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# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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## Guest Editorial

# Mainspring of our Life and Purpose

Ken Dawson

**T**he closing years of this century are being marked by changes which were undreamt of only a few years ago. On the world scene, event has followed event with bewildering rapidity. In our own land, our own identity is being questioned as never before and there is talk of a change of status to a republic. Economic rationalism, with its cold logic and uncaring action, is producing a growing population of unemployed and disadvantaged.

However, all is not darkness. Change brings with it opportunity for a better world and society. There are voices and events which express hope and a vision for a more caring society and an awareness of the need to nurture the earth's resources.

What of the church in this age of change and ferment? It must shine like a beacon of hope in a world of ferment. Its book, the Bible, has some powerful words of hope and faith. Who cannot be anything but amazed, when in the midst of a destroyed, devastated city the prophet cries, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." (Lam. 3:22-23)

What is the role of Churches of Christ in Australia in this scheme of things? Do we have a sense of our identity and of our heritage as a people spawned by the movement for Christian unity in a frontier society nearly 200 years ago?

A strong cohesive sense of identity is essential if we are to maintain direction and impetus in our contribution to the work and witness of Christ's church in this land.

It is instructive to note that our founders called the movement the Reformation for the first 30 years of its life; and that it had for its charter, the conviction that "The



Church of Christ on earth, is essentially, intentionally, and constitutionally one; consisting of all those in every place that profess their faith in Christ and obedience to him in all things according to the Scriptures." This conviction, coupled with the desire to be obedient to Christ in all things, had the added weight of Jesus' prayer in that upper room, when he prayed for those who would believe because of the disciples witness, that they should be one,

that the world may believe that his Father sent him.

Here must be the mainspring of our life and purpose today; to play a worthy part in the expression of the essential unity of Christ's church wherever we can do so. In this respect, it is encouraging to note the appointment of Ian Allsop to the Presidency of the Australian Council of Churches at a time when membership of the Council is being considered by several other significant churches. The Victorian Council of Churches also has as its first woman President, Joan Pye, secretary of our national Department of Christian Union.

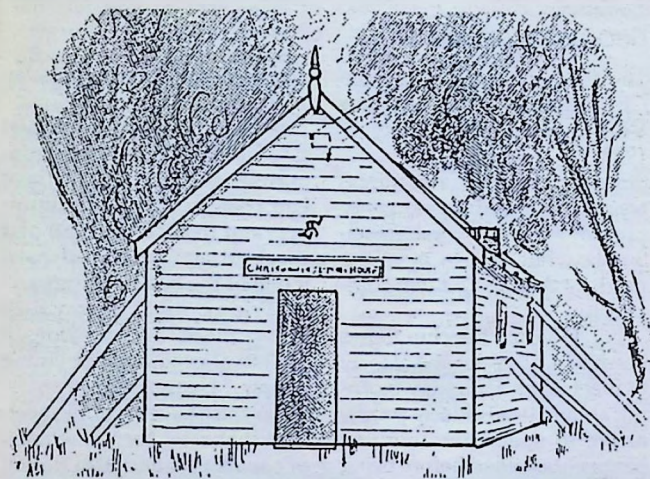
Above all that the churches together may seek to do towers that prayer of the Lord for his church; "That the world may believe that thou hast sent me." The good news of the Gospel comes with conviction, when it comes from the church visibly united in Christ Jesus.

Ken Dawson is an elder of the Cowandilla, SA, church. He retired nearly 12 years ago after 45 years in the electrical engineering field. He served as President of the South Australian Conference 1970-1971 and since then has been active in Conference committees, including the Ecumenical Affairs Committee of which he is the present chairman.



## The New and the Old

130th Anniversary at Mt Clear



• The original Mt Clear chapel (1865). Sign over door said, "Christians' Meeting House"

Most newcomers to Ballarat perceive the Mount Clear, Vic, congregation to be a new church. We meet in a modern worship centre and express our faith in a contemporary style. There are many young people who participate actively in our services and programs.

In reality, however, we are quite an old church. We celebrate our 130th anniversary later this month, and are among the nine oldest churches in the Vic-Tas Conference.

It all began back in 1863, when Mount Clear was a busy little mining town. The original minute book states that, "At a meeting held in the Mount Clear chapel, 12 November 1863, Mr H.G. Picton and friends from Ballarat explained the doctrines held by the Disciples of Christ. Those who complied with the Saviour's commands, 'Believe and be baptised,' were then invited to form a church at Mount Clear."

In 1865 a meeting house was constructed and many were added to their number over the next 20 years. Then, with the eclipse of mining in the area, numbers began to decrease. In 1901 the church came under the trusteeship of the Dawson Street, Ballarat, church. About 1905, regular worship services were discontinued, although a

Sunday School was faithfully carried on by local postmistress, Miss Eliza Gowans, and later by people from the Dawson St and York St churches in Ballarat. Regular services were resumed in 1928, and have continued to this day.

The church continued to grow from the 1950s, with a new chapel erected in 1956 under the supervision of Feary Bros. In 1982 the church officially separated from the Dawson Street church to take full responsibility for its own finance and ministry. At about this time, the church called its first full-time minister, purchased a manse, and began preparations for a new worship centre, which was completed in November 1987.

Presently, some 220 gather for worship at the two Sunday services, and there is vision for the future as well as celebration of the past. The 130th anniversary celebrations will be on 24 October. There will be an anniversary service at 10 am followed by a fully catered luncheon (bookings required) and Nostalgia program in the afternoon. A Gospel Celebration service will conclude the day at 7 pm, with Phillip Stevens as guest speaker.

Past members or attenders are welcome to join in this cel-

## I Can Handel Messiah

Join the chorus

Last year over 80 people came to CCTC, Mulgrave, Vic, to Sing Messiah! It was a great fun night and they tackled the main choruses and sang their hearts out, having a wonderful time.

Soloists and musicians drawn from our churches helped us appreciate the majesty of Messiah and its unique place in the celebration of the Christmas season.

The Messiah will be on again this year on 30 November at 7.30 pm at CCTC, 40-60 Jacksons Rd, Mulgrave. This is a

night for people who like to sing and its certainly not necessary to be a Pavorotti or Sutherland. There will be a core of choristers with whom you will be seated and sing to your heart's content.

The tickets cost only \$10 and the proceeds go towards the work of the College. More information is available from Stan McCredden on (03) 754 7518 (after hours). To reserve your seat phone the College on (03) 790 1000. Payment may be made on the night. (Bring your own score if possible.)

## Going Silver

Church celebrates 25 years

It was a time for partying at the Orange, NSW, church on the weekend of 12-13 June as the members celebrated 25 years of involvement in the community.

The church was established in 1968 and has grown to a 100 strong congregation.

Pastor Graham Mann said the church had a significant ministry to people in Orange and was developing an outreach program to the people of Glenroi and other areas of the city.

Garry and Margaret Towle led the congregation from 1984-88 and they made the trip from Bowral to take part in the festivities.

"I find it a real encouragement to see how things have progressed and to see how people have worked together," he said. "The key to it is giving your best to God, not second best."

Celebrations over the weekend included a Red Faces concert, family services, luncheon



• Graham Mann and Garry Towle with the congregation at the celebrations

bration. Please call the church office on (053) 30 1637 or write to the Church Secretary at 1185

Geelong Road, Mount Clear 3350.

—Dale White



## Conclusive Evidence

### Unemployed Make Music

Five long-term unemployed young people have regained new self-esteem and discovered career directions by making music with Melbourne Citymission.

Melissa Bognuda, Brian Wilson, S'andor Calvert, Jack Davies and Janet Wettervic have just graduated from Melbourne Citymission ITeC's Mega Music course. To mark the occasion, they have produced their own musical cassette *Conclusive Evidence*.

Disillusioned with life and uncertain about the value of the course, the five young people began training with Melbourne Citymission ITeC with a lack of musical knowledge, a fear of technology, suffering financial hardship and low self-esteem. Eighteen days later, they had written, arranged, performed and produced a professional cassette.

One of the tracks on *Conclusive Evidence*, Hourglass, has a strong Christian message.

It is penned and sung by Melissa Bognuda, who admits that it reflects much of her own life and was inspired by a close 16 year old friend who committed suicide.

"I'm trying to symbolise how almost everybody in life can associate with being unable to break through some circumstances and problems—wanting to win but not knowing the answer," she said.

Melissa knows all about struggling to find answers. Her upbringing was traumatic and resulted in her mother walking

out on the family. However, her mother later became a Christian and returned home. Melissa couldn't understand why her mother would want to return to the family after experiencing so much hatred and fighting.

"She had the ability to forgive. My mother realised that there was a God who could help and answer prayer and could change circumstances and fix things up," said Melissa.

But her mother's return didn't hold the family together. Melissa left home to seek answers and ended up burnt-out by the age of 17.

"I was looking to see if spiritual things were real, whether I was living my life the way it should be lived. I was really looking for the God that my mother had found," she said.

In her search for love, Melissa said that she looked in the wrong places and to try to escape she turned to drugs.

"It was a traumatic salvation experience. I was up the top end of Queensland, totally isolated with nobody to tell me what to do. I fell into a hundred pieces on my knees and cried out that if God was real that he should help me and he did."

Melbourne Citymission ITeC's Mega Music course is conducted by professional musician, Allan Stirling.

If anybody is interested in obtaining a copy of *Conclusive Evidence*, they can contact Melbourne Citymission ITeC at 1 Douglas Grove, Frankston, 3199 or phone (03) 783 9345.

### Mackay Church of Christ, North Qld

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## Meeting Community Needs

### Georgetown's work

The Church of Christ in the Georgetown, NSW, Shopping Village began its ministry in 1939.

Since its inception, the ministry has changed to not only provide a place of worship each Sunday, but also to meet the needs of the Georgetown community.

For 16 years, the church has become a place for the elderly to meet. Each Thursday morning about 30–40 elderly people arrive to spend the morning being entertained before being served a hot, three-course meal.

Early this year, a playmates group was formed, enabling parents to come along with their children, meet other parents, and have a break from the home routine. This new ministry has been well supported

and operates every Wednesday at 10 am.

Secretary George Taggart said Sunday School was regaining its popularity. He said there had been an increase in numbers and that trained staff and excellent facilities helped make it one of the best in the area.

"Friday night our youth group meets and provides a variety of programs for young people," George said.

"We also have monthly meetings that cater for the women of the church and also young married couples and the older folk. Recently, the church decided to call Garry Martin to a part-time ministry starting in September and we are looking to provide more facilities for the community in Georgetown."

## Provident Fund

### Information and changes

The Annual Report to members for the year ended 30 June 1993 and members' Annual Statements as at that date were posted to members of the fund on 29 September.

The format of the Annual Report is governed by the provisions of the Regulations to the Occupational Superannuation Standards Act and applies in respect of the year to 30 June 1993 and subsequent years.

Corporate Trustee:

At the 44th National Conference on 6 September, approval was given to amend the Constitutions of the National Conference and of the Churches of Christ Provident Fund (the Fund) to enable Churches of Christ PPF Limited to be appointed the Trustee of the Fund.

Such appointment will be made on 30 November, the purpose being to comply with one of the requirements of the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Legislation that will apply as of 1 July 1994, namely

that a superannuation fund must have a responsible entity as trustee and the responsible entity must be a corporation in order for the fund to continue to receive taxation concessions.



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## Coping with Change

### 1993 WA Ladies' Camp

On the second weekend in August, 91 ladies from 26 Churches of Christ congregations throughout the state met at Rockingham for our annual camp. It was a weekend to relax, refresh and refill. We were led in Bible studies by Pam Timms from Whitfords on the theme of "Coping With Change". Jesus said, "Deny yourself"—a change of attitude (commitment to him), "Take up your cross"—a change of action (be light and salt in the world), "and follow Me"—a change of allegiance (be obedi-

ent to him not seeking immediate self gratification).

Dorothy Holstein was a welcome guest, speaking on the Saturday afternoon about her medical work in India.

A communion service on Sunday morning was led by Kathy Woolford from Bullcreek.

