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# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

## What a Great Camp!

**T**he Labour Day long weekend in March saw 80 young people from the Echuca, Mildura, Robinvale and Swan Hill, Vic, churches converge on the sandy shores of Lake Benanee for the annual Murray Valley Youth Camp.

The theme of the camp was "Six Hours One Friday", taken from the book of that name by Max Lucado.

The studies were taken by Scott Vawser, a recent graduate from Carlingford College, NSW. Scott and his wife, Christine are travelling around Australia and had stopped in Mildura to pick grapes.

The studies were certainly a highlight of the camp along with exciting times of worship, water skiing, canoeing, volleyball, and the like.

The Lake Benanee Camp is looked forward to by all the churches because it provides an opportunity to get to know young people from other isolated country churches.

The campsite itself is great, right on the shores of Lake Benanee just out of Robinvale on the NSW side of the Murray River.

Accommodation is in tents and the meeting hall and kitchen and the toilets are tin sheds. It really makes for a terrific camp.

Many of the young people who attended have been fired up for Jesus, with a number of them expressing interest in baptism.

—Neale Meredith



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# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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## Guest Editorial

# "Go ... And Teach!"

Lynette Leach



**R**ecently, in a local church training workshop, I asked the leaders of a children's ministry program to identify the purpose and outcomes of their work, and how it was linked to the whole church plan. At a time when many church organisations are reducing staff in the educational field, the challenge comes: "What is the place and purpose of education in the church? In what contexts will it occur?" Knowing the purpose becomes a strong motivating force and gives vitality and direction to the educational ministry of the church. Know your purpose before developing your plan.

The educational task in the local church has usually been accomplished by organising learning activities and experiences for different age and interest groups. Churches need to pinpoint the aims of their educational ministry, so that each group has a definite function.

Many scriptural references urge educators to fulfil their responsibilities. Teach the faith to each generation (Deut. 6:1-9). Jesus commissioned the disciples to teach (Matt. 28:16-20). Teaching is a gift to equip the church for ministry and mission (Rom. 12:6-8). The outcome for the faith community is maturing into Christ (Eph. 4:11-16).

Imagination, instruction and involvement are key components in this process.

**Imagination** The creative capacity to see beyond what is already present is vital in defining new ways of fulfilling the church's mission. In a technological world depending on data, analysis and accuracy, there is a place for the dreamers, the visionaries, the artists and the creators. They enrich life. They express God's creativity.

The telling of stories taps a common thread in humanity. Jesus used this skill superbly as a teaching method. It is relevant to all age levels. Speakers use it to capture an audience.

**Imagining** how things might be releases new possibilities, and engenders creative solutions to problems. Education serves the church when it encourages the expression of the gospel in fresh ways.

**Instruction** This formal model of learning aims to impart knowledge. Christians need to be informed about faith and life issues. The contexts in which this occurs vary. Preaching is one method. The teacher-learner pattern is ordered, intentional and structured in content, with material ap-

propriate to different age levels. Instruction is more than teaching the basics of faith. It endeavours to help people grow in faith, discovering God's presence in all of life. Study groups, classes, seminars and workshops provide opportunities for learning. Education serves the church when those with teaching gifts inspire others to learn more about life and faith.

**Involvement** But learning is not passive. People respond through participation in the life of the church. The church needs to have formal and informal systems for educating, taking into account particular life situations—families, schools, workplaces, communities. As people become involved in the mission of the church in the world, the learning process becomes one of action and reflection, exploring what it means to be the people of God—a community of faith in the world. This connects the faith community with the wider human community, with the responsibility to develop relationships that demonstrate self-giving. Involvement guards against isolation and individualism. Education serves the church when it equips people to be involved in service and mission.

Because the faith journey is lifelong, so is the educative process. As we engage in it, and are enthused by it, our vision of God's work in transforming lives and communities is enlarged. It is a work which calls for the best we can offer in skills, standards and training. Sustained and empowered by God's Spirit through prayer, Bible study, and worship, the church is committed to relevant and creative ways of educating in the faith.

"Go ... and teach!" Jesus commissioned the disciples to teach. His words continue to call the church to fulfil this great commission—to the end of the age.

*Lynette Leach was born in Maryborough, Vic, into a minister's family, her parents being Bruce and Pearl Alcorn. She grew up in Sunshine, and after studying arts, music and education at Melbourne University, she taught in secondary schools in the western suburbs. In 1992, she commenced work as Field Director of Educational Services with the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development. With her husband, Athol, and sons, Andrew and Mark, Lynette is active in the East Kellor, Vic, church.*

## History Revisited

Centenary of the South Yarra church



• South Yarra, Vic, church

A shoe polish advertisement of bygone days displayed some well-polished footwear with the caption: "They're well worn, but they've worn well". It might easily have been describing the South Yarra, Vic, church, which recently celebrated its centenary. Not that there are many in the membership these days—a mere 20–30 at the best of times. But you don't measure the worth of a church like South Yarra by counting heads. Some idea of the testimony that issued from the Cliff Street church might be gained by a glance at the quality of the preachers that were called to this working-class locality. In its first 50 years, men like Thomas Hagger, A.R. Main, the Hinrichsen brothers, Albert Ladbroke, Cliff Taylor, Claude Candy, Charles Cole, Eddie Roffey, Ron McLean and others all made valuable contributions. They all went on to follow distinguished careers.

For a couple of decades, the death of the South Yarra church has appeared imminent to some beyond the immediate circle of the present congregation. But, despite the disadvantages of its location and the size of the membership, the church lives on, and, in the living, exudes the best of Christian qualities. A century of service in a community is neither a rarity nor an everyday event. But, for a church to provide effective witness throughout a century, not only to survive, but to reach

one of its several peaks following the conclusion of World War II, there had to have been a continuity of great spiritual leadership, faithful and wise administration, and a tremendous unity of purpose amongst the membership.

On 28 February 1993, 182 with current or former affiliations with the South Yarra church assembled in the chapel to acknowledge the occasion. Eleven ministers, some active, others retired, were in attendance. Ten of them had served the church, either in a full-time or student capacity over a period of 50 years. Peter Nelson, minister of the Ainslie, ACT, church, spoke on "The Ultimate Homecoming". Peter was the full-time minister jointly at South Yarra and Malvern/Caulfield, 1978–1982. Charles Cole (minister 1942–43) and Eddie Roffey (minister 1944–1946) read the lessons, and Eddie Wilson (church secretary, 1946–1948) presided. Vocal items were presented by Barbara Pitts, wife of Peter (minister of Hampton Street church) whose developing years were spent at South Yarra.

It is of interest to note that the morning congregation had representatives from three States as well as the ACT and New Zealand. Lunch saw 155 seated for the customary meal, but reminiscence was the main course on the menu.

The afternoon program began with a song service lead by Mrs Marian Walters, recently

## Gordon Stirring

A new feature for the "AC"

After a lively discussion at a Christmas camp years ago, a camper said to Gordon Stirling, then South Australian Youth Director, "Your name should be Gordon Stirling!"

When the Joint Board produced a study book on Christ and current issues and entitled it *Stir*, several people accused Gordon of being the writer and creating the title from the first half of his surname.

Yet Gordon has never thought of himself as being a stirrer in the sense of stirring people for the sake of making them mad. He is really quite a gentle soul and would not wilfully upset anyone.

However, he has always had a strong urge to encourage people to think about issues in relation to the mind of Christ. He has a hunch that thinking about

and discussing matters of faith and life gets us all closer to the truth, even if the process hurts a bit. Also, he is grateful for those who, over his lifetime, have stirred him to think, often with great discomfort, moulding his own faith and values.

So if encouraging people to think of the implications of the gospel for life is stirring, he is pleased to be known as a stirrer, and even to wear the pseudonym "Gordon Stirling".

It is under this title that he will write articles from time to time, not to upset or to antagonise readers, but to encourage them to think with a view to discovering truth and taking the appropriate action that follows such a discovery.

The first of the Gordon Stirling articles, entitled *Goodness Gracious*, can be found on page 19.

## Cycling Popular

Promoting pedal power

Cycling in Melbourne is proving popular amongst adults and young people. The many new cycling tracks are providing opportunities to explore riverbanks, parks and a range of urban areas. The Cycling Club, sponsored by the Adventure Committee of the Department of Mission, Education and Development, has a regular program of events.

On 1 May participants will explore the Yarra Bike Path from Kooyong to Heidelberg and a part of the old outer circle railway easement. The ride will occupy the afternoon. Young people and adults are welcome to join the ride. Contact Gordon Smith on (03) 802 3249 for further information.

Recent events have included a beach ride from Brighton to the West Gate Bridge and a ride through the Ports area, around the Albert Park Lake and the Arts Centre.

retired secretary, but still treasurer after more than 25 years in office. Musical items were provided by a choir of young people from Swanston Street church. Guest speaker was Christian businessman, Bob Hayes.

The centenary history of the church, a book researched and compiled by Ern Sherman (student minister in 1936), was launched during the afternoon by Viney Longthorpe (minister 1943–1946). Entitled "Where Life took on Real Meaning", the text looks at some important aspects of the church's life down through the years and reflects the influence of the South Yarra church upon the lives of many who have passed through its doors since 1893.

At this moment it seems that God still has something in mind for the South Yarra church. Some may be sceptical about the ability of this back-street Christian community to survive. But as Colin Morris so aptly puts it: "It is both foolish and faithless to set limits on what the grace of God can accomplish".

—Ed Wilson

## Hospice Awareness Week

Care for the dying



• Des Purnell

60% of people being assisted through Melbourne Citymission Hospice Service are under 65. Some are only teenagers. Many are in their 30s and 40s.

Melbourne Citymission Hospice Service is providing a specialised service to people in Melbourne's north west and north eastern suburbs as well as part of the inner-city area who have terminal illness. Most have been diagnosed as having three to six months to live.

Hospice Awareness Week runs from 26 April to 2 May.

Through this palliative care program, Melbourne Citymission clients are able to remain in their own homes during this important period. Nurses are on 24-hour call to clients and their families.

Des Purnell, a Churches of Christ minister, is Melbourne Citymission Hospice Service chaplain. Des had ministries at the Traralgon and Cheltenham, Vic, churches.

Des explained that a palliative care program is about symptom control rather than offering people a cure for their disease. "We concentrate on what the person wants. We enable them to work with their situation, giving them as much information as they require to make the sorts of decisions about what they want for the remaining days of their life and that includes the site where they want to be cared for."

The Hospice Service is a multi-disciplinary team. "That is a group of professionals with different skills—doctors, nurses, chaplains, counsellors, psychologists and volunteers."

Volunteers play a vital role in this ministry. They undergo specialised training and share important time with the dying as well as respite care for families and friends. Pain management is one of the crucial areas of this ministry. Pain can be a symptom of a physical disease, but it can be complicated by spiritual and emotional issues.

"If a person is concerned, the chaplain or counsellor can work with them, enabling them to express their fear, to come to some sort of resolution or review about what's happening. That is a very appropriate way of approaching pain, from an holistic point of view," continued Des. The Hospice Service makes available bereavement counselling to families and friends for about 12 months. To be admitted people need a medical referral.

## Canoe Club Open Day

Taking to the water

In Victoria the Adventure Committee of the Department of Mission Education and Development operates a canoe club. This club has been operating for many years but is not very well known among the churches.

To help overcome this they are having an Open Day on 8 May from 10 am until mid afternoon. The open day is being held on the Yarra River at Fitzsimons Lane, Templestowe.

The canoe club will have various styles of canoes available for people to "test drive", members will have the appropriate safety equipment and will instruct learners on the appropriate skills for the different types of canoeing. Demonstrations of various canoeing activities will also be held.

The canoe club has several weekend canoeing trips on its calendar. These include one day trips and generally one longer weekend trip down the Snowy River (generally over the Melbourne Cup weekend). Members are also involved in several canoe polo teams.

Since the beginning of the Red Cross Murray Marathon, members of the canoe club have participated.

At the moment the canoe club is hoping to establish a permanent base with club rooms on the Maribyrnong River. If these plans are realised it will help the club with storage and give it an established base for operations.

For further details readers should contact Alan Girling on (03) 735 5547.

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## Retreat

**CWF meets at "Tay Creggan"**

On 13 March more than 40 women met in the peaceful and relaxing atmosphere of "Tay Creggan" Baptist Girls' Grammar School, Hawthorn, Vic, for a day of spiritual refreshment and prayer.

