

National Journal of  
Churches of Christ  
in Australia

Vol. 96 • No. 1

6 February 1993

Registered by Australia Post  
Publication No. VAR 0761

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

## Mission—Past and Present



Photo courtesy Bundaberg News-Mail



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National logo of  
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"The Australian Christian" is published  
by the Board of Management of the  
Australian Christian, a Department of  
the National Conference of  
Churches of Christ in Australia.

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Printing by New Litho Pty Ltd  
63 Sunbury Crescent  
Surrey Hills 3127

Responsibility for electoral material is  
accepted by Chris Ambrose,  
3 Hamlyn St, Essendon 3040

This publication is indexed in the  
Australasian Religion Index

ISSN 0004-8852

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Advertising Rates

Displayed: \$5 per column  
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Classifieds: \$12 for the first 25 words  
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## Guest Editorial

# To Honour the Sovereign

Noel W.T. Leitch

"Queensland, Beautiful one day—perfect thenext" has so

accurately and successfully promoted tourism within our vast and beautiful state to those who have yet to envy our beneficial way of life.

Our state, named in honour of the monarch of the time, has so much to offer our nation for the future if our techniques of development and growth are adopted.

As one who would not have aspired to the high office and responsibilities of leadership of the Lord's people, I am singularly honoured to do so within the state of my birth and development.

Queensland clearly has the leading economy of all states. We must have been doing something right over the past decade or two. Recently published figures show a debt rate for Queensland at \$797 for each person compared with \$3426 in NSW and \$5940 in Victoria.

Without doubt, we have the best climate in Australia, a fact testified by the almost 500,000 Victorians reported to have stayed in our Queensland resorts and hotels last year.

In 1988, the year of Expo, the Government of the day received expert advice forecasting that 25% of the Australian population would reside in Queensland by the year 2010. That was when industry dared to evaluate its premier position over the rest of the nation by developing the theme "Top State—Queensland". It is not difficult for Queenslanders to be confident for the future because of the experiences and achievement of the past that have provided an effective infrastructure on which to build.

In the Sunshine State, where there is a pleasant abundance of daylight, our local provincial newspaper carried an editorial on 27 October stating "Queensland Slips Back". The evergreen debate over daylight saving has reared its head again. I thought that we had a referendum to settle the question once and for all. The obviously biased editor's article presents the same



tired old argument to conclude in the astounding statement, "We simply can't afford to live without daylight saving."

I was under the impression that our nation needed to improve productivity and international competitiveness, rather than to provide more leisure time.

All Australians, including Queenslanders, need to get their priorities right.

Recently many of us had endured with mixed feelings and some appre-

hension the newly adopted tourism slogan which appears to be couched in alien terms—"Yo, way to go!" Time alone will tell whether the change will have evangelical appeal throughout Australia but meanwhile I am convinced that Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh except...", a message that needs to be read regularly with evangelistic zeal.

Churches of Christ in Queensland, so named in honour of our Sovereign, the Lord of all creation, have entered into their 110th year of mission and outreach to the people of Queensland.

A backdrop of development, growth and blessing from the hands of our Lord has been the reward for all the years of endeavour. Therefore my theme as Conference President was self-selecting, based upon our history and our confidence for the future.

The theme "Continuing Steadfastly" has been based upon the authorised version of Acts 2:42, "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." The word steadfast is not in common use today. Newer translations use alternate phrases, such as "devoted themselves to", etc. One dictionary describes steadfast as *constant, firm, unwavering*.

The aspect of continuation when coupled with steadfastness caters for future development and growth.

I believe that the Lord's people will experience the unity for which our Lord



## A Day to Remember

1 January 1993—Centenary of Kanaka Mission

prayed before laying down his life on the cross if we focus on the four areas in Acts 2:42: the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking bread and prayer.

As the Lord's people in Queensland step into the future in unity it is my prayer that it will be in a partnership with our Lord and his purpose. Just as Paul exhorted the Corinthian church to "be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58).

One of the highlights of our October annual conference was an open forum that stimulated and challenged us to discover who we are and the scope of our mission in Queensland to those who already worship with us, to those we are building bridges in our community and to those who we sincerely expect to continue to relocate into the Sunshine State.

We look forward to increased fellowship with the Lord's people who will visit or relocate to become a part of our dynamic Christian fellowship in the Sunshine State as we collectively honour the sovereign.

**Noel Wallace Thomas Leitch** is a respected dairy farmer from a West Moreton rural region. He has served the West Moreton Circuit of Churches of Christ as regional president and in his home church, Rosevale, has been deacon and elder in excess of thirty years, and is currently Queensland Conference President.

He has served on the board of Kenmore Christian College for 20 years and has been chairman of the Church Development and Trust Fund for a number of years.

Noel and wife Margaret (Shella) have a son Ian who is an active deacon in the Rosevale Church of Christ and two married daughters who have presented them with eight grandchildren.

On a perfect, tropical summer afternoon, over 200 people gathered on a hilltop in Childers, 50 km from Bundaberg, Qld, to commemorate the establishment of the Kanaka mission 100 years ago. They came from Rockhampton, Gladstone, Brisbane, the Gold Coast, Toowoomba and Sydney to mark this most significant occasion in the history of Churches of Christ mission work. Among those present was Mrs Marion Peers (the grand daughter of Missionary John Thompson) and Mrs Hope Eggmolese (the daughter of an original islander).

Exactly 100 years ago to the day, an enthusiastic John Thompson, then 34 years of age, gathered a group of Pacific Islanders (known as "Kanakas") to mark the establishment of a new mission work among their people. Previously, during 1892, Thompson had visited churches in NSW, Victoria, and SA, pleading the needs of the Kanaka labourers in the Queensland canefields. The Foreign Mission Committees in each of these states, in co-operation with the Queensland Conference, pledged to support Thompson as our first churches of Christ missionary to the Kanaka people. Thompson's first report describes the occasion simply. "Commenced first January 1893. First meeting held in Mr Baker's barn, when we led a crowded meeting on the last night of the old year, 1892. First meeting held in the New Year on Lord's Day morning, at the Doolbi mill..."

The two-hour, open-air service of commemoration was marked by fascinating historical recollection, heart-warming personal reminiscences, and moving expressions of partnership, as the descendants of original islanders joined in the celebration of 100 years of mission to their people.

The meeting was chaired by Ken Warne Secretary of the Queensland Overseas Mission Board, who also acted as

representative for the Australian Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board. In his remarks Ken traced the work of the many agencies involved in the preparation for the day's event. In particular, tribute was paid to the contribution of the late Bob Dewar, former member of the Queensland board, whose enthusiasm generated much of the interest in this occasion.

Local identities recounted their memories of the islanders' role in the cane industry, and various prominent historical events. The highlight of the historical segment was an interview with 101-year-old Harold Blake. "Blakie" (who was confined to a wheelchair) recalled his personal memories of John Thompson, who he affectionately described as "everyone's friend". Afterward Blakie was given a standing ovation.

Descendants of the islanders were also represented in the program. Rex Eggmolese, whose grandfather was "blackbirded" from East Santo sang, in a moving personal testimony, "Behold, God is my strength and salvation".

The occasional address was brought by Graham Warne, former missionary to Vanuatu, and Vice-Principal of Kenmore Christian College. Graham traced the development of the mission and paid tribute to the faithfulness and compassion of

John Thompson, who brought dignity and hope to these displaced peoples. Using Genesis 50 as his text, he referred to Joseph's confrontation with his brothers after years of separation. A wise and mature Joseph responded to his treatment, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place?... You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, in order to bring the present result, and to preserve many people alive".

"The best tribute we can pay to Thompson is to take up his mantle of compassion and sacrificial service to those who remain displaced and dispossessed in our communities," Graham said.

The climax of the service was the unveiling of a commemorative plaque, by the President of the Queensland Conference, Noel Leitch. Prior to the unveiling, Rex Eggmolese and his cousin Jeanette Kirk (Eggmolese) sang "We are standing on holy ground", deeply moving the gathering.

In a memorable symbolic act, Dr Don Stewart, Acting Conference Secretary, invited former missionaries to Vanuatu and descendants of the islanders to place their hands on the stone, as he led in the prayer of dedication. For many this was the most significant act of the whole service, as islanders and white Australians expressed their unity in Christ, and partnership in this work of God.

For all present, 1 January 1993, will be a day to remember!



• Jeanette Kirk and Rex Eggmolese, singing at the dedication of the plaque



## Christmas Bowl

### Record levels of giving

The Christmas Bowl Appeal (presented as Aid for Africa), reached record levels at the Nunawading, Vic, church. A total of \$16,500 was raised, surpassing the previous giving record of \$13,100 (1991). The congregation has also raised an additional \$7,500 to assist the Londua School, Vanuatu. Overall the congregation has been able to support missions, poverty relief, Conference Departments for a total of \$40,500 during 1992.

## Foster Changes

### Conclusion Of Ministry

Over 260 crowded the church at 7 pm on 20 December for the concluding service of Rod Foster's four year ministry at Launceston, Tas. The program included Christmas singing, the dedication of Cameron Spaulding, son of Joy and Craig, and a musical presentation by our own Adoration Singers of "Love Was When".

After Rod's address, "What have we done with Christ-mas?", there was supper in the

foyer, and it seemed that everyone stayed to wish the Fosters God's blessing as they go to Queensland. Rod will become Conference Secretary of Queensland Churches of Christ. Elder Henry Dubbeld spoke appreciatively of the service of the whole family and presented them with a farewell gift. Daughter Jodie will stay in Launceston to finish her dentistry studies. —P. Harrison

## Ministers' Wives

### Supporting one another

Being the wife of a minister has special privileges and pressures. Coping with unpredictable hours, phone calls and all kinds of people coming to the door are just a few of the stresses we face. We have the privilege of sharing in special times in people's lives. Our children also experience a lifestyle few others share. Some churches expect a lot from the minister's family, others are loving and considerate.

Some ministers' wives are employed, others are almost fulltime unpaid Church staff. Whichever way it is, the wife is part of the ministry. Her support or lack of it, her participation or lack of cooperation, can

increase or diminish her husband's effectiveness.

The unique privileges and challenges can sometimes seem overwhelming. It is possible to feel lonely—that no one else has those pressures. That's why we, as ministers' wives, need to get together sometimes. In the Melbourne area, we have had two evenings together in 1992 and all enjoyed the experience.

In 1993 our first meeting will be on Monday 22 February at 7:45 pm, in the lounge area of Richmond Church of Christ. Encourage your minister's wife to come. A small plate of supper would be helpful.

For any enquiries, telephone Marjan Beer, (03) 428 4844.

• *Marjan Beer is a minister's wife and co-pastor at Richmond Church of Christ, Vic.*

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## Towards a New Partnership

### International Year for Indigenous Peoples

The Australian Council of Churches welcomes the United Nations' declaration of 1993 as the International Year for the World's Indigenous Peoples.

Colonisation has meant suffering for indigenous people in many lands. In Australia that suffering was great, and it continues. Consequences of the pernicious *terra nullius* doctrine continue to be felt, notwithstanding the High Court decision overturning this legal fiction. Many problems and issues highlighted by the Royal Commission on Black Deaths in Custody have yet to be addressed. Racism still stalks our land. The hurt remains.

But evil does not have the last word. Christians, with all people of good will, welcome

the theme of this International Year: "Indigenous People—A New Partnership".

We are pleased that Australia's Parliament was able to affirm, in the first resolution in the new Parliament House, its desire that "the Commonwealth further promote reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander citizens providing recognition of their special place in the Commonwealth of Australia". We look to the recently established Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation to enhance the process of reconciliation and the due recognition of Aboriginal rights and entitlements. "A New Partnership" has direct implications for Australia's churches, since they embrace indigenous

people and descendants of colonisers as well as more recent arrivals in this country. Together we will pray for the healing of our land and seek a deeper understanding of the unique place within it of Ab-

original and Islander people.

Together we invite the people of Australia to find fresh ways of sharing their varied histories, cultures and spiritualities, in a new partnership for a renewed Australia.

## Fiji in '93

### New work among Fiji-Indians



• Carla, Adam, Whitney, Peter and Vivienne Clegg at the Elizabeth church

On Sunday, 10 January, Peter and Vivienne Clegg were commissioned for the new work in Fiji on behalf of Australian Churches of Christ. The Elizabeth church in South Australia was the scene of this gathering. The hundred people present shared in the service of commitment and heard greetings from around Australia as those who could not be present promised their support and encouragement for the family.

The beginning of a work among Fiji-Indians is not a quick decision or one taken lightly. The Federal Conference in Brisbane in 1990 gave overwhelming support to the proposal by the Australian Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board after very careful consideration.

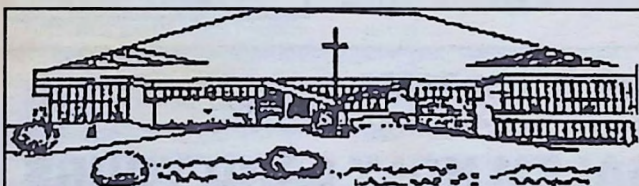
The gaining of the work permit took almost exactly 12 months and was made possible by widespread support in Fiji. The presentation of information was always honest and this required a clear working through of issues.