We had great fun at the concert and lots of time for sharing, chatting and meeting friends. The meals, prepared by Ruth Bergsma and her team, were delicious. —Marian Hall (Warwick)



• The campers at Rockingham, WA

## Concern on Native Title

### Churches comment to PM

The General Secretary of the Australian Council of Churches, Rev. David Gill, has written to the Prime Minister expressing deep disquiet about the Government's handling of native title legislation. Noting that legislation is to be finalised at the end of September, he pointed out that the timetable rules out considered comment from Aboriginal and Islander people themselves. "In its haste, the Government risks repeating the all-too-familiar pattern of white decision-makers treating Australia's indigenous people with what they and indeed much of the rest of the world can only consider contempt," he said. The churches are also concerned because the proposed legislation would set

aside provisions of the 1975 Racial Discrimination Act. He emphasised that the protection the Act provides should not be diminished or undermined in any way by actions that Government may now take regarding native title.

## Keeping on Track

### Train trip by church



### • An unusual worship service

The Dianella, WA, church held a very different Sunday morning worship service on 29 August. 60 boarded the Hotham Valley Steam Train, travelling south from Perth to the Dwellingup Forest.

The purpose of the trip was for the whole church to get to know each other better. The inclement weather did not dampen the warm fellowship shared.

When they arrived, they held a meaningful communion service led by Patricia Stitt in the picnic grounds. The children contributed to the service in song.

It was a great time of fellowship and communion, both with each other and nature.

For those unable to go on the train trip a communion service was held at the church in Dianella.

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## Daring to Believe

### Surrey Hills refurbished

The Surrey Hills, Vic, church is delighted to complete the refurbishment of their chapel. In a segment of the worship service of 29 September, the congregation gave thanks and dedicated the chapel which is now more appropriate to fulfil its mission in the community. Quoting from the dedication service: "We dare to believe God is always calling us to a new venture, pointing us to new horizons in ministry and will never cease to do so."

The refurbishment consisted of replacing the traditional seating with comfortable individual chairs which can be interlocked, a ducted heating system and ceiling fans, the carpeting of a large area of previ-

ously bare boards and the plastering of sections of the front wall to provide a contrast to the brickwork and to provide a good surface for projection from the overhead.

It was a large project to undertake. Many helped but Pam and Ray Minahan, consulting with their friend Ray Drayton, require special thanks for their unstinted time and effort.

The refurbishment is seen as part of the mission of the church in helping bring God into the lives of its neighbours. Preconceived unattractive concepts of church, diffidence and competing activities were recognised as barriers to be overcome. Earlier stages of mission were increasing the variety and age



• The refurbished Surrey Hills chapel

range for mid-week activities to the limit of members' and friends' time and talents, and making services less formal and more up-to-date.

Active members are now in near-weekly contact with some 150 non-church families in the district and the average age of the congregation at worship has

dropped by 15 years. The chapel is now an excellent contemporary worship facility, as warm and welcoming as the congregation itself. The refurbishment has been completed in faith, a sign of hope and confidence that the church at Surrey Hills is here for the long term.

## Not Always Easy

### Living with disabilities

Life has not always been easy for Judith, Margaret and their parents, both of whom are now deceased. From birth Judith has had cerebral palsy and an intellectual disability. Her communication is non-verbal, which includes looking, touching, and certain mouth movements. Judith was cared for by her family at home, without any respite, until she was 40, at which time her parents travelled overseas. At that time she entered a nursing home, initially for four months, but this became a long-term arrangement owing to her father's death and an increased inability of her mother to single-handedly sustain the care at home. Thus began a 17 year period of inappropriate accommodation for her. During this time Margaret and her mother were involved with the establishment of the Association for Severely Handicapped and Family Relief (ASH).

Since 1991, Judith, who is now 59, has lived with six other people in Blackburn, Vic, in a house run by ASH. This is proving to be very satisfactory. She has her own comfortable bed-

room, and enjoys a range of outings: films, swimming, picnics and classical music performances.

According to her sister and guardian, Margaret, Judith is "beginning to be her old self again, and doing things that I haven't seen since our earlier years at home with mum and dad. She is doing some things for herself again, like holding and eating a cored apple. She loves being in the kitchen and watching the food being prepared. Woe betide anyone who

blocks the view from her wheelchair! For the first time in her life she has agreed to wear a hat outside for sun protection and takes pride in how she looks. These are little things to most people, but I know they are an indicator of her happiness. One thing she has never lost is her chocolateism—especially for the peppermint and ginger flavours!"

With Judith now settled in her new home, Margaret is directing some of her time to support the efforts of the Accommodation for Disabled Persons under the Auspices of the Christian Church (ADPACC), which exists to encourage

churches to respond to people with needs similar to Judith and her family. —Andy Calder  
*ADPACC is an interdenominational group who is concerned to speak clearly to the church as it seeks a response to the housing needs of people with disabilities. Those involved are those directly affected by the issue and supporters who wish to see future opportunities opened up.*

*Those wishing to join or respond to the ongoing need should contact Mrs Barbara Liddle on (03) 808 3677 or write to 47 Andrews St, Burwood 3125.*

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# Hooked on Feelings

Gordon Stirling

**A** young intelligent woman was converted at a Billy Graham Crusade. She was on top of the world with her new found experience. I saw her a year later, "It's all gone", she said. What was missing was the emotional "high" surrounding her earlier days as a Christian.

A struggling Christian on holiday found his way to a convention and came home alive with the experience and could talk of nothing else. Three weeks later he came to me devastated and full of guilt. The feelings had gone and he wondered if it was the devil getting at him.

These stories could be repeated many times as people making new faith discoveries, mixing with dynamic people, attending highly charged meetings, and feeling an intensity of emotion, then come down to the earth of ordinary day by day living, and feel short-changed because the feelings are no longer there with the same intensity.

Feelings are an important part of us and of our Christian pilgrimage. High experiences of worship or fellowship or discovery may well have our inhibitions down and our feelings going over the top. But to expect them to continue is to be mistaken, because faith depends on a lot more than feeling.

When new experiments with prayer lose their novelty and discipline alone keeps us at it, there is nothing necessarily wrong with our spirituality.

When the first glow of a new commitment fades we are still just as Christian.

When we have lost the first emotional experience and see others who seem to be able to keep it up permanently we are not to feel guilty. Some people can work up their emotions and keep them in top gear, but their self-induced feelings are not necessarily an experience of God.

The tragic ones are those who want to be on a "high" all the time and cannot make it. They find themselves eagerly waiting for the next "shot", because they have become addicted to their own feelings. They become "religious junkies", needing "trip" after "trip". They are spiritual nomads on the hunt for new blessings.

It is possible for any of us to become so emotionally self-centred that we want to live in some sort of feeling fairy land with God and every one else pandering to our "spiritual" whims. Yet the feelings needed more than any feelings of personal well being are feelings of compassion for people beaten down in a harsh world, feelings of anger at injustice all round us, feelings of an urge to scour and scrub with Jesus Christ in a dirty world.

Lyn Anderson in his book *Why Do I Have Doubts?* writes "What really counts is not how high you jump or how loud you shout, but the way you walk when you hit the ground."

Being a Christian is not only a matter of feelings. Christianity is the response of the whole

person to God. Our whole person is not only made up of feelings, but also of mind and will. If we are operating as whole persons the mind stimulates the feelings which in turn stimulate the will to action. To put this in Christian terms, a convinced and committed mind, well informed about the faith, stimulates strong feelings that are then the power that drives the will to do something about what the mind is thinking about. All three, mind, feelings and will are necessary for a balanced Christian faith.

A Christian faith that emphasises the mind only, that is a cerebral faith, can be detached and hard and cold and without real commitment. It can be a series of academic religious exercise or even a game of religious trivia.

A Christian faith that emphasises the feelings only can result in us confusing feelings with genuine spirituality. Without the mind to guide the feelings we can be going off on all sorts of tangents because "It feels OK!" Feelings can become ends in themselves, instead of means to the end of Christian self giving and service.

A Christian faith that emphasises the will only, is only possible for those who are naturally highly self-disciplined people who in their own strength can be morally successful, making the rest of us feel guilty. A faith that is all will can be self-righteous and judgemental. It can leave us independent of God because we can manage so well by ourselves. Acts of compassion by such people are often not stimulated by compassionate feelings, but by their will to do their duty towards unfortunate people. They may not be the most interesting people to go on holiday with!

The way to faith is not through feelings. Rather it is to grasp the facts about Jesus Christ and his way, to let these facts stir our feelings, so that our feelings in turn drive our wills to continue in Christ's word and service. When this happens we will know that we are on track, feelings or no feelings, when we will be set free to be our true thinking, feeling and willing selves. (John 8:31).

("Gay" is our next title, as we look at homosexuality.)

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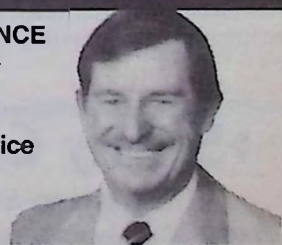
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## Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to  
200 words

### Choruses And Repentance

To the Editor,

In reply to Tertius ("AC" 21 August), I do not see the need for a self imposed exile at all, that thing that would niggle away inside should have been brought out in confrontation, otherwise it could fester away inside. One cannot forgive and forget like that. To invite them to dinner, as you did, is to close the door. You have not allowed any room for the Lord to come in with his wonderful healing powers. Bringing this problem before him in prayer can bring a true and lasting forgiveness; at least the door would be open. As in dialogue, the other parties would become aware of your feelings and of how deeply hurt you both were and this in turn, could make things easier all round. To be able to forgive a serious offence there must be some outward sign of repentance, remorse or regret, whichever word you would like. Without this there is no value in forgiveness. Your dinner invitation is like a temporary truce, not a declaration of love and lasting peace, as you still would not know what their inner feelings were. —Rita Tagg (Chelsea, Vic)

### Very Real

To the Editor,

Thank you to Jenny Jeffery for her article "New Beginnings" ("AC" 4 September). I found it very easy to empathise with her feelings of fear whilst being tumbled by a wave in the ocean.

I am going through an experience in my life at the moment which her article aptly describes. When it all began, I felt really convicted by God, and was riding on a high. Being a legal matter, the first hearing (heard in my favour), left me with an almost exhilarating feeling, knowing God was with me. That was a few weeks ago, since then I have "crashed" a few times. I am 49 years of age, and have certainly been experiencing spiritual growth during this difficult time (even though I have been a Christian for 40 years).

Jenny's article seemed very real to me. The second hearing brought back the "riding high" feeling, but in the last few days, I have once again felt that sinking feeling. But, God is always there. It is only when I take my eyes off him, I sink. This sounds very "paraphrase" like, but it is so true. God speaks to us in so many different ways, even when we are not expecting it. We should always be watching and listening.

Thank you to Jenny from Box Hill, and I wish her all the best for her Year 11 studies.

—Evelyn Archer  
(Monbulk, Vic)

### Why the Name?

To the Editor,

John's baptism and two representative baptisms at Jerusalem and at Caesarea (Acts 2:1-11, Acts 10:44-46) are distinctive baptisms that were not in a name. John's baptism for Jews involved free choice, water forgiveness, but not the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism with the Holy Spirit, at Jerusalem during Pentecost

did not involve water or choice and was followed by 17 different immediately understood languages or dialects (Acts 2:1-11). It was the "same" for Gentiles at Caesarea (Acts 10:44-46, Acts 11:15, 15:8). These great Holy Spirit baptisms were not in the Holy Spirit's name (John 14:26).

The name of Jesus is of the essence of the Matt. 28:19, Acts 2:38, and aligned baptisms. This "one" baptism includes receipt of the gift of the Holy Spirit, baptism into the death of Christ, choice and water. It is God's New Covenant continuing intention for baptism (in other words "born again") (1 Peter 1:3, Acts 2:39, Eph. 4:5). Its baptismal formula uniquely indicates that Jesus came in the flesh (1 John 4:1-3, 2 John 7).

