

National Journal
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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Bike for Bibles

John McIntyre, Steve Christian and Nick Schwarz from Horsham setting out on an 800 km ride to raise money for Scriptures in Africa

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Photo courtesy of The Mail-Times, Horsham



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Guest Editorial

Church Style

Dennis Ryle

Once upon a time Goldilocks was out in the woods when she stumbled across modern suburbia. She found three churches—a small one, a middle-sized one and (you guessed it) a big regional one. Because of her adventurous personality, she decided she would "church-shop" and try them all!

She tried the big regional church first! As she walked into the large fellowship-friendly foyer, she was greeted with a smile, led to a table where they gave her a name tag and was introduced to a family who offered to sit with her during the service ("It's so easy to get lost in a church this size", they said.) The service began and Goldilocks' spirit soared with the beauty of the music supplied by the 13-piece orchestra and well-trained soloists. She resonated with the warmth of the worship leader and was inspired to love and hope as the preacher explained the Word of God. Afterwards, over coffee, she met many people who had come to know Christ through the various ministries and community involvement of the church. They did not seem to mind that they did not know everyone in the huge crowd, because they had their own small-group home churches for fellowship, growth and nurture. Goldilocks was offered the opportunity to try one out, but, though tempted, she said, "Not yet," for she had more church-shopping to do.

Next week, Goldilocks went to an older part of town and visited a church with large buildings and a small congregation—about 20 in all. As she stepped into the small porch, a grandfatherly man with a wide smile warmly welcomed her. He led her in to where the congregation were gathering and introduced her all around. Goldilocks was impressed at how deeply these people seemed to know and care for each other. The service was late getting underway, as they all seemed to need to catch up with how each other's week had been. Finally, a middle-aged woman with a gentle face said, "Well let's give thanks to God for what has been and offer ourselves for what will be," and began praying. In succession, others prayed too, simple heart-



felt prayers. Goldilocks learned through their prayers that they believed God had a mission for them to accomplish in this older pocket of town, marked by unemployment and multicultural communities. After the prayers, a young Vietnamese man strummed a few halting chords on his guitar and the small congregation sang "Amazing Grace" with much feeling. The gentle-faced woman, who Goldilocks learned was the minister on a part-time salary, read from the Bible and shared

her vision of how God was calling them to serve in this district. Goldilocks was moved and wanted to become part of them, but she had another church to try yet.

The middle-sized church was about 100 strong. Again, Goldilocks was warmly greeted and ushered to her seat. She found the service rather traditional and was distracted several times by a crying baby. The bulletin didn't reveal much of the congregation's purpose and mission. But the people were sincere and really wanted to express their faith. Immediately after the service, she was surrounded by five or six people her own age. "We're having a barbecue tonight—we want to talk about what difference our age group can make to the life and mission of this congregation. We have some exciting projects in mind. Will you join us?"

Goldilocks was in a quandary. Should she join the large regional church with access to so many resources? Or the small inner city church big on hope, compassion and a desire to serve? Or this middle-sized one, not as on fire as the other two, but holding the promise contained by a small group with a vision?

In their own way, they were all effective mission posts in a suburban mission field!

• *Dennis Ryle has served in big, small and middle-sized churches in Fremantle, Canberra, Modbury and, currently, Aldgate Valley. His personal belief is that it doesn't matter a fig what size a church is, as long as its people are learning to serve and grow in Christ and carry a joyful yearning heart for mission!*

Giant of a Man

Yamli at Chungribu

He stands about 5 feet tall, clad in a pair of scruffy shorts. But he's a giant of a man.

Why do I say that? Yamli and his wife Rosa have spent the last four weeks walking around the Chungribu area, PNG, visiting the churches. They have visited about 20 churches, preaching and teaching as they go.

This morning Yamli came and shared with us some of what he's seen and heard:

- Two "pastors" leading their people into a cargo cult, and then complaining because the discerning have dropped out of church life, Christians who are looking on the way of God as the way to money, not to spiritual life

- Two other pastors who are living in remote bush areas, sharing the Gospel of life. They rarely get visitors and sickness and hunger make them discouraged.
- Two struggling baby churches without leadership, believing that God is speaking to them by dreams. They lack people who can read the Bible and check up on the message of their dreams.
- Dozens of people still looking for the light of God in their lives. Who will share their burden? Who will teach the Christians? Who will correct the almost illiterate "pastors" and lead them back to the truth? Who will encourage those in the remote areas?

Tears filled Yamli's eyes as he said, "I taught them and then I had to leave them." Tears filled our eyes as we thought of those people, scattered in many villages, and wondered how we could feed them with the Word. Do your eyes fill with tears when you think of the lost and confused people for whom Jesus died? If not, why not?

Sure Yamli's a giant of a man—spiritually. But he can't do it all. Will you help him? Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send out labourers. Tell God that you're willing to do whatever he asks you to do to be the answer to that prayer. Mission is not an optional extra. It is the command of Jesus. What are you doing about it? —Jay Christensen



• Yamli with Tony Williamson, church adviser

Earthquake in India

Can we help?

Many have phoned the office of the Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board to express their concern about the earthquake that struck eastern Maharashtra on 30 September. The Churches of Christ in India are located in Maharashtra State, to the west of the devastated area and Sam Mantode, the conference treasurer in India, has reported that there are no injuries or damage to property in that area.

Jeff May, executive director of OMB, was in India at the time and had left Maharashtra to travel to Orissa where Dr Iris Paul is working. Some of the following information was gleaned from newspapers (*The Hindu*, *Indian Express* and the *Deccan Chronicle*, dated 4 October) that Jeff brought back with him.

The papers reported that there was still uncertainty about the death toll, with the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Sharad Pawar, suggesting a figure around 12,000, while others felt it could be as high as 20,000. The papers reported a number of stories of individual anguish, including that of one old man and his two sisters who lost 18 family members (three generations) and the story of a 15-day-old baby girl who was found alive in a village while the rest of her family has perished.

We have been asked, "How can we help the survivors of the earthquake?" The Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) fund is accepting donations for the relief and rehabilitation work. These will be forwarded following recommendations from the Indian conference.

The Indian nation has a policy of seeking to provide aid from the country's own resources. Because of the magnitude of this disaster and the amount of work that will be required to assist the survivors, the government this time has accepted outside assistance. They have also launched ap-

peals in India and provided immediate assistance from established relief funds within the country. The following examples will help to show the way that funds are being raised in India to assist.

The newspapers reported significant donations from the Railway Union, film stars, a race club, bookmakers, lawyers and Lions clubs. MPs of some states were donating up to one month's salary and bank staff and staff of a university all agreed to donate a day's wages. Hospitals and other groups were making personnel available and the railways were transporting all relief material for free. An article on the front page of the *Indian Express* helps to identify the spirit in which such gifts are made. The article gives news of a fund that two newspapers have established.

There have been difficulties in reaching all areas quickly with aid—some have more relief supplies than they need, while others were still waiting for clean water—however, the army was working effectively.

Some of the survivors had begun to request agricultural seeds so that they could begin to re-establish themselves. The government is planning for rehabilitation and reconstruction, including the relocation of some people and the construction of 20,000 earthquake-resistant homes. The people of India have provided the best resource of all in this crisis through their generous giving and availability. The process of assisting the survivors has begun but will be a long-term undertaking. The funds that you make available will provide some assistance. Your prayers for these people and for those who will be working with them, over the next few months, will be an even better gift.

Gifts to the Churches of Christ Overseas Aid fund can be sent to 180a Gray St, Adelaide 5000.

—Julie Trinnick

New Year Studies on the Gold Coast

Capernwray Summer School

The minister at Burleigh Heads, Qld, church, Noel Newton, invites families from around Australia to kick start the new year 1994 on the Gold Coast in an environment of sun, surf and Scriptures. Each day participants will spend four hours studying the Word of God.

Capernwray was founded by Major Ian Thomas in 1947 as a young people's conference centre. It has grown to be an international, interdenominational, Christian missionary organisation engaged in a ministry of evangelism and Bible teaching in many countries around the world.

Guest speakers will be Chris Thomas (eldest son of Major Thomas), Principal of

Capernwray Missionary Fellowship at Estes Park in Colorado, and Mike Nelson, also from America, who has an outstanding ability to communicate the Word of God with its life-changing message and power.

If you are holidaying on the Gold Coast at this time you are invited to join the summer school each day. If required, accommodation and meals can be arranged at the Southport School, which has excellent facilities.

For application forms, information regarding costs of the summer school or more details of this exciting event write to Noel Newton, 23 Harran Street, Bellevue Park 4215, or phone (075) 31 4353.



Youth Rally

School project

On 27 August, I organised and led a Youth Rally at the Nunawading, Vic, church for my Year 11 Communication project. I wrote to 15 churches, giving details and advertising leaflets about the program. On the night, about 170 attended representing nine churches.

The speaker was Rowville minister, John Sutton, whose message challenged us to think that "you can get what you want, but you mightn't want what you get".

Glenn Williams and Liam Bailey provided some great items and along with various other musicians gave backing

for the enthusiastic singing.

An offering was collected, and after costs, the profit was given to the two September youth camps at Halls Gap. There were three dramatic presentations, including a promotion for the Halls Gap camps.

Rohan Waters, Nunawading youth worker, was a great help in the preparation and running of the night.

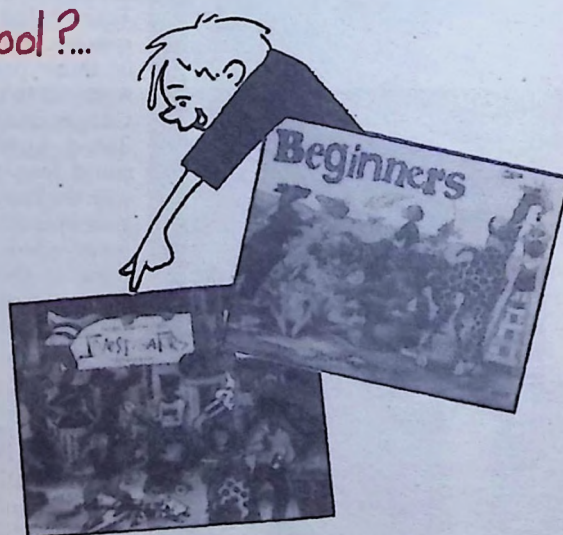
The interest and enthusiastic response that was shown would indicate that there should be more of these nights in the future.

—Natalie Roberts
(Nunawading, Vic)

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Women's Day at Conference

Australian Christian Women's Fellowship National Conference



• Past ACWF executive

The 25th birthday of ACWF was celebrated on Women's Day held on 8 September at National Convention. Earlier in the day, Lyla Beckingham, secretary of NSW CWF for many years, cut the birthday cake.

ACWF President, Eunice Reidy, welcomed 320 women and some men who gathered for the lunch and program. Special guests included Lyndsay and Lorraine Jacobs, secretaries of World Convention, and Luz Bacerra, representing the South East Asia office, Disciples of Christ.

Jean Milne and a small group from Doncaster led a time of praise.

The conference theme, "Christ: The Timeless Resource", was chosen by the guest speaker, Jean Cheshire, National Liaison Officer for World Day of Prayer. Soloist Chris Sharpe delighted those present with a solo and a dramatic presentation "He Is Alive".

The business session included a summary of the discussion and decisions made by delegates at the pre-conference meeting, and presentation of reports. The major resolution, which will take effect immediately, is to separate the work of ACWF: the executive committee, located in Melbourne, will be responsible for administration, information to and contact with other states, liaison with the arrangements committee and the business session of conference, while the arrangements committee, located in South Australia, will be responsible for women's day arrangements. A new constitution is in place to confirm these initiatives.

Sadly, the ACT CWF executive committee found it necessary to discontinue, but we are pleased that Ainslie CWF will maintain an affiliation with ACWF. \$800 was given to the WCWF Project—End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism—as a result of the ACT decision.

The afternoon concluded with the induction of the new ACWF President, Marj Dredge, and the introduction of the executive committee—liaison officer Eunice Reidy, secretary Eleanor Roberts and treasurer Betty Mitchell.

—Eleanor Roberts

Bikes for Bibles

Team prepares for long haul

Three Horsham, Vic, cyclists rode 800 km to raise money to buy Bibles for people in Africa.

Pasture specialist at the Victorian Institute for Dryland Agriculture, John McIntyre, Wimmera Job Match officer Steve Christian and Wimmera Base Hospital physiotherapist Nick Schwarz left on their bike ride on 20 September. (John and Steve are members of the Horsham Church of Christ.)

