

National Journal of
Churches of Christ
in Australia

Vol. 96 • No. 8

22 May 1993

Registered by Australia Post
Publication No. VAR 0761

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Making a Splash and Having a Ball



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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Vol. 96

No. 8

22 May 1993

Managing Editor: Chris Ambrose
Assistant: Nigel Pegram

Issue	Deadline
5 June	28 May
19 June	11 June
3 July	25 June

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(Including subscription payments)
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North Essendon 3041
Telephone (03) 379 1219
Fax (03) 379 0015



Member
publication of the
Australasian
Religious Press
Association

National logo of
Churches of
Christ in
Australia



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

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

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

This publication is indexed in the
Australasian Religion Index

ISSN 0004-8852

Advertising Rates
Displayed: \$5 per column
centimetre

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

Guest Editorial

Denomination or Restoration Movement?

Norm Flett



One of the topics that still raises a good debate in some circles of Churches of Christ is whether we are a denomination or a movement of Christians seeking to restore in form and practice the one true church of the New Testament.

I suggest that our future existence demands we evaluate where we are at, and how we are going to change to meet the growing pressures thrust on us as we enter the twenty-first century.

Many of us have lost any hope of bringing the church as a whole to unity based on the Scriptures and, more specifically, on the essentials of the Gospel of Christ. We certainly have contributed to some denominations moving to a more simple and sound Biblical base for their beliefs and practices; however, we have problems! We are somewhat divided and fragmented and in need of being restored to our former strength and purpose. The struggles that have gone on for sometime within our churches, and the constant attacks from "outside", have contributed to our becoming just another of the growing number of denominations. We have travelled the inevitable road from breakaway cult, to radical movement, to habituated denomination.

Must we accept the inevitable and do what others are doing to survive the rough treatment being dished up to us by a secular society and churches opposed to our beliefs? Must we become less confrontational in proclamation and more accepting of other churches, accepting the lowest common denominator of belief, making a superficial show of togetherness and support.

I personally have too much of the heritage of our Movement in me to accept all of this lying down. I admit that we now seem to be a denomination. But, I have a simple belief that every group of believers—whatever their name—must maintain a strong commitment to restoration if they are going to stay within the company of believers

who make up the Bride of Christ.

A number of churches in Revelation were strongly reprimanded for lack of commitment. The church at Ephesus was told if restoration to their first love did not take place, they would be removed from their position in Christ's church.

I have no doubt many churches today are being

placed "outside the fold" by the Lord of the church for their lack of love and commitment to the truth. Churches of Christ are not exempt from that danger.

As we move rapidly towards the twenty-first century, I suggest we must face the facts that the Restoration Movement of the nineteenth century must now, itself, be restored.

These are some of the restoration points I see necessary:

1. Restoration to Holy Living

At the recent Strategic Planning Summit of Churches of Christ in Queensland, it was agreed that the greatest need in our churches was spirituality, above outreach and leadership!

We are a church that bears the name of Jesus Christ, yet are not seeking to be like him. We don't "seek first the kingdom of God". We have stopped expecting miracles to happen. We have stopped listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Enoch "walked with God". Moses spoke "face to face" with God. David was a "friend of God". Paul heard and obeyed the voice of the Holy Spirit.

If we don't have this personal and expectant relationship with the Godhead, we slowly, and subtly, slip back into law-keeping. We become heavy on ceremony and theory, and light on practice. We need to hear God saying, "Be holy as I am holy" (1 Peter 1:14-16).

2. Restoration of Godly Leadership

Leaders in all levels of the church need to be filled daily with the Holy Spirit,

producing his fruit of love, joy, peace... From that base they will give clear teaching and direction to the members.

The apostle Peter says elders are to be "examples to the flock" (1 Peter 5:3). Leaders and members can fall into what I call a "club mentality". Their function and action is little different from the clubs of the secular world (e.g. Lions or Rotary); they just use different words.

In the service of Christ and his Church we are to be radically different from the world! We need leaders who stand out because of whom they glorify, how they live, and then, by what they say.

3. Restoration of Discipleship to Evangelism

We have been guilty of getting converts to confess Jesus as Saviour and Lord (once), baptising them, and then just hoping they catch on and make it to maturity.

At the church where I'm ministering we are making a concentrated effort to disciple new Christians, and any of the membership who feel they need it. It amazes me the number of long-standing members who are asking for discipleship training because they have "never been disciplined".

Remember, these are only some of the areas that need the principles of restoration applied. Let's get into restoration!

So, are we a denomination, or a movement of Christians restoring New Testament Christianity? Probably we are both, with leanings more heavily toward denominationalism. I believe it is time we reversed that. Let us move heavily into Restoration. This will begin to excite our people as they "are being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory which comes from the Lord" (2 Cor. 3:18).

Norm Flett is senior minister of the East Ipswich, Qld, church. He grew up on a farm, 20 km from Chinchilla on the Western Darling Downs. He has served in many positions in the Hopeland/Chinchilla

Canoe Polo

Club and Interstate Championships

Adelaide was the venue for the Australian Canoe Polo Championships which were held over Easter.

Teams from around the country came to represent their clubs. The Churches of Christ Explorers team-Bill Porter, Warwick Porter, Andrew Waters, Steven Gilbert, John Wallis, Tony Westwood and Rohan Waters played well, with some close matches, to come fifth out of 18 teams. An excellent event with great competitive spirit, it was enjoyed by all.

Three of the team members, Rohan and Andrew Waters and Bill Porter stayed on to represent Victoria in the interstate championships.

Victoria came third behind South Australia and New South Wales.

A number of the Explorers and several of the state representatives stayed at the Grote St church for the duration of the event.

The welcoming nature of the people of the church, and the

special treatment that the team members received was a real privilege, and a great witness from the church.

Overall, a great competition—enhanced by some special Christian care!



• At the canoe polo championships

20 Basketballers Needed

Playing and sharing the faith

Each year a team of Australian basketballers, under the sponsorship of Australian Venture for Victory Basketball, undertake a tour of the Philippines and Hong Kong. In past years just one team has toured. This year the board has decided to send separate teams to Hong Kong and the Philippines rather than combining it as one tour.

church. He married Barbara in 1963 and they have three children, Steven, Bradley and Chandra. A son-in-law, two daughters-in-law and two grandchildren have been added. He entered Kenmore Christian College in 1974 and, after graduating in 1977, went to serve in the Mackay church for a fruitful ministry of 12 years. In 1989 he began his present ministry. He is President-elect for the Conference in Queensland.

This will mean that some who are not free to spend over a month away from Australia will now be able to join one of the teams. It will also cut down on the costs involved for those who join a team.

The tour to Hong Kong will take place 17 September–2 October 1993. Whilst in Hong Kong the team will play basketball in high schools, prisons and remand homes. The cost of this tour will be approximately \$1750.

The Philippines tour will take place 2–22 January 1994. Basketball is the most popular sport in the Philippines and crowds are always enthusiastic at any matches the tourists play. During the half-time break members of the touring team share their faith and offer a Bible correspondence course which many hundreds request each year.

The cost of this tour is approximately \$2250.

Ten basketballers are required for each team and applications to join a team are now open. Application forms are available from Australian Venture for Victory Basketball Board Inc, GPO Box 1717, Adelaide 5001. (Closing date is 10 June). They are particularly looking for basketballers who could coach or who are musicians, journalists, photographers or accountants.



Quakers Hill launched

Encouraging start to a new venture

Quakers Hill, NSW, Community Church had its official opening and launch on 2 May and was well attended by over 80, a number being first time visitors to a church of any kind.

Quakers Hill Community Church is a church planting initiative of the Castle Hill church, in conjunction with the NSW Department of Church Development and Education.

The church began meeting as a core-group of 16 last year on a regular basis for week night Bible studies and in October Adrian and Heather Jackson were appointed and employed on a full-time basis to lead the initiative.

On 17 January the church had its first service at the Jackson's house. Subsequent services were held in lounge rooms for another five weeks until the

numbers, which steadily increased, made it impossible to continue meeting in a house. 28 February saw the church move into a double classroom at Quakers Hill High School (itself recently opened) thanks to the generosity of its principal, Ian Wing.

Due to the growth experienced in the first two months, and the growth anticipated, the eldership at Castle Hill decided Quakers Hill needed a second, part-time, pastor. On 4 April Geoff and Lorraine Hall accepted this position. That day the church moved to the school's main performance room with seating for 350. The opening was a high point after months of prayer, planning and training. The response to the service, both by Christians and non-Christians, was very en-

Making Australia the Clever Country

Encouraging people to read the Bible

Two Australian Christian agencies are doing their part in making Australia the clever country. National Bible Sunday will be held in churches around Australia on 26 July. The theme for this year is "Grant us wisdom".

National Bible Sunday is a joint venture between the Bible Society, Scripture Union and churches across Australia. It is a day for a special celebration of God's Word and is designed to highlight the importance of the Bible in the life of the church. People are encour-

couraging and we believe we will see many more answers to prayer in the future.

—Adrian Jackson

aged to give Bible reading a higher profile in their lives.

Why have Bible Sunday? This particular day offers a chance to celebrate the Word of God in the life of individual Christians, the church and the nation.

The aim of National Bible Sunday is to encourage more Australians to read the Bible. Individual churches are being invited to organise activities designed to promote Bible awareness and knowledge.

Posters, worship leaflets and reading guides are available from state offices of either the Bible Society or Scripture Union. Leaflets suggesting activities, sermon outlines and children's and youth programs are also available.

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The church facility at New Farm, will be limited to a total of 700 delegates. Avoid disappointment and register now.

The workshops include detailed instruction on making transition, drama, evangelism in local church, networking and technical production.

**Conference
Information**

Mrs Jan Green
Willow Creek Association Administrator
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The Conference will feature

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Willow Creek Community Church*

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International Year of Indigenous Peoples

Happenings at Albury (and beyond)



• Laurel and Cec Grant

The Albury Koori Church, served by FAB Pastor Cec Grant, has really been caught up in the Year of Indigenous Peoples when this theme was taken up in their local community.

Along with other local Kooris they entered a float in the Australia Day celebrations. The theme of the float was "Your History, Our Heritage". The church ladies had a cultural street stall and their traditional dance group, under Reg Lawrence, were part of the evening entertainment at the Albury Civic Centre.

The church was also involved in the crusade organised by the Canberra Aborigine Church in April. Cec Grant, Rev Ian Minto and Pastor Dennis Atkinson, Dean of Bimbadeen Bible College, were the speakers.

Members were able to take part in the combined churches Reclaiming Easter march to Parliament House during that visit.

Cec Grant has accepted the post of Churches of Christ representative on The Aboriginal and Islander Commission of the Australian Council of Churches. Cec was in Sydney 10-16 May for a commission meeting.

The church is now preparing

for the National Aboriginal Observance Week in Albury 5-10 July. They are going that extra step and hope to present a fashion parade of designs made by their own members. Their craft program operates four days a week in their church complex under coordinator Edna Stewart, senior deaconess, and in conjunction with Albury TAFE.

