

National Journal of
Churches of Christ
in Australia

Vol. 96 • No. 13

7 August 1993

Registered by Australia Post
Publication No. VAR 0761

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Vol. 96

No. 13

7 August 1993

Managing Editor: Chris Ambrose
Assistant: Nigel Pegram

Issue	Deadline
21 August	13 August
4 September	27 August
18 September	10 September

Address for All Correspondence
(including subscription payments)
PO Box 101
North Essendon 3041
Telephone (03) 379 1219
Fax (03) 379 0015



Member
publication of the
Australasian
Religious Press
Association

National logo of
Churches of
Christ in
Australia



"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

Advertising Rates
Displayed: \$5 per column
centimetre

Classifieds: \$12 for the first 25 words
and 20c for each additional word

World News

Daund, India

Chris Ambrose

Recently the minister of the Daund, India, Church of Christ, Benjamin Tiwari, visited Australia as the guest of the Overseas Mission Board, representing the Churches of Christ in Western India at the OMB's annual meeting (he was Conference Secretary from 1979-1986). He has also visited churches in South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria. Whilst in Melbourne he visited the "AC" office and we had a discussion on the Daund church and the Conference in India.

Daund, Maharashtra State, is an important railway junction on the Bombay-Madras line, with a population of 20,000. The population is primarily Hindu with Christians making up about 25% of the population (the average for the whole of India is about 2.5%) with a smaller number of Muslims.

In the area around Daund there is some increase in tension as militant Hinduism increases. The church is sensitive to this and ensures that all open-air meetings are such that no problems will be caused. The very militant Hindu resurgence is primarily in the northern states, rather than Maharashtra.

The Daund church is one of 13 churches that are a part of the Churches of Christ in Western India Conference. These churches have been the focus of our mission work in India with Baramati being the mother church. Today, there are more than 2,000 members in the 13 churches. The Conference also has responsibility for two High Schools (up to the 10th year) and one Primary School (up to 7th year), two homes (one for boys and one for girls), two Friendship Centres, the Ashwood Memorial Hospital, two clinics, eight village health visitation programs and the Bombay Christian Centre. Conference's work has centred on Maharashtra State and as people from churches have moved to new areas such as Bombay our work has expanded to help them.

The Daund church is the second largest of the Indian churches with around 450 members and an average attendance of over 300 each Sunday.

The Sunday morning worship service seems to have most of the elements of services here in Australia. The main difference would be the length of the service—a minimum of two hours with the sermon lasting at least 45 minutes. One other difference is that the minister generally leads communion, assisted by the church committee members and elders. Two women,

who are church committee members, regularly assist in handing out the communion elements. Prior to the service a Sunday School operates for 225 children. 18 teachers are involved in this ministry which is primarily to families of Christians.

The main outreach to non-Christian children comes from the 16 different Sunday Schools that the church operates in different parts of Daund during the week. Every evening of the week, except Sundays, a team of the ministers, evangelists and young people conduct these Sunday Schools in at least three locations; over 300 children are involved in this program.

The church itself is the centre of a very active community with something occurring each day. On Monday afternoons a women's fellowship group, who are involved in the visitation of members, meets whilst in the evenings, a Theological Education by Extension program operates in the church. (Currently there is only one course available in Marathi—a six book course on the Gospel of Matthew—32 courses are available in English). Twenty-two members have completed this course and a further 29 are in the process of finishing.

Tuesday sees cottage prayer meetings being held in at least four different locations. Church committee members or the pastors lead these times which are generally held in the open air, allowing all in the neighbourhood to participate. On Wednesdays, a Bible study is held at the church (currently they are studying Ephesians). Thursdays sees the Retirees Prayer Fellowship (for those in the 50-80s age group) meet and village and home visitation takes place in the evening, involving the young people who will sing, share testimonies and hand out or sell Gospel tracts and literature.

Fridays are the special day of prayer at the Daund church. The chapel is open all day (10 am-7 pm) for prayer requests and in the evening intercessory prayer meetings are held. These are on a monthly cycle which sees prayer for the local church and Conference on the first week of the month, India on the second, world evangelism on the third and Israel on the fourth week.

Saturdays sees youth activities at the church, with a Girl's Club operating in the afternoon and a youth group in the evening.

During the first part of the summer holidays in May, the church operates a 10 day Vacation Bible School in at least three areas of Daund. Over 350 children, many from

World News

non-Christian homes, participate.

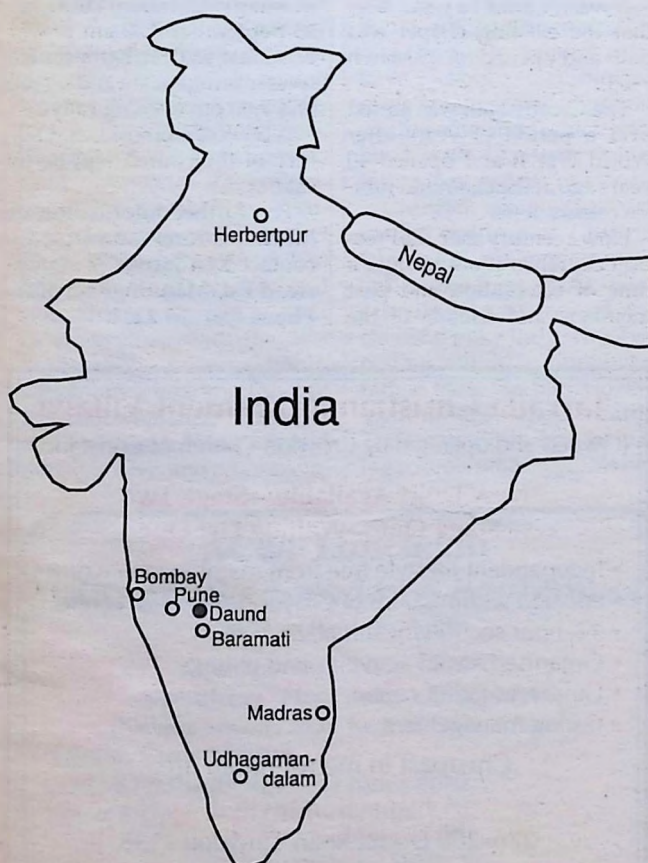
The Daund church is very missionary minded. Currently, at least 38% of the church's budget goes for evangelistic work outside the church. The first missionary from the Conference is from Daund. Vinay Rathod commenced working with the Kolan community (a tribal village) north of our Conference area, in January. So far, four people have responded to the message and become Christians.

Two members of the church, Ravina and Abraham, are currently in Bible College studying to become ministers and two young people have just commenced mission training. They have committed their lives to being missionaries following the completion of their training.

When asked about the future, Benjamin talked of the church needing to be strong in

its moral standards. The church needs to stay strong in its prayer life and in the study of God's word and they need to encourage one another. Benjamin also shared about the need for the church people to be friendly with non-Christians and share the gospel with them. He also saw the need for the church to raise their own people for ministry and leadership. His main concern was that his people would be strong enough to witness for Christ wherever they were.

The final question I asked was what the Indian churches could teach us in Australia. Barry Jenkins and Benjamin shared the thoughts of the simple lifestyle that we could learn, the openness to the gospel and prayer life. One aspect of society they noted was that all Indians are more open to discussion and sharing about spiritual matters than we are in our Western culture.

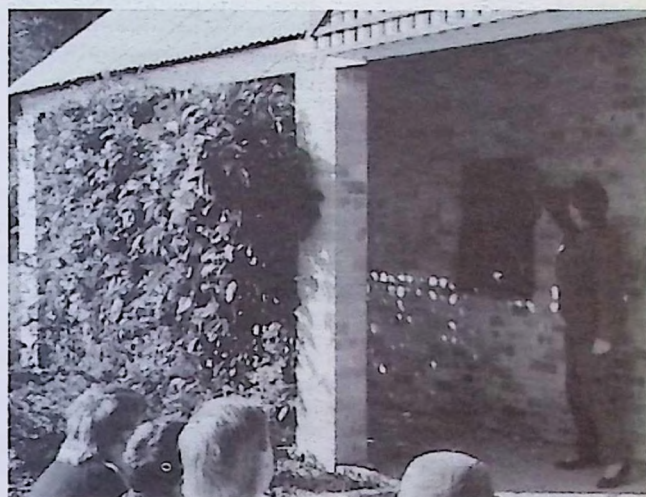


• Map of India, showing location of Daund, home of Benjamin Tiwari

News

The Ashes

Competition at Swansea camping and recreation ground



• Mrs Gail Johnston, President of the Hunter Regional Churches of Christ Conference, unveils a plaque commemorating Bill and Judy Flett's work

The Hunter Region churches in NSW have for some years been quietly developing a camping/recreational site near Swansea. It is an elevated, cleared, levelled and grassed area surrounded by heavy forest, beside Lake Macquarie. The clearing now contains powered caravan sites, two small dormitory huts and a modern ablutions building, as well as caretaker's residence with small conference room.

Queen's Birthday weekend, 12-14 June, was an occasion for local people to enjoy fellowship at the camp. Several families camped the whole weekend, exploring the surroundings and participating in a simple and happy service on the Sunday.

Monday was the day for "The Ashes", when a good number came for the day, and teams competed in volleyball, badminton, caber tossing, rolling pin throwing, women's javelin (broom) throwing etc. Finally, the urn of Ashes was solemnly and ceremonially presented to the Georgetown church who were judged the winners (the scorers and umpires being Georgetownians of dubious fairness).

During the day, a plaque to recognise the outstanding efforts and energy of Bill and Judy Flett in developing the site was unveiled. The Fletts often called the site "Soaring Eagles" after the eagles that often soar overhead. On the day, however, it was the pelicans' turn to soar—a very impressive with their great size. In fact, the camp is quite notable for its variety of bird life, including unusually tame bell birds in the rainforest.

Churches of Christ people wishing to use the camp, individually or in groups, can make arrangements with Keith and Patsy Grofos on (049) 71 2927.

—K. Johnson

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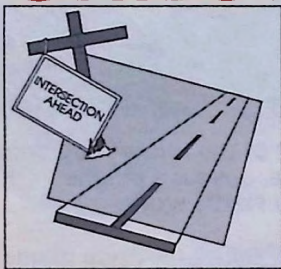
The index of the 1992 issues of *The Australian Christian* has finally been completed. This is being mailed to all subscribers who in past years have requested a copy. If you would like a copy please contact *The Australian Christian*, PO Box 101, Essendon North 3041. Phone (03) 379 1219. Fax (03) 379 0015. Indexes will be mailed free of charge.

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But it's not just Bill's input that is going to make this refresher "one out of the box". The venue is a top conference centre at Philip Island. The schedule will include time to relax and enjoy friendships, and, believe it or not, time to catch a glimpse of those penguins.

Every aspect of the conference is being considered in order to give participants a great all-round experience, with plenty of spontaneity and fun.

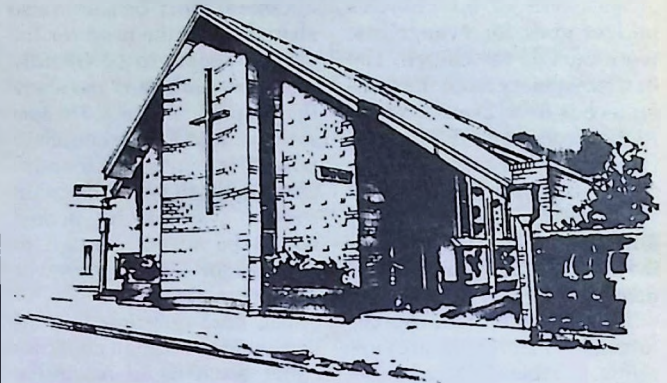
Ministers—don't miss it! Fill in a registration form now and secure your place at a top event.

Correction

In our article on the Darwin church the telephone number for the manse was incorrect. It is (089) 27 9572.

100 Years at Prospect

Centenary celebrations



In the early 1890s a church had vision. That church was the Kermode Street, North Adelaide, SA, church, and a new work commenced at Prospect. The church first met for "Breaking of Bread" on 23 September 1893 in Miss Belcher's classroom at 46 Pulsford Road.

It wasn't until 12 years later that the existing chapel was built and opened on 23 March 1905.

The Crosby Hall was added over a period of years after World War II and opened 40 years ago at the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Now a century later, the Prospect church is about to enter a time of celebration and past members and friends of the

church are invited to this time of rejoicing. The program planned is to be held over two days: Sunday 19 September 10.00 am Thanksgiving worship service, 12.00 noon luncheon (booking is essential), 2.00 pm afternoon tea at the church, 3.30 pm High Tea and 7.00 pm evening celebration; Thursday 23 September 7.30 am prayer breakfast, 5.00 pm barbecue tea (please bring a salad and sweet) and 7.00 pm evening rally.

A book of memories and history of the church will be on sale.

For further information or luncheon reservation please contact Ken Jacobs, 7 Hampstead Rd, Manningsham 5086. Phone (08) 269 2284.

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Christian Schools

Heathdale Christian College—12 years on

Heathdale Christian College

A Vision Becomes a Reality 1982-1992



Helen Cerne
Bronwen Hickman



Christian schools are still fairly new. They mushroomed in the 1980s in the shadow of (perhaps even as a response to) the High Court case brought by the Council for the Defence of Government Schools which wanted to stop Government aid to non-Government schools. The choices for most parents until then were: the government schools—the 'free, secular and compulsory' system set up in 1872, where parents had little say in the values and standards passed on to their children along with the 3Rs; the Catholic parish schools, which often had low fees but were not what most Protestant parents were looking for; and the expensive, and often exclu-

sive, independent schools. Parents began to feel that this was not enough. Taxpayers all, they wanted a better choice for the education of their children.

So, bit by bit, in church halls and in borrowed rooms, with shoe-string budgets and dedicated teachers, Christian schools were born. Most of them manage for years with the bare Government recognition of their existence in the per capita grant which is paid for each

child educated in the school—this grant is much less than it would cost to educate the same child in a Government school! Some are parent-controlled, some are run by a church, some have a school council, but their goals are the same: to provide quality education which is imbued with Christian values, rather than secular ones.