The ride is part of the Bible Society of Australia's 10th Bike for Bibles ride and the three between them raised \$3,000.

Their cycling marathon—or "Coastal Canter"—took the men from Horsham through the Grampians to Dunkeld, then on to Portland, Warrnambool, Apollo Bay and Geelong, ending in Melbourne. The three were among 12 who left the Horsham Church of Christ on their ride.

The ride was John's fourth Bike for Bibles and the first for Steve and Nick.

Another dozen riders who left from Horsham opted for a shorter route through Warracknabeal, St Arnaud, Maryborough, Kyneton and Seymour to Bendigo.

Bikes for Bibles has people from all denominations and nationalities working to raise money for a literature project. The rides have raised more than \$3 million. This year the aim was to raise \$625,000 to buy New Reader Scriptures for illiterate people in Uganda, Zimbabwe and other African countries.

The day before the riders left Horsham a commissioning service was held in the Church of Christ after a fellowship tea. Bible Society state director Brian Good and Coastal Canter captain Peter O'Brien were among the speakers.



• John McIntyre, Steve Christian and Nick Schwarz

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In the Right Direction

Survey results

Dr Peter Kaldor's visit to the National Conference in Melbourne was judged from the many comments received to be a highlight. He reported to conference on results of the National Church Life Survey held in 1991. The visit was sponsored by the Australian Board of Church Development and Education, which was responsible at a national level for co-ordinating the survey across Australian Churches of Christ.

Dr Kaldor indicated that Churches of Christ could be encouraged by the general survey findings about our churches. 64% of the surveyed

churches reported they were either stable or growing. 22% of the respondents evidenced a 50% growth in the five-year period 1986-91. Of special interest was the fact that 22% of attenders in the surveyed group had joined Churches of Christ from other denominations in the last five years. This was 10% above the national average of all the participating denominations in the survey. Churches of Christ attenders surveyed were 41% male and 59% female. These figures were slightly ahead of the overall survey sample of 38% male and 62% female. The Common-



wealth census figures are 49% male and 51% female.

Another statistic of interest is the number of attenders by country of birth. 19% of those surveyed were born outside Australia (9% English speaking countries and 10% non-English-speaking countries). Australia as a nation now has one in five born overseas. The Churches of Christ comparison to this figure is most encouraging.

In his presentation Dr Kaldor noted a range of issues local churches need to consider in relating to changing values and situations in Australian life. He illustrated his comments with a range of cartoons as comments on church life.

A mass of detail on attitudes to church life and personal growth and faith are also available through the survey. Dr Kaldor found that churches are willing to change direction and that many are looking for leads. Differing attitudes to the Bible were expressed by older and younger members. Older members are more likely to hold liberal views about the Bible. The survey also showed that among church attenders loyalty to a denomination by those under 40 was only 14%. Of all attenders the figure is still only 24%.

The National Church Life Survey will release further data to participating churches early in 1994.



• Peter Kaldor (centre) with state representatives Des Croot, WA, Brian Phelps, SA, Keith Farmer, NSW, Rod Foster, Qld, and Lynette Leach, Vic-Tas

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Awakening '94

Twelve weeks of outreach

First brought to birth in the '88 Prayer Gathering in Canberra when 50,000 Christians from all walks of life, dominations and every state gathered to pray for the nation, it's now become affectionately known as the "Aussie Awakening". It took further form in the "Reclaim Easter" movement that in 1993 saw 250,000 participate in over 200 cities and towns and every capital city.

Now church leaders from every section and every state have agreed to co-operate in a campaign that will commence as Easter '94 and culminate after 12 weeks of outreach in a global march of witness.

In 1994 it is hoped that 400 cities and towns and a half a million people will be involved. It is hoped it will be done in such a way that its growth size and effectiveness create the kind of public agenda that ensures that Jesus' life, death, burial and resurrection and its relevance to contemporary Australia becomes the topic of discussion in the 12 weeks leading up to the 25 June Global March.

In the context of the visibility of Easter '94 the message will go out that it's time for Australians to reconnect. In the Year of the Family, when families are struggling to survive and the nation is in search for its soul, Christian leaders believe it's time to co-operate in 12 weeks of outreach.

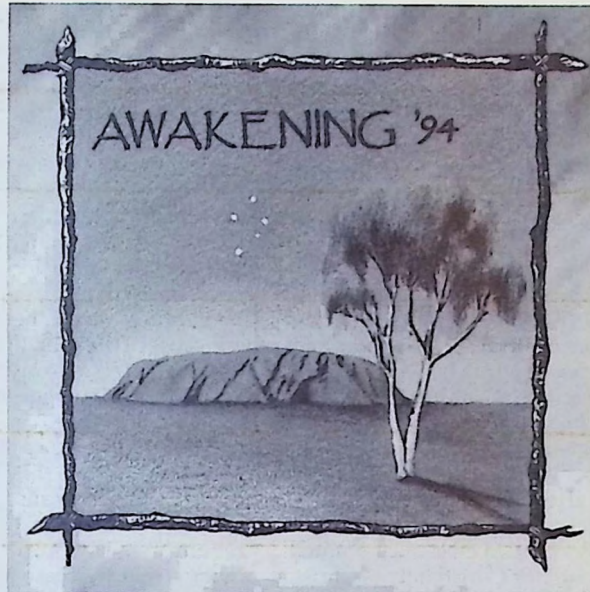
Churches will be encouraged

to place the Awakening '94 banner outside their buildings and have special family services and visitor Sundays that are user-friendly for those who have not worshipped in a long time.

Christian families will be encouraged to switch the TV off and have family hours after tea and, on occasions, invite neighbours in for a meal.

Many capital cities will be putting on a professionally produced dramatic presentation of the life of Christ in significant public areas, with a view to inviting friends and neighbours along to share the experience.

All events will have as a major feature an invitation to friends and the community to reconnect with the Christian family as it prepares to take its place in the Global March of commitment and witness.



In all states regional meetings to commence planning the 1994 events have been just held or will be held in the next few weeks. State training days are being held to focus on the opportunities of the 12 weeks of mission.

Details can be obtained from the appropriate state office: NSW—688 Parramatta Rd, Croydon 2132. Phone (02) 716 8277; Vic—18 Haughton Rd, Oakleigh 3166. Phone (03) 563 2412; Qld—PO Box 362, Woodridge 4114. Phone (07) 208 7822; SA—c/o PO Box 320, Christies Beach 5165. Phone (08) 382 8536; WA—PO Box 24, Victoria Park 6100. Phone (09) 361 1336; Tas—c/o PO Box 81, North Hobart 7002. Phone (002) 34 9127; NT—c/o PO Box 315, Sanderson 0812. Phone (089) 27 7230.

Col Smith Farewelled

Active in Community Care

Colin Smith and his wife, Ailsa, were farewelled recently by the NSW Department of Community Care prior to returning to live in their home state of Queensland.

While working as field officer with Community Care, Colin was certainly a "man on the move", travelling extensively within NSW visiting many churches.

Just some of his many and varied ministries included consultation and seminars with the Mid-North-West churches, consulting with and encouraging ministers and office boards as well as meeting with the fellowships of many of our metropolitan churches.

Colin was an inaugurator, together with Neil Hodgekiss, of the LAP (Life After Prison) program, he co-authored a seminar with Ross Wakeley titled "Building a Mission Community of God's People" and was a member of the Drug Awareness Council.

It was unfortunate that due to Col's ill health, his ministry with the department had to come to a conclusion.



• Col Smith

Equipping for Outreach

New youth ministry training

The Churches of Christ in New South Wales Theological College has introduced a new way of training BTH/Diploma students for youth ministry.

Six in-depth youth ministry subjects, field work and supervision

will combine with the current course to train people for youth ministry.

A brochure with relevant information is included as an insert in this copy of *The Australian Christian*. Enquiries are welcome. Phone (02) 630 7533, fax (02) 890 1249 or write to Narelle Bignill, PO Box 140, Carlingford 2118.



Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Watershed Issue

To the Editor,

The Australian Christian of 18 September was a noteworthy, maybe even a watershed issue.

On page 14, in a brief article, Alan Matheson speculates on the kind of church that is needed to unite Christendom while on page 11 Don Stewart makes it abundantly clear that Churches of Christ, as presently constituted, cannot even keep its own congregations united, even in small communities, and therefore does not present a blueprint upon which a united Christian church could be built.

Oh well, so much for the debate on "The Restoration Movement"!

—H.P. Head
(Tootgarook, Vic)

The Virgin Birth

To the Editor,

Ron Graham's comment, "The Virgin Birth of Jesus" ("AC" 18 September), like his original article, remains odd in my book. I fail to see the relevance of his personal experience to the truth or falsehood of the doctrine in question. Ron tells us that his confessional statement was, "Jesus Christ is my Lord." But in view of what he says the question must be asked, Which Jesus Christ? The one born of the Virgin Mary—or some other?

Ron seems to suffer from a failure to appreciate the strangeness of his logic or lack of it. First, he tells us he can find strength in the word of God but not in Christ's being born of a virgin. How odd! I always thought that the accounts of the Virgin Birth were part and parcel of the word of God. At this point we should remember that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. If the word of God breaks down at the Virgin Birth, it will surely prove a very fragile source of strength when put to the test in other areas.

This point is important when we consider the next, for Ron then tells us that even if he did deny the Virgin Birth outright he would not thereby deny the

resurrection. That may be true, but, as he tacitly admits, there is no basic reason why he, like others, wouldn't. There is clearly a lack of consistency in Ron's thinking. His acceptance of the resurrection is at the end of the day as arbitrary as his possible rejection of the Virgin Birth.

In the event the only Jesus Christ we know is the one portrayed in the Bible. If he is Lord, we have no option to pick and choose which bit we like about him and which bit we don't. He comes as a total package. The attempt to make a distinction between his person and his ethical teaching reflects fundamental misunderstanding (as I believe C.S. Lewis once pointed out), for Christianity is Christ. Practically the whole of the NT underlines the fact that the very basis of Christian ethics is Christian doctrine. Why otherwise are the epistles first teaching, second morality? The fruit of the Spirit may well be a certain way of life but until Christ's person is accepted there is no Spirit!

Perhaps the acutest problem facing the church today is how to think consistently and Christianly. We have a long way to go before "we destroy arguments and every proud obstacle to the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5).

—Ken Stothard
(Essendon, Vic)

Eldership

To the Editor,

Don Stewart, in "Rebellion...or Is It Something Else?" ("AC" 18 September), invites further comment. His comments about elder leadership could be directed to congregations that have the onus placed upon them to appoint responsible and qualified elders and deacons. It could be that we have appointed to leadership positions people who seem not to have the ability or "faith" experience to administer sound doctrine, or pastoral care to those who are hurting.

We need a group of spiritually minded people to lead the

church, not making any distinction between elders and deacons for this purpose. The term "elders" as such seems not to be the source of the problem.

A second point concerns the appointment of ministers. Don writes of ministers becoming disillusioned with church leaders. I wonder if he has ever asked himself whether the minister's leadership has been the basic cause of the split. In three instances that come to my mind this has apparently been the case. The fact that defecting groups seek conference affiliation would indicate they have not lost faith in our cause. This disposes of the accusation of "rebellion". My hope and prayer is that we cease to emphasise rebellion and seriously look at the "something else".

—L.W. Marshman
(Victor Harbor, SA)

"Too Many Outlets"

To the Editor,

Congratulations to Paul Cameron on his article "Too Many Outlets" ("AC" 18 September).

He raises many issues relevant to the success or otherwise of our churches, stating that "it's time for rationalisation". We as a brotherhood of churches must take the time for some frank and honest assessment of where our movement is at.

We are a movement of small "corner store" type churches with a majority of older members and a dwindling membership and we think that this is our "tradition". Some of our bigger churches are criticised or talked down about, in spite of the vision, team-work etc. that they put into practice in being obedient to the "great commission".

The bottom line is that people don't want to change and feel threatened by new ideas. How many small churches who struggle to pay a minister's salary are going to be prepared to sell up or merge with another church?

Our churches still seem to believe the believable lie that small churches are friendlier. If a small church is friendly, it won't stay small for long.

Letters to a Travelling Companion

Prayer

Dear Daniel,

I must confess to having found your most recent letter rather amusing, even though I imagine that you did not intend it that way. I am sorry that your church camp was a wash-out due to torrential rain and I am even more sorry that you think God is to blame for the disastrous weather.