The Clegg family was commissioned with assurances of love and support from the Aus-

tralian churches. They will be received warmly in Fiji by those who know and love Christ and who have consistently invited us over the past four years to share with them in mission.

The last new venture undertaken by the Overseas Mission Board was in 1958 in Papua New Guinea when Frank Beale and Harold Finger were the pioneers.

This is for us a sign of life and faithfulness to the commission of Christ to share good news with others. Your participation is invited.



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## Christian Cricketers

*Teams meet in another way*

West Indian paceman Ian Bishop and wicket-keeper David Williams were delighted to receive the Christian company of Australian Cricket

team chaplain Mark Tronson and Les Sillis, the National Coordinator of Christians in Sport. Mark caught up with them at training when he was with the

• West Indian paceman Ian Bishop with Australian Cricket Team Chaplain Mark Tronson at the Gabba after cricket chapel



members of the Australian team. Bishop said, "While we're so busy with our schedules and cricketing demands, the thing we like most is meeting Christians so as to encourage us, rather than speaking."

A voluntary chapel service for the Australian cricketers was established this season, a 20-minute time slot, the morning prior to each of the test matches.

In September Mark spoke with team captain Allan Border in relation to such an opportunity already enjoyed in other professional sports such as rugby, motor racing, baseball, motorcycling and basketball, and the Australian Institute of Sport.

As a result of these discussions, letters were sent to Australian Cricket Board (ACB) officials, state officials, the Chairman of the Australian Cricket Board, the team coach and manager.

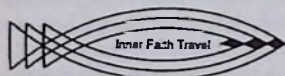
After Mark spoke with ACB Board Chairman Allan

Crompton the week prior to the First Test to ensure there were no obstacles, Barrie Sutton, the Victorian Shield Cricket chaplain, took the "Cricket Chapel" service on Christmas Day.

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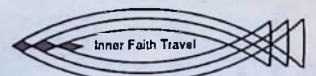


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## Safe from Reality

Reflections on 1992 Christmas editorials

**B**y and large the editorials did not agree with the Queen. For them her *annus horribilis* (horrible year) was not to be found in their reflections.

You need to have some sympathy with editorial writers at Christmas. How do you say something meaningful, even hopeful, to readers who have seen "the shifty 70s, through to the greedy 80s and now the brutal 90s". (*The Age* 24.12.92)

Readers have seen half a million workers sacked, recognised that Mogadishu was not a city in which to plan a holiday, and watched the horrific and brutal meaning of the phrase "ethnic cleansing" in Yugoslavia.

It was also, to balance the picture, a year of hope. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, for example, believes that South Africa in 1992 is celebrating its last "White Christmas"!

Christmas editorials usually fall into three categories—the sentimental, the provocative and the intriguing. Some of course shouldn't have been written, for they are either factually wrong or mischievous. The problem with the sentimental editorial is that in striving to be all things to all people it either distorts or misinforms. Queensland Christians would have been a little bemused to read that the basic ideal of Christianity is "that we should love our neighbour as ourselves". (*Courier Mail* 24.12.92)

They would have been happier with the Melbourne editor who wrote that "Christmas proclaims that the Christian God is not some remote creator who winds up his universe like a toy (and) goes away...but a God of love reaching out to communicate that love to man". (*The Age* 24.11.92)

One of the continuing confusions of editorial writers is the link they make between multiculturalism and the loss of significance of Christmas. In 1992 this was best seen in the suggestion that "as Australia

moves closer and closer to being a multicultural society...the true spirit of Christmas seems sometimes to be in danger of vanishing (*Courier Mail*). The *Australian* editorial writer bluntly stated that such antipathy to multiculturalism, "arises mostly from ignorance and prejudice". And she's right. What was surprising, given the almost unprecedented church comment on the effects of the GST, was how little space was given over to the current economic turmoil in Australia.

Readers in NSW were challenged to reflect on the fact that today the test of any economic or political policy must be: what will be its effect on the poor? To design taxes, to close mines, to dismiss workers cannot be decided on the basis of economics alone. The all important question is: what is happening to people?

The peril of economic rationalism and trusting to the free play of market forces is that people can be sacrificed. Deregulation can so easily lead to further suffering of the poor and a widening injustice. To leave people at the mercy of blind impersonal forces is unacceptable. Human values must always take precedence over profits, government revenue and even economic growth. (*Sydney Morning Herald* 24.12.92)

Within the collection of editorials and amidst the gangle of paragraphs there's always an insight that stimulates reflection (or encourages a sermon!).

Take the Melbourne *Age's* editor, buried in the long editorial is the following story:

When Jean Pierre Huber was a child he stood one day with his mother beside an anthill. The ants scurried in all directions. When the boy remarked that they appeared to be afraid of him, his mother

## Their Gutters Runneth Over

Storm damage at Lyons

On Sunday, 6. December, the Lyons, ACT, church was damaged by the heaviest storm that Canberra's Woden Valley had in 20 years. The suburbs of Lyons and Chifley took the brunt of the storm. Because gutters, downpipes and storm water drains could not cope with the excessive load, rain poured into almost all areas of the church. Only the rooms in the middle of the building, the foyer, kitchen and minister's office, were spared.

People arriving for a meeting were kept busy trying to collect as much of the water that was pouring in as possible. However, substantial damage had already occurred in

the halls and the chapel area and all most could do was to wait for the rain to ease before they could consider leaving. When the rains did stop, carpets were lifted, but as so much of the community was similarly affected it was some time before the drying could begin.

During this time end of year activities and worship services needed to be held. The Lyons congregation has been most grateful for the help and generosity of the nearby Lyons Primary School and the Southern Cross Club. The Kids Club had their Christmas Celebration at the newly built Video Arts area at Henry's family restaurant (two days before the arrival of the video machines) and the service the following Sunday morning (13 December) was held in the Sky Lounge at the Yamba Sports Club. That Sunday was the annual Sunday School Christmas Presentation Service, which went particularly well in the unusual surroundings.



• Service and Sunday School in the Sports Club

said, "But you are fond of them. You wouldn't harm them." To which the future naturalist replied, "Yes, but how can I let the ants know that I am fond of them—except by becoming an ant?"

Or the sentence in the national daily, "The mystery of faith has diminished among many Christians, while the mystery of the universe has increasingly drawn physicists to almost religious conclusions". (*The Australian* 24.12.92)

Or, finally, as preachers get carried away with the attacks on the commercialisation of Christmas, it was again *The Australian* editorialist who suggested that "in the present economic climate; if Christmas were not commercial enough for our retailers, unemployment might well be compounded. In the resulting despondency, even the memory of Christ might seem out of mind". Store that one away in your "Christmas Sermon 1993" file! —Alan Matheson



# Letters to the Editor

## Letters are limited to 200 words

### Virgin Birth

To the Editor,

After reading Ron Graham's scholarly equivocation on this subject ("AC" 19 December) it was a pleasure to attend a secular Christmas function where all three carols sung affirmed the virgin birth.

The doctrine of the virgin birth is integral to how we understand Christ's divinity and God's saving purpose. John writes of the Word becoming flesh and dwelling ("pitching a tent") among us. This pre-existent Word was described as being the agent of creation in whom was life and through whom "nothing was made that was made" (John 1:3). In the light of this, the fertilisation of a human ovum is a very small miracle indeed.

Among other things, the doctrine indicates to us that the birth of Christ came not as a result of a human decision nor of a husband's will but as a result of the predetermined will of God. Co-incidentally, these are the characteristics of those who, accepting Jesus as the source of life, qualify to become the children of God (John 1:13). There is, therefore, a parallel between the birth of the Child of God and the emergence of the children of God. Is the process by which Spirit is born into the flesh any less a miracle than the process by which flesh is born of the Spirit (John 3:5-8)?

The pre-existent relationship of the Son to the Father offered no special advantages as several texts affirm (Phil 2:5-11, Heb 2:14-18, 2 Cor 8:9).

If Luke, after carefully weighing all the facts (1:3), describes Mary as a virgin and this is supported by Matthew and a virgin birth is theologically consistent with the general picture of Christ that emerges from the New Testament, why seek to dismiss it? If the virgin birth did not occur, the accounts of Matthew and Luke are lies or myths, Joseph was a cuckold and Jesus was illegitimate.

We need to accept the virgin birth as a miracle which, like all

miracles, involves some departures from the natural order and discussion about how the Holy Spirit fashioned the necessary genes and chromosomes is about as helpful as discussing how the molecules got changed when Jesus changed water into wine.

—Harold E. Hayward  
(Berowra, NSW)

### Blatant Discrimination

To the Editor,

I too am writing to express surprise, but not agreement with Nora Handasyde regarding the advertisement she so virulently attacks.

Despite any legislation that she refers to regarding the advertising of positions, I still believe in the good old-fashioned freedom of choice. Let us face it, this legislation has been mainly brought about to appease and grab votes of the feminist lobby, and together with other "enlightened" legislation, has contributed very much to the denigration of family values and the break-up of the family.

The logical flow-on has been the slackening of public morality toward such things as "single" families or bastardy as it was in the past, the acceptance of promiscuity and fornication as a norm, and the worst, acceptance of pervers and deviates as following an acceptable alternative lifestyle, even with some circles advocating their admission to the pulpit!

I have no doubt that the officers of the Padstow, NSW, church have prayerfully considered their need, and if it is in God's will, they will receive it despite ill-considered criticism.

I conclude by referring the good lady to 1 Timothy 2:11-14, Colossians 3:18, and 1 Corinthians 11:3.

—J. H. Luxton  
(Biggenden, Qld)

### The Virgin Birth of Jesus

To the Editor

Will Ronald Graham define to us his reason for writing about this subject ("AC" 19.12.92). Ron, are you saying that as Luke is the only Gospel

author to spell out the virgin birth of Jesus in detail that there is no real reason to accept it?

The Roman Catholic teaching that Mary is "ever virgin" stems from its belief that Mary herself was conceived without the taint of "original sin".

This may be error on its part, but I haven't heard them say that "Jesus passed out of Mary's body in such a way as to leave her medically still a virgin".

Ron, are you casting doubt upon the testimony of both Mary and Joseph? "Only Mary could vouch for conception by, as she believed, the Holy Spirit". No doubt your article is very erudite, Ron, but to what purpose? If Joseph knew that he was not the natural father, and Mary only imagined that the Holy Spirit was, then who do you imagine was Jesus' real father?

Of course Jesus had a "secret weapon" otherwise he would

have been simply a deluded fanatic. There have been many such, but no man left the mark on history that Jesus has. He couldn't have paid the price for our sin unless he was the Son of God, made flesh for our sake. His was not the role of superman, but simply to reveal the love of God for a lost world, to redeem (buy back) God's lost property.

—Gladys Butler  
(Bruce Rock, WA)

### Eternal Life—The Now and the Not Yet

To the Editor

I congratulate Stephen Curkpatrick on his article in the November issue "Eternal Life—We're In It!" He has done an excellent job of dealing with the now aspect of eternal life. I agree with his appraisal of why the images of salvation seen as "getting to heaven" have prevailed. I would say in addition,

## Letters from Tertius

### A New Definition

To the Editor,

I have always been interested in definitions. But some words seem impossible to define. Love is one of them. We can love chocolates and love our wives and kids and love breakfast in bed. They even talk about "making love" and they don't mean what we meant by that when we were young.

But I was reading a book yesterday and it said that "love is when a person is as concerned for the total well being of another person as he is for his own." What a definition! I couldn't help thinking about it all day. That's just what love is.

Then suddenly I thought, "Hey, that's not new, That's what Jesus meant when he told us to love our neighbours as ourselves."

I suppose I've heard "love your neighbour as yourself" thousands of times, until it has lost its punch. You sort of think ... sure, love your neighbour as yourself ... do him a good turn from time to time ... or don't do him a bad turn if you can't do him a good one. And you think you have loved your neighbour as yourself.

This "new definition" woke me up. There aren't very many people around whose total well being I am as concerned about as I am with my own. I would be most happy of course for everybody in the world to be completely fulfilled. But that's not loving them in terms of the definition, both the new and the original forms of it.

Well, the stuffing has been knocked out of my self satisfaction. I realise now that I don't do very well at loving my neighbour as myself. The difference now is that I no longer think I do.

Maybe if I really tidied up on the "love God with heart and soul and mind" bit, the "love thy neighbour" bit would come more naturally to me.

Your loving neighbour!  
Tertius



## Letters to the Editor

that there has been a general lack of biblical preaching and teaching on what the holistic gospel and particularly discipleship is all about.

So often distorted perception is a result of an overreaction to other distorted perceptions. What Curkpatrick writes against is probably still a legacy from the Great Reformation. Certainly justification by faith is a central biblical theme, but it is far more than just a ticket to heaven when we die. Paul dramatically teaches that it should dynamically influence our day to day living.

While Curkpatrick covered the now aspect of eternal life well, I believe he has overreacted to the "heaven when we die" concept and tended to throw the baby out with the bath water. Eternal life is clearly shown in Scripture as both now and not yet. It seems to me that when the biblical writers wrote about the not yet aspect of full salvation, they did so to encourage and motivate their readers as they were facing trials and suffering.

