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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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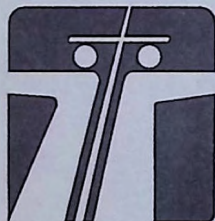
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Christian Reflection

Water for Life

Geoff Payne

The earth, once it was seen from space, became known as the Blue Planet because of the colour given to it by the water.

Water—an unique natural resource, is depended upon by all life on our planet to survive. Recently, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations declared World Food Day and the year's theme was "Water For Life". They are encouraging us to be aware of, and involved in, the issues of water and water supplies, especially in developing countries.

Although we can't know exact figures, we do know for sure that hunger exists on a massive scale. It has been estimated that 800 million are starving or malnourished. That's an overwhelming number:

- Almost 47 times the population of Australia.
- Still too hard to imagine? Try one in every six people on our planet.

There is enough food and water to go around. It's just that we're not very good at distributing it to the world.

When you think about it, there is enough of all that we need to survive as humanity. There are enough material resources to provide food, clothing and shelter for everybody. There is also enough emotional and spiritual resources for all. There is enough love, enough courage, enough joy, enough encouragement.

But as surely as there are people perishing for want of food or water, there are people laid waste for want of love, courage, hope ... the list goes on.

There is plenty of all those resources to go around, it's just that we're not very good at distributing it.

The most wonderful thing about those non-material, inner resources we have at our disposal is that they are infinite and they recycle themselves. The more we give away, the greater the measure we have within ourselves.

Now, we need to ask ourselves: What can I do? 800 million with insufficient food or water, billions more with insufficient love, hope or faith—what can I do?

The important thing is to do something. Give money to a charity, sponsor a child, become a volunteer, contact a needy family, look for an opportunity. Do something.

I heard a story about a university professor—he was a very intelligent man with more degrees than a thermometer. One day, when walking along the beach, he

sees a person moving back and forth, up and down the sand, from the water's edge to just a few meters in. There she bends down, picks something up and returns to the water, again and again.

Upon closer investigation, the Professor discovers the young girl is rescuing starfish.

Thousands of them have beached themselves and are dying on the sand. The girl is rescuing them, returning them to the water, one by one.

The professor remarks "You're wasting your time, you must accept that these disasters happen, let it be. You can't make a difference."

The girl bends down, picks up one more creature, returns it to the water and as she rushes past the learned professor she says, "I made a difference to that one, didn't I?"

For those of us of the Christian faith, we come to understand that God provides for us a source of spiritual nourishment which can never be exhausted. Jesus sat at the edge of the well. As he chatted with a woman who was drawing water from the well, he described himself as a source of living water—a water which, once it has been tasted, causes those who drink to never thirst again.

The nature of this water is compassion, forgiveness, wholeness and peace. It is to be enjoyed and drunk freely by the believer and, in turn, passed on to others.

Thus that activity of God in this world is to bring life and hope through believers into a needy world.

With regard to physical water—there is plenty for all the world to share, but in some areas scarcity, pollution and inaccessibility mean that people are dying of thirst and illness related to lack of food and water.

It seems to be to be equally tragic that for some people a supply of living water is so meagre that they are surely dehydrating and dying on the inside. Pollutants, like hatred, bitterness, envy, revenge, or regret, turn our supplies sour. Scarcity comes when we are unwilling to risk reaching out to others with an act of compassion or friendship.

We must learn to cultivate an attitude of abundance, there is plenty of all we need for healthy positive living. We can live by streams of living water, being filled and refilled and becoming channels for others.

Jesus said, "Whoever gives even a drink of cold water to one of the least of mine ... will certainly receive his reward."

Plague Strikes

Applecross Kids' Club



27 October was the big day for the folk at Applecross, WA, church. After three months of discussion, planning, training and prayer, it was the first meeting of the Kids' Club, a new children's ministry targeting 6-12 year olds.

No-one knew how many children to expect, but we were

hoping for lots—and we weren't disappointed! In all, 64 showed up, curious to see what it was all about.

Things began with a bang, as games kicked off the program. It's hard to tell who had more fun; the leaders or the children. "Stuck in the Mud" proved popular to all.

Then it was back into the chapel for a short time of singing and then a story. Using John 3:16 as a basis for the story, the children heard about Mr Who-soever's heart house, much in need of some spring cleaning. Although most of the children came from a non-church background, they listened attentively as they heard how Jesus can provide that spring cleaning.

Following the story-time came the much anticipated tea—pizza and ice-cream. Imagine a plague of locusts attacking an orchard and you'll know what we mean.

After tea, the children made crafts. For the boys it was a touring jet and for the girls a treasure chest. Each child took home their craft that night.

The evening finished with games and presentation of prizes.

More than a dozen tired, but happy, leaders then made their way home to prepare for the next week's program.

Kid's Club meets every Thursday during the school term from 5.30-8.00.

Continued from page 2

We have the resources, globally and personally, we're just not very good at distributing them.

Living in affluence, it is often difficult to understand or relate to the plight of those without sufficient water. Although, with the drought being faced by many of our farming communities, the reality of water scarcity is coming closer to home.

Today, we will all use water. We will turn a tap for a drink or take it icy cold from the refrigerator. We will water our lawns and our gardens, wash our cars, run a bath or take a shower and cook with it. Today, as we enjoy it; as we pour it, spray it, boil it, drink it or even flush it, may we be reminded of the resources at our fingertips and in our hearts to be shared in abundance.

❖ Geoff Payne is an associate minister at Northside Community Church, Crows Nest, Sydney.

90 Years without Slumbering

Maylands 90th anniversary

No! Not my "Grandfather's Clock", but the Maylands, WA, church, which commenced "breaking of bread" services in my "Grandfather's home" in Guildford Road, Maylands, over 90 years ago!

Over the long weekend in October 1994 (30 Sept-3 Oct), many past and present members of the congregation met to reminisce and celebrate experiences which had made a significant impact on their lives.

Past ministers Lloyd Cooke (1955-62) and Phil Wyllie (1980-90) travelled with their wives and families from Tasmania and New South Wales to participate in the special weekend. Also sharing in the celebrations were George and Gladys Powell (1966-70), Edna McRoberts, wife of Arthur McRoberts (1944-54) and Mavis Robinson, wife of J. Keith Robinson (1974-76).

For the Friday evening informal reunion and both Sunday services, the concertina doors separating the chapel and hall were opened to accommodate the large crowd. A special feature of the Friday evening program was when 96 year old Mrs Amy Hill (nee Hotchkin), who has been blind for many years, made her way to the microphone and spoke very clearly of her memories of church prior to purchasing the wooden chapel on the eastern side of Eighth Avenue from the Baptists in 1905. She also recalled when the Maylands

members assisted in "building in a day" the chapel at West Guildford (Bassendean) in 1913.

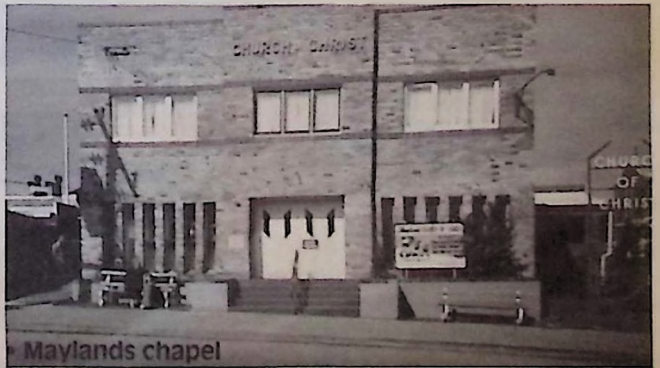
On the Saturday night, a dinner was held in the Uniting Church hall and on this occasion greetings were brought from the City of Stirling Councillor and Member of Parliament for the Maylands district (both women!) and the Anglican Rector representing the other Christian congregations in Maylands. Words of congratulations were also brought by Mayland's Trevor Streeton, Conference President.

At the Sunday morning service, it was marvellous to again "sit at the feet" of a "master storyteller", Lloyd Cooke, and in the evening to learn of the very interesting Christian outreach to Spanish speaking immigrants being carried out by the Wyllies in Fairfield, NSW.