While I admire your pluck in suggesting that church folk pray nightly for fine weather during the week leading up to the camp, I do think it is a little unfair to expect God to alter the course of nature just for 30 or so people planning a church camp under canvas in the middle of winter. Perhaps it would have been better to pray that your camp coordinator had the good sense to postpone the whole thing until later in the year.

You see, Daniel, I don't believe that prayer is some kind of cosmic personal valet service, enabling us to get what we want from God when we want it. Such a concept of prayer is bound to lead to disappointment. My understanding of prayer, be it ever so tentative, is that it is a way of being in mindful communion with God throughout all of our lives. Now that surely involves making requests of him, but must equally involve our being attuned to his requests of us.

Until next time, my regards,
Pastor Salt

Letters to the Editor

There are large financial assets being tied up by us sticking to our small church mentality—think about what initiatives we could make in our land. Everyone in the community knows the "Salvos", but how many know of Churches of Christ? Yet we have more members than the Salvation Army. Why aren't we making a bigger impact on our society?

In both sporting and Christian circles, the term "vision" is one that often links in with a more successful approach. But how can we have vision when we are surrounded by the myriad of little but important things we get involved with? It needs our leaders to "climb the mountain top" to get the panorama or simply for us to "mount up with wings as eagles" and obtain an eagle-eye view of our situation. I applaud Christian Projects for their involvement in helping some of our ministers to catch a fresh vision of where we are at and where we could be headed.

It will take true vision plus self-sacrifice (of our own little empires) if we as a movement are to fulfil the great commission amongst our own Australian people.

—Rob Wilson
(Berwick, Vic)

Best or Less?

To the Editor,

Speaking generally but with appreciation of L.W. Marshman's rebuttal of purely intellectual interests from the Bible and his reference to "a simple faith" ("AC" 4 September) the Restoration Movement has in some ways been impeded in its direction or its quality by each of these pursuits.

Certain intellectual pursuits appear to lack direction because they have either not been comprehensive or they lack appropriate criteria. These can sometimes result in teaching that avoids the sentiment of that hymn: "On Christ the solid rock I stand/All other ground is sinking sand."

Still speaking generally, we are also under intense pressure from multiple contradictions of cultism from without and cult-like practices from within. These do require careful thoughtful research. This is where well-directed scholarship can help defend the faith for those who always insist on a simple answer to difficult issues.

Some of the major mainline church divisions could be resolved by a correct consideration of metaphor.

When we look honestly at the thimbleful of knowledge we collectively possess, then it seems appropriate to seek nothing less than the best that the Bible offers.

—W.E. Hoffman
(Paradise Point, Qld)

Bad Luck and Health

To the Editor,

I was most encouraged and warmly identify with the sentiment of two articles in the "AC" (18 September), which other readers may appreciate also—the one on "Bad Luck" by Stephen Curkpatrick and the other entitled "Health, Wealth and Happiness" written by Pam Hine.

Sometimes when one has a serious illness or disease a friend will say, "I don't understand why you have these attacks, you've always been a

good living person, a Christian..."

It's not bad luck that brings about these illnesses any more than the tragic events referred to as one being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Pam Hine's statement concerning health made it clear to the reader that suffering is a normal part of Christian growth and maturity as much as for the Christian as the non-Christian.

Sometimes our health is such that we are told by a doctor that there is every possibility that death is possible sooner than we expect it to come. Perhaps it may be that this has to be said before undergoing surgery. As Pam wrote, "Time is God's, not yours." So coming out of surgery and feeling fit and well again enables us to further live our lives in praise of God for enabling us to live as he desires of us.

—Ray Morffew
(Howrah, Tas)

Fatalism

To the Editor,

Contrary to Ken Stothard's letter ("AC" 2 October), my article "Bad Luck" ("AC" 18 September) argues unequivocally against, not for, fatalism, determinism and despair, as he mistakenly claims.

In the articles "Bad Luck", "Implicating God", "The Serendipity of Free Will", "A Gate Hinged on Theology", "The Nemesis of Poetic Justice", I have argued consistently against fatalism and determinism, and for God's dynamic, compassionate, grace-imbued interaction with all human life, whatever the unpredictable contingencies of human free will or nature, serendipitous or

tragic. This interaction is, for Christians, focused paradigmatically in Jesus of Nazareth.

While God doesn't determine the contingencies of human freedom, God is nevertheless immersed creatively and redemptively in that indomitable human hope of emerging from the "rotten bad luck to be in the wrong place at the wrong time" with dignity, wholeness, personal/community compassion and responsibility for the future.

The Christian church has a mission of demonstrating the most sublime human free will, as compassionate involvement in other's misfortune and tragedy, e.g. the Indian earthquake, Victorian floods, to help forge hope and new beginnings in a world of "divinely indeterminate" not horrifically preordained outcomes. This is compatible with both Jesus' interaction with people and post-modernist scientific enquiry.

—Stephen Curkpatrick
(Brighton, SA)

Death of Norma Hall

Norma Hall died on 24 September after a long battle with illness.

Following ministry training in Canada, Norma had ministries in Vic and SA. She was one of the first women ministers in Churches of Christ.

In more recent years Norma had a chaplaincy ministry with the Vic-Tas Department of Community Care aged homes.

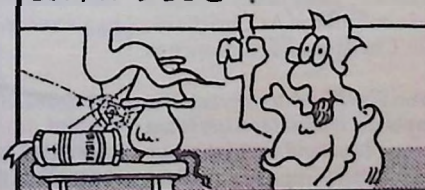
An obituary will appear in a later issue.

Pondius' Puddle

MODERN CHRISTIANS HAVE A LOT FOR WHICH TO BE GRATEFUL. OUR MEDIEVAL FOREBARS SUFFERED AND DIED FOR OUR RIGHT TO READ THE BIBLE. THE INVENTION OF MOVABLE TYPE GAVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO READ THE BIBLE. AND MODERN EDUCATION HAS GIVEN US THE ABILITY TO READ THE BIBLE.



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Books



Does God Need the Church?

by Morris Stuart (Hodder & Stoughton) \$15.95

Morris Stuart's new book is deeply challenging, yet leaves one feeling refreshed and invigorated, ready to step out and go boldly forth where no Christian has gone before, to seek new frontiers etc.

This analogy with the Starship Enterprise is not totally inappropriate. Stuart's book, together with his first book *So Long, Farewell and Thanks for the Church* (Hodder & Stoughton Australia), forms a "manifesto for Christian disciples living on the cutting edge of faith in these closing years of the 20th century".

Morris Stuart's book asks the question, "Can our Western church be faithful to God's call to mission?"—a question he answers in a practical, down-to-earth exploration of the Bible, church and society.

Perhaps the most powerful aspect of this book is its refreshing new look at all our usual theological stances.

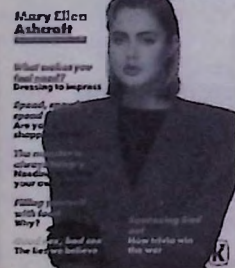
No matter where you stand, left, right, centre, or right off the scale, you will be challenged and inspired, made uncomfortable and left rejoicing. He explores our cherished beliefs and then calls us to take hold of all that God has to offer in a framework for mission as community.

To this end, Stuart Morris explores our society and our church. He focuses on cultural issues such as materialism, family breakdown and nationalism. He examines Christian concepts like servant leadership, discipleship, community, mission, holiness, transformation, the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts and demons and deliverances, all the while turning to the Bible for guidance on our calling to be "a light unto the world".

But that's it! No more or I'll spoil the ending. Beam me up Scotty.

—Steve Rose

TEMPTATIONS WOMEN FACE



Temptations Women Face

by Mary Ellen Ashcroft (Kingsway Publications) \$11.95

The sensuous teenage glossy cover would not tempt me to give this book a second look. But I did!

What did I find? A book that is relevant to today's society, especially women, relating to all ages and, personally, very challenging. "How to Handle Temptation", and "Do It as a Woman" are some of the chapter headings.

The author's opening chapters deal with the differences between men and women. She highlights that women come from a different perspective. They

are more relationship orientated and tend to lose themselves in the expectations and demands of others. Many women trust externals such as personal appearance and are often frantic in their workplace and church work. The author believes this is a result of wanting to gain approval and acceptance. As Christians, Ashcroft teaches that fulfilment is in Christ and acceptance is found in God.

Another chapter heading is "Focus on Food", which reveals the subtle way society motivates and tempts us. It dictates to us what we must do to be beautiful, how to get a husband and what we should eat. The author believes that dieting only applies a bandaid

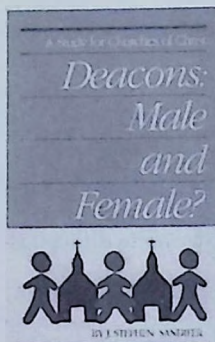
to, perhaps, deep wounds, guilt or low self-esteem. She believes that true freedom and inner beauty comes from God, not the outward appearance.

Envy is another topic addressed by the author. "Envy becomes a smoke detector," writes Mary Ellen Ashcroft. This detector tells us about ourselves and our values.

The author is single minded in her focus. She returns often to God's word for life's guidelines and for the establishing of a daily, fulfilled, holy life.

A final word—don't judge a book by its cover.

Distributed by Christian Marketing Australia. —Eve Ewers



Deacons: Male and Female? A Study for Churches of Christ

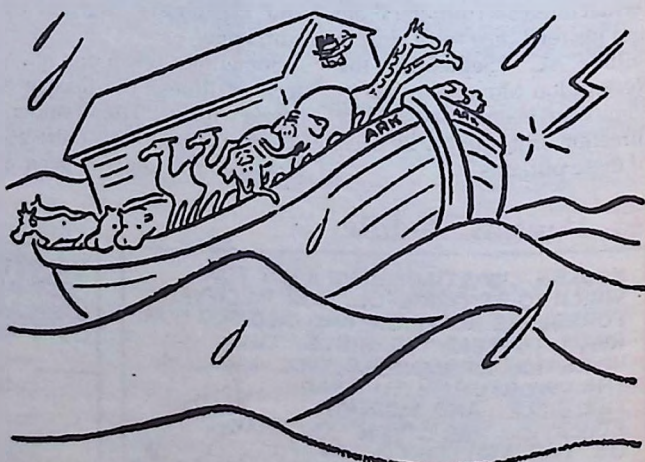
by J. Stephen Sandifer (self-published)

This is a detailed study of deacons from the non-instrumental wing of the Campbell-Stone movement in the United States. Steve Sandifer has obviously spent much time researching the topic. As he comments in the preface: "The female diaconate is generally denied among Churches of Christ; therefore, the materials concerning female involvement are presented at great length."

The author starts with a detailed look at the diaconate in the New Testament. He even looks at the understanding of "deacons" prior to the New Testament in both the Jewish and Gentile worlds. He then traces the historical development of deacons and how their roles were redefined, first by the Catholic Church and then by the Reformation, before examining, in some detail, the way deacons were viewed in the Restoration Movement in America. He makes some interesting points in his conclusions and how he would see the New Testament pattern of "service" as the indicator of the role of "deacons" today.

Sandifer makes some surprising discoveries along the way. For those who are serious in looking at the role of deacons in the church today this book is highly recommended. However, I'm not sure how to obtain this book. Anyone interested could contact me at the "AC" office on (03) 379 1219 and we will see what can be organised.

By the way, the author found that female deacons were biblical, but in a slightly different role than I had anticipated. —CRA



Just the same I'd feel a lot safer if I knew those termites were locked up in a tin box.

Response and Concern

Phillip Savill

I read with concern Don Stewart's article "Rebellion...or Is It Something Else" ("AC" 18 September). This article appeared in the Queensland *Christian Echo* some 16 months ago and I wonder why it has reappeared. Back then it was many peoples' opinion that the article was wide off the mark and it would seem that this opinion still prevails today.

I was surprised that Don (as one of our state's conference officers) would use such a public forum to express his views on what was, and still is, a sensitive matter within our conference. I wonder if the re-emergence of this article has done more harm than good in an area that has threatened both the stability and unity of our Queensland churches.

The article seemed both simplistic in its analysis of the problem and far too generalised in its view of what has happened to some of our churches in Queensland. Dr Stewart certainly set a precedent by making his views so public. I believe that by continuing to do so he has again set the stage for further comment regarding the issues expressed in his article. I am one of the "younger" generation and it was disappointing to read these generalised statements by one of our conference leaders. These statements were perhaps more reactionary rather than initiating

and visionary. I would take issue with the article's more critical conclusions, which our church leaders could interpret as an undermining of their responsibilities and a general attack on them. Perhaps we are being naive if it is our understanding that leaders should please all the people all the time. There are examples throughout Scripture that show us quite the opposite. May I suggest that the real test of leaders is not the ability to have everyone follow them through good and bad times. There will be disagreement whenever and wherever leadership is provided. If this is the case, then perhaps it is a test of our grace as Christians that we not drag our leaders and others through our unresolved conflict because we didn't get our own way.