For me personally, the assurance of being with God when I die was an integral issue in my conversion. I went through a similar, but much less dramatic experience as Martin Luther. I grew up in a Christian tradition and knew about God and Jesus and the cross. Yet all I could do was wish about "heaven", hoping that one day I might "make the grade". The now aspect of eternal life has developed in me as I have grown in my understanding of the gospel and different theological perspectives.

The elderly, the sick and dying, those under oppression, surely need to know that they go to a far better place when they die physically. There are indeed times when the "not yet" aspect of eternal life has a more important role than the "now". Even Paul admitted that he'd rather be with the Lord (the not yet) than sitting in prison writing letters (the now) (Phil. 1:21-24).

Christians are to live and enjoy eternal life now. Amen. But we know that the kingdom

of God will not be fully consummated until Jesus returns.

What we see now is the inbreaking of the kingdom as the Spirit of Christ moves in the lives of his faithful community. We pray and work to cooperate with the Spirit in bringing in the kingdom more fully. But I personally also long for the "not yet", the time when "there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain". (Rev 21:4)

—Ron Braun  
(Carnegie, Vic)

### Preachers' Kids and the Church

To the Editor

I read with interest the pamphlet by Brian White entitled "Are Preachers' Kids Ditching the Church?" ("AC" 5 December). The statistics didn't surprise me. The areas of concern did a bit. For instance, preachers' kids share the mobility of home and school with other members of the community (e.g. armed service families), as they share "busyness" of father and mother with a large section of today's community. The one advantage preachers' kids do have is that, in the main, they have a very good example set, and there is quality time shared in the family. The area which is unique is the "interference" of the church community. I would rather call this a "mother-like" concern for the general well-being and spiritual "rightness" of the minister, his wife and his family. This is proven by the fact that someone saw it necessary to be concerned enough to publish figures on the number of preachers' kids ditching the church. Shouldn't our focus and concern be on all those church members and their kids who ditch the church?

—Beth Butler  
(Ainslie, ACT)

### The Proselytising Church

To the Editor

E.M. Brough ("AC" 21 November) takes the WCC to task for condemning missionary work among the Jews and for saying that "claims of faith" should not be 'used as weap-

ons against anyone", and asserts that at the WCC's Canberra Assembly in 1991 "no particular faith but all faiths (were) acceptable, even atheist and pagan".

Christianity is both continuous and discontinuous with Judaism and the salvation of the Jews is a complex issue that cannot be resolved by the selection of a few biblical texts.

Consider how the Jewish Christian, Paul, who never ceased to be Jewish, wrestles with it in Rom. 10:11.

Claims of faith should never be used as "weapons" against anyone. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ stands at the door and knocks: Love will not break in or coerce.

The Canberra Assembly looked sometimes like a religious community, at other times like a seminary, at still other times like a parliament. The memory that I most cherish is of it as a religious community, centred in daily worship. And worship was through and through christocentric and trinitarian. I am almost tempted to invoke Scripture, 'Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.'

—Ronald Graham  
(Johnston, Iowa, USA)

### Offensive Behaviour

To the Editor,

It has been some months now since I wrote a Guest Editorial entitled "I'm Offended Too" ("AC" 22 August).

I have been interested to notice that the only reply was from someone offended by the original use of "that word" and accusing *The Australian Christian* of using my article as a defence

of their original use of the word. I hardly think that the "AC" needed me to defend them!

The disappointing thing is that while we argue about points of law and how offended we are, we continue to allow the kind of offensive behaviour that I referred to to continue. Since I wrote, churches have split, power brokers have had their way and there remains more hurt ministers and congregations, some of whom may never darken the doors of a church again. Do you blame them?

While we continue to allow power politics, lies, slander, irrelevant worship, lack of discipleship and role modelling and fear of change to dominate our churches we will fail to be what God intends us to be.

I pray 1993 will be a year of common sense and allowing of the Holy Spirit to dominate for a change.

—Chris Hutton  
(Nerang, Qld)

### Today's Ungodliness

To the Editor,

(In reply to Gladys Butler's letter of 21 November, 1992)

In 1 Cor. 14:37 Paul says, "If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command." Those words closely follow Paul's instructions, "As in all the congregations of the saints, women should remain silent in the churches. They are not permitted to speak, but must be in submission as the Law says." This seems consistent with his

*Continued on page 11*



**Gordon and Lesley Stirling**

*An evening of tribute for their ministries in Australia and New Zealand*

Boronia Church of Christ, 7.30 pm, Saturday, 6 March 1993

Supper provided

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## Books

### The Case of the Secret Assassin

by Kel Richards (Hodder & Stoughton) \$11.95

The author notes: "The Case of the Secret Assassin is history in modern dress. Despite the telephones, guns, cars and pizzas that you will find in this book, the story is inspired by a recorded historical event." Like the author's previous book, *The Case of the Vanishing Corpse*, this book is a fast-moving, often amusing biblical whodunnit, which this time is set in the year 57 when Paul has been taken



into custody by the Roman Governor, Felix, and is awaiting trial on a charge of disturbing the peace and desecrating the Temple. The charges have been brought by the Jewish officials. There is also a price on Paul's head and it has been learnt that the most efficient and expensive hitman in the Roman Empire has been engaged to murder him. Ben Bartholomew's firm has been retained to advise on Paul's legal defence but he and his son Sam (the main detective character of this book) are soon trying to foil the assassination plot.

This is a great read in the traditional whodunnit style and also deals with the Christian faith and the history of the church. The story zips along in great style and is quite engrossing. (I had several staff members lined up to read it once I had finished it for the review.) There are some very humorous parts in the book and some excellent puns. My only criticism is that Timothy comes across as too preachy at some stages and would have put me off the Christian faith with his dialogue.

Kel Richards, a well-known Sydney broadcaster, has another book in the series almost written and I am looking forward to it too. —CRA

### A Yearbook for Australian Churches

by Peter Bentley, Tricia Blombery and Philip J. Hughes (Christian Research Association) \$18

The Christian Research Association (CRA) is doing the church in Australia a great service by producing an annual yearbook that contains some interesting research material and listings of names and addresses for most denominations and a wide variety of Christian organisations. It is great to have such information in one volume. This is the third year that CRA

have produced the yearbook and its value as a tool is growing.

Along with the directory of denominational and other Christian organisations the yearbook has a section entitled "Review of the Church". This section contains some interesting reflections by selected church leaders on their church (this year Assemblies of God, the Reformed Churches, the Russian Orthodox Church, the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Uniting Church are reported on including reflections on the futures of each of these denominations). This is followed by a series of articles that look



at religious education in Australia and highlights some of the issues that are being faced in this area of ministry by the church. The research reports that follow also look in more detail at the religious education scene in Australia.

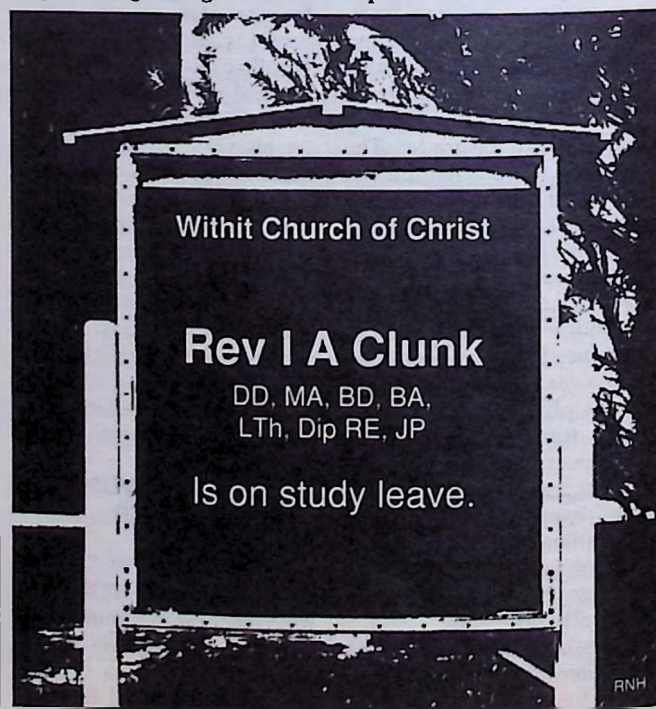
The selected bibliography of religious books published in Australia or about Australia in 1991-92 I have found very interesting and highlighted some material that I should be obtaining.

The 1993 Yearbook is available for \$18, which includes postage, from the Christian Research Association, Locked Bag 23, Kew 3101. —CRA

### How To Be Pentecostal without Speaking in Tongues

by Tony Campolo (Word Publishing) \$12.50

Tony is a Professor of Sociology of Eastern College, Pennsylvania, USA. In this paperback he gives a short history of the Pentecostal movement and sets out to define terms used by Pentecostals. He also equates a lot of "Pentecostal jargon" with the Emperor's new clothes, a facility with the approved words that covers spiritual nakedness. He is all for fellowship between Pentecostals and other Christians. He states the case for what is known as "the experiential". He says that "Christianity is transrational, involving ecstasy and a surge of psychic energy" as well as being a system of beliefs. He believes that the fruits of the spirit are more important than the gifts and that they do not necessarily go together. For him "tongues" are given where they are needed but are not a sign of superior spirituality. While most Pentecostals find their base in 1 Corinthians 12 and 14, he finds his in Romans 8 and a considerable amount of space is given to an exposition of it, also Ephesians 6 in relation to "spiritual warfare". He is strong for Christian social justice and environmental action and believes that the "principalities and powers" thrive in unjust and oppressive environments. He exposes Pentecostal phonies and charlatans. All denominations have them, but by its very nature Pentecostalism is a happy hunting ground for them. This book can help non-Pentecostals to examine a rationale for Pentecostalism at its best, and can help charismatics to take another look at what Tony calls the "downside" of the movement so that they do not get caught with the Emperor's clothes on. —GRS





## Letters to the Editor

instructions in 1 Tim. 2:11-12, "A woman should learn in silence and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or have authority over a man; she must be silent." The apostle goes on to remind us not only that it was the woman who was deceived and not the man, but also that man was created first. This, I believe, is a reference to Gen. 2, where we see that God made a "suitable helper" for the man. None of these things are inconsistent with any other of Paul's words. That God does not show preference and bestows sonship equally on Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female (Gal. 3:28) does not mean that God has given the same role in the church to both men and women. 1 Cor. 11:3 tells us that God is the head of Christ. Does this mean that God feels threatened by his son? Do we still have the mentality in the church that submission is inferiority? Far more pertinent than men being threatened by the quest of women for "equality" is that some women seem threatened by the Lord's call to submission (1 Pet. 3:56, 1 Cor. 14:34, Eph. 5:22, 1 Tim. 2:11). This causes them to see apparent inconsistencies in Paul's writings and between Paul and Christ, thus holding the Scriptures up to ridicule.

Yes, God is mocked by today's unruliness and ungodliness in the church itself.

—Henry Harding  
(Alexander Heights, WA)

### Ecumenical "Church Crawl"

To the Editor,

With Alan Matheson's encouragement ("AC" 19 December), we have just completed our annual holiday ecumenical "church crawl". We have always welcomed the opportunity to see how others do worship and ministry. This time, we experienced Uniting Church and Anglican services in both the high and low traditions. Even in a cathedral they experience hiccoughs in the PA system, but this did not detract from the beauty and richness of the sung Eucharist. At another church, a bell rang, and

our bewildered son ran in from the porch, declaring, "I didn't do it!" He enjoyed talking with the robed organist. At yet another, we winced at a sermon that seemed to elevate law over love, yet the congregation was obviously bathed in grace.

We join Alan in recommending the exploitation of opportunities to worship with other traditions. The Christian family is a rich tapestry, weaving together a variety of temperaments, preferences and experiences, and giving expression to life in "one Lord, one faith, one baptism". We limit our encounter of such if we never venture beyond our tribal boundaries.

—Dennis Ryle  
(Aldgate Valley, SA)

### Tree or Weed

To the Editor,

I am writing because of Stephen Curkpatrick's article "Parable of the Mustard Weed" ("AC" 22 August). First, if Jesus said there was/is a mustard tree, guess who I'm going to believe—certainly not Stephen. Second, I have friends who returned from an Israeli tour with small phials of mustard "tree" seeds. It looks like pale ash, the seed is so small.

Third, a quick call to the senior horticulturalist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, revealed that there are some six to eight varieties of the weed-like type Stephen refers to, but included in the species is the mustard tree with the botanical name *Nicotiana glauca* (the emphasis being on tree in its description). On this basis Stephen's article crumbles away to nothing. The Kingdom of God that Jesus spoke of, lived out and proclaimed is mighty to pulling down strongholds of evil in lives and nations, building up broken hearts, saving and restoring, healing in body, mind and spirit—what is mightier than that? No other Kingdom matches it in any shape or form. I consider the article "Parable of the Mustard Weed" demeaning to Jesus and not in any way elevating to the spirit, soul or body.

—B. McIntyre  
(Dromana, Vic)

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### Life of Tertius

Order forms for Tertius' autobiography  
in the next issue of the Australian Christian!

