTC begins another year

The animated conversation at the lunch table is no accident. It reflects the excitement of the new students at CCTC, Mulgrave, as they discover the value of concentrated study.

For the first three weeks they undertake the intensive Introduction to Ministerial Education. Class sessions include: Spirituality for Ministry, Where Did the Bible Come from?, Study Methods, Developing Effective Churches, Ministry in Churches of Christ, and such basic theological ideas as baptism, the Lord's Supper, God was in Christ etc.

Launching the New Year

Their new venture began at the two-day Orientation held this year at CCTC. The 16 new full-time and eight part-time students were joined by their spouses in a time of building team work and developing confidence.

The inaugural service in the lecture theatre on 10 February was an experience of contemporary worship, including meditation, video clips, music and communion.

In Melbourne's non-summer, the garden party was held on a mild sunny day and the large crowd mingled, listened to musical entertainment and ate their meal purchased from the stalls staffed by students

(profit \$460). Prizes and scholarships were presented, new students introduced and a focus given on the process of setting and achieving growth goals for each student.

In the Field

Jack McCormick has joined the CCTC team as honorary Director of Field Education, releasing Harvey Miller for other responsibilities. Jack brings a lifetime of ministerial experience to the important role of assisting churches as they provide experience for and feedback to student ministers and also helping students gain maximum value from their work in the field.

Help for Students

We are delighted that recent changes by the Federal Government enables many of our full-time students to be eligible for Austudy. This is due to the fact that they are doing their Bachelor of Theology degree of the Melbourne College of Divinity as part of their studies. This is great for those eligible (students who already have a tertiary degree or diploma are not eligible), but it doesn't make any difference to the finances of CCTC itself.

On the Improve

Sacrificial giving by many



• Students and church members at the CCTC garden party

people within the college and throughout the churches has enabled CCTC to finish 1991 in a better financial position than it began the year. The Finance Committee has worked tirelessly to develop new initiatives for fundraising so that we can continue to work our way through during difficult financial times. The stringencies set in motion last year have their costs, but it is not easy to maintain the college's ministry with 2.6 fewer support staff, even with additional and valuable help by volunteers.

Ministry Realities

The returning students have been experiencing their own brand of excitement. Life on the long haul is different from the stimulus of beginning, but it is still an encouraging life.

The second years actually admit that there is excitement in being able to read and reflect on the Lord's Prayer in New Testament Greek. The three weeks intensive gets them a long way in mastering the language.

Spirituality for Ministry is the intensive for third years, while the graduating class have visited centres that confront them in a vivid way with the realities of the practice of ministry in the community—a remand centre, a hospice, destitute men, industrial trauma and care for people with AIDS. Both groups conclude their three weeks with a retreat as they integrate their knowledge, experience, spirituality and skills. That's the educational methodology for all courses at CCTC.

♥ ♥ Mystery Tour ♥ ♥

Grown men led astray



• Fairfield men on mystery tour on Valentine's Day

Some of the people in Fairfield, NSW, must have wondered what hit them. There they were, grown men being led through the main shopping area by women, the men blindfolded. Scarlet red blindfolds! Big, obvious blindfolds! And you couldn't hide the fact, most of the people were tall.

It was Valentine's Day, which may or may not have crossed the perplexed, bemused, confounded bystanders' minds. One fellow nearly ran his car onto the footpath as he gawked

in disbelief and bemused wonderment (or so the men were told). People stopped at the traffic lights couldn't help laughing. Drivers laughed, waved and a few even honked.

In past years it has been a tradition at Fairfield that the men of the church give a meal to the women. This time the ladies returned the compliment. A grand procession, including children, walked from the Fairfield chapel until they came to the place for the meal. The blindfolds were removed to reveal the restaurant—McDonalds!

—Ted Bjorem

Thornleigh's Ministry Team Grows

Induction of Barry Barakat and Keith Morgan

The highlight of the morning service on 19 January was the induction of Barry Barakat and Keith Morgan as an official part of the ministry team of Thornleigh, NSW.

Stuart Wesley (youth minister) led the service.

Greetings were brought by John West (Chairman of the Elders), Michael Ficker and Diana McKie.

The induction service was led by Franklyn Elliott (senior minister) and those who shared

in the service by laying on the hands were the other members of the ministry team and the elders. Franklyn Elliott brought the message.

Barry Barakat's special area of ministry is prayer ministry and counselling.

Keith Morgan's special area is adult ministry and he also will have the oversight of home groups and training projects in various areas.

Both of these men had theological training at Carlingford.

Team at Epping

Two young ministers at Epping

On 26 January, Lester Sutton was inducted into the ministry at the Epping, NSW, church by Ron Hewitt of the NSW State Conference.

Lester joins David Moyes on the full-time ministry team, making it one of the youngest team ministries in the history of NSW churches.

Both will preach, however David Moyes will co-ordinate the pastoral division while Lester Sutton will co-ordinate the different youth ministries.

In his address to the congregation, Ron Hewitt expressed his excitement that Epping was

fortunate to have two young and enthusiastic ministers. Speaking from 1 Timothy 4, Ron told the congregation that David and Lester are the spiritual leaders of the church, and that they should never be "looked down upon" because they are young.

The church has started the year strongly with record crowds for the January services and lately extra seats have been needed for the morning services.

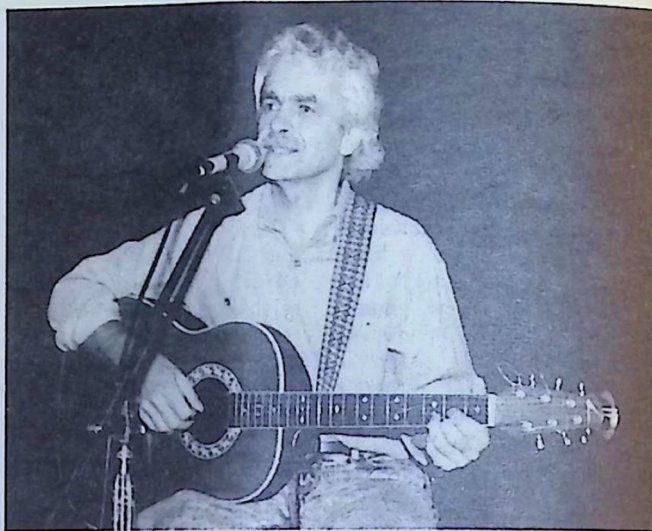
Epping church is looking forward to what God is going to do in 1992.



• Lester Sutton and David Moyes with Ron Hewitt (centre)

Peter Kearney Concert

Songwriter to perform at Hampstead Gardens



• Peter Kearney

Peter Kearney is one of Australia's best-known folk and gospel singer-songwriters. On 14 March he will be giving a concert at the Hampstead Gardens, SA, church, cnr Falcon and Gambia Avenues, at 7.30 pm.

When he was 19 Peter wrote a song called "Fill My House", which is now sung in churches all over the world, and has been translated into French, Polish and Lebanese. Says Peter Kearney: "It is a great satisfaction for me as a songwriter to hear from people how that song was sung at their wedding or how it was the first song they ever played on guitar."

For 25 years he has continued to write a great variety of songs—for children, religious, songs of justice and peace. He has six published albums.

Equipped with portable stage, backdrop and lights, Kearney travels all over Australia (he has appeared in all states except Tasmania) bringing the pleasure of song—songs that tell a story, songs to make people laugh, songs to challenge and surprise.

His songs have won various awards including the prestigious Declan Affley Memorial Award for a song called "The Deaths Go On" at the National

Folk Festival in 1988.

An evening with Peter is relaxed and entertaining and he has the happy knack of including both adults and children in his presentation.

During the Hampstead Gardens concert, a group of singers from the KidsMin Group will help him sing a selection of his songs. Proceeds will aid the SA Churches of Christ Community Care Dept.

Refreshments will be served at interval and Peter's tapes, records and books will be on sale. Admission is \$7 (\$5 concession, \$16 family) and tickets are obtainable by phoning (08) 266 1094 or (08) 266 344 5391.

Red Hill Church of Christ cordially invites visitors to the **Church Anniversary** and luncheon to follow on Sunday, 15 March 1992, commencing at 10 am
Speaker: Gordon Stirling
Enquiries: T. Smith (059) 791 563

Concrete Achievement

Kelmscott's new complex



• The new Kelmscott building

The first meeting at the new Kelmscott, WA, church complex was held on 27 October.

WA Conference President, Barry Ryall, was the guest speaker at the service, which was attended by over 300.

The official opening of the building will be held in April this year, pending the acquisition of carpet to cover the large areas of building space.

This very practical building has a chapel capacity of 450 comfortably seated, a large youth hall and coffee lounge, a mezzanine floor with classrooms and spacious secretarial offices linked to the minister's office on the ground floor.

The huge bitumised car park more than adequately fulfils present need, and the 11 acres on which the complex stands leaves plenty of room for further development.

The outside walls are noteworthy in that they are made of reinforced concrete, erected over a two-day period.

Minister, Des Nelson, along with his wife Bette have entered upon their 13th year of ministry in the Kelmscott district since leaving South Perth at the end of 1979.

Solid church growth is taking place as the immediate district receives literature advertising the facilities available. Morning services are increasing rapidly in numbers and more seating will soon be required.

The church will be offering different services to the community as it becomes more established.

It is ideally located, being only a few hundred metres from the main Perth-Albany highway.

Sunshine Still Shining

A 65-year-old brimming over with future plans

65 years down the track, and the Sunshine, Vic, church is still shining. Located on Hampshire Rd, Sunshine, behind a not-so-glamorous facade hides a church brimming over with plans for the future. On 10 November the church family celebrated a successful 65 years, and is looking towards many more.

Over the years members have seen many changes and developments. Some faces have come and gone, and others can still be found from the original days.

Looking ahead, plans are in progress to streamline our children's ministry program and to continue encouraging work with local youth

1992 may also see a Vietnamese congregation sharing our facilities, but a minister is still being finalised. Also, a divorce support group is being assembled to provide assistance to those in our local community who are unable to receive the support and help they need elsewhere.

Like a beacon providing light, love and hope to the community in which it operates, the Sunshine church needs continual fuel supplies. Prayer for existing and future projects, and prayer for a position of recognition in its local and wider community are always appreciated from our wider church families.

—Pania Williams



• 65th anniversary day at Sunshine

Deputation Team

Vic-Tas Aborigines Mission Department news

This year, the first half in particular, will be very busy.

A deputation team will be moving through Victoria and down to Tasmania in March.

Their aim will be to visit as many churches as possible during that month to talk of the work amongst our Aboriginal folk.

The team comprises Federal Aborigines Board director Avon Moyle and his wife Deslee from Perth, Frank and

Rose Johnson, formerly from Albany but now at Roelands, WA, where they are in a teaching/training ministry, Cec and Laurel Grant from Albury and Dennis and Wilma Jetta from Mooroopna, Vic.

A focal point of their meetings will be the CWF groups, in appreciation of the never-failing support that they give.