They will also present their dancers, run stalls, have youth programs and special church services. —Betty Bantow

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The following statement on the International Year has been issued by the Albury Koori Church

1993—The International Year of Indigenous People

In this year of indigenous people we must strive to make Australia a more just and equal country for all our citizens.

Australia owes it to herself to really rectify the injustices and inequalities still suffered by the majority of her indigenous people, if reconciliation is to become a reality.

Though there has been some progress since 1967, there still remains a long way to go if Aboriginal people are to attain real equality, true independence and economic viability.

In spite of numerous programs and huge expenditure, Aboriginals remain on the fringe of Australian society with too many, as yet, far below an acceptable living standard—in a state of almost total

dependence; wide open to continuing exploitation.

Aboriginals still suffer discrimination in the law enforcement area, and in the private sector, especially in relation to employment and accommodation. We have the highest unemployment rate per capita, the lowest health standard, the highest death rate and more incarcerations than any other Australians.

In this Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples may we all cooperate to correct these anomalies and ensure a better quality of life for all Australians.

"Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an overflowing stream." (Amos 5:24 NASB)

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The Messenger Closes

Postage rate increases main reason

Concern by Australian religious and charity publishers about the impact of increased postal rates have been heightened by the closure of *The Messenger* this month.

The Messenger, a national Catholic devotional publication, has closed after 106 years, with postal rates cited as a significant contributing cause.

The monthly magazine, one of three published by Jesuit Publications in Melbourne, had a circulation of 6500. Subscribers have had the balance of their subscription transferred to another Jesuit devotional magazine, *Madonna*.

Father Michael Kelly said that with the demise of the Registered Publication service, *The Messenger* faced postal increases of 40-80%.

Jesuit Publications' flagship journal, *Eureka Street* (winner of the Australasian Religious Press Association's Gutenberg Award this year), faces postage increases of 50-150%. Postage will jump from 10% to 20% of the magazine's operating

costs. Jesuit Publications is a member of the Australasian Religious Press Association, which has 76 member publications, including *The Australian Christian*, many of which will be similarly affected by postal rates.

The Registered Publications service, which offers concessions for periodicals, is being dismantled in 1993-94.

The Australian Christian is looking at postal increases of 23.5% next year if we can arrange special deals through a mailing house. If special arrangements cannot be made, we are looking at an increase of over 125% on postage costs and we will have to pay to have *The Australian Christian* wrapped in plastic to meet new regulations. If we are able to obtain the best possible option, it will cost us more than \$7,500 extra in postage a year, or in the worst case, our expenses would rise by more than \$40,000 which would make it very difficult for us to continue publishing *The Australian Christian*.

In Everything Give Thanks

Vic-Tas CWF Conference

Praise and thanks were given throughout the 107th annual Vic-Tas CWF Conference held at the Glen Waverley church on 30 April. President, Glenys Reaby, based her theme on 1 Thess. 5:18.

Gladys McKenzie presented the morning worship segment with the singing being led by Sandra Gibson.

Presentation of cheques was made to representatives of conference departments: FAB \$2,000; CCTC \$2,500; OMB \$9,000; Community Care \$4,000 and DMED \$3,494. The Conference Commitment Offering was received by Jean Hillier on behalf of FAB. The \$4,260 will be used for new toilets at the Albury Aboriginal church.

Jan Croucher was the featured speaker in the afternoon. She brought a delightful sense of humour to her task as she reminded those born before 1945 of the changes that had occurred in society since then.

Part-time field worker, Lynette Leach, spoke of CWF looking ahead and effectively meeting the needs of women both within and outside of the church. Dorothy Holstein, on furlough from India, told of the conflict and crises being experienced by the peoples of India today, and of the opportunity that Christians there have for a ministry of reconciliation.

Afternoon worship was led by Janet Thompson, author and narrator, and a group of

Why? Why? Why?

Or maybe you just haven't noticed!

Church leaders—you've got to be there!

It's a series of conferences linked with the National Churches of Christ Ministers' Refresher.

They are designed to encourage us in our mission together.

Have you ever been frustrated about the commission given to us in Matthew 28? Christ says "Go and make disciples...", but we all know it's easier said than done.

So the theme of the conferences is "Creating Disciples of Christ in the Local Church". For those who think it's just a bit "long winded", call it the "Disciples of Christ Conference".

You're probably thinking, "Why should I take time out to go?"

The answer—because you need to. The body of Christ has got an incredible task ahead of it in Australia. If we are going to impact the nation we need to "get moving" with disciple making. Everyone in our churches needs to get involved in following Christ into mission together with their leaders. The conferences are de-

signed to give practical insight into how we get on with the job.

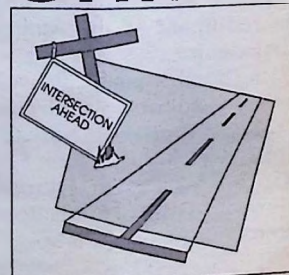
The Churches of Christ Ministers' Association (Vic-Tas) is bringing Bill Hull to speak to us based on his experience as a pastor in the Evangelical Free Church of America. He is a prominent encourager to churches on discipleship.

While he stirs us to think about the issue, we will make the "Australian connection" throughout the conferences. Church leadership teams will be given opportunity to wrestle with the ideas and apply them to the particular circumstances of each church.

The aim? To return to our churches inspired about how we can gather "disciple making" momentum in our run up to the year 2000.

—Phillip Bradley

Creating DISCIPLES of CHRIST



In the local church

MELBOURNE 1993

27th - 28th Aug or
3rd - 4th Sept

Ministers
31st Aug - 3rd Sept

five who presented a liturgical movement.

Maureen Daniels was inducted as President and introduced her theme "Commitment to Change" (Proverbs 16:3 NIV).

—Marion Rowe

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History in the Making

Regional outreach

1 January, 1993 marked an historic event with the formation of the Bayside Community Church of Christ, an amalgamation of three Churches of Christ: Cheltenham, East Bentleigh and Hampton Street.

The union of three existing churches of very different size and composition has occurred in a rapid and remarkable fashion.

During 1992, all three were looking critically, but independently, at their futures. Hampton Street, a small congregation, had resolved to sell their property in order to maintain a quality, full-time ministry presence in their beach-side area. East Bentleigh had declined, since its heyday in the post-war boom era, to a small group of very loyal members,

all of whom were retired. Cheltenham, the largest of the three, had found that its facilities no longer met the changing needs of its ministry to a wide age range nor its desire to diversify its outreach to the surrounding community. In September 1992, the three churches began discussions with a view to seeking a mechanism for some form of cooperation; from this arose the proposal for a regional church. In a rapid series of events, the proposal became recommendations from each board to their members which were passed, in December, by all three churches with overwhelming support in each case.

The new church with a total membership of 400 has adopted the theme "Empower us for Your Future" for 1993. The ministry team is comprised of Gerald Rose, Peter Pitts, Paul Hammat, Marilyn Hinton (all full-time), Steve Rose and CCTC student Mavis Uldrich

(both part-time). Five services are currently held each Sunday over three locations and the church, by bringing together the programs of the three churches, offers a wide range of activities and services to cater for all age groups in the community.

The Bayside Community Church of Christ intends to bring all its members together on a single site and rationalise its assets in order to provide the facilities and resources to enable a strong and vital outreach in this strategic area of Melbourne's South-Eastern suburbs.

At the end of May, the new Bayside church will come together for a Church Effectiveness Conference led by George Mathieson, a trained consultant in Kennon Callahan's Church Effectiveness program. A mission statement and strategy will be developed for the future ministry of the church.

Youth Event

Inspiring and challenging

This year the Victorian Conference Youth Event was a fantastic time. Approximately 400 young people attended this spectacular event. Church items, with the underlying theme "The Mystery of the Missing Moral", were presented as a last episode of *Get Smart* with all our favourite characters—Max (alias Scott White), the Chief (Andrew Ball), 99 (Kendra Boyd), Starker (Rod Steele) and Siegfried (Craig Brown) and a great supporting cast.

Even though the night was a lot of fun, there was a more serious side to the evening. We were wonderfully led in worship by Simon Williams and his group from Mt Evelyn. The brass section would have put "The Tower of Power" to shame. The worship time showed great sensitivity culminating in a time of praise. Even one field director was seen dancing in the aisle as we finished singing *I Walk by Faith*.

Mal Fletcher, a speaker of international repute, challenged us in our Christian faith. A number made a public response to Mal's message (He later remarked about the receptiveness of the young people). There was a real sense that God had spoken to us through him. —Paul M. Creasey



• Paul M. Creasey



• Senior Minister Gerald Rose reaches out to the church theme for 1993 with regional staff, Paul Hammat (youth ministry), Marilyn Hinton (pastoral care), Peter Pitts (Hampton Street) and Mavis Uldrich (pastoral care and spirituality). Absent Steve Rose (East Bentleigh).

Visiting Canberra?

Stay with a Church Family

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

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

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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Clergy Sexual Misconduct

To the Editor,

I read with concern and interest the item in "Happenings" in the 24 April issue of *The Australian Christian* regarding sexual misconduct of the clergy. Such conduct, proven or otherwise, cannot help but to adversely affect the public image of the clergy, and the church in general. The effects become even more damaging once such allegations attract media attention. What policy or procedures are presently in place to deal with such complaints and how should one go about making a complaint within Churches of Christ in order to deal with, and to lessen, the adverse effects on the church community as a whole?

—Neil R. Dickinson
(Normanton, Qld)

(Several state conference executives have been aware of the issue of sexual misconduct in the church and the need for an adequate policy to cover such allegations. They have been developing suitable policies and procedures and these have been shared at National Council. Every state will now be developing the appropriate policies and procedures and, in many cases, these are almost at the adoption stages. When the policies and guidelines have been completed, church secretaries will be advised of the procedures. Readers wishing to follow through this issue currently should contact the Conference Secretary in their state. The policies being developed are to cover sexual misconduct by anyone in the church not just those in ministry—Ed.)

Hymn Books

To the Editor,

It was good to read the letter by Bruce McIntosh ("AC" 6 March) about William Robinson's hymn that has failed to appear in Churches of Christ Hymnals in Australia but is in the *Australian Hymn Book* (1976, No.447).

Hymn books, after the Bible, are often the most ecumenical of documents as they provide us with the experiences that others have of God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the church in all its aspects. We must say a great thank you for the privilege of sharing in those experiences today.

Many tunes are not for men, as they focus on higher voices, but men also need to participate in such songs of joy! If we cannot sing, at least we can enjoy the meaning of the words that come to us.

Tunes, in terms of timing, can leave one breathless or be a dirge.

Recently, while singing a well known hymn, the minister who was a friend of mine, said that the "new" tune which was used was so similar to the old, that it had not helped, and that part of the service was somewhat spoiled.

—Bruce Burn
(Morwell, Vic)

Encouragement to Think

To the Editor,

I rejoice greatly; for amid the plethora of one-upmanship of the special church reports, we have appearing in your journal articles which actually make us think. Ron Graham, Ken Stothard, and now, glory be, Gordon Stirling.

Gordon's opening reference to Professor Fred Hollows immediately had me trying to imagine the good Doctor's response to the divine judge's words, "as you did to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." I am looking forward to Gordon's next word on the subject of the good pagan.