Hence the name!

—W.E. Hoffman  
(Paradise Point, Qld)

### Eldership Changing

To the Editor,

Don Stewart in his article "Rebellion! ... or is it Something Else?" ("AC" 18 September) raises some very interesting thoughts. It is obvious from

his research and my own ministry that we need to re-think the role of eldership.

Over the past four years, I have witnessed a number of natural changes in my own ministry:

a) As the church grows larger, the eldership board is growing smaller and older

b) The church has outgrown the eldership, (a statement by the elders themselves)

c) The young, future elders are too heavily involved in ministry to be available to attend elders meetings

d) Most keen and excited members would prefer not to be an elder.

I believe a positive change is happening in our churches. Instead of a person slowly moving through the ranks of the church to hopefully become an elder, we are seeing people move directly into ministry at their gifted level and ministering to others. Eldership in this case becomes not a position gained, but a ministry ordained by God himself.

I believe that the church is moving into an era where the role of eldership will not be

## Letters to a Travelling Companion

### "Bible-Basher"

Dear Daniel,

Thanks for your latest letter. I can well imagine your irritation at your new boss calling you a "Bible-Basher", especially when he hardly knows you. I bet you've never bashed a Bible or, for that matter, bashed anybody with a Bible in your life.

It could be that your boss, like many other people, has had a "bad experience" at the hands of one of a small minority of insensitive, judgmental and morally pompous Christians whose hard-sell approach to evangelism would make the most saintly person cringe. You and I know that the vast majority of Christians aren't a bit like that. Unfortunately, your boss is yet to discover this and has tarred you with the same brush as the religiously insensitive fringe.

All I can suggest is that you hang in there with your boss. Show him that you accept him and treat him with respect. The very fact that he has indirectly acknowledged his concern over your beliefs may mean that he will open up and talk with you about them once he has realised that you're not going to shove Scripture down his throat. Let us hope so, anyway!

Kindest regards,  
Pastor Salt

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determined by the election of church members, but manifested by God, through the natural process of his gifts in believers.

After all, isn't the church an organism not an organisation. As I look at our church, I see that the Biblical role of eldership has increased. We have more people functioning in this role than ever before, even though they do not hold the title of "Elder". The future is bright indeed.

—Stephen Templeton  
(Dawson Street, Ballarat, Vic)

## "Bad Luck"

To the Editor,

Stephen Curkpatrick's latest contribution on "Bad Luck" cannot be allowed to pass without comment. I indicated in a letter last year ("AC", August 1992) that the concept of bad luck is totally alien to the biblical world view. For Stephen to resort to the paganism-fatalism syndrome, with its concomitant despair, in an effort to find a theodicy (justification of God) is, from a Christian standpoint, to commit intellectual harakiri. Surely this is the sort of thing from which Christianity delivered the ancient world.

Stephen is on safer ground in his reference to human freedom, but even here he naively seems to imagine that man can only be free when God is dethroned and depotentiated. He might ponder the words of Methodist theologian, C.K. Barrett: "The history and personal make-up of the church are not due to chance or to arbitrary human choices, but represent the working out of God's plan. Only here can peace and security be found. Our own intentions, like our own virtues, are far too insecure to stand the tests of time and judgment." (*Romans*, London, 1957, p. 170) Or again, "Predestination is the most comfortable of all Christian doctrines ... the final statement of the truth that justification, and, in the end, salvation also, are by grace alone, and through faith alone." (*ibid* p. 171)

—Ken Stothard  
(Essendon, Vic)

# Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Christian Fellowship

## Northern Aboriginal Christian Convention

The 1993 convention was held during the school holidays at Gregory Downs, about 100 km south-west of Burketown in the Gulf of Carpentaria. People travelled many kilometres over dirt roads from towns all over the Cape. A great time of fellowship and of teaching was had by all.

## Gladstone Visits Eidsvold

Murray Thomson writes: "On 28-29 August, it was Gladstone's turn to join with Hawthorne church for a weekend ministry visit to Eidsvold. Eidsvold is about two and a half hours drive south-west of Gladstone and a total of seven adults and five children were involved in the weekends activities, along with four from Hawthorne and Lyle and Hazel Morris.

Just before the shops shut for the morning, Hawthorne's clown (Leanne Dallinger) went to town to invite the kids along to the afternoon program. Six children arrived at 2.00 pm to start off the games with others arriving during the afternoon, just in time for afternoon tea

and the craft segment of badge making.

The badges proved to be a big "hit" with the kids, many of them making one for a Father's Day present.

About half a dozen children and a few adults returned for an evening program for a time of singing and viewing of the video "Sports Odyssey", with a closing talk given by Lyle Morris.

On Sunday morning, we shared an informal time together around the Lord's Table and thanked God for his special blessing of good solid rain. The highlight of the weekend was an informal time over a cuppa afterwards where we had an opportunity to learn from Lyle and Hazel about the culture and history of the Aboriginal people.

A clothing sale was conducted on Monday morning, with Lyle and Hazel showing Murray and Narelle Thomson "the ropes".

## Mareeba

The church enjoyed the visit of Murray and Narelle Thomson over the weekend of 22 August. Murray spoke at the morning service. Everyone is looking forward to March next year, when they'll take up residence in the manse and begin their ministry.

## Normanton

Attendances at ladies' meetings have been encouraging with 50-60 coming along. Some

have returned after being away for some time and it is good to hear of so many listening to the devotions before taking part in the clothing sales.

Audrey has enjoyed taking the young people at RE through a series of studies on the journeys of Paul. They have become very involved and asked many questions.

## Eidsvold

The facilities were put to good use in the September holidays by the Uniting Church. A Christian Leaders Training Course was conducted under the leadership of Pastor George Rosendale.

## Logan City

Attendances at the Sunday evening services have been improving with a good number of the youth beginning to come along.

## Torres Strait

Stan Pedler has made some contact with people on the Cape. He was also able to show some videos at the Seisia church which is the most northern church on the Australian mainland. A new aspect of the work has developed. Stan was offered a job travelling by aeroplane to various communities, islands and Cape York to oversee some businesses. This will provide him with opportunities to make more contacts and share some videos along the way.

—Ken Tedford

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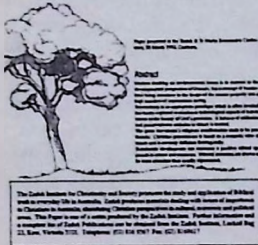


## Papers

### A Theological Perspective on Environmental Issues

In the context of the Sustainable Development ethic

by Ian Hore-Lacy



### A Theological Perspective On Environmental Issues in the context of the Sustainable Development ethic

by Ian Hore-Lacy (Zadok Paper S60)

The abstract of this seven page paper states: "Modern thinking on environmental issues is in contrast to the developmental perspective of Genesis, but a concept of human-kind being somehow in the image of the creator properly sets a high standard of concomitant caring."

Stewardship is an appropriate paradigm which is often invoked but barely explored in relation to technological aspects of human nature or the bounty of God's provision. A balance of utilitarian and preservationist attitudes to nature is needed.

The green movement's religious manifestation tends to be pantheistic. Christian panentheism is based on a romantic view of nature and is severely deficient theologically.

Sustainable development can represent a positive ethical approach to nature and resources."

The whole issue of a theological approach to the environment has not been well dealt with by our churches. At least this paper raises some issues that need to be reflected upon even if the reader disagrees with Ian Hore-Lacy.

Zadok papers are available from the Zadok Institute, Locked Bag 23, Kew 3101. Phone (03) 816 9367, fax (03) 816 9617.

—CRA

## Books

### Faith and Fun with Songs

(Joint Board of Christian Education) book \$8.50, cassette \$16.95.

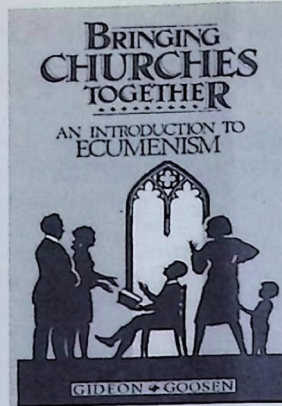
*Faith and Fun with Songs* contains 18 contemporary songs and movements for primary aged children, for use in church, Sunday School or clubs. It is a good book to begin with, if you are thinking of introducing movement and worship into your church or Sunday school and don't know where to start. The songs are bright and catchy, with simple repetitive words and a wide range of movement styles. Each song and accompanying movement is graded according to type, i.e. individual or group movement, formation, number of people involved and suitable age range.

Description for each movement is given diagrammatically with simple stylistic stick figures, these are very easy for someone with no dance experience to interpret. Styles range from individual movement to circle dances, processions and barn type dances. The movements are simple and fun to learn for both adults and children, but especially give children that added dimension to their worship experience.

All the songs in the book are available on an accompanying cassette—a must when teaching movement to young children!

Young children respond positively to movement and music, and what is more natural or beautiful than a child responding to God with their whole mind and body? To quote from *Faith and Fun with Songs*, "Music, rhythm and movement can convey such that mere words cannot: forgiveness, friendship, joy, wonder, mystery, glory! This is the spiritual world in which our children already dwell. Shall we join them?"

—Carol Caulton



### Bringing Churches Together: An Introduction to Ecumenism

by Gideon Goosen (E.J. Dwyer) \$19.95

When did the Roman Catholic Church start? What are the Orthodox churches? Are they really Christian? How did the World Council of Churches come about? Why is the Salvation Army not a member of the WCC?

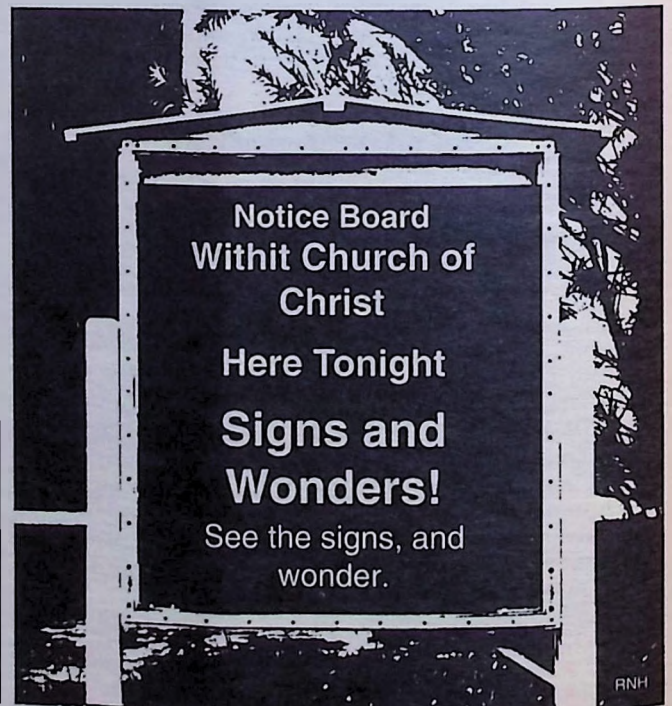
This book could well be an asset to the library of ministers who have congregational members who ask such questions or to all those who

want to get a clearer picture of what ecumenism is all about. It is not a theological treatise for would-be experts, but is written in layman's language with good-sized print and clear, bold sub-headings. It covers both the theological and historical aspects of the ecumenical movement and the enthusiast will want to start at the beginning and read through. Others will find it a good book for browsing through. While the pro-ecumenist stance of the writer is obvious, the writing is not over-subjective and the topics are treated without bias. In addition to facts relating to church history and the origin of the ecumenical movement, some contemporary issues are addressed: women priests, the Eucharist, inter-communion, church membership, authority and the church, conversion and proselytism, and others.

A section of the book is given to practical hints and these should be of particular interest to ecumenically minded people who find themselves in a non-sympathetic situation. What can one person do? These suggestions should help.

At the end of each chapter are questions for consideration. While, unfortunately, the price of *Bringing Churches Together* is a little high for use as a study book, the questions could well be used for personal reflection or by a study leader to stimulate discussion. I thoroughly recommend this book.