Worship led by Glenys Reaby, Vic-Tas CWF President, began the day, followed by a session led by Julie Adam, associate minister at Surrey Hills, Vic. Julie directed the group in thinking about the meaning of "retreating" and the reasons for spending time in this way. The Lord's Prayer formed the basis for guidance in individual prayer. Suggestions for private meditation were distributed and the half hour before lunch was spent walking in the beautiful grounds and exploring in-depth personal relationship with God.

Sandra Gibson and Glenys Reaby led the praise sessions and the inspiringsinging added greatly to the feeling of God's presence throughout the day. Creative meditation and movement, written for the occasion by Janet Thompson and interpreted by a group of five dancers, led into a directed relaxation and meditation segment. This proved to be a moving aid to worship for those taking part, as well as for those who observed. The afternoon session saw the group exploring "Women in Worship" with Lynette Leach, Director of Field Services with Vic-Tas Dept Mission, Education and Development. A significant statement which came from the session was: "Our worship is the offering of the whole of our life to God. All is open to his influence." The day was judged extremely important to each participant in her spiritual journey and it is expected that similar events will be planned in the future.

The Resource and Development Committee of Christian Women's Fellowship sponsored the day. —Lois Smith (Convener)

## Northern District Centenary

**100 years of ministry**



• **Philip Shepherd, president of the centenary conference with Trevor and Graham Lawrie**

Speakers "exhorted the brethren" in the tradition of a century ago and tribute was paid to the faith and witness of the pioneers, when the churches of the South Australian Northern District Conference held their centenary celebrations on 7 March.

The Balaklava Town Hall was filled to capacity when past and present members rejoiced that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever, giving thanks for the foundation built by men and women who settled the Lower and Mid North and planted congregations.

Philip Shepherd, great-great-grandson of the first conference chairman, William Smith, presided over the celebrations, in which many descendants of foundation members and stalwarts took part. The communion service saw brothers Graham and Trevor Lawrie, dressed in 1800s style, complete with beards, use dialogue to highlight the vision and evangelistic spirit of their ancestor, John Lawrie, who in 1858 began a service in his home at Alma.

A luncheon was held at the Balaklava complex, followed by a Sunday afternoon fellowship. Three members "exhorted the brethren" on topics from the first conference in 1892. John Marshman (Owen) spoke on "Our Plea", Mark Green-shields (Balaklava) on "Assurance of Salvation" and "Future Life, its Certainty and Prospects" was presented by Alf Russack (Kadina).

Old and new hymns were sung enthusiastically and some tales were told out of school during the reminiscing! Harold Lawrie, conference president in 1949-50, was among those to recall conferences past.

Items were presented by representatives of the three churches remaining in the conference. The Kadina congregation drew on its Cornish heritage, singing a Cornish carol. Several Balaklava members gave a humorous look at the serious topic of "an eye for an eye". Owen Community Church's male quartet sang two ditties. A barbecue tea was followed by an evening rally at which former Balaklava minister, Jeff May, was guest speaker. Doug Walladge, Owen, was inducted as president for the coming year and presented as his theme the call to "encourage one another". Brian Roberts, Kadina, will serve his 12th year as secretary.

A history booklet "Where the Bible speaks..." was researched and compiled by Balaklava's Daphne Clark for the centenary and contains snippets from the 100 conferences as well as brief histories of the many congregations which were formed, some for very short periods. They range from the Koorunga congregation which commenced in 1850 to the small group at Kapunda who began meeting in 1952.

House churches and small chapels dotted the countryside with 36 recorded as having operated for varying lengths of time. John Lawrie's vision in

the 1850s was for congregations to be established about every nine miles, to allow horse and cart access by the settlers. He himself would ride many miles on horseback to meet with and encourage groups, sometimes speaking to three congregations in a day, even in his 70s.

The booklet also lists the conference presidents and secretaries, gives an overview of the youth work, women's conference and student aid fund and contains interesting facts about some of the people who have been members during the past century.

Names which appear regularly include those of Lawrie, Harkness, Finlayson, McLachlan, Marshman, Smith, Roberts, Daniel, Bowes, Edwards, Webb, Shepherd, Freebairn and Roberts.

However for every name in a high profile position there are dozens belonging to "ordinary" members who were, and are, hard working members of churches, who have supported, and still do, support conference and its activities. Their contribution over 100 years has been just as real, though their names may never appear in official records.

—Kaye Wray

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## Fiji Revisited

Encountering another culture



I was amused to see the caption under my photo in the 21 November edition of *The Australian Christian*. The photo depicted me in the half constructed Melbourne Central wearing a hard hat on a site visit as part of my engineering work experience. The caption read, "Anita Vimpani will be taking the gospel from high-rise Melbourne to a low-rise Fijian village". I hadn't taken this description of my trip very seriously at the time. Looking back, however, I think that sentence captures very neatly my experiences at the South Pacific Regional Conference of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students and subsequent outreach into the Fijian community.

The Australian participation in the trip was organised by the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES). Nineteen students and two AFES related leaders made up the Australian team. Our task was twofold, to represent Australian university students at the conference and to present the gospel through word and action by living amongst Fijians and running children's programs in their communities.

The conference was a time of learning. Formally, this was in the context of studies of Colossians. Informally, it was through relating to the students from Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and other South Pacific islands. There were 80

to meet, each with a completely different background and lifestyle, each united by a belief in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Many were studying at university to represent their small indigenous community, few had the range of options for lifestyle open to most Australians. Each was a part of the worldwide family of God.

After the conference we spent five days at Samabula Gospel Chapel, in a suburb of the capital, Suva. There we promoted and ran a two day children's holiday program, a youth evening with a bush dance, and part of the Sunday morning worship. The threat of a cyclone during this time reduced the children's attendance and we saw something of the vulnerability of the Fijian people to their environment. The outcome of our stay in Samabula was to instil in the youth a vision of the potential for outreach through children's holiday programs. It is their intention to carry on with the work we started in this way.

Our next port of call was a village, Laselase, where our presence was highly celebrated and we underwent a ceremonial visitor's welcome. Of the 300 in the village, 100 were children. Upon arrival we were unexpectedly showered with requests to get going with our programs straight away. We presented the gospel through some games, stories and, with the older children, testimonies

## Jesus is Alive in Ethiopia

New opportunities for the Gospel



The collapse of communism in Eastern Europe has not only made renewed Christian evangelism possible there, it has also created opportunities all over the world as former communist states enter a new era of freedom.

The success of a recent mission in formerly Marxist Ethiopia highlights opportunities for evangelism in Africa.

African Enterprise (AE), an evangelism and development organisation, was quick to respond to an invitation to hold an evangelistic mission in conjunction with the Church of Ethiopia. Between 350 and 400 Ethiopians are reported to have come forward to proclaim Jesus as their saviour at the December mission.

"People are hungry for the word of God in Ethiopia and God is opening many doors," said the missions coordinator

Berhanu Deresse, himself an Ethiopian.

AE plans to conduct a full city-wide crusade in Ethiopia in 1994. The capital, Addis Ababa's 2.5 million people suffered greatly under the former Marxist military regime and have deep, unmet spiritual needs.

The missions are conducted using what AE calls "stratified evangelism". This employs a strategy aimed at bringing Jesus' message to people at every level of society during a mission. This means meeting government leaders, addressing factory workers and speaking in markets, schools, sporting events and wherever people gather. Large-scale missions, such as the one planned for Addis Ababa usually culminate in large meetings where people come forward to proclaim Jesus as their saviour.

and skits. The villagers were challenged by our presentations, with four young people realising for the first time what it means to be a Christian (almost all native Fijians are nominally Christian). The Sunday School teacher was encouraged to follow through with some of our ideas and to make the format of her lessons more appealing to children. I left the village sadly, having made close friends and wanting to

find out more about village lifestyle, which is so different to ours. I moved from a vague high-rise view of Fijian lifestyle to a low-rise, close up, picture of what things really matter to the Fijians, and realised the relevance of the gospel to all cultures. My interest in serving God through missionary work was heightened as I saw people from many cultures come together in the name of Jesus.

—Anita Vimpani

## Children's Ministry

### It Was A Very Good Year

*Meeting a need in the community*



• Eira Clapp cutting the cake at the first birthday celebration of the Kookaburra Toy Library

At the board planning meeting of 1991, the church at Wembley Downs, WA, agreed that it needed to have a new area of ministry in its community. With a growing number of young families in the area it was decided to find a need not yet being met and address it.

That was the beginning of what was to become the Kookaburra Toy Library. A room was set aside in the church. A committee was formed, of both community and church people, and a government grant was applied for. Finally, donations of toys were sought from church members and interested members of the community so that the toy library could begin.

With a collection of some 150 toys and books, the membership book was opened. Membership fees and \$3,000 from

the government enabled the collection to grow to over 650 toys and books and, by the end of the first year of operation, some 55 families with 95 children had joined the Toy Library.

The church maintains an active role in the leadership through its minister, Eira Clapp. Special family activity days were held in the church at Easter and Christmas.

Plans under way for its second year of operation include the establishment of a collection of more grown-up toys such as parlour games and jigsaw puzzles. Many of these are rather expensive and often sit unused for long periods of time in people's cupboards. This will be a unique feature for the Toy Library and is designed to increase its contact into the community.

### Kids Club Feast

*Experiencing Bible culture*



The table was set for a Hebrew feast on 1 March for all the kids attending the Red Cliffs, Vic, Kids Club. About 35 kids enjoyed the special evening at the church, which was part of the term's program on the Bible and Bible times.

Candles adorned the table on which a variety of food was laid out. On the menu was lamb, fish, salad vegetables, dried fruits, cheese, melon and grapes along with hommus, tzatziki and grape juice, which the children had an opportunity to "taste test" first. Each child received a pita pocket to fill with their choice from the table.

When they had finished eating, the kids sang the Celebration Song and King of Kings which they tried to dance to. Everyone had lots of fun and most were dressed in costume

which added to the atmosphere. To finish the evening, each child made a scroll with Hebrew writing copied onto it, which would have been familiar to Hebrew children.

Kids Club is held every Monday evening during school term at the church buildings and is run by four leaders and a large band of helpers. Many of the children come from non-church backgrounds, and the leaders find it encouraging that a large number of the parents make themselves available to take a rostered turn as helpers.

This is the fourth year it has been operating and the sometimes weary and frazzled leaders, have rejoiced in the arrival of our new minister, Steve Mackie, who has supported and encouraged them in many ways.

### Wildflower Bus Tour

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# Letters to the Editor

## Letters are limited to 200 words

### To Farmers and Midwives

To the Editor,

Farmers and midwives reading *The Life of Tertius* will be bemused at the account of the breech delivery of a calving cow. Somewhere between the rough hand written manuscript and the eventual printed page protruding legs became a protruding head. However the shift of position was too late to help the cow!

—Tertius

### Comparisons

To the Editor,

After reading Roger Tomes article on 1 Tim. 2:12 ("AC" 20 February) I thought that would be "the last word" but some comparison of texts may help. Try comparing Rom. 5:12-19 with what Paul says about who brought sin into the world in Timothy.

For "silence" compare 1 Cor. 11:5 with 14:33-35. In one he allows that women may "preach and pray" in public, yet further on commands silence. It is clear that he had some different situations in mind. The circumstances have changed. God is looking for a mature church where all "living stones" are built together to form a holy temple and all are serving as holy priests (1 Pet. 2:4-9 and Rev. 1:5-6). Priests were teachers. Is singing being silent? Is not singing a gospel message as much teaching as speaking?

What did Philip's four daughters do in Acts 21:9? Surely they were allowed to use gifts or else how did anyone know that they were so gifted? In Luke 2:38 see an old woman telling everyone about her new found Messiah. Read Matt. 28:5-10, Mark 16:7, Luke 24:9 and meet women who have been commissioned by angels and by Jesus himself to "preach" the resurrection story to the men who had gone into hiding.

Perhaps women are not supposed to know these things are in the Word of God or perhaps

they are not supposed to be sufficiently enlightened to apply them.

—E.A. Barton  
(Port Lincoln, SA)

### The Women, Again

To the Editor,

In response to Henry Harding's letter, "Today's Ungodliness" ("AC" 6 February):

Re: Gal. 3:28. Henry distinguishes between status and role; Paul does not. Phoebe was a deacon or minister. (How formalised was leadership in the early church?) "All the churches of the Gentiles" were grateful for Prisca's ministry with Paul. Junia was an apostle (Rom. 16:1-2, 3-5a, 7). Euodia and Syntyche were fellow athletes with Paul "in the work of the gospel" (Phil. 4:2-3). The women in Corinth prayed and prophesied in worship: the former on behalf of the people, the latter on behalf of God (1 Cor. 11:5, 13).

