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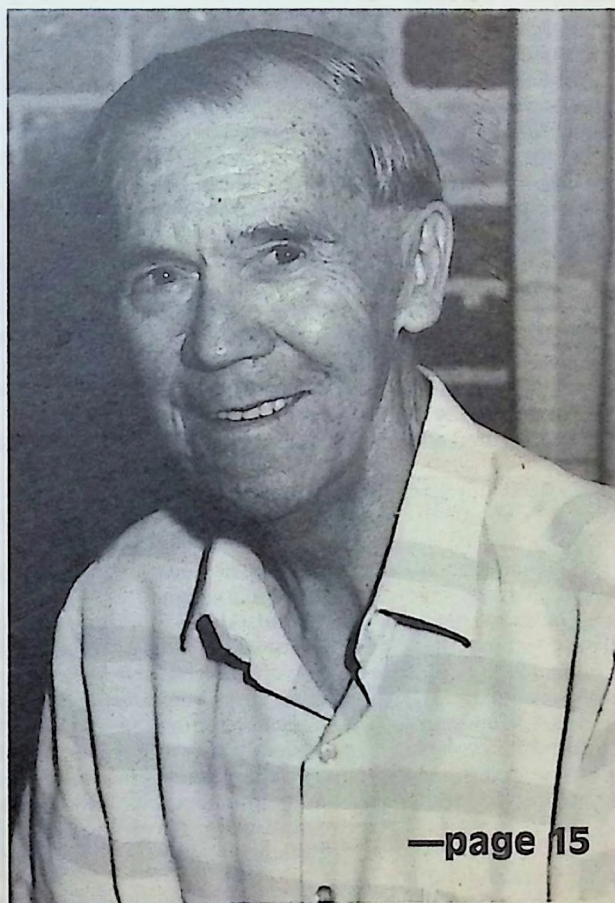
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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

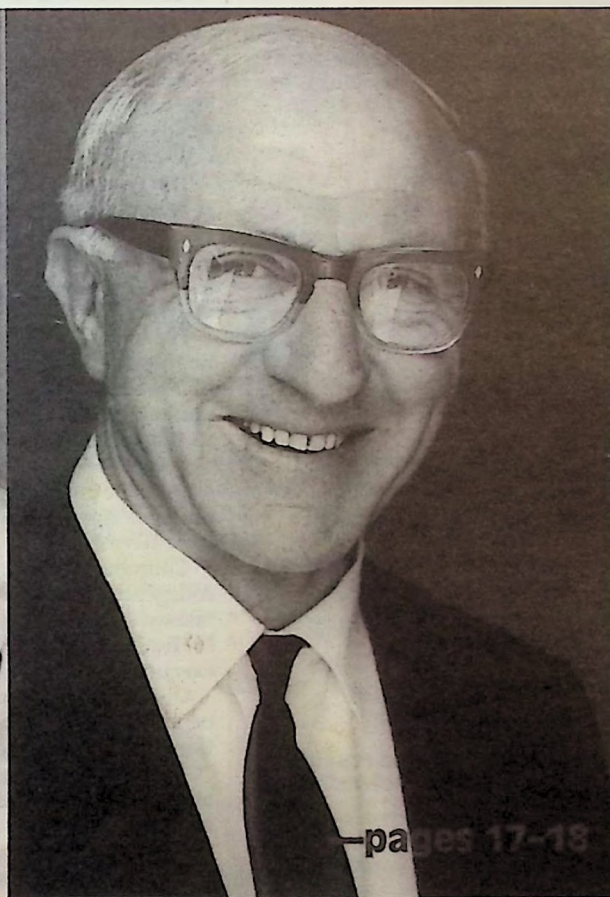
Tributes to Two

Clifford George Taylor

Edwin Lyall Williams



—page 15



—pages 17-18

By Whose Authority?
Christians and Trade Unions
Videos for Home Viewing

—page 21

—page 2

—page 19



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Guest Editorial

Christians and Trade Unions

Alan Matheson

I have been a trade unionist most of my working life: first as a teacher, then a social worker and now on the staff of the Australian Council of Trade Unions. The only time I didn't carry a union ticket was as a minister of a congregation.

One of the things which both encourages and depresses me are the people who, after I've spoken at a church meeting, discreetly come up and quietly say, "I'm also a union member". A union official active in his church, when asked if he received support from the church in his work said, "No, but I wouldn't be critical of that. There are friends who know I am a union official and back me up, but as for prayer support, no. I don't think many church people would find praying for union officials as part of the church's functions."

The Assembly of the Uniting Church of Australia a couple of years ago passed a resolution encouraging members and its employees to join and be active in trade unions as a means of "expressing their discipleship".

The English Bishops called upon Catholics to participate in union life, "to ensure that the Gospel values of solidarity with those in need and service of the dignity of all mankind are resolutely presented and defended".

Over the past few weeks, 150 Church of England clergy have joined one of Britain's largest unions.

Churches of Christ in their conferences, colleges and clergy associations, have never taken a stand on the issue of trade unions. No trade union official has ever been on an executive or been a president.

Our leaders are more likely to be members of Rotary than a union. Congregations will have more opportunities to hear "Christian" politicians, business executives and athletes, from their pulpits, than trade unionists.

I wonder why?

Is it because we don't understand trade unions? Is it because we depend on the images of trade unions carried on the front pages of the tabloid press for our knowledge? Do readers wonder why a strike will appear on the front pages, while the injury, disease and deaths of 500,000 workers is hardly reported.

How many are aware of the overseas aid program of the ACTU, the building union team which was involved in reconstruction

following disastrous bushfires; or the union efforts to provide access to disabled workers to standard jobs and careers; the Tasmanian union which joined with Community Aid Abroad to support a Rwanda appeal; or the union involvement in Aboriginal reconciliation, or the involvement in the campaign to end child labour?

Or is it because we have marginalised the whole issue of work from our pastoral and prophetic ministry? By contracting out our ministry in industry, for example, to ITIM, does it mean that we are rarely confronted with industrial issues?

Have our theological colleges, preoccupied with the development of pastoral counselling skills, let us down? Our ministers appear to have little idea of work, or the revolution which is taking place in the workplace. Those in their congregations have no illusions about the implications of that revolution.

How can it be with our understanding of the *κοινωνία*, the "community", that as Christians and workers, we are content to accept the benefits—wages and working conditions—which have been won by unions, but not be members? As the Psalmist wrote,

"The dues-paying member is my shepherd
I shall not pay

He provided me with sick days and vacation
So that I may lie down in green pastures
Beside the still waters."

Is the refusal to become a member due to fear? Some of the most disturbing cases I see are workers who have been exploited by church employers. Despite their overwhelming disappointment and anger, they are frequently very ambivalent about becoming trade unionists. In times of savage cuts in the public service and significant restructure taking place in industry, fear is a debilitating feature of many workers' lives.

Is there no way in which we as ministers, officers' boards, elders or a Conference can minister and support those who call themselves both Christians and trade unionists?

Alan Matheson graduated from the College of the Bible in 1962. He has ministered with churches in Ascot Vale

Continued on page 3

Flower Power

Saying it with flowers

It's a Saturday morning and there's a knock at the front door. Someone opens it, and there on the porch is a man with a beautiful floral arrangement. With a warm smile he announces: "These are from the church! We hear you've had a rough week at work, but we hope that this might give you and your family a lift!"

And it's not, as you might imagine, a lady receiving this expression of support and encouragement, but a fairly rugged, macho Aussie male in his 40s who, following this incident, told how he and his family were deeply touched by the whole thing.

This is one of scores of similar incidents, thanks to a unique ministry called "Flower Power" which has been commenced by the Marion, SA, church. It all started when the church was approached by a local florist asking if it might be interested in receiving their leftover flowers at the end of every week. The idea has taken off and as the weeks and months have gone by. Increasing numbers of people have become involved and today, under the leadership of Karen Billerwell, there are around 25 volunteers involved in the collection, arrangement and delivery of flowers every week.

Continued from page 2

and Flemington, Vic, the Ecumenical Migration Centre, the World Council of Churches (Geneva) and is currently the ACTU's International Officer. He is an Executive member of the Refugee Council of Australia, a member of the Australian Language and Literacy Council, an Advisory Committee member of the Bureau of Immigration and Population Research, and is currently involved in a major government review of business and skilled migration.

Naturally, there is never a shortage of people who need such an expression of love and support but not even the most optimistic person at the church was ready for some of the fantastic by-products that have flowed from this marvellous ministry venture:

- People not previously involved in any ministry have had a door of opportunity opened to them.

- Fringe people have been brought closer to the church.

- People whom the ministry team have served through a funeral or some other crisis have been touched by the thoughtfulness of the church.

And one that nobody was expecting: we have developed (and are continuing to develop) a large bunch of "Sensitive New Age Guys" who are learning to appreciate, both for themselves and others, the value of flowers as an expression of love and affirmation.

We recommend that all churches should try seeking out a nearby florist who may be willing to get involved in a similar "arrangement".

—Trish James



- Karen Billerwell, Flower Power Coordinator, putting the finishing touches to an arrangement

Entering a New Era

On the Move

Lismore, NSW, church has met at the corner of Keen and Magellan Streets since 1922, when the present chapel was built. The church has a history in Lismore dating back to 1884. The first chapel was in Conway St. This wooden structure was destroyed by fire.

In September 1993, the church voted to find a buyer for the current chapel, with a view to developing a new centre in the growing suburban area of Goonellabah, just to the east of Lismore. Finding a buyer has taken 12 months. At a meeting 90% voted in favour of accepting the offer made by this buyer.

The chapel is listed under the Lismore Council's Local Environment Plan as an Heritage Item (although not listed as such by the Heritage Council of NSW). The Chapel also has a National Trust classification.

The church is in good heart and is now searching to find new land for the future. The church already owns a site in Rous Rd Goonellabah (the site of the previous Goonellabah church which ceased to meet at the end of 1989), but it is felt by the leadership that this half-acre site is too small to develop for the future.

Ian Phillips, minister since 1988, said, "We have a strong and developing ministry to the families of Lismore and this is what our vision of ministry is

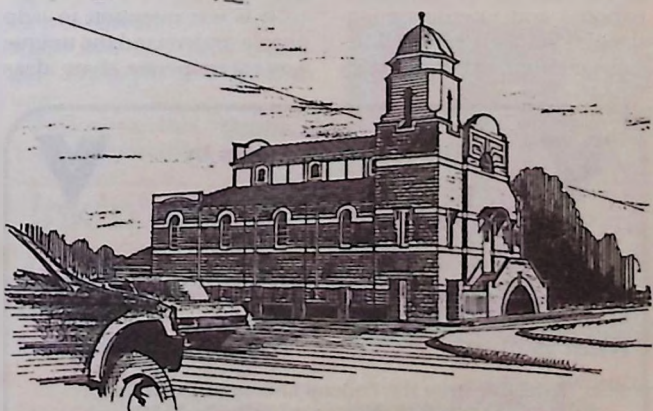
based around. We aim to be the best church for families in Lismore. Therefore, the new centre we develop will have the family at heart. Even though we are moving from the central business district to the suburban area of Goonellabah, we still see ourselves as a regional church. Our plan is to continue to provide a ministry that encompasses the whole city."

Lismore is a growing provincial city with a population of 40,000.

The church has participated in a significant part of the history of Churches of Christ in Australia. Many people have gone from Lismore to other areas over the years, whilst, for others, Lismore has been a church home as they have come to Lismore for work or study.

The church is eager to contact as many people as possible who have had an association with the church, to attend the Celebration of an Era service on 27 November at 10.00 am. There will be a luncheon after the service, giving people an opportunity to catch up with friends. Graham Warne, Vice Principal of Kenmore Christian College, Qld, will be the guest speaker. Graham grew up in Lismore and Lismore is his "home" church.

Inquiries can be addressed to Geoff Davis (elder), PO Box 311, Lismore 2480, or by phoning (066) 24 3016.