—JWP





# Jurassic Park

Viney Longthorp

I'm not sure when the Chinese year of the Dragon occurs, but in the English-speaking world this is surely the Year of the Dinosaur. Steven Spielberg's latest offering, *Jurassic Park*, is more than a film, it's a "happening". Attendant on the film are dinosaur hats, dinosaur T-shirts, dinosaur popcorn; the shops are selling dinosaur biscuits and the young may lay their heads on dinosaur pillows.

Little wonder that my favourite five year old was able to put me right about the difference between a *Stegosaurus* and a *Triceratops*! But the interest in dinosaurs has been with us for a long time now. That excellent television series, hosted by Geoffrey Burchfield of the Quantum program, together with the SBS television account of the recent expedition by American palaeontologists to Mongolia are but the latest of many such series shown over the years. A former colleague tells me that for years now, whenever he deals with dinosaurs in his science lessons, the students suddenly switch on.

*Jurassic Park* is the name of a state of the art theme park located on an island off the coast of Costa Rica. A scientist, Hamilton (played by Sir Richard Attenborough), has managed to reproduce live dinosaurs by

using a process of gene-splitting combined with cloning. The way he obtained the genes is plausible, but the rest is pure fantasy. Again, art has not allowed credibility to stand in the way of a good story. The island is well stocked with a wide variety of monsters, from harmless herbaceous types to that highly dangerous predator, *Tyrannosaurus Rex*. Hamilton invites a husband and wife team, both palaeontologists, to give his venture their blessing.

The story is highly predictable, especially for those who have seen his other films, such

as *Jaws*, *ET*, and the *Indiana Jones* trilogy. All is designed that the viewers experience the masochistic "enjoyment" of sheer terror through a series of narrow escapes, this time from dinosaurs on the loose.

Hamilton's two young grandchildren are the dinosaur's chief targets. But with a little help from the imperturbable Sam Neill they manage to escape after some very close calls. Spielberg's intended audience is obviously children.

*Jurassic Park* does not compare well with other Spielberg films. It has none of the warm human values of *Empire of the Sun* or any of the gritty comic element of the first *Indiana Jones* offering. Only once does he use the genius of the cinema to convey real suspense that is, when the grandson escapes being barbecued on a dinosaur-proof electric fence a split sec-

ond before the 15,000 volt charge is released. Alfred Hitchcock would have applauded this sequence.

The acting is quite unremarkable; as one would expect, the two children are the most convincing. The humans really are there to set-off the cavorting of the dinosaurs. The adults are there merely to provide a frame of reference for the children.

Our local tennis coach who took his 10 year old to see the film said, "The adults thought it was horrible but the kids loved it." Maybe we underestimate the young. Certainly I have heard no reports of nightmares or nervous disorders. But it is not a film for children.

Even the most avowedly "secular" films, however, may cause pondering on more ultimate matters.

For example, "Why do most people find dinosaurs so fasci-

nating?" There is something both awesome and moving about these creatures. They dominated life on earth for more than 180 million years; yet their relatively sudden extinction about 65 million years ago remains a profound mystery. Many theories are offered. These theories—or the realities behind them have some relevance to us. Is there in place cosmic process which will make us share the fate of the dinosaurs some day? And from this comes the deeper issue of that knowledge of the web of life, of the close interrelatedness of all living things. It is a fair dinkum scientist, David Attenborough (Sir Richard's brother, no less) who in his television series "Life on Earth" is one scientist among many others who have given us a deeper appreciation of both the fragility and the resilience of our physical habitat.

A second point to ponder comes from a muffled conversation in the film between Hamilton and his friend, a mathematician-philosopher. They question whether the park should have been built in the first place. Their argument touches the heart of one of our greatest social and economic issues. Allowing that a given field of scientific discovery and its resultant technology is possible, should it in fact be used? What are the ethical issues? How will these ultimately affect people? In an almost incoherent reply, Hamilton says something about "God", "values", and "human beings". These are the bases of their doubts about their hoped for money-spinner, *Jurassic Park*. This whole line of thinking will be one of increasing importance for our entire society as the third millennium gets underway. By all means see the film, if you must. But don't take the children if you can avoid doing so! For this film is the very apotheosis of Fred Flintstone and these dinos are no household pets.

**All is designed that the viewers experience the masochistic "enjoyment" of sheer terror through a series of narrow escapes**

and before the 15,000 volt charge is released. Alfred Hitchcock would have applauded this sequence.

Hamilton's two young grandchildren are the dino-

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# Happenings

According to the World Bank, one billion people worldwide live in grinding poverty. South and East Asia and the Pacific had seen a decline in the absolute poor as a percentage of the population, whilst there had been increases in North Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

There are 3 abortions to each live birth in Romania. In 1990, the year abortions were legalised, there were 1 million legal abortions, in a country with 12.5 million females.

A major caring agency for children from disrupted families has recorded a 45% increase in the number of children in foster care. The NSW Anglican Home Mission Society's Child and Family Services team has blamed the recession, community violence and family distress for the upturn.

It is estimated that 70% of the emigrants leaving Egypt are Christians, despite the fact that they represent only about 17% of the country's population. There is deep concern about the exodus among church leaders who point to Turkey's Christian population dwindling to just 200,000 members from 4.5 million in 1915.

"Awakening '94" was launched on 9 September at Sydney's St Andrew's House. "Awakening '94" is a triple program incorporating "Easter '94", "12 Weeks of Mission" and "The Global March for Jesus". Taking place in every capital city and hundreds of country towns, this promises to be the largest program of witness ever undertaken in Australia. It is hoped that "Awakening '94" will result in 500,000 participating in 400 cities and towns. The program will build up to the climax of the global March for Jesus, scheduled for 25 June. For details on materials available and the schedule of local launching rallies contact "Awakening '94", 688 Parramatta Rd, Croydon 2132. Phone (02) 716 8247, fax (02) 716 8237.

The 10th Melbourne Prayer Breakfast is being held on 8 October (7.15-8.45 am) at the Grand Hyatt, cnr Collins and Russell Streets, Melbourne. The breakfast aims to call leadership in all walks of life to a spiritual awakening through Jesus Christ, to pray for God's guidance on the leaders of our state and nation and to encourage people to more effective leadership and commit themselves daily, through the power of Christ, to build bridges of communication and understanding among all people. This year's guest speaker is David Jenkins, general manager of the Melbourne Central Project and chairman of World Vision Australia. Phone Desmond Higgs (03) 439 6922 or write to PO Box 935, Eltham 3095 for registration forms.

The proportion of Americans who read the Bible has remained constant over the last 2 years at 45%. 9% read the Bible daily. Nearly one-third of all Americans claim they still prefer the King James Version over other translations when they read the Bible. The next preferred Bible was the New International Version, chosen by 5%.

A joint German-Italian venture is to turn the Bible into a major television drama series running for over 30 hours. Betafilm from Germany and the Italian production company Lux are planning to turn the Old Testament into 20 100-minute films. The first two-part film,

**Abraham**, will star Richard Harris.

In the Javanese community in Suriname, South America, 7 new churches have been recently set up and many Christian radio broadcasts made, thanks mainly to a Christian Javanese evangelist. Antoon Sisaal is halfway towards his goal of seeing a church in every Javanese community by the end of the decade. He has already pioneered an evangelistic outreach involving literature, cassettes and training programs to large numbers of Javanese who have emigrated from Suriname to the Netherlands.

Half of all New Zealanders aged 14 and over have not been to church, other than for a christening, wedding or funeral, for more than a year, according to a Time Morgan poll. 9% say they have never attended a regular service. Those who stayed away for longer than 12 months included 29% of all Catholics, 58% of Anglicans and 52% of Presbyterians. In Australia, the poll produced similar results with 46% not having been in church for more than 12 months and 8% staying away altogether.

A survey commissioned by Ansvar in August by News-poll, on drinking habits in Australia, found that 30% of Australians 18 years or older regard themselves as non-drinkers. This is the highest number recorded in surveys over the past 30 years. 40% of females and 19% of males fitted into this

category. When women did consume alcohol they generally consumed small amounts (only 16% consumed more than 5 drinks a week which compares with 44% of males). Of significance is that 18% of males consume more than 15 drinks a week.

The York St, Ballarat, Vic, church is celebrating its centenary on 13-14 November this year. Previously they had advertised that the celebrations were taking place 6-7 November but circumstances have forced an alteration. Details of the celebrations are available in an advertisement in this issue or by ringing the church office on (053) 31 1079.

In the Jewish calendar the period 15-21 Tishri (30 September-6 October) is Sukkot (Tabernacles) with 7 October being Shemini Atzeret (Day of Assembly) and 8 October Simchat Torah (Celebration of the Torah). Amongst both the Western and Orthodox churches 8 September is celebrated as the birthday of Mary and the Orthodox churches celebrate 14 September as the Exaltation of Holy Cross.

"The Sunday-Monday Connection" is a forum on the workplace-ethics-Christian character. The speaker at the forum will be Gordon Preece, lecturer in ethics and church history and Dean of residential students at Ridley College. The forum will be held at the St Kilda Rd Travel Lodge on 20 November at 9 am, costing \$20 (includes breakfast).

Details from Ridley College, 160 The Avenue, Parkville 3052. Phone (03) 387 7555. Deadline for booking is 15 November.

The Australian Institute of Archaeology holds regular lectures at Ancient Times House, 116 Little Bourke St, Melbourne. On 10 October the title is "The Dust of Zion—Jerusalem through the Ages" and will be given by Garry Stone. Ancient Times House is open 2.30-4.30 pm with the lecture commencing at 3 pm. There is an admission charge of \$3 for adults or \$2 concession. On 17 October the Director, Piers Crocker, is conducting a special seminar "Archaeology and the Bible" at the Knox Baptist Church, 46 Wadhurst Dve, Boronia from 4.30-7.30 pm (This is free but bring a plate to share during tea break).

Christian musician Scott Wesley Brown has completed an 8 day concert tour in Cuba, the first such tour to be permitted by the national government. Brown's organisation, I Care Ministries, is also providing musical equipment for some Cuban churches.

Two mission agencies have reported severe financial problems. The Australian board of OMS International announced that it had sold its national office at Strathmore, Vic, on 5 June to liquidate debts and had dispensed with the position of executive director, while the South Sea Evangelical Mission requested prayer that its property at Laurieton, NSW, would sell quickly.

## Pontius' Puddle





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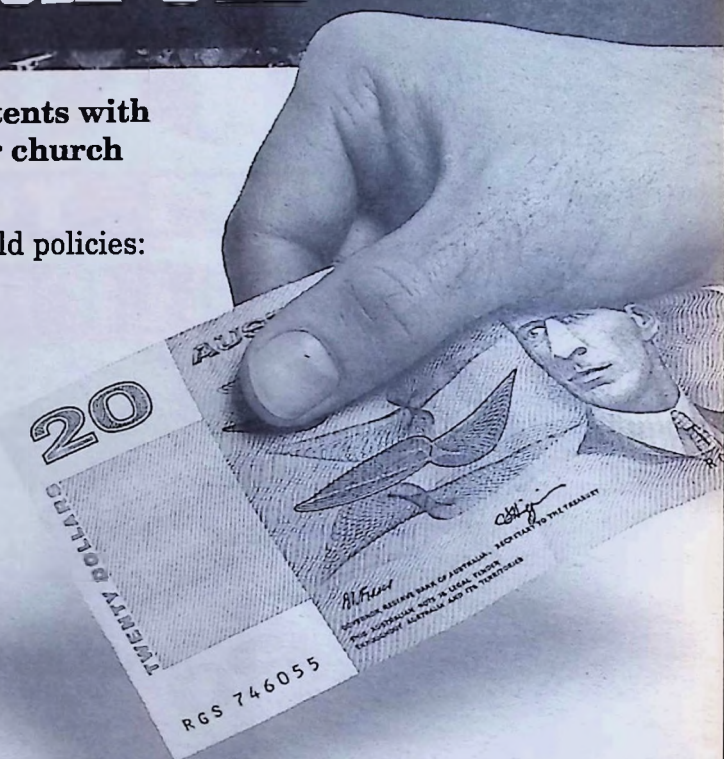
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## Growing Spiritually

# Knowing the Right People

Ron Fergie

**J**ack operated a wood yard on Wanneroo Rd when I first knew him as my Sunday School teacher and began to see Christ at work at the North Perth church. Jack would take us on his old flat-top truck across the plank road to Waterman's Bay for Sunday School picnics, and it would invariably be Jack who took the lead in erecting the anniversary platform and in anything else that required a willing worker.