The final picnic gathering at Bardon Park, a very beautiful area by the Swan River and close to the Maylands jetty, had "old Maylandites" recalling the swamp that previously occupied this spot.

As everyone realises, 90th birthday celebrations don't just "happen", so very sincere thanks go to the organising committee, Hart and Vi Smetherham, George and Connie Eaves, Wendy and Ivan Whitworth, Ron and Margaret Jones, and Trevor and Beth Streeton.

—Merle Peacock



Drought Disaster

How can we best help?

We ran out of water the other day. We knew we only had 68,250 L (15,000 gallons) when we moved to our "little manse on the prairie" at Bongeen on the Darling Downs. We, who were used to the limitless town supplies, tried one minute showers, unrinsed dishes, only flushing the toilets when absolutely necessary, emptying the babies' bath water on plants, etc.

We haven't had to go hundreds of thousands into debt just to maintain the status quo, nor have we had to shoot our animals because it was the kindest thing to do. We haven't had to withdraw our kids from school because we could not afford the fees. We haven't had to lose our independence and pride to accept the much appreciated charity of our city-dwelling fellow Aussies.

Compared to this, we have not been affected by the drought very much at all, except in the pain we have shared with our brothers and sisters in the Outback Church of Christ and their neighbours as they have experienced all of the above.

Our drought problem was solved by a farmer friend who came to our rescue with 9,000 L (2,000 gallons) of bore water. Twenty-five or fifty millimetres (an inch or two) of rain now and we'll be right.

Their drought problem will take many years to solve, even after it rains.

We asked them how we can best help. Their reply went something like this.

"We of the outback are very independent. It is by this independence and its bedfellow, resourcefulness, that we are able to survive in our harsh and isolated environment. It is therefore very hard for us to accept anything that tends to rob us of that independent spirit.

We fear that if we accept charity we will become dependent on charity and that this will destroy us.

We are very dependent on one another, though, and we fear that if we accept too much outside help we will lose our interdependence and our vital but fragile social and economic environment will be destroyed.

Therefore:

Please give your aid from a perpetual disaster fund. This way, in accepting help, we know that when we get back on our feet we have the option of repaying the fund for the help we receive so that others may be helped when they need it.

And do not destroy our local economics with food parcels etc. Our local storekeepers have stood by us over the years. Some of them are carrying us for tens of thousands of dollars at the moment and, if they go under now, they will not be there the next time we miss a crop or our wool check is held up."

In response to this plea, the Queensland Churches of Christ Social Service Department's Disaster Relief Fund, through the Outback Church of Christ, has posted out over \$40,000 worth of vouchers redeemable at local stores in Clermont, Aramac and Jundah. The response has been 10% in some areas and 20% in others. As folk redeem their vouchers they are sent another.

To maintain this service we need your help.

Please pray for rain and send your tax-deductible donation to the Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department, Disaster Relief Fund, PO Box 508, Kenmore 4069.

—Trevor Meares



**ON YOUR OWN,
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Christian Singles Fellowship offers friendship through correspondence with other born-again Christian singles and single-again people

Write enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:
CSF, PO Box 17,
Anna Bay 2301

Stubble and Stones

17th Australian Music Seminar

The 17th Australian Christian Music Seminar, to be held in Cooma, NSW, in January 1995, promises to be a valuable investment.

ACMS is six full days, always challenging, sometimes surprising, never dull. A cast of more than 50 gifted teachers are dedicated to helping participants release potential and find direction as they learn to use their gifts to bring the gospel into the world and build up the church.

The theme for 1995 is "Stubble and Stones", a reference to 1 Cor 3:12-13, which urges consideration of what is valuable, worthy of time, sweat, hope and life. The week will be a

time to get excited and prepared for a productive life and ministry.

The seminar is a week of opportunity for instrumentalists, actors, vocalists, worship leaders, pastors, dancers and children's ministry workers.

Guest Bible teacher is Robert Fergusson from Aquilla College of Ministries in Sydney, who will lead the daily morning ministry. Also featured will be Kevin Johnson, who has travelled widely in America and Mexico proclaiming the gospel through drama, puppets and ventriloquism.

Details of ACMS are available from the CYTA office on (02) 748 4000 or 1800 224 500.

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Presented by Mrs Alice Ware

Self Confrontation teaches you how to approach circumstances, relationships and situations of life from a biblical perspective and to experience victory and contentment in all of life's trials, testings and problems.

Dates of next course: 16-21 January 1995
Venue: Woorabinda School Camp, Yallourn North
(1.5 hours east of Melbourne, near Moe)

Cost: Tuition \$150.00 and \$40.00 for manual
\$100.00 for accommodation and meals

Inquiries and application forms: Pastor Robin Harrison
PO Box 1100, Traralgon Vic 3844
Phone (051) 74 9821

Calendar

Year of Family Services

An ecumenical service is being held at St Paul's Anglican cathedral, Melbourne at 2.30 pm on **27 November**. The service has been designed as a celebration of family and has been organised as a fitting conclusion to the International Year of the Family. Following this, an inter-faith service "celebrating families" is being held at 4 pm in the Melbourne Town Hall, which will be a festival involving people of different cultural and religious traditions.

A Journey for a Soul

The 9th Conference on Psychiatry and Religion, "A Journey for a Soul", is being held at Grace Vaughan House, 227 Stubbs Rd, Shenton Park, Perth, WA, on **28 November**. On the Sunday evening, an inter-faith service is being held at the Queen Elizabeth Medical Centre. Details from Dr Ann Troup, 9th Conference of Psychiatry and Religion, PO Box 317, Armadale 6112. Phone (09) 496 1101 or fax (09) 496 1636.

"Promise Keepers"

"Promise Keepers", a movement of God among men, is coming to Australia. Dr Glenn Wagner, Vice President, National Ministries, is the main speaker at a reporting meeting to look at the establishment of a task force to coordinate Promise Keepers in Melbourne/Australia. The meeting is being held on **1 December** at 7.30 pm at the Oakleigh Christian Centre, Surrey Cres, Clayton. Promise Keepers is a Christ-centred ministry dedicated to uniting men through vital relationships to become godly influences in their world.

Dunrossil Lecture

Archbishop Desmond Tutu will deliver the inaugural "Dunrossil Lecture" on **6 December** at 8 pm in the Great Hall at Parliament House, Canberra. The lecture, to be given every second year, has been founded, through the gift of a friend of the Dunrossil family, by St John's Anglican Church, Reid, ACT, to commemorate former Australian Governor-General, Viscount Dunrossil, who lies buried in the church yard. The lecture is to be awarded to a person from anywhere in the world, to address the Australian nation on an issue of religious significance.

CCTC Spring Festival

Crafty fund raising

Months of behind the scenes activity by the committee and many volunteers paid off on the weekend of 7-8 October when people from surrounding areas and far afield attended the Churches of Christ Theological College's third Spring Festival.

Kim Wells, MP for Mulgrave, opened proceedings and prizes were then awarded in the Schools Art Competition. Some of this work was absolutely outstanding, especially that of pupils from Springvale Secondary College.

The CCTC lecture theatre was filled with the art of water-colourist Margery Morley, Australian art by Val Davies and The Valley Potters.

Pro Hart once again donated personally signed prints, four



• At the Schools' Art Competition prize -giving

this time. These were framed and auctioned on Saturday afternoon. A child's frock made by Margaret Whittaker, which won First Prize at the Royal Show in Melbourne, was also one of the auctioned items.

A new feature was the work of the Nungalinga Aborigine and Torres Strait Island folk from Darwin. There were very high quality materials and garments, some featuring the Mi Mi rock paintings from Kakadu.

Another extra was the sausage sizzle and other culinary delights.

Glenda Kabaar's award winning tapestries were on display and another drawcard was the roving microphone of Kathy Gluyas.

The long hours spent in making the rag dolls and clowns also paid off handsomely, raising approximately \$1,400.

The festival raised approximately \$6,000.

—Betty Bantow

Good Companions

Living Up To Their Name

A group of 25 girls at Boronia, Vic, Good Companions have been trying to live up to their name in 1994. Scraps of wool, threads, soft filling, cardboard, etc, donated by the church have been put to good use by the girls in making sewing cards, knitted worms and football mascots, rabbit bookmarks and fabric teddy bears for children in hospital. Normally, these gifts are given to June Andrews

(Hospital Convenor) on Thanksgiving Day at the end of each year, but Naomi Parker (nine years of age) asked if the group could give the gifts to the children themselves.