Christian schools mostly cater for children of Christian families; if you aren't committed to the idea of Christian schooling, why would you choose a poky little school operating out of a church hall rather than the big, Government-funded school nearby? They are typically low-fee-paying schools where parents help

in the classroom, with yard duty, do time in the office, as well as the things we've come to expect of parents in schools—working bees in the grounds, covering library books, helping in the canteen, etc.

But as the Christian school grows bigger and becomes known in its community, parents who want firm discipline with higher standards and strong moral values, may choose it for their children, even if it means sacrificing some of the material benefits of a Government school.

This has been the case with Heathdale Christian College in Werribee. It opened its doors in 1982 to 37 pupils; last year there were 520 at the school. In its twelfth year of operation, it has graduated from the portable buildings which were a feature for the early years, and is established in bricks-and-mortar with the aid (after a long wait) of Government grants. The school began with primary students who moved on through the secondary school years, pioneering a new year level as they went, until the first VCE students graduated in 1988.

Heathdale began with no funds, but a lot of faith, in the car park of the local Baptist church—in three portable classrooms paid for by a man who had just sold his house. Everything that didn't happen in the classrooms or the minute playground happened in the Baptist manse (office, library, sick bay, staff room) or in the Church building itself (assemblies, de-

votions, drama, art classes, wet-weather play area, toilets).

Students today doing science in the modern laboratories, or working on computers, or using the new library, find it hard to picture the early days. Students from the early days who come back to visit can hardly believe the School as it is today. To help them all, and their parents, to understand the way it began, and has grown, the School commissioned two former teachers to write a book about its beginning and its first decade—this has just been published.

The book: *Heathdale Christian College: A Vision becomes a Reality*, by Helen Cerne and Bronwen Hickman, is available from Heathdale Christian College, 175 Derrimut Road, Werribee 3030, price \$15 + \$2 postage.

—Bronwen Hickman.
Bronwen Hickman is a member of the Werribee, Vic, Church of Christ, and was on the committee which first planned the school. She represented the Church of Christ on the School Council for ten years, and is co-author of the book.

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AB 586

People

Garfield and Grace Todd

60 Years Of Service



• Dadaya High School

In 1934, Sir Garfield and Grace Todd made the long journey from New Zealand to be missionaries in a remote area of Southern Rhodesia. They were sent by New Zealand Churches of Christ to a ministry which included being teacher, doctor,

farmer, mechanic and pastor. Grace Todd led the way in changing the education system in the country and established the schools curriculum still in use today.

Sir Garfield Todd worked for the mission for many years,

then became a Member of Parliament and eventually Prime Minister in the 1950s. During the country's struggle for independence, he was held under house arrest, without trial, for four and a half years. The Todds are citizens of Zimbabwe and now reside in Bulawayo, having moved from their home of many years at Dadaya only a year or two ago.

Dadaya High School, the boarding school which they established, maintains a tradition of outstanding scholarship and has brought many students to accept Jesus Christ. There are presently 750 students at Dadaya. Bursaries are provided to allow students from the communal lands nearby to attend the school.

Since 1991, Allen Todd (nephew of Sir Garfield and Grace) has provided assistance in the administrative work of

the school and training others in this area. The need has been identified for a central administrative block at the school. To meet this need, an appeal for funds has been launched to build the "Todd Building", which at the same time recognises the invaluable contribution of Grace and Sir Garfield Todd. The Todd Building will be a two-storey adobe building which will provide facilities for meetings and lectures and will be the central administrative block for the school.

The aim of the appeal is to raise \$NZ 150,000 for the Todd Building. The foundation stone will be laid on 18 September. Donations for this appeal can be sent to Churches of Christ Overseas Aid fund, 180a Gray St Adelaide 5000. All donations will be forwarded to the appeal. Donations over \$2 are tax-deductible.

Kenmore Loses Valued Student

Ken Taylor dies

9 July was a sad occasion for Kenmore Christian College, when the community gathered to pay its respects for one of its valued student members, Ken Taylor, who died after a brief battle with cancer.

Ken came to Kenmore in July 1992, having completed part-time studies with the Baptist Theological College of Queensland (1990-92). During the mid-summer vacation, he underwent surgery for the removal of a tumour. He made a good recovery, sufficient to enable him to continue his studies. His wife, Debbie, also enrolled as a student and studied alongside her husband. Further health difficulties surfaced toward the end of the semester. Nevertheless, he persevered, completing all the academic requirements, except for the end of semester examinations. In the few weeks that followed, Ken's health declined rapidly, and he died quietly at his home, on 6 July.

The Ewers Chapel at College was packed for the funeral service, led by the minister of the

Kenmore church, Grant Spangenberg, where Ken served as a student. Grant was assisted by Noel Barnes (student minister), Tony O'Hare (student president), and Graham Warne (vice-principal). The congregation comprised members of the college community, Kenmore church, Burleigh Heads church (from which Ken came to Kenmore), and Broadbeach Baptist Church (where Ken and Debbie were former members). Six of

Ken's fellow students served as pallbearers, while the remainder of the College community formed a guard of honour.

In his message, Grant raised the question which had been on the minds of so many: "Why is someone who has experienced a call from God and has dedicated himself to ministry, 'cut off' prematurely?" "There is no simple answer," he said. "We don't know how our lives fit into God's overall scheme of

things. What matters most is that we be faithful; that we take God at his word, and trust him." Grant drew attention to the Christian hope, which offers great comfort and encouragement for those who remain.

The college has established a Library Memorial, by which library books purchased with donations to the memorial will bear Ken's name. Interested friends are invited to participate in the memorial fund. (Donations are tax-deductible)

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Things Are Not What They Were

Changing for the best

Ballarat, Vic, church at Peel Street for many years has had a reputation of being an older and extremely conservative church. Many people have said to me, "You're the minister of Peel Street, aren't you too young?"

When people have moved into Ballarat, other people outside as well as Ballarat people have said to them, "Don't go to Peel Street it's too old and conservative."

Well, this may have been correct in the past, but in the last 18 months many things have drastically changed to enable us to move into the future.

The change has not stopped, rather we are now trying to adapt our ministry and mission to meet the needs not only of the people within the church, but also those of the community we have been planted in. We are not just aiming for young people either, but trying to cater for young and older

generations as all are wanted and needed in God's kingdom.

One of our ways of showing our community, as well as other churches, that we are a church that has and is changing to meet people's needs, was a special service on Sunday night 27 June. It was a service with a difference that we called "Praise and Worship Festival 93."

This was a night where we had not one or two musical artists, but seven local artists from different churches bringing their gifts and talents to join together to praise God. The artist were, Kerri Fry and Steve Prince from the Baptist church, The Lindner Sisters from the Brethren church, Bernadette Kennedy from the Catholic Church, Pam Harrison, Jon Jones and Browyn Booth from Churches of Christ.

All of the items varied from music to different styles of vocalists filling in just over two



• Part of the "team" at Peel Street's "Praise and Worship Festival 93"

hours of musical praises to our God. With the enhancement of lighting and sound equipment the night was very successful and enjoyed by many. Some people felt it might have been a little loud, but can you always please everyone? Our normal night services see between 30-40 people attend, but for this night we had over 160.

Peel Street, the "Aussie Church of Christ", is not the old conservative church it was

once seen to be. It has and still is changing to meet not just the needs of Christian people, but most importantly to "Break Down the Barriers" that exist between the church and our uninformed and unchurched Australian community. Worship services such as these are not the answer, but it is one of the many steps we have been taking, and are going to take, in bringing God to all people.

—Wayne Allen

Reaching this Nation's Youth

Youth ministry training option at Carlingford

Young people are the present and future of the Church, therefore, we must do all we can to most effectively convert, equip and mobilise them for the Kingdom.

To help the church to be more effective in this the College is offering specialist youth ministry training beginning in 1994.

Why is specialist Youth Ministry training being offered? First, because those working with young people have brought to our attention the huge need in this area. This advice and guidance has come from youth directors, pastors and leaders in the field from all around Australia. Also, we realise that the

cutting edge of ministry training is always a moving target, and we want to continue to offer the best possible training. Details of exactly what is being offered and how we can help you or your Youth Leaders can be obtained by ringing College Administration (02) 630 7533 (after hours (02) 683 4458) and asking for Antony Cook or Narelle Bignill. In brief, the training is available as a spe-

cialisation in the three year BTh/Diploma. It's also open to those taking the Certificate in Youth Ministry (made up of six subjects and field work). Most of the required subjects will be offered as modules (i.e. as four day intensives) at one of the Ministry Centres.

Those who will be training you are the foremost practitioners available from around Australia—people like...

- Neale Fong, Youth Vision, WA Churches of Christ
- Graham Hyman, Youth Specialties, Qld

Our desire is to equip you and inspire you to reach this nation's youth and, ultimately, this nation. Our prayer is that this training will go a long way toward achieving that goal and will bring glory to God as he works in and through us all.

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Letters to the Editor

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Communion and Reconciliation

To the Editor,

Gabriel Babare in his article "See You Sunday" ("AC" 3 July), makes valid points for which he should be thanked.

My only difference would be in response to his statement that "if you have bitterness of any shape in your heart, then let the cup and the bread go by."

Perhaps, partaking of that cup and bread will only impress on us the more the fact of our bitterness and of our need to begin reconciliation. It is because we have failed, because we have become embittered, because we have not lived up to our Christian vows, that we need to share in the cup and bread—that act should only sharpen any conflict, underline any hatred or bitterness and unite us in fellowship with others, and in forgiveness.

—Bruce Burn
(Morwell, Vic)

The Inimitable Ron Hewitt

To the Editor,

Following your report ("AC" 17 July), let me share with you last Sunday night's service.

We at Hurstville, NSW, church were very privileged to have Ron come to speak to us. We have always had a tremendous love and respect for Ron's very individual presentation of God's word, with his ability to reach out to people of all ages.

Ron came to the platform with a firm tread and a warm smile. He told us that he wasn't going to preach a sermon, because he had forgotten how, since this was the first time he had preached for five months, instead he would tell us a story as our Lord had told in parables.

He related many humorous and meaningful experiences of his stay in hospital and how he was able to minister to those around him.

The text was from Psalm 37, bringing in very clearly God's words "Do not fret", and what a comfort they had been to him.

I'm sure that everyone in that congregation will never forget that Sunday night and treasure those words from our Lord.

We pray that God's plan for the rest of Ron's life will be to restore him to the point when he will be able to share with many other congregations in his own inimitable way.

—Nancy Souness
(Hurstville, NSW)

Help Wanted

To the Editor,

Quick, Mr Editor, I need help!

Am I the only one who has difficulty with Stephen Curkpatrick's convoluted articles?

I have thought that the parable of the rich man and Lazarus ("AC" 3 July) is a simple but tragic story of a man who when he could, he would not; and when he would, he could not. —Keith Crowley
(Marion, SA)

Salvation and Non-Christians

To the Editor,

Two matters in particular caught my attention in the 17 June issue. Alan Matheson's comment on holy days and Christendom relates directly to my series. Had the church understood the Bible's teaching about the covenants, what is known as the Constantinian synthesis would never have occurred. For in 325 AD Christ's Kingdom, then equated with the church (cf ancient Israel), most certainly took on a worldly character in flat contradiction to the teaching of Jesus (John 18:36).

Next, Karl Rahner's concept of anonymous Christians referred to in Trevor Robinson's letter is deeply questionable. If we take Rom. 10:9f seriously, it is a contradiction in terms. On the other hand, if my view of the covenant is accepted, there is no need, as has been traditional, to universally consign non-Christians to hell as if all of them were of the same ilk. After all, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were not Christians, but are nonetheless in the Kingdom of God (Matt. 8:11). Along with them will be many other "sheep" who manifestly were

never Christian (see Matt 25:37, 46b).

While we can entertain high hopes of the ultimate salvation of certain non-Christians we know, we cannot read their hearts. Judgement remains the prerogative of God in Christ (1 Cor. 4:5) and it begins, incidentally, with us (1 Peter 4:17).

The only way to be sure about future salvation is to commit ourselves in faith to Christ. Not to have him as our advocate in preparation for the great day (1 John 2:1) ought (and probably does more than we realise—Heb. 2:15) to inspire deep-rooted fear (cf Exod. 20:18f, Heb. 12:18f). Our God is a consuming fire (Heb. 12:20) and wrongly motivated "good works" will surely be found wanting (1 Cor. 3:10–15; Matt 7:21–23).

—Ken Stothard
(Essendon, Vic)

Cape Town or "Escape Town"

To the Editor,

Worship in almost every church in Australia would have ended with a hymn or song of praise and a benediction. Worship at the Cape Town (South Africa) church ended abruptly, with five black gunmen throwing hand grenades and firing weapons.

Whenever we congregate to worship God, we do so in a fortified place, whether it be a house, public building, chapel or in the open air—fortified by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit—as they do in Cape Town. The only difference is, we are not threatened by such unbelievable and atrocious attacks against humanity. Dark forces may be at work here, but with God, peace and democracy still rule.

Letters from Tertius

Hymns and Choruses

To the Editor,

I'm afraid that I was one of those who sang, uncritically, any hymns that happened to be on the Sunday agenda. If they were in the hymnal they must be alright. I must confess that I didn't take a lot of notice of the words. Whether or not I liked the hymn depended on the tune.

But since choruses have become a regular feature of our morning services, I have taken much more notice of the words. Initially, this was because I resisted the change and wanted to prove that choruses were mostly bad poetry, bad theology and bad music; while hymns were good poetry, good theology and good music.

I have now had to revise my opinion of some choruses which are good on all three counts. Likewise, I have been taking notice of the words of some of our hymns, and have to admit that some that I sang with great gusto are defective in poetry, theology and sometimes in music.

Last Sunday we sang the introit "Here from the world we turn Jesus to seek". Once I used to like it; it had a sort of soothing feeling about it. Now I can see that it is all wrong. If we turn from the world we won't find Jesus because that's where he is. The hymn gives the impression that Jesus lives at the church and that we are on our own until we go to meet him there next Sunday. There is also a contradiction because there is a prayer in it that says, "Let thy grace descend", as though Jesus is up above somewhere and not even in church, let alone in the world. Yet the hymn calls him our dearest friend. Some friend! Shut up in church all the week? Up on high somewhere wafting down his grace but not his presence? And avoiding contact with the world where we have to live our lives?