Strong, direct and committed, his Christianity was straight from the heart. Jack led by example throughout his life. After I married Judy (from the same Sunday School) he and Edna exchanged Christmas let-

ters right through into their mid-80s and our 60s. Jack's letters radiated joy in the Lord: "I often say what a lovely life it has been for both of us. If heaven has more to offer, my heart will need to be enlarged to cope with it!"

By 1992 Jack and Edna had both passed on, but their influence on us endures.

"Getting on" in any vocation is often due to your good fortune (or deliberate manoeuvring) to get to know the "right people" to help you along the way. The Christian vocation is no exception, although it is certainly an open question as to "who are the right people". Certainly for us, fellowship

with highly committed Christians in the context of the local church has been very important. We are grateful too for working lives which led us to live in many countries and which exposed us to the company of Christians from many persuasions and backgrounds. From that changing perspective, we have come to see ourselves more clearly as members of the whole body of Christ first and members of a local Church of Christ second. That realisation, we believe, has been of key importance in our lives as we have come to question the negative aspects of nationalism, denominationalism, fundamentalism, liberalism and all

the other "isms" that tend to divert us from our vision of a world for Christ which embodies Christians of all nations, colours and traditions.

Yes, spiritual growth can be stimulated by extending the circle of our Christian fellowship. But let us not make too much of getting to know "the right Christian people"—in the end, the test of our growth as Christians is the contribution we make in mission outside the body of Christ, as we each seek out the company of the "yet-to-be" Christians. *Ron worships at Lyons, ACT. he and Judy are foundation members of the "parent" Ainslie, ACT, congregation.*

## Leadership 2000

# Healthy Leadership Brings Growth

Rod Brown

**"S**tretch the mind and it will never come back to the same shape again," someone said. It's true!

The Leadership 2000 Conference in the US has been a mind stretching experience for me. I share my thinking on healthy leadership principles discovered in growing churches in both the US and Australia.

All growing churches have a definable leader who is recognised, accepted and followed. (Within our church structures,

all too often an eldership or board is too afraid to allow a minister to lead)

**Accountability is an integral part of church life.** The leader is accountable to other leadership and the other leaders are accountable to the team leader. (This principle can avert the possibility of leaders/ministers becoming "Jones Town" fanatics or some kind of dictator)

Growing churches have a leader who is devoted to and absolutely committed to disciplined daily prayer and Bible

study. Too often ministers/leaders are tied up with preparation, Bible study and prayer, but not caught up with a very intentional personal journey with their Lord.

Growing churches have a **leader with a vision.** They have a clear view of what God wants to accomplish through them to build the Kingdom. (Vision is not the end product of consensus. We often make the mistake of distilling a vision from the collective minds of a church leadership—in growing churches the leader has the vision which results in consensus)

The leader is heavily involved in equipping, encouraging and seeking out other leaders with specific gifts for the work.

Too often our leadership is made up of people who have been pushed into the position

sometimes regardless of their ability to do the job in hand.

Healthy leadership spends time appointing leaders with the gifts for the task, equipping and encouraging them.

**HIS Servants.** Dr Leroy Lawson used this term for leaders/staff members who are not salaried.

The initials stand for **Honoured Instead of Salaried.** Dr Lawson spelt out the importance of having leadership staff that had clear responsibilities and were encouraged and recognised for their ministry.

I am very thankful to Christian Projects for sponsoring such a mind stretching experience.

We have come back even more committed to leading our churches to reaching out to our communities.

*Rod is the minister of our Knoxfield, Vic church.*

### Balwyn

71st Church Anniversary  
Sunday 10 October

Worship & Communion  
Service—10 am  
Speaker: John Tudor  
Light Refreshments

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## Classifieds

### BIRTHS

**PEGRAM** Simon, Julie and Nigel Pegram of Kyneton, Vic, are very pleased to announce the safe arrival of Simon on Wednesday 22 September. We thank God for a wonderful gift and our family and friends for their prayers and sharing in the joy.

### ENGAGEMENTS

**QUANTRELLE—O'BRIEN** Dorothy and Glen Quantrelle of Mitcham are delighted to announce the engagement of their youngest daughter, Mandy to Sean, son of Irene O'Brien and the late Rex O'Brien, of Lower Templestowe.

**GRAY—CAPP** Jill and Malcolm Gray (Upwey, Vic) are pleased to announce the engagement of their eldest daughter Katie, now 21, to Dean Capp of Hightett, Vic.

### DIAMOND WEDDINGS

**LAWS** Bill and Gwen (Adams) married at Hawthorn Church of Christ 23.9.33 by Mr Lyall Williams.

### DEATHS

**HINRICHSSEN** Alfred Edwin. Aged 93 years and 11 months, at the Ipswich General Hospital, Qld, on 11 September, 1993. Beloved husband of Gladys passed into the presence of his Lord whom he loved and served faithfully 79 years. Only son of the late Albert and Bessie Hinrichsen of Mt Walker and loved brother of Emily and May (both deceased), Ivy, Lucy, Jessie, Rubina and Mona. Forever with the Lord and in His Divine Presence. "Thanks be to God". The Christian's hope Romans 8:37-39.

**LUCAS** Alan. Passed away 17 September 1993, aged 77. Loved husband of Nan. Loved father of Glenda (de Jager) and Joan, father-in-law of Ray, grandpa to Tim, Rebecca and Emily. Forever with the Lord.

### FREE OFFER

**ELECTRONIC ORGAN (SMALL)** FREE to small congregation. Phone Ruth Knight (03) 792 5305.

### THANKS

Nancy Luff and family would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people, too numerous to mention here, who sent cards, flowers, words of comfort and Christian love on hearing of the sudden passing of our Reverend Jim Luff. Your kind thoughts and prayers have been a wonderful comfort and strength to us in this time of our loss. Many thanks to you all.

### WANTED

**SHED/PORTABLE** suitable for Sunday School classes, or shed for storage purposes. Contact Bob Volkerts, c/o Werribee Church of Christ, phone (03) 395 1020 (AH).

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### Hurstville Church of Christ Is seeking a Pastoral Minister to commence in 1994

The person we are seeking will primarily be a person who loves Jesus, has a concern for people and has gifts in the following areas—

- Biblical Teaching and Communication
- Encouragement—the development of gifts and the encouragement of mutual ministry
- Evangelism—a communicator of the gospel
- Pastoral—an encourager of personal spiritual growth
- A Vision for ministry

### We invite expression of interest.

Please address the ways in which your gifts, vision, training and experience would help us to mutually minister in the Hurstville Community and beyond.

Please address your response to:

**The Elders  
Hurstville Church of Christ  
PO Box 19  
Hurstville 2220**



### An invitation to young ministers from Graham Agnew: "Come and be a partner in building one of the most exciting churches in Australia today!"

**Marion Church of Christ** (Adelaide) urgently wants to add another full-time minister to its team. To be known as **Minister for Youth and Families** the successful applicant will be given wide ranging preaching, pastoral and programming responsibilities, with particular reference to the significant group of adults, and children within the church who are under 35 years of age—and there are over 200 of them!

We are seeking a highly motivated self-starter with outstanding people and communication skills, who can work well within a team.

Marion is the largest of our churches in South Australia, with a total of around 520 in attendance at its three services on Sundays. It has excellent facilities, with a full-time Office Administrator and plenty of backup support. In addition to Graham Agnew, the church has two other full-time ministers in Brian Ricketts and Ros Green.

This appointment could represent an exciting move for someone who is wanting to develop their gifts in a large church setting, where a greater variety of ministry challenges and opportunities can be explored.

An attractive package is offered, at a rate which is above that recommended by the South Australian Conference.

**Please forward applications to Miss Trish James, Marion Church of Christ, Mary St, Mitchell Park 5043**  
Alternatively, you may like to contact us by fax on (08) 277 0877



## A Church ABC

**L**ocated on the north-west coast of Tasmania (in the middle of the "bite" on top) Devonport is now beginning to reap the benefits of their

major intersection 2 km from the Post Office, in Four Ways, a very busy commercial area—a decent sized block in a high profile location.

Of course this wasn't easy, it involved risk and cost, and involves the agony of self-examination and change, but it now seems to be paying big divi-

although they have not actually lost anyone through the process. Financially it is also costly, both in the preliminary stages and in the implementa-



## Focus On Devonport

previous hard work and foresight.

Devonport itself has a population of around 30,000, with 45,000 within a 10 km radius. It is a very "young" city, having an average age of only 34 years—this also happens to be the average age of the congregation. The church has 91 active members, with average worship attendance for the morning and evening services being about 130 and 70 respectively.

The church began in January 1924 through an E.C. Hinrichsen mission, following which, in late 1924 brother Reynolds and the Higgs family began regular meetings. The church has moved three times and has been in its current location since 1952. The current location is one of those moves of faith that has shown real long-term benefits. When the move was being suggested in the 50s, the fact that the land was "out in the bush" caused some dissension. Now, however, it is on a

Currently, the church is experiencing real growth with 14 baptisms, average morning worship attendance increasing from 100 to 130 and the membership also growing from 65 to 91 this year. Ron Chapman, the minister, comments that this is the result of the intentional process of evaluation and focussing that has gone on previously. Last year the church spent \$2,000–\$3,000 to get Christian Resource Ministries to aid them in the process—"a fantastic investment". This entails the pain of clarifying their own values, gifts and resources, assessing the community's needs and then bringing it together in and agreed on vision and mission statement.

Having gone through this, the church has made a banner of its Vision Statement, occupying the whole back wall of the church, so no-one can miss it: "We will be a dynamic Christ centred church of at least 500 by 2003, impacting the community and beyond".

dends. The key ministry areas discovered and being developed are families, young people and single-parent families (whilst making sure that the older folk are not excluded). An agreed five-year plan was made and this year is the final stage—implementation—hence the growth now.

To aid it in achieving its goals the church has implemented five task forces which are goal-oriented, not ongoing committees. These are worship, pastoral care, discipleship, evangelism and fellowship. Each has the charter to evaluate and make more effective their area of responsibility. Each have been chosen and appointed by the church and are also empowered to make the necessary changes. This can be quite threatening because it involves letting power go into other hands and change. Everything is more intentional, working toward specific goals.

A difficulty has been that it is very threatening for some folk,

tion. People are realising that if they are serious about their vision, then it will cost them in time and money and that they will need to re-evaluate their giving.

Initially, it seemed a huge risk, aiming so high—"What if we don't make it?". But even now, it's looking much more achievable.

Other things, such as an illuminated sign, regular meetings of leaders within the church for support, encouragement and problem-solving and developing closer ties with other local churches have also become part of their efforts.

Part of the focus has been on developing corporate worship, but this has also been paralleled by development of their small group program, ensuring that people have a sense of family, belonging, worth and purpose.

As Ron put it, Devonport is a church aiming at being "God's church growing both larger and smaller."

### Southern Community Church of Christ

(Cheltenham, East Bentleigh, Hampton Street)

**16 & 17 October**

#### 1st Anniversary Celebration

**Guest Speaker**

**Jay Bacik**

(Senior Minister, Northside Community Church of Christ, NSW)

Saturday 6 pm Fellowship Basket Tea

Sunday 9.15 & 11.00 am

Sunday 6.30 pm Children's Musical

*Charity Churchmouse Goes to Hollywood*

All functions at Cheltenham

4 Chesterville Road

**Visitors Welcome**

### 13–14 November 1993 Centenary Celebrations

#### Weekend program

##### Saturday:

2.00 pm Open House—church

6.30 pm Centenary Dinner

\$16 per head, admission by ticket only  
(available from church office)



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Postal Address:  
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Ballarat 3350

##### Sunday:

10.00 am Worship Service

12.00 pm Church Luncheon

Fellowship Afternoon

7.00 pm Gospel Service



## Worship

# Worship As A Gift

Garry Harris

**D**efinitions of worship are as numerous as worshippers. In 1903, Pope Pius X saw worship as being for "the glorification of God and the sanctification of humanity".