This led to a visit to Box Hill Hospital during the school holidays. They travelled by train (a novelty for most of the girls) and had a picnic lunch.

They were met by the hospital chaplain in the chapel who

had a talk with the girls. Then followed a tour of the hospital, including Outpatients, where scrapbooks were left, Casualty, where an ambulance officer showed them the workings of an ambulance (toys were left with him for apprehensive children), the Children's Ward, where toys were again distributed, and the Special Care Nursery, where the prem babies captured the girls' hearts. Special thanks to June Andrews for organising the day and to Beverley Watson for assisting with the girls. —Lois Paterson

WANTED

MINISTER

Victor Harbor Church of Christ

South Australia's premier seaside town is seeking a minister to continue its work, commencing early 1996. Expressions of interest are invited to Chairman, Ministry Selection Committee, Wally Bradley on (085) 52 1158

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The self confrontation course is a course about personal discipleship. It is a course that is built upon biblical principles for living, which provide patterns for living a victorious and contented life. These biblical principles apply to all of life's circumstances, in any culture, in every part of the world, regardless of the age in which one lives.

Why call it self confrontation? Isn't that just another way of saying "self condemnation"? Isn't that counter productive to a fulfilling life? Instead of confronting myself, shouldn't I be building myself up? Shouldn't I avoid doing anything that would lower my self-esteem or self-image? Questions like these reflect that many people are following the false teaching that has been present since the beginning of time, but is gain-

ing unprecedented popularity in the church today. It is the "doctrine" of self-exaltation and self-gratification. This self-focus is based on a misunderstanding of one's relationship with God. It is unbiblical and deters spiritual growth.

Self confrontation must continue throughout your Christian walk, if you are to avoid the hypocrisy of judging the failure of others without first examining your own life in a biblical manner. Self confrontation must be achieved in accordance with the Word of God.

The objective of this course in personal discipleship and biblical counselling training is not to learn how to save your life, but instead how to lose it for Jesus' sake through the process of evaluating yourself biblically.

God has used this particular program in mighty way. As a result of one woman's participation in 1993, her commitment to God caused her husband to become involved and he was transformed in his relationship with his wife and with God. They facilitated the distribution of three sets of video tapes of the self confrontation course. One set was sent to another church, who adopted the material as part of their church program and have seen many members of the congregation changed in their commitment and relationship with God. Another set of tapes was sent interstate, where another group of people was struck by God through the material. The third set has been used by the local church to enable people to make a deeper commitment to their relationship with God.

As the minister of the Traralgon Church of Christ, I attended a self confrontation course at Teen Challenge in Kyabram. This came about as a result of seeing two of my key members in the church transform through doing the course. It was through the self confrontation course that I became aware of how much I was at-

tempting to do God's work through my own strength and abilities. Self confrontation reveal that my significance as a pastor relied so much on the acceptance of the members of the congregation. God revealed to me that my significance comes due to my relationship with him and he broke down many defensive barriers that I had built up to protect myself from hurts. The Holy Spirit used the self confrontation course to allow me to experience the power of his love that set me free from a life dominated by the fear of rejection.

In January, we are offering another intensive week of self confrontation at Woorabinda School Camp at Yallourn North near Moe. The course will be conducted by Alice Ware, who worked with Teen Challenge Victoria until May 1994. Alice and her husband Terry now work for Teen Challenge International as training coordinators, training people for effective ministry. Alice's teaching ministry through the self confrontation course has been greatly used by God in setting people free and helping them develop a closer relationship with God. Any further information can be obtained by contacting Pastor Robin Harrison of the Traralgon Church of Christ on (051) 74 9821.

Sing Messiah

Fine way to start Christmas

This is not just for people who love to sing, it is also for those who love to listen to the glorious solos and anthems of Handel's Messiah.

With soloists such as Annette Bains, Alan Angwin, Judith Hoskins and Eric Hancock, together with a nucleus of experienced choristers and the baton of Tony Worley, it will be a great night.

In fact, we can all Handel Messiah(!) and have a great night to start the festivities of Christmas—a Christmas without Messiah is like plum pudding without egg custard!

Come if you possibly can, the donation is \$10 with supper included. The venue is the Lecture Theatre at the Churches of Christ Theological College, Jacksons Rd, Mulgrave, on 1 December at 8 pm, with all proceeds to the College.

Australia

First for Lay Anglicans

Sydney's Anglican Synod established a world first amongst the Anglican communion when it voted in favour of a bill to allow lay people to lead Holy Communion. The laity voted 224 for to 148 against and the clergy voted 119 to 77. The bill will require a third reading at next year's Synod and then can only move forward with the consent of the Archbishop of Sydney. In moving the bill, the Rev Dr John Woodhouse said the observance of communion was more important than who led the ceremony and the exclusive right of priests to take communion was an overstatement of the priest's power.

Insight for Living

Charles Swindoll's international Christian radio program, "Insight for Living", commences broadcasting on Sydney's 2RPH (1224 kHz on the AM band) at 10.30 pm each Friday from 4 November. "Insight For Living" commenced in the US 15 years ago and can now be heard on 14 other stations in Australia. Information on which stations and what time slots can be obtained from Insight For Living Inc on (03) 872 4606 or by faxing (03) 874 8890.

Providing Housing

The NSW Ecumenical Council has begun a project to increase church involvement in the provision of long-term community housing. With funding from the NSW Ministry of Housing, Planning and Urban Affairs, the council's Community Housing Project Management Committee seeks to increase the supply of community housing managed by church-based agencies; mobilise church resources to increase the supply of community housing; increase the range of housing services which complement those of other social housing providers; and develop partnerships with all tiers of government and other stakeholders in the community housing sector. John Nicholades, the convenor of the committee, said: "The project challenges churches to use some of their substantial assets to provide housing for people on low incomes."

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A "Good Place"

FAB hostel celebrates 10th anniversary



• Opening of Olive Laird Hostel in 1984

On 22 October 1984, immediately following the Federal Conference in Perth, the Olive Laird Memorial Hostel was officially opened in Carnarvon by Senator Gordon McIntosh. Built with the generous support of the Churches of Christ in WA Homes Board, and with matching Commonwealth Grants, the hostel is home for up to 15 residents—Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.

During the past 10 years, the hostel has become a highly regarded and respected facility in the Gascoyne region of WA. It was quite intentionally constructed on land at Ingada Village, the old child-care Mission station. It enabled the resi-

dents to live in quietness, away from the many pressures of the town, and gave each one "a view of the bush" which they all appreciate.

In October, 60 gathered to commemorate the first decade of its service. Avon Moyle, FAB Director, told of the evolution of the hostel as the culmination of many years of caring for "oldies" in nearby shacks and flats. Phil and June Jackson, first managers, told of the early days when only one lady was in residence, but how numbers grew once people recognised it as a "good place". Mary Bell, joint administrator with her husband Wayne, outlined the many services provided by the

hostel, while long-time resident Dolly Boonga told how she found it a home where her dignity, pride in her people, security and independence were respected and her needs met.

Wayne and Mary Bell, Noel Cuttiford and Craig Wilson, and casual staff provide a caring environment for all residents. It was encouraging for me to see the way in which the staff continue to be accepted

and respected by the residents.

We can all be proud of the ministry of the hostel. We thank God for 10 years of specialist service and we look forward to his direction in the future. The caring environment continues as a testament to the late Olive Laird, nursing sister at the Mission for many years, whose name and memory are perpetuated at the hostel

—AWM

Rich Time of Learning

OT study group at Mildura

A group of Mildura, Vic, members took up a challenge to do the Old Testament Study offered by Mulgrave CCTC as an Off-Campus Course. A thirteen-session study of *Introducing The Old Testament* by John Drane, the group of 16 made a commitment to do the course over 26 weeks, meeting fortnightly for a two-hour session.

The course commenced in March when College lecturer, Merryl Blair, visited Mildura and conducted an intensive introduction to the study over Friday night and Saturday. Associate minister, Doug Clark, then took over the group and led the 13 study sessions.