### A Holiday You Will Not Forget

as a valued guest at the  
**Daku Estate Resort, Savusavu, Fiji**  
Several tours departing over May-August, 1993

The Daku Estate Resort is owned and operated by the Anglican Diocese of Polynesia with a dual purpose—to help generate much-needed funds for local villages, schools and churches, and to provide overseas visitors with an unique insight in the "real Fiji" by developing friendship and fellowship with the Fijian Christian community.

This is not your normal tourist fare—this is vintage Fiji without a trace of tinsel—few people get to enjoy it as you now can.

The resort is set on the shores of Savusavu Bay, one of Fiji's renowned beauty spots. Accommodation is in Fijian-styled bures with private bathroom facilities, refrigerator, tea/coffee making facilities and private balconies with panoramic views across the Bay.

**Your cost is a modest \$1795 per person for 10 days**, and includes all airfares, all transfers, meals, morning and afternoon teas, touring and entertainment—in effect, every item of air and ground activity. A tour around the picturesque Suva-Nadi coast is also included.

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# Happenings

Church members involved in community organisations assisting the unemployed have an opportunity to learn techniques that restore hope and bring results at the Australian Association of Careers Counsellors Third National Conference being held in Sydney 4-6 March. Richard Nelson Bolles, author of *What Color Is Your Parachute*, will deliver the major address. Registration inquiries to Maggie Prosser, Conference Convenor, on (02) 487 3555 or (02) 489 2313 (AH).

As many as 25,000 have made personal decisions to follow Christ over the past six months in a revival that has affected a third of the 150 Assemblies of God churches in Egypt. Until this year there were only 15,000 church members.

A milestone was reached in 1992 when the Gospel of Mark was published in a language spoken by 500,000 in the West African nation of Cote d'Ivoire. The language, Bete Daloa, is the 2,000th language in which at least one book of the Bible has been translated. Estimates as to the numbers of languages in the world range from 5,000-7,000.

A total of 367 students graduated from China's 14 theological institutions last year. Since 1985 more than 1,500 students have graduated from Chinese seminaries, and 1,300 of them now serve in local churches.

There are about 1,860 Christian denominations in the USA—the second-largest total for any country in the world, outstripped only by South Africa.

The Assemblies of God gained more than 5 million new members worldwide during the past 2 years. They now have 21.5 million adherents in 124 countries, served by 1,600 missionaries and 131,000 national pastors and lay workers. 14 million members live in Brazil.

The annual church service of the Inner Eastern region Church Caring Groups in Melbourne is being held at 8 pm on 22 February at St David's Anglican Church, 1111 Doncaster Rd, East Doncaster. The speaker is Adrian Scott, personnel manager of ITIM, on "Caring in the Workplace".

The Principal of Ranwadi High School in Vanuatu, Silas Bull, spent 4 weeks in January at the Institute of Educational Administration, Geelong, Vic. While in Victoria he met up with former missionaries and teachers from Vanuatu.

A successful application has been made to the Moroccan authorities for permission to found a Bible Society in that country. The new society will operate as a commercial entity with the title "Service Biblique au Maroc" (SBAM) and will distribute Scriptures through the expatriate churches in

the country. Stocks of Scriptures in non-national languages, notably in French, Spanish and English, will be held at the SBAM headquarters in Casablanca, where the Catholic diocese of Rabat has rented out a disused church to the new Society.

Dr Paul White, commonly known as the "Jungle Doctor", passed away suddenly on 21 December. During his life Dr White influenced many communicators. Through his Jungle Doctor books, filmstrips and audio-visu- als Dr White pointed many to the Lord Jesus Christ and to missionary service.

Marriage and Family Week will be held this year 2-9 May with the theme "Sharing Family Stories". Leaflets will be available from mid-February to allow churches to plan any activities for that week. Contact Marriage and Family Week National Council, c/o Family Focus, 376 Highett Rd, Highett 3190. Phone (03) 553 4511.

As a result of an agreement signed last year, Trans World Radio, an international Gospel broadcasting network, has begun broadcasting from radio Tirana in the capital city of Albania. Radio Tirana has been granted exclusive rights for Protestant religious broadcasting on Albania's transmitters to TWR. Currently TWR is broadcasting one hour of prime-

time daily. A half-hour program in German will be added in April.

Over 100,000 Christians are expected to take part in what could be the biggest-ever prayer meeting for the Muslim world. More than 70 mission organisations, churches and groups have "signed up" for a special worldwide prayer campaign coinciding with the Islamic holy month of Ramadan (20 February-23 March). The event, called "Thirty Days of Focused Prayer", is being organised by Youth With A Mission to pave the way for a breakthrough of the gospel among the world's Muslims.

Police in Bhutan's southern district disbanded a Sunday church meeting on 22 November, detaining up to 10 male worshippers for further questioning and threatening to destroy the new church building if the congregation did not renounce Christianity. Though the country is predominantly Tibetan Buddhist, there are an estimated 5,000 indigenous Christians. According to recent travellers pressure from Buddhists and Hindu fundamentalists against Bhutanese Christians is continuing to escalate. Christianity is perceived as a threat to the country's traditional religions.

On 13 December the Disciples of Christ in Jamaica and The United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman were united in an

inaugural synod in Kingston, Jamaica. The new-born United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands came into life after more than 40 years of talks and shared ministry. The new church brings together 189 congregations with nearly 20,000 members.

The Disciples of Christ/Roman Catholic International Dialogue met on 4-11 December for its 15th meeting of theologians from the two traditions. The commission finalised the report from the second round of its work, which began in 1983. The report "The Church as Communion in Christ", records important theological convergence between Disciples and Roman Catholics on the Lord's Supper, ordained ministry, apostolic tradition and the church's place in God's design.

The International Bible Society has distributed more than 70,000 copies of the Gospel of Mark to refugees from Croatia living in camps in Croatia, Hungary and other parts of central Europe. The IBS is printing one million copies of Mark.

The ABC's religious documentary series "Encounter" will now be broadcast on Sundays on radio National from 7.10 am-8 am beginning on the first Sunday in February. It will also be repeated on Radio National on Wednesday evenings at 7.15 pm.

## An Invitation

from Brian Kidd, Chairperson,  
Department of Community Care

to join with the residents of Fred Combridge House,  
their relatives and friends,  
staff and the members of the department.

In celebrating the official opening  
by Mr F. Combridge  
of the new extensions and upgrading of  
Fred Combridge House,  
1A Campbell Grove, Northcote  
Sunday, 14 March 1993, at 3 pm



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### Sunday

9.00 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Worship & Communion  
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7.00 p.m.

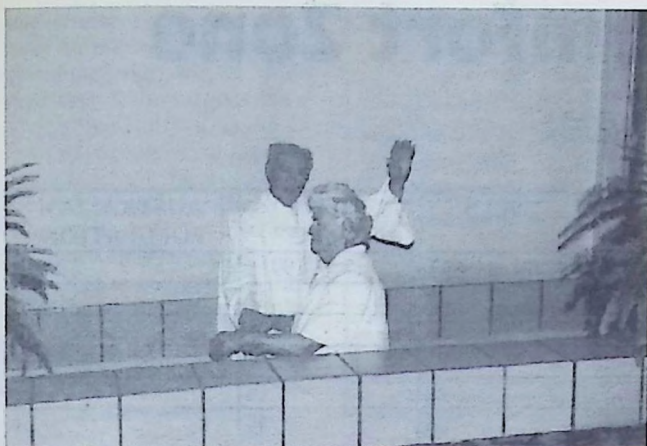
### Wednesday

1.15-1.45 p.m.

Lunchtime Service

For further enquiries, please ring (03) 663 3884





• Peg Kellett being baptised at the East Kew Church

## Going Out in Style

### Baptism at East Kew

On the eve of East Kew's closing, after 70 years, the church rejoiced with Peg Kellett in her baptism on 6 December. Peg admits to being just a little older than the church! In the early days of the church she was a member of the Sunday school, but during the years of marriage and family life, including caring for parents, there were periods when her church attendance was sparse and when she was a member of another communion. Two years ago Peg Kellett became a regular worshipper in the now small and aging congregation where she had been a Sunday school scholar during the days of the church's growth. Her baptism has fulfilled a desire Peg has felt for years and proved a rich personal experience. She is now

a member of a small congregation that will cease meeting after its final service on 18 April. Peg, like others, will be transferred to a congregation of her choice after that date.

The church has made the decision to cease meeting as a congregation. Its final service will be at 11 am on 18 April. In recent months contact has been made with the Conference Executive and the Properties Corporation. It is anticipated that the property will be sold by the Corporation and that the proceeds will be responsibly applied. Liquid funds will be disbursed to the benefit of conference related bodies.

Invitations will not be sent out for the closing service, however past members who wish to attend should look for a notice in *The Australian Christian*. Some might even like to come and share on any of the remaining few weeks. Though numbers are low we rejoice in a rich fellowship of committed people who have just responded to COCOA and the Christmas Bowl Appeal with an offering of \$1415. Ed Roffey will conclude a part-time ministry of more than six years some few weeks after the final service. This will provide pastoral support for members as they find their future church homes as well as sharing remaining administrative responsibilities..

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## Introducing Max Gowty

### Vic-Tas Conference President Elect 1992-93

Max Gowty, the Vic-Tas Conference President Elect introduces himself:

I was born in 1938 and grew up in the fourth generation of the family in the township of Dandenong, when it truly was a rural centre supporting market gardens and dairy farms, and was widely known as the gateway to Gippsland.

At the age of fifteen I accepted Christ and was baptised into the church at Dandenong during the ministry of A.R. Pigdon. I consider myself most fortunate to have grown through my teen years in a church that was dynamic and with a youth group that had real vitality, and I have very fond memories of those with whom I shared those years.

In 1961 Pat accepted my proposal, upon which we were married and set up house, building our first home at Tecoma, after which we transferred our membership to the church at Boronia. We have three sons, Graeme, Andrew and Stuart, two daughters-in-law and, at the time of publication, two grandchildren.

In the pursuit of a career and a desire raise our children in the country we moved to Shepparton in north-east Victoria in 1973, where we have

remained to this day.

I have pursued a career in food engineering and more particularly in the supply and service of equipment for the preparation of deciduous fruit for canning, being General Manager of Filper Australia Pty Ltd, a subsidiary company of Atlas Pacific Engineering Company, with responsibilities for the service of the Atlas-Filper range of equipment throughout the Australasian region.

For twenty years I was actively involved in leadership with the Australian Scout Association, holding numerous warrants. I regard the years as District Commissioner at Shepparton as being amongst the happiest and most fruitful. It was indeed a privilege to work alongside so many fine and dedicated people whose common goal was service.

Our church membership is at Shepparton, where I hold the position of elder. Over the years I have been appointed by conference to various conference departments, including the Department of Mission Education and Development, Conference Executive and the Department of Community Care, of which I currently hold the position of Deputy Chairman.



• Max Gowty



## Comment

# Beyond the Comfort Zone

Keith Farmer

In 1986, 71 of the New South Wales Churches of Christ congregations took part in the Joint Church Survey. In 1991 59 of the New South Wales Churches of Christ congregations took part in the National Church Life Survey.

The areas surveyed in 1986 and 1991 are generally comparable. Although the representation of Churches of Christ in New South Wales was not exactly the same for the 1986 and 1991 surveys and therefore conclusions drawn from comparisons need to be tentative and must allow for differences where they are able to be pinpointed, it is fascinating to gain some idea of the directions in which our churches moved in the five-year period.

The conference handbooks for New South Wales for the equivalent five-year period (Table 1) indicate a modest growth in most areas.

My awareness of the above trends led me to anticipate that the comparison of the two survey results would show positive trends.

Although no detailed analysis has been made, and many variables have not been controlled for, there are some trends indicated that are surprising and disturbing (Table 2). These figures show that there is a tendency for present attenders, compared with those five years ago, to be older, female, married, educated be-

	NCLS	NSW C of C	AUSTRALIAN POPULATION
	(1991)	(1991)	(1991)
Percentage Male	38	42	49
Percentage under 30 years	18	24	33
Percentage non University educated	83	86	94
Percentage overseas born	20	14	21
Percentage moved house in last five years	38	44	51

• Table 1

yond secondary school, Australian born and residentially stable. In a general sense these are key indicators of the extent to which the church is having effective contact with the wider community.

The National Church Life Survey (1991) shows that the churches participating in the Survey (19 Anglican/Protestant denominations), taken as a whole and compared with the Australian population, have a lower percentage of people who are younger (under 30 years), males, non-university educated, overseas born and frequent house movers.

In general the New South Wales Churches of Christ figures for these characteristics are between the total survey and the Australian population figures, i.e. we have been reaching a wider group than the average Australian church (Table 3).

The disturbing fact about the five-year period is that most of

the demographic indications have moved in the wrong direction. New South Wales Churches of Christ generally are not effectively contacting (measured in terms of attendance) a range of Australian people as wide as we were five years ago. We are more clearly representative of the narrow group of the Australian population that attends church today, than five years ago.

Note: (i) A comparison of the profiles of the Churches of Christ involved in the 1986 and 1991 surveys shows that on balance the figures are biased towards presenting a gap between these two sets of figures that is less than the real gap, i.e.

we have probably become even less representative of the Australian population than the figures show.