Evelyn Underhill, writing from an Anglican perspective in 1936, described worship as "the response of the creature to the Eternal", while the Lutheran theologian Peter Brunner refers to it as "the service of God to the congregation" and "the congregation's service before God".

Worship is all of these and more. I would add another dimension to our consideration, suggesting that worship may also be seen as a "gift to God."

Kierkegaard hints at this in describing worship as an action done by the congregation with God as the audience. If we embrace a philosophy of worship which views worship as akin to an "offering" to "the Eternal", then hopefully the importance we place on it, and the attention we give to it will take on an entirely new dimension.

Scripture calls us to "offer the sacrifice of praise" to God. (Heb. 13:15) This praise is to bring glory to the Lord. (Isa. 42:12) Our sacrifice, like all sacrifices, will be costly. (1 Chr. 21:24) It will cost us in terms of time, energy, and resourceful-

ness. Nevertheless, the assumption of offering only our best to God is established early in the history of the divine-human relationship. (Gen. 22:9-10, Lev. 1:10) These demands are consonant with Paul's challenge in Rom. 12:1 to offer our very selves as "living sacrifices".

Those of us who are found in the evangelical protestant stream of Christendom make much, and rightly so, of the giving of money, time and talent to God; yet frequently, little attention is devoted to crafting a worship service worthy of presentation to "The Lord of Hosts".

I would suggest that we could give attention to the following:

- Plan the service well in advance, allow the Holy Spirit and that creative dimension of your personality time to mull over and arrive at the most effective means of presenting the message for that day.
- Settle upon an overarching theme and allow everything that is said and done in the service to reflect that theme. Seek theological integrity between hymns, Scripture, devotional readings, and the sermon.
- Advise soloists, musicians, and all leading in worship of the theme. Have orders of service to them well in advance to allow them the necessary time

for adequate preparation.

- Thoughtfully consider the prayers to be offered in public. Write them out if you wish. Be focussed. Do not allow the intent of the prayer to become blurred by well-intentioned rambling. Attempt to express heartfelt concerns in the context of the predetermined theme of the worship experience.

- Give thought to the words chosen to introduce the various facets of the service. Strive to use them as valuable transitions to achieve a smooth and unified flow of events.

The presentation of an intelligently planned, cohesive and integrated service will enhance the desired impact of the message. Furthermore, it will convey to the congregation that worship is worthy of serious, thoughtful and prayerful preparation. Most of all, we will have crafted a gift we may present to God as workers who need not be ashamed.

It is incumbent upon any article encouraging excellence in worship to address the sermon. Preaching is an awesome responsibility. Near enough is never good enough. There is no place for mediocrity in the homiletical enterprise. The message we proclaim is too important and its impact too profound to permit it to be scuttled by compromise, carelessness or laziness.

Preachers are among a privileged minority who have the enviable and fearful opportunity of offering their public work in worship to God Sunday by Sunday.

The call to preach, like any call to service, is a call to excellence. Goethe's famous quotation concerning art has been adapted by some to refer to the sermon. I encourage all who preach to embrace this as their goal. "In preaching, the best is good enough."

In essence I am advocating an approach to the design of the worship service that approximates the thoroughness, care, and painstaking effort that we would expect of any skilled artisan worthy of the name. I am calling for a commitment to the preparation of worship that has theological integrity; aesthetic sensitivity; and pastoral concern.

Ronald Allen and Gordon Borror in their book *Worship: Rediscovering the Missing Jewel* have asked some fundamental and penetrating questions regarding the planning of the worship service:

Will it be a unified hour in which the people clearly grasp the central focus and emphasis? Or, will it degenerate into a series of unrelated events (like a variety show) where congregants will have little notion of where they have been or what has occurred at the end of the hour? The artistic, well balanced, Spirit-led corporate hour does not fall packaged from the sky; it requires planning and rehearsal.

Doubtless, some readers will be thinking that "humankind looks on the outward appearance while God looks upon the heart". I agree. However, this ought not to be taken as licence for shoddy preparation. It is inconceivable that we who have enjoyed the benefits of God's "greatest gift" should in return offer a gift of worship that is less than our best.

### Hartwell Church of Christ invites you to a "Hymnfest"

A celebration of old and new hymns  
**Sunday 17 October, 2.30 pm**

Guests: Peter Chapple (Tenor)  
Mark Radford (Trombonist)  
Victorian Children's Choir

Comper: Viney Longthorp

Donation \$5.00

(proceeds to the church's youth ministry)  
Corner Highfield Rd & Milverton St, Hartwell

### 90th Anniversary Church of Christ Northcote

Invites friends and former members to the  
**BBQ and Social Evening Friday 22 October**  
**Sunday Services 24 October**

10.30 am Morning Service (guest speaker  
Max Gowty—Conference President)

12.30 pm Luncheon

2.45 pm Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

RSVP Monday 18 October  
Joyce Huggan (03) 489 8746  
Patricia Gluyas (03) 470 4846



## Worship

# Church as Theatre

*Brian Phelps*

**M**any of our churches look like theatres: stage area down the front (we call it "the platform"), seats neatly arranged to focus towards the centre of activity ("pews"), public address system operators at the back of the building, aisles, ushers, front of house personnel, (at least we don't have a ticket box!), microphones strategically placed on the stage, the two main dramatic features—communion table and baptistry—carefully located at the artistic centre of the whole thing.

If church worship services were really to be considered as theatre, then I have two questions!

1. Who is the audience?
2. Who are the performers?

I reckon the answers to my questions above are:

The audience is God, not the people sitting in the pews and the actors are the members of the congregation, not those "up-front"! To push the analogy a bit further, if the congregation is actually the group that is doing the "performing" i.e. they are actively worshipping

God, then the up-front people have an entirely different role to that which we have traditionally given them.

For example, the president is not the chief actor for the morning, but a Stage Director, guiding the congregation through their worship actions. The readers for the day are not performers at all—probably they take on the role of "prompters" helping the "audience" remember their lines.

The musicians are not the featured artists in the vaudeville of worship. They are the

support persons who help set the mood, as does the lighting operator and the PA person.

The preacher, if you take this model, suddenly becomes, not the star, but the producer who is responsible to see that the actors (the congregation) know what the play is all about and helps them to make the action work.

And the audience? God, says, "I loved the show! I think I will come again next time!"

*Brian is a consultant on church development and education in SA.*

## Marsden

# An Easy Ride?

*Neil Marsden*

**C**hristianity was never meant to be an easy ride. Despite how people preach it and how the world around sees it, Christianity can be the hardest option to take and to live.

When I was down at the Army Reserve at Rockdale, one time we sat down to have lunch

while listening to the radio. Eventually the news came on, leading with a story about a church that was blown up in a war somewhere overseas. The immediate reaction from the other guys was "God didn't help them!" People in and outside the church have got the wrong idea. Christianity was never meant to be an easy ride.

Difficulties will come and go, love will die and survive, money may come easy or be hard to get. Life is full of ups and downs, downs and ups.

None of it means God isn't there, none of it proves God doesn't care. We live in a sinful and hateful world that's gone completely mad. Yet we still have to live in it.

The light at the end of the tunnel is of course Jesus' second coming. We hope and live and wait for him. If Jesus was never to come back our faith would have nothing to look forward to. Because this world is sinful, we wait for the new earth, the new life, the new love. Only then will all the difficul-

ties be gone. None of us can really imagine what it would be like to live in a perfect world. We haven't had any experience of it! While we're here though, we have to keep in mind Christianity was never meant to be an easy ride.

Not long ago the Church of the Coming Days began to advertise and promote their "knowledge" of the time when Jesus will come back. They played on people's dreams and hopes and were nothing but "false prophets" that Jesus spoke about. The scary thing is they're not the only ones and desperate people are prepared to listen to their lies without checking the truth for themselves.

We have to follow God, believe his word, bear the hardships, knowing full well that in the end Paradise will cause us to forget all about this pathetic world.

Ultimate happiness and joy won't come in this life, but in the next.

### **Wanted**

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# The Neglected Dimension of Spiritual Warfare

R.N. Hawkins

**T**he battle is raging. The casualties mount. Wherever you look you see bleeding Christians. Marriages proclaimed to be made in Heaven have been sundered by the powers of sin and self. Churches declaring to be built on "The Rock" are being overwhelmed by the "quicksand" of power struggles and deceit. In and through it all, Christians feel like front-line soldiers enduring an artillery barrage.

Spiritual warfare seems intense and widespread in the Australian scene, with many of the saints going to "crash courses" on how to wear the armour of Ephesians 6. Unfortunately, the warriors of the Word too often presume that the enemy is the Devil and his demons, counterattacking with prayers, fastings and deliverances. The trouble is, the Devil and his forces are often off on another raid elsewhere.

The neglected side of spiritual warfare has to do with the enemy within, not the marauding "lion" of 1 Peter 5:8. Paul calls us to recognise the force opposing us at any given time, for to fight a successful campaign you have to define your enemy and marshal the necessary and appropriate "fire-power" that will rout them.

There is a lot of talk about the Devil today, sometimes having nearly as much airplay as the Lord. This is giving too much credence to the monarch of darkness and is counterproductive to the spiritual maturity of the saints. In reading the Scriptures I believe there are two more prominent forces that bring down Christians and the local churches.

Sure, further back from them, even giving these anti-Christ forces encouragement, is the Devil, but he is not the foe at hand as is so often imagined. The two forces with whom we

are embroiled in an unending duel are the armies of our sinful nature (Gal. 5:19-21) and the glittering hordes of wealth (Matt. 6:19-24). The tragedy of the spiritual battlefield is that many a saint is shouting "Praise the Lord" whilst being overrun by the power of the "flesh". Have a look at the church at Corinth, for example. If ever there was a "Hallelujah factory" it was this place and yet it was captured by the powers of the lower nature (1 Cor. 1:10-12, 3:3, 5:1-3, 11:17-32, 12:14-25, etc).

Such a state of affairs seems to be repeated with gusto now.

The saints go in droves to Renewal conferences, upgrade their Sunday services into four star quality productions, and soak up all types of motivational hype to be better witnesses, and then go home and succumb to their lower nature. Why give the Devil the credit when a minister runs off with another woman or church members carve each other into pieces with their tongues. Why call for deliverance from demons for a Christian business person who robs customers through inferior service or quality. An obnoxious believer who gives a sales assistant a hard time is not demon possessed! That is the sinful nature on a search and conquer mission, seeking its own way irrespective of the will or ways of Jesus Christ or the hypnotic sounds of contemporary worship.

The greatest threat today to the church is not the Devil. It is

the capturing of the saints by the power of the soul. For the soul seeks its own dominance even if it destroys a loved one or a congregation. Have a look at the shattering impact that this force is having in church and community.

People who claim the name of Christ are rejecting his authority when it suits them to walk out on marriage, to defile their children, to turn the local church into their plaything and to strut their stuff as a friend of the World. Sure the only one to ultimately appear to gain an advantage is the Devil, but he is not the front line soldier overrunning the saints.

It is time that this neglected side to spiritual warfare be recognised and resisted.

It is time to place the soul under the Cross of Jesus Christ (Gal. 5:24) and choose to deny ourselves dominance, privilege and power, and prefer others

to one's own purposes. The sword of the Lord needs to be applied to our own soul (Heb. 4:12) and to cause it to be captured by the authority of the crucified Lord.