The team will visit Tasmania on 21 and 22 March.

In April, the church at

Mooroopna, under the leadership of Dennis Jetta, will be hosting an Easter Convention at Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-op.

The theme will be "For We Are All One in Christ".

As accommodation is limited it is important to book now, even if camping.

July 1992 will be our 50th birthday celebration time, but more about that later.

—Betty Bantow

Church of Christ South Melbourne

125th Anniversary

15 March 1992
2 pm

Speaker: Ian Cartmel
Entertainment by the
Salvation Army Melbourne
Staff Singers
All Welcome
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Elwin (03) 646 2829

A Day in Jail

Building trust and relationships with those on the inside

Long Bay Prison. What images does that name create for you? For me, it meant rough, violent and desperate men, a place to get rid of those who had broken society's rules. Inmates got what they deserved.

My attitude changed with a recent visit to Long Bay. Any media stereotypes of ritzy conditions for prisoners in high security prisons quickly vanished as I spent a day with one of our Community Care chaplains—Neil Hodgekiss.

Neil has spent four years building trust and relationships with inmates and officers.

It is evident in the openness, the friendly respect and the constant opportunities to share the

love of Jesus to hurting people.

Blokes like Barry come to mind. He served in the forces for 25 years and some years ago he broke the law. Now he sits in protective custody, unable to remember what he has done wrong, a broken man. Neil used the opportunity to bring Barry to the Lord in prayer and in the process opened the doorway for future ministry.

God is indeed using chaplains like Neil in a vital and life-changing way for those on the "inside". As Graham, an inmate in one of the tough areas of Long Bay, said to me, "For the first time, I have some hope for when I get on the 'outside' of this place".

Graham is a new Christian, who has come to know Jesus and the reality of his love while at Long Bay.

I've come away from the experience convinced I'll never be the same. Reality has a way of doing that. More than anything, our chaplains, the prison officers and the inmates need our prayers.

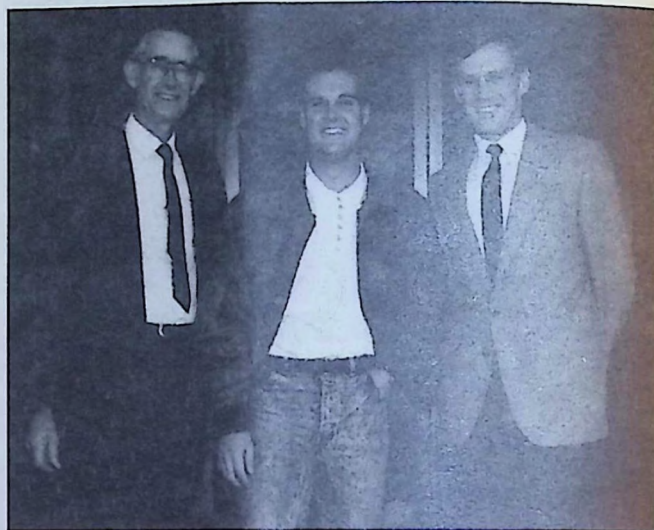
—Ross Wakeley
[Neil Hodgekiss is employed as a Prison Chaplain through the NSW Churches of Christ Department of Community Care. Neil welcomes visits by our members or ministers.]



• Neil Hodgekiss

Growth Continues

Mildura inducts Neale Meredith



• Mildura's ministry team—Doug Clark, Neale Meredith and David Ratten

Another significant page in the history of the Mildura, Vic, church was written on 19 January, when Neale Meredith was inducted into the full-time ministry, giving the church a ministry team of 2.6—David Ratten, Neale Meredith and Doug Clark (three days a week).

Neale graduated from the Carlingford college in 1991, and so Mildura becomes his first appointment after graduation. His invitation to the ministry at Mildura followed a successful "internship" with this church.

By arrangement with the Carlingford college, Neale spent the period from December 1990 to June 1991 at the Mildura church for "hands on" experience under the oversight of senior minister, David Ratten. Neale so impressed the church with his qualities in a wide range of ministry areas that when the decision was taken by the church to engage a second full-time minister there was immediate agreement that an invitation be issued to Neale. The church was delighted when he accepted.

The chapel was packed for Neale's induction—269 attended. In a meaningful serv-

ice, led by Doug Clark, the elders were involved with the laying on of hands as David Ratten offered the prayer of induction, and the church made its commitment to support Neale in his ministry.

Neale brings to the ministry the enthusiasm of youth (24 years of age), experience from four years as a youth leader with beach missions and ministry training through assistant ministry with the Sydney suburban churches of Engadine and Bexley North. His pre-college experience was in real estate.

At Mildura, Neale will be involved in the full range of ministry responsibilities, with his experience in youth ministry being put to full use in the development and oversight of programs in this area.

—Doug Beasy

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Rescuing Religious Education

Chaplains meet together for development and encouragement



• (back) Russell Wesley (Geelong HS), Leigh Mellberg (Mildura SC), Phil Arnold (Castlemaine HS and TS), Peter Richter (Macalister SC, Sale), Phil Stevens (Ararat SC), (front) Ed Ots (Scoresby SC), Bruce Waldron (Warragul HS), Peter Cannon (Shepparton HS), Warren Condron (Mornington HS) and Lawrie Barker (Oberon HS)

Religious education was the main theme of the 1992 January conference for chaplains in government postprimary schools in Victoria. Peter Whitaker, Executive Officer of the Council for Christian Education in Schools (CCES), put it rather more strongly: "Rescuing religious education is what the conference has been about. This has been in danger of being pushed right out of the curriculum by the pressure of secularism."

Held over four days of the final week before the schools resumed, the conference was

attended by 38 of the 39 chaplains.

Janine Bounds has served as chaplain for five years at Warrnambool Secondary College. This was her sixth conference. She identified two main aims: "The first was professional development, concentrating on the philosophy of religious education, why we're teaching and how we are going to do it best. Secondly there was interaction with each other, encouraging one another and the sharing of ideas which have worked, especially for the benefit of new chaplains."

The life of a school chaplain, in spite of time spent with people each day in classroom, staffroom and counselling room, can be lonely. There is a lot of support to be gained by meeting with others engaged in this vocation, to share, study and worship together.

During the week Dr Tim McNaught, Prof Paul Rule and Kath Engebretsen led a workshop on the VCE Religion and Society course, but it was Dr Elizabeth Nolan, Deputy Executive Officer of CCES, who provided the main input on religious education.

Name Changes

Mitcham church to go it alone

The Nunawading Churches of Christ have changed their names. After a historic business meeting that dissolved the link between the Surrey Road and the Springfield Road congregations the Springfield Road congregation will now be known as the Mitcham Church of Christ. Surrey Road will be known as the Nunawading Church of Christ.

In 1978, when the Mitcham church leaders first approached the then Blackburn church about amalgamation, the church was in decline and seemed to have a limited future. Since the amalgamation of the two congregations in 1980 the Springfield Road congre-

gation has found new life, with a 30% increase in adult attendance, the development of two youth groups, a 100% increase in Sunday school attendance, the establishment of an evening service, the formation of two playgroups and the complete renovation and refurbishing of the church complex and grounds.

During 1991, under the guidance of ministry team members, Dean Hamilton and Ron Chapman, the revitalised congregation felt it had the financial strength and motivation to "go it alone" and requested self-government. The Mitcham church is currently seeking a full-time minister.

Camp Planning

Seaview has a busy year ahead



• Marion and Graeme Spaulding checking the plans

Graeme and Marion Spaulding, the new managers of Tasmania's Camp Seaview at Bicheno, are planning for a busy year.

Imminent is the completion of stage one of the building program, which will bring into use a new hall facility, accommodation units and toilets.

Hirings have run at a high level throughout the summer, with use by overseas and Australian backpackers a feature of the period. The camp was also host to participants from the World Veteran Orienteering

championships. Bookings are continuing at a steady rate.

Negotiations are nearing completion for the transfer of the ownership of the land from the Tasmanian government to Churches of Christ, Tasmania.

Camp Seaview is operated by the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development.

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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Volunteer RI Teachers

To the Editor,

I read with interest the article "School Chaplaincy First for Steve Maude—Newlands Primary School makes history" ("AC" 8 February). Whilst I wish him every success in his new venture, I would like to point out that, contrary to the tone of the article, Newlands Primary has had dedicated volunteer religious instruction teachers over many many years, who have brought the Good News and Christian love into the school. Perhaps this tireless, often thankless task has prepared the way for his appointment.

I have often felt that volunteer RI teachers have been ignored and even scorned by the professionals, even though they are prepared to put in long hours of their own time in preparation and delivery. Yet they do a mighty job sowing seeds and witnessing, while often receiving little or no support from their local church. I am pleased to see that the local church is supporting Steve Maude's chaplaincy.

My personal interest in Newlands Primary is that my mother, Joan Green, of the West Preston church, has ministered at that school for over 30 years, not only in religious education, but also in helping with clubs, in reading assistance and in personal contacts. She retired this year, reluctantly I believe, feeling that at seventy years of age she was considered old fashioned.

Best wishes to Steve Maude—but please do not let the traditional volunteer workers in the field be undervalued.

—Elizabeth Hopgood
(Lyons, ACT)

Family History

To the Editor,

In October 1884, John Smyth from Taradale, Victoria, and his wife Jane (nee Rentoul—they were married in Gisborne, Vic, in about 1858) began to break bread in their home on Day Dawn Ridge as the pioneer

members of the church at Charters Towers in Queensland.

They subsequently had children as follows: Susannah, born 1858; Jane, born 1860; John, born 1862; Jessie, born 1867; Alexander, born 1870; Annie Isabella, born 1872; and William Thomas, born 1874.

William Thomas Smyth (who was my grandfather) subsequently married Eleanor Dickenson and they later, together with John Wright Smyth, moved to Boulder in Western Australia where they were involved in the establishment of the Church of Christ in that town.

I am anxious to trace descendants of the other brothers and sisters as indicated above, and if any reader has knowledge of them it would be appreciated if they would kindly contact me

—Allen Smyth
(20/166 Mill Point Road,
South Perth 6151)
(Executive Officer,
Churches of Christ in WA)

CCTC Garden Party

To the Editor,

The garden party on 15 February at the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave, Vic, was a wonderful tribute to the faculty, staff and students.

The obvious loving, caring and concern of all the people involved in the organisation of the day was most evident.

The delightful music presented by Phoenix, Nina McCredden and Christine Sharp added also to the dimension and dignity of the occasion.

If you have never attended a college garden party, plan now to be part of this wonderful experience in February 1993.

—Dorothy Quantrelle
(Mitcham, Vic)

Prayer

To the Editor,

Last September a party of Church of Christ tourists from the Broken Hill, NSW, church came to visit our country. According to the report in the *New Zealand Christian*, they had a great time, with the highlight of their trip the beautiful scen-

ery of the Southern Alps. This is the way it happened: "We did an early morning walk to Lake Matheson and had some incredible views of Mount Cook reflected in the lake. When we first arrived at the viewing points the lake was rippled with a light breeze, but after praying about it together, the wind dropped and the lake stilled, and we have beautiful pictures".