Re: 1 Cor. 14:37. This is better understood as applying to 1 Cor. 12:1-14:33a than to 14:33b-36. The NRSV rightly places the latter in parenthesis for reasons of language and logic. If vv. 33b-36 were Paul's, what justifies his invoking Jewish law in support of women's silence? He might as well have enjoined circumcision and Sabbath observance and prohibited eating pork. These too were law. But this, in Galatians, he argues against. Things are different "in Christ": compare 1 Cor. 11:11 with 11:8.

Re: 1 Tim. 2:11. When Paul writes about marriage, his advocacy is not of a wife's submission to her husband but of equal respect and mutuality (1 Cor. 7:1-7; Eph. 5:21).

Re: 1 Tim. 2:15. How could Paul, who contends that salvation is "by grace through faith," ever claim that a woman "will be saved through child-bearing"? 1 Tim. 2:8-15 is Scripture to be sure, but it represents positions, either Paul's or another's (I think, the latter), that fall short of the Apostle's understandings everywhere else.

—Ronald Graham  
(Johnston, Iowa, USA)

### World Council of Churches

To the Editor,

Colin Dredge ("AC" 3 April) says that he, with Kevin Ludgater, seeks the truth about the activities of the World Council of Churches (WCC). I would suggest that they, with others desiring this knowledge, write to the Christian Mission to the Communist World, PO Box 598, Penrith 2750, for copies of the books *Red and Rotten* and *Why*. Hiney R. Pike, the author of these books, has made a searching documentary examination of the activities of the WCC, and will show the truth of Matt. 7:15-20.

—Winifred Cooper  
(Wynnum, Qld)

### Playing With Words

To the Editor,

I am glad that Gladys Butler thinks my letter ("AC" 6 Feb-

ruary) goes right, to the heart of the matter. She too goes to the heart of the matter when she says: "Paul's words have left women in a strange dilemma, saved but not reinstated." Either Paul wrote these things because they were the Lord's command (1 Cor. 14:37) or else he was shockingly mistaken about being called to be an apostle and about receiving the Lord's command. Peter seems to regard Paul's writings as Scripture (2 Pet. 3:16).

To claim that Paul's writings mean that the stigma of being first to disobey has not been removed by the sacrifice of Christ, is only playing with words. Men and women are heirs of the gracious gift of life (1 Pet. 3:7) but they still bear the consequences of the fall and eagerly await the redemption of their bodies. Paul also points out that man was created be-

## Letters from Tertius

### Acts Of God

To the Editor,

The small print on my insurance policies tells me exactly the catastrophes for which I am covered. Anything outside of that is an "Act of God", and my insurance company refuses to pay up on his alleged capriciousness. In other words, unusual accidents and tragedies that insurance companies cannot compute with accuracy are officially referred to as "Acts of God".

I object! The phrase assumes that God is violent or unjust and vastly more immoral than the worst of his creatures.

Why don't we give God the credit for doing some good things? My father-in-law used to say, "Every good and perfect gift comes from God!" I always assumed it was from the Bible. So today I looked it up in the concordance, and sure enough it is. So the Bible says that God is the author of everything good that happens in the world, and I suppose that is even the good done by ungodly people.

That set me thinking about "Acts of God" that are worthy of him. For a start there are the remarkable and unforeseen world events of the past three or four years with the end of the Cold War. There are the environment movements out to save the world from pollution. There is the strong developing consciousness about discrimination. So God must be in it all working on minds that are open to the light, even if they don't know that God is the light.

And if all of these things aren't acts of God then millions of Christians who have been praying for them to happen have been wasting their time.

It seems to me that if the churches could get together to excise the phrase "Act of God" from business documents it could well provide wide spread opportunities for discussion about what God is like and what he is doing.

—Tertius

## Letters to the Editor

fore woman. This, he implies, has a bearing on the subject too! This, of course, is not a result of the fall (1 Tim. 2:13).

To say that Paul was a Jew as well as a Christian is to suggest that he wrote out of his old Jewish traditions and not by the Holy Spirit. It also makes him a bigger hypocrite than that which he accused Peter of being (Gal. 2:11-16).

—Henry Harding  
(Alexander Heights, WA)

### Naming Violence Against Women

To the Editor,

I have just read *Naming Violence against Women in our Church Communities*, published with the approval of our Department of Community Care and distributed by C.W.F., and am still feeling sick, very dirty and distressed. Sick because I feel that friendships within the church will never be the same again, because any display of friendship, male to female, will be considered suspect. Very dirty because the presentation suggests that within every male lurks the latent potential to become a rapist or behave in a most unacceptable way. Distressed because the leadership of C.W.F. and Community Care should be so insensitive and unthinking as to permit the indiscriminate distribution of this booklet to the churches with-

out some prior consultation. The booklet proposes that each congregation should have a "sexual harassment policy and grievance procedure" (page 24). I would suggest, however, that it should rather be a "behavioural policy and grievance procedure", covering all manner of interrelational concerns. I am very much aware that whenever groups meet and develop close and trusting relationships, be they all-male, all-female or mixed, behavioural problems may arise. Perhaps it is not too late for Community Care to organise, and invite churches to be represented at, a seminar at which this matter could be discussed with a view to determining how the subject can be introduced into our churches without any of our members feeling a loss of self esteem and dignity.

—Colin R. Johnson  
(Preston, Vic)

### Resurrection of the Body

To the Editor,

Ron Graham's article ("AC" 3 April) on the resurrection of the body, led me to search the Scriptures where we find a wealth of information on this subject. People have a three fold nature: body, soul and spirit (1 Thess. 5:23, Heb. 4:12).

The body is carnal (1 Cor. 3:1-5). The soul is natural (1

Cor. 2:14). The spirit is spiritual but dead in sin. Our spirit comes alive when we allow the Holy Spirit into our spirit, "Ye must be born again" (John 3:3). Jesus said to the penitent thief "This day thou shalt be with me in Paradise" (their souls). Jesus died saying "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." Their bodies were in the grave awaiting the resurrection. Body-soul and spirit completes the resurrection, but a change has taken place with Jesus' body, for flesh and blood cannot enter the Kingdom of God (1 Cor. 15:50), but the soul and spirit of a born again person can.

Paul tells us our bodily resurrection is a mystery. We shall not all die but we shall all be changed, the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed (we who are alive at Christ's coming, 1 Cor. 15:51-54).

The resurrection of the body could not be any clearer than verses 35 and 36, it is a spiritual body that is raised in glory, verses 42-44 of 1 Cor. 15.

—Henri Pietzsch  
(Hurstbridge, Vic)

### Thank You

To the Editor,

To the many churches, families and friends throughout Australia who have over the

years shared their financial and prayerful support, the Cairns Church Of Christ would like to offer its heartfelt thanks.

We are now self-supporting and our numbers are increasing, with folk sharing their faith in many ways. Our chapel and facilities are in fact too small for our growth. Praise the Lord.

If you are one of the above we say again "Thank you" for being there for us, as in helping us, you are serving him. We are in awe of God's provision and guidance. —Mrs C. Duncan  
(Treasurer, Cairns, Qld)

(For many years the Cairns church has been supported by a regular subsidy from Federal Home Evangelism. This subsidy had been diminishing, however, the Cairns church have been able to fully support themselves ahead of the time that the subsidy would have ceased.)

### Heresy Hunt Saddens

To the Editor,

The heresy hunt which has done so much harm for the ongoing Presbyterian Church saddens one's heart and mind.

Such things may have been applicable in other days but in the present case we should be praying for the minister concerned as well as for the church at large of which we are all part. Great damage and hurt is done all along the line when such matters are involved and we often tend to forget that hurt in human terms. God is Lord and our Father whom we so often reduce to a legal figure who says "don't do this or that" when what we really want is an allegiance based on love for him, for our neighbours and for ourselves. Unfortunately the church has often forgotten this.

—Bruce Burn  
(Morwell, Vic)

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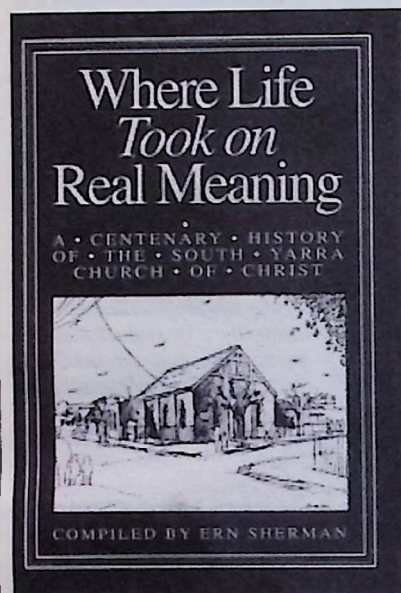
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## Books

### Where Life Took on Real Meaning: A Centenary History of the South Yarra Church of Christ

compiled by Ern Sherman (South Yarra Church of Christ) \$12 plus postage.



The comments printed on the back cover of this very substantial centenary history outline well the contents: 'There was something special about the South Yarra Church of Christ. A church in a small back street in an inner suburb that nevertheless attracted special people. This centenary history captures what was special about South Yarra and introduces us to those special people who over the last one hundred years found a place "where life took on real meaning."'

An excellent history of a church that looks at not only the events in

the church's life but also reflects on some of the significant people associated with the church.

There are also some interesting reflections on church life as experienced at South Yarra by ordinary members who have been influenced by the church.

South Yarra has had a very chequered history and, in recent years, has been struggling to survive. Some of the pains and hopes of that struggle are dealt with in this history, making it of interest to a wider circle than just those who have attended the church at one time in its history.

Copies are available for \$12 plus postage from John Wilson, 2 Kilara Court, Croydon 3136. Phone (03) 723 1559. —CRA

### I Want to be a Christian

by J. I. Packer (Kingsway) \$9.95

Although we in the Churches of Christ take great pride in our creed, "No creed but Christ", it would be a rare member that could not truthfully admit to agreeing with the tenets of The Apostles' Creed. Jim Packer, in this book, does a wonderful job of dissecting and analysing the Creed for the reader.

Packer breaks the Creed up into (relatively) easily understood segments and puts forward a strong case for its universal acceptance by all contemporary Christian churches. Had this been the sum total of the book, however, it would have at best only limited appeal. I am pleased to report that there is more, much more!

The book's cover claims the work is "Basic Bible doctrine from one of today's most respected Christian teachers". I cannot contradict this claim. Jim Packer covers a myriad of subjects in a fairly easy to follow manner. This is the definitive book to give to someone who resists the Gospel call by "intellectualising". It contains a most refreshing answer to the evolutionists in chapter five.

The author discusses almost every conceivable subject a searching person or a new Christian might ask. The subject of baptism

alone covers 41 pages. Coverage which, I believe, will please Churches of Christ readers. In short highly recommended! (Distributed by Christian Marketing Australia)

—Rick Burley

### The Man in the Mirror

by Patrick M. Morley (Word Books) \$12.95.

*The Man in the Mirror* is a book that every man should read. It challenges the reader to become the kind of man that God wants him to be. Use great discretion when purchasing this book. Never purchase it in the presence of your wife. Always read it in secret. Covering it with brown paper would be wise. If your wife discovers that you are reading it and reads it for herself then you're dead in the water. After reading it, her expectations of change in your life will probably be greater than your ability to apply what you have learned. Don't disappoint her! Read the book then without telling her you plan to clean up your act begin to apply the Biblical principles therein. The change in your life will thrill her and your whole family. This book is an investment in your manhood!

*The Man in the Mirror* is also a great book for preachers. Chock-a-block full of nice juicy sermons. Pity the preparation of them is so threatening and painful!

—Don Herbert

### If I Really Believe why do I have these Doubts

by Lynn Anderson (Bethany House Press) \$13.95.

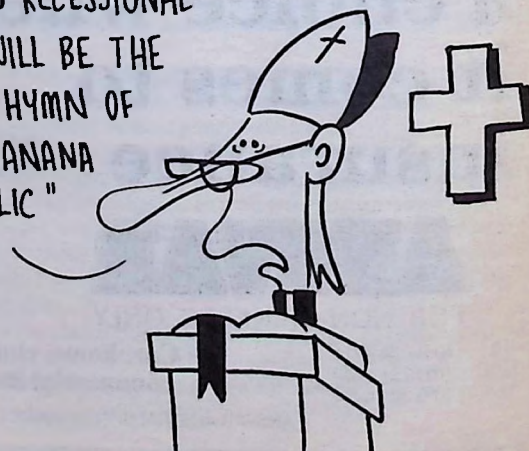
This 180 page paperback is for those Christians who have nagging doubts in spite of their desire to have a radiant faith "for all seasons". Lynn Anderson is one of them, and shares his struggles to keep faith. He sets the reader's mind at rest immediately by assuring them that doubting is common and not a sin. He examines the many reasons for doubts. He looks at ways of coming to terms with them. He writes about what faith is and what faith is not. He offers steps towards a practical faith. He makes it clear that faith has not only to do with feelings (which may be untrustworthy), or intellect (which may be guilty of rationalisation), but is a deliberate act of the will to believe and to act on that belief. He describes faith as a daily journey. Doubts are when we fall over. But we pick ourselves up again and go on anyway. And faith grows stronger.