I resisted choruses at first, but I'm glad I was overruled. At least they've helped me to be a bit more discriminating. Some choruses are terrible!

—Tertius

Letters

The weapons of the churches' warfare are not physical, (2 Cor. 10:3-5.) We don't use physical weapons to avoid spiritual battles.

To overcome these dark powers, I ask each person who reads this letter to claim the greatest power in the world—the power of prayer. God is able to deliver; corporately, we need to be able believers.

In December '92 I met John and Vivienne Cairns (from Cape Town) at the Brunswick church, where their daughter Sharon, and son-in-law, Mervyn, both worship. John and Vivienne were in that Cape Town service on Sunday and they, being the sincere, holy couple they are, know that God stretches out his hands when we pray.

We must claim the power of the Holy Spirit and pray that God will keep the doors open in that Cape Town church, and for those who worship there, that their lives will be kept safe and free.

—Don Milne
(Coburg, Vic)

Baptisms

Some Good News

Membership explosion at Burleigh Heads

Membership at Burleigh Heads, Qld, has increased from 62 to 104 (over 60% increase) in the last 12 months—praise the Lord!

On 23 May, six were baptised and 10 new members were welcomed into the church.

At the same time, it is pleasing to report that all church activities are on the increase: namely Sunday School, youth group, Ladies Night Out and Bible Study groups.

27 June was a very special occasion when Tweed Heads, Murwillumbah and Nerang churches combined with us for the evening service when Major Ian Thomas from Capernwray Missionary Fellowship was guest speaker. Over 300 attended this service.

The church continues to support 10 missionaries at \$100 each per month, some of whom have recently shared in services.

Minister, Noel Newton, has been appointed to the Bond University Chaplaincy Board and is at present the acting chaplain. He is now on the Queensland Advisory Board and has also been appointed as Chairman of the Capernwray

Missionary Fellowship to set up a Summer Bible School '94 from 8–14 January 1994. Plan your Christmas holiday on the Gold Coast and come and join us for this feast of Biblical studies with Chris Thomas and Mike Nelson.



• Noel Newton with baptism candidates Garry Beavis, Noelle Suliman, Ken Smart, Leanne Smart, Peter Tree and Pi Skaanvad

First Baptism



• Pictured is the first baptism of the Upper Yarra, Vic, Fellowship which was held on 23 May in the Montrose chapel. Kim Thoday (part-time minister) baptised Barbara Gabbitas who was the first baptismal candidate from the new church.

Presenting the third annual

PROM Praise MELBOURNE A Celebration in Praise

A program combining popular concert music with traditional and contemporary Christian hymns, featuring soloists, massed choir and orchestra drawn from many

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Melbourne Town Hall

Saturday, August 26, 1993, 7.30 pm.

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Tickets \$15 Adults; \$12 Pensioners, full-time students and groups of 20+.

From July 1, tickets available from:

Keswick Bookshop, Port Phillip Arcade, 232 Flinders Street, City.

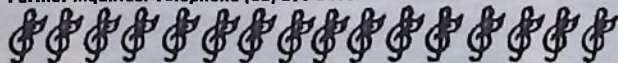
Koorong Books, 6a Vicki Street, Blackburn South.

Or: Send cheque and stamped self-addressed envelope to:

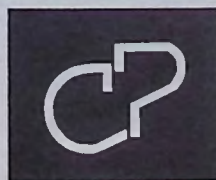
Melbourne Praise Inc.

PO Box 78, Blackburn, 3130.

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*Melbourne Praise Inc. is an inter-denominational organisation comprising representatives from major Christian denominations.



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Papers

Zadok Paper S 61

Christians and the Environment : Why Bother?

Jim McPherson

Has the environmental problem of the world, or at least the one facing Christians, been solved? The author argues that the answer is no, and that the church has a role to play in addressing the problem. He argues that the church has a responsibility to care for the environment, and that this is a part of its mission. He also argues that the church has a role to play in educating the public about the environment, and that this is a part of its mission.



Christians and the Environment: Why Bother?

by Jim McPherson (Zadok Papers S61)

There has been little material produced in Christian circles in recent years on our approach to environmental issues. Much of the material that is available is rather suspect, as the authors have almost deified nature. Jim McPherson takes a serious view of nature, but he wisely anchors that in Christian faith. He spells out the background biblical material that should lead us to have an

environmental concern and looks at why the church has largely been silent on this issue, before arguing for a particular Christian approach to environmental issues. In his conclusions he comments, "We people of faith should be in the vanguard of those who work towards responsible conservation and development of God's beautiful creation. To damage it irresponsibly is almost blasphemy."

A helpful summary of some of the issues can be found on the front cover which, "calls upon Christians to arrive at an ecological vision which is built on thoughtful Christian faith rather than self-interest, communal concern, or a vague, semi-religious empathy with nature".

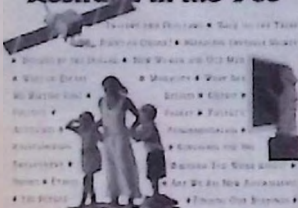
Available from The Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society, Locked Bag 23, Kew 3101 Phone (03) 816 9367, fax (03) 816 9617.

—CRA

Books

REINVENTING AUSTRALIA

The mind and mood of Australia in the 90s



HUGH MACKAY

Reinventing Australia—The Mind and Mood of Australia in the 90s

by Hugh Mackay (Angus & Robertson) \$16.95.

Hugh Mackay is a social researcher who has spent 35 years studying the attitudes and behaviour of the Australian community. His company is well known in industrial circles and its research is well respected. Much of the research is carried out in discussion groups who look at a topic, rather than in questionnaire type surveys. This book is the accumulation of his observations on the way Australian society is heading and the attitudes that

Australians have to society and some of the major issues facing that society. He looks at the way Australia's attitudes have changed during the last 20 years, a period he describes as one of "relentless social, cultural, economic, political and technological change". Hugh Mackay sees an epidemic of angst or anxiety existing in Australia today. "The problem is that, all over Australia, people feel themselves to be operating on a short fuse." "One way of explaining this is to suggest that many Australians

are suffering from the Last Straw syndrome, a condition in which so much stress and anxiety is being experienced that even quite minor upsets can feel like one thing too many."

This book looks at such issues as New Women and Old Men, In-laws and Out-laws, Whither the Work Ethic?, Managing Invisible Money, Divided by the Dollar, Are We All New Australians?, etc.

This research and observation of Australian society is compulsory reading for any who is concerned about relating the gospel to our society. There is little in the book that specifically mentions religion (which is in itself an interesting comment on the place of faith in Australian society), however many of the concerns should be addressed by the church.

Highly recommended.

—CRA

The Nonresidential Missionary

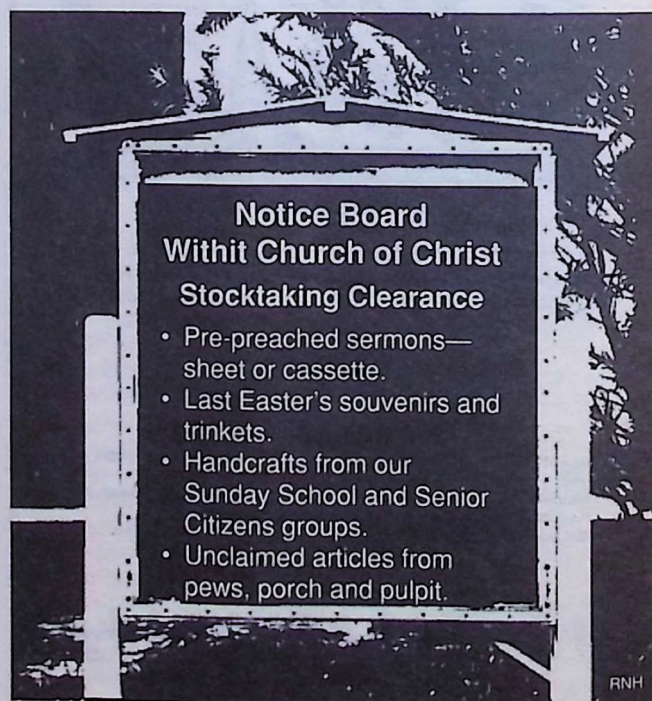
by V.D. Garrison (MARC)

If you think you know what is meant by the title of this book you may need to think again if you read it. The writer describes the work of a nonresidential missionary as a "new strategy" for mission. Part one of the book defines and discusses the new strategy. The definition in Chapter Two is supplemented by an expanded definition in an appendix, because of the diversity of ideas of what a nonresidential missionary is. After definition, there is discussion of the reasons for this strategy, some examples and suggestions for training. Part One concludes by attempting to answer the question "Does it work?" through considering the results of work described in two case studies. Given the writer's claim that the strategy began in 1986 it is perhaps too early to conclude that it is successful in the long-term. It has made a difference in the lives of individuals, according to the evidence presented.

Part Two helps to identify people in the world without access to the gospel through case studies as well as effective use of tables and maps, giving details about language, population and so on.

The book is interesting and a useful resource for mission. It points to the necessity for a different mission strategy in some parts of the world and reinforces the ongoing need for Christian mission.

—Julie Trinnick



Baptisms

Spanish Church Baptisms

Some, hopefully, of many more



• (L to R) Gustavo Santillan, Elider Zamorano, Paulina Zamorano, Victoria Lopez, Marina Lopez, Phil Wyllie and Cecilia Santillan (in front, wearing jacket)

Six people from the Spanish Church of Christ, Fairfield, NSW, were baptised by Pastor Philip Wyllie in the surf below Stanwell Tops. They were brother and sister, Gustavo and Cecilia Santillan; husband and wife, Elider and Paulina Zamorano; and mother and daughter, Virginia and Marina Lopez.

What began as a Bible study with three Spanish speaking ladies in May 1991 in the unit of Philip and Debby Wyllie, is now a church of over 50 meeting regularly for worship, prayer and Bible study.

This is a Spanish speaking church. The people are all recent immigrants from South America. Philip has already spent six weeks visiting the rela-

tives of members in Argentina and Chile. His Spanish was so greatly improved, that the church is sending him to Costa Rica, to a language school for four months. He will leave in August and return in December. Manuel Ibañez will minister to the church in Philip's absence. Manuel is co-pastor of a Church of Christ in Chile.

There are 90,000 Spanish speaking people living in Sydney. Only 1,600 are professing Christians.

The Spanish Church of Christ in Fairfield, with the leading of the Holy Spirit (*¡Gloria a Dios!* [Glory to God!]), hopes to win many more for the Lord (*¡A Dios sea la gloria!* [To God be the glory!])

—Debby Wyllie

Special Moments

Baptisms at West Preston

West Preston, Vic, church was packed recently as regular attenders were joined by family members and friends as five young people were baptised.

Jessica had the privilege of her grandfather, Bill Nash, baptising her, thus making it

three generations within the same church. Some 20 family members attended, even from overseas (Tasmania).

Christopher's family were also blessed to see him follow his commitment to Jesus Christ in baptism.

Simon had the pleasure of seeing one set of grandparents attend, of Roman Catholic background. It was their first experience of a Protestant baptismal service. Anne had the joy of seeing her eldest child baptised. This was especially meaningful as Melika had been adopted from Fiji some 13 years ago as a three month old baby.

When Rebecca was baptised, there was hardly a dry eye in the church. Rebecca suffers from a very rare disability, Incontinentia Pigmenti, she was unable to respond in a normal motor function. Because of these special circumstances her father, himself blind, gave the verbal response on behalf of

his daughter. When asked where Jesus lives, Rebecca laughs and points to her heart—a sure indication of her faith and understanding of Christ as her saviour. Rebecca was also aware that her own baptism was a special time for her. She understood that somehow the act of baptism washed the dirt from within her as one is washed clean after having a bath. The first four are members of the "7-10 Club" and were baptised by Vivienne Burns, the youth leader. The youth group was formed less than 12 months ago with the aim of meeting the rising needs of secondary students in years 7-10. —Vivienne Burns

It's time
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Temperance Sunday September 12

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Sponsored by Victorian Temperance Alliance Inc.
in association with Salvation Army Alcohol
Awareness Week—September 6-13, 1993.



• Christopher Rae and Simon Lea, two members of the 7-10 Youth Club, who were baptised

Happenings

The Victorian Council of Christian Education is holding a workshop "God in the midst ... Pastoral Care with Children" on 28 August at the Ivanhoe Church of Christ, Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe, 9.30 am-4.30 pm. The registration fee is \$15. There are 3 sessions: "Helping children cope with loss and grief", "Reflections on God, the Bible, children and grief" and "Pastoral care in your group or class". Among the presenters will be Geoff Rowcroft (Tobin Brothers staff training division) and Ed Ots (CCES chaplain at Scoresby Secondary College). Details and registration to Gail Wager, Victorian Council of Christian Education, 2a Chapel Street, St Kilda 3182. Phone (03) 529 4377. Fax (03) 529 4998.

Over the period 12-16 September, Charles Price, Principal of Capemurray Hall, England, is speaking at a series of meetings under the title "Christ our Life" at the Padstow Baptist Church, cnr Cahors Road and Sphinx Avenue, Padstow. The Sunday evening service (12 September) will be held at 7 pm and the meetings on the other evenings start at 7.30 pm. On the Thursday morning (16 September) at 9.30, a pastors and leaders seminar is being held. Details from the church on (02) 774 2033.

A crescendo of criticism and warnings about a return to totalitarianism is rising in Moscow after the 14 July vote by the Russian Parliament of a law that would restrict or ban foreign mission work in Russia. Yeltsin must sign the measure within 14 days for it to become law. A spokesman indicated he may do so. The revised measure would allow foreigners "to carry on activities as individual religious workers" only if they are affiliated with a Russian religious organisation. It requires other foreign representatives of religion, as well as Russian citizens appointed under the authority of a foreign religious organisation, to receive special "accreditation."