• Current Lismore chapel

New Testament Comes Alive

Short course at Mitcham

This was team teaching at its best. Stephen Curkpatrick and Mark Butler led a most successful Short Course series of lectures at Mitcham, Vic, church recently. Stephen, the Churches of Christ Theological College Lecturer in New Testament and Mark Butler, Mitcham pastor, shared New Testament truths with 25 keen students of varying ages. These two enthusiastic young men shared their knowledge and broadened the thinking of all who attended the classes.

Subjects covered, as we explored the world of the New Testament included: discovering the text and the tradition of the text, early and later gospel traditions, the legacy of Paul's



• Mark Butler and Stephen Curkpatrick

vision, the symbolic world of the New Testament, the apocalyptic tradition, and much more.

The course was conducted over a period of six weeks on Thursday evenings.

—Dorothy Quantrelle

Missions Interlink

Looking out

According to material from the National Church Life Survey, there has been and is a change in the lifestyle and focus of the church. Some of the analysis of this survey found that "less than 28% have a significant ministry of any kind outside their own congregation ... and this includes missions."

Missions Interlink, in association with the Evangelical Alliance of Victoria, Australia, has 65 members in Australia. They comprise missionary societies who are both denominational and interdenominational. One activity that Missions Interlink has undertaken

in recent years is to have three different missionary societies combine together to conduct a weekend service at a local church. This activity is titled: **Missions Working Together**. The convenor, John Reeder, explains: "The emphasis of the weekend is for three mission organisations to come together and conduct a service or services at a local church in order for the church to see how mission organisations work in similar fields or in the same country."

"It is our intention to help people understand the unique way we cooperate, share ideas

and personnel, and how today's technology is being used to effectively awaken people's thoughts about becoming committed Christians."

"For churches in country areas, we can present a program that could be held on a Saturday evening in addition to Sunday. The flexibility of what can be told by way of videos, audio visual presentation, drama and stories of people's experiences, plus a Bible centred message, is designed to build up the body of the church. We do not go to a church "to get" but to serve—and I think that is so important."

Any church in Victoria is welcomed to communicate with Missions Interlink at the office of the Evangelical Alliance, PO Box 536, Camberwell Vic 3124. Phone (03) 882 7475 or fax (03) 882 7498 or you can contact John Reeder direct on (03) 872 4606 (business hours).



Vital Publications
The following books by

E. Lyall Williams
are available

<i>Churches of Christ—An Interpretation</i>	\$3.50
<i>Living Responsibly</i>	\$2.50
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Calendar

Churchill Fellowship

The 1996 Churchill Fellowship applications are now open. The average Churchill Fellowship is worth about \$14,000 and lasts about three months. Nearly 1800 Australians have been awarded this opportunity and have brought back knowledge and skills for the enrichment of Australian society. For information and application forms, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to: Application Forms, The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 218 Northbourne Ave, Braddon 2601. Applications including references close on 28 February 1995.

Australian Gospel Music Awards

The first Australian Gospel Music Awards will be held 11 November in the State Sports Centre, Homebush, Sydney. The event has been called "Australia Celebrates" and will feature such artists as Steve Grace, Geoff Bullock, Pat Morgan and many others. Groups will include "Family", "In The Silence", "Hyped For Christ" and "Iron & Clay". It is expected that over 100 musicians, dancers and performers will participate on the night. For information, contact Australian Music Awards on (02) 634 7100. Tickets for the evening, which commences at 8.00 pm, are available through Ticketek on (02) 266 4800.

People Centred Development

World Vision is holding two People Centred Development Workshops which will be led by Roland Bunch. The workshop will include lessons from Roland's 27 years of experience in Latin American rural development and he will guide participants through some of the human and social dimensions of sustainable change. The Sydney workshop will be held on 22 November 10.00 am–4.00 pm at the 2nd Floor Conference Room, Sydney Central, 477 Pitts St, Sydney. The Melbourne workshop is on 24 November at Millott Hall, Brotherhood of St Laurence, 67 Brunswick St, Fitzroy. The workshop costs \$35 and details are available from Ros McDonald (Sydney World Vision office (02) 906 2444) or Diane De Silva (Melbourne World Vision office (03) 287 2228/2510).

Not So Rough Roads

Southern Circuit encouragement

The Southern Churches of Christ Circuit, SA, comprising Mt Barker, Strathalbyn, Milang and Point Sturt, although still in its infancy, is providing a great deal of encouragement for all involved. Circuit services, held quarterly, have been well-attended and inspirational, with a growing sense of commitment and togetherness.

Ministers, Julie and Grant Simpson have worked hard to spread their activities and involvement fairly, and are greatly loved and appreciated, as, with children Bronwyn and Shannon, they make many long journeys around their pas-

torate. A Circuit camp at Point Sturt provided further opportunity to fraternise and was great fun earlier in the year.

David Brooker, SA State Minister, was the speaker at the 139th anniversary of the Point Sturt chapel in early October.

Grant kept the sense of history alive by reading extracts from the journals of the early pioneers.

Strathalbyn's 125th anniversary is being celebrated on 6 November. Mt Barker's 10th anniversary celebrations, early in the year, accented the life and vigour of a developing church.



• Grant Simpson welcoming parents Doreen and Newton Simpson

Milang recently had a delightful experience when Grant welcomed his own parents,

Doreen and Newton Simpson, who now live in the area, into membership. —Helen Oatley

Youth Outreach Project

Ambrosia

In July the Victorian Council of Churches Youth Outreach Project was granted refunding by the Victorian government. The project had been reviewed after 12 months operation with three youth workers in the municipalities of Dandenong and Broadmeadows and the Shire of Whittlesea.

Initially the Project was set up with the following objectives:

- To provide youth outreach services to a number of local communities for young people aged 13–21 years.
- To provide advocacy and policy development, focussing upon structural factors which predispose some young people to offend or which support institutionalism disadvantage or discrimination.

- To provide relevant services to marginalised groups such as young women, Kooris and young people from non-English speaking backgrounds.
- To raise awareness and facilitate support for young people and the target group, among local church communities, and within churches affiliated with the Victorian Council of Churches.

As it was expressed to me, the aim of the project is for youth workers (associated with local churches) to develop one-to-one relationships with youth to prevent them from slipping into antisocial criminal behaviour.

The review was very positive about the way the workers were working with "at risk" youth and their families, to prevent them moving into the juvenile justice system.

Presently, there is no set strategy and individual workers work with "clients" in various ways such as: support for a single young mother, arranging tutoring for young people in trouble at school, outdoor adventure camping, etc.

The initial youth workers commented that they would like to see the churches doing more and that churches need to seek ways that they can be open to disadvantaged youth in their communities. The review found that the churches have been slow in responding to this type of challenge. One worker suggested, "I don't believe there is a possibility for direct church involvement at this stage, first they need continued education and information".

Following this, the VCC Youth Outreach Project team is

looking to help educate churches about the project. Local churches can arrange information through Project Coordinator Jacinta Nancarrow on (03) 650 4511 (fax) (03) 650 8383.

One observation was that due to current economic circumstances many local churches are focussing inward, supporting their own members. In many cases, churches are facing decline and they are largely ageing and often have no point of contact with disadvantaged youth. Even where churches run youth groups, few encourage "at risk" and disadvantaged young people from the general community to be involved, as they are struggling to hold on to their own youth.



• Youth Outreach Project workers (L to R) Chris O'Kane, Lee-Anne Hunt and Cathy Lucchini

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Springboard for Women

Achieving your potential

Springboard is a personal and professional development program for women which aims to foster change and growth. Springboard is about stretching women, challenging, giving skills to become the person you want to be and about achieving your full potential.

Springboard was awarded the prestigious National Training Award in the United Kingdom for excellence and quality in training in 1993. The program was brought to Australia in April 1992. Channel 9's program "Business Sunday" ran a story on Springboard earlier this year. Churches of Christ are the first religious group to host the program in Australia.

The program consists of five ingredients: a 300-page workbook, four full-day workshops, networking, the provision of role models and the provision of a support network.

Springboard works because it is flexible and each woman sets her own goals and works through or identifies her own values.

It looks at areas of self-esteem, building confidence, being assertive (not passive or aggressive), sorting out difficult relationships, blowing your own trumpet, balancing home and work (and church), networking, finding support, helping establish what you want from life, focussing on priorities, positioning to make positive decisions about personal and work options, and encourages action.

Springboard caters to the different needs of many women, whether you are:

- Caring for your family
- Independent
- Work full-time or part-time
- Wanting broader options
- Have your own business
- Work as a volunteer
- Face redundancy
- Planning retirement
- Or simply looking for a new direction

The first public course was extremely successful, with each participant coming away with

expectations more than realised.

This is what some said about the program:

"I found Springboard enlightening, encouraging, frightening and it gave me the permission to achieve anything I want and am capable of." — Dianne Shillitoe

"As a woman in ministry, and therefore in a professional role, I was pleased to find this program being offered to women within Churches of Christ. I found the content to be practical and stimulating, and each of the guest speakers really encouraged me to continue to strive to move beyond what I feel I can achieve." — Anne Spoelder (Director of Singles Ministry, Nunawading, Vic)

"Personally, I have found the course to be challenging in setting goals for myself (family,

work and spiritual) and improving interpersonal skills. The atmosphere in the group has been very supportive. I see the value of Springboard going far beyond the group sessions. Women who participate are able to become more effective in every area of their lives. This benefits the church, the workplace, the family and community." — Lynette Leach (Field Director, Vic-Tas Dept of Mission, Education & Development)

In association with the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development, the Vic-Tas Department of Community Care and the Chadstone church, Gillian Carpenter (accredited trainer) has been invited to run the second course, on 4 March, 1 April, 6 May and 3 June next year. A briefing session will be held in the near future. Women interested in this course should contact Lynette Leach on (03) 326 8900.

—Irene Creasey

Australia

Prayer for Drought

A special ecumenical prayer service for the drought was held in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, on 9 September. More than 600 knelt to pray, joined by the NSW Governor, His Excellency Peter Sinclair, the NSW Premier, John Fahey, and representatives of churches, community groups and members of State and Federal Parliaments.

SLM National Conference

100 attended Sports and Leisure Ministries National Conference in Sydney. Three features of sports ministry were explored: discipling Christian athletes (Gary Speckman), sporting chaplaincy (Gary Coleman) and church sports ministry (David Snell). Over 300 attended the Saturday Night of Champions. Speakers included David Lloyd (twice "King of the Mountain"), Michelle Lillington (athletics and swimming), Arthur Bartlett (Thunderdome chaplain), Stuart Gyngell (shot put medalist) and Rev Graeme Lawrence (PGA chaplain).

Awakening '95

The launch of Awakening '95 was held on 22 October. The launch included the premier of the Melbourne Global March video along with highlights from the BBC coverage of the March world-wide. In 1994, Easter festivals were held in 400 towns and cities around Australia. The goal for 1995 is to increase this number to around 600, with a series of festivals culminating in marches on Easter Sunday.

Hour of Power on Film

The world premier and launch of Hour of Power in cinema was held at the Dumaresq St Twin Cinema, Campbelltown, on 19 October. It is 25 years since Dr Robert Schuller went to television with "The Hour of Power".

Spirited Australians

Alan Jones, Don Dobie, Ross Clifford and David Millikan will be appearing on the TV program "Spirited Australians", hosted by Jay Back, 2CH talk-back host and minister of the Northside, NSW, church. The programs are being screened at 1.30 am on Wednesdays on the Channel 9 network, repeated on Sunday mornings at 6.30 am.

The Board of Management, Faculty and Students of the
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extend to you a cordial invitation to attend the

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Sunday School Opened

Future looks promising

3 October, Ian Allsop opened the new Sunday School rooms at Warragul, Vic, after the conclusion of the worship service. Many crowded around, during a heavy downpour, to witness the exciting event.