In particular I would take issue with the conclusion that we should be just accepting these newly formed groups into conference.

My understanding regarding some of these church "splits" is that some of those involved have not been accepting of their

former church's leadership. It may well be the case that by their nonacceptance of the church leaders' authority, and in choosing to divide or splinter, they have rejected the concept of local authority. Unfortunately these groups have chosen to remove themselves from the fellowship of some of our churches. It would be therefore quite evident by this that there are maybe some groups who still have unfinished business with their former churches.

The leaders in our churches are fallible, they do make mistakes, but there are biblical guidelines that we should follow, especially if there are those who have been wronged or there is a case of division. If we are to follow the guidelines set down in Titus 3:9-11 then it may well be that the actions of some of these church leaders would appear to be warranted. It would also be my understanding that if respect is to be shown toward the leaders of these churches, then it is not enough for this just to happen in the local area but it should also happen on a broader scale

across our wider brotherhood.

For this not to happen could be considered that it makes a mockery of the concept of brotherhood and speaks volumes as to the commitment and the willingness of the conference to follow biblical directives. It could also send a message very clearly to our brotherhood that the conference is willing to negate and undermine the responsibilities of the leaders in its churches. May I suggest that if these churches were to consider the implications of this then there would be more than "rebellion" on our hands and the logical conclusion could well be that these churches withdraw from conference.

I am not suggesting that we should never let these groups "associate" with conference. There will be those who have genuine grievances and there will be those who have no real grievance at all who have been treated fairly by the leaders of their former church.

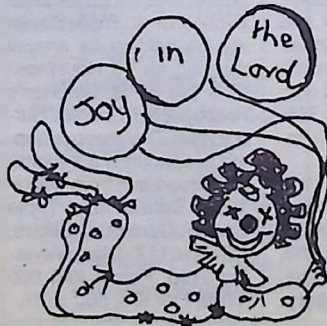
I am suggesting that perhaps we should hasten slowly and approach this whole matter with more caution, more balanced consultation and more sensitivity so that there may be a God-honouring resolution to a very complicated issue within our brotherhood.

• Phillip Savill is from the Margaret Street, Toowoomba, Qld, church.

Clowning Around

Lots of joy at Goolwa

Each September the Goolwa, SA, church has an anniversary celebration for youth classes.



This year the theme was "For God so loved the world" from John 3:16.

A Saturday night concert was helped off to a happy start by Rivett and Tuft, visiting clowns from Adelaide. The children loved their antics and responded well. Teachers were able to chat with parents and families over supper.

On the Sunday morning, minister Roger Risson led morning worship and children from the Cradle Roll upwards were presented with awards.



The church's "Exalt" band accompanied the children's singing on both occasions.

—Fay Neighbour



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In 1991, 45,630 couples—an increase of 7% from the previous year—were divorced in Australia, directly affecting 46,697 children. The median age of those who were divorced was 38.4 years for males and 35.5 years for females. The median length of marriage was 10.3 years, and the median time between marriage and separation was 7.4 years. Second marriages have a shorter duration than couples splitting up first time around.

In 1971, 10.1% of all families with dependent children were one-parent families. In 1986 this had grown to 16.4%.

The great majority (76%) of American adults finds it perfectly acceptable for women to be the pastors or head ministers of churches. Only amongst the most conservative evangelical Christians do a majority oppose the idea of women pastors (54% said they were personally uncomfortable with the idea of women as pastors compared to 45% who did not object). Among people whose beliefs classify them as "born again Christians", two in three support woman pastors. Roman Catholics, whose church doctrine excludes women from the priesthood, are no different from other Americans.

Ethiopian security forces killed about 50 Christians and wounded around 200 in the Christian city of Gondar early in September, reports *The Christian Herald* (an English paper). The security forces were called in after the police had been foiled in their attempt to arrest influential hermit-preacher Amha-Yesus. A curfew is now in force and Ethiopian television and radio have announced that no Christians may preach anywhere in Ethiopia apart from those licensed by the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Amha-Yesus had already been banned by the government from preaching in the capital, Addis Ababa, and in the

southern province of Sidamo. His calls for peace, reconciliation and stability in Ethiopia infuriate the government, which maintains that these already exist.

In Victoria the Adventure Activities Committee have several activities coming up. The Walking Club are holding a weekend walk in the Grampians over the weekend 6-7 November. Anyone interested should contact Les Stewart on (03) 484 6142. The Cycling Club is holding a Cup Day Ride (2 November) through the Yarra Valley Metropolitan Park, leaving at the Burke Road North Reserve, Ivanhoe (Melway map 31 K10), at 10 am. Details from Gordon Smith on (03) 802 3249. The Canoe Club is holding a weekend on the Snowy River (30 October-2 November) with a camp out on the river overnight. Details from Barry Steer on (03) 726 9462. The Cycling Club is organising a "Surf Coast to Gold" bike ride 8-15 January with details available from Gordon Smith (03) 802 3249.

Church affiliation in South Africa has been in radical decline since 1970, with the percentage of the population that regard themselves as Christians dropping from 54% in 1970 to 38% in 1990. Only charismatic and Pentecostal churches and African Independent churches are growing, and they are growing rapidly.

The latest edition of *Operation World* reports 11,874 ethnic groups on earth. Of these, 5,413 have many churches in their culture, and 2,546 more have some churches and adequate opportunity to hear the gospel. The remaining 4,915 constitute unreached peoples. 3,915 do have some outreach to them by radio, literature, film and/or personal witness. About 1000 groups still have very little outreach, and no resident witness. Most have been targeted by one mission or more. Patrick Johnstone

estimates that between 800 and 1,300 million people still need to be given their first opportunity to respond to the gospel. That is between 15 and 25% of the world's population.

A recent study of 100 congregations in 14 denominations in Illinois and Indiana, USA, exploded some stereotypes. Many conservative churches felt just as strongly about social justice as liberal churches do, rich churches support social justice ministries as much as low-income congregations and socially conservative members were more inclined to support social justice ministries than their more liberal ministers thought they were.

For the International Year of the Family in 1994 a conference "Families and Violence" is being held at Macquarie University, Sydney, 4-5 February. The goals of the conference are to explore individual and social factors that contribute to violence in Australian families and to investigate intervention strategies for addressing violent behaviours in families, schools and community groups. The conference is being sponsored by the Australian Catholic University and Centcare and the fee is \$125. The contact person for brochures and information is Christine Trimmingham on (02) 739 2248 or fax (02) 739 2105.

A new law in the Netherlands on euthanasia has been passed by the Dutch House of Commons but still has to pass the Senate. This law makes it possible for a doctor to kill a patient not only at the patient's own request but also without request.

Sydney is now the ethnic capital of Australia because in the past decade it has attracted twice as many immigrants as Melbourne. The 1991 census showed that 36% of Sydney people aged 15 and over were born

overseas compared with 35% of Melbourne's population. Melbourne still has more Italians, Greeks and Yugoslavs than Sydney, but Sydney has more Chinese, Vietnamese and Lebanese.

Work is scheduled to start in November on New Zealand's first Muslim primary school. The school will be situated on 1.2 ha near Auckland airport and will eventually cater for up to 240 pupils, according to the Islamic Education and Dawah Trust that is organising the project.

Expulsions and persecution of Protestants is continuing in the Mexican state of Chiapas, with more emphasis now on pressuring individual families to leave Catholic villages with fines, beatings and detention.

The world's only gallery for Christian artists has survived the current recession in Australia. With many art galleries forced to close their doors, many artists have lost the opportunity to hang their work. Henning International Galleries, 449 Darling Street, Balmain, NSW, will mount a new exhibition titled "Unity" opening on 5 November at 7 pm. The exhibition will feature new works by Sonja Georgeson and other artists involved in the Christian City Church/Henning International Galleries artist group.

A survey by the University of Western Australia Crime Research Centre last year found that of 672 reported child abuse cases only 30% involved children living with both of their biological parents, while 49% involved sole parent families and 18% were from blended families. A survey of young offenders in a remand centre in WA found that 75% did not live with their fathers.

After 26 years of ministry the Avalon Community at Lara, near Geelong, Vic, has suspended operations. The Avalon property,

which belongs to the Brotherhood of St Laurence, will in the future be promoted as a conference centre for welfare and church groups as well as a centre for the development of labour market programs for unemployed young people. The decision to close the community was taken for a variety of reasons, not the least being the difficulty of finding suitably committed people willing to make the sometimes extremely large sacrifice necessary to become a community member.

Billy Graham recently concluded his second crusade in Columbus, Ohio. An average of more than 34,700 attended each of the meetings over the period 22-26 September. An average of more than 2,200 came forward each night in response to the evangelist's invitation to make a commitment to Christ.

2,000 senior secondary students from Victorian Anglican schools attended a service at St Paul's Cathedral on 7 October at which Archbishop Desmond Tutu was presented with money raised by the students for work in South Africa through the Archbishop's Relief and Development Fund. They also presented a gift to Archbishop Tutu to mark his 62nd birthday.

Triple Seven Communications, a group that is working towards the establishment of a Christian radio station for Melbourne, is holding a "Vision 93" dinner on 29 October. The speaker at the dinner will be Mal Garvin and the guest artist will be Roma. Triple Seven will be holding its annual meeting on 15 November at 8 pm at St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Surrey Hills. The group is hoping to announce a 3-month test broadcast from March 1994. Details from Triple Seven Communications, PO Box 117, Glen Waverley 3150. Phone (03) 560 1700. Fax (03) 560 8777.

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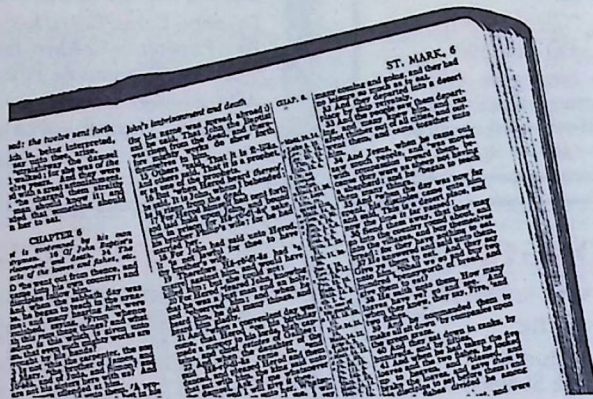
Touching Up Mark

The Gospels show Jesus' words and actions being retold in distinctly different ways, each time tempered by the writers' engagements with particular audiences. Subtle modifications show Matthew and Luke "touching up" Mark where the story is to be received with difference nuances. They are not chroniclers documenting history for posterity, but evangelists soliciting a specific response of faith from their auditors. They are writing with a purpose, and that purpose encompasses among other things, the nature of discipleship of church communities in mission. Hence, their portrayals of the disciples belie something of the Gospels' engagement with their auditors.

Matthew and Luke both modify the "problem" of having unperceiving, dimwitted disciples as precursors of Christian leadership and guarantors of the Jesus tradition.* For Matthew the disciples at least have a "little faith", which is more than they are credited with having in Mark. Indeed, in Mark they do not "see", "perceive", "understand", "hear" or "remember"! They are frequently rebuked for having hardened hearts. Matthew and Luke do not mention the disciples' inability to interpret parables. While at times exhibiting theological immaturity, or their minds "veiled" with things "concealed" from them, Luke's twelve are nevertheless exemplary hearers, so that they might eventually be exemplary proclaimers. Indeed it is Luke's larger company of disciples, not the crowds, who explicitly celebrate Jesus' triumphal approach toward Jerusalem.

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While the Markan portrayal of the disciples is also intended for the world in front of the text, Matthew and Luke prefer to engage their respective auditors differently. The Markan disciples do not understand—but the reader does. That is the point. Matthew and Luke modify this portrayal to ensure their auditors are engaged by their narratives in other ways. For example, Matthew shrugs off Mark's portrayal of James and John's naked grab for power. Instead, it is their mother who desires such status for her sons. They are not implicated in this contrary posture to the "way of the cross", at least not directly. Matthew enables them to save face by touching up Mark's stark and unbecoming portrayal.