Ken Stothard's reference to Alexander Campbell's approach to the reading of Scripture set me thinking of the great heritage we have. Alexander Campbell taught Scripture for one hour each morning at Bethany College. I bet he didn't handle it in little short passages like we do in these days. We read the Bible like we would read no other book—just a bit from here and then another bit

from there. Yesterday's reading from Psalm 19 was a classic example. We read verses 7-14 and completely ignored the glorious preceding six verses.

If only we could encourage our people to read Scripture as a book, preferably with commentaries (which are available in paperback for individual books of the Bible) we really could become "a people of the Book". I have done this for years and it is not just paying it lip service when I can say that I am constantly finding the Bible to be the most absorbing and exciting book in all literature, and truly the word of the Lord.

Please keep on encouraging us to think. —Ken Dawson
(Brooklyn Park, SA)

Naming Violence against Women

To the Editor,

The booklet *Naming Violence against Women in our Church Communities*—the subject of Mr Colin Johnson's letter of 24

April—is bound to create controversy.

Nevertheless, the mission of the church should demand that we confront this issue, along with all others of exploitation, injustice and brokenness. All the more so when we are made aware that the problem exists within the church itself. In the early church very direct action was taken when sinfulness was identified. This is essential, as the church should stand in marked contrast to the world—as light is to darkness—so that people will be attracted to faith in Jesus Christ.

As a man, I share Mr Johnson's feeling of extreme discomfort when reading the booklet. It is disturbing reading, but I believe it clearly and simply presents the danger of violence against women in the church. Importantly, it goes on to encourage us to deal with the issue locally, and provides further avenues of help for those with a specific need, or

Letters from Tertius Forbidden Fruit

To the Editor,

I have set out many times to read the Bible right through but each time got lost somewhere in the Old Testament. However, the result of these various exercises is that I have a fairly good knowledge of the first few chapters of Genesis.

I have often wondered what made Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, when apparently their world was an orchard of delicious fruit there for the picking.

Obviously it wasn't their curiosity about good and evil for both of these things obviously didn't exist and you can't be curious about the nonexistent.

I've come to the conclusion that they ate the fruit simply because it was forbidden and, like some Christians I know, blamed the devil for their lapse.

When I was a kid there was always lots of fruit in our house and my mother encouraged us to help ourselves. But none of it tasted as good as the bitter half ripe fruit that we pinched from Charlie Jones' orchard down the road.

I've been wondering if I've lost my taste for forbidden fruit as I've grown older. I find that I haven't. A bit of juicy gossip is still a bit more attractive than the truth. A bit of self pity can be chewed on for hours. And a basket of assorted prejudices and resentments is always tempting, even when I know that they can shut me out of "paradise".

It's a funny thing, we've got all of Eden, but our taste buds seem to lock on to things that destroy us and Eden as well.

Your descendant of Adam.

—Tertius

Letters to the Editor

those knowing of others with a need.

Some may disagree with aspects of the booklet—I too have some reservations—but the need to raise the profile of this issue in the church is important. As long as we assume that the church is immune from such violence, we are put off-guard. This makes women more vulnerable and the whole church less capable of dealing with such violence, or better still, preventing it. *Naming Violence against Women...* is a sincere attempt to bring a hidden issue out in the open, and will enhance our ability to combat the problem in the Christian community and help those deeply affected by it, both victims and perpetrators.

—Keith Drummond
(Montrose, Vic)

Christ's Possession by God

To the Editor,

Geoff Keeler ("AC" 8 May) suspects a misprint occurred in the quotation from 1 Cor. 3:21 in my article ("AC" 3 April) and suggests that the quotation should have read "Christ, on the other hand is God's". While the KJV has these words, several modern translations omit the "s". Other versions read: "and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God" (NIV); "yet you belong to Christ, and Christ to God" (NEB); "and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God." (Good News); "For you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God" (Phillips). Supporting this thought are Paul's words: "Nevertheless, when everything created has been made obedient to God, then shall the Son acknowledge himself subject to God the Father, who gave the Son power over all things. Thus, in the end, shall God be wholly and absolutely God". (1 Cor. 15:28 Phillips)

In each quote we are possessed by Christ, and Christ is possessed by God. The omission of the "s" does not nullify this truth. From the lips of Jesus (John 14:19–20) we see that not only is Christ possessed by the Father, but that there is

mutual possession of Christ and ourselves. Now, wonder of wonders, this indwelling Christ is the very same Jesus who died on the cross and rose again to a new life, and that life is being lived within our Christ-dedicated minds where he remains alive, leading, guiding, forgiving, strengthening, loving and caring. In the light of this brilliant and marvellous truth the mystery of the disappearing "s" declines to total insignificance.

—Doug Ferguson
(Frankston, Vic)

Naming Violence against Women

To the Editor,

Well might Colin Johnson feel "sick, very dirty and distressed". ("AC" 24 April). He has been, as all we men have been, subjected to a gross sexual harassment. This is the way that women usually proceed

against men, by accusing them of sexual harassment. Usually we are too shocked to respond in any way except with shame and a wondering how we could have possibly offended, whilst the effect of the accusation on bystanders of every sex, is one of innocent condemnation. Seldom does this sexual harassment not succeed.

When this matter came before Conference it was referred to a committee of some sort, who I hoped, on due reflection would see the motion for what it was worth, not only as an attack on the men of the church, but on the church itself. I was wrong.

The Department of Community Care has been taken in to lend their support to this very wicked matter. In all charity I suggest the Department has been too heavenly minded to have any earthly knowledge and have loaned themselves to

a vicious piece of sexual harassment of men.

Now their error has been pointed out is it too much to ask for the withdrawal of this vile piece of sexual harassment?

—John J. Alderson
(Havelock, Vic)

Ministers' Wives

To the Editor,

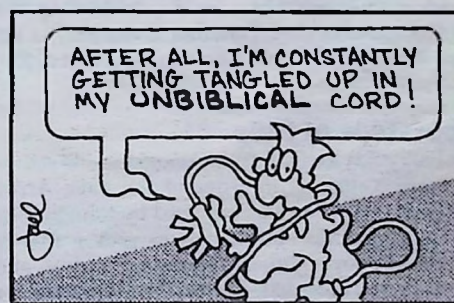
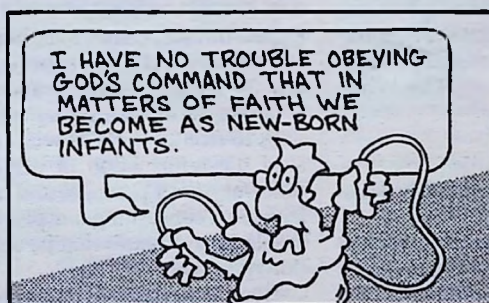
I write to encourage other ministers' wives to come along to the get-togethers being organised by Marjan Beer in Melbourne. We are having a great time getting to know each other as well as addressing issues relevant to ourselves.

At our last meeting Laurel Milne spoke on "Coping with criticism".

I know we are all busy in our churches, however it would be wonderful if we could all try and attend these meetings as they really are worthwhile.

(Continued Page 11)

Pontius' Puddle



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Books

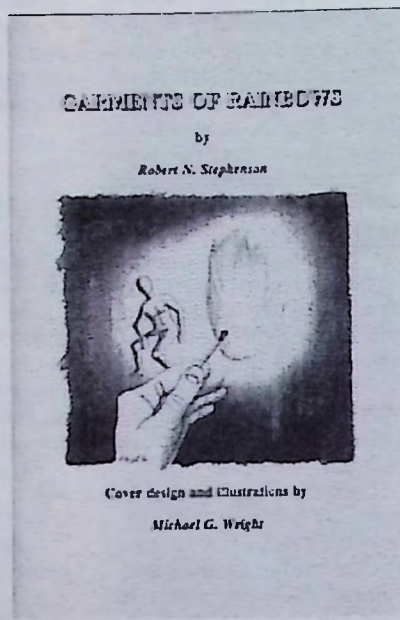
Garments of Rainbows

by Robert H. Stephenson, \$7.

Robert Stephenson has had a more dramatic life than most of us. An early alcoholic, he became a drug addict, thief and homeless drifter, seeing most of his friends die from overdoses, suicides and road accidents.

The poems in this book trace his "Dark Period" with titles like "Asleep in the Rain", "One Too Many" and "Crash". The second section, "White the Light in which I stand", puts in poetic form the transformation in his life following his miraculous conversion. He has a fresh, personal and engaging way of seeing the church and the faith through new eyes. At the close of each poem, there is an appropriate Bible reference. We would all benefit from reading this book which can be obtained from R.H. Stephenson, 11 Kookaburra Cres, Hawthorndene 5051 or at Crossbow Books and The Open Book in Adelaide. The cost of \$7 includes postage.

—B.M. White



giving. He recounts the life and teachings of Jesus and their significance for present day discipleship. The Pharisees attacked Jesus for mixing with the wrong kind of people. Many Christians still have problems relating to the wrong kind of people, to those whom God has sent them to love and serve. The way ahead is with Christ, in obedience to him.

This is yet another book calling us beyond "churchianity" to discipleship. Stimulating.

—GRS

A Call To Spiritual Reformation, Priorities from Paul and His Prayers

by D.A. Carson, (Inter-Varsity Press)

Revival! That seems to be the word on more and more people's lips today in Churches of Christ. Whether it be revival or renewal we're talking about, many churches today are looking for a spiritual change in their lives and ministries. But the frustration in so many situations is that our goal seems much higher than our capacity to reach it. Carson believes that our own prayer lives lie at the base of our frustration, and that Paul's prayers hold often neglected keys to righting this.

It's hard for me to get interested in Christian books anymore. So many in my reading have been dry, wordy, distant, and clichéd. When I read the title of Carson's latest book I thought I was in for more of the same, but I'd promised to do this review, so I was stuck. I was pleasantly surprised.

The title may seem rather wordy, but the book isn't. Carson is an honest and open writer who seems to write from the basis that we've all heard the clichés already. While he deals with a number of theological questions that lie behind prayer, such as the question of God's sovereignty and our freedom, each of these theological threads comes together not just to inform, but challenge our shallow and immature ideas concerning the God we pray to and the nature of those prayers.

One of the most important pluses of this book is that it's written back to front! He starts with ideas and practical suggestions to start the reformation of personal habits crucial to encourage renewal—both personal and corporate. Only after having challenged us concerning our practice does he go on to deal with the theology and issues that lie behind Paul's attitude and articulation of prayer.

There are few books that have done anything about addressing some of the hard questions about prayer, spiritual renewal and self examination. But this book, written with the pastor, leader and average Christian in ministry in mind, goes a long way towards this.

It's not a miraculous book. Nor is it a book to be read quickly. But it does speak to us about the nature of our prayer lives and the quality of faith we have in our Father.

—Gabriel Babare

Footsteps of Love

by Barry Taylor (Kingsway)\$9.95.

Barry Taylor is minister of the Lake Arrowhead Christian Church in California. Foreword by John Smith.