(Distributed by Christian Marketing Australia)

—GRS

### The Angelic Verses—Daniel Changer

TODAY'S RECESSIONAL  
HYMN WILL BE THE  
"BATTLE HYMN OF  
THE BANANA  
REPUBLIC"



## Celebrating the Faith

Successful Tasmanian convention



• Greg Foot, Cathy Rochester and Gordon Moyes

The recent gathering of Tasmanian Churches of Christ was judged a marvellous convention where members of our churches celebrated the faith together and found challenge and enrichment from the worship and messages.

"It was one of the best for years." "The Huonville hospitality was excellent." "Gordon Moyes challenged us as he is a brilliant communicator." "It is great to see so many here—hundreds!" Ably organised by Kathy Rochester, the Churches of Christ minister working with the Huonville Community church, the convention fea-

tured Gordon Moyes as keynote speaker, with George Warren Vic-Tas Conference President and Ian Allsop, and others, as workshop leaders for the ministers and convention participants. Greg Foot, as Tasmanian Convention President, led the sessions and, at the final worship on 14 March, handed over to Tom Edge—President, for the next two years.

Participants will remember this Convention because of the excellent music and worship, led by Graham Hush, the large attendance, the entertaining and challenging addresses by Gordon Moyes and the mag-

## New Inner-City Project

Meeting multi-cultural needs

A new initiative to offer a range of services to people of Asian background will shortly commence from the Queensberry Street church, Carlton, a Melbourne inner-city suburb. Under the leadership of Nathan Nhan, the minister of the Melbourne Chinese Church of Christ, a Transcultural Life Enrichment Centre has been established. This is a non-profit and non-denominational organisation, with a plan to offer

nificant weather and excellent facilities in the beautiful Huon Valley at Huonville. Friendships were renewed and nurtured, issues were explored through workshops, and we affirmed that it was good to belong to the wider community of Churches of Christ.

As the Huonville Community church is an ecumenical congregation, their open and generous hospitality and outstanding work of organisation, under the secretaryship of Peter Collins, was particularly appreciated.

seminars and workshops on topics such as living in a bicultural family, parenting, marriage, stress, health and the prevention of illness, and interpersonal relationships. Personal counselling will also be available from trained counsellors. Information for new migrants regarding housing, schooling, health and child care will also be provided. Translation, interpreting and language tuition will also be available. Services in English, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, Swatow and Hokkien are provided. The Life Enrichment Centre has drawn together a team of professional people both to oversee and run the project. There is a strong leadership component of members drawn from the Swanston Street church and the recently formed Melbourne Chinese Church of Christ, which will affiliate with Vic-Tas. Conference this year. The Centre needs a range of equipment including computers and photocopiers. Gifts and partnership in the venture are sought. Interested people may become a "Friend of Translife" through a donation of \$20 per year. Contact Nathan Nhan, 2 Amaroo Court, East Burwood Vic, 3151. Phone (03) 802 4974.

This project is an outcome of the establishment of the new Chinese church which previously met at Richmond and is a response to the CROP initiative sponsored by the DMED and Properties Corporation.



• Nathan Nhan



## Churches of Christ in New South Wales

### Theological College

#### Modules for Second Half of Year 1993

Date	Course	Lecturer	Location
June 29–July 2	AS301 Culture and Ministry	B. Pederson	Carlingford
July 5–9	DF206 Church Planting	L. Berthelsen	Carlingford
July 12–16	DP107 The Pastor and Change	I. Allsop *K. Farmer	Carlingford
*July 13–16	DP110 Marriage and Family	B. White	Wollongong
July 20–23	DP110 Marriage and Family	B. White	Carlingford
Sept. 27–Oct. 1	DP103 Ministry Through Small Groups	J. Mallison	Carlingford
Oct. 5–8	BS102 Life of Christ	D. Nutt	Carlingford
*Oct. 5–8	BS102 Life of Christ	Jeff Stacey	Wollongong
Nov. 30–Dec. 3	DF101 Contemporary Communication	G. Moyes L. Irwin	Carlingford
*Nov. 30–Dec. 3	DF101 Contemporary Communication	B. McMurtrie A. Anderson	Wollongong
*Nov. 29–Dec. 3	DE102 Christian Education: Methodology and Curriculum	L. Grimison	Carlingford

(\*Revised)

# Happenings

Over the Anzac weekend (24-26 April) the NSW South Coast will see what may be its biggest surfing event its history. With 80 contestants and over \$7,000 worth of prizes the contest will attract both professional and amateur surfers. The event, the 1993 Jesus Pro-Am, is being held at Bandalong. The contest is organised by Christian Surfing Australia with the aim of reaching out into the surfing community. Christian Surfers has been operating nationally since 1983 and is an interdenominational group whose main aim is to present Jesus Christ in an understandable form to the surf sub-culture, to provide an alternative to the regular surf scene, and to act as a "halfway house" between the church and the beach.

Marvin Frey died in early December at age 74. Frey was best known as the author of *Kum Ba Yah* which he wrote at 17 while attending a Christian Crusade camp. Originally written as "Come By Here", the song found its way to missionaries in Angola who changed the lyrics. He also wrote "I've Got Peace Like a River", "He Is Lord", "This Is My Commandment" and "Do, Lord". A minister with the Independent Assemblies of God, he wrote more than 2,000 songs.

Life Line has just celebrated its 30th birthday. At 5 pm on 16 March 1963 the first call from someone in distress came to the Sydney Life Line Centre. Today there are Life Line centres in 230 cities around the world. In

Australia there are 38 centres. Many have responded to particular needs in their own area resulting in innovative responses to the suffering of people.

For the first time in 13 years, the number of Roman Catholic priests in the world has increased slightly, although figures vary from region to region. According to the new pontifical annual the Roman Catholic Church now has 153 cardinals, 4,019 bishops and 404,031 priests. The number of priests is up 0.2% from the 1992 figure. Half of the priests are European and 30% are in the US.

John Mark Ministries was formed to pioneer research relating to ex-clergy, to establish ministry support for ministers, to provide consultative expertise to denominations in the selection, training, formation, continuing education and care of their ministers and to provide encouragement to churches to be loving, healthy and effective communities of faith. They are currently conducting a survey of people who have been commissioned/ordained to parish/pastoral ministry and who are now in another religious or secular vocation. Readers who meet this criteria and who are willing to complete a questionnaire are advised to contact John Mark Ministries at 7 Bangor Court, Heathmont 3135. Phone (03) 729 2517. They hope to survey 500 such ex-ministers (there are an estimated 10,000 ex-pastors in Australia) and currently they have had 200 responses.

The "Jesus" film continues to receive wide circulation in the former republics of the Soviet Union. The film has now been translated into 26 Eastern European languages and has premiered in the capital city of 20 countries and republics including Albania and Mongolia and all the Muslim regions of Russia. In each country, the Minister of Education attended the premier, opening doors for the movie to be screened in schools. 13 million copies of the Gospel of Luke have been placed in homes.

The second in this year's Ecumenical Education Lecture series is being held on 10 May, 6-7.30 pm at the Victorian Council of Christian Education, 2A Chapel St, St Kilda which will cost \$10. This lecture will be given by Rev Dr Evan Burge, Trinity College, University of Melbourne on the topic "Praying Together: Common Liturgical Texts".

The Fringe Benefits legislation includes some important concessions for religious institutions such as church, missions and benevolent organisations. Moores Solicitors is conducting a seminar that will focus both on the range of Fringe Benefits available and the pitfalls that can lead churches to be providing taxable allowances rather than tax free benefits. The seminar is being held on 29 April, 8-9.30 pm at the Box Hill Town Hall at a cost of \$20 per person for the seminar and materi-

als. People interested should contact Faye Bevis on (03) 898 0651.

On 22 March, Mrs Evelyn Swift Aitken (nee Southwick), along with friends and relatives, celebrated her 100th birthday at the Lotus Lodge Hostel, Rosebud, Vic. Mrs Aitken is associated with the Tootgarook, Vic, church where her sister, Mrs Jessie Lovell, is a member.

Evangelist Billy Graham held a ProChrist '93 mission to all of Europe from Essen, Germany 17-21 March. In the most far-reaching crusade of his ministry satellite transmission was sent to more than 1,400 centres across Europe. Nearly 1 million attended the German-speaking venues (400 locations throughout Germany, Austria and German-speaking Switzerland) with 7.2 million attending at Mission World locations across Europe. Of these, nearly 250,000 responded to the invitation to make a commitment to Christ. 2,000 video missions using the taped material from this crusade are planned over the next 2 months across Europe. In Arad, Transylvania, Romania, attendance records were broken each night when some 10,000 crammed into a hall which was only supposed to hold 5,000.

The Council of Christians and Jews (Vic) is holding a series of three lectures on "The Gospel and the Jews" on 6, 13 and 20 May at 5.15 at Rose Hall, Mount Scopus College (245 Bur-

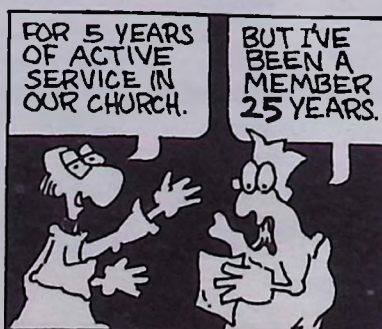
wood Highway, Burwood). Dr Dorothy Lee is lecturing on "The Gospel of Matthew and Judaism", Paul Forgasz on "Judaism in The First century of the Common Era" and Dr Anthony Kenny on "The Fourth Gospel and 'the Jews'". Series cost is \$15 or \$30 for three people, entry is by ticket only. Details from the Council of Christians and Jews (Vic) Inc, 179 Cotham Rd, Kew 3101. Phone (03) 817 3848.

174 graduands had degrees conferred at the Melbourne College of Divinity ceremony on 16 March. 11 of those receiving the bachelor of Theology degree were students at the Churches of Christ Theological College at Mulgrave. Enrolments in MCD had reached over 2,000 students for the first time in the College's 82 year history. The College serves the Anglican, Baptist, Roman Catholic, Churches of Christ and Uniting churches in Victoria but candidates come from throughout Australia, Asia and the Pacific.

Four former students of Salesian Roman Catholic College in Sunbury are suing the Salesian order for negligence for allowing Father David Rapson to continue to teach after it became aware of allegations of sexual misconduct against him. The priest was sentenced to 2 years' jail in November for sexually assaulting a student. In the US, people have filed suits against nearly 500 Roman Catholic priests and the church has already paid out almost \$700 million to plaintiffs.

The Council of the Baptist Union of Great Britain has agreed to ask Baptist theological colleges to reduce the intake of students training for the full-time ministry because of an anticipated surplus and the effect this could have on older ministers and students unable to find a pastorate.

## Pontius' Puddle



## People

### Tribute

#### Elsie Isabel Clark

Tribute is paid to God for the life of Elsie Isabel Clark who died on 20 January, aged 98 years.

Born Elsie Isabel Hayden, she lived with her parents William and Minnie and brother William and sisters Ruby and Minnie in Melbourne, Adelaide, Melbourne again and then Hobart.

She attended secretarial college in Melbourne and became a secretary at Gordon and Gotch for two years and then at *The Mercury* in Hobart for three years.

She married Reginald Percy Clark in the Hobart, Tas church on 26 August 1915.

After a year overseas Reg resumed his business as a con-



• Elsie Clark

fectioner and later became Manager of Allen's Confectionery Company.

Elsie was baptised at the Brighton, Vic, church.

On returning to Melbourne

she and Reg became very active in the newly built Malvern-Caulfield church, which was their spiritual home for 50 years Reg was a deacon, superintendent of the Sunday School and secretary for a large part of that time. He was also one of the founders of the Social Service Department.

Elsie was a soloist and played the piano to accompany other soloists. She was a Bible class teacher and became chaplain of a large Phi Beta Pi club for young women. She was a committee member of the Victorian CWF and was President in 1928. During the difficult years of the Depression Elsie

assisted with finances working in a responsible position at the YMCA.

Reg and Elsie had three children, Ernest (died in 1971), Rona (died in 1984) and Ralph.

Elsie and Reg moved to Hobart in 1968 to be near their daughter Rona.