Before Ian declared the rooms opened, Ray Earl gave a brief outline of how the rooms came to be.

John Farmer, a former elder, had a vision of extending the buildings to accommodate the growing Sunday School, which was meeting in various places—the church kitchen and study, the Bowen Pre-School (part of the church complex) and across the road at St Paul's Grammar School.

As the church was already committed to the properties Corporation with its present loan, the board decided that to go into more debt would be unwise. The decision was made

to build the rooms using voluntary labour, as money became available.

The building fund began with a target of \$10,000. As this amount became a reality, the building commenced under the leadership and guidance of Allen Ronalds and Bruce Harris. (Allen has been busy on Mobile Mission Maintenance projects regularly and Bruce is a builder/trade teacher.) These two spent many long hours and days, along with a team of helpers, to make the project a reality.

Extra foundations were required by the council, which escalated the cost, but the money coming in also increased. The final amount donated was around \$15,000, which enabled a path and a verandah in front of the rooms to be added to the plan. This proved beneficial during the



• Ian Allsop, Phil Bell and some of the children

rain on the opening day. Some good quality used carpet was donated and laid.

The cooperation of the Bowen Park Preschool was an important part of the project. The kinder had been using part of the required land for their playgroup. To overcome this, the kinder moved their fences so the building of the rooms

could begin. Extra land was given at the other end of the yard to replace that used. The new rooms will be available for the preschool if needed and the Sunday school will continue to use the preschool each Sunday.

The Sunday School (junior Church) has 62 children on the roll and its future looks very promising. —Lynette Earl

If the Walls Could Talk

Remembering, and a new beginning

The Margaret Street (Launceston, Tas) school hall had the biggest crowd in living memory (some 300) on Saturday night, 8 October, for a family tea, followed by an evening in the chapel—the last social function before moving to our new location in Frederick Street. Friends from SA, Victoria and various parts of Tasmania joined with locals in sharing

memories and renewing friendships. The "Allen Sisters" (Gwen Byard, Jean Piper and Doris Allen) had prepared a program which later brought laughter and tears as members shared milestones of the past and the "in-laws, outlaws and other loose connections" showed how the scope and influence of those gone before have their results today. The lifelong work and devotion of Sir Geoffrey Foot and Jim Harrison received special mention as part of the Margaret Street story.



• The "closing" prayer

On Sunday, it was early to church to get a parking place, which won't be a problem in the future with 55 parking spaces at our new site, and a seat in the chapel. There were many who had to be seated in the foyer. Wayne Kerrison led the service of more than 300 worshippers, and Barry Birtwistle, in song, voiced the feelings of anticipation with the solo "Walk On—A New Beginning". There were, naturally, regrets at leaving what has been

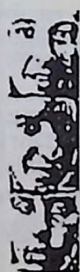
a spiritual home for a long time for many of our older members, but they/we see the move as inevitable if we are to obey the command to "make disciples". After Craig Spaulding's challenging sermon, morning tea was served. We then assembled in front of the open doors of the church, Craig led in prayer, and the doors were then ceremoniously closed. Next Sunday, (16 October) we meet at 71 Frederick Street—a new beginning!

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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

What's Left

To the Editor,

Thank you to Louis Clun for your comment ("AC" 17 September). Your clear statement on the place of the Old Testament was very much appreciated.

Ask any Messianic Jew how important is the relationship between the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. I know what the answer will be.

Approaching 58 years of membership in the Body of Christ, I am taking a vice-like grip on my faith, which so many are trying to destroy in this day and age.

After all, if "Thus says the Lord" does not mean "Thus says the Lord", what have we left to live by?

—May Barnett
(Mornington, Vic)

Wrong Game

To the Editor,

"What's the Score" letter by Kevin Bray ("AC" 1 October) not only missed the point, he went to the wrong game. I would like to invite Kevin to come to Berwick and it will be my pleasure to have him stay in our guestroom and then to take him on a guided tour of the various chapels used prior to our current mud brick chapel, built to seat 1200 in a growing community.

I would show him the old chapel on the hill (1886-1972) and tell him of the incredible faith shown by a handful of people to build a new complex in Lyall Rd that could seat 120. Some were heard to say in 1972 that, "This chapel would last us our lifetime". I would show him the two extensions, plus the properties purchased on either side to cope with the church's energetic outreach into the Berwick community. Then we would emulate the walk to "The Factory" where the church met for two years while we saved and planned for the mud brick church at Centre Rd.

I would tell him of how our church was so committed to

reaching its community that it was prepared to go into a big debt. Why? Because the people had a vision. The people had enormous faith.

Yes, one of our elders felt led to propose a scheme to reduce our crippling debt and reduce the amount of interest that we paid to the bank. And while we dug deeper into our own pockets for our normal offerings, many of us dug deeper and donated \$2,000 to reduce the debt (\$105,000 raised). And when the appeal came along to help Rwanda, we didn't skimp on that either, we gave \$2,805, and that's just through our church. Some of us gave in other places also.

What do you think Kevin? Can you come down and see the real game?

—Rob Wilson
(Berwick, Vic)

Women in Leadership

To the Editor,

At its recent National Conference in Hobart, the Australian Labor Party voted in favour of having women stand in 35% of all winnable federal and state seats by the year 2002. For a bunch of typical politicians, who usually lead from behind, this was at best a brave and commendable thing to do. At the very least, it was an expedient decision by a political party in tune with the dreams and aspirations of the post-war generations. As I was considering these things, it made me wonder how the church was going with affirmative action as it applies to leadership. A quick glance through the latest Queensland conference handbook revealed that of the 81 ministers listed in our 75 churches, only three are women (all associate ministers). None of our State Conference departments are headed by a woman and, in 111 years of State Conferences, a woman has never been elected as conference president. Why not?

Australia wide, more than half of our members are women who have made enormous contributions to ministry and mission. But at senior leadership level women are conspicuous

by their absence. There is no reason for excluding women from leadership, so why has this sad and unjust state of affairs been allowed to continue for so long?

I find it hard to believe that there are not sufficient capable women available to fill many more senior leadership positions in our churches and departments. Or have many of our potential female leaders grown tired of hitting the "glass ceiling" and opted out of our churches to serve elsewhere?

—Graeme Foon
(Chaplain, Bribie Island Retirement Village)

Evolution

To the Editor,

I have an idea that relates to the series of screenings on ABC Television is the documentary series "The Big Picture" produced by Desmond Morris, author of *The Naked Ape*.

In propaganda for the un-

proved theory of evolution, Morris says he is "peeling" away the layers of cultural, religious and social conditioning to reveal homo sapiens in their true colours—not fallen angels but risen apes.

I'm not sure who called humans fallen angels, however I'm equally sceptical about human's being risen apes. (Pity the poor apes if what we read in our newspapers and see on TV is any guide.)

I believe it would be a good idea if Christians around Australia were to write to the Chairman of the ABC, 700 Harris St, Ultimo 2000, protesting the one-sided propaganda put out that invariably assumes the theory of evolution is fact.

As a positive suggestion, it could be submitted that the ABC screen the film *Evolution: Fact of Belief* which is available from Creation Science Foundation Ltd, PO Box 302, Sunnybank 4109.

Letters to a Travelling Companion

"Religious Canvassers"

Dear Daniel,

So you've had a recent visit from the religious door-knockers, have you? I can understand your worry that you may have been a bit rough in sending them away. I suppose it was a bit unwise of them to try to argue with you while you were washing your car, but turning the hose on them was a bit rough, don't you think? Surely a simple "On yer bike," would have sufficed.

I am well aware of just how annoying religious door-knockers can be, but it can be helpful to see things from their perspective. They are relentless in their approach because, often, they are fearful of divine reprisal if they do not do all they can to convert you to their cause. Whilst appearing concerned for your salvation, their overwhelming motivation is fear for their own. They are often the objects of extensive mental programming and conditioning that has bound them up in fear and guilt. They are trapped in a world view that is disempowering and robs them of the freedom to think for themselves. These people are often ordinary folk like you and me that are being irresponsibly manipulated by power-hungry and self-interested people in the leadership of their sect.

Whether we choose to engage them in debate or to send them on their way, it is important to remember that it is they, not us, who are the victims. For this reason, firm kindness, rather than abrasiveness, is a much more appropriate response to your average religious canvasser.

Until next time,
Pastor Salt

Letters to the Editor

I believe the content of this film, in which several well qualified scientists express and demonstrate their beliefs, is a fine expression of the view that both materialistic evolution and theistic evolution are wrong.

—Wal Caspersonn
(Wagga Wagga, NSW)

Principal Emeritus E.L. Williams

To the Editor,

As a graduate of 1948, I would join with Charles Kimber in paying tribute to the late E.L. Williams.

The influence of Mr Williams as Principal of the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, as lecturer, as preacher and as a friend of all who went to College, will continue on in the years ahead as well as through his articles and books.

He could preach for an hour, which not many can do these days without losing hearers. He challenged all to be like Christ and in his own affairs Christ led the way. He believed that it was better to win the hearts of all men than to cut off the ears of those who might differ! And he was correct. He loved the church and our Movement. In a letter to me he said at the end: "...certain people kept asking Jesus to show them a sign—something which he refused to do. I guess you have heard me say all this before." Then he added in conclusion the usual memorable statement: "I wish we could get away from the great enthusiasm for small things and be more committed to the great challenges of the Kingdom of God."

—Bruce Burn
(Morwell, Vic)

PS Another eminent preacher and lecturer of Churches of Christ has died in New South Wales. Cliff Taylor was a warm and caring person who lectured and encouraged many College of the Bible students who later became preachers. His work and ministry among us will not be forgotten. To Mrs A. Taylor and others we would convey our thoughts at this time.

Gentiles and the Old Testament

To the Editor,

Some correspondence concerning my article "The Greatest Error" ("AC" 6 August) appears to be saying that the Old Testament is equivalent to the New Testament as Christian Scripture. Surely it should be clear to us all that the OT still is the Scripture of the Hebrew people—the Jews. They describe what it means to live as a Jew, not what it means to live as a Christian. There are certainly some magnificent sections (especially prophets such as Isaiah) which carry images of great spirituality and breadth of spiritual discernment which is universal. But we do not go to the Hebrew Scriptures to find out what it means to be Christian.

All the people who wrote the early Christian documents were Jews, so for all of them the OT was their Scripture. They were, as Paul called himself, sons of Abraham. But I am not a son of Abraham. I am a gentile.

The OT writings are not my Scriptures. Is it not a little offensive for me to claim these Scriptures as mine if I am not a Jew?

Obviously the OT was Scripture for Jesus, but this provides no requirement that it be Scripture for me. We don't follow any other aspect of life that was Jesus' Jewishness. We don't practise the Jewish Sabbath, go to synagogue, follow Jewish food laws, etc, as Jesus did. Jesus' Jewishness included respect for his people's Scripture, but Jesus' followers in the Gentile world are not required to have the same attitude to these ancient writings. Jesus' Jewishness was not what made him Son of God and Saviour. He transcends all races and nations—he is the brother of all humanity.

The Christian faith of a Gentile cannot be judged by what his attitude is to the Hebrew Scriptures, only by what his attitude is to Jesus of Nazareth as Word of God and Lord of life. My attitude to the Hebrew Scriptures does not mean that I ignore them. I read them and use them in preaching, but not in an authoritarian and misleading way which is still too common in the church.

—Alan Cant
(Bindoon, WA)

Chaplaincy

To the Editor,

During my final year at Carlingford (Churches of Christ in NSW) Theological College I went to the Headquarters of ITIM at St Leonards, Sydney, where I was interviewed by the director.

When I explained in detail my work experience prior to going to College, he wanted me, there and then, to "sign on" as an industrial chaplain, and complete my theological studies part-time. Some of the

businesses asking for the services of ITIM were in the area where I had served my apprenticeship.