(ii) A comparison of the relevant figures for the Australian population for 1986 and 1991 does not offer an adequate explanation for the trends noted above. How can we understand this data which on the one hand shows Churches of Christ in New South Wales to be growing and the other shows us to be more entrenched and isolated than five years ago?

Perhaps we have learned to reach the more reachable people more effectively, e.g. the more highly educated, middle class people, but have been ➤

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## Comment

less effective than previously with the more difficult to reach people, e.g. the poor, the immigrants etc. It should go without saying that I am not taking for granted or undervaluing the importance of the people, or that part of the Australian community, that we are reaching more effectively than five years ago. Maybe our effectiveness with the former people mitigates against effectiveness in reaching the latter, i.e. the poor feel uncomfortable in a basically middle-class church.

With the shrinking of the "middle class" in Australia, although it is good that we seem to be reaching them more effectively, unless we can broaden the base of our ministry we will, in the future, have contact with a decreasing percentage of Australian people. It has been said, "The best way to go broke is to keep getting an increased share of a shrinking market."

I believe we need to be challenging people to equip themselves for a ministry that is different from that which is in the context of a "full time" ministry in a "middle class" church. The colleges need to be willing to consider models of training and contexts of training that do not gradually and subtly change the focus of those whose background is from, or whose calling is to, other than Australian born, middle-class, well-educated people.

Perhaps we need to have more congregations that deliberately target a group that is

	1986 SURVEY	1991 SURVEY	CHANGE
Median age of Respondents	36	42	6(Inc)
% of Male Respondents	45	42	3(Dec)
% of Respondents Never Married	29	24	5(Dec)
% of Respondents Now Married	59	61	2(Inc)
% of Respondents who attend weekly or more	93	87	6(Dec)
% of Respondents who have not been educated beyond secondary level	67	57	10(Dec)
% of Respondents who have moved house in the last 5 years	50	44	6(Dec)
% of Respondents born in Australia	84	86	2(Inc)

• Table 2

	1986	1991	Change
Active Membership	5759	6805	846 (Inc)
AM Attendance	5384	6095	711(Inc)
Communicants	5043	6034	991(Inc)
PM Attendance	3666	3375	291(Dec)
Number of Congregations	83	84	1(Inc)
Number of Baptisms	530	500	30(Dec)

• Table 3

more difficult to reach, i.e. congregations that recognise that growth will be slower and more difficult for them than for others. We may need to challenge more people to sense a call to minister or to enter ministry with a sense of call to the "strangers" and the powerless.

One particularly alarming aspect of the comparison of the surveys is that, on the face of it, it seems we are not reaching young people as effectively today as five years ago. This war-

rants special consideration because youth/young adulthood is a critical period of development that offers great possibilities for positive response to relevant outreach and also because of the particular needs of the younger generations today, e.g. unemployment, depression, meaninglessness. Maybe we are not trying as hard because effective youth work is almost invariably uncomfortable for other members of a congregation.

The targeting of specific relatively homogeneous groups as an outreach strategy does not seem to contravene Scripture. Our problems may be that those who are "established" in faith have not grown spiritually enough to willingly be personally uncomfortable for the sake of effective outreach. If so, we must realise that our "comfort zone" is working against effective outreach to the 80% of Australians who are not actively Christian.

**N**ot everyone is the same, in mind or body, but everyone is equal. How many times have we heard this? And how many times have we ignored it? It's quite easy to say everybody's equal, but many people have trouble actually treating everyone as equals. Money, position, job and power all give people status in the eyes of others. Fame, stardom and fortune are what most people dream of and they look up to the people who have it.

It's not right, but it's part of being human. We rank people according to some hidden

## Equality Neil Marsden

measure. In many cases it makes people feel good to look down on others, it makes them feel superior. To be better than others is something many people aspire to. That's OK, it's when the others are despised and looked down upon that it all becomes wrong. Then there are others we look up to. We love them, almost worship them and want to be close to them. For one reason or another they are the ultimate to

us. They might be famous, beautiful, short or tall. Our "inside" measure ranks these people very highly.

Respect and admiration is one thing, but to look down on others because of this love is completely wrong. We live in a world of discrimination. Age, race, sex, colour, anything at all can be discriminated against. Right or wrong, people have their own ideas of equality. Right or wrong, they affect eve-

ryone. The Lord tells us that no matter who we are, no matter what we are, no matter what we do, we are all equally important to him. He doesn't look at our outside, he looks deeper. He looks into our heart where no amount of money and fame can hide our real feelings. God doesn't care what all the others say. Everyone around might think you're perfect, the best, the ultimate, but that doesn't mean God will.

Everyone is equal, everyone has a role to play, everyone is a part of us, we're all one, come what may.



# Classifieds

## ENGAGEMENTS

**BEER—BUNTROCK** Rodney and Marjan Beer are pleased to announce the engagement of Catherine to Norman Buntrock.

**LOMMAN—MATTHEWS** On Christmas Day the engagement of Suzanne Lomman of Largs Bay, SA, to Trevor Matthews of St Peters was announced. With love and

best wishes from their parents Dianne and Gene Lomman and Eleanor and Brian Matthews.

## GOLDEN WEDDINGS

**HILLBRICH** The family of Reg and Margaret extend heartiest congratulations on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. The late T.A. Fitzgerald officiated at the wedding at Fairfield Church of Christ on 30th

January 1943. A celebration of thanksgiving was held on Sunday, 31 January at the Baxter Retirement Village with family and friends.

## DEATHS

**CLARK (FORDHAM)** Ruby On 1 January 1993. Aged 81 years. Suddenly at home. Dearly loved and loving wife of Stan (dec) for 51 years and Gordon for these past two years. Treasured Mum of Joy McNab (Cape Town) and Glenys and Bob Reaby. Loved Nan of Bovain, Digby, Julie and Brad and Deanna. She gave so much to others, and looked for nothing in return. Now resting in the arms of her Heavenly Father. Thanks Gordon for loving and caring for Mum.

**CLARK (FORDHAM)** A tribute to Aunt Ruby. A long time friend and member of our family. It's been a pleasure to have known you Ruby. We have many fond memories and will miss you—David, Margaret, Barbara, Peter and Rosemary and their partners and their children.

**CLARK (FORDHAM)** Ruby. 1 January 1993. Dearly loved friend of Elsie and George Seal (dec). Treasured memories of a long friendship. Friend of our two daughters Shirley (Mrs Best) and Beverly (Mrs Fewster). Always remembered.

**COCKROFT** Hilda. On 26 December 1992, at Swan Hill Hospital. Wife of Wallace, mother of Elizabeth, David and Margaret, mother-in-law of Harvey, grandmother of John, Katherine, Jason and Michael, she was greatly loved by all.

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## Prudent Foolishness and the Kingdom of God

**T**here have always been "entrepreneurial" expressions of Christianity that have sought to promote the Christian faith for its perceived pragmatic value as success and prosperity, or as sacred talisman and insurance policy, or social respectability. That is, one is encouraged to become a Christian because it is socially, economically or "providentially" advantageous to do so. However one brief parable of Jesus undercuts this inclination to so pragmatise our encounter with the Kingdom of God. The parable focuses on a merchant in search of fine pearls, and discovering one of exceptional value—sold everything he had and bought that one pearl.

Straightforward—but wait. Whole worlds of perception are subverted and new ones created when Jesus says, "The Kingdom of Heaven/God is like..."! The pearl merchant's acquisition is entirely useless! This single purchase is fraught with possibilities of poverty. What value is a priceless pearl if it must be sold again? If it is not, the fictional merchant, as several commentators have pointed out, would not be able to sustain a living—having sold everything.\* The merchant will find it difficult to be both aesthete and beggar.

The parable subverts the propensity to equate the Kingdom

of God with utilitarian prudence, for the prudence of gaining the best pearl by selling everything else, is in itself a form of imprudence. A priceless pearl is useless, if one becomes a beggar through acquiring it.

Paradoxically, there is nothing essentially enterprising on our part in discovering the Kingdom. Indeed to enter the life of the Kingdom is to become immersed in a lifestyle that is less than judicious, even foolishness by our society's standards, after all, what could be more absurd than the idea of "losing one's life to find it"? The failure of the parable to work as a direct analogy is its success in delineating the nature of our encounter with the Kingdom.

In terms of utilitarian value, the Kingdom of God is useless to us. But it is precisely it "uselessness" that constitutes its supreme value. Taken as a direct, unequivocal analogy for "giving up all in order to gain the Kingdom", the parable disintegrates. The "pearl" is an oscillating metaphor. It is valuable, yet is useless, its acquisition is prudent, yet it is foolish.

The parable demonstrates that the life of the Kingdom is

beyond utilitarian value as acquisition, precisely because it is a Kingdom that can only be known in the abandonment of acquisition. Can it be proclaimed for utility gains? The Kingdom of God may be likened to many things, but "useful"? It is not a pragmatic possession, but extraordinary gift. When the Kingdom of God is sought for pragmatic reasons such as prosperity, success, good fortune, "respectable" values, rather than accepted as serendipitous gift with its possibilities of disturbing but liberating *metanoia*†—its presence as life and gift is thwarted.

Whatever happy and "fortunate" practicalities we may experience in the Christian faith follow from our encounter with Jesus Christ. They can never, legitimately, be the reason for that encounter. Our ethical values are to be found in the practice of Christian discipleship—which is inseparable from our perception of the Risen Christ, present in our complex world, who encompasses nothing less than the cosmos in saving, liberating hope. They are not a tame, convenient etiquette belonging to a particular social milieu.

The "Priceless Pearl" is a metaphor of oscillation—a pru-

dent and yet foolish acquisition. Our encounter with the Kingdom of God has to be like that! If it is not "foolish", then it has no discontinuity with the values of our society. It must always be a prophetic critique of society's values and sometimes inane perceptions of "normality". If it is intrinsically foolish, then it would be absurd to accept it. We would cease to have relevance to the world we live in.

The parable compels one to decide for the Kingdom by identifying with the merchant's actions, even if they ultimately oscillate between prudence and foolishness, and the pearl between valuable and useless acquisition. A Kingdom—like the metaphoric pearl—is essentially "useless", nevertheless, its value precipitates our foolish abandonment of all else to acquire it. When the Kingdom of God is "useless" to us, it is most valuable indeed.

—Stephen Curkpatrick

\* The Gospel of Thomas suggests only the merchant's merchandise was sold. This editorial development from everything he had to the more specific merchandise suggests the writer of Thomas picked up the interpretive "problem" and attempted to rectify it.

† I use the term *metanoia* as "a lifestyle of conversion, spiritual journey and maturation".

*Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*

I had wondered what this verse meant, until I saw an illustration. A young man stood his two-year-old on top of a tall ladder and asked her to jump and he would catch her. She did. This showed the child's faith in the young man.

It seemed to me we all have faith in others in our everyday lives. For example, we have faith we will be paid each fortnight for our work. We have faith that if we obey the rules of the road, we won't be run over by passing vehicles. When we go to a doctor we trust that he can make us well. We have

remarkable faith in people who can let us down. However, as we become closer to God we realise that he will never let us down if we put our faith in him. I have often tried to do things on my own and most times they have never worked out. There have been situations too great for me to face alone, as when my husband had a massive heart attack and the doctors said that he would die. God worked through the staff of the hospital, through the elders of the church, and many who prayed for us. He let me

## Faith

Jeanette Morris

see that there was more to life than this one on earth, life is eternal. Arthur is alive and well.

In another incident God gave us faith and, we believe, also provided us with an answer. The doctor asked us to make this decision. Our son was "brain dead" from a motor accident and we decided in favour of turning off the life support. We also have faith that he lives with God today.

I find that the more I am in communication with God, particularly in the "listening part", my faith is able to meet each

day's crisis however small or great. This verse from Matthew 6:34 I find helps my faith in the everyday things of life.

*"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."*

• Jeanette Morris is the President of the ACT CWF.

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## A Church ABC

**L**ogan City is a fast-growing area on the outskirts of Brisbane. Located about 20 minutes south of Brisbane, and about the same from the coast, it has been characterised as the fastest-growing city in Australia, with its population in 1992 being around 142,000. As you would expect in an area like this, the majority of households are young families, including a number of single-parent families.

The Logan City church began in 1977 and is now in the midst of great change and growth as it seeks to adapt to the expansion occurring in its community. As expected, the church has a strong emphasis on youth and family ministry, with a special emphasis on caring for children who come from troubled homes, as a fair proportion of the single-parent families are concentrated around the church.

The youth program is growing, with 40-50 young people (teenage to early 20s) participating. Along with this the church also has separate Boys and Girls Brigade groups.

One of the aims the church has is to develop a series of support groups aimed at meeting the community's needs. Two such needs are the support of people who face addictions of one sort or another,

and those involved in abuse or violence.

The church has an active membership of about 85 and has attendances averaging around this number in both the evening and morning services. As a result of the low average age of the surrounding community the church's average age is only in the early 30s. Tom Stark, the minister, at 52, is one of the oldest people in the congregation!

Tom is only a recent arrival in Australia, having moved from Denver, Colorado, after responding to a call from the church in late September 1992. Previously he has been in ministry in the United States for 34 years with the Independent Christian Churches (Churches of Christ). Tom believes that

this move is the culmination of a long-term concern for the work in Australia, having first been invited to come and minister here 26 years ago.