Reg died in 1971. Elsie continued to live in her Sandy Bay flat, but travelled frequently. She was also a great correspondent.

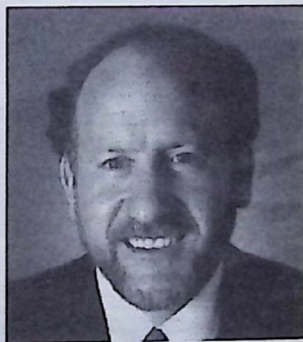
She retained her involvement with CWF throughout the years and although unable to attend she kept an interest in the activities of the Hobart City CWF.

—Lilly Johnson

### From Local Government to Canberra

John Forrest, from the Swan Hill, Vic, church was elected National Party member for the Mallee electorate at the March Federal poll. He succeeds retiring member Peter Fisher of Horsham, who held the seat for 20 years.

John's profession as a civil engineer, brought him to Swan Hill around 11 years ago and since then he, along with his wife Pam and daughters Tanya and Anik, have been actively involved in the life of the church family. They will retain their home in Swan Hill. John has served as a local city councillor and at the time of his election



• John Forrest

was church secretary and had just completed a second term as an elder. —Ern Rogers

### High RSL Honour

Recognition of years of service



• Dawn Rolls

Mrs Dawn Rolls, of the Mitcham, Vic, church, was recently presented with the RSL Certificate of Merit with gold badge. This, the RSL's highest award, was presented to Dawn

in recognition of the outstanding voluntary assistance she has lent to returned service men and women for more than 10 years.

Dawn, who is married to Bob (a returned serviceman and former prisoner of war), has kept herself busy assisting ex-service personnel from all over Victoria to gain pension assistance, as well as organising a 1984 reunion for 2000 ex-service men and women from all around the world. In her spare time, Dawn assists as a driver for residents of the Bundoora home for ex-servicemen. Dawn has continued this tireless work for others whilst suffering from periods of considerable illness herself.

Dawn is the daughter of Mr and Mrs John Christensen of the Rosevale, Qld, church.

—Mark Butler

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# Don Quixote Rides Again

**T**elevision viewing during the non-rating period is something of a summer of discontent for many people.

However, in the summer just past there was one program which gloriously reversed this trend. Thanks to SBS-TV we were treated to a five-part Spanish series of the adventures of Don Quixote, a faithful rendering of the literary masterpiece by the sixteenth century writer, one Don Miguel Cervantes y Saavedra—Cervantes to you and me.

This madcap knight lives in his own romantic world and assuming all the trappings of the codes of chivalry sets out to put to right all manner of wrongs. The trouble is that the wrongs exist only in his mind, so he gets himself into endless trouble. He tilts at windmills, seeing them as the enemy hosts; he releases galley-bound captives thinking them the victims of injustice; in his heated imaginings he regards a run-down, sleazy inn as a glorious castle—there he lances rows of skins of wine, imagining these to be soldiers of destruction.

Cervantes aim was to hold up to ridicule the code of chivalry which was the fabric of much of Spanish society. To him, Spain was living in a dream world. He felt that his countrymen had not learnt the lessons of the fiasco of the Armada against England. The new world he held lay not in the values of the past, with its impractical idealism; rather, the future lay with the merchants

of Venice and the counting houses of London, with their pragmatic attitudes to the getting of wealth and measuring all things by the power of money. Spain, he maintained (rightly), was being left far behind in these respects.

Don Quixote was a plea for his countrymen to get their heads out of the clouds and to "get with it".

Whilst many of the tales in Don Quixote may be a bit humdrum, Cervantes by common consent, created a beautiful character. His adventures may have been foolish, but the Don has always held his audience in rapt sympathy. And in all of this, Cervantes unknowingly gave the English language one of its more felicitous adjectives: "quixotic" = "enthusiastic, visionary, pursuer of lofty but impractical ideals, person utterly regardless of his material interests in comparison with honour or devotion" (Concise Oxford Dictionary).

But not everyone laughs at Don Quixote or agrees with Cervantes aims. Ford Madox considered that Cervantes did the world a great disservice by making his knight an object of ridicule. Ford maintained that, "the gentle ideal of chivalry is the one mediaeval trait, which, had it survived as an influence, might have saved our unfortunate civilisation ... the sole effect (of these tales) was to go towards rendering the world fit for Big Business". That was written well over 50 years ago!

The Man of La Mancha rides again in the sense that there are many voices lending him support. It is of interest that several newspaper articles written between the last Federal election and Easter just gone have pleaded for a return to ideals, values, visions and high principles. Not, of course, that brand of idealism which rejects the evidence of the senses, of which H.D. Thoreau wrote (maybe, he too, had read his Cervan-

tes!), but that idealism which makes the real world ordered according to the things of the spirit and be amenable to the highest moral principles.

David Millikan, of *National Outlook*, pondering the events in Canberra of 13 March, wrote: "In the end this talk (economics as the sole criteria of the national good) leaves us with the sense that politics has become unreal (where many feel) that our politicians are not in charge of the game they play." Then Frank Devine of *The Australian* commenting on the demise of Communism pointed out that this was really a judgment on capitalism. He quotes Saul Bellow: "who believes that the West's empirical contest with communism, during which it developed a society which produces a fairy-tale superabundance of material things, led to our inverting the romanticism of the 19th century, substituting hate for love and nihilism for self-realisation". In things that really matters, he wondered if President Clinton has much of value to give to Mr Yeltsin at this time of Russia's need.

Then at Easter, it was not surprising that B.A. Santamaria

quoted with approval from a British social survey report by John Grummer which pointed up the intimate relationship between religious belief and civilised values. Thus another voice would ask us to consider great ideals but not to scoff at them. "This report is a real attempt to challenge the way we live now. It does so not from some romantic nostalgia for a lost age but from a lively appreciation that our society is bent on self-destruction."

Finally, the editorial in *The Australian* on Easter Day looked squarely at the resurrection of Jesus Christ and concluded: "More and more people are searching for values, for the enunciation of a code of belief. They search for faith. The irony is that the faith they need is the faith of our tradition, the faith in Christ and the Resurrection."

One wonders what Cervantes would have made of these modern cries from the heart. Maybe there is irony in the fact that a man who was created to be an object of ridicule could be in danger of becoming a secular saint for the modern world. Perhaps we should ask SBS for a re-run. There appears no lack of significance in the Man of La Mancha. He may be a symbol of our getting our priorities in order.

Viney Longthorp

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## White Papers

# SUFFER THE CHILDREN...!

A. E. White

**T**ime magazine's cover usually portrays the powerful, the rich, the famous and the infamous.

On 8 March, however, there was the photo of a little boy who was none of these. His name was Daniel Valerio. Two and a half years ago, he died, but suddenly, he was alive again in the conscience of the community.

His face will haunt us. There are bruises there, and pain. There is also a half-smile and a hint of lurking mischief in his lips and eyes. His expression seems to say, "I'm still here, and I'll make it!" He didn't. The man who was supposed to care for him was violent and callous. His mother was pathetically indifferent. Daniel was being regularly brutalised and a whole raft of people knew it.

Neighbours, tradesmen, social workers, teachers, family friends, doctors, nurses, police, even a photographer! ... all knew something of Daniel's torment. He was seen by 21 professionals. It was not enough. There came one final act of cruelty, and Daniel died, aged two!

Last year there were 30 other children who could have, and maybe should have, joined Daniel as victims in the media spotlight. And this was just Australia!

When Jesus said, "Suffer the little children...", the word "suffer" meant "let" or "permit". The phrase takes on a more sinister meaning in today's world.

In the issue of *Time* which recounted the trial of Daniel's murderer, there was another story of a suffering child. Jamie Bulger, another two-year-old, was killed by two ten-year-old boys in Liverpool, England. The crime was so horrifying, and so beyond the reach of imagination, that a stunned Britain felt as though actuality had taken them into a realm where even

fiction dare not go. Some argued that because human and family values have been so debased, the boy killers were also victims, victims of a society that has lost its way.

Suffer the children...! As I write this, the town of Warrington in Northern England is mourning the loss of two more boys, Jonathan and Tim, victims of an IRA bomb. In admitting responsibility, the IRA, said "Sorry"!! How dare those mindless assassins think that by saying "Sorry" they can absolve themselves their heinous crime!

Whatever wrongs Ireland experienced in the past, and they were many and great, the present actions of the IRA match or exceed those evils. Decades of conflict have achieved nothing. A way for reconciliation will have to be found, but it will certainly not be found through slaughter. Throughout the whole of Ireland there is an increasingly loud call for peace. We can only hope that the response will overcome the hate.

These four boys have names. Last September, again in *Time*, there was a nameless Somali boy on the cover. His features were twisted in anguish as he lifted his crying face in a plea for help. Let that nameless boy be a symbol of the agony of the children of Africa.

In country after country on that continent, because of war, drought, overpopulation, illiteracy and famine, millions of adults and children are suffering, and it is often the children who are hurt first and are the first to die.

We have placed our faith in the United Nations, and the UN does help with money, manpower, food and medicine, but usually the help comes too late. The more favoured nations have the resources to help. Why can't we respond earlier?

Among the many other troubled regions of our ailing world,

there is the former Yugoslavia. The Serbs, Bosnians, and Croats have been fighting for so long that we have become accustomed to the face of death seen daily on our TV screens. Here again, the children suffer. There is a deliberate attempt to use starvation as a weapon. There is very little food for the unarmed residents of urban communities and what water there is, is polluted. It is winter, and there is no heating. But the shells still rain down from the hills around Sarajevo, aimed at the defenceless, including defenceless children.

For us, the children of Africa and Bosnia are nameless. They are presented to us as numbers. But they do have names. They do belong to families and communities. The shattered love is as painful for them as the pain we have felt for Daniel, Jamie, Jonathan and Tim.

The names of those four victims are now known throughout the world, and this is a good thing. It is a bad thing, however, to single them out for compassion and ignore the living children who cry for help. The world has stood idly by while terrible things happen to the children. It need not have gone on for so long. In August last year, we were told that intervention in Bosnia was urgent. It did not have to be military. If

the members of the UN had imposed sanctions against all the parties involved and ensured their compliance, I believe the conflict could not have continued as it has. The West did not want to take effective action. James Baker, then US Secretary of State, argued that the Yugoslav fighting did not affect the stability of the West and "we don't have a dog in that fight"! We do have children in that fight!

I don't know why I am writing this! It won't do any good at all. Nobody of significance will read it, and if they did, it would make no difference.

Maybe I am writing because I am angry.

Angry at what is happening to the children, and angry at my helplessness to do anything about it. I am a pacifist ... I think, but I also think I would support the use of force to stop the killing.

Our Lord may also be angry. He was even indignant with his disciples when they tried to stop children coming to him. I have no words which would match the indignation he must feel towards those who are killing and maiming the children of today. Our children—his children!

He even knows the names of those who to us are just numbers!



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## Classifieds

### BIRTHS

**CUTLER—WIGNEY** Ric and Julie announce with extreme pleasure the birth of Sarah Joanne on 19th March. A sister for David, Robert and Melissa. Another magical feat!

**HENRY (HILBIG)** It is with tender joy that Ian, Kerrie, Brenton, Caitlin and Nicholas announce the birth of Christian James on April 4 1993. Another precious gift from God.

### MARRIAGES

**GEYER—COLEMAN** Ken and Robyn with Netta Coleman announce with pleasure the marriage of Adele and Graeme, which took place at Ringwood Church of Christ on April 10, 1993.

### DEATHS

**ADDICOTT**, Robert William (Bob) 6 April 1993. Beloved husband of Jean (Brodie). Dearly loved father of Graeme, Glenda and Philip. Passed away peacefully after a long illness. The love and care you gave to us, your family, makes it easy to believe in the love and care of God as "Father".

**CHISWELL** William Robert (Bert) On March 11th, 1993 at Maryborough Hospital, Vic. Dearly loved husband of Dorothy. Loved father of Ian, Keith, Neil, June and

Bryan. Fond father-in-law of Dot, Gwen, Rita and Robyn. Cherished Pop of nine. Aged 79 years. Sleeping peacefully.

### IN MEMORIAM

**HARRIS, DOUGLAS EDWARD** Precious memories of my beloved husband Doug, called home 16 April 1992. Safe in the arms of Jesus. —Kath.