When Jesus walks on water in Mark, the disciples are terrified by a "ghost" strolling about on the sea, seemingly uninterested in them. Matthew is far more intentional. It is an opportunity to demonstrate Peter's faith, even if at first faltering. Mark's "hardened hearts" are touched up to become a Christological profession of faith in Matthew.

For Mark, Peter is certainly not the "true believer" of Matthew and Luke. Luke touches up Mark's calling of the disciples, and places it in the context of a miracle, with Peter again providing the confessional impetus. Luke's Peter does not

dispute Jesus' destiny of death in Jerusalem, cannot be rebuked for doing so, and is therefore spared Mark and Matthew's sharp retort from Jesus.

In Matthew Peter is a "rock", but only understands fleetingly in Mark, his fissured confession ironically completed by a Roman centurion. Luke's centurion profession is toned down enhancing the pre-eminence of Peter's. Furthermore, Luke pre-emptively Peter's comeback by touching up Mark's stark, unapologetic portrayal of Peter's failure, and in Luke's resurrection narrative alone, Peter has the premier encounter with Jesus. Certainly the women do not, as they do in Matthew, and in the latter Markan tradition with a first appearance to Mary Magdalene. Both Matthew and Luke dramatically touch up Mark's enigmatic young man who meets the women at the tomb.

While for Mark the fate of Judas Iscariot provides no real interest (it would have been better for him not to have been born), Matthew at least provides the tradition with a fate to "fulfil the scriptures" in typical Matthaean style. Luke radically touches up Judas' fate. Instead of hanging himself, he is disembowelled in a field he'd bought with the 30 pieces of silver. In Matthew the "blood money" is flung back at the chief priests and elders, who then bought the field to bury

Judas. Luke's handling of Judas enables the development of apostolic motifs.

In Luke's Gethsemane the disciples nod off "fatigued with grief", not "weakness". Furthermore, Luke's disciples do not flee after Jesus' arrest, and are present at the cross as part of a large crowd who return home with deep regret. Neither Matthew or Luke comment on the Markan narrative signature, the enigmatic naked man who flees Gethsemane. Luke portrays Peter's denial as a betrayal of intimacy, but has forgotten Peter is still in the courtyard, not with Jesus upstairs before the council.

"The twelve" and discipleship are at fundamental odds in Mark. Mark's narrative artistry weaves a thread of dissonance throughout the Gospel, which has been subtly modified by Matthew and Luke. The twelve do not exemplify, or even understand Mark's perception of discipleship. In a narrative strategy of delay only the women do, and the reader is invited to identify with them, as those who ultimately recognise the journey of Jesus to the cross. Mark has intended one of these women to be perpetually remembered for her perception of the "profane" Christ who must die in Jerusalem. Has Luke radically repainted the whole scene?

Mark's twelve disciples are perfectly foiled by the women, the "true believers" who, unlike the twelve, understand the "Markan secret", and discipleship—Jesus the suffering Christ, who shows the way of the cross and serving.† They are present at the cross, and encounter the deeply disturbing mystery of resurrection, a mystery they cannot communicate without incredulous reception, even from the eleven, compounded by being culturally incredulous "women".

—Stephen Curkpatrick

* Many scholars make this point.

† Several scholars make these points: E. Malbon, E. Schussler Fiorenza, M.A. Tolbert, A. Gill.

The Melancholy Slav

Viney Longthorp

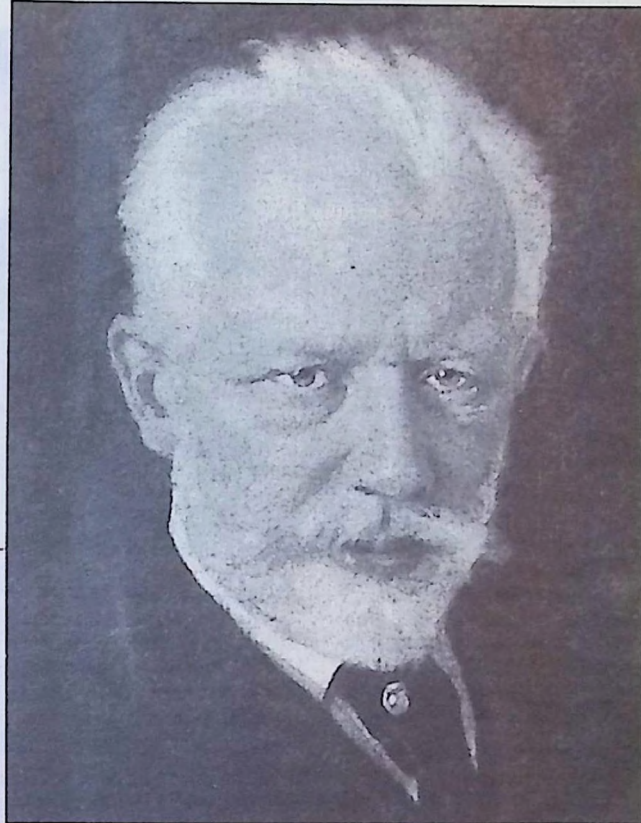
The musical offerings on the program, "For the God Who Sings" (ABC FM, Sunday, 24 October), include works by the renowned Russian composer, Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

As 25 October marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Tchaikovsky, "For the God Who Sings" will broadcast the carol, "Christ Had a Garden", excerpts from his *Vesper Service* for the Russian Orthodox Church, and the *Liturgy of St John Chrysostom*.

Not many of us associate Tchaikovsky with this genre. We mostly think of him as the composer par excellence of music for the ballet. His *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and that final masterpiece, *The Nutcracker* have been the mainstay of many a dance company. He was also a master composer for the symphony orchestra. His greatest symphonies, like those of Beethoven, guarantee full houses at concert halls.

Tchaikovsky was motivated to write music for Christian worship because of his own deep faith in God. He brought to this music those same mystical qualities that Wordsworth brought to his nature poetry. He was deeply aware of his dependence on God in the writing of all his music. For instance, this entry in his diary for 3 March 1890 is typical: "Finished everything this morning. God be praised, who has let me bring my work to an end." There was nothing perfunctory about his thanks to the Almighty.

He also took a deep interest in the texts and subjects that he set to music. In regard to the *Liturgy of St John Chrysostom*, which we are to hear, he wrote to a friend: "The *Liturgy of St John of Chrysostom* is, I think, one of the greatest artistic creations. If one follows our Orthodox service attentively, with full understanding of every rite and symbol, one cannot remain



spiritually untouched. I love the evening service...to be wakened from contemplation by the choir, and to abandon oneself to the magic poetry of the psalm, to feel oneself overflowing with quiet ecstasy...I love at all, and it is one of my greatest joys."

He sought to maintain the highest professional standards in church music and in this regard he often found himself in conflict with some of the hierarchy. He once wrote: "The authorities are pig-headed enough to keep every ray of light out of this sphere of darkness and ignorance."

The fact that his church music is not well known is one good reason to listen to some of it. It is not well known because he wrote for the Orthodox Church after its own particular style and this expresses a cul-

ture that is foreign to most of us. For instance, no Orthodox church uses an organ, but relies on the arts of unaccompanied singing. This has meant that the singing and composing require a very high degree of quality. But it has also meant that they have developed a tradition of wonderful bass-voice prowess, due to the prominent role of the cantor in the service. In the excerpts that Kay McLennan will present on 24 October, keep your ears tuned to the bass line.

Now, what of the sobriquet "melancholy", which is often applied to Tchaikovsky and his music? Is there no note of joy in his expressions of Christian faith?

"Solemn" or "sombre" may be better descriptions of him than melancholy. These qualities are part of the Russian cul-

ture—and no wonder! The great plains between the Urals in the east and Poland to the west have probably seen more concentrated and regular conflict than any other part of Europe. Suffering, as the Russian theologian Nicolas Berdyaev has written, is woven into the psyche of the Russian people as of no other. In the matrix of suffering they made sense of life but they did not wallow in the suffering. As with Job, the Israelites in Babylon and the Jews in the Nazi concentration camps, the Russians had to make sense of a world in which they believed in God's love while being apparently deserted by him. Russian church music thus conveys a strong sense of judgement upon sin with an expression of awe and wonder before God.

Again, we have to be very careful in interpreting and understanding the quality of joy—or any other expression of the Spirit of Christ as it comes through other people and other cultures. There is much joy in the music of Tchaikovsky, but it is a case of "those who have ears to hear..." One feels that Tchaikovsky would have understood at once the line in George Matheson's hymn: "O joy, that seekest me through pain."

It has been suggested that Tchaikovsky's own summing up of all his life lies in his last work, *The Pathétique* symphony, especially the closing adagio movement. This was a testament to his own suffering but it also points to an imperishable hope. Joy, no less than love, "is a many splendoured thing"—the joy of a Tchaikovsky work is part of its total expression.

"For the God Who Sings"
ABC FM, Sunday, 24 October
6.05–8 am
Presented by Kay McLennan

Classifieds

BIRTHS

RATTEN David and Julie welcome the arrival of Abbey Laura, born 10 September at Mildura. A darling little sister for Caitlin, Glen, Bethany, Andrew and Liesl.

MARRIAGES

EWALD—REES Birgit Ewald and David Rees were married in Bonn, Germany, on 2 October. Congratulations from all the family.

ENGAGEMENTS

MORRIS-HUGHES Dorothy and Ern Morris, Fish Point, Swan Hill, and Lorraine and Julian Hughes of Glen Waverley, are happy to announce the engagement of Brenda and Mark. Our love and prayers are with you both.

DEATHS

HALL Norma. Remembered with love and respect by the staff and residents of Betheden for her care, compassion, unselfish generosity of time, also her excellent rapport and understanding of the residents during the time of her chaplaincy. In God's care.

KRONE Jack. Passed away peacefully at Macksville Hospital on 23 September 1993. Loved husband of Helen. Father of Beth and Phill and families. Brother-in-law of Elsie and Bert Lanaway and Uncle to our family.

KRONE Jack. 23 September 1993 of Nambucca Heads, NSW. Formerly member of Brighton, Vic. Beloved husband of Helen. Loving father and father-in-law of Beth and David Hounslow (Warrnambool), Phillip and Jan (Knoxfield) and much-loved Grandpa of Douglas, Kate, Heather, Trevor and Cheryl and friend to many others. In God's care.

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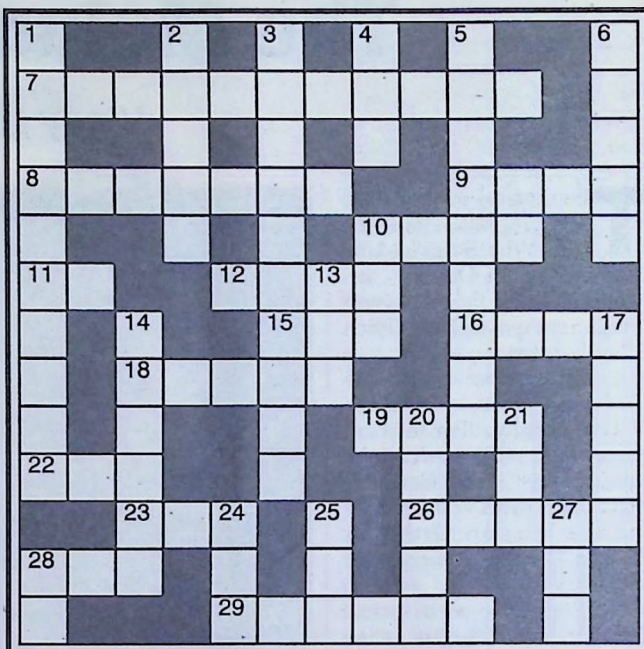
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Crossword



Across

- 7 Letter to them
- 8 Peter heard one
- 9 "Keep ---- and well fed" (James 2)
- 10 What happened to the mountains in Micah 1
- 11 Adverb used 3003 times in NIV
- 12 Place mentioned in Ezekiel 23:23
- 15 Where good measure will be poured in Luke 6
- 16 Word used in KJV for one of the diseases healed by Jesus
- 18 Saul's general
- 19 The ruined city ---- desolate (Isaiah 24)
- 22 Personal pronoun used 1011 times in NIV
- 23 Type of wine that you cannot use old wineskins with
- 26 One of men who prophesied in Numbers 11
- 28 Balaam had one
- 29 What ---- will you get? (Matthew 5)

Down

- 1 Woe on this city in Zephaniah 3
- 2 Sea in Revelation 15 made of
- 3 State of a man questioned at wedding feast (Matthew 22)
- 4 What you might fall into (Matthew 15)
- 5 A tree of -----?
- 6 Son of Etam (1 Chronicles 4)
- 10 Joshua gave instructions to the men on their way to — out the land (Joshua 18)
- 13 Disciples strained using one of these (Mark 6)
- 14 Zebulun will become this (Genesis 49)
- 17 Paul became this for 3 days
- 20 Father of a priest in Jer. 20
- 21 The rich young man went away with this feeling
- 24 Something that will occur in heaven (Revelation 12)
- 25 Jewels placed in these on breastplate (Exodus 28)
- 27 Used to pierce an earlobe in Deuteronomy 15
- 28 Joshua burnt this city

BICHENO, TASMANIA Seaview Camp

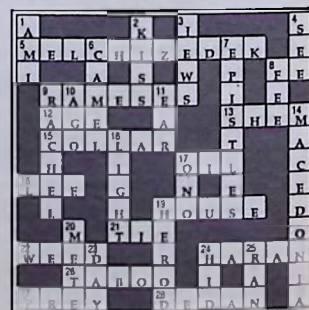
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It was a thrill to be part of the team of ministers who made up the Leadership 2000 Conference in Anaheim a couple of months ago. The whole experience has provided me with new insights into leadership, a new vision of what can be done in a local church, and a more focused picture of what the church should be. It has also provided me with a great network of new friends and colleagues who are committed to excellence and growth in local church ministry.