The Channel 10 Young Achiever Awards are again open to all young people un-

der 26 years of age involved in community service. There are 7 categories open for nomination: Water Board Community Service Award, Nissan Arts Award, Pacific Power Science & Technology Award, DEET Career Achievement Award, Medibank Private Sports Award, Forestry Commission Conservation Award and K Mart Regional Development Award. Nominations close on 24 September and entry forms are available from sponsors or the Awards office on (02) 899 7099.

There are fears among the Australian Broadcasting Corporation staff that the position of religious "specialist editor" in ABC radio is at risk. It is the senior religious staff position in the ABC. It was created when the ABC abolished the position of religious department head in late 1991. The specialist editor for science is also believed to be at risk at the moment. It is understood the intention is to subsume both the religious and science departments into a blending of the two with the social history and women's units.

The Rev. Pat Tucker Spier has been nominated to be the Division of Overseas Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) President. If elected, she will succeed the Rev William J. Nottingham. She is currently associate minister of the West Street Christian Church in Tipton, Indiana, and is a former missionary.

The author of the ubiquitous poem "Footsteps" appears to have been discovered. Margaret Powers claims boxes of her writings were stolen while in transit from Toronto to Vancouver in 1980. Powers claims to have written her poem for her wedding in 1964 and was devastated when she discovered it, credited to another author, in 1983. Greeting card manufacturer Hallmark believes Margaret and now pays her an annual fee. However, other publishing companies continue to use "Footprints" attributing it to "author unknown".

Puerto Rico has the greatest population density of evangelical Christians on earth, according to Antonio Rodriguez Carmona. In an interview in the Puerto Rican newspaper *El Vocero*, the Argentinian journalist said that with an evangelical community of 1 million, an island of 8,794 square km and a population of 3.5 million, Puerto Rico had more evangelicals per square km than anywhere on earth.

Alcohol Awareness Week (6-13 September) is an initiative of the Salvation Army that is being supported by the Victorian Temperance Alliance. As an expression of concern regarding changing attitudes to the personal use of alcohol by church members, the Salvation Army is reviving Temperance Sunday as part of the week. 12 September will be the date for Temperance Sunday in Victoria. Kits containing facts on alcohol, leaflets, sermon notes, posters and Lifestyle Contract (temperance pledge) are available from the Victorian Temperance Alliance, 9 Mason St, Dandenong 3175. Phone (03) 794 9296. Fax (03) 793 1006.

A recent Roy Morgan Research poll found that 40% of Australians described themselves as non-drinkers. For those aged 14-24 the figure was 54%.

A revised edition of the Christian Professional Groups and related journals directory is now available. This lists information about student groups and Christian professional groups in Australia, the UK and the United States. It includes addresses, costs of membership and the details of the journals and publications these groups publish. Most of the groups are those affiliated with the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students. The directory costs \$5 (which includes postage) and is available from the AFES Graduates and Friends (Vic), c/o 14 Lansdowne Rd, East St Kilda 3183. Phone (03) 527 5853.

The Sydney City Mission launched a 24-hour confidential telephone counselling service on 26 July to assist people who have suffered as the result of being the victim of a crime. The new service, which provides telephone, face to face and group counselling, is a joint project between the Mission and the NSW Attorney General's Department. The number will be 318 1000 for metropolitan Sydney and a toll free number for callers from outside Sydney of (008) 819 816.

For the past 60 years, Christian radio and television in Canada has been strictly limited. But a recently enacted law promises to allow the proliferation of Christian broadcasting, albeit under stringent regulations dictating content and "balance". On 3 June, Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission announced that it will consider applications for single-faith stations, either under free or pay TV cable provisions.

Some of the rarest Bibles in the world were sold recently at auction. Sothebys sold 3 Wycliffe Bibles, from the early 15th century, for £56,500 (\$122,800 Aust), £69,000 (\$151,500 Aust) and £95,000 (\$206,500 Aust), 3-4 times the amounts expected. All were bought by a London antiquarian book dealer. The Bibles were produced by followers of Wycliffe who risked being burnt at the stake. The books are tiny so they could be easily hidden. Two were less than 4" x 3" and in one the scribe squeezed 14 lines to one inch of page, demanding the use of a magnifying glass. In the same sale a French Gothic Bible was sold for £320,500 (\$696,700 Aust).

After 4 decades of ministering to the needs of Korea's children, Compassion International is closing its doors in Korea, the country in which its work originated. The work commenced in 1952 when evangelist Everett Swanson, seeing

the widespread poverty after the Korean war, decided to help Korea's orphans, some frozen to death on the streets of Seoul, others begging for spare change or food. Compassion International grew from one project, in Korea, with 35 orphaned children, to 22 countries, nearly 2,000 projects and more than 180,000 children. Throughout the 41 years of service in Korea, more than \$40 million has been given by sponsors.

At least 80,000 Nepalese have taken a Bible correspondence course in the last 8 years, according to Every Home Concern, the Australian branch of Every Home For Christ International. Graduates of the Bible courses come from 870 villages and 73 of the country's 75 districts. The country is primarily Hindu.

The Swiss research institute, Demoscope, found that 73% of all Swiss Christians rarely or never attend church, while 62% do not believe that their religion is the only true faith. Switzerland is nominally 49% Catholic and 48% Protestant. A magazine survey revealed that the beliefs of 12% of church members are rooted in nature religions, the occult and esoteric practices, and religions of the East.

Although 42% of US residents attend church in a typical week, only 5% of prime time television characters practice religion in any way, according to a study conducted by *USA Today*. The study also found that television is far more likely to portray sex between unmarried persons than between husbands and wives.

According to the Jesus Film Project office, more than 503 million people in 197 countries have seen the *Jesus* film, and 33 million have indicated decisions for Christ as a result. There are more than 6,300 prints of the film in circulation. The project has been translated into more than 250 languages with 100 more in progress.

FOUR
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LIFT-OUT

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A NEW CONCEPT
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A Convention that will increase your understanding & skills in the vital areas of the Christian faith

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Rev. Dr Noel Vose
An outstanding speaker

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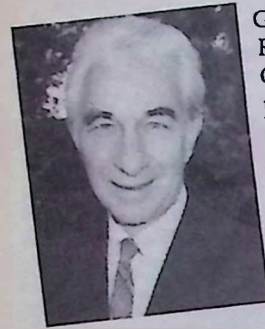
A PREVIEW OF THE
COMPLETE
CONVENTION

- Keep Politics out of the Church!
- Family Violence in the Church!
- Being Creative as God is Creative
- Pastoral Issues for the Unemployed
- The Church Members' Role in HIV/AIDS
- Divorce Recovery
- Illness, Death and Dying
- Working with the Poor
- Newcomers to Australia
- Women: Leaders in Mission
- The Gospel in the World of Sport and Leisure
- Creating Family Wellbeing, Creating Community Wellbeing
- Justice and Peace from a Biblical Perspective
- Children in the Church
- Retirement
- Singles and New Hope
- How to pastor to everyone
- Youth and Faith
- Exploring Grace
- Living in Unity

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OPENING RALLY



GUEST SPEAKER
REV. DR NOEL VOSE
Outstanding speaker and past president of the Baptist World Alliance.

A time of celebration and worship.
Sunday Sept 5th, at The World Congress Centre, 7.00pm
"Christ The Timeless Resource"

OTHER RALLIES



Wednesday Sept 8th,
at Camberwell Centre, 7.30pm
"Christ Resource for Today"
Speaker: Mrs Lyn Leach

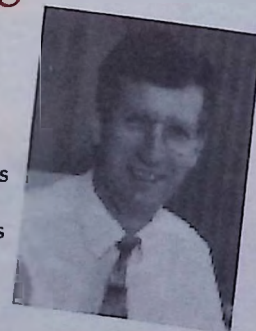


Saturday September 11th at Camberwell Centre, 7.30pm
Program includes the induction of the incoming National president, Mr Robert Leane.
"Christ: Resource for the Future"
Speaker: Mr John Gilmore

BIBLE STUDIES

-9.30am

Led by Greg Elsdon,
Principal, Churches of Christ
Theological College, Mulgrave
Wednesday, John 1:3 "The Timeless Christ: The Agent of Creation"
Thursday, John 1:14 "The Timeless Christ: The Historical Christ"
Saturday, John 1:17 "The Timeless Christ: The Future of Creation"



KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

-10.00 am

Presented by Rev. Dr. Noel Vose
Wednesday, "Christ as Resource for Community and National Life"
Thursday, "Christ As Resource in Lifes' Crises"
Saturday, "Christ as Resource for Christian Mission"

Concurrent Sessions 11.00am Wednesday

Keep Politics out of the Church!

It only divides believers from one another and destroys church energy. How do Biblical Christians faithful to Jesus who was crucified by the State take seriously the realm of politics? Are there principles for Christian engagement and if so what are they? Should the church speak out on political issues or should its representatives, the clergy, be actively involved? These are some of the issues we will tackle in this elective.
Leader: Rev. Tim Costello. Author on Urban Mission

Family Violence in the Church!

An opportunity to acknowledge the reality of Family violence within church communities. You will be challenged in your thinking as we discuss what the implications are for us as Christians when we have the courage to accept our responsibility for all who are part of our communities. Here is an opportunity to develop our resources so that we can act with a love that encompasses justice.
Leaders: Joy Butler and Peter Wing Tang

Being Creative as God is Creative

"You will be encouraged to reflect upon and celebrate the fact that as people created in the image of God whenever we use our talents, abilities and gifts in a creative way we are in fact worshipping our creator God. Some of us find this easy, others struggle, all of us can enjoy our hidden creative talents."
Leaders: Chris and Alan Niven

Concurrent Sessions 11.00am Thursday

Pastoral Issues for the Unemployed

"One million unemployed!" the headlines read... How do we/can we respond? This session will explore a number of options as ways of responding to this phenomena that confronts us. It will be practical, local church centered and needs based with an emphasis on sharing of experiences and insights.
Leader: Ian Smith

The Church Members' Role in HIV/AIDS

HIV is more infectious than a virus! HIV affects us all. What role does the church have in HIV/AIDS? What part does each individual need to play if we are to stop further HIV infection, both here and overseas, and care adequately for those, their partners and families who are already living with this virus? Workshop facilitators: Jenny Ross, Executive Director, Haemophilia Foundation Australia, Convenor, National Churches Working Group on AIDS and Louis Van Laar, member, National Churches working Group on AIDS, Director for Field Development, Churches of Christ Community Care (Vic/Tas).

Divorce Recovery

This workshop will help people work through the issues involved in the grief of a marriage breakdown. It will be of assistance for all those who have suffered such loss within their family. Leader: Cheryl Johnson

ELECTIVES

Illness, Death and Dying

I find myself knowing so many who are dying of cancer! How do I relate to them? How does this relate to the pastoral care within the church? What do I do and say? A session of practical help and understanding for all who face illness, death and dying. Leader: Dr John Paver

SATURDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 11.00AM

A DAY OF ELECTIVES FOR EVERYONE. BRING YOUR BOARD FROM THE CHURCH!

Working with the Poor

This session will look at: Jesus the poor man from Galilee; Christian Discipleship and the priority of the "little ones" in our society; What it means to be poor; How the church can reach out in a relevant way; Reflections on involvement with an inner city grass roots church in Melbourne.
Leader: Mike Esbensen, Kensington Christian Network

Newcomers to Australia

This is an opportunity to explore the issues facing newcomers to Australia and to hear of their integration into Churches of Christ. Explore some of the issues of what it means to live in a Multicultural Australia.
Leader: Check Chia, Minister Grace Church of Christ

Women: Leaders in Mission

We have heard of Hudson Taylor, William Carey and David Livingstone, but do we know of women leaders in mission? This elective seeks to broaden our understanding of mission history and to consider women in global mission today, recognizing that the common factor is the motivation and example of Jesus Christ.
Leader: Julie Trinnick, Overseas Mission Board

The Gospel in the World of Sport and Leisure

We have all heard of the protestant work ethic, isn't it time we had a Protestant leisure ethic? In a sports oriented world with long term unemployment and early retirees, what does the Gospel have to do with our leisure hours? Stimulate your thinking and the relevance of the Gospel to the whole of our lives. Be a sport and use your leisure time wisely!
Leader: Barry Ryall, Chaplain WA Shield Cricket Team

Creating Family Wellbeing, Creating Community Wellbeing

"We have all overdosed on what makes things go wrong in families but are we as sure about the factors which promote wellbeing?" We will focus on these factors and consider ways of promoting and encouraging them in our community as we affirm basic Christian values and beliefs."
Leader: Alan Niven

Justice and Peace from a Biblical Perspective

Explore the New Testament and discover that Jesus was concerned about Justice and Peace. A time of challenge and enjoyment of the scriptures with practical relevance for the living of our Christian life. Leader: Kim Thoday

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSIONS 2.00pm

Children in the Church

Is children's work the 'Cinderella' ministry in the church? We used to have it because children can't be ignored, but how high a priority do we place on it? This workshop will be a blend of input, discussion, creative ideas from people actively involved in children's ministry, and practical participation.
Leaders: Lyn Leach and the Kidsmin Committee

Retirement

A workshop designed to draw on the experiences of participants so that retirement may become the satisfying experience so often spoken of, but frequently lacking in practical execution. A special segment provides advice to the lady of the house who suddenly finds that her husband is "under her feet all day"! Leader: Max Carter

Singles and New Hope

The world does not end if you are or become single again. This workshop outlines how an effective singles ministry can become a major area of outreach for your church.
Leader: Anne Spoelder

How to pastor to everyone

A caring and sharing ministry within the church is a major reason for membership growth and support. Each member becomes a pastor to another as they share their ministry gifts. A practical session which will have an effect on your local church. Leader: Graham Carslake

Youth and Faith

Youth face many issues of identity and faith. What are the issues facing young people in today's culture? How ought the church respond? Youth ministry is an area of significant work in our churches. Become a part of the action during this workshop. Leader: Paul Creasy

Exploring Grace

Accepting the acceptance and love of god in Jesus Christ is at the heart of our faith. We are recipients of grace and divine love. What are the implications? Why can we in awe affirm that it is amazing grace which sets us free!
Leaders: Rod Tippett/Graeme Warne

Living in Unity

"Accept one another, then as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." (Rom. 15:7 NIV) How do express the unity of the church? What efforts are you making to bring about unity? Unity in your local congregation, Churches of Christ around the world and the church worldwide, will be the focus of this session. Leaders: Joan Pye and Trevor Banks

Public Open Session 4.00pm

What we learnt from the U.S. Visit

A panel of ministers led by Ted Keating sharing impressions and learnings from the recent Leadership 2000 visit to the churches in the United States.