Flexibility was provided for the group, enabling them to go "at their own pace". Those who wanted to take up the full challenge were committed to all the reading and the assignment work. Others did the reading but not the assignments, while some used the opportunity to

learn more about the Old Testament, and to gain from the input of those doing assignments and the discussions which were a stimulating part of the sessions.

On 16 October, Merryl revisited Mildura to close off the course and share with the group members her responses to the effectiveness of the course. At the morning worship service, Merryl presented the six members who completed the assignment work with Certificates. In the afternoon, during a pleasant "cruise" down the Murray River on PV *Impulse*, Merryl gave the group encouragement and offered high praise for the quality of the assignment work submitted. The group members have been given much stimulation from the enthusiasm which Merryl has for her subject. For her, the Old Testament is a most essential component in the understanding of the New Testament.

Through this study, and the benefits that came from the group discussions, the members have had their faith increased and their understanding of Scripture richly enhanced.

We encourage other churches to learn from our experience—get a group together, find a leader to keep the members encouraged in their commitment, and enjoy a rich time of blessing as you study the Old Testament. Merryl Blair will enthusiastically assist you in getting started.

—Doug Beasy

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Church of Christ Berri SA Christian Women's Fellowship

75th Anniversary

Luncheon, 12.00 noon
8 December 1994

All past and present
members invited
Accommodation
RSVP M. Blyth, 3 Jones
Street, Berri SA 5343

Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Ministry Loneliness

To the Editor,

I feel compelled to write in support of the sentiments expressed in the article "Lonely and Forgotten" ("AC" 15 October).

In our own brief ministry, I know my wife longed for someone to be "Mum"—a trusted friend and confidante, a source of encouragement, support and of practical help. Someone to be friend and family, to whom she could be open. Someone to whom she did not have to play out the role of "the minister's wife".

I might add that I, too, longed for someone to be my "Dad", someone to whom I might open my heart, to share my hopes, my doubts, my fears. Someone who would seek to listen and to love first, rather than to infuse me with their "correct" theology and their "correct" plans for the growth of the church.

Sadly, the few times we sought to open up we found ourselves used, abused and manipulated—pawns in someone's "hidden agenda" or power play.

We proclaim in Churches of Christ the priesthood of all believers, seeking to avoid the gap between clergy and laity evident in other denominations. Yet it seems to me that in many (not all) of our churches we achieve the opposite—turning our ministers and their families into second class Christians ... "employees" of the church.

Small wonder that many leave the ministry feeling disenchanted with the church which says one thing, but lives out something quite different.

—P.J. Richardson
(Lesmurdie, WA)

Future and Women

To the Editor,

In response to the letter by L.C. Hughes ("AC" 15 October) "Do Churches of Christ have a future?", we certainly do not have a future if we continue to treat women as second-class members so far as

the ministry is concerned.

Even in the secular world (eg political parties, etc) they are talking about giving equal opportunities to women by the year 2000.

We have the disgraceful situation where there are very few women in ministry. As an example, in Western Australia we have only one woman minister and Australia-wide the percentage is extremely low. The Anglican and Uniting churches can do much better than that, and in consequence, their ministry has been greatly enriched.

When are we going to wake up to ourselves and realise that justice must be done in all areas? There is certainly a very poor witness to the world when it sees how we treat our women members in relation to this issue.

—Fen Hewitt
(Wembley Downs, WA)

Pure Words

To the Editor,

In the 1940s, *Pure Words* was a Christian magazine eagerly awaited each month by many children. The editors of all magazines must wonder what kind of an impact is being made on their readers. Unfortunately, they often don't receive much helpful feedback, but following, is an example of the type of thing that can and does occur—even though the editor isn't around to read it.

It concerns Amy Bowman of Dunolly (now Amy Trainor of Maryborough, Vic) and Brenda Lawrie of Moonta (now Brenda Beaumont of South Plympton, SA).

When they were both 11 years old, Brenda spotted Amy's name in the pen pal's page of *Pure Words* and noted she had similar interests, so thought she was worth adding to her long list of penfriends.

The years since then have proved it was a good choice, as their relationship grew from pen pals to friends in a short time—continuing with exchange visits—sharing in good times and bad, as all families experience.

They would like to think their spiritual growth, their life-long

association with the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, their church and each other was influenced in some way by reading *Pure Words* 50 years ago.

Amy is currently in membership at Maryborough, Vic, and Brenda attends Marion, SA.

—Brenda Beaumont and
Amy Trainer

Article Helpful

To the Editor,

I found the article "I Drew a Tree" ("AC" 15 October) by Gary Hine both interesting and challenging. I intend to keep a copy of the article, to refer to it in relation to the balance we all need to keep in our lives and to come back at regular intervals to repeat the exercise as a check on my growth and my input and output. Thank you for printing it.

Perhaps you could run an article about Gary and his wife, their whereabouts and their

work. If you have already, I've missed it.

—Barbara Kennedy
(Melba, ACT)

[Gary and Pam Hine are from the Toowoomba, Qld, church. They are serving with the Overseas Mission Board in Papua New Guinea. Gary is the mechanic for OMB there. Currently they are home in Australia on furlough.]

Primacy of New Testament

To the Editor,

As long as we have contributors who challenge our thinking as Alan Cant has done ("AC" 6 August), Churches of Christ certainly do have a future.

It is unfortunate that articles like these arouse so much indignation; regrettable also that indignant responses sometimes misquote the writer of the article. L.C. Hughes ("AC" 15 Oc-

Letters to a Travelling Companion

"Soppy Love Songs"

Dear Daniel,

In your last letter you mentioned the difficulty you had with some of the songs that are popular where you worship, particularly the ones you called "soppy love songs to Jesus". I know exactly what you mean when you say that some of the "chorus" style songs have lyrics that are no different to secular love songs, other than the substitution of Jesus' name as the object of desire. I, too, find these songs difficult to cope with, not because I love Jesus any the less, but because I find the romanticism with which such love is expressed just a little "over the top". Certainly, my personal preference is towards less sentimental expressions of my love for Christ.

However, Daniel, I think perhaps a little tolerance might be called for here. Maybe you and I prefer a more macho and stoic expression of our feelings toward Jesus, but we can't necessarily speak for everybody. There is obviously some people for whom the "soppy love song" is an appropriate expression of their feeling towards their Lord. Music in worship is, after all, a means of getting in touch with and expressing our emotions. It is worth recognising that, when the woman who anointed Jesus at Bethany showed her love for him in a way considered inappropriate by her onlookers, Jesus defender her actions and rebuked her critics.

So Daniel, if you don't like "soppy love songs to Jesus", do what I do, just hum the tune. But remember, there are probably many people singing around you who are experiencing true worship through these songs.

Until next time,
Pastor Salt

tober) attacks Alan Cant's "claim ... that the Hebrew Scriptures are myth and legend". Alan Cant did not say this. His observation was "some Christians, even today, believe they have to defend Hebrew myth and legend as history". To infer from this reasonable statement that Alan is saying that all Hebrew scriptures are myth and legend is unjustified.

An emphasis of Churches of Christ on biblical interpretation has always been that the authority of the New Testament supersedes that of the Old Testament. (Pretty radical stuff for some Christians.) It seems to me that in, effect, Alan amplifies this view with some thought-provoking argument.

There is obvious value in careful reading of the Hebrew scriptures in order to understand more fully the life and times of Jesus and the religious context in which the church was born. Faith is enriched and lifestyle is challenged by those pro-

phetic Hebrew voices which cry out for justice and reconciliation. Alan Cant clearly acknowledges such value in his article, but emphasises that [Hebrew scriptures] "are not in any way prescriptive for Christians".

Too often, the church has been ready to express nationalistic fervour, justify war and racial prejudice and to exhibit graceless, exclusive behaviour towards those who don't "conform" because the Bible (usually the Old Testament) says so.

Given our historical insistence on the primacy of the New Testament writings, is there really anything so radical in Alan's brief exploration of his thought-provoking question?

—P.E. Perry
(The Patch, Vic)

NCCA

To the Editor,

The opening service of worship of the National Council of

Churches was a marvellous expression of the New Testament understanding of faith. Just as the writer of the Gospel of John used the Greek philosophical understanding of the Word (Logos) to communicate faith and understanding about Jesus, (John 1:1-5) and the writer of Hebrews used the image of Melchizedek a Priest-God-King from Salem (Heb 5:5-10) as a description of Jesus to communicate to Hebrew people, so too the NCCA worship service used Aboriginal imagery to celebrate the newness Christ brings.