Taylor quotes sociologists as saying that human history is made by people gathered round great ideas, and that today there are no great ideas left. Taylor affirms that the way of Christ is the only great idea left and that it is the one great idea that might save the world of the 21st century. It all depends on the sort of people gathered round that idea.

He likens much of what passes for Christianity today as the sort of thing that Jesus found in the Pharisees. Like the Pharisees, most Christians are good, moral, faithful to the traditions and services of the church, and very religious, but not necessarily followers of Christ and true citizens of his Kingdom of love, justice and self-



Letters to the Editor

The next meeting is on 28 June at 7.45 pm at Richmond, Vic. Please mark it in your diary now.

—Maggie Bourdon
(Ascot Vale, Vic)

Paul and Scripture

To the Editor,

The church is in a dilemma over Paul's letters to the churches of his day. It helps if we realise those letters were written for people who were making the hard transition from Jewish law to the age of grace.

Paul was an astute judge of human nature, well educated and able to become "all things to all men, that he might by all means win them to Christ". See Paul circumcising Timothy (Acts 16:3) and see him acting out the Nazirite vow ritual to keep in with the Jewish converts (Acts 21:20-27). In this latter ritual no church of today would emulate Paul.

What horror the human race would have avoided if preachers had taught the people the full truth of Christ's taking away our sin, once and for all!

Why do churches today insist that women are on the last rung of God's hierarchy ladder? Why, for instance, quote Paul upholding the Jewish law for women in (1 Cor. 11:3, 14:34-35 and 1 Tim. 2:8-15) yet take no notice of him in his letter to Galatian Christians (3:27-28)? Women have been baptised into Christ too. It suits men to take Paul literally in some places and ignore him in others.

We can only deduce that they like the chief seats in the churches and the esteem that goes with titles of respect and authority—just as the Pharisees of old.

Shouldn't churches disregard the anomalies in Paul's teaching about women, just as they have over his words concerning slavery?

—Gladys Butler
(Bruce Rock, WA)

Number of Colleges?

To the Editor,

Some will want to put me on a heresy charge, but some ques-

tions need to be asked.

1. Do we need so many theological colleges in Australia?

2. Can not some kind of rationalisation take place that would allow for an exchange of ideas at a personal level, and recognise that resources are more limited now than they were?

One of the original needs for colleges was that students could "learn" and apply themselves to assisting smaller churches. But is that sufficient reason for a new college? We don't have colleges in South Australia or the West, but they have smaller churches that need helping.

Another aspect is the question of the aspirations of students. Does every man or woman going into College expect to have a church at some time, or is there a desire for more training that will enhance local churches?

Do we believe that all graduates will obtain a place in ministry of our churches, when ministers from other denominations, who may or may not have better qualifications, take these places? I know that a great deal of good can come from inter-church ministries, and we must encourage them both with a view to understanding what the other person is about as well as passing on something of our own history and concerns.

A person might not finish up being in full-time ministry, but be more able to express the will of God in a world that needs to hear.

—Bruce Burn
(Morwell, Vic)

CareSearch

To the Editor,

I was interested in the article on CareSearch ("AC" 8 May).

Knoxfield Church of Christ was the first church to subscribe to this new service provided by ITIM. We have already had our money's worth. For example, by just making a telephone call we received, quickly, two pieces of information.

The first call was to find a support group for a relatively rare illness. CareSearch gave

me that and also faxed medical details. The second was to help in the counselling of a young woman by our youth minister. We required a specialist in the field of an eating disorder and particularly one who worked from a Christian perspective (this was the request of the client). CareSearch again gave the answer, including how to arrange for bulk billing with the recommended specialist.

The annual fee seems to me to be well worthwhile for 24 hour access to the service. The fee also goes towards paying a salary to a small group of people with disabilities. I would recommend subscription to all local churches.

—Rod Brown
(Knoxfield, Vic)

Naming Violence against Women

To the Editor,

Well might Colin Johnson feel sick, very dirty and distressed after reading the stories in Naming Violence Against Women in Our Church Communities ("AC" 25.4.93). It takes courage to read the experiences of women, and Colin is to be congratulated for having persisted.

Through its provision of educational and supportive serv-

ices, the Department of Community care has become increasingly aware of the pain women suffer as a result of their experiences of violence. With the C.W.F., we believed it made sense to distribute the booklets, not 'indiscriminately' as Colin claims, but to groups of responsible women, namely C.W.F. groups. Ministers were sent copies last year.

The publishing and distribution of this booklet is consistent with the mind of Conference. Conference has endorsed motions to provide educational material and to develop policy concerning this area of church and family life.

The Department has conducted widely advertised annual seminars on this issue; last year's seminar was at West Preston; this year's will be at East Keilor during August. Others will be conducted subject to interest.

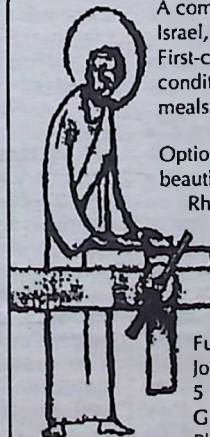
Clarification of the issues will result, not in a diminishing of worthwhile friendships, but an increase in them. When women feel safe they can, and then may, respond to genuine expressions of friendship.

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

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Happenings

A survey of 2,500 Victorian students by the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation found that one in six teenage girls and one in 12 teenage boys suffered from clinical levels of depression, which could make them more likely to make poor decisions and to drink or diet excessively. The symptoms of clinical depression include sleep difficulties, lethargy, lack of interest in life, low self-esteem and suicidal thoughts.

The 5,000 Christians in Bhutan are concerned because, although the country's constitution grants freedom of religion, local authorities appear to have been allowed to suppress Christianity. All public worship, evangelism and proselytising by non-Buddhist religions is illegal, but Christians have been allowed to meet privately. However, since December, Christians have been threatened with imprisonment, beatings and exile, and one church had to dismantle its meeting place. There has been some agitation for the National Assembly to ban Christianity because it was becoming "a problem".

Nearly nine in 10 American adults pray to God, a Barna Research Group survey has found. In fact, nearly 60% pray once or more per day. More than 80% say prayer is a regular part of their lives. Yet for all the praying they do, only 26% are completely satisfied with their prayer lives. Women are more likely to pray than men (95% to 83%) and also more likely to pray once or more per day (65% to 50%). Age has a surprisingly low effect on prayer life.

Franklin Graham, son of evangelist Billy Graham and president of Samaritan's Purse, recently held an evangelistic crusade in Managua, Nicaragua. An average of 7,350 attended the nightly meetings and several hundred prisoners attended a special meeting in the country's maximum security prison. Over 1,000 re-

sponded to the invitation to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

The number of Christians of all kinds will total almost 1.87 billion by mid-1993, according to mission researcher David Barrett. That is 33.5% of the world's population and a gain of 36.7 million over 1992. Muslims will top 1 billion, 18% of the world's people (up from 988 million in 1992). The number of unevangelised people (those who have never heard the gospel) dropped to about 1.19 billion (21.5%).

The Mission of St James and St John in Melbourne is holding a Forum "Protecting our Children: Where Do We Draw the Line?" on 18 June from 9 am-4 pm at the St James Court Conference Centre, 12 Batman St, West Melbourne. The Forum will focus on practical issues surrounding the implementation of Victoria's Children and Young Persons Act of 1989, and is aimed at professionals and others interested in developing greater clarity about the minimum standards for parenting. Cost is \$30, for details contact Anne Mathisen on (03) 329 6133.

Most of the 600 animals at the Tisch Family Zoological Gardens in Jerusalem, Israel's newest zoo, are mentioned in the Bible and once inhabited the area. Signs offer information about the animals and also provide relevant Biblical quotations.

In 1986 the remains of a large wooden boat, dating from the first century AD, were uncovered on the banks of the Sea of Galilee. The remains of the boat inspired a team of archaeologists and engineers to recreate a model of the "Jesus Boat". A tour firm arranged for two replicas to be built and today they offer boating tours of the Sea of Galilee, stopping at many places of interest that correspond to

passages in the New Testament.

The remains of a 4th-century church, the earliest known church in Israel, was among the finds made at a recent archaeological dig on the Golan Heights. The remains are part of what scholars describe as the "extremely well-preserved" ruins of what was once a thriving Roman city near the Banyas springs and waterfall. The dig was in the city of Caesarea Philippi, the city founded by Philip, a son of King Herod, and was the capital of his territory in northern Israel.

Bible Societies around the world distributed more than 600 million Scriptures throughout 1992. 16.8 million Bibles and 13.7 million New Testaments were distributed (a fall of 7.9% in Bibles and a rise of 1.7% in New Testaments). 4.6 million Bibles were either sold or given away in the Asia-Pacific region.

"For the first time in the history of Suriname all the churches will be participating in one project—the translation of the Suriname Bible," stated a report from the Suriname Bible Society. At a consultation, representatives of the Roman Catholic, Moravian, Baptist Union and Full Gospel Federation churches unanimously asked the Bible Society to translate the Bible into Suriname in the shortest possible time. It is hoped that the translation of the NT and Psalms will be completed within 6 years.

The Williamstown, SA, church is celebrating its centenary over the weekend 27-29 August. The church is anxious to contact former members and ministers who would be interested in attending a series of events over the weekend. Those who have items of memorabilia they are willing to exhibit are also asked to contact Robert Bain, the centenary coordinator, at PO Box 61, Williamstown 5351

(Phone (085) 24 6374) for information.

Rev. Philip Oliver has been appointed as General Secretary of the Bible Society in Australia. He served as secretary of the Church Missionary Society in Victoria 1974-78 and then returned to Sydney to become the Director of the Anglican Information Office. After this, he was appointed Archdeacon of Sydney, a position he held for 8 years. In 1988 he was appointed by the United Bible Societies as World Service Officer for the Asia-Pacific and Europe Middle-East Regions, based in England. He will be taking up the appointment in mid-June.

An ecumenical thanksgiving service is being held on 6 June in recognition of all who have made organ and tissue transplants possible. A special invitation is extended to members of the media, recipients, families and friends, and those families who have made life-giving decisions at times of great personal loss. The service will feature a performance by the Welsh Choir and symbolic lighting of candles. The service is being held at St Francis' Church, corner of Lonsdale and Elizabeth Streets, Melbourne at 3 pm. In Brisbane the service is being held at 11.30 am at St John's cathedral, Anne St. In Perth the service is being held at Wesley Church, Hay Street (time unknown). The service in Adelaide is being held at Francis Xavier cathedral at 6.30 pm on 11 June.

Edmund Fabian, Summer Institute of Linguistics linguist/translator from the US, was killed on 29 April by a blow to the back of the head by an axe. He was attacked in the study of his house in Ukarumpa, PNG, at about 3 pm. A suspect is in custody. Edmund and Grace Fabian have been producing literacy materials and translating the New Testament with the Nabak people in the Morobe Province

of PNG since 1969. He was checking the translation of 1 Corinthians 13 at the time of his death.

Commissioner Bramwell Tillsley has been elected General of the Salvation Army. On 8 July he will succeed Australian General Eva Burrows as the Army's 14th international leader. Commissioner Tillsley served as the territorial commander for the Australia Southern territory 1989-91.