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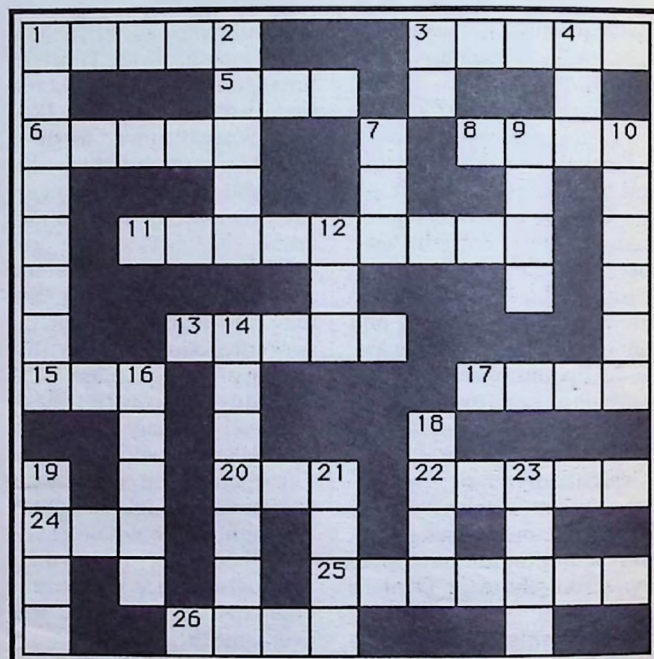
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### Across

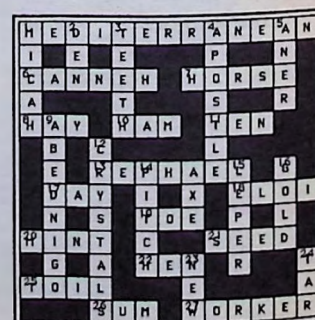
- 1 Place for a sermon?
- 3 Father of Shamgar (Judges 3)
- 5 Son of Gad (Gen 46)
- 6 Owned a threshing floor (2 Sam 6)
- 8 Bird the Jews not allowed to eat
- 11 Several of the disciples were these
- 13 Musical king
- 15 Son of Noah
- 17 Son of Ruth
- 20 Such wine is tempting (Prov 23)
- 22 Hung in the sky by God (Job 9)
- 24 Used as a sign of mourning
- 25 Gift to the prodigal son
- 26 Direction travelled by wise men?

### Down

- 1 Joshua's first son
- 2 Jabal's descendants live in these (Gen 4:20)
- 3 Town finally conquered by Joshua
- 4 Number of doves to be sacrificed when child circumcised.
- 7 Sealed Moses' basket
- 9 Gift to the prodigal son
- 10 Abraham celebrated the day Isaac was \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 21)

- 12 He heard a voice in the night
- 14 A descendant of Canaan (Gen 10)
- 16 Pastoralist king of Moab (2 Kings 3)
- 18 What happened to the curtain in the Temple at Jesus' death
- 19 Birds don't store here (Matt 6)
- 21 Jesus had this washed from his feet
- 23 Son of Enoch (Gen 4)

### March Solution



## Hong Kong Beautiful

The new shop **Hong Kong Beautiful** recently opened in Glenelg. It's owned by the Lu family, who are sincere Christians. Their grandparents first believed in Christianity in 1920. The Lu's in Australia are the third generation of Christians. Lu's uncle was the leader of the Youth Christian Association and Christian Association in Hong Kong. He was a Justice of the Peace.

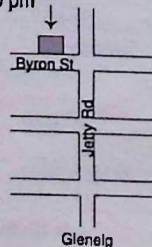
The Lu family have been managing traditional embroidery, crochet and linen work in Hong Kong and Shanghai since 1930. Lu's business spread all over China and Hong Kong. They are supplying a range of products such as jeans, hand and machine embroidery knit-wear, linen ware, arts and crafts, gifts, fashion accessories, etc. Everything is of high quality and affordable.

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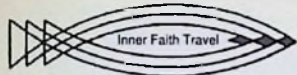
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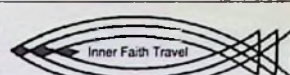


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## Outreach

# Flow Charting for Assimilation

Mike Folland

**M**uch has been written and expounded on the importance of effective assimilation for the local church. Attitudes have been challenged on how regular attenders view new-comers and the expectations placed upon these people to "fit themselves in".

One method we have used at The Patch church (Vic) for reviewing assimilation effectiveness has been with the use of flow charts. The use of a flow chart provides a systematic, purposeful analysis of a system and can generate a "blue-print" for preferred action. Flow charting stimulates the gathering of information and identifies invisible detours.

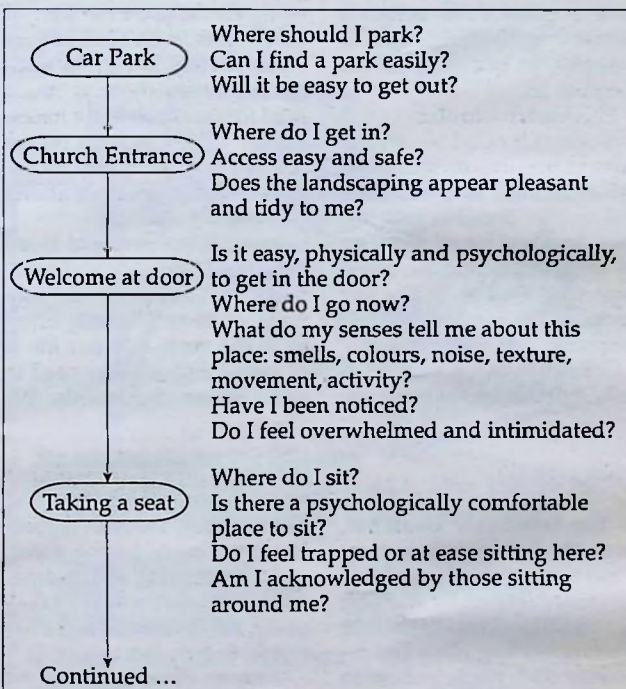
The accompanying figure is a simple example to illustrate the usefulness of this approach.

We sought to construct a flow chart from the point of view of

a first-time visitor to a worship service. The importance in exercise lay in visualising the process from their perspective, rather from our patterned behaviour.

The flow chart continued throughout the worship, after Church mingling, leaving the building and follow-up during the first week. A further flow chart has been developed for the Assimilation Committee that includes the above information and continues onwards for the first six months, incorporating other areas of the church's life, e.g. small groups.

It must be stressed that the effectiveness of flow charting is *not* in providing a magical step-by-step plan for assimilation, or a sterile factory line approach, but rather, a flexible framework for evaluation that gathers information from the *new attender's point of view*.



## A Church ABC

**L**ike so many other central city churches, Perth city church faces unique challenges and opportunities because of its location in the heart of a major city.

Perth church is located on the north side of the city in cosmopolitan Northbridge.

Currently, there is a large emphasis in Perth on encouraging people to move back into the central city area. Thus, at the moment, there are an increasing number of younger cou-

ples and families moving into the area.

The Perth church was the first

tombur 1960 they moved to their present premises in Beaufort Street. At this time the church

sent in the church, but there is a fair proportion who are fairly elderly, one regular attender is over 100. One significant lack is in the 30-40 age group.

A challenge the church faces is to make a significant impact on the people who live in, and are moving into, the central city area. It's difficult to pin down why, but it is difficult for all the inner-city churches to make inroads into the community. One hope



## Focus on Perth

church to be built in WA in November 1890, at Lake Street, Northbridge. As the surrounding community changed the church decided to move, as the area had degraded, and in Sep-

joined with conference who use the buildings for their offices, the complex being jointly owned by conference and the church.

The all age groups are repre-

## Growing Spiritually

# Giving God Room to Move

L.W. Marshman

**A**s we grow older in years it seems we may find it a little harder to make firm decisions. Not only can this be true in our business and community life but, more importantly, in our home and church experiences. This has been brought home to me in recent times and I find it applicable in many areas, including personal relationships and, to a degree, in demands on our spiritual life.

This leads me to observe that as workers for God we need to learn to make room for him in our ambitions, in our desires and in our decision making. That does not mean adopting an attitude of indecision and expecting God to make our decisions for us because of our deep faith and commitment.

Certainly we are allowed to make calculations and estima-

tions on what we believe our faith tells us should happen at any given time in our experience. But it is essential that we remember to give God room to move as he chooses.

Within the church, changes will inevitably occur from time to time, and with changing programs, outlooks and accompanying thinking on the part of individuals, even conflict may unfortunately occur. In such circumstances there is much need for reflection and a necessity for us to ask what do we see as God's will, and to enquire of ourselves if we giving God room to move.

In our own personal lives, however, God can suddenly break in at any particular moment, or he may quietly bring us to the point that our life is changing and we may need to make some adjustments. We

cannot always look for God to come in any particular way, but expect him to come and remember that, however much we know God, the great lesson to learn is that at any minute he may break in.

Of course, God can suddenly meet the special need in our life if we constantly keep in touch with him through prayer and devotion. This is in the nature of God to reward our constant reliance on his divine power and wisdom. This is one of the privileges that result from being in touch with our Lord each day of our lives. Through his Divine Spirit he may change our attitudes, or even our direction, and give us blessings which we may have thought were out of our reach.

Circumstances and experiences in life are such that intervention by God is sometimes a

necessity. Even though we may not recognise it at the time, if our spirits are in tune with the Spirit of God, enlightenment will enable us to accept his will.

There may even be times when our long held visions and ambitions are shattered, but we must always be in a state of expectancy and see that we leave room for God to come in as he likes.

To sum up. While our ambitions may not always be realised, this is no reason to let up. We are to keep on praying that God, in his wisdom, may place his stamp of approval on our best endeavours, or, alternatively, show us his will in some other direction. Then whatever the outcome, we can find satisfaction in knowing that we gave God room to move.

(from page 17)

all the inner-city churches, across the denominations, have is that they might make a more significant impact by working together. The churches are considering pooling ideas and resources and participation in combined activities.

A few years ago it was thought that the church's future lay in ministry to Asian students and their families. However, with the increasing number of Asian ethnic churches, the thought was that it may have been better to emphasise national fellowships (e.g. Indonesian, Indian, Korean) within the church. This has meant a significant decrease in attendance from about 30 to about a dozen.

This has forced the church to take stock and look at its future direction. Thus, through a church camp and corporate prayer, they have developed a vision of what they believe their church should be. They have moved to emphasising the cel-

ebratory aspect of worship and are encouraging input and participation from everyone, from leading to giving praise and thanksgiving and testimonies. It doesn't always come easily, however, and some are still feeling their way.

With its close involvement with conference the church sees its ministry as wider than the local congregation, serving the kingdom and Churches of Christ as a whole. They also see that their mission is not assessed in numbers but in whether they are doing effective ministry in their area. To try to keep themselves on track they developed a mission statement about a year ago. This is not set in concrete, but is reviewed each year. What the church desires above all is to grow whilst keeping the current caring and friendly nature of the fellowship.

The church is also used by ethnic fellowships (Chinese Methodist and Indonesian) who also have contact with the Church of Christ fellowship

either through combined services or through George Powell, the minister, speaking to them.

One consideration the church faces is that some feel the centre is difficult to access and old, and so some have suggested selling up and moving. However, the feeling is that the city church would keep going if relocated as there is a future in ministry in the city centre area, especially in light of the push to bring people back to live there.

### STRACK REMOVALS

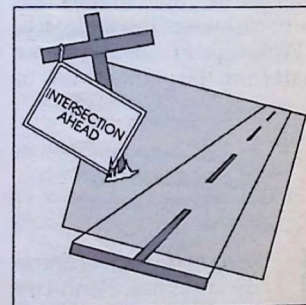
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# Goodness Gracious

Gordon Stirling

**T**he late Professor Fred Hollows said recently of his early departure from the church, "Sex, alcohol and secular goodness are pretty keen instruments and they surgically removed my Christianity, leaving no scars!"

Fred Hollows is not the first to ponder the goodness of many unbelievers, especially compared with that of some Christians who claim to have a monopoly on goodness but are not very good advertisements for it. Fred, no doubt, discovered that while many Christians are abstemious as far as alcohol and sex are concerned, they are not always as fastidious about matters of compassion and justice, and sheer human kindness.

Others have been surprised that so many unbelievers seem to live such good Christian lives. Studdart Kennedy once wrote a book entitled *Why Aren't All The Best Chaps Christians?* And witnessing Christians frequently come across the retort from those they seek to convert, "I'm as good as those who to church!" Sometimes there is no denying it. What do we say, then, about this dilemma of secular goodness?