Churches of Christ members were in attendance from all States, except Queensland, and were led by our National President, Robert Leane from South Australia. We were proud to be there and witness to the Lordship of Christ in his church and participate with other Australian Christians in celebrating a significant moment in Australian church history.

The renewal, happening within Australian churches as we seek to be obedient to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is the gift of God and the product of much prayer, hard work and Christian commitment.

We celebrate the formation of the National Council of

Churches and will seek to be responsible partners with other Australian Christians in giving appropriate witness to Jesus Christ through its work.

—Ian Allsop
(National Conference Secretary)

Spring Conference

To the Editor,

The recent Spring Conference was a most significant occasion for many of our churches, including representatives from New Zealand, Tasmania and Western Australia. Joe Harding, of the United Methodist Church in the United States, made an outstanding contribution and presented a new approach and model of biblical preaching. A tapeset of the entire Conference is available and inquiries can be directed to (042) 26 5022.

Already plans are in hand for Spring Conference next year. In conjunction with the Australian Board of Church Development and Education, the Wollongong church is bringing Dr Martin Robinson of the British Bible Society as guest speaker. The dates for Spring Conference next year are 4-6 November.

—E.C. Keating
(Wollongong, NSW)

Community Services Director

Full-Time Position

**Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania
Department of Community Care**

The successful applicant will be an initiator, a facilitator and motivator in the area of Community Services. The requirements also include the coordination of existing Community Services projects. Skills in public speaking, organisation and leadership of seminars, workshops and group studies on aspects of Community Services are required.

The position requires effective communication skills, lateral thinking and creativity, and a willingness to work in liaison with other staff and the Department's Community Services Committee under the direction of the Executive Director.

Knowledge of and a commitment to Churches of Christ structures and ethos is essential.

The closing date for applications:

Friday, 9 December 1994
All inquiries to Joanne Antoni
Telephone (03) 326 8977

Written applications, including two referees and evidence of appropriate qualifications and experience, to:

Mr Trevor Giles
Executive Director
Churches of Christ
Department of Community Care
77 Capel Street
WEST MELBOURNE VIC 3003



**National Council of
Churches in Australia**

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Donations will assist communities in **Rwanda, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Bangladesh, the Middle East, Sudan, Philippines, Australia** (Aboriginal communities and refugees) and other places.

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To give / for information and material:

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Books

When God Breaks Through

by John and Elizabeth Sherrill (Kingsway) \$12.95.

This paperback is easy to read, a useful book to keep, and a good one to give away. John and Elizabeth are the authors of an earlier popular paperback, *The Cross and the Switchblade*. They were, for many years, on the staff of "Guideposts", involving them in extensive travel and in many interviews with all sorts of people who had found God real in some way. This book is a sharing of some of these experiences. The chapters are all short and the book can easily be picked up to fill spare minutes that become available. There are useful chapters on personal Bible study and intercessory prayer. Recommended.

—GRS

A First Offering: Poems from the Years 1985-1994

by Graeme Chapman (self published) \$7 (including postage).

In his first published volume of poems, Graeme Chapman offers us the gift of himself. The poems, honest and revealing, evidence an intuitive feel for the quintessential and a sensitive and powerful facility with language. Graeme dialogues with himself, with the world and he encounters it and with the God in whom reality is rooted.

This small book is divided into four sections. Under "Biographical"

Graeme has included a range of poems that reflect a wrestling with personal pain. When written, as an exercise in catharsis, there was no thought that they would be published. Under "Occasional" he has included poems written for special occasions. There follows a section containing "Meditations", pieces written mostly for church services. The final section, "A Study", was the first of a series of three talks Graeme gave to Victorian Churches of Christ ministers at their annual camp in 1985. Entitled "Being" it was followed by two other addresses, "Being Together" and "Being Together in the World".

Graeme has published a limited run of 50 copies of this volume to distribute among family and friends. Should you wish to purchase a copy, write to Graeme at CCTC, PO Box 629, Mulgrave North 3170, enclosing a cheque for \$7 (made out to CCTC).

Winning Them Back

by Eddie Gibbs (MARC) \$24.95

Winning Them Back, deals with what is a sad, but common, problem for the church today. As the subtitle suggests, he seeks to "tackle the problem of nominal Christianity". His efforts have resulted in a very interesting and readable book.

Gibbs sees that nominality is a very pervasive problem for all churches and traditions, especially in the Western world. The book attempts to identify and examine the causes of nominality and then to suggest some strategies that will help the church more adequately confront the challenge of nominality, both with those

still involved in the church, and with those who have chosen to terminate their involvement.

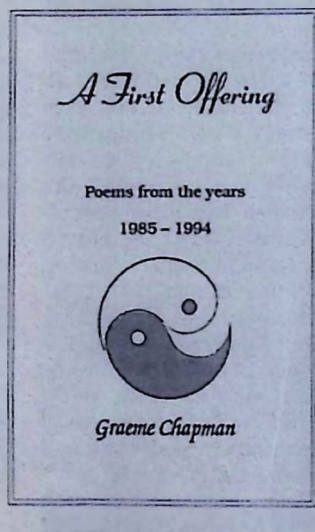
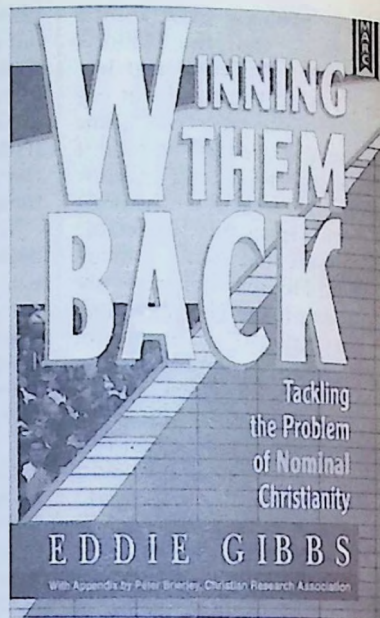
The book provides a very interesting historical overview of nominality. Gibbs shows that nominality is certainly not a new concept. His biblical outline of the problem draws from a wide cross-section of both the Old and New Testaments, and is quite enlightening. Not only does he provide some helpful insights from scripture, he also explores a number of lessons that are appropriate for the church today.

Examining the causes of nominality, Gibbs looks in particular at the influence of the modern urban environment, secularisation and pluralism on society's view of religion, the Christian faith, and the church. The value of this material is enhanced by the final section of the book, in which Gibbs answers the question "well, what can we do about it?"

He looks at developing ministry structures to counter the problem of nominality. This section "puts the icing" on a book that provides a good overview of nominality and contains some helpful strategies for combating it. The strategies Gibbs suggests challenge the relevance and witness of the church in today's society. We cannot afford to ignore such a challenge. In all, the book would be a most worthwhile addition to your library.

This book is distributed in Australia by Christian Marketing Australia.

—Steve Mackie



International Modernity

Interserve passed a formal resolution at United Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal, to address the problems and opportunities of modernity as they affect Asia, the Middle East and the Asian diaspora. The move makes Interserve the first traditional missionary society formally to recognise modernity as a "spiritual force" or "life philosophy" which must be addressed alongside others such as Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. The resolution defines modernity as "the view of life in which God is excluded from the public arena".

South African Parliament Rebuked

Archbishop Desmond Tutu has publicly attacked South Africa's new democratic parliament for dropping opening prayers. He said the new procedure of observing a moment's silence at the beginning of sessions was a "cop out".

Radio for the World

The Far East Broadcasting Company produces radioprograms in over 142 languages for transmission via short wave, medium wave and local radio stations to two-thirds of the world's population. FEBC has teamed up with three other major Christian radio ministries in the World by 2000 vision to "provide every man, woman and child on earth the opportunity to turn on their radio and hear the gospel of Jesus Christ in a language they can understand so they can become followers of Christ and responsible members of his church." Since 1985, 25 World by 2000 languages have had programs produced and broadcast from FEBC transmitting stations in the Philippines, Seychelles and Saipan.