Amidst visits to megachurches and conventions, we also heard from some of our own Australian ministers who had led their churches through necessary change and seen a great number come to faith. To me these times were priceless. I appreciated the frankness, honesty and humour of these guys, and learnt that genuine Christian leadership has its price.

Personally, Leadership 2000 came at a good time, and I wish to thank Christian Projects for making the conference possible. At Mount Clear, Vic, we had seen attendances almost double in the last four years. I had just signed up until the beginning of 1998 and was seeking the Lord for a new vision, so each leg of the trip, including visits to other churches after the Anaheim event, pro-

Every Member a Minister

Dale White



• The Leadership 2000 team

vided me with fresh ideas and motivation for the task that lay ahead.

One thing that became abundantly clear to me was that for a church to be effective, every member must be a minister. This is seen in the Scriptures, where we read that the role of pastors and teachers is to "pre-

pare God's people for works of ministry" (Ephesians 4:12) and that each one has a part in the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27). It makes good sense too.

Delegation

For me this means change. I am a pastor/teacher and I must therefore make it my priority to equip my local congregation for ministry. It also means delegating some of my tasks to others, so that they can grow in their ministry, and so that I can focus on "core" business. I was encouraged by one of our mentors to write a list of all the things that I do, but that someone else could do...then find someone else to do it! C. Peter Wagner states that "church growth potential increases as the pastor becomes the leader and the congregation becomes the minister". Usually it's the other way round.

Expectations

It also hit me that in most of our churches little is expected of members. Christ called his followers to a lifestyle of radical commitment and disciple-

ship. "Deny yourself, take up your cross daily and follow me," he said. Yet we are usually content with church attendance on Sunday and a few dollars in the plate. On our visit to the Willow Creek Community Church, near Chicago, we were surprised to hear that although some 15,000 attended worship over their three weekend services, only about 3,000 were members. This is because membership involved more than ritual churchgoing. It meant being part of a small group and getting involved in ministry. At the Saddleback Valley Community Church, where some 8,000 gather for worship each week, Pastor Rick Warren has developed a series of transformational courses required for anyone who wishes to become a member of the church. There are expectations—and there is accountability.

Affirmation

The bottom line here is that the church is people. People need to know what is expected of them, but they also need to know that they are appreciated, and a valuable part of the team. For me, the highlight of the trip was a weekend at the Light of the World Christian Church, a congregation of 2,000 African Americans, led by Dr T. Garrot Benjamin. Here we felt loved. We felt valued. We were embraced by the love of the people. During the three-hour Sunday service we were each invited to kneel on the platform as the congregation prayed for us and for our ministries. This was a church that affirmed people and showed the love of Christ.

Robert Schuller was once asked the simple question, "How many members do you have in your church?" To which he reportedly responded, "There are three errors in your question, sir. First it is not my church but Christ's. Second, we are not a church but a mission. And thirdly, we don't have members, only ministers."

• Dale White is the minister at the Mt Clear, Vic, church.

Full Moon Festival

Chinese celebrate

On 30 September the Western Region Chinese Church of Christ, which operates from the Sunshine, Vic, church, was host to about 80 who came to a gospel service to celebrate the Chinese Full Moon Festival. The preacher, Nathan Nhan, from the Richmond Vietnamese Church of Christ, told of one Full Moon Festival that he remembers very vividly as he was a refugee from Vietnam escaping on a boat. He went on to say that Jesus is the bread of life; this was the theme of the four big Chinese characters that were on the wall—without Je-

sus we will be hungry and thirsty. The message was given in Cantonese and Pastor Dieu translated into Vietnamese. A clear gospel invitation was given. A few of us had a translation into English, thanks to Pastor Stephen Wong, who is the new minister at Camberwell.

After the service, there was supper in the hall; Chinese tea and moon cake, which is very rich and contains the soft-boiled yolk of an egg in the centre.

It was a most encouraging night of celebration and witness. —Barry Jenkins

A Church ABC

Elizabeth is a city of 30,000 situated 23 km north of Adelaide, SA. Named after Queen Elizabeth II it was established in 1956. In those days the population consisted of many migrants, especially from the UK, who commuted

The membership of the church is now 124. Attendances average 119 in the morning and 66 at night at the good all-purpose building less than a quarter of a mile from the central business district. Although two-thirds of the membership

which is open three days a week. A roster of willing volunteers has enabled the centre to contribute worthwhile funds to many causes. Until quite recently the church supplied food parcels to the community, but this has had to be curtailed to

of having a greater visibility in the community and greater pride and care of the church property. Administratively, the board consists only of elders, who assign task groups to carry out the work of the church. At present evangelistic outreach



Focus on Elizabeth

to Adelaide. The arrival of GMH brought industry to the area. However things have now changed and Elizabeth has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. 40% of the population is under the age of 25, and there are many single-parent families.

The Church of Christ was there right at the beginning. The members first met in a shed at the rear of Russell's chemist shop, as did the Sunday School, which eventually grew to 300 pupils. Boys' and Girls' Brigades were also active. Ray Ewers was appointed as the first full-time minister very early on. The highest Home Mission subsidy at the time was granted to the church, but it became self-supporting within 12 months.

are aged over 40, many of the new people joining the church are younger. In the last five years there have been 18 baptisms and numbers are increasing, albeit slowly.

A strong young adults group is a feature of the church. These people, from 16 to 22, nearly all of whom are committed Christians, contribute a great deal. Following them is a rapidly developing junior youth group. A kids' club also operates after school at the Elizabeth East Primary School.

Outreach to the community is important. Every Tuesday, "Talk and Do" attracts over 110 people, a high proportion of whom are non-church people. The church also runs the "Boomerang Centre", a used clothing and bric-a-brac outlet,

emergency supplies only as a much-increased demand was far outstripping the supply.

Worship services at Elizabeth seek to meet the needs of both the older and younger groups in the congregation. Two fine music groups enable some part of the goal to be accomplished. Services are held at 10 am and at 7 pm, the latter a little more contemporary in style.

Elizabeth is an overseas mission-minded church. Each November a mission weekend is held—this year on 14 November. Speakers from our own missions and from such groups as MAF and SIM are interviewed.

In 1991 a Kennon Callahan seminar gave real impetus to the ministry of the church. The church realised the importance

is being planned. Discipleship classes are also being considered and further extensions to the building.

The minister at Elizabeth is Ralph Oke. Ralph has been at the church for five years. Ralph began his preaching career at Mt Compass when it was in circuit with Goolwa and a speaker was needed every second Sunday. Following study at MBI he was called to Mt Compass-Goolwa, then followed ministries in Merbein and Yarrawonga in Victoria and Strathalbyn-Milang-Pt Sturt, Kensington Park and Gawler in SA. Ralph and his wife Heather have two adult sons.

The Elizabeth church is a warm, loving and quite committed group of people who make their presence felt.

Encouragement and Hope

Jesus became the visible and tangible embodiment of all the qualities of God in a mortal man. He gave up all he had, went through what he didn't deserve, and died at the hands of his own creation because he knew the benefits outweighed the costs.

No matter how amazing it might seem to us, he clearly wanted a relationship with every one of us and demonstrated, as a perfect model, his willingness to obey his Father and bring us to him. He was an example for all of us. God never asks us to go through anything he's not prepared to go through himself.

Jesus' sacrifice was the perfect sacrifice needed to cleanse away the sins of the world, but that doesn't mean our relationship with God is perfect or that

we're perfect either. We always have a long way to go, but now we can go to God direct. Through Jesus we have a once unimaginable access to God.

We all do, but still we need support, encouragement, teaching and a continued growth of hope.

We need fellowship and the ability to reach for open hands and to open our own hands to others. God created woman because it was not good for man to be alone; he created the church as very few of us can make it by ourselves.

For without hope there is only despair, and despair can lead to death.

We all must persevere together and allow God to give us strength, especially when we go through the worst of times.

—Neil Marsden

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Growing Spiritually

In my quiet times I sometimes find myself asking, "Am I selfish or even obstinate in my desires and ambitions?" Surely this is something many may feel prompted to ponder on.

In the personal quiet times of our Christian experience we may occasionally feel a sense of solitude or loneliness, which in itself could prove to be a blessing. Being alone with God presents an opportunity to ask ourselves about our ambitions and how they affect our fellow Christians, our church or, more specifically, our relationship with our Lord.

Maybe we need to ask ourselves the personal question, "Am I set on my own way for God or am I prepared to listen?" Perhaps we are never free from the temptation not to listen until we have been convinced by the Holy Spirit that our self-will, though it may not hurt anyone else, will invariably give us our Lord.

Whenever we become obstinate or self-willed in our ambitions we just may be disappointing our Lord while also

Self or Christ?

L.W. Marshman

giving wrong signals to those who are looking to us for example. A more searching question may be, "Is the truth of God's Word tremendously important to me as I endeavour to hand it on to others, or does my life give the lie to what I profess?" Possessing the Spirit of Christ undoubtedly makes us conscious of one thing, and that is our oneness with our Father God. Self-grandiosement becomes a barrier to the mind of Christ in us. Thus the words of Jesus take on a more profound meaning: "Learn of me for I am meek and lowly of heart."

Perhaps this involves something of the reaction of Saul of Tarsus who, when confronted by Jesus on the Damascus road, was forced to ask, "Who are you Lord? What right have you to break in on my determination to pursue my own ambitions and desires?" The infer-

ence here surely is that we may be convinced by our own assessment that the path we are following is the only way to go, but by trusting in our own convictions and attitudes we may be persecuting our Lord. God sometimes has to destroy our determined confidence, which may be evidenced by the times we say, "I know this is the way I must go," without testing ourselves against what is best for the relationship we have with our Lord. It is essential then that we measure our own way against the path to which God has called us.

A preacher is one who has realised the call of God and in humble obedience is determined to proclaim God's message. In a sense we as believers are all preachers of the Word. This behoves us then to examine ourselves in the light of our ambitions, our desires and our

presentation and thus not fall into the trap where our lives are saying, in effect, "This is the gospel according to me."

We cannot allow our individuality or our prejudices to become self-assertive or they may hinder our spiritual life. "If any man will come after me he must deny himself and follow me." As with many past saints and enthusiastic souls, God may have to take us out of our own ideas and individuality and mould us into shape to become true ambassadors for the sake of those whom we are endeavouring to influence in becoming recipients of the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

May we then be led by the Divine Spirit to lose ourselves in the glory of the Master's presence, as we have a vision of what God wants us to be. Let us say with Paul, "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

• L.W. Marshman is a member of the Victor Harbor, SA, church.

Today, they say, is an age of miracles. This is called a computer age and it is maintained we have brought things to a stage of technical perfection never known before. But the claim is false.

There are many things that were done better hundreds of years ago. The art of embalming, for instance. That is, the science of preserving a dead body.

Today we cannot approach the perfection with which the ancient Egyptians did this. However, the formula they used has been lost and even the best embalming methods of today don't equal theirs.

Then there is the making of violins. In the 17-18th centuries the Italian maker of violins, Stradivari, brought this art to a peak of perfection that has never been equalled since. And that is why a Stradivarius preserved today is worth millions.

And there is also the way the artists a thousand years ago to

the medieval period made stained glass.

No craftsman of today can match their artistry. Once again, the secret has been lost. Even if we had the formula, most likely we could not use it with the same touch.