1 It is not surprising that there are a lot of good unbelievers. Jesus talked about such things as going the second mile, forgiveness, loving our enemies, treating others as we like to be treated, and finding life by losing it in service for others. Many Christians think of this sort of behaviour as the ideal towards which we should strive, but Jesus did not say that. He said that it was sheer common sense living that, surprisingly, works in any sort of world. So it should not surprise us when thinking secular people, using their common sense, arrive at the same conclusions that Jesus did and live the way he said, without admitting its divine origin. Fred Hollows himself made this discovery about common sense living even if he never came to terms with some puritan values.

2 Undoubtedly, that the Bible calls for sexual purity, temperance in all things (eating as well as drinking!), and behaving in ways that will keep our brothers and sisters from stumbling. But the tendency among evangelicals in particular has been to identify heinous sin as being associated only with sex and alcohol and such things as dancing, swearing, the theatre and card playing. Sins of temperament such as temper, greed, selfishness, pride, judgementalism and self righteousness have been considered as more respectable sins because Christians commit them. But the Bible itself makes no such distinctions. So goodness came to be associated with abstemiousness and not so much with compassion and self-giving.

And often, less abstemious unbelievers have shown much more goodness in the areas of sheer human kindness and self sacrifice than some Christians have.

3 Many Christians have been conditioned by their culture, and some teaching and preaching, and by their isolation from the world, to assume that the "goodies" are inside the church and the "baddies" outside. Many of us grew up in the church and lived most of our lives with the "goodies" and only encountered the "baddies" casually, at work, when shopping or across the back fence. And we did not always feel comfortable with them, and we felt different. This, of course, is contrary to what the New Testament says. We are not "goodies". We are "baddies" being saved by grace. The difference between us and the other "baddies" is that we have discovered, through Jesus Christ, a God who accepts us just as we are and is eager to keep setting us free from our sins, hang-ups and funny ways.

4 Primarily Christianity is not about being good. It is

about a continuing daily relationship with God who is revealed in Jesus Christ. It is about God, who graciously accepts us as we are and comes into our lives, to create in us any genuine goodness that we have. Certainly Jesus painted a picture of what the good life looks like, but the whole Old Testament story shows us how incapable we are of living that life under our own steam. The New

Testament shows us a gracious God and that he alone makes the Christ life possible.

Perhaps we should be saying to our secular friends, "We do not profess to be better than you are or even as good as you are. But what we are enjoying is a relationship with God who gives us life and joy and an inner strength to cope with anything that comes, and throws in for good measure whatever goodness we have."

(More about goodness next time. Watch for: "How Good is Good?")



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# Insight for Living

Chris Ambrose

**D**uring February Chuck Swindoll visited Australia promoting his radio program "Insight for Living". Chuck is the pastor of the First Evangelical Free Church in Fullerton, California and in 1977 his sermons were first broadcast on 27 stations in the US. The program is broadcast on over 1,100 radio stations with over 200 of these outside the US (including seven in Australia and a short wave broadcast from Guam to Australia).

The program that broadcasts in Australia is produced locally. The introduction and other material is produced by Trans World Radio using material that Chuck supplies from the

US plus local input. The first broadcasts in Australia were in 1987. It was claimed that all monies raised in Australia are used to cover costs within Australia including the mailing out of literature and counselling material. Currently more than 300 letters a month are received by the ministry in Australia.

Speaking primarily to ministers and church leaders at the meeting I attended, Chuck gave six guidelines for ministry

1 Base your ministry on the Word of God. (2 Tim. 4:2). He argued for expository teaching of the Scriptures in churches and had five points to look at:

a. Hear the Word of God (use a number of teachers of the Bible), b. read the Word of God (slowly, thoughtfully, carefully), c. Study, d. memorise the Word of God, and e. meditate on the Word.

2 Stay balanced. Stay patient with the flock and model for them what you want for them. Keep a good sense of humour, be able to laugh at yourself.

3 Guard against following fads. He argued that we should address the times in which we live but that they should not form the foundations of our ministry.

4 Expect hardship, disappointment and opposition. Whilst saying we may be criticised he also argued that we need to listen to the critics and also not use the pulpit to get at members of the congregation.

5 Present the Gospel. Do the work of an evangelist.

6 Finish well. Keep right with God, beware of weaknesses and stay accountable to others, so that we may not fail as too many are doing today.

Insight for Living can be contacted at GPO Box 2823EE, Melbourne 3001, phone (03) 872 4606, for details of where the programs are aired and the availability of Bible study guides, audio cassettes, etc.

## Personal

### Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

**OLIVER, Lillian**

(15.3.93) Following her training as a primary school teacher, Lillian Prosser was appointed from North Fitzroy, to Dutchembegarra North where she met Walter Oliver. They married and lived in Horsham. She continued to work and pursued her many interests including world travel, reading, performing arts, conservation, National Trust, WCTU, Leprosy Mission, and RE in schools. Baptised at North Fitzroy, she was a loyal and active member both there and at Horsham. She was appreciated for her gracious ladylike qualities, sense of

humour, and appreciation and encouragement of others. She died aged 79, following a long fight with cancer. Walter died three months ago. Sympathy to daughters Margaret Taylor, Marilyn Fish and Helen Oliver. —H. Clark.

### Changes

**FOOTSCRAY:** Minister—Geoff Casey, 13 LaTrobe Street, Footscray, Vic 3011. Phone (03) 687 1746 (Manse), 687 7584 (Church Office).

**TWEED HEADS—COOLANGATTA:** Minister—Richard Oakes, 9 Kiora Street, Banora Point, NSW 2486. Phone (075) 24 2021. Minister—Paul Hodgson, 31 Florence Street, Tweed Heads, NSW 2485. Phone (075) 99 2922.

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Applications, including CV and names and addresses of three referees, should be made in writing, marked confidential, and addressed to:

The Principal  
PO Box 629

Mulgrave North 3170

Applications close 21 May, 1993

## Personal

### Baptisms

•Emma Wells, Lee Wells, Modbury, SA •Shane Wackerling, Wayne McPhail, Bob Crocker, Christopher Wallis, Harlaxton, Qld •Grant Cosh, Carnarvon, WA •Jason Tilbrook, Ken McCrae, Swan Hill, Vic •Myra Eklund, Parkdale, Vic •Jonathon Baker, Jacco Zwetsloot,

Derek van Neuren, Croydon, Vic •Casey Merrett, Danny Bryant, Aloy Lenus, Portland, Vic •Kylie Hunt, Yolanda Hunt, Goolwa, SA •Peter Blake, Rick & Gill Bonser, Kate Bonser, Peter & David Lynn, Tony Rogers, Raquel Shearman, Thornleigh, NSW •Heather Brown-ing, Alicia Sinnbeck, Elisabeth Skewes, Jane Ludbrook, Malcolm

McCann, Caswyn McCann, York St, Ballarat, Vic •Andrew Clements, Linda Vlietman, Bridgetown, WA •Jason Guest, June Forrest, Glenda Strother, Lyndon Rice, Natalia Scott, Warwick, WA

### Marriages

•Audrey Ruth Clark to Peter Francis Kelly, Horsham, Vic •Jodie Hoath to Shane Ramage, Susanne Newton to Luke Asworth, Nadine Little to Simon Smith, Donna Kingdom to Anthony Evers, Harlaxton, Qld •Caroline Shalliker to Ivan Grant, Swan Hill, Vic •Kerilyn Scott to Dion Aherne, Yonnie Unsworth to Greg Cunningham, Parkdale, Vic •Janne Pearson to Bob Morrison, Portland, Vic •Sarah Watson to Rodney Hocking, Cynda Harrison to Glen Strange, Gillian Greenacre to Rod Smith, York St, Ballarat, Vic •Nola Head to Michael Thurlow, Launceston, Tas •Suzanne Johnson to Tim Drown, Warwick, WA

### Deaths

•Mrs Lillian Oliver, Horsham, Vic •Bob Marshall, Harlaxton, Qld •Ashleigh Bowkett, Lismore, NSW •John Dodd, Carnarvon, WA •Grace Evans, Swan Hill, Vic •Judith Hutchinson, Knoxfield, Vic •Jean Stewart, Hazel Gilmour, Parkdale, Vic •Mrs Carole Taylor, York St, Ballarat, Vic •Norah Eaton, Mavis Allison, Tootgarook, Vic •Alan Marshall, Clarrie Crossfield, Bellarine Peninsula, Vic •Elsie Lake, Warwick, WA

## Church News

### Vic

**DANDENONG (Graeme Foon)** Chapel full to celebrate carol service on 20 December ... 11 collected \$487 for Red Cross ... mini-market a successful day ... 7 pm service taking the form of Bible study & prayer or sing unto the Lord with the choir ... men & ladies to visit Pilkington Glass factory ... 18-40 year olds commenced a group.

**SWANHILL (Lindsay Mayes, Tim Green)** Two young men baptised during March ... Family night & "hoe down" held at Norma & David Anderson's farm ... Edith & Bob Baxter have moved to Kerang after a lifetime association with church ... Sadness at passing of long-time member Grace Evans ... Graeme Sonsie accepted invitation to join ministry team part-time, serving three days each week.

**BELLARINE PENINSULA (Glen Stibbe)** Sacrificial gift of 2000 cents raised \$720 ... CWF garage & car boot sale \$420 ... Visiting speakers for three months ... 4 April induction of Glen Stibbe by Alf White. Glen & Betty welcomed by Ian Walter ... Good Friday combined service with Uniting Church. Easter Sunday combined service at look-out, 6.30 am ... Prayer meeting each Monday 10 am ... Two cell groups going & games monthly.

**UPPER YARRA (Kim Thoday)** Since meetings have commenced at Launching Place attendances have increased with new families attending ... Fellowship looking to the future with enthusiasm ... Kim has made worthwhile contacts with community organisations & church has received good publicity in local press & school newsletters ... Members involved in local Easter Family Festival & supporting Primary School fete.

**MITCHAM (Mark Butler)** Seven received into membership ... 13 attended weekend Youth Happening at Belgrave Heights, six commitments to Christ ... Literacy classes commenced providing everyday maths & English studies ... Retired men's group meeting fortnightly ... Two playgroups & two cell groups meet weekly ... "The Cross of Christ" devotion for choir & congregation, presented on Palm Sunday ... Church greatly encouraged by increasing attendances & enthusiasm.

**BOX HILL (Jim Longbottom)** Lynette Leach (DMED) conducted four children's ministry seminars 10 March-14 April ... Dedication of two children (Katherine Carr & Jordan Guthrie) in March ... 82nd church anniversary on 16 May ... Friday Kids Club now averaging 60

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Mr Trevor Blood  
CYTA Lodge  
Cooma North 2630.  
Phone: (064) 521 375 or  
Fax: (064) 524 180

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# Church News

children per week ... Deborah Burkhardt (student) has resigned. **KNOXFIELD (Rod Brown, Jason Potter)** New buildings commenced following fire in August 1991 ... With regret we farewelled youth minister Craig Allan ... Fortunate in obtaining services of CCTC student minister Jason Potter as replacement ... Two members, Jack White & Peter Blades, studying at College, appointed as student pastoral workers ... Church contributed \$3,312 to Christmas Bowl ... We were saddened to lose Judith Hutchinson due to untimely death. **PARKDALE (Keith Pitt)** Recognition to Arthur Scott for 25 years as church secretary ... Mavis House re-elected elder for further three years ... Rebecca Pitt elected to board. D. Littlejohn, A. Cunningham & M. Hargreaves re-elected ... Impact youth group led youth service ... Keith Pitt invited to continue ministry for further three years ... Minister recovering from a broken arm ... Good Companions continue to thrive.

**CROYDON (Martin Burgess, Isobel Marshall, Richard Gordon)** Richard Gordon commenced part-time as youth minister ... Finance for extension to Taralla Village obtained. Work commenced early April ... Renovations to old hall providing new creche room & office space ... CWF held very successful street stall ... New stove installed in kitchen much appreciated ... Church planning to be involved in Proclaim Conference in July ... A number of new members welcomed this year.

**PORTLAND (Paul Kerrison)** All services well attended ... Recent speaker Jim Stallard from C.B.M.I. ... Seven home fellowship groups meeting—studying fruits of the spirit ... Ministry team retreat at end of February where plans for future directions discussed—presented to church mid March ... Three young men baptised March 28.

**NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn)** G. Crossman speaker at morning service while minister & wife visiting family in Adelaide. Elders conducted evening service ... Focus in April "The Cross—Total Commitment" ... Joined with James St Uniting Church for Palm Sunday service ... Baptist church combined with us for Good Friday service at 9.30 am—Ken Wade speaker ... Flo Prideaux returned home after 5 weeks in hospital, still unable to walk properly ... Jack & Win Timmins on holidays in Sydney with daughter.