Less than four years later I registered my interest in becoming an industrial chaplain with ITIM in Victoria. After several months of feeling as though I had been overlooked, I lodged another resume with ITIM with a covering letter reiterating my interest. Their response informed me that I had insufficient qualifications and experience. I felt as though the "goalposts" had been moved. This experience led to Marjan's article "Whatever is Happening to Chaplaincy?" ("AC" 3 September), which had an excellent response by Louis van Laar ("AC" 1 October).

I suppose my own experience would suggest that by the time I undertook a degree or diploma in "counselling, organisational behaviour and management consultancy" as Louis suggests, then ITIM would probably be looking for the same at masters or doctorate level, the "goalposts" will have been moved yet again just so that this organisation is competitive with other "Employee Assistance Programs".

It is regrettable that people such as Bruce Burn ("AC" 15 October) should regard any of the comments to date as suggesting (even hinting) that the chaplains themselves should be "investigated". Marjan and I hold in the greatest respect all we know who are working in chaplaincy.

I agree with Marjan, that chaplaincy (in some organisations, not the chaplains) is moving beyond what many members of churches would understand to be the role and function of such a service. The question needs to be asked whether the churches want to endorse and support chaplaincy, or instead endorse and support a Behavioural/Management Support Scheme, which really should be called that and not chaplaincy!

—Rodney Beer
(Richmond, Vic)

Continued on page 11

Pontius' Puddle



Books

Special Services Manual for Churches of Christ

Edited by Graham J. Warne (Kenmore Christian College) \$10.

Whenever I have to be involved in any special service I will go back to my College notes to start to draft a service applicable to the situation. Along with my old notes, I also grab one or two service manuals I have acquired over the years. These are from other traditions and often from either an English or American situation. To my knowledge, there has never been a manual of services designed for Churches of Christ in Australia.

Kenmore Christian College has produced a great resource that does fill a gap for many ministers. This will be a very handy resource for those leading services.

There is a short introduction on the role of ministers in "Rites of Passage" that is an increasingly significant move in church circles today.

The first series of special services outlined relates to baptism. There are four different services given, including one for an open-air baptism and also a service for baptisms held on Christmas Day. The second section deals with marriage services. Of note are a service for blessing a civil marriage and a service for the marriage of non-Christians. The largest number of services outlined is the funeral section, where again special services are included (children, suicide/tragic death, etc). The other major section relates to services under the heading "Family Dedications". There is also a section of miscellaneous services, with services for the dedication of a building, a dedication service for leaders, a teachers' commissioning service and a commissioning service for State School Chaplains.

This is a very useful resource that ministers and church leaders will find helpful. Interestingly, they have used both the Churches of Christ Hymn Book and Scripture in Song in the various services. The wide variety of music available in churches today would mean a discerning use of the suggestions in this book.

Highly recommended. Available from Kenmore Christian College, PO Box 55, Kenmore 4069 (phone (07) 378 7633) for \$10 plus \$1.50 postage. —CRA

Understanding the Basic Themes of I and II Chronicles

by Roddy L. Braun (Word Publishing) \$13.95.

The author, Roddy Braun, is the pastor of Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Virginia, USA, and has published more than 20 studies in Old Testament theology.

In this book, Braun comprehensively examines the significance of themes such as the Kingdom of God, the temple and the people of God. He points out that the Chronicler writes his own history of Israel, amplifying the way God deals with his people. We often treat books like Chronicles simply from a historical perspective. However, Braun carefully exposes and explores some of the precious theological truths underlying Chronicles.

Nine key themes are contemplated and a comparison is made in each case with Deuteronomistic History (eg. Samuel, Kings) and the New Testament. The sixth chapter is particularly thought-provoking and informative as the theme of Divine Retribution is examined. It features the relationship of seeking and forsaking God and the impact of such actions. This naturally leads on to the

following chapter which deals with the Chronicler's and New Testament view of the believer's heart.

Understanding The Basic Themes of I and II Chronicles offers the student an exhaustive treatment of the critical themes in Chronicles. It is an ideal reference book to be used in conjunction with an OT commentary for those seeking a thorough and analytical study of Old Testament Theology. —Robert Mason

Jesus the Baptiser with the Holy Spirit

by Allan Norling (self published) \$14.95.

Allan Norling has produced a book looking very carefully at the biblical material on the baptism of the Christian with the Holy Spirit. Allan has been involved in looking at the issue of the Holy Spirit and has promoted discussions on the issue in our NSW churches for a number of years. This book is the result of his in-depth search for an understanding of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and how the gifts of the Spirit are exhibited in the life of a Christian.

Allan in his Introduction claims, "This book takes an entirely fresh approach to, and provides exciting new concepts about, the 'baptism with the Holy Spirit' and the 'gifts of the Spirit'". The major part of his argument is that the "baptism with the Holy Spirit" is a repeated experience in the life of the Christian. "We will become aware of Jesus working with us, baptising us *afresh* with the Holy Spirit, each time He uses us in ministry." Allan also looks at the way the "Gifts of the Spirit" are then manifested in Christians and the implications this has for ministry by individual Christians.

People with interest in the ministry of the Holy Spirit should read this book and work through Allan's arguments. Even if you do not agree with them, studying the biblical text and looking at all in detail should help everybody better understand the place and role of the Holy Spirit.

The book can be obtained from many Christian bookshops and also from the author at PO Box 219, Beecroft 2119 (Phone/fax (02) 481 0267). The retail price is \$14.95 plus postage. —CRA



"I didn't say you were a perfect idiot. Nobody's perfect."

Letters to the Editor

Spong and Interpretation

To the Editor,

I look back on my lifetime in the church and see great changes in its life, worship and community thrust. But there has been a consistency in biblical interpretation; those who have lived comfortably with a literal acceptance, and those who have not but have generally remained silent or have quietly withdrawn.

It is to the latter whom Bishop Spong writes. Not to convert the literalists, but to suggest a biblical point of view for those who simply seek to live the abundant life and accept Christ as Lord.

We are what we are, we should dare to be ourselves, and neither side should pour scorn on the other for, what is for them, a sincere and honest thought process.

The final determinant must be "does the path I choose lead me to live a Christ-like life".

His book *This Hebrew Lord* (1973) provides background to his lifetime in the church, and his ministry and the factors which directed his path. It was fascinating for me to note that it was his reading *Honest to God*

by John Robinson, an Anglican Bishop, which gave him the courage to be himself, follow his inclinations, and publish.

I recall our exciting inter-church home study groups in the 1960s and 70s when we too studied this book and read its follow-ups *But that I can't believe* and *The New Reformation*.

One doesn't have to believe everything they say, but both writers have helped many to see what it means to be a Christian and to be the church in a modern world.

—Colin Johnson
(Preston, Vic)

Is It Time?

To the Editor,

More and more I find myself asking "Is it Time?" But time for what? Time to move on? Based on letters and articles in *The Australian Christian*, I was asking myself "Have Churches of Christ got a future?" Interestingly, in the 17 September issue, that matter was discussed by Bruce McIntosh. Also in the same issue, Heather Williams revealed that she had left the Churches of Christ for reasons she expressed. A letter from Colin Johnson supports Bishop Spong. Bruce's article refers to

the hoary slogan "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things love". If the slogan were more definitive, we may be able to separate the sheep and the goats and perhaps identify more clearly the unorthodox preachers/writers who in many circles would be described as heretics.

Colin in his letter on Spong talks of "essential Christianity", but I would like him and others to address the "essentials of Christianity" on which we must have unity. I believe it is time to address the need for a doctrinal foundation or creed for the Churches of Christ so that the evangelicals and the unorthodox can determine if they want to remain or to separate. I know this would be anathema to many, but what do we believe? I don't believe that we can even agree on the essentials on which there should be unity.

A ridiculous situation exists in NSW, and perhaps in other States. For under the Constitution of NSW Churches of Christ, a church can be disaffiliated if it departs from traditional Churches of Christ faith and doctrine (or words to that effect), but nowhere is it stated what that is; ie, it depends on

the views of the delegates at the conference at which the disaffiliation comes up for discussion.

I (and others) recently separated from the Churches of Christ for reason of unorthodox teaching, but I look forward to the day when more credence is given to the teachings of Jesus. Can we develop a Statement of Faith upholding the doctrine of evangelical Christianity to which I thought our forebears gave assent and on which was based the Churches of Christ on formation. I look forward to the day when I can return.

—W.R. Wade
(Batemans Bay, NSW)

National Council of Churches

To the Editor,

The screening of the inauguration of the NCCA on the ABC program, "Compass", and the subsequent front photo and articles in *The Australian Christian*, (6 August) clearly demonstrates how far Protestant and Evangelical churches and the Australian(?) Churches of Christ, have strayed from their original agendas.

It is notable that it was only the Victorian-Tasmanian and ACT branches of our denomination that were present.

The commentator's remarks that Christian(?) churches had always accommodated pagan rites is very true, past and present, with the Western and Eastern Catholics and Anglicans. Was not that the reason for the Reformation and the birth of Evangelical Christianity?

To incorporate heathen rites of the Aborigines into the ritual shows that today's Christianity(?) demonstrates how the faith of our forefathers has become a lowest common denominator mentality. This must have been a blow to those who have laboured to bring Christianity to the Aboriginal people.

It must have brought a smile to the Roman Catholic hierarchy to see roads again leading to Rome!

Rites and ritual were abolished when our Lord gave up



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Letters to the Editor

his spirit on the Cross. Paul was right (2 Tim 3:3-4 NIV).

The time has come for all true Christians to acknowledge the Bible alone as God's inerrant word and guide to mankind.

—J.H. Luxton
(Biggenden, Qld)

An Issue of Concern

To the Editor,

How sad to see the brazen faces of three prostitutes on the front page of *The Age* (Melbourne) in full "living colour"! Until recently, their faces would have been hidden in shame. [The following day *The Age* noted that two of the three people were photographic models —Editor]

They certainly put money above all else. So will the Stock Exchange if it allows a brothel to be floated as a public company. I thought it was illegal to "live off the earnings of prostitution".

The love of money is certainly the root of all evil. Is our denomination interested in this issue?

—R.R. Konig
(Nunawading, Vic)

Objection

To the Editor,

I wish to object most strongly to the line about wife beating, used by Malcolm Gray to illustrate how to use voice inflection in reading Scripture ("AC" 19 October).

To have persons practise and repeat that line as part of training for reading the Word of God appears to me more blasphemous than what I read in

and hear through the secular media.

—Louis van Laar
(Northcote, Vic)

Chaplaincy Changes

To the Editor,

Louis van Laar is right, there is a change and challenge within chaplaincy services ("AC" 1 October).

He is wrong however, in his analysis and his solutions.

The changes in hospitals, prisons and workplaces are far more fundamental than he suggests and a response which urges would-be chaplains "to look at post-graduate qualifications in counselling, organisational behaviour and management consultancy" is misguided.

Cultural and linguistic diversity have radically changed the Australian community. We are perhaps one of the most diverse communities in the world. One implication of this diversity is religious plurality.

It is no longer just or equitable for the Christian church in Victoria to receive, for example, more than \$300,000 from the state government, to subsidise its ministry in schools, whilst other faith communities receive nothing. This is discrimination and churches are parties to that discrimination.

There is a revolution taking place in the workplace. Largely ignored by the structures of churches, it has a very real impact on the lives of people in congregations. In this situation, it is the employer and not the State, which underwrites the churches' ministry. No other

faith community's ministry is paid for in such a manner. Sooner or later, under such arrangements, an employer will face challenges of discrimination.

More fundamentally, the time has come for the church to be grappling with the wider question of what is the ministry of the church within the institutions of society, whether hospital, prison or workplace. The days of chaplaincy paid for by either the state or employer are numbered.

To stay with the "chaplaincy model" means continuing "to demonstrate economic worth," to participate in a system which marginalises and discriminates against other faith communities, or struggling to compete with the professional in "organisational behaviour and management consultancy".

To start asking questions about the ministry of the church will be more a fruitful challenge to change than to struggle with adapting the "chaplaincy model".