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OTHER EVENTS

Plan to attend these other events:

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These will be held on Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th at the Camberwell Centre. A time to discuss the work of Churches of Christ in Australia and the directions for the future.

IDEAS THAT HAVE WORKED

A time to consider practical programs which have worked in local churches. A time of sharing and stimulation. Wednesday 8th 4.00pm.

AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE AND LUNCHEON

Wednesday 8th.

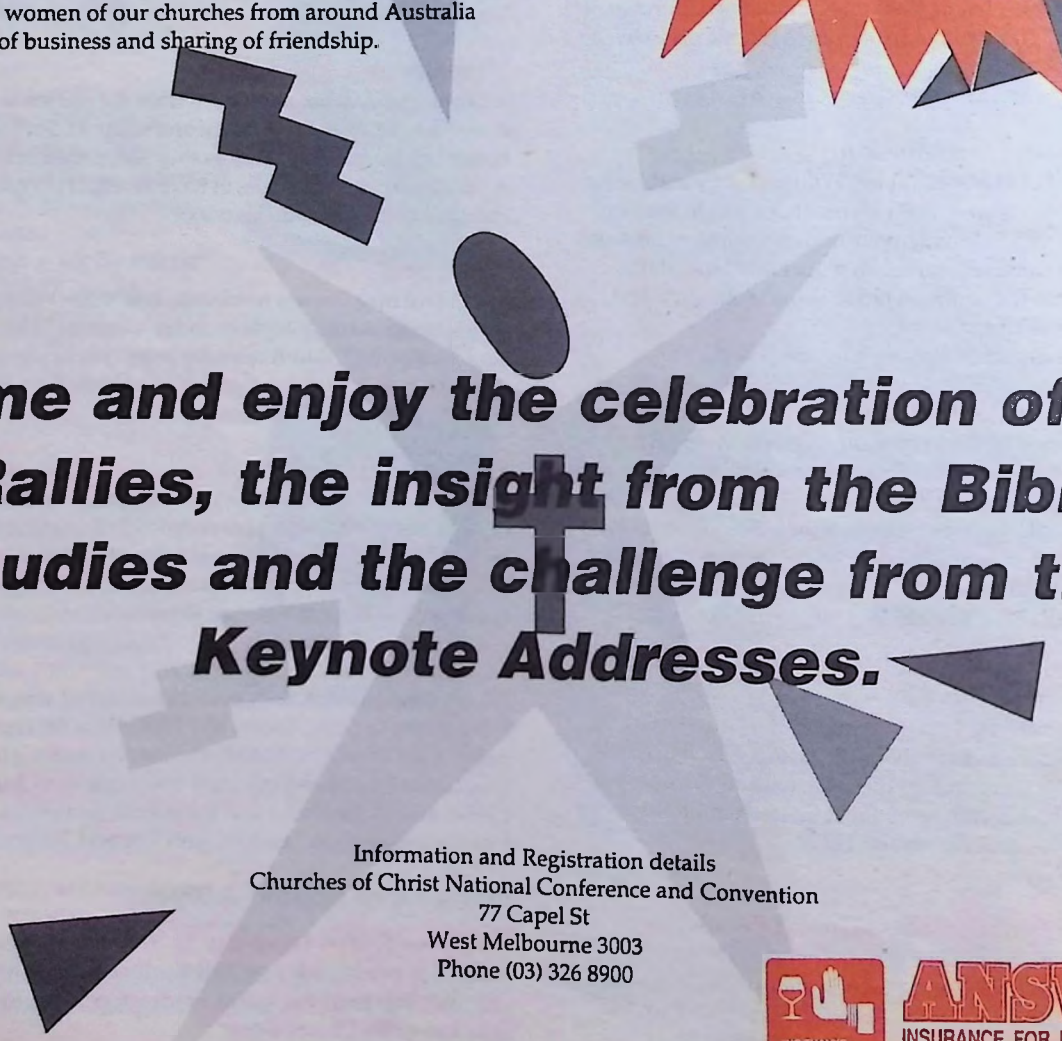
Join with the women of our churches from around Australia for this time of business and sharing of friendship.

Two sessions which will examine both the work of our ethnic and aboriginal congregations. Friday 10th, afternoon.

You may register for the full convention, or alternatively attend on a daily basis at a cost of \$10 per day.



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Competition

Churches of Christ Logo

We have been asked several times about the meaning of the Churches of Christ logo. We decided to run a competition amongst readers for fanciful, or otherwise, interpretations. We have decided to award first prize to **Joan Pye (Richmond, Vic)** for this interpretation:

The interpretation of our logo is a scriptural one. I draw your attention to Matt. 7:14 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." In our logo, the broad roads are clearly seen as turning when they come to obstacles. The narrow road between leads through the obstacles, via the cross, to life eternal. It's as simple as that!

Special mentions are also given to **Bill Flett (Ann Street, Brisbane, Qld)** for his interpretation (printed in the 3 July issue) and to **Mrs Gertrude Shannon (Wembley, WA)** whose interpretation was printed in the 17 July issue.

We have also awarded a prize to **Matthew Cook (Red Cliffs, Vic)** for his interpretation of the logo as being Siamese twins run over by a motor bike (see below). Simon, aged 12, sent in three different interpretations which he illustrated.

The Designer's Concept

The desire for a Churches of Christ logo came from the National Evangelism Strategy Conference in 1980; following

this, a number of designs were examined with the current logo being selected. What follows is the explanation of the design that was released at that time.

In designing this logo for Churches of Christ in Australia, my aim was not to incorporate as many ideas as possible, but to produce a simple image containing elements with which non-Christians in the community and the Christians in our churches can identify.

Because of the significance of the cross, I decided to retain this symbol in the design. It is placed centrally, for Christ is the central figure of our Christian living. Through the work of the cross, God establishes his claim upon all men.

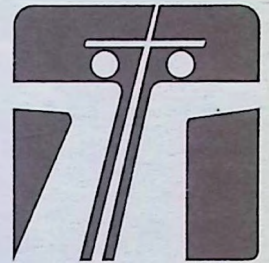
I have also incorporated two figures in my design, for I feel that it is an image to which people can relate. These two stylised forms have been placed under the cross, the reason being that people are the church, the body of all believers. As it states in 1 Cor. 12:27, "All of you are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it." Col. 1:18 also sums up my reasoning for this decision, "He, (Christ) is the head of his body, the church; He is the source of the body's life." Lives patterned on a likeness to Christ develop a fellowship that spills over into others' lives. In the book of Acts, one can trace its upbuilding and recognise that one of the outstanding things is fellowship (a society of friends). The first Christian fellowship started at the feet of Christ, and this is a further representation of the figures.

The outstretched arms within the design are symbolic in working with God in our community, for the restoration of the unity and proper coherence in all things—in society and in individuals. Because of the simplicity of the design, it can be effectively reproduced for use to identify the church in a variety of situations, for example, television promotions, newspaper advertisements,

pamphlets, letterheads, church stamps, notice-boards, and local church papers.

It is my hope that in using this logo it will help to develop a community awareness of Churches of Christ, by projecting an image people can associate with.

—Mark Bentley



Churches of Christ Homes Incorporated Chief Executive Officer

Churches of Christ Homes Inc. is a dynamic organisation, committed to the Christian principles of faith, hope and love. We provide residential care for upwards of 1000 people in Western Australia and our purpose is to promote individual well-being and personal development in an environment that enhances the quality of life for residents and staff.

We are seeking to appoint a Chief Executive Officer who possesses skill in communication, leadership and administration. The successful applicant should bring energetic enthusiasm to the task of building a strong, effective management team which takes a proactive approach to the rapidly changing environment confronting organisations providing services to the elderly.

The person who is appointed will be responsible for the administration of the whole organisation which presently operates at one country and ten metropolitan locations and will be expected to:

- Have empathy with the Churches of Christ Philosophy of Care
- Be accountable to the Board for effective management of the organisation
- Provide leadership, vision and direction
- Represent the organisation throughout the industry

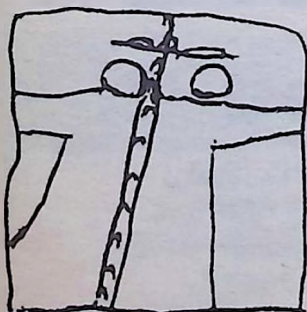
Applicants should have an empathy with the aged and disabled and be able to demonstrate a proven track record at senior management level.

A negotiable package will be agreed commensurate with the seniority of the position.

We are an equal opportunities employer.

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Applicants will be expected to address the selection criteria which is available by telephoning (09) 272 2688.



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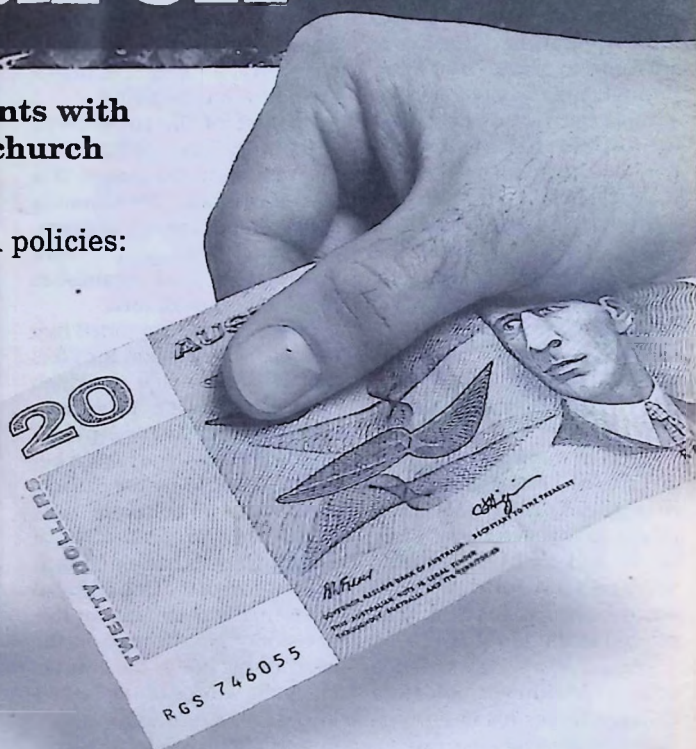
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Media Matters—Radio

"Insights"

Viney Longthorp

People who make a close study of the media as a whole assure us that those topics which are of greatest interest to that all-important creature, "the man in the street", are religion, sex and royalty. The order may vary according to the nature of who, how and where?

John Cleary agrees with this, in that he regards religion as a consistent front-runner, but he would nominate race and environmental matters as pressing for selection as numbers two and three on any list.

And John Cleary? The ABC has just announced that he is the new presenter of Radio National's "Insight" program. He is already well known to regular ABC listeners as the former host of "Sunday Night Talk".

"Insight" programs will give a prominent place to those matters and issues which involve religion. Cleary believes that cultural differences and religion are now assuming more importance in affairs both at home and abroad. He claims that in Australia questions of value are re-emerging almost as a reaction to the materialistic drive of economic rationalism. He goes on to suggest that people are starting to say things of social worth that are not measurable in dollars. The "Insights" program will seek to probe those question of values and ethics as well as questions about meaning and culture.

He acknowledges that his views were reinforced by Harvard's political scientist, Samuel Huntingdon, who, in an interview published in recent editions of America's *Foreign Affairs* journal, claimed that there was a world-wide revival of religion. Huntingdon argued that the era of international relations where the West dominated the entire international scene has ended; the West needs to learn to accommodate other civilisations; that religious conflicts between civilisations will become increasingly central issues.

Similar perceptions are being articulated right here in our midst. In an article published in the *Melbourne Age* a few weeks ago, Max Charlesworth stated, among other things, that, "despite radical changes within churches and in the place and role of formal religious bodies within our community, many Australians still take religion seriously, even though their modes of religious belief and practice may be different from what they were in the past ... my impression is that there is a very large, if diffuse interest in religion and spirituality in so-called secular Australia." Hence, the new approach to "Insights" should command widespread interest.

But there is another aspect to the need for religion to be given informed and sensitive treatment by the media. Events that often take place in the church

are capable of creating much misunderstanding and make many people look askance at those who are supposed to advocate the spiritual life. For instance, the recent "heresy" trial, in the Sydney Presbyterian Church must have made many members of the public wonder if the church was not, after all, still living the middle ages. Then the result of that television presentation about the plight of many British children placed in the care of Roman Catholic organisations during World War II would not create generous feeling about those who are deemed to order their lives on the principle of divine love. These are but two examples of the hundreds which affect all churches.

Thus, there is mankind's abiding spiritual hunger on the one hand, and on the other hand, the all too human weakness so often seen in the churches. In both cases, when the media sets about reporting, commenting and interpreting, a great deal of sensitivity, understanding and responsibility is required if these presentations are to be just, helpful and relevant. The screaming headlines redolent of voyeurism or the tart comment which barely conceals cynicism will simply not do.

There is much encouragement then, for those many committed people who work hard to commend the Gospel, in the aims and the directions of

"Insights". John Cleary will present regular features each month giving the views of Australian and international religious journals and publications. This should at least assist the listening public to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of religion in general, as well as the work and life of the churches.

John Cleary brings a fine track record and qualifications to this work. He has been a regular commentator on religious affairs since joining the ABC in 1980. He appeared as an interviewer on "Compass" on ABC-TV, and was for some years both a producer and presenter of the weekly religious current affairs program, "Religious Report". He has been a life-long member of the Salvation Army; his book of that organisation's history, *Salvo! The Salvation Army in the 1990s* was launched last June.