The church has not been static while the community

around changes, they have been planning and setting goals.

The church has set a goal for an increase in attendance at worship of between 60 and 65 people in the year from October 1992. By January 1993 they have welcomed 21 new people, most by confession and baptism. Their goals, however, are not limited to simply counting heads, they have goals in the areas of offerings, mission giving, and spiritual/corporate growth.

The church sees that the less-tangible aspects of success will be evidenced in the strengthening of family life, the healing of broken homes, and the increased participation of the congregation in home discipleship groups which aim to provide

teaching, support and encouragement.

The church also has a creative approach to ministry. If someone raises an issue of need within the city or church the congregation is asked to pray about it and if anyone is willing to become involved.

If someone does come forward they meet with the

elders to discuss the vision and details of the mission. If all are in agreement the elders help to develop the mission purpose and train the volunteer(s) to do the work. This has led the church into many new areas of work, bringing them into contact with many families they have not touched before. Ministries that have evolved include a craft group, single parents' and expectant mothers' works and a drama group that participates in the worship services—the "Hams". The church's ministry is expanding in the men's and aged peoples' areas also.

The Logan City church is a growing church creatively facing the challenge of ministering to a young, growing community.



## Focus on Logan City

### Comment

## To Fit the Crime

### *Imprisonment and capital punishment*

**D**iscussions concerning the punishment

to fit the crime seem to be concerned with punishment, retribution, deterrent, and the results of imprisonment. A recent discussion on the ABC seemed to conclude that prison sentences are self-defeating. Instead of being a deterrent prison becomes a school of crime, and produces persons more likely to re-offend.

This is a dreadful comment on the quality of our prison system. It would seem obvious that the aim of the prison system should be re-education and rehabilitation. Such aims, if they are present, are not being real-

ised if prison is a school of crime. No punishment will fit the crime if it is administered so badly that it defeats its own purpose. Some recent horrendous crimes such as the sexual assault and depraved murder of little children have raised again the question of capital punishment.

I want to suggest that this question should be addressed in terms of moral principle, rather than retribution, punishment, or deterrent. Whether it serves these purposes or not it is immoral for a society to tolerate the rape and murder of lit-

tle children. All crime requires some sort of moral response, and it

may be that some crimes are so depraved and morally unacceptable in any civilised society that capital punishment is the only moral response that is adequate.

However, it should also be recognised as extremely immoral for these executions to be reported in the press. It is obviously immoral to turn these tragic events into sensational reading for the purpose of making money. The freedom of the press is a sacred cow that is too often prostituted for immoral purposes.

—Allan B. Clark

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## Obituaries

### Bevan, Edna Ena

(7.12.92) The church at Wembley Downs, WA, is saddened by the loss of another very special woman member. Edna contributed much to each of us through her simple and practical faith. She did what she could to make the world a better place—by planting gardens (including the church garden), by working for and raising money for charities, and especially by her wrap-around hugs for everyone. At the thanksgiving service, her son-in-law, David Hawks, spoke with great affection of an active and enthusiastic person in whom God's love was clearly seen. As she had experienced frustration in her recent ill-health, we see her sudden death as the mercy of God to a faithful servant. Our prayers are with Trish and David and her other children and grandchildren.

—Eira Clapp

### Bubb, Elsie Madge

(4.12.92) Born at Launceston, Tas, the youngest daughter of Emily and Peter Duff, sister of Helen Wilmot, Margaret Stevens and Douglas Duff. Madge married Lloyd Bubb in Adelaide in 1946. They lived at Quirindi, Scone, Bathurst and Canberra, where Madge was actively engaged in all aspects of the life of the Ainslie church. On retirement they moved to Mollymook, then Ulladulla, where she was a faithful and regular supporter of the Uniting Church. Family and friends gathered at Ulladulla to pay tribute to this gracious, Christian lady who gave her life to loving and caring for others.

### Cockroft, Hilda

(26.12.92) Born in Redruth, Cornwall, Hilda arrived in Melbourne, Vic, in 1922. She worked at the Pelaco and Triumph shirt factories before her marriage to Wallace took her to their fruit block at Woorinen. Baptised at the Hawthorn Church, Hilda was active in the Hawthorn, Hartwell, Woorinen and Swan Hill churches as a Sunday School teacher, kinder superintendent, girls' club leader, cradle roll convenor, youth leader and organiser, C.E. member and Ladies Guild president. She was also heavily involved in business and community work. Declining health restricted her activities in recent years. Sincere sympathy is offered to her husband Wallace, daughters Elizabeth Clark (Horsham), Margaret Carter (Lake Boga) and son David (England). A well-attended service was conducted at Swan Hill by H. Clark.

—H.A.L. Clark

### Oliver, Walter

Walter Oliver was born at Dutchembegarra, Vic, in 1912. He worked as a farmer, wood merchant, roustabout, brander at the sale yards, salt miner and merchant and a general carrier. He married Lilian, the Polkemmet school teacher, in 1939. He enjoyed cricket, clay bird shooting, judging horses, dancing and singing. He attended the churches at Polkemmet and Horsham, was baptised in 1930, was a reader, usher, Sunday School secretary and valued member of the church. Sincere Christian sympathy is offered to his wife Lilian, and daughters Margaret Taylor of Horsham, Marilyn Fish of Beulah and Helen Oliver of Melbourne. A large congregation attended the service.

—H. Clark.

### Sullivan, Alice Edna

Edna, born in Dandenong, Vic, spent her school years in Moreland where she was actively involved with the church where she was baptised. She worked as a stenographer both before and after her marriage to Wal in 1942. They enjoyed 49 years of close partnership. After living in several locations they built in Aspendale in 1963, living there for 25 years until moving to the retirement village in Frankston in 1988. They enjoyed a close family life with Geoffrey and Judith, and their five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Edna was active in the Air Warden's group during the war, parents school groups and supported Wal in the Masonic Lodge and the TPI society. She maintained a strong faith throughout her life and served for several years as secretary on the board of the Chelsea church. During retirement they enjoyed travelling around Australia. The packed church for a service of thanksgiving at Chelsea was a testimony to the high esteem in which she was held by family, friends, church and community.

—Ian Whitelock

### Vincent, Jean Kerr

(4.12.92) Many friends and relations gathered at the Wembley Downs, WA, church to give thanks to God for the inspirational life of Jean Vincent. John Somerville spoke of Jean as a woman whose life expressed a strong concern for peace and justice and especially women's rights. She was a dedicated worker for God in all her life, teaching career, leading worship, involvement with Australian Church Women and our Open House group. She was a person who encouraged everyone to make the most of their God-given abilities. Those who

## Church News

### Old

**HARLAXTON (Daryl Thorpe)** "Jesus Film" shown to a packed church. Number of families shared in a camp out at Girraween National Park. Sunday School presented the musical "The Bee Attitudes" for the 84th Sunday School anniversary. Fay Christensen and Operation Mobilization shared in missions weekend. Over 80 ladies shared in an end-of-year dinner with Beryl Wiltshire guest speaker. Rick & Carol Joseph conclude 2 year student ministry. We are looking forward to Frank Langford joining the ministry team. Active membership now 233. **DALBY (S.L. Colyer)** Caring seminar was conducted by Neil Melville. Young families had ice cream party. Combined Gospel service held at Bongeong with Noel Baxter bringing message. CWM annual meeting held and hamper filled for needy families. Farewells held for Neil and Elaine Melville (minister) and family to Ipswich and Mike and Cathy Stone and family to Bourke. Fay

knew Jean testify that she certainly did this with her gift of language, and painting. We commend her husband Ray and her children and grandchildren to God's love and grace.

—Eira Clapp

Christensen (missionary on furlough) visited.

**GATTON (Barry Benz)** After each sharing their testimony, David Allison and Daniel Beasley were baptised by their father, Steve, on Sunday 6 Dec.—an inspirational service. December showed very encouraging attendances and great worship experiences, with the Tribute Singers' performance of Simply Christmas, our nativity play, and the trimming of the Jesse Tree on Christmas Day. The church is thankful for a spirit of optimism as we look to the new year of opportunities.

**ANNERLEY (Richard Pearce)** End-of-year break-ups by all groups & specially planned evening services prior to Christmas & during January well received ... Attendances at all services are good ... Tony O'Hare appointed as assistant minister (part-time) ... Plans for church alterations well in hand.

### Tas

**LAUNCESTON (C. Spaulding, D. Tobler)** End-of-year celebration service presented by Children's Church on 13 Dec ... A husband & wife baptised on evening of 13 Dec ... Combined morning services commenced 27 Dec for holiday period. Two morning services resume on 14 Feb ... Stan Strutt & Scott Dubbeld recent speakers.

### Situation Vacant

Mature aged person with previous experience in metal fabrication. Must have welding skills. This is a responsible position which will require supervision of other workers. Factory in Box Hill area.

Apply after 7 pm to Geoff (03) 725 2733.

### South Yarra Church of Christ Centenary Homecoming

Sunday, 28 February 1993

- 11 am Speaker Peter Nelson,  
Minister, Ainslie, ACT
- 2.45 pm Speaker Bob Hayes,  
Business Manager,  
Keilor Baptist Church  
Secretary-Administrator

Centenary books with photos on sale  
Lunch and Afternoon Tea

M. Walters, Secretary  
(03) 510 3080



# Leadership Insights

Herb Miller

Someone asked a researcher, "What is the most important skill a minister should have? Is it preaching? Is it being a sensitive and caring minister? Or is it organisational leadership?"

"I can't answer your question without enlarging it a little", replied the researcher. "All of those skills are important, but pastoral effectiveness depends as much on style as on skills. Perhaps more." Skills that researchers say all ministers need are preaching, pastoral concern, organisational management, teaching ability, worship leadership, evangelism, community service and denominational relationships.

Leadership styles that researchers have observed in ministers whose congregations have shown numerical growth and ministry effectiveness are:

**1. Balance.** Effective ministers focus on all of the biblical responsibilities in the list above. Ineffective ministers tend to ride one hobby horse (often just-

tifying this by saying that if they do it well the others will take care of themselves).

**2. Spiritual vision.** Effective ministers are not held prisoner by the perspective and traditions of their congregations. They are sensitive to where people are, but not content to leave them there.

**3. Willingness to lead.** Effective leaders are sometimes wrong, but they are not so afraid of the consequences of being wrong that they refuse to lead.

**4. Spiritual enthusiasm.** Effective ministers give you the impression that they want to lead you, not just anywhere, but to a closer walk with God.

**5. Spiritual optimism about the future.** The Bible calls this hope. People who dispense with this quality are the spiritual equivalent of Valium.

**6. Indiscriminate affirmation.** Despite a truckload of reasons to go in the opposite direction, the conversational patterns of effective ministers are praise-full.

**7. A sense of humour.** Cartoons collect more followers than turpentine bottles.

**8. Joyful attitude.** Oswald Chambers said, "Joy is the nature of God in my blood". People are not attracted to a religious institution whose spiritual leader needs a transfusion.

**9. Openness to consider new ideas.** The initial response of effective ministers to new ideas is usually, "Why not?" They then carefully listen to and examine the proposal. Ineffective ministers tend to immediately block the description of a new idea by citing several reasons why it will not work. Guess which kind of minister people stop giving new ideas to?

**10. A disposition toward delegation.** Good leaders coach the team, poor leaders try to play all the positions.

**11. High energy level.** Funeral Directors in small towns are among few professionals

who can succeed with a forty-hour work week. Low energy ministers usually become ecclesiastical funeral directors.

**12. Positive appearance.** Neat apparel, shined shoes, and well-kept hair do not bring people into the kingdom of God. But if the package is shabby, people may not bother to examine its contents.

**13. Personal integrity.** Remembering promises, functioning responsibly with tasks that are not especially enjoyable, serving without a demand for public recognition, and a disciplined moral life: These qualities do not bring people into the kingdom, either, but they can block people from wanting to take a tour of it to see whether they might want to live there.

**14. The iron fist in the velvet glove.** Great churches are like great football teams. Their coaches must have both sensitivity to personal feelings and iron determination.

Skills and style, what we do and what we are. Both are critically important, but if what we are offends or bores, the skills with which we do our work will have little impact.

You have probably noticed by now that all of the above applies to church members as much as to ministers. Which of these styles do you possess?

### Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department

invites applications for the position of a

## Christian Qualified Nurse Educator

The Social Service Department is setting up a new educational division which when operational will be transferred to Kenmore Christian College to serve the educational needs of the Social Service Department in its aged care hostels and nursing homes. The educational program to be developed will need to meet industry standards and will be associated with educational work developed by Aged Care Queensland.

**Qualifications:** Registered Nurse with current Queensland Registration, appropriate diploma/degree (with a preference for an appropriate Masters degree), communication, organisational and entrepreneurial skills, current drivers licence, experience in current aged care practices an advantage. The applicant must be a committed Christian.

**Salary and conditions:** As per Nurses Aged Care Interim Award—State. A kilometrage allowance or a motor vehicle will be provided.