Roger Brown, minister at Dulwich/Rose Park Uniting Parish, has been appointed 1993 State Chaplain for the Girls' Brigade in South Australia. This year is the centenary of the establishment of the Girls' Brigade and many special celebrations are being held.

In the US, young adults have been returning to the church in numbers unprecedented in the past 40 years. Of the approximately 50 million who left the church since the 1950s, about 43 million are back, say sociologists Wade Clark Roof and David Roozen of the University of California, Santa Barbara. About three out of five people returning to church are parents with young children.

Christian leaders say unpublished 1991 census figures indicate that Christianity is on the rise in Malaysia. Of the 17.5 million in the country, 8.1% are Christian (up from 6.5% in 1980). West Malaysia is the region with the lowest Christian population at 2.3%, while Sabah and Sarawak percentages are much higher: 26.6% and 36.6%, respectively. During the same period Hinduism dropped slightly, as did Confucianism and Taoism among the Chinese populace. Other folk and tribal religions also declined slightly. On the other hand, the census indicates a significant rise of Islam—from about 53% to about 60% of the population.

Church in the Park

Moving out with the gospel



• Band playing at "Church in the Park"

Not far from the Murray Bridge, SA, church is a park called Edwards Square; equipped with sound shell, electrical outlets and lights—it seemed a good place to hold a church service or services.

When the plan was unfolded to the eldership and the congregation many were enthusiastic.

The local government centre was very cooperative, allowing us to use the park at a minimal charge. We were also fortunate to hire PA equipment at minimal cost. The local paper was very generous in giving us good constant exposure with photos and articles. Our minister was interviewed by the local radio station and with leaflets, it was well publicised.

Featured in the program were a drama group from the Lutheran church, a clown troupe from the Uniting church, our own puppet theatre and a young people's band. Combined with these were artists, testimonies and a sermon which gave answers to life's problems as people embraced the gospel.

Musical instruments included an electronic organ, saxophone, drums, electric guitar, piano accordion and electric piano. At the beginning of the night this band would lead the community singing of a few songs.

Our first meeting attracted approximately 80, the second and subsequent meetings in excess of 100.

On the third Sunday rain in the afternoon led to queries about it being on. We prayed at 6 pm, particularly for the rain to stop. We set up our equipment in the rain. At 6.40 the rain stopped, over 100 attended and we later discovered that over the river it rained very heavily.

For our membership the entire experience of "Church in the Park" has been very positive. We got our church service outside the walls of the chapel. We were tested in our faith. We felt as if we were "doing something" to get the gospel out. One person committed his life to Christ. We don't know who

Family Camping

Easter at Halls Gap



• Worship at Banksia Family Holiday

Many Victorian families have participated in the program of family holidays which have been arranged by the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development.

At Easter, at Camp Acacia, Halls Gap, families enjoyed a relaxed time of informal and group activities. The activities added to the great success of the five family camps held during the January holidays, in-

cluding a camp for one parent families and singles.

Banksia is a popular campsite for families, particularly with the attraction of water sports. The natural environment provides a refreshing place for worship and study. Opportunities for discussion, friendship and sharing of faith experiences in a low-key structure, enable many families to enjoy their holidays together.

received the seed for eternal life to blossom later.

We extended the original four Sundays in January to include three Sundays in February. Next year we are planning to conduct "Church in the Park" for all of January and February. On Good Friday morning we

again held our service in the park. There were in excess of 100 present. As part of the "Reclaiming Easter" program a prayer vigil was held in the park. Nearly all the denominations were present. All reports indicated a very worthwhile venture. —Morrie Munyard

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The Daku Estate Resort is owned and operated by the Anglican Diocese of Polynesia with a dual purpose—to help generate much-needed funds for local villages, schools and churches, and to provide overseas visitors with an unique insight into the "real Fiji" by developing friendship and fellowship with the Fijian Christian community. This is not your normal tourist fare—this is vintage Fiji without a trace of tinsel—few people get to enjoy it as you now can. The resort is set on the shores of Savusavu Bay, one of Fiji's renowned beauty spots. Accommodation is in Fijian-style burees with private bathroom facilities, refrigerator, tea/coffee making facilities and private balconies with panoramic views across the Bay.

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

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Cliff Warmbrunn Retires

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• The late Doug Adam with Cliff and Helen Warmbrunn and Dean Phelan

Dr Cliff Warmbrunn was recently farewelled upon his resignation as a member of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development. A social function attended by members of the Department was held on 23 April. Cliff joined the previous Home Mission Department in 1965. He served as chairman from 1975-1977 and then a further term as chairman of the Department of Mission, Education and Development from 1979 until his resignation. Throughout this period of service he visited many of the churches in Victoria-Tasmania and was active in Department related activities. The strong interest and support of his wife, Helen, was acknowledged. Cliff was President of the Victorian-Tasmanian Con-

ference in 1986. Various members spoke in appreciation of his contribution. Dean Phelan, the deputy chairman, noted his gentle but firm leadership and the harmonious spirit with which the Department members worked as a team. A water colour of the Grampians by Colin Waddingham and a plaque to mark the years of service were made on behalf of the Department. Cliff continues in medical practice in Geelong and is associated with the Belmont church.

Opportunity was also taken to express appreciation to Ivan Humphreys, who also resigned after serving as a member from 1981. He is now employed full-

A Mother's Love

A priceless gift



• Jack and Marlene Masterman, with a grandchild, Benjamin Foley

John Masterman, a member of the Launceston, Tas, church, is married to Annette, and they have two children. For the past 16 years John has been a nephritis sufferer, kept alive for most of that time by dialysis machines at Launceston General Hospital. The hope has always been that a compatible kidney donation would be found. A fortnight ago, John received his kidney transplant from a living donor, his mother, Marlene. Mother of four adult children and a grandmother, she is healthy and active, a regular tennis player and convenor of the church catering committee. Marlene is admired for this courageous gift to her grandson. Many members of the church

met for prayer on the day prior to, and the day of, the surgery. John's body has accepted the transplant and Marlene is making a good recovery. It is an anxious time for the family. Jack is in Melbourne with his wife Marlene and Annette with her husband, John.

Doug Adam Dies

We have learnt of the sudden death, on 13 May, of Doug Adam. Doug had been at the gym when he died. We offer our sympathy and Christian love to Lola and family. Doug was a member of the Surrey Hills, Vic, church and very involved with the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development. He was currently Deputy Chairman.

time by the Vic-Tas Department of Community Care as Business Operations Manager.

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Historic Link Ends

Death of Mrs Grace Jones



• Grace Jones

The death of Mrs Grace Jones, of Teneriffe, Brisbane, on 14 April, marks the end of an historic association with the Churches of Christ Kanaka Mission.

Born on 9 July, 1902, Grace was the daughter of Robert and Susie Dow. Robert, the son of an Ambrym (New Hebrides) chief (Bong-Mussing), was kidnapped as a young lad and brought to Australia. Too young to work on the cane fields, he became a "house-boy" to Mrs Gibson, who taught him the Bible and introduced him to Christ. He was baptised by the Kanaka Mission at Bundaberg, prior to the commencement of John Thompson's work at Childers. When Thompson moved to the Childers area, Robert earned respect as a Bible teacher, working alongside the white missionary. Though he could neither read nor write, he preached the Gospel faithfully, always with a Bible in his hands.

Grace often recalled sitting on her father's knee during a thunderstorm, with her brother Alfie, singing, "Jesus loves me". Mrs Gibson had taught them the song.

Grace's maternal grandmother, Mary Ann Delungdale, was a Fraser Island Aborigine. Consequently, Grace maintained an active interest in the welfare of Fraser Island Aborigines until her death, actively supporting moves to preserve traditional tribal lands (Her son John continues to be actively involved in this work).

Grace had two younger brothers, Alfred and Daniel. Alfie left Pinalba to study at the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, from 1929-1932, travelling to Melbourne by steamer. On completion of his course, Alf was appointed as a missionary to the New Hebrides by the Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board, 1936-38, and had the great pleasure of visiting his father's home island, of Ambrym. Alf later joined the Australian Army and became one of the famous "Rats of Tobruk".

Grace represented the last "living link" with Missionary Thompson, whom she regarded with great respect and deep affection. As a young girl, Grace herself had dearly wanted to be a missionary to her father's islands of the New Hebrides, but Missionary Thompson had persuaded her otherwise, telling her rather bluntly, "You're too fat! They'll eat you!"

She married Selwyn Jones, and had two sons, Rex and John. When the boys were quite young, Selwyn died, and Grace took it upon herself to provide for them. At one stage she held three jobs: cook in a Chinese Restaurant (7 pm-1 am), night watch-woman, as well as taking in washing and ironing (for sailors) during the day! It is a tribute to her strength of character and physical fortitude that she managed to bring up her family, as well as accomplish these tasks.

Grace was baptised by Lars Larsen, and was associated with Queensland churches at Pinalba (Maryborough district), Ann Street (Brisbane) and Ipswich. Her funeral was conducted by the minister of the Ann Street church, Bill Flett.

Grace Jones was a woman of quiet, gracious dignity, yet possessed an indomitable will. Despite a life of physical hardship, she persevered, earning the respect of all who knew her. Despite failing health in later years, she maintained her

New NSW Conference Secretary

Introducing Maurice Hodgson



• Maurice Hodgson

Following the decision of the Special Conference last year the NSW Conference Executive decided to advertise for a Conference Secretary to commence from a date early in 1993. This was decided so as to assist with the procedures and processes leading towards the revised structure decided upon at that Special Conference. The position was advertised and, following a selection process, the Conference Executive decided

to appoint Maurice Hodgson to the position, commencing 13 April.

Maurice was trained at the Churches of Christ College (Woolwich) 1959-1962. He had two interim ministries in NSW (Wingham and Lismore) followed by ministries at Busselton and Midland (WA). In 1972 he went to Wollongong where he took up the position of Director of the Lifeline Centre in that city. In 1985 he continued his ministry with Lifeline being appointed as National Executive Officer. He has continued in that position until his appointment.

Maurice succeeds Ron Hewitt who, with assistance from Laurie Thomas, has maintained this position since the retirement of Kevin Crawford at the end of 1991. Conference Executive wishes to thank both Ron and Laurie for their splendid efforts during this time and commends to our Churches (both in New South Wales and beyond) the new appointee.

Thanks Dot

Dot Brooker retires

Eighty gathered at Camp Waterman, Monbulk, Vic, to participate in a dinner for Dot Brooker. After 40 years of dedicated service to girls through Good Companions, and 12 years as Chief Good Companion, Dot decided to relinquish her responsibilities. The dinner provided a wonderful opportunity, in a place that has personal significance for Dot, for a reunion of many leaders

who have been involved with her in club work, camp life, and State leadership. It was a blend of fun, entertainment, reminiscence, and thanksgiving. Presentation speeches were given by Elva Livett, Dr Cliff Warmbrunn, retiring Chairman of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development, and Julie Adam, who is Dot's successor as State Coordinator of Good Companions.



• Dot Brooker

dignity by caring for herself to the very end, never losing her simple, but immensely profound faith in her dearest friend, Jesus.