"Insights"

with John Cleary

Radio National
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Classifieds

DEATHS

GRAHAM Merryn Jane. Passed away tragically on July 9, 1993, aged 23 years. Dearly loved daughter of Alan and Rennice. Dearly loved sister of Craig and Janine, and sister-in-law of Stephen. Some day we will understand. Now in God's loving care. John 3:16.

KETTNER Amy Amelia. Passed away 22 July, 1993, aged 76. Dearly beloved wife of Paul Victor. Mother of Paul and Suzanne. "Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life."

KETTNER Amy Amelia. Passed away July 22, 1993, peacefully, aged 76. Beloved mother of Paul, mother-in-law of Rosalie. Nanna of Steven, Gavin and Heather, Jodi and Amy. Always in our hearts.

KETTNER Amy Amelia. Went to be with her Lord on 22 July 1993 at her home: 37 Marlborough St, Fawkner. Dearly loved sister-in-law of Frank and Marguerita Smith of Allans Flat. A gentle Christian lady.

KETTNER Aunty Amy (22.7.93). You were so very dear to us and we have such special memories. We know you are with your Lord. Love from Pauline, Elaine, June, Glenda and Barbara.

MOWSAR William Ernest. Passed away 19 June, aged 90 years. Loving husband of Thelma (dec) and Bessie (dec). Loved father of Hazel and Norman. Father-in-law of John and Lurlyn. Loved Poppa of six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Also survived by his sister Ivy.

IN MEMORIAM

BARNETT Roy William. In memory of my loving husband who died 13.8.92. I give thanks to God that this man called Roy passed my way. Always remembered. —Vi Barnett.

LAUNDER Graham (6.8.87), also brother Malcolm—now peacefully together in glory. Ever loving remembrances. God bless you both—Mum, Dad and sister Joy.

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Living on the Fault-Line of Time

Stephen Curkpatrick

No one can predict with utter certainty, or for that matter, any certainty at all, what will happen in the future. Life is full of change, risk, crisis and challenge. John Crossan has said that time is not as firm as we assume, any more than the earth we stand on is firm. The earth consists of massive moving laminations that produce tortured, restless phenomena such as earthquakes and volcanoes. Time is also like this. We live in shifting epochs of time, this age and the age to come grinding silently against each other to produce that crisis of God's eternity in the midst of time—the Kingdom of God in the midst of our world. We live on the fault line of time.

The world of the Gospel narratives introduces us to this world of crisis, a crisis of security in the very permanence of what we might call the "future". "The time is fulfilled, the Kingdom of God is at hand." That the New Age is present in the midst of this age is evident to the narrators of the Jesus tradition, and it comes as crisis to their auditors.

The Gospels precipitate a crisis in our own world, where the predictability of life, that is, the predictability of security and permanence, is shattered by the presence of the Kingdom in Jesus. A dishonest steward is asked to present his accounts. Suddenly his life is thrown into crisis. What will he do? This is what the Kingdom of God is like. It's coming brings personal crisis where nothing in life is predictable, except the reality of God. To come to terms with the reality of God is also a personal crisis, an upheaval, a disturbance of our comfortable lives. However if we begin to

come to terms with this reality, the unpredictability of life is less likely to come as a crisis but a challenge. Difficult challenges, but not life-destroying crises.

Either the reality of God or the uncertainty of life will precipitate our crises. If the reality of God comes as crisis in our lives, the future has every possibility of unfolding as challenge. Avoid these crises of perception and *metanoia* (journey of conversion), and the future will always present us with uncertain upheaval, even fearful nemesis.

Honest engagement with the Gospel narratives will precipitate nothing less than personal crisis in our deceptively secure world of predictable values and perceptions of normality. What could be more uncertain than a world in which the criteria for status is inverted: with the last first and first last; where enemies are to be accounted as friend and neighbour; where, paradoxically, one finds their life by losing it? Who can turn the other cheek, forgive, seek their antagonist's highest good or lose their grip on security without precipitating some kind of personal crisis?

The illusions of "normality" constructed by society, and sometimes by the church, are necessary for shoring up permanence in life and certainty in the future. Anachronistic traditions are maintained to shore up an illusion of changelessness, with its all too predictable prejudices and fears against change and upheaval. The presence of the Kingdom in the midst of life also means personal change and upheaval, but isn't this the stuff of challenge and alternative worlds of perception?

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Growing Spiritually

Growing Spiritually

Ralph Oke

When consulting my dictionary as to the meaning of the word "grow" I made these discoveries: to make progress, to become; to increase. In reflecting upon these meanings and applying them to the spiritual realm, I was greatly encouraged because I see there a progression, spiritual birth fol-

lowed by a growing unto maturity.

When does a Christian stop growing? Or should we ask the question, "What causes a Christian to stop growing?" Some causes, as I see it, are prayerlessness, a spasmodic devotional life and disobedience to the known will of God, just to name a few. These fail-

ures (sins) lead to a powerless, weak Christian life.

If one is not growing then one is dying—be it ever so slowly, as one does in our physical aging. We only notice it when our step is not as sprightly, or our glasses have to be changed more frequently.

For a plant to have a healthy growth cycle it needs to be

watered and nurtured, even weeded. Equally, in fact more importantly, our spiritual life needs to be watered, nurtured and weeded. The apostle Peter encourages us to "... be thirsty for the unadulterated, spiritual milk, so that by its use you may grow up to salvation, presuming you have tasted how good the Lord is." (1 Peter 2:2-3)

Marsden

Persistence in Prayer

Neil Marsden

Prayers is one of those things that confuses many people. With all the different forms, the different emphases placed on it by different denominations and the fact that requests aren't always answered, all conspire to cause people not to bother praying very often. To some it's just like talking to yourself, so what's the point?

Jesus spoke about prayer often and participated in prayer, it seems, at almost every chance he had. He didn't miss opportunities to speak to his Father, it was one of the fundamental parts of his life. Communicat-

ing and confiding in his Father was an important element of his ministry—as was teaching his disciples how to pray.

The idea that God will grant whatever we ask for in prayer, like some heavenly genie whose granted wishes aren't limited to three, is rife throughout the world. It's something that actually draws people to Christianity and pushes others away.

People leave disappointed, almost as if they walked into a shopping centre sale only to find the things they were so looking forward to buying aren't available. God doesn't

work that way, he doesn't exist to satisfy our every material whim and desire; those things aren't important to him and I'm sure he doesn't care if we yearn for a new car or not, because as far as he's concerned, our lives should be centred around him.

What we offer up to God in prayer, though, is important to God. He loves us and wants us to set before him our thoughts,

praises, hopes and dreams. Persistent prayer shows God we have yet to lose faith in him. We can ask of God so many things, but only a few are likely to be granted by God as needed and useful things. Still, we don't know God's desires and must be diligent and persistent in our prayers. We have no right to demand anything of God, only to ask, and to ask often and sincerely.



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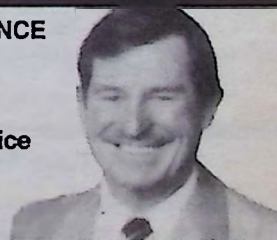
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Comment

Shame

Jane Munday

Foreword

Whilst the recent distribution of the booklet *Naming Violence Against Women in our Church Communities* has been the source of some controversy, the following article relating to the recent police "phone-in" justifies the concerns of many Christians. It is timely that we seek to address the very basic fundamentals of relationships to ensure that they are welcome, proper and appropriate. If these fundamentals are not questioned and challenged we then give passive consent to improper, inappropriate, hurtful or even violent acts. At one end of the spectrum, this causes embarrassment and discomfort. At the other, it gives rise to criminal acts. "Shame" is disturbing reading, but essential for every Christian who wishes to build a better society from its very foundation.

—Trevor Giles
(Executive Director,
Vic-Tas Department of
Community Care)

Twenty years ago I was nearly raped. I was hitchhiking with a male friend and a dog. We were picked up by two truckies near Bombala, NSW, after sitting despondently in the dust for six hours. Later, I woke to find one of the men trying to get into my sleeping bag. The truck was parked outside his mother's house. I was losing the fight until the man's friend intervened.

It never occurred to me to report it to the police. The incident was scary, but I didn't stop hitchhiking, just developed some scar tissue over the naivete of youth—and, I said, it was my fault for being there.

"I didn't understand, because sexuality was never discussed. I thought I was being sexually educated by my father."

Later, in Europe, more scar tissue when I accepted an invitation from a Middle Eastern friend to join his mates for a drink. When the pawing started, I woke up to the signals emitted from a single, unchaperoned, western female and extricated myself—with difficulty—from the invitation. I blamed myself for not being in tune with cultural differences.

I would never have divulged

these incidents until I was reeling, shell-shocked and looking for answers, from the war zone of the Operation Pegasus phone-in. And my trauma was by osmosis, I wasn't on the front line taking calls.

"I said no, and he took no notice, so next time I didn't bother," said a victim.

"I was so upset, but he acted as if nothing had happened, so I thought it was me who was crazy," said another.

"They said I was silly, when I told them [my husband had raped me]. [My family] said 'You have a lovely house and family. Why are you making all this fuss?' I rang so society knows what women go through."

In Casablanca a police chief was convicted recently of horrendous rapes of 1,500 women, captured on hundreds of hours of video-tape, before two victims had the courage to report him. There was little community support for the women's shame and two were divorced when their husbands learnt of the rapes.

Suddenly it seems that shame builds the walls which keep sexual assault victims in prison. It is society's conspiracy of silence which allows perpetrators to avoid confronting the trauma they cause, which lets victims take the blame, and lets the rest of us off the hook.

In Victoria, sexual assault is on the agenda, and victims are finding themselves empow-

ered as more speak out. The courage of rape victims breaking their silence is inspirational.

Nothing, however, could have prepared police and counsellors for the depth of trauma experienced during the recent Operation Pegasus phone-in. Most of the 150 staff taking calls were so emotionally drained, they felt "brain dead" and found it hard to return to work; many required psychological counselling; some were so traumatised after one day of taking calls they couldn't continue; and despite their experience in Community Policing Squads, many were shocked at the horror of the constant stream of callers reaching out for help.

"Pegasus has opened Pandora's box—and we can't put the lid back on," said Det Inspector Claude Minisini, who

"I believed that by becoming overweight, my father wouldn't be attracted to me."

Continued on page 23

Part-Time Work Available

Due to the expansion of our book distribution company, Delmark Pty Ltd has a number of positions available in metropolitan and some larger country areas in the Eastern States. No outlay required, but a reliable vehicle is essential. For details and interviews

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Further details from:
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Mrs Kerry Parry
Phone (054) 55 9238

Applications close 6 September 1993

Comment

From page 22

spent five months planning the phone-in.

It was frightening to hear the stories, but most disturbing was the number of callers who had never talked about their abuse and the long-term effects on their mental well-being. Many had experienced flashbacks and described severe psychological problems.

"It is very common for people to block out memories of extreme abuse, only to have flashbacks later in life. It is a wonderful survival mechanism which helps us to survive as children but works against us when we are adults because we can't resolve what we don't know about," wrote a victim to her local paper, in response to publicity about Pegasus.

"The abuses I do remember were treated as non-events by those in a position to help me. I never got the message that this behaviour was something I could be enraged at. It was minimised and many victims continue to minimise their abuse to their extreme detriment, often turning their rage in on themselves, resulting in self-destructive behaviour, including depression and, at worst, suicide," she says.

Most frightening were the casualties around us during the phone-in. Bonding developed amongst the police and counsellors as the disbelief in what they were hearing mounted. Some admitted quietly to being victims themselves. Those with the courage to talk about it found the experience empowering. "It's happened to you too, hasn't it?" said a victim

registering with the empathy in one voice. During training sessions and the phone-in, staff 'disclosed'. A policewoman couldn't take calls at the last minute as her recent abuse surfaced; an observer's composure dissipated as a stray phrase caught her off-guard and she was discreetly taken out to break her silence; others struggled with memories still too awful to confront.

Caught out by the intensity of taking 2,700 phone calls over three days, from victims who wanted finally to be heard, strength came from knowing it was making a difference. Letters flooded in from grateful victims. One delivered chocolates. Victims said they felt strengthened by their disclosure. Many said it helped to know they were not alone. Most had never spoken out, through fear, shame, and suppressed trauma. Most knew their abusers.

"Just being able to (talk) has lifted a great burden from my mind ... I feel ashamed now, but I was so frightened as a child. Only now, at the age of 38, do I have the courage to disclose my horrific memories," one wrote.

The constancy of the calls was harrowing. Exhausted staff felt guilty to let phones ring unanswered and kept taking calls for hours without respite. Everyone was so on edge; the media had to be banned from the phone room.

Male victims found it harder to talk, questioning their sexuality and their sanity. One said he'd in turn abused to prove his masculinity. Even admitting they had been assaulted

was an act of bravery.

A woman said she had been abused for years by a priest, who sent her to Sydney when she became pregnant. She later learnt he had abused several other women. She has never married.

"I feel guilty being a man," commented one policeman as the horror stories mounted.

But it would be simplistic to

"I was concerned about my sexuality, and whether I had led him on."

blame men. We are all part of this conspiracy. After all, what sort of society can hide behind its civilised veneer so much fear, and such warped values that most victims feel they are the problem?

Have our values been so silently white-anted by the selfishness of a few, that fear and intimidation keep so many victims silent? Is there so little compassion and respect for each other that victims don't understand their trust has been betrayed? If so, how else can we break the chains of silence except by all victims standing

up to let perpetrators, rather than victims, take the blame?

"We set out to discover the nature and extent of sexual assault within the community. This phone-in has indeed highlighted its prevalence and the powerlessness and isolation experienced by the victims," says Inspector Minisini.

"The most common reasons for people not wanting to report the abuse were based on the fact that almost all victims knew their offenders. They didn't want to break up family units, feared repercussions, or were intimidated into not doing anything."

"Others said that initially they hadn't realised it was wrong for an older person to have sex with them. Many of these people said that greater education and communication would help overcome the ignorance and isolation of so many victims."