Through the columns of your esteemed paper I would like to appeal to all tourists coming to our beautiful country to stop mucking about with our weather. There is now a rumour that the prolonged drought in Canterbury has been caused by Aussie tourists praying for fine weather so they can get better photos of the Canterbury plains.

I am reminded of one of our members here in New Zealand who is a great enthusiast for a local Christian radio station. In 1991 they made a great profit, expanded their service and seemed to be ready to move

into the Pacific. He reported that the station knew they were on the right track because God had blessed them with record profits. This year they made a huge loss and had to cut back services. Which leads us to ask whether that means that they are now on the wrong track and God is punishing them.

Where did we go wrong in our training of disciples about prayer? If we now have a generation of people who think that God is a celestial Father Christmas who gives presents to all who ask, then we will never come to grips with the gospel. At some point we have to begin seeking God's will rather than trying to impose our desires on the long-suffering creator of the universe.

—Ron O'Grady
(Auckland, NZ)

[This letter is longer than the normal length allowed in these columns, however due to the interesting way that Ron raises a very serious question I have allowed it to stand—Editor]

Letters from Tertius

Not Even a Kid !

To the Editor,

Our reading last night was the Prodigal Son. As I was slipping off to sleep I was thinking of the dialogue between the father and the older son. The son complains, "I've slaved my life away for you and you didn't even give me a kid." The father replies, "All that I have is yours." There's a study in contrasts. That guy whining for a kid when all the farm was his!

I was about to doze off when suddenly my subconscious surfaced with something that happened last week. I had been mad because I had slaved for the church fete and got left out of the vote of thanks. My wife told me not to be so petty, but that made it worse. Now, here in bed, I was seeing myself as that older son—"I slaved away and I didn't even get a mention in the vote of thanks"—and the Lord replying, "All that I have is yours." And so it was. I had the fun of working for the fete, the achievement, the fellowship, the creative opportunities. And I was wanting to trade it all for a mention in the vote of thanks.

I'm sure it's important for us all both to give and to receive thanks and encouragement. But I can see that in looking for praise and glory for something we've done, we can be hankering after a kid when God is offering us the joy of being useful and creative and outgoing and alive with his life.

Just as well God doesn't get uptight about the millions of times we lot leave him off our thank-you lists.

Yours gratefully,
Tertius

Recovery for Murray

Murray Millard has surgery in London

In the 2 November issue of *The Australian Christian* we reported on the need of Murray Millard, a Wyoming, NSW, member, who needed to go to London for major surgery because of the disease, osteogenesis imperfecta, that he suffers from.

Murray and his parents flew to London, but due to a number of complications the surgery had to be delayed, and also split into two separate operations. These were conducted in late December and lasted seven and three and a half hours respectively. Murray ended up with almost a total body rearrangement, having bone pieces from his leg and hip used to reconstruct his face, jaw and neck.

Unfortunately complications set in, which have delayed the healing process. A bad infection, a broken rib from a simple movement, yet another operation to cor-



• Murray Millard

rect the position of a steel plate in his cheek and delayed healing of the palate meant an extended stay in hospital.

It was anticipated that Murray would arrive back in Australia on 19 February.

Murray would still appreciate the prayer of readers. As a result of the surgery he will no longer have any neck movement.

His palate has a slowly healing hole that gives his voice a different quality, which he is sensitive about. He also faces the prospect of further plastic surgery to improve his scars.

The Wyoming church wishes to thank all who willingly contributed to allow Murray to go to London for these special operations. \$50,000 was raised in just six weeks, with many giving small amounts.

The church is unable to respond individually to each contributor, but thanks everybody for their gifts.

Induction

Roger Risson begins at Goolwa



On 7 February Roger and Anne Risson, with sons Anthony and Jarred, were welcomed into membership of the Goolwa, SA, church, by board chairman Roly Bartlett.

State Minister, Ron Roberts, conducted the induction service with representatives from the Southern District churches.

The evening meeting was well attended by other Goolwa churches, along with the mayor, Vic Mills, and his wife, representing the local council and the community.

Paul Buckingham (Uniting Church) issued a welcome from the South Coast Ministers' Fraternal.

Roger began his ministry at the morning communion service on the following Sunday, commencing a five-year term with the church.

—Fay Neighbour

Farewell

Philps leave Fullarton

A packed church greeted retiring minister Will Philp and wife Melva on the occasion of their farewell service at the Fullarton, SA, church.

Conference President Robert Leane spoke on behalf of the State Board and representatives of churches ministered to by the Philps also paid tribute to their work for the Lord over the years.

A highlight of the meeting was the excellent luncheon provided by the ladies, after which presentations were made by Fullarton chairman, Ron McGregor.

The Fullarton inducted their new minister, Ken Wray, on 2 February.



**CHURCHES OF CHRIST
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107th Conference
29 April–2 May 1992**

**Graeme Bagley
Conference President**

WEDNESDAY 29 April*
7 pm President's Reception (All invited—RSVP by 24 April 1992, to telephone (02) 630 7533) (Cost \$20)

THURSDAY 30 April
10 am CWF Conference—Auburn

FRIDAY 1 May
9 am Ministers/Ministers' Wives Session*
7.45 pm Mission Rally—Telopea

SATURDAY 2 May*
(\$10 Cover Charge for Lunch, Morning/Afternoon Tea. Please order lunch on arrival.)
9 am Business and Inspirational Session (1)
12.30 pm Lunch
2 pm Business and Inspirational Session (2)
5 pm Close

MONDAY 4–7 May
Ministers' Refresher—Stanwell Tops

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

Wanted

We have a reader of *The Australian Christian* who is interested in reading, on a regular basis, local church bulletins. He would like the bulletins so that he can pray for people and events.

This young Christian is very interested in the history of churches and would appreciate any copies of local church histories, conference handbooks or other printed material that people would be willing to give him.

Note that as he is the recipient of an invalid pension and works in a sheltered workshop he is unable to afford to pay for any copies of material.

Material could be sent to *The Australian Christian* office, PO Box 101, Essendon North 3041, to be forward to the person concerned.

—Editor

Media Review



The Devil's Web

Who Is Stalking Your Children for Satan?

by Pat Pulling with Kathy Cawthon (Word Publishing) \$11.95

American Pat Pulling became involved in investigating the occult when her son committed suicide in 1982 after a brief journey into the world of the occult. Pat has since investigated satanic involvement in a number of horrifying murders and in various activities. She is very critical of such activities as fantasy role-playing (par-

ticularly "Dungeons and Dragons"), some television programming and the "slasher" movies, as well as in heavy metal and black metal music. While acknowledging the problems of satanic influences and the dimensions of the occult I feel that because of her concerns in some cases she overpaints the picture.

This is not an easy book to read and the subject matter very edifying. It is poorly produced, the print size is very small and the photo quality is abysmal.

There must be better balanced material available in bookshops on the lure of the occult than this book. —CRA

How To Work with Young People

A Manual for Youthleaders

by Ken & Geraldine Anderson & Craig Mitchell (Joint Board of Christian Education) \$19.75.

There is an ever-increasing list of books dealing with ideas and approaches for youth ministry. Most are from America and most are compilations of ideas and activities. There is a growing awareness, however, that more is needed. That as well as good ideas, there must be a structure and a process that youth ministry follows. In this sense *How To Work with Young People* is a good response.

This book recognises that working with young people has many facets. Youth ministry is not just fun ideas nor is it just about young people in isolation. Indeed the manual requires would-be leaders to formulate their own view of youth ministry, suggest practical ways to helping the church to "own" the youth ministry and identify skills in recruiting and discipling.

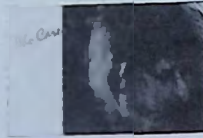
These are all practical strategies that need working through rather than just reading. Hence the title "Manual". To aid this, each chapter provides reproducible worksheets.

The great strength of the manual is the pages of specific practical suggestions on how to be a better leader. Simple ideas such as "how to give a good up front leadership" or "dealing with difficult young people" are extremely helpful. They are the specific and important skills that are often overlooked in youth programming books.

The manual, in one sense, is like having access to the files of a number of very experienced youth workers. Like handfuls of files, however, it is sometimes difficult to find clear links between the sections or chapters. Some areas need expanding on and more explanation. The manual, on opening, can seem a little overwhelming and hard to access. This encourages an ad-hoc "dipping" into parts of the manual rather than the more systematic guided "tour" and planning that *How To Work with Young People* tries to stress. The manual is possibly best seen as a support resource for those who train others, and so have the time to develop ways of selecting and making the connections. For the trainer it offers a smorgasbord of ideas, information and, importantly, activities to systematically train others.

It is also a valuable book for youthleaders. It allows leaders to raise their sights beyond the next Friday night yet still gives strong practical advice on leading a youth night. Leaders will be

able to select many things from the book, although this would be to weaken its goal. Rather the book needs time to digest, and like all good manuals, a commitment to work through the worksheets. Like any good literature it is a manual to which purchasers will want and need to return to again and again. —David Guthrey



Who Cares?...When I Hurt?

Text by Edwin D. Roels and Winston Gauder (The World Home Bible League)

The World Home Bible League produce a number of small booklets/pamphlets that are excellent material to hand out to people

in various situations. This book is one of this series and follows the pattern of scripture passages linked with some thought-provoking verse, well illustrated by photographs. This booklet is designed to help people who are facing troubles. It also has a section called "A New Way of Living", which is designed to help readers grow in faith of God. This would be excellent material for helping people in a time of crisis and also as an evangelism tool.

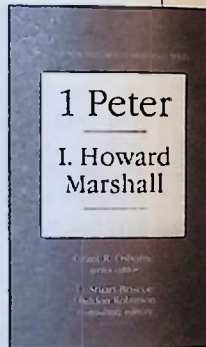
Available from the World Home Bible League, PO Box 464, Penrith 2750. —CRA

1 Peter

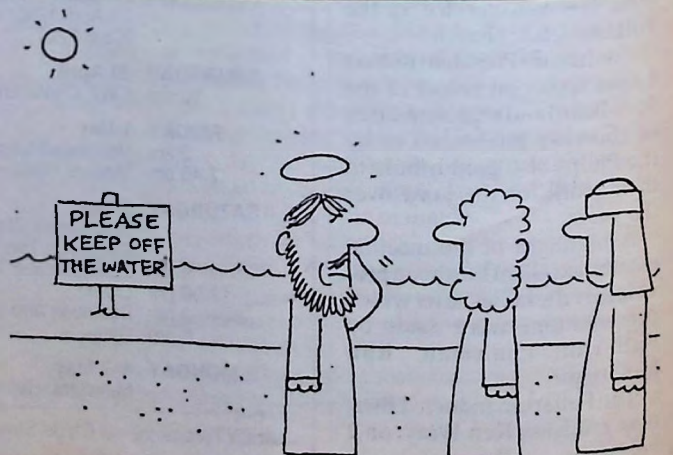
by I. Howard Marshall (Intervarsity Press)

This is the first volume in yet another commentary series—The IVP New Testament Commentary Series. The rationale for the new set of commentaries is given in a general preface: "No other series offers the unique combination of solid, biblical exposition and helpful explanatory notes in the same user-friendly format. No other series has tapped the unique blend of scholars and pastors who share both a passion for faithful exegesis and a deep concern for the church. Based on the New International Version of the Bible, one of the most widely used modern translations, The IVP New Testament Commentary Series builds on the NIV's reputation for clarity and accuracy."