Preachers and teachers need to take their congregations into "recruit camps" and train them how to recognise and combat the commando tactics of the soul. Until this is done, all the church parades and all the prayer meetings will not keep the saints from becoming spiritual POWs to their lower nature. This will mean that Christian relationships will continue to be blown apart, churches rendered ineffective through factions and divisions, and hypocrisy will run rampant in the community.

Paul told Timothy that the soldier's manual was nothing other than the Holy Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:10-17). It was this word that Timothy was to preach and teach in the discharging of his commission as an evangelist and servant of Jesus Christ. Remember, there is nothing better for the conquering of the soul, the disciplining of wealth, and the routing of the Devil, than the Word of God rightly taught, correctly understood and personally obeyed.

**The neglected side of spiritual warfare has to do with the enemy within**

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# Where are the Business Brains?

Marjan Beer

There is something going on in many churches—something no-one is talking about. I suspect it is quite widespread. That "something" is ministers being paid part salaries. Not because the churches don't want to pay more, nor because the minister isn't worth more. We all know that ministers cost quite a lot of money. It takes at least 50 members to support a full-time ministry. Probably more, depending on the make up of a particular congregation and the socio-economic nature of the community in which it is placed. At National Conference, Peter Kaldor said that 38% of Churches of Christ in Australia have less than 50 members.

Apart from anything else, consider the implications of that figure in terms of payment for ministry! Why isn't anyone talking about this?

Are you aware that there is a recession going on? Do you have any idea of how hard it is to find supplementary income/work? It is difficult in the cities—imagine how much worse it may be in a country town. Ministers, their families and the churches suffer and struggle. The very churches which need ministers with energy and vision to lead them to growth have their ministers distracted by financial struggles or outside work. Why are ministers and churches in these situations so often left alone in their search

for solutions? I don't have answers to the dilemmas—just lots of questions. The issue is far deeper than simply helping to find part-time employment, although that would help. The whole area of money management needs to be addressed. Maybe we need to rethink the way local churches and Conference Departments raise and manage money. Perhaps the time has come to stop relying entirely on the giving of members.

Has the time come to stop operating on a purely cash flow basis? Ought we to consider ways of investing so we use money to make money instead of using it as it comes in? Can we consider setting up busi-

nesses to support ministry either on a local "cottage industry" model or on a larger scale?

This struggle for funds isn't going to go away. Realistically, it will probably get worse! Maybe we aren't talking about it because it may look as though God is letting us down, that he isn't providing as he promised he would. People could even think it is because we lack faith. Perhaps God is waiting for us to acknowledge the difficulties and to begin using our collective and individual resources of intelligence, imagination, skills and even money to address the issues.

Please, let's break the silence. Where are the business brains? Where are the lateral thinkers?

# The American Myth

Bruce McIntosh

I thought, by writing the three articles "Behind Churches of Christ", I would have helped dispel the myth that Australian Churches of Christ are of American origin. But no, there it was again in the Guest Editorial, ("AC" 18 September) by Maurice Hodgson, titled "Church of the Frontier" in the words: "Churches of Christ began in the United States on the frontier".

No Maurice, no. Australian Churches of Christ began in Australia. Their founders were British immigrants. Pioneer families influenced in part by the writings of Alexander Campbell, a Scots-Irish who took his British heritage with him to America; but much more by the British Churches of Christ, who began independently from the American churches. The common influences on both the British and American movements were the writings of John Locke, and

other non-conformist British thinkers of the 18th century Enlightenment. The sociological and theological background to both movements is thoroughly British. (See Graeme Chapman's book *One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism*, and E.L. Williams' book *Churches of Christ—An Interpretation*.)

Towards the end of the 19th century, American evangelists brought into Australia American "innovations" which caused some divisions in the British oriented Australian churches. Not the least was the tension between the American evangelists and the British type church elders, surprise, surprise, on the question of leadership. When the Australian churches introduced the British system of annual conferences, rather than the American concept of general conventions, the reverse occurred. The British view held sway, more so in New South Wales than elsewhere. British leaders such

as Matthew Wood Green, the Pittmans, and the intrepid Scot, A.R. Main greatly influenced Australian churches. A.R. Main's influence was immense, particularly through the training of ministers in the College of the Bible.

Australian Churches of Christ did the real Aussie thing and chose the best from both the British and American movements. So let us stop all this nonsense of seeing ourselves as an American import, and let us analyse what it was that appealed to Australian pioneer families about the Restoration Movement. I believe it was the independent, challenging and free spirit of our movement.

Maurice Hodgson wants "a renewed discovery of individuals' sense of identity rather than relating to yesterday's identity". To do that we need to dig deep into the Australian psyche, not the American. To find the answer, we need to understand our multicultural soci-

ety, our ethnic churches, and above all, our Aboriginal congregations. Why then do our church leaders still go off to America for the clues? Australia is changing, but the changes will be challenged if they are less fair and less democratic than our present structures. Churches of Christ have a great opportunity to show the way in the new Republic of Australia.

Have you thought of helping  
"The Australian Christian"  
in its ministry among  
Churches of Christ?

Why not include us in your will?  
The following wording could be used in your will:

I give and bequeath \$ ..... (or a percentage of the total estate) to "The Australian Christian", the national journal of Churches of Christ in Australia, absolutely for the use and benefit of the organisation free from all debts, funeral and testamentary expenses.



## You Are Important

W.D. Mills

**S**ometimes we tend to put ourselves down, to think of ourselves as a pretty unimportant person. Maybe you are inclined to do this about yourself. You may have persuaded yourself that you are not of any great significance in this world.

You may not have gone so far as to suffer from a very bad case of inferiority, but you may have convinced yourself there is nothing that marks you as a person of importance in any way. You are quite wrong. There is someone who thinks very differently and this is Jesus Christ.

A noted Christian man said something years ago that well bears repeating. He said, "Jesus Christ never met an unimportant person." If you read Jesus' life story, in any of the four gospels, you will come to the same conclusion. Again and again you will read that Jesus took people by the hand. It didn't matter if they were as diseased and outcast as lepers, if they were shunned as those who were considered to be demon-possessed, if they were in rags and were plague-ridden, blind, lame or crippled. From old men and women to the youngest child, it says he took their hand and lifted them up.

"God," says the Bible, "is no respecter of persons."

That is, God makes no distinction between the rich and the poor, the privileged and the dispossessed, the VIPs and the undistinguished. And Jesus Christ, God's son, takes exactly the same attitude.

But you are important, because Jesus Christ is the creator of all things and he created you. He is vitally and affectionately concerned with every creature of his creation. And what is of even greater significance is that God sent his son, Jesus, to die for you. The man whom we quoted earlier as having said that Jesus Christ never met an unimportant person also said something else. He said, "If someone dies for you, you must be important." You can't argue with that. The Bible says that Jesus Christ died for all. All, naturally enough, includes you. Jesus Christ gave up his life's blood on a cross for you.

If that doesn't make you important, nothing else can. What you need to do, if you have not already done it, is to make Jesus Christ important to you. The way to do this is to recognise him as your Creator, your Saviour and your Lord. And this will make you even more important to him.

### Christian Fellowship Association Annual Meeting of Subscribers & Agents

Tuesday, 23 November, 1993

at the

Swanston Street, Church of Christ

Swanston Street Melbourne

Lunch 12.00-2.00 pm

Includes: Recognition of CFA Agents

Speaker: Trevor H. Giles

Executive Director

Department of Community Care

Cost: \$8.00 per person (non Agent)

RSVP essential by Monday, 15 November, 1993

Phone Val—(03) 326 8977

## Baptisms

•Elaine Bragg, Wembley, WA  
•Scott Kernaghan, Casey Black, Mannie Mella, East Keilor, Vic  
•Melissa Chappell, Jenny Knight, Linda Dickins, Carol Andrews, Alan Thurling, Helen Rogerson, Dawson St, Ballarat, Vic •Bronwyn Binks, Chris Doyle, Peel St, Ballarat, Vic  
•Fleur Patterson, Michael Muhling, Heath Davies, Simon Pratt, Andrea Foster, Steven Rivett, Warwick, WA  
•John Fowler, Trisha Holt, Engadine, NSW •Michelle Robinson, Verity Wilmer, Mitcham, Vic

## Marriages

•Leanne Holdcroft to Benjamin Britton, Jennifer York to Michael Humphreys, Wembley, WA •Kelly Kanitch to Kevin Arnold, Bruce Rock, WA •Melissa Sherriff to Andrew Pigg, Fiona Scott to Barry Clancy, Lorelle Bynon to Steven Rogers, Sally Gawne to Rick Op't Hoog, Swan Hill, Vic •Darren O'Brien to Nicole Wakefield, Jonathan Holt to Ruth Vidler, Gavin Roberts to Belinda Gourley, Engadine, NSW

## Deaths

•Athol Wedd, Wembley, WA •Flo Tivendale, Cyril Steele, Box Hill, Vic •Clarice Carpenter, Warwick, WA •Beryl Perry, Goolwa, SA

## Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Hancock, Jean

(24.7.93) Jean, elder daughter of Alice and Fred Hancock, grew up in Richmond, Vic, with her mother's faith as inspiration. When she graduated from University High School she took up teaching. Jean retired having worked up to be principal of Lalor Park Primary School. Jean and her sister Iris moved to Crawley Street in 1951 and joined the East Preston church. Jean's abilities were recognised as she led worship and presided over communion. This continued in the merged congregation at Preston. Jean is remembered by those who received one of the hundreds of cards and letters she wrote, by the sick and elderly who enjoyed the worship tapes she made possible, by those who received her quiet encouragement.

—Jack McCormick

Steele, Cyril Eric Leonard  
(2.9.93) Cyril was born 3.2.18 in Brighton, Vic. Over 250 were present at the service, attesting to

## WA

WEMBLEY (Kim Roberts) Kim Roberts, our minister, gave interesting sermon "The Time of the End". He divided his address into three sections—A Complex Issue, The State of the World & The State of the Church, rounding off with a challenge to each one—To keep the important things as important. BRUCE ROCK (D. Jolly) Prayer & support given to Flo Warren & David Jolly. Both undergone operations ... Recent speaker Carl Carmody (Challenge magazine), Dorothy Holstein (missionary in India), Rob Adama (OAC Ministries). Rob enjoyed by students at local school ... CWC held outreach day with Margaret Jacobs ... Members attended fifth Sunday services at Corrigin. Paul White speaker ... David Jolly & two members attended Crossways Bible study course in Perth.

DIANELLA (Tony Armstrong) Variety of different services held ... "Golden Oldies" popular with old hymns used in service ... Guest speakers Brian Stitt, Grant Stone & Gideons representative ... Day of prayer held, prayer workshop supported by other churches, prayer retreat planned ... Women held successful street stall ... Indian night speaker Dorothy Holstein ... 29 August church went on the Hotham Valley steam train ... Evening services had Rose Farrow & band, dance group, film. WARWICK (G. Carslake, B. Eagles, R. Ratcliffe) "Celebration of Praise" Ball at Government House, part of 20th birthday celebrations had 260 attend ... Pastoral care

the fact that he was a great Christian and popular in the community. A highly practical person, Cyril could turn his hand to anything and was always willing to help those in need. Cyril is survived by Ede (married for 51 years), five children and 14 grandchildren. He has been a member at Box Hill for 65 years, a past deacon, member of the building committee and maintenance committee. He died after a long battle with cancer. Now at rest and in peace.

—Jim Longbottom

## Changes

Dandenong: Secretary: Julia Foon, c/o Dandenong Church of Christ, 139-151 David Street, Dandenong, Vic 3175. Phone (03) 792 0572 (Church office).

Taree: Secretary—E.M. Saxby, 7 Burri Street, Taree, NSW 2430.



# Church News

provided through 15 home fellowship groups & pastoral care free covering 125 families with 32 carers ... Peta Ramsey office secretary ... 20 basketball & 6 netball teams had 10 grand finals with 6 winners ... Barbara Fairley home again after successful move into professional golf in USA.