NZ not at Church

Half of all New Zealanders aged 14 and over have not been to church except for a baptism, wedding or funeral for more than a year, according to a Time Morgan poll conducted late last year. 9% said they have never attended a regular service.

Sudan and Australian Churches

Understanding their challenges

A church delegation from the Sudan called upon the Australian Government to use its international reputation to highlight the injustices and oppression currently being experienced in the southern region of their country. This ecumenical team was in Australia recently as representatives of the New Sudan Council of Churches.

The tour of the Sudanese visitors, to enable Australians to understand the challenges Christians face in other lands, was supported through the Christmas Bowl of the Na-

tional Council of Churches in Australia. They acknowledged with appreciation the assistance provided by Australian churches through the Christmas Bowl to Sudanese churches, victims of a long and destructive civil war.

Bishop Solomon, leader of the delegation, insists that the current bombing of refugees, the oppression of the Christians in the south and the forced imposition of the Islamic Sharia law by the government is as bad, if not worse, than the conflicts of Bosnia, Somalia and Rwanda.



Gifts to this year's Christmas Bowl Appeal will support church communities in many countries including Sudan, Rwanda, South Africa, Bangladesh, and Australia.

—Kim Cain

Child Rescue International

Caring for Romanian orphans

When the Communist regime collapsed in Romania it left 100,000 orphaned children in its wake. The children lived in appalling conditions, neglected and deprived of the most basic care.

Australians were horrified when the "60 Minutes" television program screened the conditions of the children.

Children were left in cots for years with little supervision and older children had only

one pair of pyjamas as clothes that could be unwashed for a month.

Mission Without Borders now ministers to 22,000 of these children with humanitarian aid and Christian input. Many of the children have become Christians as a result of this ministry.

Attila is nine years old and has a mother and one sister. A Christian sponsor could make a difference to her life.

It costs \$30 per month to sponsor a Romanian child. Contact Mission Without Borders on (02) 793 8100 if you are interested.



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Ascot Vale Church of Christ
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Ascot Vale Vic 3032

Travel Travails

Life's tough at the top



• Jeff May, working hard

Travelling is a part of life for OMB director Jeff May. Throughout each year, he travels thousands of kilometres vis-

iting missions in various parts of the world, attending meetings, speaking, advising, preaching, etc. His modes of

travel vary from sitting in the comfort of a jumbo jet, to the cramped and hard base of a wooden dugout canoe.

This particular day he was caught 'relaxing?' in the back of the three-ton Bunapas Mission truck. I wouldn't really call it relaxing because he had to sit like this for five hours on a very rough road.

He had spent time in PNG to attend our Annual Meeting, the signing of the ground for the new Bible School and visiting our bush stations. Now, it was time to return to Madang before flying back to Australia. Most of our passengers would sit cross legged on the hard

wooden floor of the truck, but since the front was full and this was "the director", a folding chair was used to make the trip more comfortable for the soft "white skin". He even had an appropriately positioned esky as a foot rest.

However, what I should mention is that the rest of the truck was stacked with twelve 200 L (44 gallon) drums and therefore we couldn't offer Jeff the best of the scenic view along the coast road.

Due to his busy round of engagements, I think he dozed most of the way anyway. Life's tough at the top!

—Pam Hine

36,000 at Rally

Evaluating men's ministries

In the 6 August issue we had a story about Greg Shaw and his family, and their study and ministry in the US. Greg has recently written to friends in Australia and noted that his own studies are nearing completion.

His final project is to "perform an act of ministry" and evaluate it in 200 pages.

He has chosen to evaluate the men's ministry in his local church at Crown Heights, which so far seems to be unaware of the new men's movement which is developing. "There is a plethora of books on the men's movement and male development/spirituality. So far I have read about 40 of them."

As part of his evaluation, Greg went to Denton, Texas, to a men's rally for a movement called Promise Keepers, which calls for men to discover their true roles as men/leaders, based on biblical principals. "There were 36,000 men present. It was awesome and a powerful occasion."

It is of interest that the following weekend the same stadium was booked by the Ku Klux Klan.

Greg also reports he went to Kannakuk Summer Camp as an adult sponsor of a group of 300 inner-city kids. All of them

were paid for by fundraising. Greg raised \$1,500.

The majority of the kids were black and Hispanic. "I am a minority!"

Describing the experience Greg writes, "It was a truly magnificent week. Take these kids out of their urban gangs and terrible home situations, give them three good meals, a safe environment in which they can compete for fun and not to survive, a camp with the best equipment and an incredibly enthusiastic and caring counselling team (Christian College students), and these kids come alive."

They have great potential. The camp experience, focused on athletic activities, encouraged them to look beyond themselves to a new vision of hope for their lives.

The adult sponsors' role was to be with the kids, as requested by them, and to relax and enjoy a week of R & R. I did the tree-top rope course (scary!) and the pampier pole (one climbs and stands atop a telephone pole, and jumps out to catch a trapeze, even scarier!). All the time we had safety harnesses of course.

Also, there were water sports and coaching in all major sports. And can these kids sing, it was fantastic."

SENIOR PASTOR Foothills Church of Christ

The Foothills church is nestled in the foothills of the Darling Ranges in Perth WA, and enjoys average morning worship attendances of 170. The church is situated in an expanding community, has modern facilities and much room to grow.

We are seeking a Senior Pastor to promote spiritual and organisational leadership.

Because there is extensive growth potential, the position calls for a visionary leader who has strong teaching and equipping skills.



Initial enquiries or expressions of interest should be directed to David McBride by telephoning:

09 - 453 6964

(Evenings WST)

or by mail to:

6 Somerset St

Forrestfield WA 6058

Worship to Didgeridoo

A New Beginning

The congregation was called to worship by didgeridoo!

Different, but a stirring and meaningful introduction to the induction service of Frank Johnson to the Mooroopna, Vic, church on 30 October.

The church building in Harding Street was filled to capacity with local folk, visitors from several states and representatives from churches and departments within Churches of Christ.

The service was presided over by Ken Martin. Pastor Cecil Grant, from the Albury Koori Church, preached from 2 Timothy and the induction itself was conducted by Barry Jenkins, representing Conference.

In his greeting, read by Ken Martin, Avon Moyle, Executive Director of the Federal Aborigines Board, said that it is a time of new beginnings for the Johnson's and Mooroopna and prayed that it would be a fruitful one.

Don and Clare Stevens were over from Perth and represented FAB. Neville Lillie attended for the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship. The Vic/Tas Aboriginal Mission Department were well represented, although Chairperson Jean Hillier could not attend owing to an accident a few days earlier.

Frank and Rose, his wife, graduated from the Singleton Bible College. They had ministries at Halls Creek and Katanning, WA, before becoming FAB missionaries in 1977.

Since then, the Johnsons have served extensively in the eastern states and the Albany, WA, area. Frank has also worked in radio, as Registrar at the Bimbadeen Bible College and has done much in the deputa-tion field.

The barbecue which followed the service allowed old friends to mix and talk before the long trip home.

—Betty Bantow



• The Johnsons at the Mooroopna induction service

heavily involved in the development of training programs and the developing of Christian maturity for individuals within the Aboriginal Churches.

Over the years, Frank has been involved at various times as the Chairman of the NSW Missions Committee, as the NSW Board member of FAB and as Eastern Coordinator for FAB—which involved spending a lot of time doing deputations, attending State Confer-

ences and visiting the centres in the eastern states. Because of his obvious gift, Frank has been guest speaker at many Aboriginal Conventions in different parts of Australia. He has also been guest speaker at many Missionary Conventions in our churches around Australia and has been involved in much deputation over the years.

On 30 October, Frank and Rose were inducted into a ministry with the Mooroopna, Vic, church.

Frank & Rose Johnson

Active in Christian ministry

Frank and Rose Johnson have been actively involved in Christian ministry for many years. In 1960, Frank studied at the Singleton Bible College for three years. Rose was also studying there at that time. They were married in November 1963, one year after they graduated.