It's the same with many other things.

The writing of plays reached a height by Shakespeare that may never be equalled. The same might be said for the art of Michelangelo and Rembrandt and the music of Beethoven and Mozart.

You can't improve on per-

New Hope

You Can't Improve on Perfection

fection. And this is absolutely and positively true regarding God's plan for the salvation of sinners.

God decided that there was only one perfect way to bring this about. He had to use a perfect instrument and this was his son, Jesus Christ. There needed to be a sacrifice made and there had to be a perfect sacrificial victim. This had to be one who was perfect in every way; above all, perfectly sinless.

This sacrifice needed to be perfectly available to all and it had to perfectly atone for every type of sin. And all of this was

met with perfection by Jesus Christ on the Cross at Calvary.

Someone has said, "When you can add brightness to the sun, beauty to the rainbow and strength to the everlasting hills, then you may try to improve upon the finished work of Christ."

But to complete the perfection it needs you. If you have not yet done so, surrender to Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord and you have become part of a perfect work.

• This is one of the more than 1,800 recorded messages written by retired minister Bill Mills used in the "New Hope" telephone ministry. To hear the latest ring (03) 11610. Enquiries about "New Hope" may be addressed to PO Box 160, Burwood 3125, or phone Jack Edwards on (03) 568 1825.

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Blyth, Winifred Grace

(27.9.93) Grace with husband Syd came to Terrace church, Geelong, Vic, in 1956 from Brethren church. Both took part in life and work of congregation. After her husband's death Grace continued in service for her Lord. She was a gentle, gracious lady who loved her garden, often supplying flowers for church. Other talents included cooking, cake decorating and painting. Terrace members will remember 86-year-old Grace as a quiet Christian lady, and our sympathy is extended to daughter Winsome, son Dennis and other family members. Funeral service conducted by Dr C.J. Mackenzie. —Ruth Carr

Bradshaw, Juanita Mary

(5.8.93) In 1935 Nita Spaulding came to Hobart, Tas, from Highcroft on the Tasman Peninsula and became very active in the life of the Collins St church. In 1936 she married Ben Bradshaw. Two daughters, Judith (Mrs Moore) and Rachel (Mrs Fax) were born. Nita served as a choir member, caretaker, deaconess and later on the board. Ben died in June 1972. Nita had a special interest in the women's activities and for over 33 years was a member of the CWF catering committee. She was a member of the Bethany Childrens Home committee where she served as relief house mother and a valuable member of the ladies group who helped in many ways get the home established. Nita was also a member of the Tas CWF Executive. For 25 years she helped the Hobart City Mission in their work for the underprivileged. A member of the Womens Christian Temperance Union, she was made a life member in 1970. A dependable, dedicated quiet achiever, Nita endeared herself to all as a loving sister in Christ. —Lilly Johnson

Drake, Elsie May

(22.9.93) Born in Adelaide 88 years ago, Elsie Drake was to become one of the most faithful and involved members of our churches. Stawell and Maryborough, Vic, churches feature significantly in her life, the latter through over 50 years. She was a community-minded and public-spirited Christian, taking her faith and witness into her four terms as mayoress and into her involvement in Red Cross, Country Women's Association, the Blind Auxiliary and several other organisations. It was her Lord and his church that meant most to her, enabling her to cope with a family of 10, seven of whom survive, the demands of community life and her involvement in every aspect of the life of her church, including regular attendance at CWF and general conferences. We extend our sympathy to her family. The funeral service was conducted by her minister, L. Clun, her son Milton and the writer. —F.B. Alcorn

Fulton, Norman John

(20.9.93) Norm died suddenly at Horsham, Vic, aged 68. Raised at Wonondah during the Depression, as one of 11. Norm's family suffered great poverty. He later worked as a farm hand, store keeper and hardware salesman. After his baptism in 1944 Norm was a regular worshipper at Horsham. He served as a reader, helper, usher, deacon, building maintenance convenor, treasurer and elder. His care for people included mowing lawns, pruning fruit trees, inspecting houses and meals on wheels. He is remembered as hard-working, a family man, thoughtful, obliging, unselfish, clean living and one who practised what he preached. He loved the outdoors, his land, animals and garden. Christian sympathy is offered to his wife Margaret (nee Marshman), daughters Jenny

Fraser, Lyn McIntyre, Pat Kennet and Donna McDonald and five grandchildren. —H.A.L. Clark

Graham, Merryn Jane

(9.7.93) About 600 attended the funeral service for Merryn, a tribute to the impact she made in the lives of many. During her short lifetime Merryn won numerous trophies and titles in netball, tennis and badminton. She also represented Victoria in the under 16 badminton team. For four and a half years she was secretary of the Eaglehawk Bendigo Badminton Association and was secretary of the juniors until her death. It was during a Bill Gaunson crusade at the Bendigo Twin Cinema that Merryn decided to follow Christ. Subsequently she was baptised by Maurice Keatch on 27.7.80. Merryn's sudden death in a road accident has left a gap in her family circle. In the loss of a daughter, sister, and sister-in-law, Alan and Rennice, Craig, Janine and Stephen have also found the comfort God alone can give.

Hinrichsen, Alfred Edwin

(11.9.93) Born as the second child of Albert and Bessie Hinrichsen, on the stormy afternoon of 10 October 1899, the only son of nine children. Three sisters have predeceased him. He was baptised into Christ 7 February 1915, thus his affiliation with his Lord and the Mt Walker, Qld, church of Christ spanned 78 years and eight months. He served his Lord in many ways as a Sunday school teacher, church secretary, treasurer, deacon, board chairman, lay preacher and elder (1957-84). On 29 July 1931 Alf married Gladys Kruger, by whom he is survived. He was an astute cattleman. His kindness to animals was legendary. —Noel Smith

Mott, Edwin George Henry

(16.6.93) A hard-working man of integrity Eddie shared deeply in the life of his family and the churches he attended over the years. Eddie worked on orchards in Swan Hill and Red Cliffs before going to Melbourne in 1936 where he worked at Tilbury's. In 1942 Eddie joined the army and served overseas. He married Jean at East Kew in 1944 and following his discharge from the army bought an orchard in Woorinen. Then in 1974 he retired to Bendigo. Over the years Eddie was very involved in youth work at East Kew, Woorinen and Swan Hill, and at Bendigo he served as both deacon and elder. Jean, Peter, Jan and John thank God for a husband and dad who gave so much of himself to them and others.

Talent, Jessie

(23.9.93) When Jessie Talent died peacefully at "Betheden", the church at Parkdale, Vic, lost its oldest member. Jessie was the daughter of William and Jessie Allamby, and was one of a family of seven. In her married life to Frank Talent, Jessie was in membership with Berwick church but for the past 40 years, Jessie was in membership at Parkdale. This diminutive woman lived always with an eye to helping others and even at the age of 92 was known to make the journey from Parkdale to Murrumbidgee "to visit the oldies"! Jessie had an eye for beauty, and this was expressed in her "trade-mark" posies, into which she would put hours of work—just to cheer someone up. One of God's very special people, Jessie is going to be sadly missed. —Keith Pitt

Wilson, Gwen

(30.8.93) "If you can learn to laugh in spite of the circumstances you find yourself in, you will enrich others, enrich yourself and you will last." This statement epitomises Gwen Wilson, who enjoyed a lifetime of membership at the Ascot Vale, Vic, church. Gwen was involved in many activities, including CWF, tennis, Sunday school and the board. She was also actively involved in many community activities. Her husband James predeceased her. She was an encourager, she was blessed with a spirit of joy and was a blessing to all who knew her. She is greatly missed here at Ascot Vale. —Ross Bourdon

Christian Fellowship Association Annual Meeting of Subscribers and Agents

Tuesday, 23 November
1993, at the Swanston
Street, Church of
Christ, Melbourne
Lunch 12 noon-2 pm
Includes recognition of
CFA agents
Speaker: Trevor H.
Giles, Executive
Director, Department of
Community Care
Cost \$8 per person
(non agent)
**RSVP essential by
Monday, 15 November
1993. Phone Val
(03) 326 8977**

Visiting Canberra?

Stay with a Church Family

A number of Canberra church families offer accommodation in their homes at basic bed and breakfast rates to help raise funds for "Home Mission" extensions in the ACT

If you would like to enjoy friendly "one of the family" hospitality in Canberra write for particulars to:

Lyn Swift
34 Yiman Street,
Waramanga 2611
Phone (062) 88 2050

Barbara Kennedy
6 Sharp Place,
Melba 2615
Phone (062) 58 1360

Advance bookings appreciated

Personal

Baptisms

•Lorraine McAllan, Wodonga, Vic
•Carolyn Allen, Ann Russack,
Narelle Sawley, Ben Simmonds,
Scott Russack, Kadina, SA •Krissey
Jones, Nallsworth, SA •Sharon
Crook, Jodie Ronan, Maylands,

WA •Shannon Lally, Andrew
Coutts, Adam Flinn, Suzanne
Petrie, Wee Jin Hun, Mary Wu,
Mable Chan, Glen Waverley, Vic
•Christopher Grams, Chantel Holt,
Ina Grant, Vanessa Caig, Mark
Francis, Charmaine Wall, Jim Kiss,
Noelene Trott, Harlaxton, Qld

MASTER OF MINISTRY DEGREE

The Melbourne College of Divinity is inviting applications for the M.Min. degree for 1994. The M.Min. is an advanced professional degree which seeks to enhance the practice of ministry.

The major objective of this degree is the development of professional competence, including critical reflection on the practice of ministry, interpersonal skills necessary for ministry, the capacity for theological reflection, and special skills for ministry in a particular pastoral context. The program is designed to enable candidates to participate in a significant level of academic professional development, and still engage in full-time ministry. It is anticipated that the Collegium Group component of this degree will continue to be offered in most Australian states.

Applications will be processed in mid-February 1994. Information and application forms are available from:

The Director of Ministry Studies
Melbourne College of Divinity
21 Highbury Grove, Kew, Vic 3101
Tel (03) 853 3177 Fax (03) 853 6695

POSITION VACANT GENERAL MANAGER

**A missionary position at Goroka,
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The Executive Director
Robin Cole

Christian Radio Missionary Fellowship
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PO Box 46

Blackburn South, Vic 3130, Australia
Phone (03) 890 2338 Fax (03) 899 1921

•Cate Barnes, Matthew Diss,
Bendigo, Vic •Steven Donnellan,
Linda Edwards, William Maddern,
Ascot Vale, Vic •Lola Cowie,
Horsham, Vic •Allyson Brophy,
Nubeena, Tas •Kristy Harris, Neil
Doyle, Caveside, Tas

Marriages

•Narelle Kennedy and Vin Marriott,
Rowena Aquino and Joey
Carranceja, Knoxfield, Vic
•Joanne Footman and Michael
Costa, Leeza Beattie and Danny
Gerrard, Leanne Hall and Peter
Wright, Glen Waverley, Vic
•Debbie Farley and Beaven
Dearling, Karyn Fogarty and Frank
Langford, Christine Cooper and
Alan Carse, Harlaxton, Qld
•Elizabeth (Betty) Smith and Robert
Little, Horsham, Vic

Deaths

•Mrs Beryl Downie, Miss Amy
Corbett, Mrs Nita Bradshaw, Gor-

don Riley, Hobart City, Tas •Nor-
man John Fulton, Horsham, Vic
•Jessie Talent, Parkdale, Vic •Mrs
Grace Blyth, La Trobe Terr, Gee-
long, Vic

Changes

**Australian Christian Women's
Fellowship Executive: Secre-**
tary—Eleanor Roberts, 11 Win-
chester Road, Nunawading, Vic
3131. Phone (03) 874 5110.
Sunbury: Church now holds serv-
ices at 14 Horne Street, Sunbury,
Vic 3429

Administrative Officer—Susan
Hutton. Phone (03) 740 8799.

Minister—Milton Oliver. Phone
(03) 740 9145.

Sunshine: New telephone
number—(03) 364 8116.

Grainger, George—RSD L 252
Lockwood Road, Lockwood, Vic
3539. Phone (054) 35 3226.

Hartwell: Secretary—Graeme
Blair, 8 Nyora Road, Glen Iris, Vic
3146. Phone (03) 885 4108.

Preschool Director-Teacher Part-time

Berkeley Vale Church of Christ are looking to fill a position in their Noah's Ark Preschool in 1994. The nature of this position requires that the applicant is involved in the local church. A copy of your qualifications and any letters of reference, including one from your church minister would assist in your application. All correspondence to be addressed to Noah's Ark Preschool, PO Box 4, Bateau Bay 2261.