## NSW

**ALBURY (Alex Wilson)** Alex Wilson has accepted position with the NSW College. His ministry concludes in December ... Interior refurbishment of the hall to begin. Budget \$15,000 ... Looking forward to ministry from Don Richardson of *Peace Child* fame April 94 for 2-3 days ... Music team preparing for next Tumut Convention ... Marian Kowarzik to spend one year in USA caring for children.

**GILGANDRA (P. Anderson)** Recent speaker D. Burrell (Gideons) ... Public meeting "Life After Debt" well attended. Mike Kirkpatrick from Northside church offered free legal advice. Visit appreciated by community ... Half yearly meeting held. Theme—Reaching People for Christ Where They Are.

**THORNTON (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley, Keith Morgan)** Music team invited to take part in Market Day at the Hornsby Mall after morning service 5 September ... Susan Larkins, Dean of School of Ministry, with six students led woman's camp at Manning Valley church 11-12 September ... Stuart Wesley & Matt Sendt with Ian Allen (Youth Director WEC) went to Fiji to work with local churches for two week evangelistic program 18 September.

**TAREE (Peter Wallis)** Successful "Spring Fair" held 18 September. Whole church participated. \$3,000 raised ... Ted Saxby new secretary. Kathie Bullock declined nomination ... Fred Murray underwent surgery in Sydney, progressing well ... Munro family mourns loss of mother, Mrs Anita Munro, aged 93 ... Congratulations to Ian & Jenny Carr on arrival of Jeremy Andrew, brother for Lauren & Tim. Another grandchild for Ted & Ruth Saxby. **ENGADINE (Terry Grant, Ed Holt, Mike Parker)** Celebrated two baptisms with three young people welcomed into church ... Monthly Sunday Edition attracting new people to services ... Youth Church, running concurrently with morning service, attracting average 35 junior high young people ... Recent visit by Ian & Marie Borham (WEC Spain) great success ... Further three people applying for missionary training next year ... Music min-

istry improved under leadership of Christy Parker.

## Old

**MAROOCHYDORE (Geoff Risson)** Special outreach weekend with Peter Shurley a highlight. Visiting local schools, a gala youth concert & music at the special Sunday services ... Bill Newman rallies proved stimulating for the church involved, emphasis being on youth and families ... CWF members attended a President's Rally at Gympie & are to attend ladies' day of Conference in Brisbane.

## Tas

**NUBEENA (C.G. Henderson)** Nicola Triffett had corrective eye surgery—successful ... Eight attended Jerusalem Passion held in Hobart ... Ladies & young people entertained fathers at evening service on 5 September with items & supper ... Sunday School held barbecue tea & social 9 September ... Church sorry to lose Ritchie family from district ... Nubeena & Howrah ministers exchanged pulpits on 19 September ... Nubeena pleased to see Muriel & Stan Ryles from WA.

## Vic

**WARRNAMBOOL (Peter Broadbent)** Three home fellowship groups flourishing, as well as group for new Christians & KYB group at Neighbourhood House ... Young people appreciated on music team ... Regular fellowship & services enjoyed with Baptist & CRC churches, including recent visit of Chuck & Peggy Rook (YWAM), PNG visiting pastor at CRC & youth musical at Baptist ... Sonny Pillay mini-mission commencing 15 October.

**EAST KEILOR (Jim Tilson)** Recent worship seminar well attended ... 17 attended Bill Hull Conference ... Church encouraged by increase in worship attendance ... Hodos continues to grow & meet community needs ... KYB group to commence ... Small group program is growing. Five now in operation.

**BOX HILL (Jim Longbottom, Moffat Zimba)** Church in good spirit ... Constitution recently rewritten & accepted at quarterly meeting involving changes in membership classifications ... Welcomed Moffat & Doreen Zimba (Zambia), second year students CCTC, as student ministers ... Recent faith promise/world mission focus successful ... Kanga Kids still thriving with an average of 60 per week coming. Praise God for coming school holi-

days! ... Recent deaths Flo Tivendale, Cyril Steele.

**THE PATCH (Mike Folland)** Kids Club, youth group & other small groups continuing to meet regularly ... Both netball teams competed in grand finals recently ... Series of sermons planned for October titled "What Every Christian Should Know About" include the following topics: Science & Faith, Other Religions, Uniqueness of Christ, Miracles, Life After Death.

**SWAN HILL (Lindsay Mayes, Tim Green, Graeme Sonsie)** Julie Trinnick (OMB) visited church during August ... Tim Green & Graeme Sonsie attended National Ministers Refresher, Phillip Island ... Many children from Bible School took part in Christian musical "A Heart to Change the World" presented in Town Hall ... Well attended congregational meeting discussed church's future direction & projected property requirements ... Katrina & Ian Waller working as physiotherapists in Singapore.

**DAWSON ST, BALLARAT (Stephen Templeton, Tracey Wickham)** Church continues to grow ... Daughter church (Haddon) is running strong & will affiliate with Conference next year ... Full follow-up program in progress ... Church has seen a conversion each week over the past few months with 21 baptisms in the last year ... Stephen, Dian & family with Jenny are off to plant a church in the Shire of Byron Bay in 1994.

**PEEL ST, BALLARAT (Wayne Allen)** Church on the move ... Five transfers & two baptisms—Bronwyn Binks & Chris Doyle ... Exciting things at our informal pm services once a month with increased attendances ... Church adopted family unknown to us—providing food, wood, furniture etc ... Sunday School growing in numbers ... Adults Only monthly increased numbers ... After 124 years we are now known as Aussie Church of Christ.

**MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (Greg Illingworth, Rick Wright)** Ministry House, congregation voted approval building alteration divided cry room & creche ... Bethel studies commence again ... Mike Morrison, Geelong Supercat star & wife Tracy share testimony ... Agreed to support Richard Broheir (CRM) ... Family trivia night for YFC funds & fellowship ... Dedication Madelaine Papp ... Welcomed in Lexie French & Debets family ... Men's Fellowship met at bowling lane ... Cadbury's chocolate fund raiser for church funds.

**YARRAWONGA (W. Keddie)** Challenges given by God Squad

was accepted by YHS ... OMF offering was \$357 ... Church anniversary speaker was Barry Jenkins of state Missionary Department whilst Ellison Reve, carpentry teacher of Londua, Vanuatu, sang. Thank offering was \$517 ... Coffee morning towards our goal for Forbes' support netted \$380 ... Greg Lanyon taking up his father's ministry with Queensland Inland Gospel Ministries informed us 27 September.

**TOOTGAROOK (M. Giezendanner)** 10 ladies attended National CWF Conference. Val Best church's delegate for whole conference, brought comprehensive report ... CWF birthday celebration honouring our country a great success ... Missionary support group organised concert (using local talent) to raise money for chaplaincy in schools. All agreed it was excellent. Total raised \$743, included anonymous donation of \$500 ... Seven ladies visited Thelma Dickason on her 90th birthday.

**MITCHAM (Mark Butler)** Dinner for parents of young children ... Speaker at am services from Gideons & Council for Christian Education in Schools ... Craft group at Butler's home ... Two baptisms at youth service, Ron Chapman participating ... Two couples with young children received into membership ... Sunday luncheon raised \$463 for song books ... Plans for extension of church building under consideration.

## SA

**BLACKWOOD (Rob Combridge, Colin Dredge, Paul Bauer)** Mid-winter Celebration. Members met & shared meal, music & message with Edmund Wanganeen & members of Aboriginal Berean Church ... Link being established with Kaltjiti (Fregon) Community in Far North SA through teacher Michelle Lewis ... Congregation supporting Rob Leane, inducted National President 11 September ... 25 attended seminar run by Tammy Tolman (Wolongong). Encouraged & motivated to take risks in children's ministry ... "Club Escape" exciting after school gathering of teens for games & study commenced.

**GOOLWA (Roger Risson)** Friendship Centre every Tuesday proving popular as outreach ... Women's Fellowship held old-time movie show as fund raiser ... Resource Centre now available at church ... Visit from Milang Fellowship Group ... Sarah Butler Trio guests from Victor Harbor for Good News service ... Fund-raising committee organising garage sale.



## Year of the Family

### Drug Awareness Council Preparations

The NSW Drug Awareness Council, formerly The NSW Temperance Alliance, have been better informed and more aware of the problems associated with the 'family', as it plans towards 1994—The International Year of the Family, following a workshop in Sydney on 4 September.

The Council invited representatives from the Salvation Army, Police, Sydney City Mission, Women's Christian Temperance Union, a variety of denominations and two, "Jane" and "Barry", who have had personal experience in the drug and alcohol scene.

On display was a variety of Pledge Cards, from 1903, which pointed to bygone years when people made a definite promise to abstain from alcohol.

A new selection of six 30 seconds radio spots, prepared by John Broadhead (President-Elect) in consultation with Wendy Blatch of 2CH, were played. They indicated the latest approach of using humour to attract attention and then "hitting the hearers between the ears" with messages concerning substance abuse and domestic violence.

Sergeant Graham Baker, of the Chatswood Police Station, pointed out that in his experience, "Much of the domestic violence taking place these days is because of financial problems, not necessarily only alcohol."

Paul Moulds, of the Sydney City Mission, explained that "Long-term unemployed, battling with the loss of self-esteem and self-worth, can turn to substance abuse or domestic vio-

lence. This results in more women looking for temporary accommodation. Young people from dysfunctional families often look to suicide to solve everything." He went on to state that "Alcohol is involved in nearly all cases that come to the attention of the Sydney City Mission. Alcohol cannot be let off the hook."

"Jane" and "Barry" contributed testimonies of how they survived through drugs and alcohol. Both testified to the saving power of Jesus Christ, through the ministry of the Salvation Army and the complete change made to their life.

Colin Smith (Churches of Christ) presented a thought-provoking segment. Under the heading "Directions—The Future is Open", Col suggested they needed to:

1. Define the target groups they are trying to reach.
2. Refine the message so as to communicate with Christians and non-Christians alike.
3. Develop the management structure in the most effective way.
4. Develop a better office situation, providing parking facilities, displays and literature so that young people can see and understand the work.
5. Produce new and younger members for the ongoing of the NSW Drug Awareness Council.

"We need to be people of passion and power," said Col. "Let us pass on our dream for this nation of ours."

—Ramon Williams



• Col Smith

## The Last Word

**He who has not forgiven an enemy has never yet tasted one of the most sublime enjoyments of life.**

—Johann Kaspar Lavater

"I just found out that your uncle is an undertaker. I thought you told me he was a doctor."  
"Nope, I just said he followed the medical profession."

\*\*\*\*\*

Always borrow from a pessimist—they never expect it back anyhow.

\*\*\*\*\*

In a church where everybody sat towards the rear, a stranger walked in and took a front seat. After the service the minister greeted the stranger and asked why he sat up front. "I'm a bus driver," was the reply. "and I came to learn how you succeed in getting people to move to the back."

\*\*\*\*\*

In most instances, all an argument proves is that two people are present.

\*\*\*\*\*

Experience is a hard teacher. She gives the test first and the lesson afterward.

\*\*\*\*\*

The closest anyone comes to perfection is when they fill out a job application form.

\*\*\*\*\*

What is the difference between a doctor and a minister?

One practices and the other preaches.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Waiter, what is this insect in my soup?"

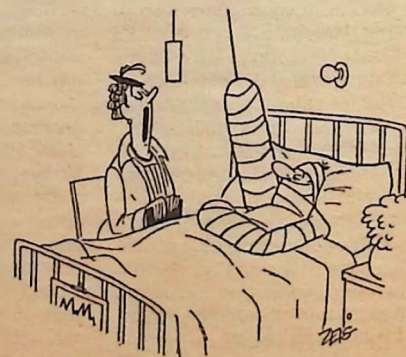
"I wish you hadn't asked me, sir. I can't tell one insect from another."

\*\*\*\*\*

A Sunday School teacher was giving the class a lesson on the armour of God—the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation. The question was asked "What is it we carry? Its very sharp and it cuts. Can any one tell me what it is?"

One student replied: "I know. Its the axe of the Apostles."

\*\*\*\*\*



"I found out your accident policy covered falling off the roof all right, but not hitting the ground."



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