The writer of this commentary, I. Howard Marshall, is a very well respected theologian. However, the commentary is not a heavy theological tome. It attempts to fulfil the aim of the series of looking at the text, passage by passage rather than verse by verse, and applying the text to living as Christians today. It is excellent material that could be used in sermon or Bible study preparation work. —CRA



The Angelic Verses—Daniel Changer



Rejoice and Worship

Gospel trio produces cassette to sing to



Adrian Bekker, Fiona Phillips and Daryl Higgins

Gospel trio Adrian Bekker, Fiona Phillips and Daryl Higgins have just released a new cassette album titled "Rejoice and Worship". The album contains a selection of well-known hymns, songs and psalms, including "Majesty", "As the Deer", "Shine, Jesus, Shine", "Nearer, Still Nearer".

Side two has music only so that the listener can sing along or use it as a teaching cassette for music in the church or home.

Pianist Daryl is the arranger, Fiona Phillips is the singer and there is accompaniment from orchestral strings, guitars, piano, flute and drums.

In what must be a first in Christian churches, Adrian, Daryl and Fiona are making their album available to any church that feels it can use the recording as a vehicle to raise awareness to a particular cause or fundraising appeal. The cassettes will be made available on a wholesale basis at a very reasonable cost. If your church would like to use this cassette album for this purpose then contact Adrian on (052) 21 1606 or write to Sunrise Recording Studios, c/o 20 Maidie St, Highton 3216, and a copy will be forwarded to you for a small charge.

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Enthusiastic Involvement

A year of change and growth at Morwell

My wife Karen and I transferred to Traralgon 11 months ago and discovered the acceptance, care and fellowship of the Morwell, Vic, church.

We became enthusiastically involved and like many other congregations objectively discussed, debated and finally adopted a new constitution in July.

As a result elders and office-bearers formed function groups that now involve a greater number of members in the overall decision-making process of the church.

Increased participation within function groups has meant more effective communication between members, particularly in community and congregational needs. We asked Graham Woodward to renew his term of ministry with us and his wife Sheila to share responsibility for pastoral care ministry, which they both accepted. Our present ministry team consists of Graham and Sheila Woodward and elders Don Wakefield, Merv Little, Sue Lacey and Stan Bannon.

Further developments during our time here include a women's ministry group, which has identified initiatives to further the role of women in preaching and presiding.

Thankfully, with leadership from Graham Woodward and

our elders, the latter half of 1991 saw an enthusiastic start to our youth group, which is growing encouragingly. The highlights for the youth were the two Belgrave Heights Conventions.

Our church has grown in numbers and spirituality and a Sunday evening service is currently being formulated to allow variation and greater youth involvement in our worship.

Attendance at a Wednesday night Bible study has been so enthusiastic and encouraging, that a Sunday afternoon study is proposed for early 1992.

As part of our fellowship and outreach this year we staged "The King Is Coming Back", a musical about the use and development of God's gifts within each of us. All performances were well attended.

A working bee in December saw the start of restoration to a house gifted to the church and we are most appreciative that a number of enthusiastic members from Chadstone church have agreed to take time and give of their resources and energy to help us complete the task.

Other fun and fellowship events included a garage sale and fashion parade, the proceeds of which were put towards the purchase of a photocopy. —Ashly Sherburn



• A performance of "The King Is Coming Back" musical

Bringing the Gospel

Second church opened on Tanna



• The new Lenpupunepeu church and members, with Chief Jimmy (back row fourth from left), William Vuti (front centre) and Pastor Albert (front right)

Chief Jimmy invited missionary Pastor William Vuti (centre front) to bring the gospel to his village. Pastor William and his wife lived in this village (Lenpupunepeu on Tanna Island, Vanuatu) for 12 months. He taught the village of 15 people the gospel and five of them have been baptised.

During that time he also helped them to build a church. Over 200 celebrated the opening on 23 November with a service and feast. Many of these people came from nearby custom and cargo cult villages.

Pastor Albert with his wife Valerie will minister in 1992 to the new church, which is strategically placed to reach out to yet unconverted villages.

The first baptisms following the opening of the church were held on 24 November, when five women were baptised in a small river by pastors William

Vuti and Shadrack. The river was 45 minutes walk from the church.

After a brief service by the river encouraging the candidates to be faithful and to grow in their new-found faith the baptisms were held. After this many of the children (and

mothers) enjoyed a swim in the cool waters before returning to Lenpupunepeu for lunch and a service, at which the Lord's Supper was celebrated for the first time in the newly opened church. The women were welcomed into the fellowship of the church. —Jack Edwards



• First baptisms at Lenpupunepeu

"You have to be called or crazy to go to Cambodia. And I think that we're called."

Playing the Faith Game in Cambodia

by Jennifer Pringle

Most Christians have played the faith game. One person is blindfolded and another leads them around, making sure they do not get hurt. But rarely does the game get as serious as it did recently for Peter Moore, an Australian nurse based in Cambodia with World Vision.

Peter and Judy Moore are World Vision employees based in Phnom Penh. Peter, a midwife by profession, is a rural health worker while Judy is Manager of Administration and Human Resources in the Cambodia office.

Peter's job regularly takes him to Cambodia's mine-infested rural areas. On a recent trip he was playing the "faith game" as a way of building up team skills, but on this occasion the game took on a frightening reality.

"It was a real test of faith," Peter said. "I had someone. We

were walking long the track and I said to him, 'Stop, just come off the track, there's a mine on the footpath.'"

Fortunately Peter had been to a mine awareness course two weeks before, and he was able to recognise one of the deadly devices that had been exposed by recent floods.

Peter is in charge of a new development project in an area 65 km from Phnom Penh, where World Vision has begun a five-year development program.

The program is based in one village to begin with, but will gradually expand to cover 18 villages. It concentrates on improving medical, educational and agricultural skills and infrastructure, with the aim of making villages self-sufficient within five years.

As Manager of Administration and Human Resources, Judy works six days a week, from 6.30 am to 7 pm, looking after World Vision's local and



Judy Moore making friends with Cambodian children

expatriate staff. She takes care of benefits, contracts, housing, training and anything else that needs to be done. When they have visitors, she organises their tickets, visas, internal travel permits and itineraries.

Yet even this hectic schedule is not enough to slow the Moores down. Mother Theresa's Sisters of Charity have recently opened a home for the poor in Phnom Penh. The wooden beds are already full of mothers and children and on their days off Judy and Peter plan to help the sisters.

It is dedication to God and

others that motivates Judy and Peter to live in a house with rats, mice, snakes and scorpions, no regular power and water that has to be boiled before drinking. Judy believes they are where God wants them to be.

"You have to be called or crazy to go to Cambodia. And I think that we're called," Judy said.

"If you can just change one life, make one life better, I think it's worth it. And we do make a difference."

• Jenny Pringle is a Melbourne-based freelance journalist.

Papua New Guinea Bicycle Adventure

A bike trip not for the faint-hearted

In late September a group of Australian cyclists will be visiting the Eastern Highlands of New Guinea as a part of the Bible Society's Bike for Bibles 92 ministry program.

In Goroka they will be met by expatriate Lutheran pastor Daryl Schubert from Hahndorf in SA and, together with some local riders, they will head first for Dahlo Pass (8,000 feet) and then come back through Goroka on their way down to Lae.

Both during and after the ride there will be opportunities to visit a number of mission activities, including the Summer Institute of Linguistics complex at Yurupma.

This is obviously not a ride for the faint-hearted so what is it all about?

Bike for Bibles raises money through sponsorship to produce New Reader Scriptures (Bible portions) in local languages and these are used in schools and churches to teach children and adults to read.

This is an exciting program with the potential to bring many into the Kingdom. All funds raised for the PNG Bike for Bibles will go to New Reader Scripture projects in PNG. The target for this ride is \$50,000.

Christians are invited by the Bible Society to participate in the Papua New Guinea Adventure in any of the following ways: riders, sponsors or prayer partners. Enquiries should be directed to Geoff Bond, Bible House, 133 Rundle Mall, Adelaide 5000. Phone (08) 223 3833.

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Latest Scripture Count

Large increase in translation numbers

The total number of languages into which at least one book of the Bible has been translated is now 1,978, according to the 1991 Scripture Language Report of the United Bible Societies.

(It is estimated at there are between 3,000 and 6,000 languages in the world.)

This is the largest increase in

translations since 1987. 32 languages received their first books of the Bible last year.

Of these six received New Testaments.

Complete Bibles have been reported for the first time in four languages, two of them published by the Bible Society of Zaire: Kituba and eBembe.

The other two complete Bibles are in the Kekchi language of Guatemala, and in Macedonian, spoken in war-torn Yugoslavia.

30 New Testaments appeared in languages that were previously without one, including the southern Kisi language of war-torn Liberia.

UBS is involved in 608 language projects, of which 412 are languages in which at least one part of the Bible is

being translated for the first time.

More than 80% of the world's population has access to the Bible, or at least a part of it, in a language they can understand.

Computers have greatly speeded up the painstaking task of typing out numerous drafts and the typesetting of each page. A Bible that once took 20-30 years to complete can now be published in about 10.

Happenings

Melbourne Citymission is looking for community visitors. A community visitor is asked to give time each month to somebody in a nursing home. Wendy Lane is heading up Melbourne Citymission's community visitors program. The aim of the program is to set up a link between a nursing home resident and the wider community so that the older person can enjoy life to its full potential. Activities might include going out to functions and events together or just spending time talking about common interests and hobbies. Anyone wishing to learn more about the program can contact Wendy Lane on (03) 480 5677.

Christian Aid, a UK-based relief and aid agency, has said the United Kingdom received more money from the Third World in debt repayments in 1990 than it gave in new loans, investment, export credits, and aid from government and charities. The report on British overseas aid from 1975 to 1990 said the net flow from the Third World to Britain in 1990 was £2,439m.

The Pacific Conference of Churches has written to heads of churches, church councils, conferences of churches and other European church organisations to express its concern over the continued dumping of toxic waste and nuclear testing by some superpowers in the Pacific region.

Reliable sources in Dahrán, Saudi Arabia, report that Saudi officials are carrying out a system-

atic search for the members of a Christian fellowship who were meeting secretly in Dahrán and had contact with Western Christians. The two leaders of the fellowship were arrested in mid-February, were severely beaten and are presently being held in a hospital at an undisclosed location in Dahrán.