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

Church News

Old

HARLAXTON (Daryl Thorpe, Frank Langford) Vacation Bible School successfully conducted during September ... New members welcomed at "New Members Dinner" ... Men's Society dinner held. Theme, "Toughing It in the Drought" ... 3 October 40th anniversary since chapel opened. Many changes have been made & more planned ... Martin & Tonia Paroz farewelled as they commence studies at YWAM ... Prayer Triplet concept being promoted ... Two Know Your Bible classes commenced ... Sunday School anniversary 24 October, Frank Langford speaker.

Vic

WODONGA (D. Oldfield) Visiting speakers Don Smith & John Timms ... Much rejoicing with baptism of former drug addict ... \$400+ raised for World Vision ... Dave Kleeman welcomed back after extended holiday ... New foyer & wall-to-wall carpet appreciated by all ... Speakers while David & Norma Oldfield on wildflower tour of WA were Alex Wilson, David Maindonald (HJCB) & Pat Kavanagh.

KNOXFIELD (Rod Brown, Jason Potter) The church had a marvelous Father's Day service with a men's choir & sermon delivered by Secretary of World Convention, Lindsay Jacobs. Also visiting were his wife Lorraine & delegates from Australian committee, Ron & Dot Brooker ... Knoxfield is planning on a grand opening of its new buildings 16-17 October.

REDCLIFFS (S. Mackle) Care N Share's successful annual riverboat trip & luncheon on 26 September enhanced by sunshine. Funds are for an exterior blind for manse & help for Ruth Perkins (missionary in Niger, Africa) ... Relations & friends honoured Ivan Cameron for his 80th birthday with luncheon at the church ... Kid's Club had happy outing to "Snakes & Ladders" fun park.

SUNSHINE (Barry Jenkins) Visiting speakers have included Sal Romano from Coburg & Julio Martinez from the Spanish church that meets at Maidstone ... Bertha Bruce is now in the nursing home at Murrumbidgee ... 80 attended from all over Melbourne Chinese New Moon Festival in September.

ECHUCA (Arthur Symes) Mobile Mission Maintenance team very busy during September. Inside of church turned around & large foyer built from what was many years ago the old church & Sunday school. Foyer also a crying room ... We praise God for his never-ending

love & help in making our church what it is today. Congregation is growing. Many young ones are attending.

GLEN WAVERLEY (R.B. Elbourne, M.J. Gillespie, H.J. Sanders) 5 pm services concluded with thanksgiving tea ... Prayer afternoon well attended ... 40th church anniversary Graham Agnew speaker at services & men's breakfast ... 25 at leaders, elders, deacons camp ... Student Home Fellowship first anniversary. Three students baptised ... Successful youth service organised & run by young people ... Carole Bennett appointed part-time drama coordinator.

RED HILL (Bruce Butler) Special spring family service. Church filled with floral arrangements as each family contributed ... Ladies attended National CWF Conference & representatives at Presidents' Reception ... Keith & Win Crouch welcomed into membership ... Garage sale 2 Oct raised \$1,200 & CWF market stall \$500 ... Country & Western dinner planned 22 Oct. Proceeds to COCOA & church needs ... Sunday School bike-a-thon to raise funds for Indian children.

OAKLEIGH (W.J. Edwards) Maurice Carr received by transfer ... Geoff Whiting preached while our minister helped Bendigo church ... Barbara Edwards & Freda Fraser have commenced craft classes in hall ... Horrie Walpole driving church bus ... Working bee held in preparation for church anniversary on 17 October ... Dandenong ladies presented musical program at CWF where all office bearers have been re-elected ... Much sickness among membership.

NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn) During minister's absence Neil Ratcliffe (elder) spoke on "Towards 2000" & Keith Wiggins (CCTC) was speaker on 3 Oct ... A number of our young women have been to CWF camp ... Those who have been in hospitals are in various stages of recovery after surgery ... Church looking to 90th anniversary on 24 Oct & all arrangements well in hand.

BENDIGO (John Sweetman) Successful Central & Northern District Conf held with Louis van Laar as speaker ... John Sweetman presented interesting series on Revelation at Countdown to Commitment services over 22 weeks ... Deafness Awareness Week communion service held 29 August followed by light luncheon ... Father's Day commenced with father & son breakfast followed by family service ... GMG parade marked end of Term 3 activities. "Laurie & the Truck Drivers" singing group featured. **ASCOT VALE (Ross Bourdon)**

AGM held. Church thrilled with the appointment of Carolyn Hamond & Peter Richardson as elders ... Three baptisms recently in our outdoors baptismal. One held in the rain & in cold water! ... Ministry into housing estate opening up more with several people from estate coming to church regularly ... Wounded man course commenced involving people from both church & community. **PARKDALE (Keith Pitt)** The church is saddened by the passing of its oldest member, Jessie Talent ... Warragul COUFFS group shared in our Spring Flower Sunday. 44 bouquets & posies distributed ... Pyramid Hill young people were the guests of our "Impact" group for the country to city weekend ... Recent church garage sale raised \$1200.

LA TROBE TERRACE, GEE-LONG (Glen Wegner) Church regrets passing of Grace Blyth ...

Shirley Drayton returned after six months visit to USA ... CWF viewed orchids grown by Frank & Val Schenk, Indented Heads. Offering taken for relief work in India ... Paul Bauer speaker on 26 September when newly organised band took part ... Salvation Army assisted with groceries & Geelong Mall outreach received financial assistance.

COBURG (Don Milne) Italian & English classes creating outreach opportunities ... Bimonthly evening rallies well attended ... Church agents for Melbourne Foodbank. Supplying parcels for 100 weekly ... New free-standing sign installed & garden landscaped ... Exterior & interior painting completed & new carpet placed in church foyer ... Val Mitchell returned from personal witness in Fiji ... Prayer list included in monthly "Gleanings" ... CWF to entertain guests from Mont Park Hospital.

The Board of Management,
Faculty,
and Students of the

Churches of Christ Theological College

extend to you a cordial invitation to attend the

1993

GRADUATION SERVICE

Speaker: Principal Greg Elsdon

and the

ORDINATION SERVICE

to be conducted by the

National Conference
of

Churches of Christ in Australia
Friday, 19 November 1993

from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm

Blackman Hall

Hawthorn Institute of Education

442 Auburn Road Auburn

Melway map 59 E2

An offering will be taken to defray costs.
Car park entrance is from Woodburn Road.

Church News

SA

HENLEY BEACH (Ron McLean) At Henley Beach we have been delighted to welcome into church membership Linda Campion & LuLu, Lillian & Ming Lee ... A combined church camp with Flinders Park & Brooklyn Park was held 20-22 August at Mylor Baptist Camp. It was a weekend of fun, fellowship & refreshment ... Combined evening services are enjoyed with evening meal services twice a month.

KADINA (Neville Bradley) Church AGM held. Appointed to board elders Brian Roberts, Eric Oliver, Cliff Perkins, Alf Russack (elder emeritus), deacons Helen Russack, June Window, Merv Simmonds, Jim Peterson (chairman), Lyle White, Graham Sawley, Lyn Roach ... Visiting singing groups & artists used at special winter series. Soup & toast served in hall at close of each meeting ... Baptismal service 5 Sept after which five young people welcomed into church.

NAILSWORTH (Daryl Telfer) Day Fellowship entertained Williams-town to lunch 21 Sept. Varia Mitchell spoke about experiences with Operation Mobilisation's "Love Europe" in Albania, Bulgaria, Romania ... 12 Sept Sunday School performed "A Heart to Change the World" ... This also David Althorpe's theme for all-age camp at El Shaddai, Wellington, 79 attending. Campers brought testimonies to evening service ... Bowls & under 12 basketball teams premiers, under 18 basketballers runners up in minor round.

WA

CARNARVON (K. O'Brien) Great night of praise & thanksgiving enjoyed by Carnarvon churches. Trevor Booth, first pilot & initiator of Bible Society's Aerial Ministry in Carnarvon, guest speaker. Praise & thanks given for Christian education in Carnarvon. St Mary's Catholic School opened in 1906 & a parent-controlled Christian school is planned to commence next year ... Ladies enjoyed health & beauty night with speakers Denise Musulin & Pat Moore.

MAYLANDS (Robert Drown) Church celebrating 89th anniversary 28 November. Guest speaker Roger Ryall, Conference President ... Hart Smetherham preparing for special weekend in 1994 for 90th anniversary of God's faithfulness in area ... 45 members & friends enjoyed Goldfields Explorer trip to Kalgoorlie for four days. Tour director Trevor Streton organised train travel on "Prospector" & accommo-

dation at two hotels. Highlight was evening & dinner with Kalgoorlie church ... Jan & Alf Howell married in Darwin recently.

Tas

HOBART CITY (J. Weston) Re-joining in appointment of six elders at recent elections, increasing number to eight ... Graeme Hush has resigned as youth minister & Jeff Weston concludes in January as senior minister ... Membership considering new management structure following input by Tim Hanna ... Commenced monthly

Sunday fellowship luncheons ... Hmong congregation enjoyed visit of American pastor & exploring ministry appointment in 1994 ... Church saddened by deaths of Nita Bradshaw & Gordon Riley (mainstay of Midway Point congregation).

NUBEENA (C.G. Henderson) Visit made by Frank Turner & Indonesian missionary, Chris Marantika, on 22 September enjoyable ... Liisa Triffett received honourable mention for her efforts in an art competition ... Successful church fair held on 2 October ... Allyson Brophy baptised on 3 October, luncheon

followed ... 15 attended luncheon on 5 October with Lynette Leach as guest speaker.

CAVESIDE (John & Colleen Harrison) Devonport Bible study group (led by Mark Taylor) stayed Caveside 11 Sept & gave item during service next day ... Good fellowship enjoyed at monthly evening singalongs ... Pastor Peter Pinder (Bracknell Baptist) & ITIM chaplain gave insight into ITIM work in northern Tas ... Colleen Harrison attended state women's camp at Bicheno ... Large crowd 3 Oct for baptismal service. Special celebration lunch after service.

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(Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.)

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Reflection

He Fell among Thieves

(Luke 10:30)

He was just an ordinary man amongst men,
Young, maybe; heart high with hope,
Sure that with life he'd be able to cope:
But then—
He fell among thieves...
They stripped him and robbed him of all that he had,
Tossed him aside, and left him for dead.
A spectacle for all to see...
A ruined life—what tragedy!

Perhaps it was just that the going was tough,
And he rested a while when he'd had enough:
In an unguarded moment to meet his fate,
Aware of the robbers—alas, too late!

Or could it have been that he stumbled and fell,
Since nobody cared of the dangers to tell?
And with no-one to offer a friendly hand
To lift him up, and help him to stand?
So he lay in the dust—an easy prey
For the robbers lurking around that day?
Ah, yes—
He fell among thieves.

But a stranger came by, so the story goes,
And moved with compassion to heal his woes
Stopped to tend and revive him—not counting the cost,
Saving a life that else had been lost.
A Samaritan—yes, one rejected, despised—
Alone of all others to come to his side!

Then dare we to ask the identity
Of that poor wreck of humanity?

The Saviour stoops, and whispers low:
"He is your neighbour—didn't you know?"

—Marj Buckingham

The Last Word

The acknowledgement of
our weakness is the first
step towards repairing our
loss.

—Thomas à Kempis

After a Sunday school lesson on the Good Samaritan, the teacher said, "What would you do if you saw a man bleeding beside the road?"

A student responded, "I'd throw up."

★★★★★

Teacher: "What must we do before we can receive the forgiveness of sins?"

Student: "We must sin."

★★★★★

"If absence makes the heart grow fonder," said the minister, "a lot of folks must love our church."

★★★★★

We have had no additions to our church but we have had some blessed subtractions.

★★★★★

"You should pay your taxes with a smile," "I'd like to, but they insist on cash."

★★★★★

Minister to member: "How did the assistant minister do Sunday morning?"

Member: "It was a poor sermon, nothing in it at all."

Minister to assistant minister: "How did it go Sunday morning?"

Assistant: "Excellent. I didn't have time to prepare anything myself, so I preached one of your sermons."

★★★★★

Going on a diet is a triumph of mind over platter.

★★★★★

Steward: "Shall I send you some dinner?"

Seasick passenger: "No, just throw it overboard and save me the trouble."

★★★★★

To err is human: to blame it on the other bloke is even more human.

★★★★★



Tent poles? I thought they were firewood.

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