Applications are to be made on the Social Service Department Application Form together with a CV and any other supporting information. Application forms and other details are available from:

The Executive Director  
Churches of Christ in Queensland  
Social Service Department  
PO Box 508  
Kenmore 4069

or by phoning (07) 378 0400 or facsimile (07) 878 1268

Applications close: Monday, 15 March 1993

### Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Board

## WANTED MARRIED COUPLE

For its aged care hostel—Camaron, WA

Duties: Woman Cooking duties, some domestic work  
Man General handyman/gardening, bus driving, other duties as required

This is a permanent position and is to be viewed as missionary service

The hostel is home to 15 residents. It is situated 8 km from the town

Salary and conditions are available on request

For further information contact:

FAB Office  
PO Box 1199,  
Wangara 6065  
Phone (09) 309 3922



## Personal

### Baptisms

•Mavis Beaufoy, Leo Ninness, Rose Ninness, Laurie Schuch, John Grant, **Harlaxton, Qld** •Joan Smith, Numurkah, **Vic** •Iris Perkins, Ruth Coveney, **Balaklava, SA** •Stan & Pam Strutt, **Launceston, Tas** •Melanie Bell, **Victor Harbor, SA** •Ursula Hodge, **Northam, WA** •Melissa Purdy, Katie Doyle, **Greensborough, Vic** •Joy Gray, Nathan Boothman, Sandra Duckworth, Lyn & Agnes Jones, Amy Butt, **Warwick, WA** •David Allison, Daniel Beasley, **Gatton, Qld** •Justin Ward, Robyn Field, Angela Merrick, Saskia Hewitt, Rachel Parker, **Scarborough, WA** •Robyn Meyer, Suresh Meyer, **Magill, SA** •George Desnica, Carolyn Chisholm, **Annerley, Qld** •Jean Kermond, Lyle Kermond, Phillipa Kermond, Heidi Coleman, Amy Coleman, **Dalby, Qld** •Narelle Maney Terry Bell, **Naracoorte, SA** •Vassilij Fokhin, **Mount Clear, Vic** •Tracey Vivian, **Kalamunda, WA** •Bruce & Denise Pigeon, Melanie Bell, **Victor Harbor, SA** •Dannielle Mason, Leane Vernon, Jan Enders, Rachel Tilley, Katherine Tilley, Geoff Nankivell, Daniel Sweetman, Ron Buchanan, **Bendigo, Vic**

### Marriages

•Anita Bird to Colin Pettit, **Anne-Marie Steele to Ken Richardson, Kerry Cross to Rodney Richards, Tonia Meares to Martin Paroz, Harlaxton, Qld** •Carolyn Lawrie to Richard Goldney, **Balaklava, SA** •Michelle Doubikin to Anthony Seidel, **Carnarvon, WA** •Rachel Lewis to Paul Sherrieff, **Greensborough, Vic** •Donna Cockburn to Paul Hodgson, **Magill, SA** •Kathy Page to Andrew Gibbs, Nicole Larmer to Wayne Jewell, **Glen Waverley, Vic** •Christine Dixon to Scott Vawser, Barbara Fairley to Rodney Herbert Warwick, **WA**

### Deaths

•Alice Edna Sullivan, **Chelsea, Vic** •Walter Hart Oliver, **Horsham, Vic** •Dolly Butler, **Carnarvon, WA** •Beverley Wlazlouski, **Northam, WA** •Barbara Robinson, **South Perth, WA** •Loris Connell, **Redcliffs, Vic** •Dene Parker, **Magill, SA** •Keith Wilson, **Mount Clear, Vic** •Lorraine Strawhorn, **Glen Waverley, Vic** •Eric Steele, **Peel St, Ballarat, Vic** •Georgina Barta, Basil Leek, **Happy Valley,**

**SA** •Eric Walker, Alma Thompson, **Bendigo, Vic**

### Changes

**Hill, Brian and Merle**—5 Lindon Street, Elizabeth Vale, **SA** 5112. **Stirling:** Minister—Jim Keatch, 154 Mount Barker Road, **Stirling SA** 5152. Phone (08) 339 5950. **Seven Hills:** All correspondence to The Secretary, Church of Christ Seven Hills, PO Box 708, **Seven**

**Hills NSW** 2147. New church address: 237 Prospect Highway, **Seven Hills.**

**North Essendon:** All correspondence to Lynda Lycett, 117 MacNamara Avenue, **Airport West Vic** 3042.

**Dianella:** Minister—Tony & Lynette Armstrong, 1 Waverley Place, **Dianella WA** 6062. Phone (09) 275 3773.

### Separation & Divorce Recovery Workshops

Boronia Church of Christ  
59 Boronia Road  
Thursdays, 18 & 25 February  
& 4, 11, 18 & 25 March, at  
7.45 pm  
Presented by  
Cheryl Johnston  
Cost: \$50 for six nights  
Enquiries (03) 762 1277



#### ON YOUR OWN, YOU'RE NOT ALONE

Christian Singles  
Fellowship offers friendship  
through correspondence with  
other born-again Christian  
singles and single-again  
people  
Write enclosing a stamped,  
self-addressed envelope  
to:  
CSF, PO Box 17,  
Anna Bay 2301

### BUSINESS OPERATIONS MANAGER AAFA or ACA

**Vic-Tas Churches of Christ Department of Community Care**

The department is seeking an appropriately qualified person who will accept a leadership role in the senior management of the organisation. A demonstrated capacity to show initiative in the management and control of finance as well as a creative imagination to generate new sources of income is expected of this position.

A willingness to understand the ethos of Churches of Christ and work within the structures of the Conference as set down in the constitution of the Churches of Christ Department of Community Care.

Community Care provides supportive accommodation and services to elderly persons through independent living, hostels and nursing homes. It also conducts a youth accommodation program and welfare relief services. Recently it commenced an accommodation and support program for people with intellectual disabilities. The Department operates five opportunity shops, which support the aged care and relief programs. This is a rapidly growing organisation that is strongly committed to improving existing services and expanding into new spheres.

The successful applicant must have tertiary qualifications in accounting. Business management qualifications and financial management experience in the commercial sphere is preferred. Experience in computers including spreadsheet and accounting applications is necessary. The Department uses Lotus 123 spreadsheets and ACCPAC accounting package.

Applications in writing, including two referees, addressed to—

T. H. Giles  
Executive Director  
77 Capel Street  
West Melbourne 3003  
Phone (03) 326 8977  
Fax (03) 329 9557

Applications close 26 February 1993

For further information contact Val Bush on above number



### The Churches of Christ in New South Wales Theological College

invites applications for the position of

#### LECTURER IN BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

for an initial term of 5 years commencing January 1994

The successful applicant will be—

- \* a committed Christian who is actively and enthusiastically involved in Christian service, particularly within the local church
- \* qualified to teach at Sydney College of Divinity BTh level (this probably means a Master's degree or higher) and open to pursuing further studies if appropriate
- \* enthusiastic about the Integrated training model of the college
- \* theologically conservative but contemporary in teaching and ministry methodology
- \* a gifted teacher

Applications should be made in writing to

Dr Keith Farmer  
PO Box 140  
Carlingford 2118

and should be received no later than 28 February 1993



# Church News

## Vic

**NUMURKAH (Bryan O'Neill)** Had blessed day when Bryan & Sandra shared with us. Baptism after lunch. Held PSA & presentation for all the youth groups ... Two members went road support for Bikes for Bibles ... Had successful gala day ... Held luncheon for CWF break-up & sang Christmas carols ... Two families shifted homes ... Barbecue lunch & carol singing ... Recently shared great weekend with Jack & Hazel McCormick from CCTC.

**RICHMOND (R. & M. Beer)** Members of Australian and Vietnamese congregations provided musical items at multicultural Christmas Fiesta ... M Beer guest speaker at Rotary breakfast ... Neville & Pam Wight to be appointed to ministry team January '93 ... Christmas activities included family service, Aussie Christmas in car park, spit roast by CWF for church family and guests ... Rod Beer to commence Clinical Pastoral Education training mid-February.

**BELLARINE PENINSULA AGM—** Ian Walter chairperson, Joyce Reed secretary, Maureen Chappell treasurer ... Church to purchase new photocopier. CWF donated \$700 towards photocopier ... Eugene Hajnik welcomed into membership & became organist ... Combined carol service with Uniting Church great success ... Members farewelled Mark Butler & family ... We will have visiting speakers until April when Glen Stibbe with wife Betty take up work on the Bellarine Peninsula.

**REDCLIFFS (S. Mackie)** Kids Club ended 1992 activities with a round of carol singing. One group went to our church people's homes, the other to hospital and retirement units. Kids Club conducted Christmas Service on 20 Dec. Many visitors present over the holiday season. A new electric stove purchased for manse. Sympathy of church extended to Connell family.

**GREENSBOROUGH (G. Warren)** Church celebrated Christmas with number of events, including "Carols in the Car Park", groups break-up shebang of spit roast and bush dance, choir presentations during worship, singing at Fred Combridge House, music afternoon by Victoriana singers organised by Sue Page. Farewell barbecue for Stuart Rutter, student minister. "The Year That Was" published as review of 1992, instigated by Bob Dwyer.

**MOUNT CLEAR (Dale White)** CRE teachers organised Christmas concerts for 390 students from local primary school ... Youth group arranged free Christmas dinner for senior church members ... Over

350 attended candle-light carols night at the church ... Annual average attendances increased 23% on previous year ... Our theme for the new year is "Harvest 1993" ... Church saddened at death of Keith Wilson, our most senior attendee. **LA TROBE TERR, GEELONG (Dr C.J. Mackenzie)** Alf White guest speaker carol service at Grace McKellar House ... All auxiliaries enjoyed break-ups ... Camp for participants in sign language classes held at Romsey ... Deaf person appointed to church board. Ian Mackenzie interpreter for Charlie Claxton ... Garth Paddle appointed elder ... Some members on sick list ... 32 enjoyed dining at Sizzler's followed by sing-a-long at Tripodi's.

**KANIVA (Martin Goldup)** Good attendance combined Christmas carol service Shire Hall, Kaniva Community Singers led ... Special offerings African famine relief \$327, Christmas Bowl \$134, COCOA \$25 ... New postmaster, Martin & Elizabeth Beales & family, welcome worshippers ... Visitors have included minister's mother, Kay Goldup, from WA & Norma Williams from USA. Other visitors, Alan Matheson (Melbourne) & Ed Fisher (Mundulla) along with local members appreciated speakers.

**MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (G. Illingworth, R. Wright)** Sunday School presentation—Our potential for future church ... Gifts collected for Grace McKellar Home & underprivileged ... Attendances up 27%. 19 new members welcomed into fellowship ... Christmas break-ups ... Christmas Eve carols for kids 7.30–8.15 pm. Very good attendance ... Christmas Day combined with MH Baptist. G. Illingworth speaker ... Minister & family enjoying holiday break ... Our members providing excellent challenges as preachers.

**RED HILL (Bruce Butler)** Church farewelled Wally & Betty Gibney & family following three-year fruitful ministry ... Graeme & Marg Butler farewelled to Port Macquarie after 15 years faithful service ... Pulpit ably filled by Arthur Pigdon, whose messages challenged us ... Don Smith inducted Bruce Butler as minister 24 Jan & brought message ... Home luncheons planned to get to know Bruce, Shirley, Adam & Holly over next few weeks.

**OAKLEIGH (W.J. Edwards)** Speakers during minister's holidays Hon Murray Hamilton (Gideons) & Les Dewberry, who made a welcome return to Oakleigh pulpit ... Linda Gillespie absent for many weeks because of a fall ... Les & Vi McCredden welcomed by transfer

... Freda Fraser laid aside with serious illness ... Doug Moody helped with organ playing ... Memorials service for Ruby Clark held in chapel.

**PEEL ST, BALLARAT (Wayne Allen)** Excellent Christmas Day service with a number of other denominations present. Minister led service ... During holiday period & month of January a number of visitors present who remained for barbecue lunch after service ... Theme for 1993 "Breaking Down the Barriers". Church has been working towards this during 1992 ... Church saddened with the sudden death of Eric Steele.

**BENDIGO (John Sweetman)** Church celebrated Christmas with carol service featuring Short St Singers 13 December. Owing to heavy rain outdoor carol service with Eaglehawk Band held in church hall ... Church saddened by death of Eric Walker prior to Christmas ... Minister & family returned from holidays ... Speakers during absence were from HCJB, TEAR Australia, & Wal Monkhouse, A. Hall & B. Harding ... Early morning prayer group Wednesdays 7.30-9.

**FOOTSCRAY (Dan Lundgren)** Combined Christmas Day service with Baptist & Uniting Churches in our chapel. Congregation of 85 ... 96 attended service & fellowship tea with El Salvadorian Church of God Elim (now Ebenezer) who use building ... Plans for midweek work with school-age children ... Sympathy to Lundgren family on death of Judy's father ... Lundgrens embarking for USA 13 March ... Negotiations for new minister in progress.

## WA

**CARNARVON** Many took part in combined churches Christmas pageant "Prepare Ye the Way". Well received ... Resident of Olive Laird Hostel, Elizabeth McRae turned 92 ... FAB missionaries Ken & Shirley Birch are involved in Aboriginal outreach & visitation & general counselling ... In the absence of a minister the elders & deacons & others are rostered to preach. John Doubikin has the responsibility of radio messages.