On the border between the Dhading and Gorkha Districts in Nepal there are over 13,000 new believers who have only recently been discovered. During the past few years, men and women in 5 villages have come to experience the Lord primarily through prayer and healings. Only since democracy have they sought to make contact with the wider church in Nepal. During the revival period a large landslide occurred and the government moved 6,000 Tamangs away from the area to the far south of Nepal. These have also continued in their faith. Their religious background was a mix of Buddhism and Hinduism. Most are illiterate. At this stage, few understand anything beyond that Jesus is the healer and no other gods are the true God.

Lien Walker, a member of the Nunawading, Vic, church, has recently had her book *Red on Gold* published by Albatross Books. Lien tells of her experiences in Vietnam, growing up under French Colonial rule and the devastation of the Vietnam War. The story of her escape to Australia and settlement in a new country makes captivating reading. It should be available from

all Christian bookshops or from the Nunawading church. (A full review will appear in a later issue.)

Australian men and women are among the worst offenders in contributing to the growth in child prostitution in Asia, according to an international coalition formed to end child prostitution. Australia was specifically mentioned as one of the countries helping to create the upsurge in child prostitution by the organisers of a 4-day international conference beginning 31 March in Bangkok, Thailand, which aims to bring people together who are concerned to stop this trafficking in children. Information and registration forms can be obtained from World Christian Action, PO Box C199, Clarence Street PO, Sydney 2000.

A poll commissioned by Christian Aid found that 48% of British people are in favour of cutting defence spending in order to increase aid to the Third World. 41% were opposed to such a policy. The poll also found that 49% were in favour of writing off debts to the Third World, while 38% were against.

"AIDS and the Church" is a residential conference organised by the Victorian Churches AIDS Pastoral care and Education Program (CAPE) to be held 7-9 May at Camp Waterman, Monbulk. The conference aims to enable church members from across a range of denominations to examine the pastoral implications of care for those

who are HIV positive, their families and significant others, to consider attitudes to sexuality and what these mean for churches' education programs and to strengthen networks across denominations of those involved with the care of people affected by AIDS. Speakers will include Dr Dorita Gertig, Dr Neil Williams and Judith Jones. There will be 10 workshops on a range of topics. Conference programs and application forms are available from CAPE on (03) 419 1511.

Russian pastor Josif Bondarenko is to visit Australia. He is well-known as an evangelist throughout the Slavic states of Eastern Europe. During the period of Communist oppression he spent 9 years in prison. At present he pastors a large Baptist church in Riga, Latvia, and travels widely in eastern Europe preaching at mass revival meetings. Josif Bondarenko will speak at meetings and church services during March and April in Sydney, Mittagong, Canberra, Hobart, Melbourne, Adelaide, Newcastle and a number of other cities. Details from Voice of Peace Mission, PO Box 339, Cronulla 2230. Phone (02) 527 2387.

More than 1,000 filled St Andrew's Cathedral in Sydney on 16 February to celebrate 60 years of broadcasting by radio station 2CH. 2CH is a highly successful commercial enterprise. In the late 1970s and early 1980s it reached No. 1 in the Sydney ratings with its "good music" format.

Currently it is the most listened to station in the 35+ age group. About 7.5 hours of Christian programming is heard weekly.

Zadok and St Mark's are holding an Economists Conference on "Ecology, Economy and Theology" in the ACT 27-29 March 1992. Attendance can include accommodation or attendance for sessions only. Costs range from \$60 to \$115. Details and registration from Clive Rodger, Chairman, Zadok Economists Group, c/o PO Box E326, Queen Victoria Terrace 2600. Phone (06) 281 0722 or fax (06) 282 5477.

Dr Dennis Lindsay has been appointed as Principal of Springdale College in England. Dr Lindsay is currently serving with the European Evangelistic Society as minister of the Christliche Gemeinde (Christian Church) in Tuebingen, Germany. Springdale College is a co-operative effort of British and American churches training ministers for the British Churches of Christ and Christian Churches.

The biannual stamp and coin fair is on again at the Blackburn Baptist Church, Holland Rd, Blackburn South, on 28 March, from 9.30 am to 4 pm. David and Eileen Lewis will again come across from South Australia to conduct a stall on behalf of the Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board. Victorian readers can give used stamps to Ern Blake, phone (03) 894 3171, or deliver them to the Box Hill manse.

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Old Time Music Hall

Bellarine CWF celebrates anniversary in song



• Bellarine ladies at "Ye Old Time Music Hall"

The Bellarine, Vic, CWF welcomed over 70 to their 10th birthday anniversary on 14 November in the hall of the Ocean Grove Uniting Church. The celebration took the form of "Ye Old Time Music Hall" with some of the ladies dressing accordingly. Some of the men of the church formed a quintette and sang renditions of old songs. Lesley Stirling delivered the devotional message. Community singing of old favourites was also part of the afternoon program.

—Elaine Stewart



• Male quintet: Tom Clift, Gordon Stirling, Ern Wilson, Lindsay Firth and Bill Carnaby

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The cost is a modest \$1595 per person and includes all international and local airfares, all transfers, all meals, morning and afternoon teas, all touring, all entertainment—in effect, every item of air and ground activity.

For further information contact:

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The Kingdom That Corrupts

From time to time a movement emerges with a zealous passion for the purity of the church, seeing its only hope for successful mission in the world in purging its ranks of all traces of taint and corruption from the world. The scenario is not new. It has been applied in various ways to varying degrees throughout the history of the church. However it is fundamentally misguided and contrary to the nature and presence of the Kingdom proclaimed by Jesus. One parable subverts the propensity among some Christians for the "holy enclave" bleached from all traces of the "corrupting influence of the world". It is the parable of the leaven.

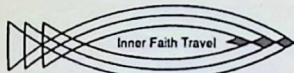
The brief narrative depicts a woman who took leaven and hid it in dough, until the whole was leavened. In ancient texts, Biblical and otherwise, leaven and fermentation is associated with corruption. The motif of leaven as corruption permeates the Biblical narrative, from the prohibition of leavened bread in the Exodus Passover to Paul's "leaven of depravity and corruption". "A little leaven leavens the whole dough," he remarked on those who had erred from the truth. "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees," said Jesus, referring to their hypocrisy—and his listeners knew what he meant. So why is leaven used as a metaphor for the Kingdom?

The use of the word "yeast" in some translations has influenced our perception of the parable. In the ancient world, pure yeast did not exist as we know it today. Yeast existed in leaven—old dough kept from a previous baking that accumulated additional micro-organisms from the air, which, while it caused fermentation, also caused purification. The traditional interpretation of the parable, based on an illustration of yeast and rising dough to show the growth of the Kingdom, is only part of the story. The parable has a double image. The motif of corruption is also a powerful aspect of the parable. However, the risk of using the image of leaven with its dissonant connotations as a metaphor of the Kingdom is too great if the motif of corruption is not also intended as part of the metaphor. So what can it mean?

Contrary to the zealous passions of the religious status quo for the pure, holy community, without blemish from the world, the parable shows us a Kingdom that corrupts. Indeed, in the gospels, it is a corrupt Kingdom with tax collectors, prostitutes and the ceremonially impure—the maimed, blind, and lame—who become the invitees to banquets and parties, table fellowship that works as a metaphor for the presence of the Kingdom. The people Jesus invited to the Kingdom were definitely not the pure and untainted. They were "blemished" in some way or another—whether by choice, foolishness or the bad luck to be the way they were. This little narrative gem stands as a complete subversion of the zealous passion to exclude the "undesirable", and purge the ranks of the faithful in order to create a holy enclave.

Today, the Kingdom continues to corrupt—the pietistic, diabolical passion for exclusivism. The inclusion of prodigals, the foolish, the unlucky, those who have sinned and those sinned against—whose lives have been socially and psychologically marred, is a sign of the Kingdom's presence, not absence. The dissonance the parable creates between conventional perceptions of the Kingdom with its "appropriate community" and the image of leaven "corrupting the whole" leaves the listener in a state of disorientation. What kind of Kingdom is this, if it is a Kingdom that corrupts rather than purges? It is a Kingdom of Grace and nothing less. The presence of this Kingdom disorients our perceptions, conscious or subconscious, as to who should belong and who should be excluded from the community of God.

—Stephen Curkpatrick



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Comment

Which industry is three times the size of the Australian wheat industry, is worth twice as much as wool, has a turnover of more than \$6 billion a year, just one section of which employs more people than the building industry and has a bigger branch network than all the banks put together?

Well, according to a recent five-part series in *The Financial Review* (17, 18, 19, 20 and 23 December), it's God Incorporated.

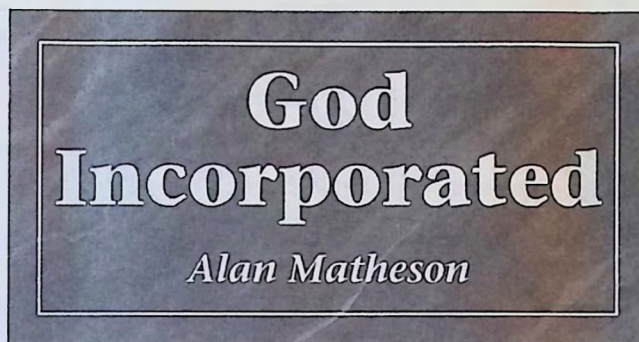
The author, Louise Boylen, writes that "there are more than 11,700 churches, temples and mosques in Australia, compared to 6,917 bank branches" and that "besides dominating the market in faith, hope and charity, God Incorporated is a major player in education, welfare and health care".

It's of interest to note that in terms of numbers, never a good "measurement" of Christianity, Churches of Christ have moved from 0.9% of the population in 1954 to 0.6% in 1986.

Of the \$21.5 million it costs to keep the Anglican Church afloat about half goes to salaries (\$9.6 million) and another \$7.4 million is tied up in new buildings, loan payments and building expenses. Similar sums for Churches of Christ would be interesting.

The series is unique in that it was the major Australian financial daily that ran it and that it's the only major series they have run where there was not one solitary letter in response. Were all the Christians already on holiday? Are there no Christians who read *The Financial Review*?

It's not that the series was not helpful: did you know that 25,000 of Australia's 75,000 nursing home beds are provided by refugee groups or that \$1 billion is in the hands of



church fund managers through investment-development funds?

God's Way

The series set me thinking. I was reminded of the words of one of the fathers of our movement. In one of his most powerful sermons, he said, "Let us take a town I know where there are a thousand people. In that town there are six churches and six preachers. If we say that each preacher is receiving £15 a week, that would be £90 for salaries. You can see if we had one church, you could let the preacher have £20 a week and save £70 each week in that town...apply that to the whole world and you will see that every year we are wasting millions of pounds in preachers salaries."