—Alan Matheson
(Camberwell, Vic)

False Memory

To the Editor,

I was troubled to read the replies by Dawn Brand and Reg Brand ("AC" 17 September) to my article ("AC" 20 August). The very issues they imply I have failed to grasp, particularly in their last paragraphs, indicate that they themselves have either not kept abreast of recent world-wide developments, or have chosen to ignore them.

In recent days, "60 Minutes" and "Four Corners" programs have highlighted salient aspects of the problem. However, a far more telling TV program has been produced and screened by the BBC earlier this year, titled "Inside Story".

Freud is credited with inventing psychoanalysis, which forms the basis of so much of the phenomena known as multiple-personality disorder. A further development of this has been the repressed memory of childhood trauma. Before his death, Freud retracted these

ideas (*True Stories of Fake Memories* by Eleanor Goldstein and Kevin Farmer (SIRS Books) p. 182).

Time magazine (29 November 1993) produced an enlightening article titled "Lies of the Mind". In that article, they noted: "The ultimate victim of repressed memory may well be the psychotherapeutic profession itself ... As the American public begins to recognise that people have been falsely accused by recovered-memory patients, says psychiatrist Professor McHugh, it opens up to skepticism and dismay about our capacity to do things. This is a bubble that is going to burst. We will end up having to recreate the trust this country puts in psychotherapy."

For a very balanced understanding to this vital issue, the most recent publication of Dr Michael D. Yapko *Suggestions of Abuse*, published by Simon and Schuster, should be read. Dr Yapko visited Australia briefly recently and was featured in the ABC "Four Corners" program.

In December 1994, there is to be held an International Seminar, jointly funded by the False Memory Syndrome and John Hopkins Medical Institutions, in Baltimore, Maryland, USA, on this whole subject of memory and reconciliation, with many leading Psychologists and Psychiatrists participating. The Australian False Memory Syndrome Association will be represented at this Seminar.

—B.V. Coventry
(Marion, SA)

Saying No

To the Editor,

Professor Marion Howard of Emory University, Atlanta, USA, surveyed 1,000 teenage girls in Atlanta, including a question regarding what subject they most needed to learn about in "sex education".

82% of them wanted to know "how to say no without hurting the other person's feelings". Australian teachers please note.

—Arnold Jago
(Mildura, Vic)

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Department of Mission, Education and Development
Victoria-Tasmania



Don Smith
Executive Director

A Bold Vision

Fifty new Victorian churches between 1994-2000 is the Department's recently established goal. This goal follows the successful commencement of fourteen new churches in stage one of the Church Reach Out Plan (CROP). The church planting momentum should continue to increase in the second stage. Six contexts for church planting or development are proposed:

- ◆ **Melbourne's expanding urban perimeter**
- ◆ **Ethnic communities**
- ◆ **Marginalised and minority groups**
- ◆ **Replants in existing or terminal situations**
- ◆ **Country centres**
- ◆ **Adopt independent groups**



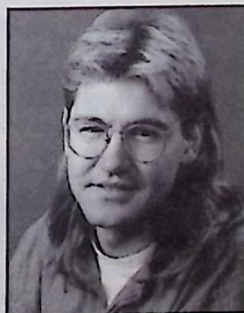
Lynette Leach
Education Services

Churches throughout Victoria will be challenged to participate in this bold mission thrust. An ambitious program of recruitment, training and equipping of church planters and leaders is proposed.

UNOH

Urban Neighbourhoods of Hope has been established as a Department committee and mission agency for work among minority and marginalised people. Ashley Barker leads a team of seventeen bi-vocational missionaries and twelve volunteers working in six centres.

Church support for new initiatives, personnel, finance and



Ashley Barker
UNOH

intercession will be vital if these goals are to be realised. In Tasmania, current and new projects will be encouraged.

Equipping Ministry

An equipping ministry for church leaders and participants is part of the Department's harvest vision. In 1995, Alan Hirsch, the Director of Urban Ministry and successor to Don Smith in September 1995, will lead two major training events. **Urban Encounter**, successfully launched with sixteen modules this year, will be repeated over two semesters in 1995 with eight new modules. These include conflict resolution, separation and divorce, recovery group ministry, spiritual direction, social justice and interpreting rock culture. They are available to students, leaders and church members. **Shaping Your Church's Mission** is a refocusing process and will offer church leaders the opportunity for reflection and action on the missionary nature and tasks of the local church.



Alan Hirsch
Urban Ministry



Cheryl Johnson
Singles Ministry

Core Values

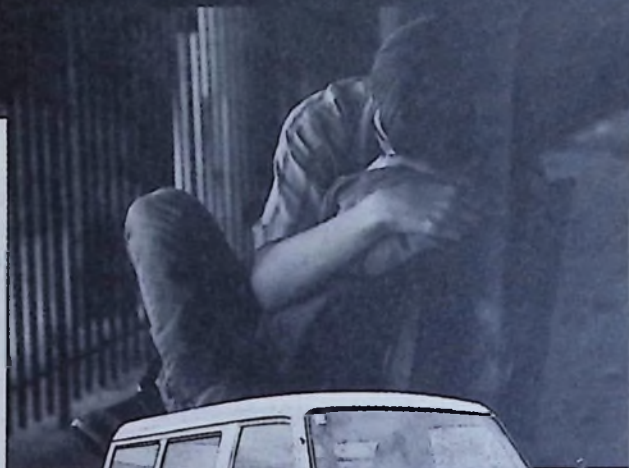
Programming and leader development in singles, family life, women's, youth and children's ministry and all-age camping are part of the Department's core values and integrated educational services.

Staff members have worked widely throughout Victoria and Tasmania during 1994 with field services. Children's, youth and adult camping events are in demand, with the two forthcoming summer camps for single parent families already filled by late October. Youth ministry activities are at a high point.



Paul Creasey
Youth Ministry

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into the community through education and support initiatives which address some of the key concerns in today's society.

Recently, ANSVAR purchased a Ford Econovan for Drug-Arm, a group which aims to promote a healthy lifestyle without the use of unnecessary drugs. Street Van, as it is known, takes assistance to the young people on the street, helping them to explore options to move out of this harmful environment.

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Clifford George Taylor

1915-1994

On 1 October, the earthly career of Clifford George Taylor closed at the Mona Vale Hospital, NSW, just 29 days short of his 79th birthday.

He was born at East Fremantle, WA, on 30 October 1915, the second of six children of Olive and Samuel Taylor.

Earlier in 1994, Clifford G. Taylor, preached at Chatswood, NSW, church at a special service to mark the 60th anniversary of the commencement of his ministry on 6 May, 1934, at Brookton, WA.

There was a thanksgiving service at the Chatswood chapel led by Ian Alves, the present minister. Cliff Taylor's son-in-law, Christopher Thomas, and Rosalie Rofe, the associate minister of Chatswood, each read the Scriptures. Major Margaret Redmond, Manager of the Warringah Place Retirement Village, Collaroy, where Cliff Taylor and his wife, Millie (Amelia), have been residing since 1991, gave a tribute and led in prayer. Fred Stephenson, a lifelong friend, presented a eulogy and biographical outline of Clifford Taylor's long and fruitful service.

Two of the hymns used had been written by Cliff himself.

Sympathy was expressed to his widow, Millie, daughters, Wendy (who had come from London) and Heather, her husband, Christopher Thomas, and

grand-daughters, Siobhan and Kirsty.

Baptised by S.H. Mudge in 1925 at Fremantle church, Clifford was a contemporary there of Gordon Stirling, whose father, D. Stirling, was a minister at Fremantle in the 1920s. Another minister to influence him greatly was Roy Raymond.

His early training in speaking was through Christian Endeavour and classes conducted by Roy Raymond and the WA Youth Department. The appointment to full-time ministry at Brookton was made jointly by the Brookton church and the Home Missions Department, with a view to his later entering the College of the Bible, which he did in February 1936. He was immediately appointed to South Yarra and later Ringwood churches to minister whilst at College.

On graduating from COB in November 1938, he went straight to the Parkdale, Vic, church (1938-41) for a part-time ministry, while doing a full-time BA History Honours course at Melbourne University, graduating at the end of 1941. He accepted full-time ministry at Hampton, Vic, from the beginning of 1942, but resigned to accept an urgent call to a strategic war-time ministry at Lygon Street. While there, he married well-known Melbourne singer, Amelia Scarce. From February 1945, with the

ready agreement of Lygon Street church, he combined full-time church ministry with lecturing at the College of the Bible in Homiletics and other subjects. During the period of his ministry at Brighton church (1948-56), he became editor of *The Australian Christian* in June 1951 and gave up his lecturing at the College.

Early in 1957, he moved to Doncaster, Vic, and continued to combine full-time ministry with the "AC" editorship, also serving as Victoria-Tasmania Conference President, 1962-63. He terminated both Doncaster ministry and "AC" editorship in November 1963 to move to Chatswood, NSW, where he served for 14 years (1963-78). He gave ministerial support and oversight during the preparations for, and the first year of, the establishment of the "daughter church" at North Turrumurra (commenced August 1965). For 12 years, he lectured in Missions and Comparative Religion at Woolwich College, NSW. During 1972-73, he was President of NSW Conference.

In April 1978, he moved back to Victoria for a ministry with the church at Gardiner. However, three operations on his eye, for detached retina, and a serious illness forced premature resignation from full-time ministry in October 1980.

Mr and Mrs Taylor returned to Chatswood to live in retirement and to attend the church there, where he preached occasionally.



• Cliff Taylor

During his ministries, Clifford Taylor served on a number of conference and inter-church committees, with long-term service on the Victoria-Tasmania Christian Union Department and the NSW Overseas Missions Committee (chairman 12 years). For many years, he was a regular broadcaster on ABC religions sessions—both radio and television.

He was a talented hymn writer and two of his hymns (including the World Convention 1952 "theme hymn") are in the *Australian Churches of Christ Hymn Book*.

Cliff and Millie have made many true friends over each stage of life, including their residence at the Retirement Village at Collaroy. Faith, friendship, talent and dedication produced a remarkable God-honouring life of service to others.

—Fred Stephenson

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APPROACHING MARRIAGES

PITT-CARR The marriage of Alison Elizabeth (second daughter of Keith and Frances Pitt of Parkdale) to Rohan Andrew (elder son of Max and Brenda Carr of Balwyn) will take place on Friday 11 November 1994 at 4.30 pm in the Carey Baptist Grammar School Chapel, 349 Barkers Road, Kew.

MARRIAGES

QUANTRELLE-O'BRIEN Amanda Jane Quantrelle, youngest daughter of Dorothy and Glen Quantrelle, was married to Sean O'Brien, on 1 October at Collins Street Baptist Church. Sean is the youngest son of Irene and the late Rex O'Brien of Lower Templestowe.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

DAVIS Ray and Val. Married on 28 October 1944 at Cowandilla Church of Christ by the late Frank Hollams. We give thanks to God for 50 wonderful years together, for our loving family and many friends.

DIAMOND WEDDINGS

LUDBROOK-TURNER Hilda Turner and Jack Ludbrook were married on 3 November 1934, at Grote Street Church of Christ, Adelaide. We are thankful for a long, happy wedded life, blessed with our two children, Jan and Philip, and fifteen grandchildren and great grandchildren, divided among NSW, Queensland and USA.

THOMSON Hazel and Roy Thomson express appreciation to all who attended or sent greetings for their Diamond Wedding Anniversary 15 September.

DEATHS

ALLEN Gertrude Florence. On 12 October 1994, aged 87 years 11 months. Much loved and loving wife of Doug (dec). Mother of Ken (dec), mother-in-law and friend of Joan and John Worrell, grandma of Sandra and Dean, Rodney and Jane, Jenny and David, and Ainslie. Loved Mum and Mother-in-law of Patricia and Graham Hilbig, Nan of Kerrie and Ian, Peter and Judy, David and Allison. Proud great-grandmother of twelve. Loved by many.