They have had ministries at Halls Creek, WA, in the Kimberley area, an interim ministry at Pingelly Baptist, WA, for 18 months and at Griffith, NSW, they conducted a ministry on the local reserve while employed in secular work. In 1973, they had a ministry in Katanning, WA. Frank and Rose became missionaries with FAB in 1977 and had a joint ministry with Bob and Lorna Brown in the Adelaide Church (now the Berean Church). In 1979, Frank became

the registrar at Bimbadeen Bible College (part of the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship) in Cootamundra, NSW. January 1981 saw the commencement of their ministry at Tamworth, NSW. During their time there, Frank also broadcast a twice-weekly radio ministry.

1990 saw Frank and Rose involved in the Albany area of WA. They developed a close relationship with the Albany church and other groups in the area. Frank also became an official Chaplain at the Albany Regional Prison. Frank and Rose also developed a bond with the Aboriginal Christian Fellowships in the Great Southern and in the South-West. Frank provided leadership training, teaching seminars and assistance with preaching when he could. Frank and Rose were

Camp Waterman 50th Anniversary

26 November 1994
10.00 am till 4.00 pm

All are welcome to attend this open day which will have a fun, fair atmosphere. Market stalls, a food court, clowns, animal menagerie, activities for kids, as well as having all our camp facilities in action.

Camp Waterman, McCarthy Rd, Monbulk
Melways Reference 122 F10

Camp Banksia Managers

Stuart and Janet Chandler



• The Chandlers, with Paul Fry

Stuart and Janet Chandler, pictured here with Paul Fry (right), will commence as managers at Camp Banksia, East Gippsland, Vic, in February 1995.

They succeed Russ and Thelma Pearce, who retire at the end of this year after 20 years' service.

Stuart and Janet have family

and personal links with Churches of Christ. They have worked as volunteers at Mill Valley Camp, Vic, and assisted with catering and bus driving at a number of Department of Mission, Education and Development sponsored camps at Camp Banksia. Stuart is a motor mechanic and bus driver. Janet has a background in secretarial work and catering.

In consultation with Paul Fry, the Department's senior camps manager, they are enthusiastically planning for their commencement as managers and participating in an orientation program. Stuart expects to obtain secular employment in the area to help support him and his family in this ministry.

The Department has a staff of 10 managers, plus other casual staff, at the four sites in Victoria and Tasmania.

People

Divisional Commander First

For the first time internationally, a Salvation Army married woman officer has been appointed Divisional Commander—a position similar to that of a Bishop in the Anglican Church. Major Raeline Savage will, next January, take up the position of Divisional Commander for the Army's central division in New Zealand, which includes Wellington.

Operation World Tour

The author of *Operation World*, Patrick Johnstone will be conducting a national speaking tour of Australia during March and April next year. He has been described as, "probably the most knowledgeable person in the world on the state of world evangelisation today". "Operation World" Conferences will be held in many major cities throughout Australia.

Teen Spirit

Popular Hollywood actor and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) member, Kirk Cameron, hosted an October network television special aimed at America's young people. "Teen Spirit," was a one-hour show that turned the camera and microphone over to American youth in a festival of teen-produced videos. Cameron, star of "Growing Pains", is an active member of Church of the Valley in Van Nuys, California. The program presents the visions and voices of contemporary youth on issues like relationships, racism, adolescent angst and violence. The program puts special emphasis on the spiritual faith of teens as it weaves meaning into their lives.

Graham & Graham Crusades

Evangelist Billy Graham joined his eldest son Franklin for the final two nights of the Franklin Graham Triangle Area Crusade held in Raleigh, North Carolina, USA. This is the second time this year that Billy Graham has participated in one of his son's crusades. 115 churches participated in the Triangle Area Crusade, which drew an average of 13,858 people per night. A total of 2,062 responded to invitations to commit their lives to Christ.

OMB Appointment

New Assistant Director

The Overseas Mission Board is pleased to announce that Jeff Weston has been appointed as Assistant Director of the Board. Jeff worked with the Board in Papua New Guinea as a carpenter from 1974-1977. He then entered the College of the Bible and, after graduation, ministered to the Darwin, NT, and Hobart City, Tas, churches.

Jeff is married to Rosemary and they have two children, Michelle and Matthew. The family will shift to Adelaide in December 1994 and Jeff will meet up with Jeff May in India for an orientation visit, along with the regular Board visit to India.

Jeff's appointment results from the decision by Julie Trinnick not to seek a further term as the Board's Assistant Director. Appreciation of Julie's service will appear in a subsequent issue.

We commend the Weston family to you and know that their experience in mission and ministry will be of great benefit to our churches in Australia and our partner churches overseas.

—Jeff May



• Jeff Weston

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

Why not include us in your will?
The following wording could be used
in your will:
I give and bequeath \$ (or a
percentage of the total estate) to
"The Australian Christian", the national
journal of Churches of Christ
in Australia, absolutely for the use
and benefit of the organisation free
from all debts, funeral and testamentary
expenses.

Senior Travel Consultant

Travelways Australia, a division of Christian Youth Travel Association Limited, has a vacancy available for a Senior Travel Consultant (ITC) at its office in Silverwater, NSW.

The successful applicant needs to be able to work unsupervised, be Galileo trained with Fares and Ticketing I & II and have a minimum of 3 years' experience. Your experience in handling corporate and retail clientele would be an advantage. This senior position requires someone with a pleasant telephone manner, is self-motivated, pays attention to detail and has strong Christian principles.

Due to the importance of this position's future management prospects, applicants from country and interstate areas will be considered. All applications will be acknowledged and treated in confidence.

To discuss this fulfilling and excellent career opportunity, please direct enquiries to Amanda Campion on (02) 748 4741.

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Defenders of the Faith?

Viney Longthorp

At a New Zealand chapter meeting of the Australasian Religious Press Association, held earlier this year, John Bluck, formerly the Director of Communications for the WCC (currently Dean of Christchurch Cathedral), referred to the church as a "media joke". He went on to say that, "The hallmarks of news media coverage of religion are neglect, hostility, and amusement." Alas, many of us would be forced to agree with him on account of our own experiences and observations.

However, in the light of his remarks, it was a pleasant surprise to read in the daily press over the past few weeks a cluster of articles and reports (all unrelated) which touched on the church and religious matters, which were both positive and appreciative. Now let it be said that neither faith nor the faithful need the secular press to defend them; but one should expect objective and informed comment on important matters.

Thus, in the Melbourne Age the newly appointed Sam Lipski made an assessment of the Prime Minister's Creative Nation Arts program, and in doing so mentioned the new anthology of *Modern Poems on the Bible*. Lipski singled out Chris Wallace-Crabbe's poem "Noah". He went on to make the valid point that no one could

really appreciate the finer meanings in the poem unless they had read the Bible. He then drew attention to the necessity of what another writer has called "cultural literacy", that is, the need to have a knowledge of literature in general, including the Bible, if we are to be able to engage fully in that "universe of shared meanings" which makes real communication possible.

Sam Lipski then went on to uphold further the place of religion. Using a recent Saulwick Poll as evidence, he claimed—and rightly—that Australians have a deep spiritual yearning, but that many regard this "with something more than just organised worship". Also, for Australians, "to the consistent surprise of most media people, who tend to be a disproportionately agnostic lot, the need for spiritual attachment still counts, perhaps even more than in previous decades". Sam Lipski would not disagree, it seems, with the comment made by Hans Mol some 20 years ago that, "Like the English, most Australians are heathens, but wish they were not". Or have we really made up some spiritual ground since then?

At any rate, one hopes that other members of the press, who read these words of confession by one of their own, will bring to matters religious a little more objectivity, a deeper sensitivity, as well as a smidgin more humility.

Maybe the message is getting through, because when Gerard Henderson (Melbourne Age, again) took some people in the ABC to task about changes in religious programming, he made many of the same points which Sam Lipski raised. Under a heading: "Religion: not just something that happens on Sunday", he too focussed on the significant place which religion occupies in our culture and in the lives of many people. In doing so, he drew on some facts of history which would be an encouragement for all of us to note.

He writes: "Religion was seldom the main player in Australia. But religious undercurrents were present during most of the key events in our history, including the conscription plebiscites of World War I, the formation of the Liberal Party in 1944 and the Labor split in the mid 1950s. Moreover, it is impossible to understand Australian history without reference to Caroline Chisholm, Mary McKillop, Irving Benson, Daniel Mannix, or Ernest Burgmann."