**PRESTON (Steve Blacket)** A very moving service on Good Friday when Steve focused on the sta-

tions of the cross. All present went to the manse for a luncheon ... Kids' Club continues to go well. Several of the children sang at a recent family service ... Jack Manallack continues to recuperate following surgery ... Open Door celebrated 18th birthday.

**MAIDSTONE** Well attended half yearly business meeting ... Well attended service, lunch shared & gifts made to Wes & Rita Rodgers. Church sorry they & four others left ... Church thanks visiting speakers & Jean Cooper ... Happy occasion VWCC coffee morning. Colleen Clement speaker ... Arthur Lewis, Mary Stratton & Flora Harrold home from hospital ... Good Friday service shared with Tottenham Baptist. **LATROBE TCE, GEELONG (Dr C.J. Mackenzie)** First family service for 1993 conducted by Island Breeze, Christian group from Pacific Islands ... CWF visited Uniting Church Welfare Centre taking groceries ... Shirley Drayton visiting family in USA ... Retiring organists J. Small & G. Hinde presented with vouchers in recognition of service ... 4 April day of prayer ... Special service Good Friday ... Ian Kirwood welcomed back after several months confined to bed.

**KANIVA (Martin Goldup)** Peter Breen, CBMI, guest speaker at evening service following church tea ... Harvest thanksgiving service held. Goods given to local needs & Community Care. Special offerings of \$5,771 to various causes including local church needs, COCOA & missions ... Two young people preparing for baptism.

**YORK ST, BALLARAT (Geoff Whiting)** Jim Cunningham & Mike Janssen farewelled. Jim now ministering in the US ... Geoff Whiting speaking & doing pastoral work February–April ... Kylie & Andrew Tonkin moved to Wollongong. Andrew training at the Institute of Contemporary Church Leadership ... Dianne Keesman taken up counselling position with El Kanah, Kew ... Larry Galbraith & family commencing ministry with induction service 25 April.

**TOOTGAROOK (M. Glezendanner)** Easter services well attended. 54 at early Good Friday communion. Easter Day 143 communicants & many children enjoyed special service showing reality of the resurrection ... Church saddened by death of two loved members. A beautiful memorial service with organ recital was held on 7 April for Mavis Allison ... Ross Lloyd has left to take up residence at Oakleigh Guest Home.

**BELLARINE PENINSULA (Glen Stibbe)** Only church to have float in

Gala week parade ... Glen & Betty Stibbe settling in well ... Easter services well attended ... Church mourning the loss of Alan Marshall & Clarrie Crossfield ... Display in foyer for Easter theme "Were you there?" ... Members grateful to Uniting Church for use of their church & willingness to share in services with us.

**ROWVILLE (J. Sutton)** Spurred on by last years' 28% increase in attendance & 40% increase in giving, two enthusiastic planning sessions ensured full years' activity ... Application before Knox Council for permission to use modern factory facility for church purposes ... Two local primary schools now being serviced by RI classes ... Keen participation in combined churches "Way of the Cross" procession through Rowville streets on Good Friday.

## WA

**CARNARVON (Kevin O'Brien)** Bert Holtham elected as new elder, AGM well attended & people enthusiastic ... CWF held "Time Out for Women" outreach meeting at plantation home of Dot Holtham who addressed meeting ... Noel Cuttford organised family quiz night at Olive Laird Hostel ... Bob & Queenie Scott celebrated 54th wedding anniversary ... Ministers' Fraternal formed—to meet monthly.

**BRUCE ROCK (D. Jolly)** Annual General Meeting held ... Many YP returned to city for schooling and tertiary studies ... Jolly family hosted consecutive BBQs for all church attenders ... Recent speakers: Lionel Fitch (CARE Australia), Tom Morrison, Paul & Jenny Beadle (Wycliffe Translators), Graham Carslake and John Fabry (Conference President) ... Hosted Eastern Wheatbelt Ladies' Conference, Shirley Benton, Nola Lindsay & Betty Sewell speakers ... Fifth Sunday meeting in November with John Bond speaker. Large crowd attended ... Val Sprigg, M. Weatherley & S. Jolly attended C.W.C.I. camp in Perth.

**BRIDGETOWN (Errol Kirk)** Peter Moyle study leader at successful church camp ... Errol to be study leader at Northam church camp ... Youth group to Fish Creek on overnight 4WD excursion ... Windows fitted to church hall ... Belinda Armstrong celebrated 18th birthday ... 85 packed church to capacity for Easter Sunday service ... Students home on holidays.

**WARWICK (G.B. Carslake, B.A. Eagles, R.J. Ratcliffe)** Series of six sermons "Life in the Kingdom"

before Easter had most of church involved in weekly studies ... 48 attended Easter camps ... 20 basketball & five netball teams playing Saturdays, plus several mid-week mixed netball teams ... Jason Guest in WA under 21 volleyball team playing in Canberra ... Barbara Herbert now golf professional with plus 1 handicap & will play US circuit for five months.

## NSW

**EPPING (David Moyes, Lester Sutton)** Positive start to '93 ... New home groups commenced ... Growth in young adults group ... Family camp was highly successful with over 100 attending ... 40 Rotarians attended crowded church service ... 20 young adults attended Nowra C of C mission. A great time by all ... Many attended annual Sunday School picnic ... Enthusiastic first quarter as more people come into membership.

**TWEED HEADS (Richard Oakes, Paul Hodgson)** Paul & Donna Hodgson welcomed. Paul set aside as youth minister ... 12 study groups, meeting varied needs, in gear again ... Good increase in Sunday School scholars & several newcomers to our fellowship this year ... Richard & Janet moved to own home. Just commencing seventh year of ministry here. Paul & Donna will occupy manse from May ... Gordon Barr visited as Youth Director & took service.

**GILGANDRA (P. Anderson)** Pastor Saulo speaker at morning service recently ... AGM decided to change service time to 10 am from 25 April ... Instead of Sunday School, a club will be held after school ... Ladies coffee mornings recommenced. Leader D. Anderson.

**LISMORE (Ian Phillips)** Cell groups recommenced for year ... Monthly family services well attended ... "Church on the Lawn" became Church in the Hall because of rain ... Gordon Barr guest speaker before Murwillumbah Convention ... Hearing aid loop installed in church with great success, also new amplifying system.

**THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley)** Guest speaker at pm service, 28 March, Lamar Junkins of Alabama, USA ... Special feature of am service on Palm Sunday was presentation of a play by children of Junior Church ... About 50 shared in a baptismal service in the ocean at Toukley, central NSW coast. Stuart Wesley conducted baptisms, eight baptised.

## Church News

### SA

**MODBURY (D. Hamilton, M. Keatch)** Christian "Passover" meal celebrated in five homes 8 April ... Service attendances up 30% since two am services ... New attenders' lunch 2 May. 47 names listed ... Celebration in church hall for Merv & Jean Maddison's 50th wedding anniversary ... George Payne life member award at 10th anniversary Boys' Brigade parade ... Cake stall for schools ministry raised \$100 ... Lenten studies completed in homes. Studies on Peter commence May (nine groups).

**GOOLWA (Roger Risson)** Dedication service held for teachers at Glendale Christian School of Victor Harbor. Guest singer John Davidson with our "Exalt" band ... Women's Fellowship held Precious Bibles display, serving desserts & coffee as fund-raisers for Living Link ... Boating picnic to Clayton held on a Sunday afternoon ... Young people attended camp-out at Wirrina ... Campers from Blackwood church joining us for Easter services.

**ELIZABETH (R.L. Oke)** Brian Hill, previous minister Henley Beach, SA, commissioned as ITIM chaplain 21 March. Marj Dredge, Conference President, took part. Rev Alan Linton, ITIM chaplain, gave message ... After break of some years Harvest Thanksgiving celebrated. Goods to be distributed through "Norman Needy" program ... Commissioning service held for Craig Francis as he returns to Vanuatu for three year term following three month volunteer role.

### Qld

**ANNERLEY (Richard Pearce)** Mark & Miriam Pearce working Heron Island, Karen Morris student at university, Armidale. They are missed from church ... John & Hazel Basset, Coral & Dick Proud & Jan Childs received into membership ... CWF have devised an innovative program for 1993 including evening social outings, visitation of lonely/sick, less frequent formal meetings & organisation of Old Time Music Hall for those who rarely get out.

**HARLAXTON, TOOWOOMBA (Daryl Thorpe, Frank Langford)** Frank Langford joined ministry team ... Number attended 42nd family camp, Caloundra ... Church contributed towards purchase of outdoor motor for use at Banmatmat, Vanuatu ... Shared with Frank & Ros Beale during recent visit from PNG ... Weekly playgroup commenced ... "Dinners at Six" pro-

gram commenced ... Two Men's Society dinners well attended ... Worship seminar conducted by Allan Hermann ... Recycling drive continues to earn funds for building fund.

**PINE RIVERS (Neale Proellocks, Ian Todd)** During March special musical presentation "Jesus Light of the World" by members of Redcliffe Uniting Church ... Dedication of teachers & staff of Child Care Centre ... Ladies' mystery bus tour (53 attended) ... Nine home groups now operating with over 80 sharing ... Approximately 10 musicians participating in morning serv-

ice. Instruments include guitars, trumpet, flutes, omnichord, base, clarinet, piano & organ.

### Tas

**NUBEENA (C.G. Henderson)** World Day of Prayer held, 21 attending. Offering \$87 ... Guest speakers Bill Howard (Bible Society), Graeme Buntrock (Overseas Missionary Fellowship), Rev Anand Chaudhari (India) & Avalon Hamill (Strahan) ... 11 attended Tas Convention, Huonville. Gordon Moyes guest speaker ... Plans underway for 1994 Convention at Nubeena

with David Ratten guest speaker ... Darcy Williams attended Man Alive Retreat at Conningham.

**LAUNCESTON (Craig Spaulding, Darryl Tobler)** Seven of our young people recently graduated from Launceston University ... Frank Beale spoke at all Sunday services on 28 March for the conclusion of Missions Week ... 45 enjoyed CWF fellowship lunch at Cripps' home at Deviot ... Op Shop held a successful market day on 8 April ... Many visitors came to combined service on Easter Sunday with Bill Howard as speaker ... One confession at evening service.

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## News

### Nowra Growth

#### A number of significant events

In recent months much has been happening in the Nowra, NSW, church. Late last year we had three baptisms in a local motel's heated swimming pool with Darlene Cass being one of those being baptised. Then, with the help of Andrew Rushbrook, husband and wife, Sally and Mark Campbell were baptised simultaneously. This was a great time of fellowship and witness.

A Coffee and Dessert Night with entertainment from our own people was a highlight in November, with 180 present. Christmas was extra special with 160 present at the Christmas day service. A New Year's Eve party, followed by a service and prayer time, welcomed in the New Year.

On 14 February four more baptisms were held in the Shoalhaven River near the church. This was a great witness as people fishing and passing by were able to see what was happening. This was another special time as a father and daughter, Ken O'Neill and Rowena O'Neill, were baptised together along with George White and Lynette Haworth. A good crowd of friends from three other churches as well as our own people came.

On 20-21 March 15 young people from the Epping church 11up group came to Nowra. They enjoyed the time in this beautiful country, spending some of it on the beach as well as sightseeing and sharing with our own young adults group. They also shared in all of the services on the Sunday. The puppets as well as the sharing by a number of the group in songs, testimonies and sermons, were very much appreciated.

—Clinton Wardle



• Clinton Wardle performing baptisms in the Shoalhaven River

## The Last Word

What is most necessary for understanding divine things is prayer.

—Origen

The minister had finished the sermon and asked if anyone would like prayer. A member stood up and asked that the minister pray for his floating kidney.

"I couldn't do that," said the minister.

"Well," said the member, "last week you prayed for loose livers."

★★★★★

Why should you always take a watch with you when you cross the desert? Because there's a spring in it.

★★★★★

What is a volcano?

A mountain with heartburn.

★★★★★

What do you call a camel without a hump? Humphrey.

★★★★★

What do they call a cannibal who eats their mother's sister? An aunt-eater.

★★★★★

The organist wanted to make an impression on the visiting minister with their musical accomplishment. Just before the service the organist wrote a note for the person who had been a little slack in pumping enough air for the organ. Making a natural mistake, the pumper passed the note to the visiting minister, who opened it and read, "Keep blowing away until I give the signal to stop."

★★★★★

Thirteen ministers were on a flight to Sydney. When they came into a large storm, they told the flight attendant to tell the pilot that everyone would be okay because thirteen ministers were on board.

Later the flight attendant returned from the cockpit. "What did the pilot say?" one minister asked. "He said he was glad to have thirteen ministers aboard but he would rather have four good engines."

★★★★★



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