THANK YOU

WILLIAMS On behalf of Lila Williams, Joan, Reg and Graeme, and their families, I would like to thank all who have remembered us in so many ways during our time of bereavement, since Lyall's passing to higher service.

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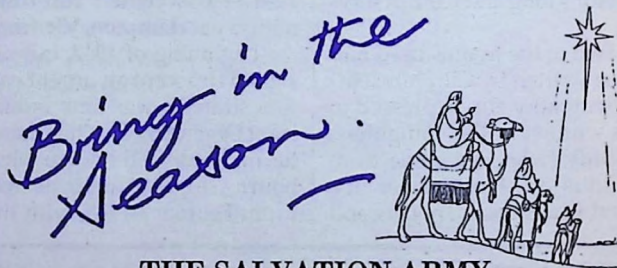
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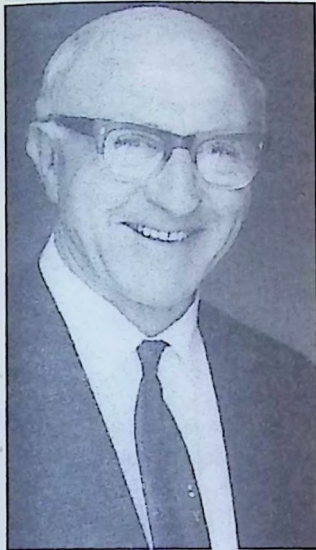
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People

Edwin Lyall Williams

1906-1994



• Principal E.L. Williams, 1968

The influence of E.L. Williams on Churches of Christ in Australia is immeasurable. Perhaps only A.R. Main ranks with him in the way several generations responded to his lead.

Most of the nearly 500 students he taught at The College

of the Bible imbibed his approach to faith and life and made it their own.

The thousands of church members these former students ministered to received indirectly from the wealth of his mind and spirit.

Through his writings, teaching missions, extension lectures, speaking at Conferences and preaching, countless people were opened up to crucial dimensions of the Kingdom of God.

Truths

A brief summary cannot capture the style of Lyall Williams' thinking, but these are the emphases he passionately declared and lived.

- The essence of Christianity is commitment to the Person of Christ.
- The immediate and practical authority for all Christians is the Scriptures, which are to be interpreted according to "the consensus of consecrated scholarship".
- Christianity is applicable to the whole of life—"personal,

cultural, social, economic and political". Christians are called to responsible living, to being good stewards.

• The church is the body of Christ and is called to express clearly the quality of life revealed in Jesus. The church is both universal and local.

• The witness of Churches of Christ concerns "the divinely given teachings, principles and practices witnessed to in the New Testament" and these include the unity of the church. "Manifest oneness" is an essential part of New Testament Christianity.

Integrity

These truths were not just assented to with his mind, they were lived. Before most of us were up, each day he had spent time in prayer with the Lord whom he knew as a friend. Without fuss, he used his time, money and business expertise to help people in need.

While he pointed to and upheld high standards, he offered forgiveness and a fresh start to those who had failed. When he was misunderstood and attacked, he did not retaliate but continued in love to share the truths he held dear.

He humbly acknowledged that he wasn't always Christlike, but those near E.L. saw him as a person of great integrity.

The Person

Lyall Williams was a practical man—a good farmer, a bush carpenter, a keen sportsman, an astute commentator on community issues and a reader of many types of literature, including westerns and mysteries.

Despite heavy demands on his time, the family were very much part of his life. In later years, the grandchildren loved to visit him at the Narre Warren farm where he enjoyed giving them tractor and pony rides.

He always made time to speak with the little children in the college community and they loved him.

Missionaries on furlough staying at Ludbrook House opposite the college were provided with a trustworthy car.

Some students wondered what they were going to talk about during the long drive to Western Australia on deputation, but they came back full of stories of shared laughter and enriching conversations.

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People

A friend to all students and faculty, Lyall developed precious relationships with some, especially T.H. Scambler, Randall Pittman, Alf White and Keith Jones.

The Principal

The "Chief" taught mainly in Doctrine, Ethics and Church History, including on the Restoration Movement. He believed that ministers needed a depth of understanding of the essentials of the faith to guard against "emotional prejudice and dogmatism". He demonstrated to his students how to use careful scholarship and thought, first of all to understand and then to communicate the truths of God to people in their various situations. His starting point was the givenness of the gospel, not what people wanted to hear.

Before Lyall Williams joined the faculty, all, including the principal, were part-time. During his principalship, he achieved his goal to have a full-time faculty, so that they could strengthen expertise in their areas of teaching while maintaining close contact with the churches.

From the 1950's, the number of married students with children increased and Mr

Williams diligently found them suitable accommodation. With his normal careful stewardship of limited finance, married quarters were provided on campus. He encouraged women with gifts to undertake the ministry course and in his last year as principal the first women were ordained.

His goal was to train people for a "GP ministry", so that Churches of Christ would continue to have ministers strongly committed to Christ and the gospel, to the mission of the church and to the plea which made us a people.

Vision of Unity

E.L. Williams was captured by the universal, or catholic, dimension of the church. He gained this vision both from the New Testament and from the beginnings of the movement of Churches of Christ, expressed especially in the writings of Thomas and Alexander Campbell. This vision he shared with conviction.

His ecumenical spirit was shown both personally and institutionally. He loved to gain insights from writers from many segments of the world church and from discussions with a wide range of Christians.

He fearlessly advocated that Churches of Christ needed to share our understandings within the world and Australian councils of churches, while also listening to what the Spirit was saying through other Christian traditions. Many leaders outside Churches of Christ came to know and appreciate our witness because they had heard E.L. Williams share it with conviction and love.

A Legacy

Mr Williams did not seek recognition for himself. His desire was that people would be captured by Jesus Christ, live as responsible Christians and work for the fulfilment of Christ's prayer for unity. We honour him best by passing on with integrity the legacy he shared with us.

To Lila, his long-time companion and helper, to Joan, Reg and Graeme, and to the grandchildren and great-grandchildren, our movement of churches says: "We share with you in a great loss, but most of all we are grateful that we were privileged to have been ministered to by Christ through E. Lyall Williams".

Prepared by Keith Bowes and Ken Clinton, students and then colleagues of E.L. Williams at COB.

- Born 18 June 1906
- Basic schooling in Kaniva district
- Baptised at 14 years old
- Entered The College of the Bible 1925, from Dawson St, Ballarat; graduated 1928
- Played VFL for Hawthorn 1929-31
- Married Lila Brown January 1930
- 1929-38 ministries at Boronia & Hawthorn, Vic & Ponsonby Rd, NZ
- BA 1934, MA 1935, University of Melbourne
- Lecturer COB 1939-1944
- Victorian Conference President 1944-45
- Appointed COB Principal December 1944, after sudden death of T.H. Scambler
- Chairman Department of Christian Union 1945-72
- Federal Conference President 1950-52
- Founding chairman of Australian Inter-Church Aid
- Delegate to World Council of Churches Assemblies at Evanston 1954 & New Delhi 1961
- Published *A Biblical Approach to Unity* in 1957
- Member of delegation to churches in China, Russia and Czechoslovakia 1959
- After 29 years as principal, retired in December 1973 and appointed Principal Emeritus
- Retirement ministries at Boronia, Knoxfield & Berwick
- Churches of Christ—An Interpretation published in 1980
- 1983 experienced a stroke affecting his body but not his mind
- Died 2 October 1994



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Videos for Home Viewing

Viney Longthorp

Anyone who has spent time in a video rental shop will know how frustrating it is to wade through the maze of rubbish in the attempt to find a suitable title for the kids, the youth group, or simply for an evening's entertainment. The following titles are highly recommended.

Beauty and the Beast (Walt Disney animated feature). This one has been extensively "road-tested" with many families. It is a brilliantly animated feature which moves at a brisk pace and includes engaging music and humour. You have to hand it to the Walt Disney people: when putting entertain-

ment on the screen they are utterly professional.

The Wizard of Oz. This is the 1938 classic, featuring the young Judy Garland. This fairy tale set in the American mid-west is a delight for all ages. And we mean all ages, grandparents will be in for an enjoyable evening too, with lots of *deja vu*. I can personally guarantee that preschool children will love it also.

The Chronicles of Narnia. This BBC produced series based on the popular children's books by C.S. Lewis is a high quality adaptation of these well-loved Christian classics. Like the books, it offers both excellent entertainment and a metaphor of Christian experience.

Ann of Green Gables (plus a sequel—that is, two films). Early this century, a Canadian Presbyterian, L.M. Montgomery wrote a charming series of books about a feisty orphan, Ann Shirley. Montgomery's classic stories are given marvellous treatment in these Canadian films. Produced on spectacular Prince Edward Island, these films will appeal to all school age children.

Hoosiers. This is the story of a secondary college basketball team in a small town in Indiana, USA, in 1951. It is far more entertaining than it may sound.

A coach with a shady past arrives in town to take over a small but undisciplined basketball team. The film portrays some memorable characters in a production which accurately presents the scenes and style of the 50s. Very uplifting.

Tender Mercies. Directed by Australian Bruce Beresford, this is a superb character study of a down-and-out country music singer who finds hope in the love of a young widow, as well as in the gospel as preached in a small Southern Baptist Church. The slow pace may not be to everyone's liking, but it is a real gem.

Driving Miss Daisy. Here is another film by Bruce Beresford. Miss Daisy is a wealthy Jewish matron from Atlanta, USA. Her chauffeur is the folksy and wise Hoke, an uneducated black Baptist. Their 25-year friendship has some tense moments; it depicts a fascinating and moving interplay of personalities. Adults may get more out of this film than will the smaller fry.

Chariots of Fire. This is a remarkable story of a real-life athlete and missionary, Eric Liddell, who refused to run on the Lord's Day (Sabbath, in the film!) in the 1924 Olympic Games. This is an epic story which makes a moving impact.

A Man Called Peter. This 1955 film is available in Aus-

tralia, but my "spies" tell me it is hard to find. It is the story of Peter Marshall, a minister of religion who became the chaplain to the US Senate. It still is widely popular, which may surprise many. At the time when it was originally shown on the big screen I overheard two girls discussing it. One said: "I cried at the end. I went to church the next Sunday." A worthy recommendation?

Kes. This film by Britain's Ken Loach is regarded as one of the all-time "greats". It is a film which puts the drama of a working-class child on the big screen.

The film depicts the sad life of a bullied and downtrodden boy who lives in a Yorkshire mining town. The only love and tenderness he can show is to his half-tamed kestrel. Mixed viewing is fine, but children will feel let-down by what they will perceive as a "sad ending".

Finally, if you haven't seen **The Incredible Journey**, don't miss it. The kids will love it. Two dogs and a cat cross a mountain range to reach their owners. In show biz they say an animal act is hard to follow; this film will help you to understand why. ❖

(In this selection we acknowledge the cooperation of the editor of *Australian Presbyterian Living Today*.)



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A Church ABC

Dulwich/Rose Park United Parish is one of our more unusual churches. It is located about five minutes east of the Adelaide CBD, in one of Adelaide's well-established, more desirable suburbs. The population in the area includes a

goodly number of management and professional people. The parish consists of some 220 people in two churches which work together. Originally, churches were established in the district in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, three within a mile radius of each other. In 1971, six years prior to the formation of the Uniting Church, the Church of Christ, Methodist and Congregational churches decided to join in an united witness. This was seen as a more efficient use of resources and better stewardship. In 1983, a significant move was made when the parish finances were merged, cementing their combined nature, rather than having "yours" and "ours".

Included in the parish are units and a seven-storey aged persons' home—Alexandra Lodge—at which both ministers (Garry Harris, Churches of Christ; Trish Spargo, Uniting

Church) give one quarter of their time to serve as chaplains.