**NORTHAM (Graham Butler)** Bible School anniversary great, with Pam Tims and Mark Wilsons as speakers. 1992 Church break-up concert with Laurie and Rose Farrow great success. At AGM in December church unanimously extended Graham Butler's ministry for further 4 years as from October 93. 1992 was great year of outreach to community. Hall used every day for different meetings. Many now on holidays.

**SOUTH PERTH (John Bond)** John, Julie, Carissa, Angie, Josh Bond welcomed to the church ministry. Following the service a smorgasbord lunch enjoyed. Christmas Day gathering well attended. Offering \$1220 sent to COCOA. Congratulations to Bert & Joan Ford on their golden wedding anniversary. Mark O'Conner, Win Finlayson and Andrew Johnson gave testimonies at recent evening services.

**WARWICK (G.B. Carslake, B.A. Eagles, R.J. Ratcliffe)** There was an excellent response to the Christmas Day service when over 700 attended at the Sports Stadium. During January, students home on vacation are being featured speakers at night, Scott Vawser, Linda Pilton, Jo Dew. Robert Mason and Lyn Devlin have concluded their ministries here. Rod Ratcliffe from Wollongong commences in January as youth minister. Bruce Eagles is on long service leave. 15 of the young people were involved in a coffee shop ministry at Mandurah for 10 days.

**SCARBOROUGH (Nigel Merrick, Raye & Mike Hasleby)** Dr Alf Brown led commissioning service for Judy & Brad Paker and family who are now serving with WEC in Java ... Dr Judith Reisman, author of *Kinsey, Sex and Fraud* encouraged us to take an active stand against social evils such as pornography and abortion ... Andrew Winton selected for conservatorium of music ... School maths and history prize awarded to Nathan Randall.

**KINGSLEY (Peter Clayton)** Congratulations Mark & Bev Jones on safe arrival of Lawson Ronald. Proud grandparents & family visited from Kenmore, Qld ... Leaders enjoying rest as all auxiliaries in recess ... Tim Polmear home for holidays from teaching in Onslow ... Christmas morning saw chapel overflowing for family service which included drama group & choir ... Church delighted Peter Clayton's ministry has been further extended to December 1996.

**KALAMUNDA (Paul Sanders)** Overwhelming endorsement of appointment of Dr David Shalley, senior pastor ... Christmas services well attended. Special events included family service, luncheon for folk from nursing homes, JCEs delivered biscuits to elderly, distribution of food parcels & toys, carol singing Christmas Eve hospital & nursing homes ... Parents, friends & JCE honoured Joyce Spicer for her eight years of leadership ... Building alterations to function centre & administrative offices.



# Church News

## NSW

**THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley)** Special week of prayer was well supported 13-20 December. Prayer meetings were held at the chapel on each day at different times, 6 am-7.30 am, 10.30 am-12 noon and 7.30 pm-9 pm. Hornsby Carols outreach by the music team & singers in the Hornsby Mallon Sunday afternoon of 20 December. The Christmas Day Service was led by Stuart Wesley, the speaker being Franklyn Elliott. The chapel was full. The Christmas offering amounted to \$1611, which goes to support John & Ruth Ridgway in India and Phil & Marjo Scherrer in Asia, who are two of our regularly supported missionaries.

**NOWRA (C. Wardle)** Past year has been rewarding. Thirteen baptisms, 14 welcomed into membership. Activities over the year included family camp, coffee & desert nights, car boot sale, men's breakfast, junior youth group started, Sunday School family services, social nights, carols by candlelight on the lawns, watch night service on New Year's Eve, 80% of church attending home groups, prayer meetings most week days.

**EPPING (David Moyes, Lester Sutton)** A successful 1992. Worship attendance grew 18%, home group attendances grew 20% & offerings up by 13% ... Christmas services well attended by community ... January 1993 broke some previous records. Worship services

had highest attendance & record number of helpers at SU Beach Missions & Christian camps ... Recently eldership discussed new stages in Callahan program & excited about "mission" possibilities among our groups.

**THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley)** Missionaries we support overseas shared in services. John & Ruth Ridgway (disciplining ministry South East Asia) on 27 December. John spoke both services. 10 January Muller family (Vanuatu) interviewed during morning service ... During am service 27 December John & Gerry Stanford & family farewelled, returning to Perth ... Music team at invitation of Hornsby Apex shared in Australia Day celebrations at Rofe Park, Hornsby.

## SA

**BALAKLAVA (Graham Lawrie)** When missionaries Lyall & Jill Muller visited they were delighted to find most of Jill's Balaklava Lutheran cousins in attendance ... Secret prayer partners revealed at twilight Christmas tea ... Sunday School sent gifts to the needy from break-up luncheon ... G. Lawrie completed Graduate Diploma in Ministry ... Daphne Clark searching for historical details for booklet commemorating centenary of Northern District Conference in March 1993 ... Christmas hampers for locals in need being distributed.

**PROSPECT (Stephen Schmaal)** Lenswood-Lobethal bus trip on Sunday evening to Lobethal (Val-

ley of Praise) to see town decorations, beautiful lights. 40 years ago several businessmen hand painted some globes to decorate their shops beginning a tradition, now all town participates. barbecue & choral service held ... barbecue at St Helens Park weather permitting ... Kennon Callaghan weekend will now be held 6-7 March.

**HENLEY BEACH (Ron McLean)** On 20 December Brian & Merle Hill & family were farewelled from Henley Beach. Words of thanks & presentation & prayer were given. Brian is an industrial chaplain ... We welcome Ron & Phyl McLean to their ministry at Henley Beach ... Hazel Skuse, Jodie & Mark Dodd are working for a short term in India. Mark commences at CCTC in February.

**VICTOR HARBOR (Don Wesley)** Teens group & leaders joined inter-church youth weekend at Wirrina ... Sunday School presentation service featured items by 2 youngest classes and puppet theatre from Goolwa, followed by basket tea ... Ruth May joined ministry team on part-time voluntary basis, to facilitate her studies with Mulgrave college, till 1993 ... Church garage sale raised \$2,463 toward church centre debt.

**NARACOORTE (Grant Simpson)** Over 40 had fun and fellowship at recent Sunday School picnic at Naracoorte Caves. Sunday School children presented "An Explosion of Happiness" for anniversary. Well attended. Naracoorte singers presented cantata "Love Transcending" with many attending. Recent

evening services taken by Wednesday & Tuesday night Bible study groups respectively. Friendship Centre pudding day raised over \$80 for Life Education vans.

**FLINDERS PARK** Negotiations still taking place for 1993 ministry after Neville Moore's interim ministry finished with a thankyou luncheon in November ... Flinders Park is planning an outreach program called "The Open Door" hoping to involve church members with local community. God wants us to share our talents with others, be it poetry reading, crafts, discussion groups or just giving of ourselves.

**VICTOR HARBOR (Don Wesley)** Garage sale raised \$2,463 to go towards purchase of church centre ... Mr & Mrs Merv Lawrie moved after 16 years at Victor to Everard Park. We will miss them ... Church Bike Club meet every month with pleasant ride & workshop ... State Minister Ron Roberts met with board, elders & members ... Australia Day barbecue followed by celebration service with 110 attending ... New church bus.

**HAPPY VALLEY (Russell Allison)** Jenelle Baggs gone to Missouri & Jackie Grantham to Texas as Rotary Exchange Students ... Church saddened at passing of Georgina Barta & Basil Leek after battles with cancer ... Grahame Miller (Brighton) & Lois Engelhardt (Aldgate) guest speakers while Russell was on leave ... Sunday School had break-up & book presentations in December ... 50s Plus group enjoyed their break-up luncheon.



## 44th NATIONAL CONFERENCE

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

Melbourne, 5-11 September 1993

"Christ: The Timeless Resource"

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT:** Clive Ward, 77-79 Capel St, West Melbourne 3003  
Phone (03) 326 8900

**NATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS SECRETARY:** Ian Allsop, 77-79 Capel St, West Melbourne 3003 Phone (03) 326 8900

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE SECRETARY:** Ian Allsop, 77-79 Capel St, West Melbourne 3003 Phone (03) 326 8900

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE TREASURER:** Noel F. Button, 54 Belvedere Dr, Montrose 3765 Phone (03) 728 1756

### DIRECTORY OF NATIONAL AGENCIES

**AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:** President: Eunice Reidy, 50 Hewish Rd, Croydon 3136 Phone (03) 725 5328; Secretary: Eleanor Roberts, 11 Winchester Rd, Nunawading 3131 Phone (03) 874 5110

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** Secretary: Mrs F. Morris, 27 Albert St, East Malvern 3145; Treasurer: Mrs A. Allison, 28 Potter St, Black Rock 3193 Phone (03) 598 5594

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST OVERSEAS MISSION BOARD:** Executive Director: J. May, 180a Gray St, Adelaide 5000 Phone (08) 212 4446. Send donations to: Vic-Tas: Val Wilson, PO Box 362, Springvale 3171; SA: D. Lewis, 9 Clisby St, Vale Park 5081; WA: R. Cousins, 130 Whatley Cres, Maylands 6051; Qld: L. Christensen, 9 Gilmour Crt, Toowoomba 4350; NSW: A. Noble, 27 Marquessa Cres, Lethbridge Park 2770

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Board Chairman: J. Bailey; Principal: K. Bowes; Registrar: G. Wigney Phone (03) 790 1000

**CHURCHES OF CHRIST PROVIDENT FUND:** Secretary: J.R. Ashley, PO Box 140, Carlingford 2118 Phone (02) 630 7784

**FEDERAL ABORIGINES MISSION BOARD:** Executive Director, A. Moyle, PO Box 1199, Wangara 6065. Forward donations (tax deductible) to: NSW: Miss E. Lincoln, 165 Gloucester Rd, Hurstville 2220; Vic: Treasurer, Malcolm Anderson, 22 Goe St, Caulfield South 3162; SA: Conference Centre, 263 Melbourne St, North Adelaide 5006; Tas: J. Harrison, 12 Henrietta Cres, West Launceston 7250; WA: Treasurer, H. Folland, 9 Canlebury Rd, Bayswater 6053

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**SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE:** Secretary: C. Wilson, PO Box 140, Carlingford 2118 Phone (02) 630 7533



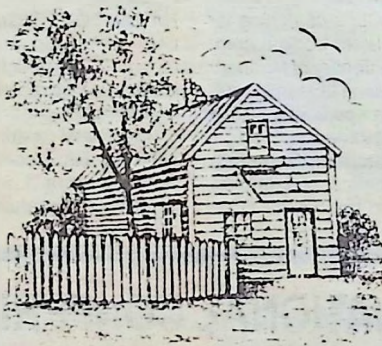
# Pioneers of Point Sturt

Helen Oatley

In the shade of she-oaks sighing,  
There they met in early days.  
To take the bread and cup together,  
And to sing their Maker's praise...  
While so lonely stretched the shining  
Of the vast fresh-water lake.  
And the pelican and ibis,  
Noiselessly their way did take.

In the quiet graveyard lying,  
Are these faithful pioneers.  
And the wind thru' she-oaks sighing,  
Tells the story of the years...  
And we read their names and wonder,  
At the hardships they all knew.  
While we praise the God who helped them,  
And sustained them, all life through.

"As we take these sacred emblems,"  
Said the preacher with the book...  
And the scrub just quivered slightly,  
As the black men came to look.  
While o'er the hill the mighty Murray  
Found its passage to the sea.  
And the Southern Ocean thundered  
Out its songs—majestically!



## The Last Word

Prayers are vital to the developing of faith, to the sharpening of vision, and to the enriching of life.  
—Charles Carpenter

Barber to customer with a lot of grease on his hair: "Do you want it cut or just a change of oil?"

\*\*\*\*\*

Have you heard about the new electric car that runs on \$2.50 worth of power a month. One slight catch—the extension cord costs \$12,000.

\*\*\*\*\*

First employee: "How long have you been working here?"

Second employee: "Ever since the day the foreman threatened to fire me."

\*\*\*\*\*

"I hear that the car industry is coming out with a pollution-free car next year."

"Cleaner engine?"

"No, tighter windows."

\*\*\*\*\*

A committee is a group of the unprepared, appointed by the unwilling, to the unnecessary.

\*\*\*\*\*

Two farmers went to a cattle sale and bought a donkey. On leading it home they had to go under a very low bridge. When they arrived at the bridge the donkey's ears wouldn't go under the bridge. One said to the other "Dig a trench and the donkey will be able to go under OK". The other thought for a while and said: "It's not going to work, you see its his ears that are too long—not his legs!"

\*\*\*\*\*

What do you call a baby whale that cries?  
A little blubber.

\*\*\*\*\*

What do you get if you cross a drill with a comedian?  
Boring jokes.

\*\*\*\*\*

What did Alexander the Grape say when stepped on?  
Nothing, he just gave a little wine.

\*\*\*\*\*

Teacher: "Do you know who built the Ark?"  
Student: "No."

Teacher: "Correct."

\*\*\*\*\*

Sunday School teacher: "What do you think the 'land flowing with milk and honey' will be like?"

Student: "Sticky!"

The true way to render age vigorous is to prolong the youth of the mind

GRAN



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