In a similar way he did his sums with church buildings, "If in this town there are six church buildings, and that if each building is worth £5,000 that would be £30,000 for church buildings. If you had one building," he continued, "costing £15,000, and that would be a splendid building in a town so small, you could save £15,000—we are wasting millions of pounds in church buildings."

And E.C. Hinrichsen concluded, "Oh, if we could only go God's way we would have

money to spare for the widows and orphans. We would have money to spare to take this wonderful Gospel to the countries which are called heathen."

Alternatives

A few months ago I stood in the doorway of an inner-city church talking about its decision to sell and move out into the suburbs. "Look," said my friend pointing to office buildings surrounding the church, "thousands of people work there," and hardly pausing for a breath said that they were moving because they needed to be where people lived. So another church built a new building within cooee of half a dozen other congregations all in their new buildings and the thousands of city workers were left without a ministry.

Has not the time come to call a moratorium on church buildings? Has the time come for our Conference to help us understand what it costs our churches in managing building debts, in associated costs such as insurances as well as church building maintenance?

In nearly 30 years of ministry in Victoria it seems to me, except for a handful of attempts in sharing buildings, we measure "development", "evangelism", "growth" in terms of continuing investment in mortgages, debt servicing and building maintenance. Is there not an alternative? Why not a decision to jointly share property? Can a continuing investment in buildings be justified as responsible stewardship?

The Financial Review writer includes the closing words in a Uniting Church debate on property and "the paraphernalia of its day-to-day maintenance and security": "it's easier to put a kangaroo through a keyhole than for a well-heeled church to experience its true destiny of living, not for itself and its own security, but for the world and the Lord of all eternity."

• Alan Matheson, a member at the Camberwell, Vic, church, is Ethnic Liaison Officer with the ACTU.

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Plastic Religion versus the "No Bullshit Church"^{pp}

Bryan Mee

I'm sorry if the expression disturbs your sensibilities and your piety, but listen to the story.

One of the couples in the church arrived within the last year from New Zealand. On being quizzed by friends back home as to what type of community, including minister, she had got herself tangled up with, the lady, being a very forthright woman, described us in the vernacular as the "no bullshit church". That may not do much for you, but it let the friend know just how we appeared to that couple.

It meant all the usual adjectives that we would like applied to our churches: sincere, friendly, welcoming and so on. But it meant much more than that. It meant that "what you see, is what you get". We don't appear to have two standards, one for Sundays when we put on our piety, and one for the rest of the week when we mixed it with the world! We don't have two standards, one for the old-time member who regularly pays a tithe and another for the newcomer who doesn't even know what the word means. There are no hidden agendas, we are up front with everything. There is no "in group", which means there is no "out group".

To me, this expression has been an accolade, a prize rather than just another offhand comment, for it is saying something extra. By using that particular expression, peculiar probably to Australians and New Zealanders, it is saying that somehow we are adapting our style of worship and witness to this Australian environment. Well! I hope so.

That to me is what it is all about, making ourselves and the gospel we present understood by the society in which

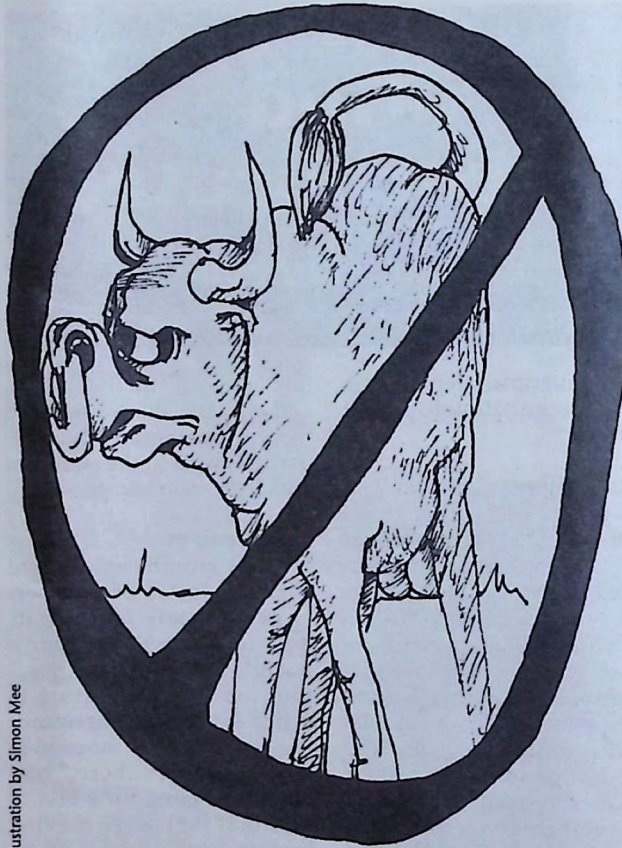


Illustration by Simon Mee

Sudden Death of Bryan Mee

We are saddened to report the sudden death of Bryan Mee in India on 20 February from a heart attack.

Bryan was in Travendram to give the graduation address at the training college of the New India Evangelistic Association. The college had been supported by Bryan's church, the Church of the Good Shepherd (Nerang, Qld).

Prayer from readers for

Jenny, the family and the church in their sudden loss would be very much appreciated.

An obituary of Bryan will appear in a later issue.

Bryan had been writing a series of provocative articles for *The Australian Christian* on relating the church to the Australian culture and we will continue to publish these over the next few months.

we live. We are talking about real live Christianity, which "scratches where people itch," not just another form of plastic religion for a plastic society.

Therein lies the danger, folks. We could end up just another plastic product that people are not particularly interested in. I'm not talking so much about the chemical compound that is used in so many areas of our society, be it in the cars we drive, plates we picnic off or even those flowers we admire in so many public places. Rather I'm talking about those other "plastic" products, such as elevator music and airline food. These things we often refer to as plastic because they are designed to be bland and inoffensive. The question then has to be asked: Is the faith that we proclaim "plastic", bland and inoffensive? That kind of faith reminds me of how Paul describes it: "A form of godliness but denying the power thereof." 2 Timothy 3:5

The same lady and her husband described at the beginning of these thoughts recently had a house warming.

To it they bravely invited contacts from the community and the church family—the "churchies". There was some trepidation all round, but the party as a success, the non-church people finding it difficult to believe the rest of us were "churchies", and me even a minister.

For our part, we did nothing that we would not have done at any other function. We did not put on a face of false worldliness or present a stereotyped picture of what Christians are meant to be like—joyless and boring!

In other words we lived up to our reputation of saying it like it is, of being natural, in other words—"no bullshit".

A Church ABC

Oakleigh is an older south-eastern suburb of Melbourne, Vic, about 15 km from the city centre. In its early days it was a market garden area, and the first members of the church included market gardeners, who parked their horses and traps behind the church.

Oakleigh has just celebrated its 75th anniversary. The church has a strong history of

faithful service to the area, to conference and to overseas, and characterised by long ministry terms.

The church is well situated right in the centre of Oakleigh, opposite the municipal offices and shopping centre near the railway station, however an overpass over the railway line means you have to go round the block to get to it and there is poor parking when you do finally get there. The church is a fine solid brick one in good repair and consists of a chapel and two halls.

The membership at present is 67, mostly older—but vibrant—people, and the average attendance is 52 at the 10.30 am service. There is also an evening service at 7. Very pleasing is the fact that last year there were three baptisms and

15 transfers in, giving the church its first increase in a decade.

The Oakleigh church is noted for its women's work. There are two Christian Women's Fellowships—an afternoon group and an evening one. In 1919 the women raised a substantial

Jordanville (now Chadstone) in the 1950s and, with the co-operation of Dandenong, Dandenong North in the 1970s. It was also involved in the early beginnings of the Glen Waverley, Clayton and Springvale churches, often giving away members as leaders

now in his second year at Oakleigh. He and his wife Barbara have one daughter and three sons, two of them married, and three grandchildren. At 58, Jack is still enjoying the ministry. As well as his ministry to the local church, Jack has responsibilities elsewhere. He

is chairman of New Hope Ministries, which sponsors "Dial for New Hope", a Christian outreach to the

community and an encouragement to Christians. In the last seven years this telephone service has averaged 2,000 calls a month.

Jack is also manager of the Buckingham Memorial Centre, a camp owned by Churches of Christ adjacent to the Belgrave Heights Christian convention centre. (See the advertisement on page 16.) Jack is also a member of the state overseas mission department. (See page 12.)

The church is growing. Offerings are up and the church has increased its giving to the wider work of the conference. The Oakleigh church has been very encouraged by its new members.

Noted for its openness, friendliness and acceptance, it is finding that people who come to visit often continue coming.



Focus on Oakleigh

sum for the building of the church, and they are still raising money. A stall at the nearby Chadstone Shopping Centre has raised over \$800 so far this year. Over the years Oakleigh has had four state CWF presidents—Mrs McGregor, Alice Hodges, Betty Dow and Gladys Mackenzie.

Other activities of the church include a midweek Bible study and prayer group. A men's fellowship has been formed, for fellowship and service, and serving as a basis of the working bees that keep the buildings in such good order—with the help of the women of course. A youth group operated briefly last year and the minister teaches RI in the local school.

The church has had a long history of church planting. This includes the establishment of

and musicians for these new causes.

A third characteristic of the Oakleigh church is its giving to mission. At the present it is working in co-operation with Fusion and the Department of Mission, Education and Development to find effective ways of outreach.

The minister at Oakleigh is W. J. (but better known as Jack) Edwards. A Victorian, from Dandenong, Jack studied at the College of the Bible in 1954-57 and then served as a missionary in Vanuatu for over a decade. (Last year Jack made a return visit to that country for a month. Some accounts of that trip have appeared in "The Christian".) Returning to Australia, Jack then had ministries at Norlane, Dandenong, Gardiner and Box Hill. He is

• Ambrosia

Schooling

Last week I received a call from a concerned reader asking if I had read an article in the Melbourne *Herald-Sun* regarding homeschool. She was concerned about the powers that the state would acquire and exercise against its citizens. Obtaining a copy of the particular paper from a neighbour (I do not normally read the *Herald-Sun*) I could see why she was concerned enough to phone. The front page banner headline read "KGB Blast on School Laws". The article then proceeded to spell out in relatively emotive terms a pro-

posed new law to cover home schooling in Victoria.

I will await further clarifying material from both sides before commenting on the whole issue of home schooling in Australia, but the call prompted me to reflect on education in our society.

We have an increasing number of options for educating our children in Australian society. Concern in some of our churches about the education system has led them to be actively involved in alternative private education enterprises, with some even setting up a

school themselves.

What should be our attitude to the current state education system? Should Christians be involved in the system as teachers, parents and students, or should they be establishing a system that is better placed to reflect the values of the Christian faith?

I would appreciate letters and articles from readers concerned about this issue. Letters should be no longer than 200 words; if you wish to write an article on the issue contact me before sending the manuscript.

—Editor

Boronia Church of Christ

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On 15 March last year fire almost destroyed our church complex.