Whilst the congregation is fairly representative of the com-

suppers and get-togethers in church homes. Other groups use the buildings and grounds, including many for weddings.

inter-generational service. This would involve crafting services where different aspects of the service would meet different group's needs and, if adopted, is seen as a real challenge for the worship committee.

27 November is the church's 23rd anniversary

as a united parish. David Brooker, SA State Minister, will be guest speaker at this event. Garry commented that he has been pleasantly surprised with the functioning of the united parish, that people display a fundamental attitude of acceptance, tolerance and flexibility. In the end, they realise that an individual's walk with Christ is paramount and that others may find meaningful expressions of faith and grace in ways that are not particularly meaningful for themselves. There is no expectation that all should be the same and historical roots are not denied or ignored, yet the differences often become blurred as their identity is that of an ecumenical church. A significant symbol of the blending of the two traditions is that a baptistry was placed in the Gartrell Memorial church (previously Methodist) with a baptismal font alongside.

It is important to the church that they do not form a new group or denomination, but make good use of their resources, cooperate rather than compete and present an united front to the community. ♦

Focus on Dulwich/Rose Park



munity, Garry Harris did comment that an area where the church sees need and potential for growth is in the under 35s, both couples and families. This will be a particular focus for the next five years, particularly as young professional or business people are now moving into the area. Outreach programs have existed previously, but over the next few years they will be seeking to be more intentional in meeting the needs of this age group, particularly through their children's work. Thursday Club occurs at about 5.00 pm on Thursdays and is for primary aged children. Currently, about 35-40 meet in the church with dinner provided. The program includes craft and games, Bible stories that are acted out and a devotional time.

Other activities include a Keep Fit SA program, young mothers' craft group (including a free creche that also operates on Sunday Mornings) and

Last year there were 80 held in the main church alone.

With all this activity, including the Aged Care chaplaincy and weddings, the ministers would be hard pressed if not for the inclusion of two lay people from the congregation on the ministry team. Their role is to deal with much of the administrative load, freeing the ministers up to do what they do best. The elders also do a lot of visitation and pastoral care in the parish, much like traditional Churches of Christ practice.

The two ministers function as co-ministers, without a "senior" minister. This fosters a collegial dimension to the work. They meet weekly and use a consensus process. This is not seen as "inefficient" if factors such as personal satisfaction are taken into account.

Ten years ago, the church moved to two services, one contemporary and one traditional. Currently, the church is considering moving to having one

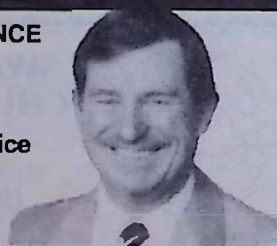
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By Whose Authority

Bruce McIntosh

Within Churches of Christ, authority belongs at the local level with the total congregation and at the state level with the affiliated churches. There has been real authority vested in a national body. Authority does not flow down the organisation structure, as in the Roman Catholic and Anglican Communions, nor does it come from State and National Synods, as in the Uniting Church.

There have always been some within Churches of Christ who have wanted more authority. The Vic-Tas Conference Handbook shows that there were no conferences in Victoria in the years 1869-1871. That was because the churches could not agree on whether Conference had authority over the churches. It was only when it was resolved that it did not, that Conference could be reconvened in 1872.

Some years ago, I expressed the view to Principal Emeritus E.L. Williams that ministers should have more authority. He replied: "They have all the authority they need." I now know that I meant autonomy, rather than authority. Some current ministers and elders seem to be making the same mistake.

Leaders in secular organisations face the same question, particularly now that hierar-

chical structures are being replaced with more interactive, participative ones.

Behavioural researchers generally agree that there are three main forms of authority.*

Position Authority

This is the authority of Popes and Kings. Position authority is usually expressed through decrees and orders. It uses the language of master and servant, and perceives relationships as between superior and subordinate. In today's society, leaders using position authority are usually seen as authoritarian. Jesus discouraged his disciples from using position authority.† In Churches of Christ, position authority has never been acceptable.

Functional Authority

This is the authority conferred on people by selection or election, the authority of Prime Ministers, and Presidents. Functional authority is exercised for the duration of the office held and is limited by the parameters of the office, and carries defined accountabilities. The office holder is always answerable to someone: the national electorate, a Board of Directors, members of an association. When Paul described the various functions of ministry in his letters, eg, apostles, prophets, pastors, evangelists,

etc, he spoke of them having equal authority within the Body of Christ.‡ Ministers, elders, deacons, Bible School Superintendents and youth leaders within Churches of Christ all have functional authority within the limits of their accountabilities. While church members should never surrender their decision-making responsibilities, particularly regarding the call of ministers, the election of elders and deacons and the control of finances to their leaders, they should allow them the maximum autonomy to carry out their day-to-day activities.

Personal Authority

This is the authority given on trust to people because of their level of knowledge, skill, experience or dedication and should be the criteria used to select persons for positions of functional authority. This is the kind of authority expressed by Jesus, and expected by him of his disciples.§ As it is given, it cannot be imposed, but it can be withdrawn. When certain televangelists were strutting their stuff, they were given enormous personal authority, but when they were exposed, their personal authority evaporated.

The Australian Best Practice Program in defining best practice in leadership quotes Dick Warburton, Chief Executive of Du Pont Australasia as saying, "Leadership is the art of bringing out the very best in people. Leaders communicate and in-

spire. Leaders empower others".¶

The church must not adopt a lesser practice than the secular world. Minister and elders should be appointed to minister, not over, nor to, nor instead of, but with a congregation.

Leaders within Churches of Christ do not have position authority. They are given functional authority and should aim to express a personal authority which people will freely accept, because of its quality and integrity; its power to convince, rather than coerce; its ability to enable and empower, rather than to control.

That is being authoritative, rather than authoritarian. ♦

* French: *The Personnel Management Practice*.

† Matthew 23:1ff.

‡ 1 Corinthians 12.

§ Luke 22:26-27; Mark 1:22.

¶ What is Best Practice?, Australian Best Practice Program.

Further reading on authority in today's church:

Walter Wink, *Engaging the Powers*.

Hans-Reudi Weber, *Power-focus for Biblical Theology*.

Donald Kraybill, *The Upside Down Kingdom*.

Edward Schillebeeckx, *Church—The Human Story*.

Jacques Ellul, *Anarchy and Christianity*.

For the environment out of which Churches of Christ came:

Christopher Hill, *The World Turned Upside Down*—radical ideas during the English Revolution (first mention of Churches of Christ—1650s).

Gerald Cragg: *Freedom and Authority*—a study of English thought in the early Seventeenth Century.

Bruce McIntosh is an elder with the Upper Yarra, Vic, church. His work in Human Resources with the Shire of Lillydale, has recently been listed as Best Practice by an International Consultancy Group.

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Think

People make decisions about increasing their giving only at the time someone asks them.

—Herb Miller in *Net Results* (Distributed by Australian Board of Church Development & Education, 77 Capel St, West Melbourne 3003.)

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Mountjoy, May Brook (nee Kennett)

(7.5.94) May was born the youngest of 11 children at Crystal Brook, SA, on 21 May 1898. In 1927 she was married to Laurie Mountjoy at Kaniva Methodist Church. They bought land at Hamilton where they worshipped with the foundation members of the Church of Christ. May was baptised in a tank in the Temperance hall. May made scones for the workers & painted as the church was erected. She was organist, deaconess and Sunday School teacher. May's hospitality was outstanding. This hospitality continued after they moved to Geelong, worshipping at Drumcondra (now Manifold Heights). May worked tirelessly for the Bible Society and The Leprosy Mission and was local president of the WCTU. Greg Illingworth and Albert Stevens conducted the service. Sympathy is expressed to Laurie, Elinor and Robert Gates, Harward and Winifred, eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Simpson, Ellen Emily

(1.10.94) Born 22 June 1906 to Frederick and Ellen Barrow, Aldgate Valley SA. Baptised at Aldgate in her teens, then later on completing her training at Adelaide Teachers' College went to Wudinna East School. In 1931 married at Aldgate to George Simpson and went to live on their Wudinna farm. They had four children, Barbara, Stan, Colin and Linette. Involved in many community and church activities: Wudinna Show Society, Red Cross, established Country Women's Association at Wudinna then Divisional President, Group President and

Honorary State Secretary; Justice of the Peace. Moved to Adelaide where George died 1965 but continued activities: visiting JP to Women's Rehabilitation Centre; sat with Magistrates on Family Adoption Court; President of Women's Conference; Chairman of Social Service Department. While in Sydney living with daughter was instrumental in formation and on-going activity of Chatswood Friendship Centre. In 1984, returned to Adelaide buying a unit at Parkrose Village where she held many positions in the Village church and community life. Emily was a wonderful practical Christian lady who will be sadly missed.

—T. Lawrie

Smith, Richard

(29.9.94) This strong and faithful Christian died aged 89. Born on 4 April 1905, Richard grew up in Templestowe/Doncaster area. At 21, he was baptised. In 1932 married Valmai Bullen, they lived at Hurstbridge, and moved to Hastings in 1958. Richard heavily involved in Hurstbridge church as deacon, Sunday School superintendent, and instrumental in building of church. At Hastings, family became involved at Red Hill church, and again, he was deacon and elder. Upon death of Valmai in 1974, he moved in with son and daughter-in-law, Terry and Berta. Richard had orchards at Hurstbridge and Hastings, and family still runs orchard. Richard was always strong and uncompromising in faith, an example and inspiration to many. He had absolute confidence in God and Jesus, and was always fair and just. Richard left four children 13 grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren. We thank God for a man of such character and service, he was a real blessing to so many.

—Bruce Butler

Baptisms

•Shane Anderson, Emma Clark, **Knoxfield, Vic** •Ben Lennon, Maureen Lennon, Diana Holt, Graeme Muller, John Sutcliffe, Don McKinnon Jr, Debbie Claringbul, Vickie Bradley, **Mildura, Vic** •Rachel Shanhan, **Kalamunda, WA** •Glenn Tozer, Rachel Hollier, Gareth Thomas, Kate Hughes, **Belconnen, ACT** •Rachel Zambra, Trudy Yeomans, **Maitland, NSW** •Peter Marshall, Jim & Lois Hoffman, **Coburg, Vic** •Ann Mullor, **Pine Rivers, Qld** •Megan Whittington, Joan Osborne, Scott Sharpe, **Launceston, Tas** •Stephen Illingworth, Dale Hills, Dale Rhall, Cathy Windsor, Jenny Box, Lyn Rowe, **Manifold Heights, Vic** •Eka Hartono, **Mount Clear, Vic**

Marriages

•Anita Vimpani and Ross Curnow, **Knoxfield, Vic** •Amanda Quantrelle and Sean O'Brien, **Mitcham, Vic** •Sally Walsh and Bruce Morris,

Belconnen, ACT •Grace Mune and John Rawlings, Letitia Webb and Warren Eather, **Applecross, WA**

Deaths

•Jim Douglas, **Knoxfield, Vic** •Alan Womersly, **Mildura, Vic** •H. Head, **Tootgarook, Vic** •Ken Trotter, **Mitcham, Vic** •Josephine Grant, **Canberra, ACT** •Elsie Rowlings, **Essendon North, Vic**

Changes

NAILSWORTH: Secretary—Mrs Barbara Anderson, c/o 40 Derlinger Avenue, Nailsworth SA 5083. Phone (08) 264 4945.

PERTH CITY: Minister—Gladys and George Powell, 13 Burt St, Mt Lawley WA 6050. Phone (09) 328 9892 (home) (09) 224 2080 (Work—Gladys)

THORNLEIGH: Associate Minister—Stuart Wesley, 29 Francis Greenway Drive, Cherrybrook NSW 2126. Phone (02) 484 4229.

Church News

WA

APPLECROSS (Sean Bainbridge) Thursday evening Kid's Club started ... Thanks to Ivan Mills for assistance in training & motivation ... Men's Fellowship dinners starting 7 November with chaplain to state cricket team inaugural speaker ... Evening services weekly again from November ... Guest speakers Rodney Cousins, Adrian van Leen ... Discussion forum operating monthly provides opportunity for all interested persons to participate ... IFC services running smoothly.