"The bottom line is that the community as a whole has to take responsibility for overcoming the deep-seated attitudes which allow abuse to continue and flourish, making it so difficult for victims to come forward."

Anyone who hadn't called Operation Pegasus but who needs help, should call their nearest Community Policing Squad for referral to an agency which could help them, he said.

"The most difficult step is the first one. After that, it gets easier."

Reprinted with permission from *Police Life* June/July 1993; a Victoria Police journal.

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Does God Answer Prayer?

Ronald W. Graham

Some five years ago the Iowa Conference of The United Methodist Church (UMC) entered into a partnership with the UMC in Nigeria. In consequence: a team of 4-5 Iowans, mostly lay persons, have gone each year as volunteers to serve for two weeks in education, evangelism, health, and agriculture; annually, a Nigerian has spent 3-4 weeks among Iowa Methodist congregations; and medical and educational supplies have been sent to Nigeria.

My wife and I spent two months in Nigeria as partners earlier this year, Gwen using her nursing knowledge and I my teaching and pastoral experience.

We were to have landed in Kano in northern Nigeria at 6:30 pm on 13 January, but it was the season of Hamattan and poor visibility meant that the plane had to go on to Accra in Ghana, returning to Kano at 12:30 am the next morning. Hamattan is Sahara dust that blows day after day, November through February.

Kano is a city of some 600,000 and is heavily Muslim. There were Muslim-instigated riots in 1980, resulting in over 4,000 Christians killed and many churches burned, and again in 1982 and 1991.

We were not met at Kano airport, as we had been assured we would be. We were the last of 60 to pass through the two soldier-guarded immigration check points. To cut a scary story short, at 2:30 am in a dark,

deserted street, we chanced upon a man whose car had stalled. He turned out to be the acting director of the Sudan Inland Mission. He offered us a bed for the rest of the night and promised to get us transport later that morning in a three vehicle SIM convoy to Jos (five hours away), where we could contact the UMC Field Treasurer.

Thanks be to God

We had breakfast that morning at a restaurant with two missionary couples who were returning to Jos from leave in the USA. One couple needed dry ice to preserve medicine and this could not have been had in Kano but was available in abundance in the airport at Accra. In his breakfast prayer, the boy's father thanked God that he had answered their prayer by sending Hamattan which had caused the plane to be diverted to Accra so that the needed dry ice might be secured.

When we reached Jos we found that the UMC mission Cessna had been grounded for a week because of Hamattan, but conditions improved sufficiently for us to fly to our destination the next afternoon.

Should God be thanked?

However, that breakfast thanksgiving for special providence raised some questions in my mind.

One, did God maintain Hamattan to meet one family's

need even though it cost British Airways 40 minutes of circling Kano airport in vain?

Two, did God make special provision for one family even though it meant that since the mission gates close at ten, Father Frank, the Irish priest, would somehow have to find other accommodation?

Three, the director had booked accommodation for those two couples and had promised to pick them up at the airport but they chose other means of transport and another place to spend the night. Was it God who prompted them to rebuff the director and who caused his VW's battery to go dead so that for us he was in the right place at the right time?

Four, did God blanket the northern half of a whole country with thick dust so that the mission plane might be waiting to fly us next day to our destination? (The alternative to an hour's flight was a problematic eight hour drive; and the plane had sat for a week on the airport tarmac loaded with medical supplies needed by the church's Maternity Clinic.)

Five, the world revealed by science is a world in relation to which God has limited his power. I am persuaded that God loves the free. Chance does not rule history; much less does it rule everywhere. But nonetheless there is a vast amount of chance in nature and his-

tory. Chance is a measure of the degree of independence or freedom that God, in his love, grants his creation. So, can God be responsible for every last detail in our life?

Conclusion

I need a God who does not play favourites, and who does not capriciously intervene and break "natural laws." In other words, I need Jesus' God who indiscriminately "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matt. 5:45), and who, one biblical writer after another affirms, is "faithful."

And yet, I also need a God who graciously and appropriately respects and responds to my commending to him myself, all whom I love, and all the events and changes of my life.

Like the father who brought to Jesus his son who was dumb, I confess, "I believe, help my unbelief" (Mark 9:24).

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Looking to the outsider is a significant emphasis in the life of the Withcott, Qld, church. The church is located in a semi-rural setting about 10 km from Toowoomba, but is separated from Toowoomba by the Great Divide. Many people live in Withcott, but work in Toowoomba. Withcott's population is about 2,000 (Toowoomba is about 80,000), with many being in middle income employment. Surrounding towns, however, provide a range of people from different economic groups. Withcott itself is a growth area with many people in the 25-40 age group, many being young families.

The church was started in November 1982, with a small group meeting in the CWA hall, with ministry being provided by visiting speakers from the Toowoomba churches. In 1986, the church called Steve Fahey (who is still their minister). Currently, the church averages about 220 at their worship services, with around 30% now coming from Toowoomba to worship at Withcott.

After meeting in the CWA hall, the church met in the shopping centre and the truck sales centre before moving into their own premises in 1990. The church bases its mission statement on Luke 19:10, "For the

Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost". This is where their outward focus stems from. Their worship is aimed at being relevant and encouraging and is designed with the unchurched in mind, rather than simply meeting the needs and desires of the church itself. A further expression of the outward focus of the church is that 10% of their offering is

service and at the end of each an invitation is given, but it is not high pressure. Much of the church's evangelism now occurs through members simply sharing their happiness in being Christian. They might not know how to lead others to Christ, but they can communicate the effect he has had on their lives and invite them along to church. This is where having

well planned, relevant, balanced and positive worship is necessary, because people are happy to invite others along knowing they will not find it an alien or off-putting experience.

Like many other churches experiencing change and growth the tension between old and new was experienced. This was worked through by the church board supporting the minister in the changes, and by the minister and church ensuring they supported those who felt that the changes were not exactly what they wanted, not casting them off or isolating them. In all the changes, and in formulating policy and directions the church has kept in mind the motto "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things love".

Currently, the church is looking to upgrade their facilities, not having room to adequately run their Sunday School (about 80 children attend) and is looking to possibly expand their ministry team in 1995.

Focus on Withcott



given to mission or ministries outside the local church.

The church aims to present a positive attitude to the Christian faith, setting people free to live the Christian life. Part of this is that everyone is encouraged to be involved in contributing in at least one area, but not too much—avoiding the problem of "burnout". A strong emphasis is on personal growth. The church is committed to having positive worship, effective small groups and personal devotions. About 90 adults are involved in the small group program and the church provides devotional books to all members. Evangelism is seen as part of the church's life. The church only has a morning

Changes

WHITEBRIDGE: Secretary/Treasurer—Sue Harris, 153 Charlestown Road, Kotara Heights, NSW 2289. Phone (049) 43 6603. Assistant Secretary/Treasurer—Alan Wright, 6 Scenic Drive, Budgewoi, NSW 2262. Phone (043) 90 8010.

SUNSHINE: Minister—Barry Jenkins 192 Bamba Road, Caulfield South 3162. Phone (03) 571 7102.

Baptisms

•Merridy Galton, Victor Harbor, SA
•Mrs Elaine Bragg, Wembley, WA
•Christine Mumford, Meg Clark, Balaklava, SA
•Rebecca Lockley, Hobart City, Tas
•Justine Mitchell, Matthew Brown, Bundaberg, Qld
•Sue Vourlides, Judy Orchard, Chelsea, Vic
•Barbara Gabbittas, Upper Yarra, Vic
•Sarah Solloway, Pine Rivers, Qld
•Darren Bunting, Bridgetown, WA
•Fernando, Patricia, Paula, Susan & Joselyn Rob, Paula & Marta Munro, Miguel, Patricia, Francia & Jennifer Vega, Lucy Wyllie, Elider & Paulina Zamorano, Julie Cabrera, Gustavo, Cecilia & Alejandro Santillan, Virginia & Marina Lopez, Fairfield Spanish, NSW
•Graeme Diss, Matthew Diss, Cate Barnes, Bendigo, Vic
•Mrs Thelma Johnstone, Northcote, Vic
•Anna Drummond, Kamahl Russell, Craig Tobias, Antony Lord, Michael Houston, Montrose, Vic
•Greg Reddel, Kendal Murray, Belrose, NSW

Marriages

•Catherine Joy Beer to Norman Buntrock, Swanston St, Melbourne, Vic
•Helen Webb to Michael Notes, Balaklava, SA
•Jillian Frew-Lord to Tim Brown, Bundaberg, Qld
•Tracy Selleck to Leigh Fielder, Chelsea, Vic
•Jo Norwell to Duncan Campbell, Bridgetown, WA

Deaths

•Alfred Smith, Balaklava, SA
•Eddie Mott, Merryn Graham, Bendigo, Vic
•Miss Jean Hancock, Preston, Vic
•Jack Johanson, Thornleigh, NSW

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Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Adam, Doug

(13.5.93) Over 500 packed Surrey Hills, Vic, for thanksgiving service. Speakers told of Doug's leadership in the local church, especially Watle Park and Surrey Hills (Elder and Board Chairman); of committed service to the Conference, especially the Vic-Tas DMED; of innovative leadership in the surveying profession; and of involvement in community groups as diverse as the Tally Ho Fitness Group and the Orana Management Committee. Tim Adam spoke of the family's experience of Doug as a devoted husband, father and friend. The congregation at Surrey Hills is devastated to lose Doug, but are able to give thanks that in large measure Doug's leadership has helped bring us to where we are. Our continuing prayer is with Lola and the rest of the family, especially Tim and Julie, Jill and Mike, and Rod and Suzie.

—David Brooker

Gent, Mary (Maisie)

(18.7.93) The Oakleigh, Vic, church was shocked when news of Maisie Gent's death was made known. Maisie was born in Stanford, England 17 September, 1903. She visited Australia in 1927, living with the Goldsworthy family and worshipping with the Kaniva church. In 1936, she returned to England and during World War II worked as a supervisor in a radar installation. During this period, she formed a friendship with May O'Brien, an Oakleigh member. Maisie, after caring for her mother until her death, again came to Australia, attending the Oakleigh church. While shopping, Maisie suffered a heart attack and died in hospital. Maisie was a loving, caring woman who will be missed by all. Her funeral was conducted by the writer, assisted by Jack Edwards.

—T.V. Weir

Smallman, Violet

(15.6.93) Violet was baptised with husband Frank at Hamilton, NSW, in 1937, an active member until 1951 when they became foundation members at Cardiff, commencing in the family home as a Sunday School. Vi was Superintendent, organist and deaconess/treasurer for many years. Her hospitality was legendary. Frequently the three daughters, Ailsa, Daphne and Joy had to double up to make room for visitors. They decided to relocate to WA with Ailsa. They served actively in the Midland, Balga and Applecross churches, Vi continuing to use sewing and musical gifts.

Widowed in 1984. Increasing frailty necessitated a move to Warwick Village until progressing Alzheimer's disease brought her to Carinya Lodge. Vi will be sadly missed by three daughters, sons-in-law and 14 grandchildren who are left with delightful memories of a gracious, loving, hospitable mother who lovingly served her Lord and set a marvellous example.

—Ailsa Maxwell

Sweetman, Murray MBE

(31.5.93) Former President of the Conference of Associated Churches of Christ in New Zealand, six years Chairman of Conference Council and, earlier, six years chairman of the Department of Home Mission. He had the highest integrity and great sensitivity which were the hallmarks of a life that was deep in the Christian faith. Murray contributed much to the engineering profession, the Electricity Supply Association of New Zealand, the Motor Neurone Disease Association, the Automobile Association, the Leprosy Mission as well as to church related committees and boards, and had been president of no less than four national bodies and one international body. He played a leading role in all the Institution of Professional Engineers NZ major environmental initiatives. For the whole of his professional career, Murray worked towards the goals of the new approach to engineering that is now being expressed in many places—engineering that is environmentally acceptable and socially sensitive.

—Roger Russ

Taylor, Kenneth James (Ken)

(6.7.93) Born in Hughenden, Qld, in 1946, Ken, the third of four sons attended school in Charters Towers before joining the PMG as a telegram boy. This was the start of a successful career which spanned 32 years and saw Ken achieve his goal of becoming a Post Master by age 40. Opting for a redundancy package in April 1992, Ken commenced studying for the ministry at Kenmore Christian College. Ken and wife Debbie did everything as a team and Ken's love of his wife and their four children was very evident. A Christian for 27 years, Ken's life was acknowledged by a filled Ewers Chapel. His sense of humour, love of music and gift for children's ministry will be missed. To the end, his life was a wonderful testimony of faith. Among Ken's final words to eldest son David was the exhortation, "Use your faith." This is a challenge to everyone who mourns his passing, a fitting tribute by which to remember him.

—Grant Spangenberg

Church News

WA

WEMBLEY (Kim Roberts) Praise God, baptism of Elaine Bragg ... John Bardsley of WEC special guest speaker to combined mid-week Bible study groups also pm service 18 July ... Rauzi Zacharius video sermon presented pm service ... Discoverers Club children enjoyed "Radio-Blast", putting together programs for a "Christian radio station" & then playing back tapes.

BRIDGETOWN (Errol Kirk) Bill Bule visited from Vanuatu & gave outline of his work ... Des Croot, Home Mission representative, preached 4 July ... Ingrid & Peter Griggs have new son, Nathan ... Simon Creek & Monica engaged ... Young people took part in South West Games ... Members busy cutting firewood & selling it ... Many visitors every Sunday ... Jenny & Ross Farrier & Alan Horlock welcomed into fellowship by transfer. **FREMANTLE (J. Caporn)** Bill Bule presented prayer needs of churches in Vanuatu ... Jenny Marshall reported on OMB's planning meeting ... Bible Society representatives showed videos of Russian hunger for God's Word & how Bible is being translated into languages of Australian Aborigines ... Peter Petrusma led a retreat day for church board members ... CWF stall at a shopping centre raised \$1,241 for Life in Focus.

SA

MILANG (Julie & Grant Simpson) Church building to be repaired & painted ... Recent successful garage sale on property will defray costs ... Two young people & one young mother receiving instruction on baptism. Baptisms expected to take place in August, the first for some years in Milang ... Three elders & five deacons elected at recent annual meeting ... The Simpson's ministry much appreciated as we press on prayerfully together.