With her passing, an historic link with the beginnings of our work in Vanuatu ends.

Classifieds

BIRTHS

Humphris (nee Chinnery) Craig and Carolyn give thanks to God for the gift of another beautiful daughter, Katherine Amy, born May 2, 1993 at QAH Hobart. A little sister for Elizabeth.

IN MEMORIAM

PORTER Dora F.M. Again May 23rd has come around, making it three years since you left us for a place where there is no sorrow or pain, but only perfect peace. Bill and family.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

MUSICIANS If you can help us by playing piano or electronic organ, and at present do not have the chance or the confidence, then the Dandenong Church of Christ would welcome you. Encouragement and training is available. A mixture of hymns and choruses is used. Please contact John Briggs on (03) 795 4906.

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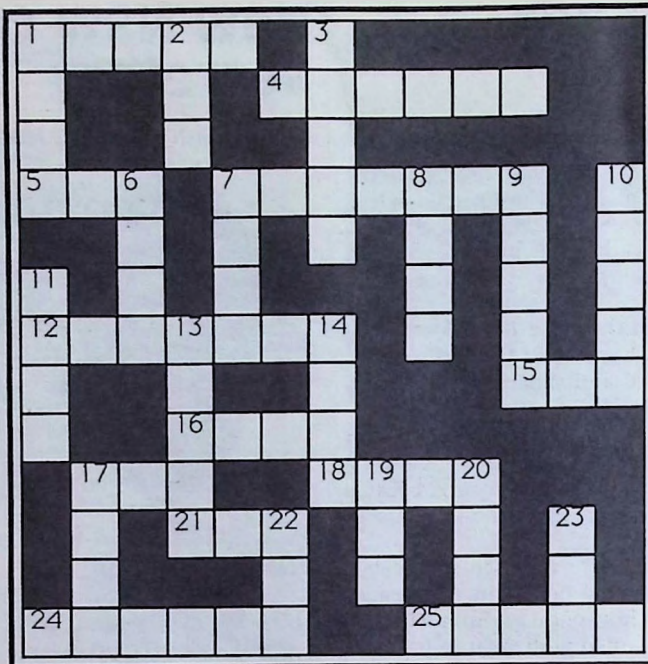
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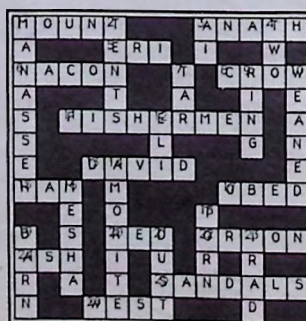
ACROSS

- 1 Peter's first name
- 4 Demonstrated by tearing one's clothes
- 5 Prince from Magog
- 7 Kind of life preferred by Esau
- 12 Paul was involved in a riot here
- 15 Jonathan's relationship to Saul
- 16 Musical instrument
- 17 Tiberias is one
- 18 "I stand at the ____ and knock"
- 21 Laodiceans were not
- 24 One of the twelve
- 25 Jesus told a story about a lost one

DOWN

- 1 Psalm
- 2 Oaks were made into this (Ezek. 27)
- 3 Direction of Hobah from Damascus (Gen. 14)
- 6 Goliath's home town
- 7 Amorites were as strong as these (Amos 2)
- 8 Sinful king of Israel (1 Kings 16)
- 9 Soldiers cut these in Acts 27
- 10 Fruit of the tree Deborah was buried under (Gen. 35)
- 11 Reckless driver (2 Kings 9)
- 13 Son of Midian (Gen. 25)
- 14 A weak foundation
- 17 Son of Adam and Eve
- 19 Virgins did not bring enough
- 20 She stuck by her mother-in-law
- 22 Boils spread to (Deut. 28)
- 23 We are to hold God in this

April Solution



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Four Pilgrims in Time

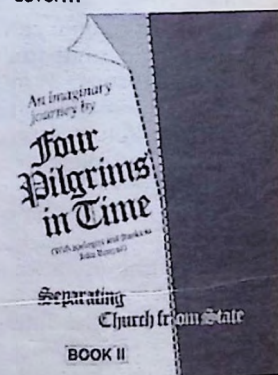
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by
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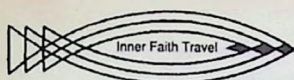
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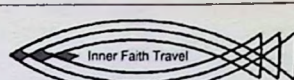
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People

Vic-Tas Appointments

Building for the future



• Alan Hirsch

Alan Hirsch has been appointed by the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development as the Executive Director upon the retirement of the present director, Don Smith, in late 1995. The appointment was unanimously affirmed by the Conference Executive on 10 May.

Alan has served as the minister and team leader of the South Melbourne church from

1989. During this time, the church has grown rapidly and is currently in the process of initiating important new outreach in the St Kilda area.

Alan began a one day a week urban ministry development and church revitalisation consultancy with the Department in 1992. Other ministry associations include board membership with Exodus Victoria and Teen Challenge, the Strategy Committee for Youth For Christ, and chairman of the St Kilda Gatehouse Board.

Alan was born in South Africa where he completed two years of a B Bus (marketing and advertising) course. The course was deferred due to national service in the Medical Corps of the South African Army.

His family subsequently migrated to Australia where he became involved in retail sales and management with Tandy Electronics. During this time he was converted to Christianity from a Jewish family background. Prior to full-time theological study he worked for 12 months as a volunteer with

Scripture Union at Camp Coolamatong. He subsequently completed four years theological study at the Bible College of Victoria and the Presbyterian Theological College to gain a B Th (Hons) degree. During a year with the Lygon Street, Carlton church, in a student appointment, he was involved in developing a strong youth work. His ministry with South Melbourne followed in 1989.

Alan expects to continue advanced theological studies shortly, and complete requirements for ordination.

The appointment has been made in a period of the most significant expansion Vic-Tas churches have experienced since the 1920s. The appointment is designed to lead the Department and its work with the churches into an adventurous era of development as the next century approaches.

Alan is married to Debra who is actively involved in ministry at South Melbourne and Exodus, Victoria.

Field Services

Lynette Leach, who commenced as a field director in 1992, has accepted an extension of her term for 1995-1997. Her leadership and practical work in the field have been widely accepted. Lynette is also working with the Christian Women's Fellowship in a field service role.

The joint appointments of Alan Hirsch and Lynette are designed to establish firm future directions and be the basis for further team building.



• Lynette Leach

Lunchtime Bible Study Series

Praying the Psalms

with Iris Lawson,
Minister Ashburton Church

Lower Hall, Swanston
Street Church of Christ
12.30-1.30 pm.

May 24, June 7, June 21
BYO lunch, tea/coffee
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Cost—\$5.00 per day

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Bellarine Peninsula Induction

Glen Stibbe in part-time ministry

On 4 April Glen Stibbe was inducted into ministry at the Bellarine Peninsula, Vic, church. Glen and Betty are in semi-retirement in Ocean Grove and the church is privileged to have Glen accept the call to part-time ministry with us.

Alf White conducted the induction service with many visitors travelling from Ormond church, Glen's previous ministry.

Letters of greeting were read from Don Smith, Ian Allsop, the Committee of the Combined Churches in Geelong and Beat Symes (an old friend of the church).

We were fortunate in having ministers of the calibre of Gordon Stirling, Alf White and others who assisted in preaching during the 12 week wait for Glen to commence his ministry.

Comment

"Why Is There No Rain?"

Greg Murphy,

A grade seven class in Roma, Qld, was recently asked, "Why does God allow pain and suffering?" Almost half answered, "To teach people a lesson." The current drought has produced much pain and suffering. Inevitably, people look for an explanation of God's role in either bringing it about or failing to end it.

Some would agree with the grade seven students. They see the drought as a divine tool used to remind us that we are not in control of our destiny. The correct response is therefore to come to God in penitence. "If only we'll promise to be better, God will stop the pain."

Others see the drought as the work of the devil. The reason God isn't intervening is that

we have not recognised this in our prayers. "We need to be bold and call out to God in faith for refreshing rain."

There are, of course, those who say there is no God or who see God more as a force than a person. They reason that prayer is useless because no-one is listening. But for those who do believe in a personal God, there is a felt need to defend his lack of intervention in this present crisis. "We must be doing something wrong or God would stop the hurting!"

The same question applies whether it be drought, cancer, war, or any seemingly unjust pain. "If God is powerful and loving, why does he not help?"

Christians embarrassed before an angry world feel the need to defend their faith in a God who hides when it seems

he is needed most. The Bible teaches (in Romans 8:20-21) that the world has been put into a tailspin by God ever since the human race rejected his authority.

Pain and suffering are the inevitable results of a creation not in tune with its creator. It is not that God has maliciously sabotaged the world. Rather, in abandoning God we have removed a crucial key and put the world out of balance.

Bowing and scraping, bargaining, or demanding relief are not guaranteed to move God into action. Pain and suffering are not related to individual cases of rebellion. The drought is not the result of the sin of people in South West Queensland specifically. It needs to be viewed in the context of world history.

Christians can hold to a faith in God despite his inaction in this specific case because they believe he has acted to solve the problem of pain and suffering on a world level. Jesus died on the cross to reconcile the world to God, to put the crucial key back into creation. There will come a time when pain and suffering will be no more. But that can never happen completely until all people recognise God's authority.

We can still pray for an end to the drought, but we should do so not on the basis of our penitence or in bold faith. Instead, we need to approach God in humility, and ask for an act of grace.

Greg Murphy is a graduate from the Kenmore, Qld, college and is currently the minister at Roma, Qld.

A Church ABC

Nestled in the Adelaide Hills, twenty minutes from the city, is the Stirling Church of Christ. Even though it is quite close to the city, Stirling has more of a country, community feel about it. Some might even suggest that the "locals" would object to the thought that they are part of "suburbia".

Stirling has a fairly high percentage of middle and upper-middle class residents, with many in management positions and/or having tertiary qualifications. The church itself reflects the community's age range and has around 100 in Sunday worship. A noticeable feature of the membership is that 70% are in the 25-50 age range, with many being young families or married couples.

The minister, Jim Keatch, only began at Stirling at the beginning of this year, and as such comes with an outside perspective on the church. He

comments that his impression of the church was of a group that was ready to go places, full of energy. Even as this issue of the "Christian" is being sent out, the church Board will be



meeting to develop its vision for the future. This vision will enable all the various groups of the church to put their energies in the same general direction. Jim is also gaining a reputation, encouraging people to follow up on their own ideas for ministry and outreach by saying "Great idea, you can do it"! Apart from being a bit of a joke in the church, the fact that people are coming up with creative ideas and are invited to follow through on them is encouraging.

One of the challenges before the church is progressing beyond its current size. At the moment the church has a "full" feel, with only a few seats free in the services. Adding to this

is the wider "country" community feeling that tends to like things smaller and intimate, rather than larger. Thus, moving on, growing, is not an easy task. Another challenge is to make fuller use of their asset of young people and families in outreach to the community.

The church aims to be relevant to their community. As such their worship includes aspects that go beyond the "traditional" service. They use contemporary music, music that people relate to in their general

life e.g. people in their 40's grew up with Rock 'n' Roll. Sermons can be quite creative in their presentation, and dance and drama has been used as a means of communication.