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Growing Spiritually

The Wisdom of Wonder

Moss Arnott

I am writing this while I am on holidays. Today I made an unplanned visit to the local cultural centre. As I entered the foyer of the building I heard a beautiful voice singing the haunting "Summertime". Enchanted, I sought out the source to listen more closely. I was amazed to recognise the singer as a friend I had not seen for many years.

After her performance we had a chance to have a coffee together and fill in the gaps of the intervening years. Inevitably our conversation turned to the most crucial shared experience in our relationship—the sudden, tragic death of Kate's father. Kate was very young at the time and she cannot recall many of the events surrounding the tragedy, but it is still very painful for her and she spoke of the impact it still has on her life. In the midst of our sharing, Kate suddenly stopped. "What is the date today?" It was the anniversary of Ken's death!

We sat in amazement as this realisation sank in. Words seemed totally inadequate to either describe how we felt or to explain this amazing coincidence. For me, this was just one more example of the mystery that surrounds us if we are willing to acknowledge it.

Contemporary thinking tempts us to believe that the goal of all human endeavour is to understand and to explain every experience and event that occurs in our world and in our lives. The Christian church has been beguiled by this way of thinking and often the "mature Christian" is seen to be the one who can give explanations, appropriate biblical references and/or detailed theological discourses.

Maturity and this sort of "apparent knowledge" do not always go together. Often words and explanations are our way of covering the dis-ease we feel when confronted with the extraordinary. I have a sneaking suspicion that true wisdom (and thence maturity) involves us in being able to stand speechless and in awe in the midst of the mysterious, realising how little we will ever understand of this experience we call "life".

I can't explain what happened today, nor do I want to, but I am certain that it will be the highlight of my holiday, and that it draws me a little closer to my maker.

• Moss Arnott, a member of the Doncaster, Vic, church, is head of the pastoral care department at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute in Melbourne.

Comment

Keep It Natural!

David McKay

In the past few years I have noticed an increase in the amount of amplification used, as well as an increase in the volume of the music played, both in church and elsewhere. We need to be able to hear the speakers and singers, but often the sound system overshadows what is being said or sung. The medium has become the message!

Sometimes the equipment is so inferior (or the amateur sound person is so inept!) that we have loud, distorted sounds and hums throughout an entire service of worship. Modern technology can be a great servant (I'm typing this on my trusty Atari computer!) or it can become our master.

We need to build churches with good acoustics so that a minimum of amplification is necessary. We need to train singers so they don't always have to rely on microphones to boost their volume. (I realise that sometimes microphones are necessary, but I am only arguing against their overuse.) One of the most impressive things you can experience is to hear the natural sound of a trained singer. Nothing can beat it. It is the most incredible instrument.

A few years ago I brought some singers from "The Song Company" (a Sydney choral group) to perform at the local high school. The hall has very poor acoustics, and usually everything is amplified. The students were staggered by the way the singers could perform without any electrical assistance. They would not have been able to appreciate the power in their voices if we had been amplifying the sound. Sometimes in our services we are missing out on the unique sound of the unassisted human voice!

At a folk club in Katoomba

everything was amplified, including an acoustic guitar and a harp. The music was OK, but the harp sounded very harsh, particularly in the upper register. If the volume had not been so high the instrument would have sounded much more like a harp.

Then I went to a church where there was a metallic, unreal sound coming from a grand piano. When I tried it out, it had quite a good tone and could have sounded superb. But, you guessed it, instead of opening the lid, somebody had stuck a microphone underneath it and completely spoiled the sound.

To improve the quality of the sound in your services think about whether a mike is necessary for the particular situation. Can the speaker or performer be clearly heard without one? If so, try operating without a mike. Also, when mikes are used, ensure that mikes that are not in service are switched off at the mixing desk. Performers should not be continually turning them on and off. This should be controlled by a trained sound person. The person at the desk should mainly turn mikes on and off as they are needed, but having set a level should not often need to adjust the volume.

• David McKay trained at the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music and at Kenmore Christian College. He has pastored the Stirling, SA, church and has taught music at Narromine, Katoomba and Blaxland high schools. He accompanies the Nepean Choral Society and is a regular performer in various concerts at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre in Western Sydney. He attends Glenbrook Baptist Church with his wife Joan (a piano teacher) and his four children.

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Personal

Baptisms

•Nathan Inman, Joshua Inman, Batemans Bay, NSW •Mrs Hazel Webster, Milang, SA •Phil Watkins, Glenda Gallagher, Dallas Gallagher, Rose Taylor, Linda Rushbrook, Terry Parks, Jenny Parks, Elizabeth O'Neill, Nowra, NSW •Andrew Broadbent, Henley Beach, SA •David Haines, Glen Waverley, Vic •Christopher Bemrose, Darren Bemrose, Karena Bemrose, Ryan Hoppitt, Debbie Eccles, Hurstville, NSW

Marriages

•Paula Owen to Christopher Eaton, Albion, Qld

Deaths

•Ethel Robertson Essendon, Vic •Daisy Sweetman, Shepparton, Vic •Leonard George Francis, Batemans Bay, NSW •Max Atwell, Hobart City, Tas •Barbara Burns, Box Hill, Vic •Eileen Pridham, Clarrie Smith, Flo DeGileo, Henley Beach, SA •Flo Hutchinson, North Essendon, Vic

Changes

North Turramurra: Mailing address—215 Bobbin Head Road, North Turramurra, NSW 2074. Phone (02) 988 4688.

National Conference: Treasurer—c/o Churches of Christ Centre, 77-79 Capel Street, North Melbourne, Vic 3003.

Federal Home Evangelism: Treasurer—c/o Churches of Christ Centre, 77-79 Capel Street, West Melbourne, Vic 3003.

Swan Hill: Associate Minister—Tim Green, 138 Chapman Street, Swan Hill, Vic 3585. Phone (050) 32 9408 (home), (050) 32 1449 (office).

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Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Gross, Francis

(13.2.92) Frank Gross was born in Carlton on 15.3.98 and was baptised at Lygon Street church at 15. He also worshipped at Moreland, Boronia and Knoxfield churches. He married Myrtle Haines in 1925. The two children of the marriage were Harold and Melva (McKinnon). After Myrtle died in 1965, Frank visited Harold, who was ministering among our churches in the Furness district of England. There he met, and later married, an English widow, Gertrude May Hesketh, Stanton Wilson performing the ceremony in 1977. Returning to Australia, they lived in Upwey. After May's death in 1977, Frank faithfully attended Upwey Baptist until he was admitted to Frank Combridge House in 1988. His faith was strong and unwavering; he was a great family man and missed by six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Frank worked in the tramways and was a member of the Preston Workshops Male Choir. We are grateful that Harold was able to be home from Thailand for his father's last days and the funeral at Ringwood church.

—Barry Jenkins

Robertson, Ethel May

(9.2.92) An active member of the Essendon, Vic, church until her final months when she succumbed to cancer, Ethel was baptised at

Newmarket in 1925. She served her Lord in a practical unassuming way. Though unmarried she played a vital role in family life and took a special interest in her nieces. An unfailing behind-the-scenes worker at church, she was ever ready to give practical help, particularly in providing cups of tea, washing up, cleaning and offering encouragement, not least to the minister and his wife. Towards the end of her life Ethel was a great friend and visitor of the less-mobile members of the congregation. She will be sorely missed.

—Ken Stothard

Urwin, Alfred Hughes

(24.1.92) Born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England, Alf came to Melbourne when 16. He met Dorothy McLeod while both were helping in a Carlton mission run by Collins St Congregational. Married 1936 they moved to a home in Coburg. It was there that Alf passed peacefully away. Alf and Dorothy were part of the Coburg fellowship for over 45 years, church treasurer for over 20 years and similar time as a member of the Day Kindergarten Committee, handled the Regional Church's "two-cent-mile" contributions that raised over \$4,000, shared in church activities and provided support and transport for others. Keen interest in sport. Enjoyed 13 "bonus years" following heart attack when 70. Coburg thanks God for a faithful friend and worker and supports Dorothy and families of Graeme and Dorothy.

—Vic Quayle

NSW

BATEMANS BAY (John Inman) One person rededicated life Australia Day gospel service ... Our minister came back excited from Minister's Seminar at Carlingford ... Building fund commenced ... In February church saddened by the death of Len Francis, but rejoiced with our second baptism ... Mid-week Bible study recommenced.

MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins) John & Debbie Grant farewelled. Training at Adelaide College of Ministries ... Church participated in "Break Free" mission with John Smith & God Squad ... Recent speakers R. Dixon, D. Porter, W. Marshall (Bible Society), G. Dark (ITIM) ... Ray Hawkins spoke at induction of R. Burley, Hamilton.

NOWRA (Clinton Wardle) New minister & wife, Clinton & Trish Wardle, & children started full-time in January ... Church growing with eight baptisms in last two months & 14 considering membership ...

"Endless Praise" concert great success with good music & fellowship across other churches ... Sunday School growing. Now four groups ... Recent board retreat very beneficial with a close bonding between deacons & elders.

HURSTVILLE (Bob & Marilyn Smith) Five young people baptised at Stanwell Tops 15 Dec ... Special services held Sunday evenings January ... Worship Afloat service held 19 Jan at 6 pm aboard boat on Georges River. Over 150 attended ... Southside Adult Singles had successful Valentine's Day dinner & square dance in February ... Kel Richards to be guest speaker at morning service on 15 March at 10.15 am.

Qld

ALBION (Peter Overton) Peter Overton has resigned & will study full time at Griffith University ... Combined Interchurch Council Advent services & a carol service

Church News

were held in churches throughout the district including (for the first time) Scots Presbyterian Church, Clayfield. Speakers included Haydn Sargent, Bishop Gerry & Bishop Browning.

BUNDABERG (Alan Leane) Congregation prayer support John Bond Crusade 1-10 May ... Praise God for Mabelle Bust's acceptance of Jesus. Others under conviction ... Increased numbers worship & gospel services, for Sunday School & youth groups ... Gift of new platform chairs by Gil Johnson ... Church family & friends met Australia Day holiday for barbecue & cricket. Opportunities opened up to invite friends to hear word of God ... Youth clubs recommenced.

RANGEVILLE Graham Hack resigned in December ... Church appreciates help of visiting speakers ... AGM held. Secretary Aussie Lack, treasurer Neil Hass, Sunday School Superintendent Nancy Rosenberg, Rangeville Rangers Kid's Club leader with Aussie Lack supervisor, Ailsa Wecker ... CWF held planning meeting ... First Sunday night fellowship tea & gospel night, third Saturday social & fun night concluding with supper ... Charlie Woolf & Gloria Lack have had surgery recently.

SA

KENSINGTON PARK (Darren Kittel) Good attendances on 26 January for concluding service for minister Joan Fewster, with luncheon following, when expressions of appreciation & presentation was made ... 2 February induction of Darren Kittel into ministry by State Minister Ron Roberts. Greetings from neighbouring churches & Burnside mayor. Induction followed by luncheon at new manse, where dedication performed by Neil Bright, Chairman, Building Extension Committee.