KALAMUNDA (David Shalley, Paul Sanders) World Mission week (16-23 October) guest speaker Dr Jim Bosma, ECM. Program included men's breakfast, coffee morning & youth night ... Good News Holiday Club held over school holidays. Leader Ivan Mills (Christ For All Children) assisted by Paul Sanders & helpers ... "Marth's Kitchen" bistro & entertainment evening raised \$900 towards school chaplaincy funding ... 21 young people visiting Quairading, helping to run children's ministry for combined churches seminar.

Lismore Church of Christ

Northern Rivers NSW

Invites any who have had an association with the Lismore Church over the years to our

CELEBRATION OF AN ERA SERVICE

Final service at Keen St chapel

Sunday 27 November 1994 at 10am

Guest Preacher: Graham Wame
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Luncheon after the service

Further information from Geoff & Lyn Davis (066) 24 3016

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South West—World Heritage Area

Trek C—Western Arthur Range

11-23 January 1995

Sponsored by the Adventure Committee of the Churches of Christ
Department of Mission, Education and Development (Victoria/Tasmania).
For particulars: telephone (03) 326 8900, facsimile (03) 329 0902.

Church News

NSW

MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins) Meetings in new building from 2 October. First baptisms 9 October ... Youth For Christ musical "Friends Forever" in evening service ... Thanksgiving service for baby Colleen Gretchen born to Stephen & Cherie Punch ... Ray Hawkins giving studies on "David" at Tahlee Branch Bible College in Newcastle.

THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) Guest speaker at pm service on 9 October was Paul Burnham (minister of Thornleigh 1983-87) who was in Sydney for Emmaus Walk (6-9 October) ... Church shared in a combined celebration service of the churches in the Hornsby/Thornleigh area at Barker College, Hornsby, on 16 October at 6.30 pm.

Qld

ANN ST, BRISBANE (Bill Flett) 2 October, youth group dramatic presentation of Hollywood's version of Crucifixion compared with biblical truth ... 9 October, church closed, members joined combined Conference service Bundamba ... Judy Flett, minister's wife, appointed President QCWM ... 16 October, guest speaker Jim Bennett (Kingaroy) with vocal & instrumental group ... Best wishes to newly engaged couples Kathy Ferguson & Alan Neill, & Kylie Sims & Tim Vincent.

PINE RIVERS (Neale Proellocks, Wayne Kirk, Alan Hermann) A well attended fashion parade 14 October. Proceeds to Child Care Centre ... "Looking Towards the Year 2000 & Beyond" was theme of annual general meeting, followed by sausage sizzle. Randy Edwards was special guest ... Special Thanksgiving service 23 October with one baptism during service ... Alan Hermann Conference President for the coming year.

SA

GOOLWA (Roger Risson) Dedication service held for parents & children ... Sunday youth anniversary celebration held with theme of "Creation" ... Plans for a Christian Churches of Goolwa park project presented to members ... Children's picnic day held at Tooperang, with a "dry-land" regatta ... Seminar held on "Managing Loss & Grief". Leader Harold Jones ... Tuesday Friendship Club very popular.

NAILSWORTH (Daryll Telfer) 82 attended church camp at Wellington. Study leader Colin Jones (New

Creation Ministries). David Lewis preached at home chapel service ... Paul Charlton set apart as elder morning service 2 October ... Barbara Anderson appointed church secretary ... Evening series of three videos feature Ed Siloso on "Spiritual Warfare—Setting Up Strongholds" ... Day Fellowship visited Williamstown for lunch & meeting, Ruth Telfer speaking.

HAPPY VALLEY (Ron McLean) Church pleased Ron McLean accepted interim ministry until Andrew Ratcliff arrives ... Guest speakers including Brian Phelps, Jim Spiker, Keith Horne, David Brooker ... Thank you luncheon & presentation for Russell Allison's ministry ... Wedding parade organised by Playgroup mums ... "Back to School" church dinner very enjoyable ... Under 14 & 16 teams won basketball premierships.

Tas

HOWRAH (A. Blyth) Celebration at Six, 4 September, folk-style vocalists Coleman & Bartle played, sang & gave testimonies ... With commencement of new small group in Warrane avenue for Bible study, prayer & sharing, involvement furthers widespread outreach away from worship centre ... Ten attended CWF Camp at Bicheno 23-25 September. State total 45 ... Minister's father, Ernie Blyth, visiting from NSW, guest preacher 9 October.

LAUNCESTON (C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) CWF enjoyed annual visit to Caveside on 11 October ... First service in new location an event to be remembered. Two baptisms, two confessions & renewal of wedding vows by a young couple ... Dedication of baby Nicholas Green on 23 October & a baptism at 10 am service ... Certificates of appreciation given to five key workers who did "over & above" in the church relocation.

Vic

ORMOND (Jonathan Moore, Paul Bauer) Successful friendship lunch held when everybody invited others home, including contacts, for meal ... Recent speakers Paul Hawksley (Field Director SIM), Peter Breen (CBMI), Leroy Garrett (USA) ... Band & singers Phoenix featured in morning service ... Aerobics class commenced for fun & fitness ... Graham Blood commenced men's breakfast at Wesley College. Reg Worthy, National Executive Director of Prison Fellowship, guest speaker ... Fete proceeds \$3,700.

KNOXFIELD (Rod Brown, Jason Potter) Sacrificial giving by members has followed on from our last stewardship program ... Some turnover in membership has occurred, but new members are being welcomed from neighbouring retirement villages & new housing estates ... Thank offering bowl & thanksgiving prayer tree have been introduced to our morning & youth services ... Church is beautifying the grounds & plans to establish a memorial garden.

MILDURA (Doug Clark, Neale Meredith) David Ratten concluded seven & half years ministry 18 September. Kevin Simington commencing as senior minister early February ... Ian & Cynthia Hunt (Living Link missionaries) visited 28 August ... Church active in "Faith Comes By Hearing" Bible Society project ... Guest speakers Brian Good (25 August), Dale White (2 October), Merryl Blair (16 October) ... Six completed OT off campus CCTC course ... Old manse renamed "Chivell House" in honour of Jack & Elva Chivell, ministers 1949-52.

LATROBE TCE, GEELONG (D. Jones) Shirley Drayton returned from USA ... David & Ruth Jones gave reflections on aspects of chaplaincy position on *Crown Monarch*. Thanks to Dr Mackenzie for messages during their absence ... Combined churches seminar, tea & evening service with Paul Creasy of DMED ... Bible study group viewing videos on Christ's relation to the sanctuary ... Young people meeting at manse for a pizza, pool & Pictionary night.

TOOTGAROOK (M. Glezendanner) Missionary committee organised successful variety evening with proceeds being donated to school chaplaincy ... CWF celebrated birthday & hosted Southern Bayside Conference ... Cluster groups have been appreciated during year ... Church mourns passing of Harold Head ... Good attendances marked church's 44th anniversary. Rev Max Morton, retired UCA minister, much appreciated guest speaker for both services ... Open Door provides friendship & entertainment for the elderly.

MITCHAM (Mark Butler) New pastoral care strategy implemented & under way ... Youth services in conjunction with Box Hill well received ... Choir & a variety of instrumentalists enhance morning worship ... Friday night alternative worship program continues ... Sunday School & primary age youth group experiencing growth in attendance ... Information night on focus & direction of Churches of

Christ well attended & encouraging.

NORTH ESSENDON (Mike Esbensen) Church saddened by death of Elsie Rowlings ... Thelma & George Tootell celebrated golden wedding ... Much of September spent packing show bags. About 60,000 bags completed. Local Churches of Christ assisted with this task ... Ken Stothard recent guest preacher whilst Mike Esbensen preached at Essendon ... Craft group held doll display & demonstration at CWF ... Working bee with Playgroup involved, 22 October.

BENTLEIGH (Roy Armitage) Four received by transfer—Graham Brown (Ararat), Glad Brewster, Beatrice Hammond & Heather Jolly (East Bentleigh) ... Rejoicing with Graham on engagement to Dorothy Podger of Geelong ... Jim Tilson met board & congregation on plans for church growth ... "Sing 'n' Chat" musical program (own talent) & John Laverick on fire safety ... Spring lunch (hot dogs, party pies) supported ... Ladies conducted morning CWF service ... Vai Brown spoke to CWF on soap making.

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (Greg Illingworth, Rick Wright) Six baptisms ... Sympathy to seven families in loss of a close relative ... Dale White (Mt Clear) 74th anniversary speaker ... Welcome visit home by Clinton & Trish Wardle & family on move from Nowra to Hobart ministry ... Two young couples organisers of a successful fete despite stormy weather ... Thanks to our musicians who bless us with their talents.

MOUNT CLEAR (Dale White, James Leviston, David Jones) Church celebrated 131st anniversary & honoured work done by CWF over past 30 years ... 200 attended enjoyable variety concert, over \$500 raised for church library ... Fruitful elders & ministry team retreat held at Anglesea ... 40 attended a Friday night "Call to Prayer" service to seek God's guidance & blessing for our future ... Dedication services held for new babies Laura Bennett & Tiffany McMillan.

HARTWELL (G. Rogerson) Living Link with the Hunt family in PNG. Church offered prayer & financial support ... Worship Seminar led by Alan Niven (CCTC) attended by church leaders ... Len Butler greatly missed as he moves to Box Hill after 50 years of dedicated service. Favourite hymns sung & presentation made ... Kings Club held varied program during school holidays attracted 42 children. 25 leaders involved ... Church renovations almost completed.

Whatever

Garments of Rainbows

Acting up for the community

On 24 September, the Blackwood, SA, chapel was transformed into a leafy park for the performance of the play *Garments of Rainbows*. Written by Robert Stephenson from the book by the same title, the play told the story of a group of young people caught up in the world of drugs and alcohol, the struggles experienced with this lifestyle and the need for help and understanding to be able to overcome this addiction.

The 22 people who were involved in the production had virtually no experience in this field, yet succeeded in presenting an exceptional performance with a very strong and relevant message for the 120 who attended. God works in many ways, and the group of individuals he brought together developed into a group of caring and supportive people who believed in themselves enough to make the performance the success that it was. The only criterion required for par-

ticipation in this project was to "give it a go and do it."

A little under \$740 was raised, with all proceeds going to the Mitcham Hills Community Youth Project. This bold move was to show that the church not only cares for its community, but is also prepared to offer support for a community project.

Robert is currently writing a new production for next year, with the aid of some of the young adults from the church. This play will once again be addressing social issues which concern the youth in the community.



• Matt Durston, who played the lead role in *Garments of Rainbows*

The Last Word

A faith that disintegrates is a faith that has not rested in God himself.

—Elisabeth Elliot

Don't give up! It took Noah six months to find a parking place.

★★★★★

Only 0.001% of the population achieve perfection, which may be why so few people recognise it in us.

★★★★★

Three people were visiting and viewing the Grand Canyon—an artist, a minister and a cowboy. As they stood on the edge of the massive abyss each one responded with a cry of exclamation. The artist said, "Ah, what a beautiful scene to paint!" The minister cried, "What a wonderful example of God's handiwork!" The cowboy mused, "What a terrible place to lose a cow!"

★★★★★

A little girl walked into a small grocery store, placed an earthen jar on the counter, and asked for two dollars worth of honey. Soon the jar was filled. She picked up the jar and started for the door. The shopkeeper stopped her and asked her if she had forgotten to pay for the honey. "No sir, I thought you got the money," the startled youngster replied. "My mother put it in the jar."

★★★★★

Life itself would be impossible if it weren't for the imperfections of others.

★★★★★

Money doesn't buy happiness and credit cards are doing an even worse job.

★★★★★

"Doctor, doctor, I feel like a cricket ball."

"How's that?"

"Don't you start"

★★★★★



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