Focus On Stirling

Taree Church of Christ 130th Anniversary

of commencement of the work of
Churches of Christ in the
Manning District
Saturday and Sunday,
29-30 May 1993

Guest Speaker
Graham Warne
past minister of Taree and
Wingham Churches.

Services
Saturday, 29 May
6 pm Fellowship Tea
7.30 pm Thanksgiving
Celebration and
Thank Offering
Sunday 30 May
9.30 am Worship and
Communion
7 pm Evening Service

"Ah! For Two Thousand Tongues To Sing"

Viney Longthorp

The occasional series "Songs of Praise", broadcast on ABC-TV on Sunday mornings, provides an excellent service to many Christians.

The viewing times are not always the best for regular churchgoers but, for those who cannot get to church for any reason, the programs enfold these in the household of faith. For the rest of us it's a case of VCRs at the ready.

On 30 May, at 11 am, "Songs of Praise" will come from the Metropolitan Cathedral, Church of Christ the King, Liverpool, England. It marks the silver jubilee of this Roman Catholic congregation; it also celebrates Pentecost Sunday.

And, as in all of these programs, the ecumenical flavour is very much to the fore.

Viewers will be treated to some great congregational and choral singing by the 2000 or so Christians gathered. All the hymns come from what Erik Routley calls "The Great Tradition."

There is "Come Down O Love Divine", sung to Ralph Vaughan Williams' resounding tune (Number 171 in our own *Churches of Christ Hymn Book*). Then there is "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation", to the tune by that English composer of real genius, Henry Purcell (1659-95).

Other hymns are "Hail Redeemer King" (Number 188 in

the *Australian Hymn Book*); "Love is His Word"; then that characteristic Catholic hymn, "Come Holy Spirit" (*Veni Sancte Spiritus*). Fitting offerings indeed, for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

These programs are further enhanced by interviews with people who attend the churches which are featured. They speak of their faith and what this means in daily living. Many of them choose the hymns in the programs. Some of the interviews are very moving and inspiring. These demonstrate that vital relationship between worship and life. Liverpool has suffered immensely in that recession which has marked the post industrial age (so-called);

it will be helpful to see how these people have related to the same kind of stresses so familiar to many Australian Christians.

The setting of the program is of interest. The cathedral was built 25 years ago amidst much controversy. An earlier, far more ambitious design, intended to be built before World War II had been abandoned because of financial strictures. There was much criticism that the money would be better spent given to the poor. The building is of chaste design; the altar is in the centre, thus the congregation is able to participate in services to a greater extent than in a conventional cathedral.

Comment

A Most Powerful Force

Neil Marsden

Love is something the Lord urges us to do. In fact, the ten commandments were condensed by Jesus into just two commandments—love your Lord and love your neighbour.

Love is the central and focal point of Christianity. Yet, for many people, it is the most difficult to come to terms with. Be it in people's individual lives, or in the church as a whole.

The history of the church has been littered with hate and disgust, violence and terror, lies and hypocrisy.

No wonder so many people turn away from the church; it professes love, but in many cases practises hate—all in the name of God. Hate done in the name of God is for the devil—

and he's quite happy to let you do it.

Below this, there is another level though—loving individuals. It's hard to love your neighbour (especially if they keep throwing rubbish over your fence).

It's hard to love the guy up the street who roars down the road in the middle of the night blasting his horn. It's hard to love people you don't get on well with, and it's hard to love people you dislike, people who have perhaps hurt you before and you just can't forgive. It's hard to love some people.

If someone can't love, self esteem and the feeling of inner contentment can be destroyed. It is through love that people find happiness. People full of

hate live miserable lives, where nothing seems to go right for them.

None of us is perfect perhaps there may be one person we may never truly love with all our hearts, but it is our duty, before the Lord, to try to show love to everyone we meet, and if we can't, then we have no

right to show hate or disgust or malice.

The Lord doesn't ask us to hate, he asks us to love.

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The Fecundity of Stories

Stephen Curkpatrick

If you were asked to describe the character of a friend you know well, you probably wouldn't state their vocational qualifications. You might describe the environment in which they grew up, but only if it was a difficult one. You would be unlikely to sketch their physical characteristics, and least likely, the theology of the church they belong to, if indeed they belong to one. Perhaps the most likely way you might describe your friend is by telling some stories about them.* Such stories would relate specific situations in which their words, actions and attitudes revealed significant dimensions, at least in your assessment, of their character.

Some well chosen stories would convey prominent characteristics of your friend in a way in which qualifications, titles, career, physical characteristics or family background would be unable to adequately do so. They would communicate something which could not be told in any other way. Such stories could not be reduced down to the "bare facts" without taking away something of the essential richness of your perception of this person.

This is how the Gospel writers share with us who Jesus is. They do not reduce the experience and memory of Jesus down to mere details about Jesus. They depict Jesus' encounters with a diversity of people, woven into a fabric of intriguing disclosure. Their narratives are irreducible to "bare facts" without denuding them of their essential richness as the church's own experience, memory, perception and encounter with the risen Christ in their midst.

As a consequence, the Gospels do not yield "propositional" definitions as to who Jesus is and how he is the means by which God can interact intimately and compassionately with our lives. Indeed,

faith is much more than intellectual assent to definitions. It is grounded in imagination. The Gospel narratives weave together stories about Jesus, and they do so quite differently from each other, according to the narrators' perception of him. Christologies (plural!) surface, models of discipleship emerge, diverse perspectives of the passion are portrayed, divergent resurrection accounts follow.

presence of the risen Christ in their world. Hence, they reflect the possibility of extraordinary diversity in the expression of Christian faith and mission for us today.

Anticipating his particular rendering of the passion narrative, Luke projects divine forgiveness in an array of encounters with Jesus. The narrator doesn't need to systematise how forgiveness occurs. The narrative shows through liv-

ness in Jesus, especially toward those who felt no hope or access to such grace. The narrative is continually polysemous, that is open-ended, rich in imagery, fecund in symbolic expression of the divine-human relationship, all in an array of saving events in which people experience God's compassionate, liberating acceptance.

The Gospel writers do not have a pejorative view of stories as "mere stories".

On the contrary, they disturb us profoundly when the rich texture of their narratives subvert our surface readings to show us the presence of God in Jesus. Their use of stories, as metaphors of encounter with the Kingdom, are untranslatable into bland propositional statements which can be accepted with mental assent, but without the lifestyle of repentance, that is, the lifestyle and journey of spiritual maturation as disciples of Jesus. In such narratives of unequivocal grace, the auditor, then and today, can begin to grasp how God encounters human life with gracious compassion in the unique narrative of our own lives.

* I am indebted to Pheme Perkins for this suggestion for interpersonal engagement.

"We are invited to enter into their particular narrative portrayals of Jesus and their encounters with him, and recognise in them something of the texture of our engagement with life"

We are invited to enter into their particular narrative portrayals of Jesus and their encounters with him, and recognise in them something of the texture of our engagement with life, and how God might also encounter us there—in profoundly challenging ways. As we listen to the Gospel narratives, we discover our experience of compassion, acceptance, perplexity, apathy, doubt and faith as community, resonate with their rich diversity of expression. They reflect the powerful conflicts and aspirations of Christian communities with their unique mission and pastoral concerns, as they sought to communicate the

ing metaphors what our encounter with grace in the crucified and risen Christ can mean. In this way, narrative eludes propositional closure. It remains evocative. It solicits faith in God who expresses unequivocal compassion, extravagant acceptance and forgive-

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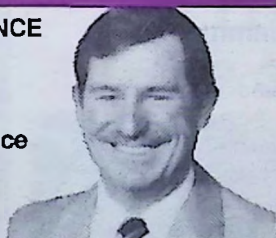
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Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Crisp, Frederick Ronald
(20.4.93) Ron was a very active member of the Collingwood, East Preston and Northcote, Vic, churches. He gave distinguished service as a Bible School superintendent and secretary, member of the church board, and president of morning worship—all with characteristic efficiency and quiet dignity. As a young man he excelled in sport—football, cricket and tennis, and later, lawn bowls. The keynote of the eulogy in the thanksgiving service, "How blest are those of a gentle spirit", is particularly appropriate for a very faithful, kind and well-loved man. Christian sympathy to his widow, Ivy, to their son, Don, his wife Ann and their family, and to their daughter, Denise.
—F.B. Alcorn

Hinrichsen, Olga Anna
(30.3.93) Born on 22 February 1905, Olga grew up in the Marburg district of Queensland. She was baptised at the Marburg church on 12 September 1916. On her marriage to Frederick Hinrichsen on 23 May 1928, she moved to the Rosevale district where two daughters, Myra and Karen were born. Later, they moved to Ipswich, where her husband predeceased her. Because of a stroke in 1987, she lived essentially with her daughter and son-in-law at Maroochydore. Failing health necessitated moves first to the Nambour Nursing Home, Nambour then the Immanuel Gardens Nursing Home, Buderim. Olga faithfully attended church wherever she was living and will be remembered for her quiet ways, her attentive memory, and her love, interest and sacrifice for her family.

ing and will be remembered for her quiet ways, her attentive memory, and her love, interest and sacrifice for her family.

—G K Risson

Changes

STEELE, Harold E.R. (Retired minister)—2/117 Esdale Street, Nunawading, Vic 3131. Phone (03) 878 1907.

Baptisms

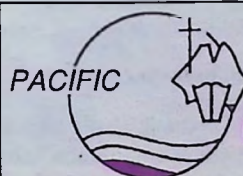
• Kelly Webber, Tim Webber, Sonny King, Bob Buchanan, Maureen Duthie, Lorraine Muir, **Brooklyn Park, SA** • Andrew Coutts, Glen Waverley, **Vic** • Jo Chapman, **Devonport, Tas** • Ilona Benningfield, Katrina Kronk, Jeremy Kronk, Chris Whittaker, Brian Roper, Mary Letheren, **Harlaxton, Qld** • Madge Redgen, **Oakleigh, Vic** • Nigel Leach, **Belconnen, ACT** • Bismark Malala, Tuggeranong, **ACT**

Marriages

• Roslyn Armstrong to Andrew George, **Hurstbridge, Vic** • Kerry Webb to John Whitehouse, Judith Ridge to Mark Beaumont, **Brooklyn Park, SA** • Julie Bannon to Gil Aylett, **Devonport, Tas** • Ena van der Blom to John Grant, **Harlaxton, Qld**

Deaths

• Dorothy Sam, **Carnarvon, WA** • Una Tilley, **Glen Waverley, Vic** • Ray Maddern, Bill Patterson, **Strathalbyn, SA** • Ron Crisp, **Northcote, Vic**



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Church News

Old

HARLAXTON (Daryl Thorpe, Frank Langford) Mother's Day celebrated with basket tea ... Church anniversary to be celebrated 29-30 May. Peter Hobbs guest speaker ... Congregation contributing towards drought relief fund ... Minister, Daryl Thorpe & wife Pam, enjoying holiday in USA ... Chris & Cheryl Mason (Language Recordings) shared in recent gospel service ... Negotiations continuing for purchase of property adjacent to church.