MILANG Church using mainly local speakers in absence of a minister ... Time of fellowship enjoyed at meal at local fish restaurant ... Prayer & Bible study, Kids Klub, Friendship Group, prayer breakfast all meeting weekly ... Baptism of Hazel Webster a blessing to the church, also arrival of Violet Tuffin, who now worships with us ... Ann South received into membership, after transfer from Tasmania.

HENLEY BEACH (Brian Hill) Church saddened at deaths of Eileen Pridham, Clarrie Smith, Flo DeGileo ... Rejoicing intended baptism of Andrew Broadbent ... Welcomed home Hazel Skuse from India ... Girls' Brigade commenced year with one new girl, holding numbers. Girls enjoying programs ... Women's

Fellowship incorporated into two new Friendship Groups (for males & females). One held afternoon twice month, other in evening once month. Numbers encouraging.

MODBURY (D. Hamilton, M. Keatch) Rob Combridge, Blackwood, inducted Dean Hamilton to ministry 2 Feb ... "Meet the Minister" program in home groups, auxiliaries aided Dean & Glenys in getting to know members ... 11 Feb SA ministers & wives annual dinner for state new appointees. 99 attended ... Dedication service for church leaders held 16 Feb ... Attendance average 150 for Feb. Up 20% on 91.

Tas

CAVESIDE (John & Colleen Harrison) Wayne Kerrison recent speaker about experiences in New Guinea ... Another successful bushwalk to Lees Paddocks ... Devonport YP visited 15 & 16 Feb. Saturday activities included caving trip, barbecue tea & badminton. YP led worship Sunday including items & testimony. Mark Taylor speaker ... Three Caveside YP moved to Burnie for employment & agricultural training course ... Jean Scott returned from extended Qld holiday ... Oldest member, Dot Byard, turned 88 20 Feb.

LAUNCESTON (R. Foster, C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) Foster family have returned from holidays ... Don Cleaver new pastoral care convener ... All auxiliaries & small groups have resumed ... Fellowship lunch on 23 February for morning congregations to get to know each other better ... Caroline Johnson new Bible School convener.

WA

MAYLANDS (Robert Drown) Robert Drown, Churches of Christ Homes chaplain, concluding ministry with homes end February. Appointed in interim capacity as minister for remainder 1992 commencing 1 March ... Bruce Clapp bringing series messages during February ... Ron Jones to lead a 10-week course on "Challenge of Christian Manhood" ... Darren & Wendy Law-Davis farewelled as they left to take up employment with family at Camarvon.

Visiting Melbourne?

You are welcome at the Richmond Church of Christ cnr Coppin and Murphy Streets
Services: 11 am and 7 pm
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Church News

Vic

ESSENDON (K. Stothard) Christmas Carols by Candlelight held on 8 Dec. Church full of members & friends & neighbours, who all enjoyed choir, orchestra & cuppa afterwards. Offering of \$440 for Community Care Christmas hampers ... All auxiliaries off to a good start for 1992 ... Church saddened by death of beloved Ethel Robertson. Large attendance at funeral service at church on 12 Feb.

SHEPPARTON (Pat Kavanagh) Robert & Sylvia Hough called to ministry commencing 1993 ... Interim ministry (1992) Pat & Betty Kavanagh ... House groups being developed ... Schultz family from New Tribes Mission & gospel group "Endless Praise" ministered during February ... Morning service 10 am, evening service 7 pm, Sunday School 10.30 am ... Tapes of services provided for Sunday School teachers.

DAWSON ST, BALLARAT (Stephen Templeton, Tracey Wickham, Rodney Ratcliffe) Crowded attendances Christmas cabaret & Christmas Eve service ... Associate minister Rodney Ratcliffe inducted 12 January. Part of Wollongong Church of Christ Institute Training in Leadership course ... Farewell from Dawson St: Cheryl Collins studying Kingsley Theological College Melbourne, Tim Clark Church of Christ College Sydney, Andrew Hull Mt Gambier nursing

position ... Excellent attendances maintained throughout January ... The three Sunday services continually growing.

BOX HILL (J. Longbottom, P. Hunt) Jim Longbottom accepts five-year appointment as from beginning of 1993 ... Martina Osswald left for Scotland to further nursing training ... Don Thomas speaker during January ... Elizabeth Lloyd & Deborah Stevenson commenced studies at CCTC ... Dorothy Thomas welcomed back after illness.

ARARAT (Phillip Stevens) Farewelled Rodney, Marjan & Richard Beer after a two-year ministry. All involved in all aspects of church life including music. Confident their ministry will be valued at Richmond, Vic ... Ararat welcomes new pastor Phillip Stevens with wife Val & children Jo, Kate & Ryan. They transferred in January from ministry with Croydon, SA. Looking forward to a fruitful year.

SWAN HILL (L.J. Mayes, T.J. Green) Ken Clinton conducted induction of associate minister, Tim Green, on 31 January ... Church joined with other local congregations in combined morning service in Riverside Park on Australia Day ... Board held retreat during February to approve 1992 program & do some forward planning ... Nattalie Ross & Campbell Holt have begun studies at LaTrobe University.

NORTH ESSENDON (Graham & Bev Burgan) Members joined carols at Essendon church evening

service 8 December ... Carols afternoon 15 December ... Burgan family returned to home state of SA for annual vacation ... Church saddened by death of Flo Hutchinson on New Year's Day after long illness, also parents of Graham Burgan within four days of each other ... Men's prayer breakfast 22 February, bush dance same evening.

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (Greg Illingworth) Farewell presentation to Max & Coral Ball 29 Dec, followed by fellowship luncheon ... New Year celebrations then prayer vigil till dawn ... Induction service by Ian Tippett, DMED, of Greg Illingworth as minister 9 Feb. Fellowship sausage sizzle, salad slice lunch enjoyed afterwards ... Fete funds pay cost of church computer printer ... Sunday School commenced with new Superintendent, Robyn Parry.

PEEL ST, BALLARAT (Wayne Allen) Wayne Allen inducted into ministry 2 February by Conference President Max Carter. 119 present. Wayne, Cheryl & young family welcomed by Albert Graham. Prayer of dedication by Kevin Rankin ... Wayne & Cheryl have endeared themselves to fellowship ... Sunday Seekers & auxiliaries back into operation. Creative Living are gearing up to commence again this year ... Wayne conducting Bible studies from Dr Keith Farmer's book.

GLEN WAVERLEY (R.B. Elbourne, R.L. Croxford, H.J. Sanders) Church being challenged by Di-

ploma of Dynamic Discipleship led by senior minister ... WALK (Waverley Advanced Leaders Kit) sessions monthly ... Statement of vision & goals for 1992-93 circulated ... Worshipping families received Membership Manual ... Developing Pastoral Skills seminar led by pastoral minister ... Luncheon held for home visitors ... First youth magazine out ... Small groups launch evening well attended ... Youth Nightclub shared by four Churches of Christ.

BRUNSWICK (Vic Quayle) Christmas for Others party & regional carol service went well ... Combined Senior Citizens/Friendship Group Christmas party enjoyable ... Thanks to George Dawson for preaching during holidays of Vic & Lesley Quayle ... Programs now in full swing for 1992 ... Church out- ing to Ballan in early March to visit Georgie Withers ... Church looking forward to joining with Swanston Street in a mission outreach program.

LA TROBE TERR, GEELONG (C.J. Mackenzie) Young people enjoyed camp at Anglesea, discussing future involvement with church ... Ian Allsop guest speaker am 23 Feb & at combined churches meeting same afternoon ... Presentations made to 12-year-old Ben Young for sporting achievements & to Dominic Tripodi on forthcoming marriage to Kym Boram ... Minister celebrates 70th birthday & 50 years in Churches of Christ ministry on 7 March.



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Melbourne, 5-11 September 1993

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Mission

Operation World

How can the local church be mission minded?

The Operation World program began at the Red Hill, Vic, church, by making someone responsible for international mission work.

In the past 12 years the church has raised over \$20,000 for missions in addition to our normal missionary giving through conference. Seven families have received regular financial assistance as they served in the Philippines, Indonesia, Zimbabwe, Russia and PNG. There were regular gifts to the Churches of Christ men's and women's Bible schools in PNG and occasional special offerings for visiting national workers.

Motivation

Our motivation is rooted in Jesus' command to proclaim the gospel to all nations. Since our conference is only working in a few localised areas of the earth we felt the need to give our members a vision of the larger world task. Such a program should be complementary to our conference program.

Responsibility

Responsibility for a mission program must be vested in a group, not an individual. We found it necessary for the mission committee to meet at least bimonthly and present a report regularly to the officers board and a printed report to the annual meeting.

Personalise

It is best to personalise both giving and praying. All our financial support has been

to particular missionaries. We make specific monthly commitments and we have found that the necessary money has come in through the separate envelopes we use. Prayer follows giving but giving does not always follow prayer. The surest way to get prayer support for our missionaries is by encouraging financial support.

Inform

It is essential to keep the church informed. We reproduce and circulate letters from those we assist financially. At times we have a short special mission report and prayer at the morning service. We run an annual special missions weekend and, best of all, we have visits from "our" missionaries when they are home on furlough and from nationals who occasionally come to Australia.

Total Mission

This wider missionary vision has the effect of stimulating interest in all missionary activity, especially our own Overseas Mission Board. A congregation must have a sense of mission, both local and worldwide. A congregation that is not deeply dedicated to a common purpose and task lacks cohesion. It is wide open to conflicting ideas and opinions and tends towards disintegration. Jesus has given his church a specific task to take his message of salvation to all nations. Happy is the congregation that with singleness of purpose accepts this as their responsibility and programs their church life towards its fulfilment.

—Arthur Pigdon

The Last Word

Every man must do two things alone: he must do his own believing, and his own dying

—Martin Luther

Some people are like blisters. They don't show up until the work is finished.

At a banquet, several long-winded speakers covered almost every subject possible. Finally yet another speaker rose, and said, "It seems to me everything has already been talked about. But if someone will tell me what to talk about, I will be grateful." From the back of the room a voice shouted, "Talk about a minute!"

Neighbour: How is your young person doing in college?

Parent: Well, I feel like Aaron did in the wilderness. "Behold I poured in the gold and there came out a calf."

I'm on a seafood diet. Every time I see food, I eat.

I learned how to swim the old way when I was about five years old. My parents took me out to the middle of a river in a boat and then threw me into the water. The swim back to the bank wasn't too bad—the worst part was getting out of the bag.

Why did the children call their rooster Robinson?

Because it Crusoe.

"What is the name of your dog?"

"Ginger."

"Does Ginger bite?"

"No, Ginger snaps!"

Teacher: "When was Rome built?"

Student: "It was built during the night."

Teacher: "The night? Where did you get that idea?"

Student: "Well, everyone knows that Rome wasn't built in a day."



I don't like the way our vacation is starting out!



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