BALAKLAVA (Graham Lawrie) "Paul & his Adventures" theme for 33 Primary School children at June holiday camp, Halbury ... Four representatives spoke on current activities of Owen Community Church ... Large crowd attended funeral of Alf Smith, our oldest member ... Rick & Helen Nolan, Papua New Guinea, shared service & lunch on 4 July ... Rodney Minniecon leader for High School age camp in school holidays at Halbury campsite.

MUNDULLA (J. Main) 100 plus attended sixth open air Easter witness service ... Harvest Thanks-

giving \$685 divided between FAB & local needs ... Nine members participated in District inter-church Lenten studies ... Mundulla Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service in our chapel attended by 40 ... CWF annual meeting welcomed W. Brown president & J. Fisher secretary. Val Main's devotions & officer dedication appreciated.

DULWICH/ROSE PARK UNITED PARISH (Roger Brown, Rob Williams) Church welcomed return of Roger Brown after sickness ... Organist Keith Stephens commended for mighty job done in organising series of monthly Pleasant Sunday Afternoons, latest being program by Salvation Army Adelaide Congress Hall Band ... George Snow recovering after bypass in leg ... Parish Fellowship met at Alexandra Lodge for a "night in Korea".

NSW

MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins) Unanimous decision to commence building. Development application submitted to Council ... "Light Force", a youth choir of 70 from America, took morning service. Wonderful ... Phil Bryce, Tahlee student, preached his first sermon 25 July ... N. Hodgekiss shared experiences as prison chaplain ... Ray Hawkins sponsored for "Winter Sleepout" in Maitland Mall for Hunter Mission.

THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) During July school holidays, Five Day Clubs were held in two homes in the Westleigh area, well supported by children in that area ... Also in July, Franklyn & Deanne Elliott attended, by invitation, the Vineyard Pastors Conference in Anaheim, California, for two weeks ... The church regrets the passing of Jack Johanson after a long period of illness.

BELROSE (Ian Chapman) Belrose church well represented at the recent State Youth games at Wollongong. Support for the team strong & vocal & a fun time had by all ... Church continues to grow in size & spirit ... Outreach, supported by prayer, is being planned into future activities, particularly youth groups.

Tas

HOBBART CITY (J. Weston, G. Hush) July designated "month of prayer" for church ... Senior minister, Jeff Weston, at Leadership 2000 & other events in USA. Visiting Denver to meet Hmong personnel ... Len Black leaving for Normanton end of July to assist church for 4-12 months ... Graeme Hush ap-

Church News

pointed State Chaplain Girls' Brigade & State President NAPCAN ... Church members being given second opportunity to share in Handwritten Bible project.

LAUNCESTON (C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) Scripture Union team led service 7 pm, 18 July ... Both ministers attended Rick Warren Church Growth Conference in Melbourne ... Several recent functions held for building fund ... Good attendance at Friendship service 25 July.

Old

BRIEBIE ISLAND (Bruce Roberts) Ladies enjoying CWF with varied guests each month ... Cassette & book library started & going well ... Bible studies Tuesday & Wednesday nights ... Church anniversary celebrated with guest speaker Alan Hermann & anniversary tea followed by evening service with Alan ... Percy Oakes & Arthur Rushton celebrated 80th birthdays ... Annual combined churches service great success with six churches participating in worship, praise, prayer & offering especially for farmers. Guest speaker Rev. Geoff Fletcher.

BUNDABERG (Paul Scully) Paul & Julie Scully & family settled into new ministry. Minister's preaching well received ... Church mission held with Dr Bill Thomas. Several inquirers came forward at meetings ... Outreach dinner drew 80 ... Church using "Jesus" video & "Christianity Explained" in outreach ... Morning service attendance 126, evening 62, during last month ... Next month combined church anniversary & all age education outreach Sunday.

PINE RIVERS (Neale Proellocks, Ian Todd) Over 250 attended special thanksgiving service 4 July for Allan Male's miracle recovery. Four commitments followed ... 100 enjoyed medieval banquet 16 July, part of outreach program. Menu, costumes & setting provided atmosphere with Bible stories dramatised as part of entertainment ... Love & prayers with Ian & Di Todd as they leave at end of year to commence full-time at Caboolture ... Carmen & Warren Leighton, Donna Chang & Katherine Schultz made decisions.

Vic

WEST PRESTON (Chris Field) Three full-time Bible students this year—Wayne Savage, Roger Bone & Neil Fisher ... Geoff Best serving with Fusion, James Mehegan & Samantha Hooper with YWAM ... Church worker, Vivienne Burns,

continuing Release Seminars, recently at Noble Park/Keysborough, Wangaratta in October ... Stephen Field's New Zealand experience demonstrated through first sermon in Dad's (Chris) absence from evening service.

RICHMOND (R. & M. Beer, N. & P. Wight) 25 June Christmas celebration attracted contacts from Friday at Seven, playgroup, craft & CWF ... Up to 13 families attracted by playgroup ... Speakers for Mission month during July include C. & B. Power (Interserve) & Benjamin Tiwari (OMB India) ... Rodney Beer continues Clinical Pastoral Education course ... Two attended Ministry to Men seminar at Berwick. Reported back at men's breakfast 3 July.

HARTWELL (Graeme Rogerson) Church pleased to announce that Graeme Rogerson will continue in ministry with Hartwell for a further three years from January 1994 ... Lenten studies & Easter celebration (BBQ & entertainment) part of inter-church activities ... Friendship Group featuring interesting people & programs. Averaging 50 each month ... Tim White welcomed into membership ... Fund raising for youth ministry included film night, cake & craft stall, Italian dinner & chocolate sales.

MITCHAM (Mark Butler) Groups formed—Amnesty International, teenage Bible study ... Speakers at retired men's group Neil Beaumont (Melbourne Stock Exchange), Peter Brown (local MD on health care) & at men's teas Nigerian Archie Ekong, Robert Cole (Christian Radio Fellowship) ... Five received into membership from East Kew ... Future plans discussed at well attended church life meeting ... Storage area construction completed ... Sunday worship services now commence 10 am.

LATROBE TERR, GEELONG (Glen Wegner) Presentation made to Dr & Mrs Mackenzie who retired from ministry 27 June. Dr Mackenzie received standing ovation when presented with certificate by Ian Allsop on behalf of National Conference at combined churches service to meet Vic-Tas Conference President ... Glen Wegner commenced pulpit ministry ... Gladys Giles, Frank Schenk spent time in hospital ... Men entertained CWF ... Grace McKellar residents entertained by CWF.

KNOXFIELD (Rod Brown, Jason Potter) Rod Brown in US for four weeks on study tour with 30 other ministers. Lynette Leach & Gordon Stirling preaching ... Youth minister, Jason Potter, organised attendance at State Youth Games & now

looking at Black Stump youth event ... Mid-year Christmas dinner great fundraiser for buildings, which are progressing well ... Hodos Counselling Centre operating well with individual counselling & relationship courses offered.

CHELSEA (Ian Whitelock) Fountain Gate Gospel Singers visited ... CWF successful street stalls & well attended 69th birthday with mounted policewoman speaker ... Regular food donations to Chelsea Benevolent Society ... Two baptisms in June—one conducted by student minister Cathy Matthews ... Bible study & prayer group growing ... ICC Pentecost celebrations with Covenant Players ... Successful fishing fellowship outings ... Several members travelled overseas.

UPPER YARRA (K. Thoday) Moved services to Launching Place Primary School 7 February ... Kim Thoday commenced part-time ministry 28 February ... Record attendances and giving ... New contacts being made each week ... first baptism 23 May, second 2 August ... Special meeting 20 June, decision made to formally constitute as Church of Christ & seek affiliation.

GREENSBOROUGH (G. Warren) Tennis club enjoying play on East Kew courts ... Youth consultation with Paul Creasy to determine goals & plans for better work ... Commenced Bible studies on Matthew led by George Warren ... Warrens holding open house for viewing manse renovations ... Conference on church growth attended by elders & minister ... Local churches networking to place job seekers ... Ivan Sherriff re-elected elder, George Siler elected deacon.

BENTLEIGH (Roy Armitage) Number of visitors present to hear George Mallaby who gave his testimony, an inspiration to all ... Sympathy expressed to Mavis Siphthorp on loss of husband Fred. Service & refreshments held at church ... "Sing & Chat" monthly mid-week activity attracting outsiders ... Some visitors now attend regularly ... Church advertising by means of letter drops, leaflets in medical rooms & articles in local paper.

daughter of secretary, in car accident.

NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn) Our focus in August is "Social Responsibility" ... After making her decision at an evening service Thelma Johnstone was baptised at a Sunday morning service ... The Carbis family are moving to Bundoora & the Ratcliffe children have had chickenpox ... Flo Prideaux was able to attend CWF after some months' absence ... 15 went from Northcote to Overseas Mission rally at Hartwell.

PRESTON (Steve Blacket) Attendance at morning worship increasing ... Ducted heating installed in worship area ... Regret at death of Jean Hancock ... Keith Hexter speaker at CWF showing aids he had invented for sufferers of Motor Neurone disease.

MONTROSE (John Houston) Worship service led by children in "Celebration of Creation" ... Church encouraged by baptisms ... David & Tina Cannon commissioned prior to leaving for Thailand with OMF ... "Indian Curry" tea held before evening service when Benjamin Tiwari, Indian Conference, guest speaker ... Marriage Enrichment course led by Jane & John Houston ... Short course study groups using *Come Alive & Empowered People* ... Junior & senior youth groups active.

TOOTGAROOK (M. Giezen-danner) Winter exodus of members seeking warmer weather ... Return of travellers from UK & America was welcome ... Missionary group attended rally at Hartwell ... Congregation appreciates Mal's ministry ... Inter-church Bible study weekly for six weeks ... Regular Bible study & prayer continues ... 48 enjoyed games afternoon by Mutual Market committee ... Edna Burgam gave interesting travel talk at CWF ... 78 attended excellent Open Door.

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Who is Bill Hull?

Bill Hull coming to Melbourne

One of our ministers who was in the US recently, got talking to one of the elders at Willow Creek where Bill Hybels is senior minister to around 18,000 worshippers each week

"Bill Hull is our country's foremost expert on equipping leaders to disciple Christians and motivate them to serve in ministry. How did you attract him Down Under? We've been trying to get him for two years!"

And we've got him Down Under for three conferences! Bill will be equipping us to be more effective in our churches in an area of utmost importance—discipleship.

Phillip Bradley believes that God opened up the way for us. "When I phoned Bill's secretary last year there was only one gap in his diary—just where we needed him. Even Barb was surprised," he said

"It was Joe Aldrich who directed us to Bill in the first place," commented Phil. "When he knew we were organising conferences on the theme of discipleship, he had no hesitation in recommending Bill as the best person for the job."

Have you ever wondered how your church could be mobilised to reach the unchurched for Christ? What if it brought a flood of new Christians into your fellowship? How would you teach them to become disciples of Jesus?

These are just the sort of questions Bill Hull will help you answer.

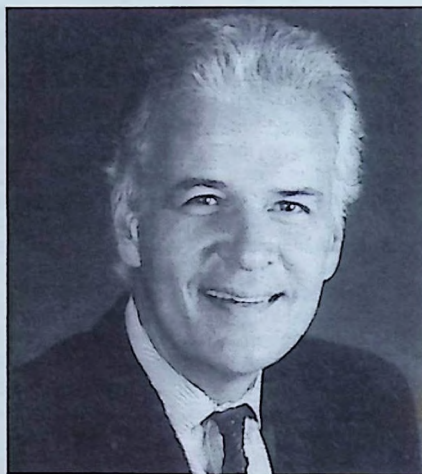
And if you want to do something about it, make sure your minister is at the National Refresher Conference for Ministers (31 August–3 September).

Why not pull a team together and join

your minister at either the Western Suburbs Conference (27–28 August) or the Eastern Suburbs Conference (3–4 September). Content at these conferences will be presented with local church leaders and interested Christians in mind.

If you have three or more come as full registrants, your minister comes free of charge. If you bring a group of 10 or more you attract a 25% discount (\$30 instead of \$40). Why not get the church to subsidise those who attend as an investment in the great commission?

Whichever you decide, don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity. If you're "fair dinkum" about discipleship, you'd be crackers to miss Bill. Phone the Conference Office for further information (03) 783 3235.



• Bill Hull

The Last Word

The quality of life is more important than life itself.

—Alexis Carrel

The following conversation was overheard at party attended by high society people:

"My ancestry goes all the way back to Alexander the Great," said one person. Turning to another, the question was asked: "And how far does your family go back?"

"I don't know," was the reply. "All of our records were lost in the Flood."

I don't want to say it was a cold church, but the ushers were using ice skates.

An old farmer came back from church where he had gone alone.

"Was the sermon good?" inquired his wife.

"Yes."

"What was it about?" persisted his wife.

"Sin."

"Well, what was said?"

"They were against it."

What do you get if you cross an owl with an oyster?

A bird that drops pearls of wisdom.

Why did the man dip his hands in the alphabet soup?

He was groping for words.

Is a male pot of tea a He-brew?

An archaeologist is someone whose career is in ruins.

Son: "Dad's birthday is tomorrow. What should we get for him?"

Daughter: "Maybe we should let him have his car for a change."

According to reports, a person gets hit by a car every 20 minutes.

What a glutton for punishment!



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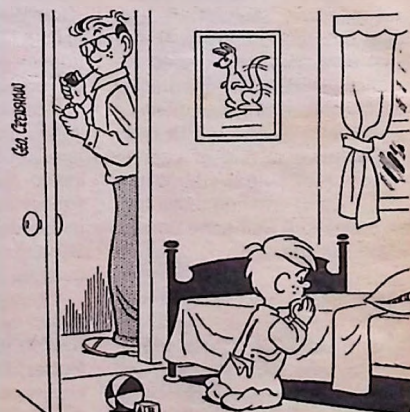
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"Dear Lord, same as last night, amen."