Vic

HURSTBRIDGE (Andrew George) Combined with district churches for Good Friday services

... Carl Lee took services, shared in church luncheon second Sunday ... Andrew George & Roslyn Armstrong celebrated their marriage. Members presented cutlery service ... Colyn & Elizabeth welcome third child Aaron Christopher ... Gert Attwell & Henri Pietzsch recovering after setbacks.

WODONGA (D. Oldfield) Rich blessings from "Back to Albury-Wodonga" celebrations over Easter. Past & present ministers P. Kavanagh & D. Oldfield speakers Friday & Sunday evenings respectively. Highlight was the solos & slides presented by F. Leivesley, past minister 1955-57. Eldest past member present Alf Bourne, Sydney ... New foyer entrance planned for Wodonga church building.

YARRAWONGA (B. Keddie) Farewell service held for Forbes family as they left for PNG to be financial administrator to our mission ... Ian Allsop spoke twice 28 March, as well as studies at NE Conference at Shepparton ... Dorothy Geyer welcome deputationist 18 April, as were Tom & Lois Fulgum of HCJB on 1 May ... Ladies took service on CWF night, theme: "Women of Faith".

GLEN WAVERLEY (R.B. Elbourne, H.J. Saunders) Glenys Reaby concluded successful year as state CWF president ... Martin Gillespie appointed as pastoral minister starting August ... Friday night youth worship service well presented. Good attendance included other youth groups ... YP involved in Conference Youth Event

... Monthly fellowship group caters for 25 Asian students ... "Live at Five" services to run May through September.

NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn) Evening services will commence at 5 pm during winter ... Mother's Day service conducted by CWF ... Ivy Bansund's 80th birthday held in school hall ... Focus for May worship services is "The Family" ... Family enrichment weekend held with a BBQ & family fun night on Friday & an informal seminar on Sunday afternoon ... CWF special speaker from Do Care.

COBURG (Don Milne) Great day of worship & fellowship 73rd anniversary held 3 May. David Brooker speaker ... Jean Kelly & Georgina Dowd appointed to board at annual meeting ... Sunday morning worship now at 10 ... Average of 12 attending weekly Italian Bible study conducted by Sal Romano ... Friday morning Bible study & prayer group continuing ... Garage sale raised \$1,200 for resource materials ... Church property undergoing painting.

ASCOT VALE (Ross Bourdon) Rowse family in PNG as missionaries for 12 months ... Dr Mike & Jill Williams working in hospital in Darwin for 12 months ... George Warren recent speaker in morning worship ... First Sunday evening service for many years held. Well attended ... Wonderful outreach into housing estate with food organised by Joe Cardona.

FOOTSCRAY (Geoff Casey) Church welcomes new minister Geoff Casey, his wife Chris, sons Daniel & Christopher from Macedon Ranges Community Church. Induction service on 4 April conducted by Don Smith (DMED) ... CWF met with Ararat CWF for annual picnic at Ballarat ... Sunday School disbanded in preference for mid-week after-school meetings.

OAKLEIGH (W.J. Edwards) Minister led inspiring services over Easter period ... Madge Redgen baptised 2 May ... Many former members attended on Mother's Day ... Peter Ponter seriously ill. Clyde Taylor in coronary care in Cabrini Hospital. Both being upheld in prayer ... Minister attended Ministers' Refresher ... Freda Fraser welcomed home from holiday in WA ... George Wilson spoke to CWF on Flying Doctor service.

Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department Administrator for Brisbane Regional Committee

The Social Service Department invites applications for the position of Administrator for Brisbane Regional Committee, Brisbane, Queensland.

This is a full-time position which will involve responsibility for the administration of the Brisbane region of the Social Service Department which presently includes the following: 133 nursing home beds in 3 nursing homes, 80 hostel places in 2 Hostels, 10 place active aged hostel, 11 CHP Units in 2 locations, 97 ADPCA Units in one location and some other houses. A Plan is currently being worked through to rebuild certain properties and rearrange bed/place allocations. Consideration is currently being given to a reorganisation of the Brisbane Region into two regions and may result in two appointments instead of one.

The successful applicant will be required to coordinate the operation of the aged care services, work in close cooperation with and under the direction of both the Social Service Department and the Brisbane Regional Social Service Department committee. The Administrator will need to develop working relationships with other Social Service Department Administrators and with local churches. The Administrator is responsible to the Executive Director of the Department and to the regional committee for the local management of the aged care services.

Commencement Date: 2 August 1993, or by negotiation.

The Brisbane Homes under the control of the Brisbane Regional Committee are Hillcrest Nursing Home, 43 Dudley Street, Annerley; Brig-o-doon Nursing Home, 117 Park Road, Yeronga; Burdeu House, 363 Gregory Terrace, Spring Hill; Clive Burdeu Centre (including Gleneagles) 79-85 Moray Street, New Farm, Buckingham Gardens, Buckingham Court, Alexandra Hills; Kedron Hostel, 6 Emerald Street, Kedron.

Terms, conditions and job description and other information are available on request. Salary is based upon the salary of a Director of Nursing Grade 2 under the Nurses Aged Care Interim Award—State, and a Department vehicle is available for the use of the Administrator. Salary can be converted into salary and fringe benefit package.

Applications will be treated confidentially and should be made on the form provided with supporting information.

Applications close Wednesday 30 June 1993 and should be addressed to
The Executive Director
Churches of Christ in Queensland
Social Service Department
PO Box 508
Kenmore 4069
Phone (07) 378 0400 Fax (07) 878 1268

**DIAL FOR
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Church News

WA

CARNARVON (K. O'Brien) New deacons Ken Birch, Allan Day & Noel Cuttiford elected ... The Birches, Cuttifords & Bells are planning Aboriginal Convention catering for all North-West groups in July ... Church families enjoyed fellowship tea at plantation home of Ken & Pat Moore ... Young people getting into practice for church band, speaker: Sonny Graham ... Ladies presented Easter "New Life" program.

EASTERN HILLS (Maurie Ashworth) John Timms, guest speaker at prayer breakfast in March ... Helen Thyer, Challenge Literature Fellowship, speaking 23 May ... Anzac Day parade held in Mundaring. Rebecca Shearn from Girls' Brigade read code of citizenship ... Sunday School/church picnic well attended ... Mother's Day dinner & service 9 May. Men of church preparing & serving dinner ... Music fund reopened for purchase of piano ... Reaffirmation of faith by Amanda Robinson.

SA

BROOKLYN PARK (P. Webber) 24 hour prayer vigil "Love One Another" ... Saturday morning prayer groups with Henley Beach & Flinders Park ... Average offering \$1109 (Budget \$1235) ... Herb & Mern Prime 50th wedding ... Much activity & excitement in co-operation with Henley & Flinders Park ... Minister to Anaheim, USA, in June with senior ministers' workshop.

STRATHALBYN (Grant & Julie Simpson) Church appreciating Grant & Julie's leading ... Ray Maddern died suddenly at work 13 April, aged 43. Ralph Oke officiating at funeral ... Group from Sherlock Baptist shared morning service, good singing ... 1 May night service circuit tea involved young people. Bright singing, musical instruments, dialogue followed by Grant's message ... Valmai Schuster received right hand of fellowship, transferring from Edwardstown ... Bill Patterson died 9 May after much illness.

HAPPY VALLEY (Russell Allison) John Phelps, Bible Society, guest speaker ... Lee Bowley made crosses for Palm Sunday ... Russell preparing Bible studies based on calendar gospel readings as newsletter inserts for this term ... Playgroup recommenced Thursday mornings ... Year 7 performed "Jonah" puppet play ... Harold Baggs elected to State Board at Conference.

Tas

LAUNCESTON (C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) Nancy Hays spoke at recent CWF meeting about her visit to Natalie, Vienna, with Operation Mobilisation ... Another confession on 18 April when Craig Spaulding spoke ... Special prayer meetings for Masterman family 26 & 27 April as John to have kidney transplant from his mother on 27 April in Melbourne.

DEVONPORT (R. Chapman) Morning services averaging 111 ... Night meetings commenced for "Young in Heart" preceded by

shared meal ... Baptism classes & Thursday morning prayer breakfast commenced ... Easter services Thursday night, Friday & Sunday mornings ... Young people at state camp Port Sorell ... 64 at church family camp, Bicheno ... Jo Chapman baptised at Apsley Gorge ... Worship & pastoral care task forces set up ... WEC missionaries Ellis & Anne McCulloch & children home on furlough.

LAUNCESTON (C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) Special Mother's Day service with Children's Church & "Unreal" participating ... City Mission ladies guests at CWF meeting 11

May, Colleen Harrison led program "A patchwork quilt of motherhood". **CAVESIDE** (John & Colleen Harrison) Devonport YP combined with YP for social activities 27 March & led worship 29 March ... Donald, Phyllis & Sally Byard enthusiastically shared impressions of State Convention at Huonville ... Caveside participated in combined churches procession of witness in Deloraine, Palm Sunday ... Good Friday service Mole Crook Presbyterian ... Easter Monday picnic held Sassafras Creek ... Sunday evening sing-a-long & fellowship commenced in homes monthly.

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Poetry

The Old Outback Pastor

He stood quiet beside the roadway bare
the road on his boots, and all through his hair,
the dust, long settled, on line-etched face,
and eyes that looked through both time and space.

His soul was not worn, like sole with a tread,
his spirit stood straight, from tip-toe to head;
the same was not said for his crooked old back,
for strength of his youth it now sadly did lack.

The clothes were not patched, though creased, and with dirt,
in heat he still wore a string-tie with shirt.
His left hand held firm a stick of good length;
across chest with his right a Bible, his strength.

As his next ride, a road train, bore down from the west,
he shifted his weight on the stick, to give rest,
and ignoring the flies that persisted his face,
gave thoughts to the day's work, where
next he would place.

For travelling the outback and
spreading God's love,
was a lifelong call he'd received
from above;
Alone, and yet never, the man
beside Master,
for this life he loved, the old outback pastor.

—Hugh O'Dempsey



The Last Word

The essence of true holiness
consists in conformity to the
nature and will of God.

—Samuel Lucas

One time a friend was in the breeding business and crossed a parrot with a tiger. They don't know what it is, but when it talks, everybody listens.

★★★★★

Patient: "What are your fees, doctor?"

Doctor: "I charge \$40 for the first visit and \$20 for the second visit."

Patient: "Well, doctor, it's nice to see you again! What should I do?"

Doctor: "Take the same medicine I gave you last time."

★★★★★

What is another name for a nerve specialist?
A twitch doctor.

★★★★★

A man was going to a fancy dress party in the costume of the devil. On his way it began to rain so he darted into a church where a revival meeting was in progress.

At the sight of the devil's costume, people began to scatter through the doors and windows.

One member's coat sleeve was caught on the arm of one of the seats and as the man came closer, the member pleaded, "Satan, I've been a member of this church for twenty years, but I've really been on your side all the time."

★★★★★



"As our collection today was quite poor—instead of today's hymn, we will now sing the blues."

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