Manning Clark, at least, would have appreciated these opinions.

Finally, Padraic McGuinness in an article in *The Australian*, found occasion to take to task some Christian church leaders for their views on economic policies. We may leave it to others more qualified to judge the validity, or otherwise, of

his criticisms. But in introducing his arguments he acknowledged the importance of religion. He told of a friend who sings in a church choir. "I asked him whether he was religious." "Well," he said, "I'm not sure. But when I sing I am."

From here, McGuinness confessed: "When I listen to Bach or look at the great religious paintings, sculpture and architecture, or read William Blake, or indeed Les Murray's anthology of Australian religious poetry, it is impossible to ignore the importance of the religious impulse in humanity ... There are many things about religion—the reverence for the universe and its mystery, the impulse to service and benevolence, the absolute nature of morality—which are worthy of respect."

Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings—and the press! Again, we may be encouraged by such an advocacy of respect for matters religious, whilst acknowledging, as the Gospel does, that commitment is the needed response which goes way beyond feelings of respect.

Defenders of the faith? Faith needs no defence—on the contrary, as Fosdick once noted, faith defends the faithful. But it is good to see further evidence that some members of the press can comment on religion with a knowledge that goes beyond those tired old religious stereotypes. May their tribe increase!

As the "Information Superhighway" (so called) now under construction, gets ready to shape further the hearts and minds of people as never before, the churches for their part need to reassess their responsibilities for their use of the media. In the words of John Bluck: "(The churches) will need to become a whole lot smarter and more literate in handling visual and musical vocabulary and grammar. Maybe such a shift will need a relocation of Christian voices in our culture." ❖

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International

Albanian Outreach

An international evangelical effort to bring the gospel to a former "forbidden country" has resulted in more than 2,300 Albanians registering decisions for Christ. Called "Project AERO" (Albanian Evangelical Rural Outreach), the objective has been to show the *Jesus* film in the Tirana and Shkoder districts. More than 15,000 villagers in 175 villages have viewed the presentations. Project AERO will continue the next four summers. By then, organisers hope to have covered the entire country.

Zimbabwe Mission Difficulties

Zimbabwe's Home Affairs Minister has reaffirmed his government's restrictive policies on granting work permits to missionaries, saying authorities are reluctant to issue visas for people "coming just to preach the gospel". "We think we have got enough Zimbabweans qualified to be ministers of religion and able to teach the Bible."

Bible for a Gun

In response to the rising crime wave, the Bible Society in Puerto Rico has launched a program in which people will be able to hand over weapons to pastors and priests in total confidentiality. The program "A Bible for a Gun" has been planned in cooperation with the police and other state authorities. It will commence with an educational campaign, using various media, and with workers going house-to-house to invite people to exchange their guns for a Bible.

New Testament Printed in Iraq

Official permission has been received for the printing of 100,000 Good News Arabic New Testaments inside Iraq. In previous years, the only means of getting Scriptures into Iraq has required lengthy negotiations and paperwork involving the Iraqi and Jordanian authorities and the Bible Society. The New Testaments will be distributed especially among Christian students in state schools.

80TH BIRTHDAY

FISHER W.E. The family are inviting friends to an "Open House" at "Rosedale" Farm, Chark Rd, Mundulla, on Sunday 1 January 1995, 7-9 pm, to celebrate Edward's 80th birthday. You are cordially invited. No gifts please, just the pleasure of your company.

RUBY WEDDINGS

CORNELL—MCKINNON Congratulations Margaret and Hugh on your 40th Anniversary; celebrated on 20 November 1954, Moreland Church of Christ by the late E.J. Miles. Love Ross, Merrin, Pamela and Daryl, and grand-daughters Carina and Demara.

FRAZER 13.11.54. Forty years have passed since we pledged our love for each other before God and many of our friends and relatives at the Bambra Road Church of Christ. We acknowledge God's presence in all those years of togetherness. To the countless number who God has worked through with laughter, sharing, support and encouragement we say thank you for enriching our lives. Lila and Tom Frazer.

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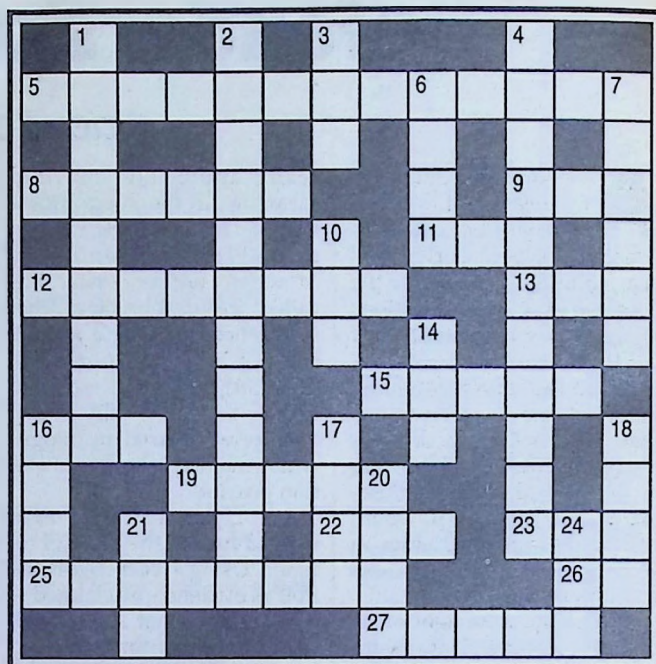
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Crossword



Clues

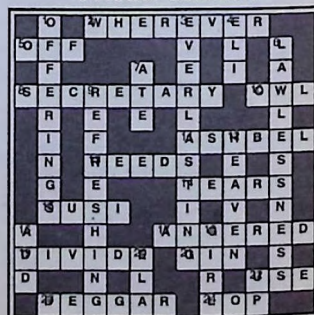
ACROSS

- 5 Jerusalem made this (Ezek 22)
- 8 Jesus drove out many
- 9 Lost by high priest's servant
- 11 Type of item traded with Tyre (Ezek 27)
- 12 Hamites _____ lived in Simeon's land (1 Chr 4)
- 13 Result of deadly disease (Job 18)
- 15 A fool wanted bigger ones
- 16 Foreigners ____ Ephraim's strength (Hos 7)
- 19 Faithful prophet
- 22 Biblical book records many by the Apostles
- 23 Samuel's mentor
- 25 His son made repairs (Neh 3)
- 26 Part of Jesus' claim to divinity in John
- 27 Trustworthy one brings healing (Prov 13)

DOWN

- 1 Call came from here
- 2 Path cut for this in Job 38
- 3 Number of lepers who gave thanks
- 4 Fruit used to decorate Tabernacle
- 6 Guide for wise men
- 7 Where Elijah fed by ravens
- 10 Amnon pretended to be this (2 Sam 13)
- 14 Tribe of Israel
- 16 Worn by Son of Man (Rev 1)
- 17 Witness between Laban and Jacob (Gen 31)
- 18 Means for determining God's will (Exod 28)
- 20 Heart may do this even in laughter (Prov 14)
- 21 Engraving described as this in 2 Chr 2
- 24 "I will ____ down my life for you"

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Minister's Musings

Sunday

This morning's guest speaker delighted in big words and in ideas that I suspected most people were not interested in. We ministers constantly to be on the alert to that. Karl Barth wrote volumes of heavy dogmatics. Yet at one stage, he preached each Sunday to prisoners and he summed up the gospel message as being, "Jesus loves me ... for the Bible tells me so". I get impatient with people in any discipline who can't, or don't, communicate at a straightforward, jargonless level. It is even more important in worship, where we are guiding people in their walk with God.

Monday

As he sat alongside his brother's hospital bed he said, "When I get to that stage, I'd like to go to sleep one night and not wake up". We rarely have a choice in the process of our dying. Some of us would rather have the opportunity to get our affairs in order. Some would rather know nothing about it. Others are scared stiff at the prospect. As every one of us will at some time die, one of the challenges we face is to have our affairs in order at whatever stage we have reached. Another is to be so close to God that we can

meet our forthcoming death with a positive attitude, seeing it as another step in the journey of life. Easier said than done? It beats the alternatives!

Tuesday

He was brave enough to come to one of our Sunday services. When I called subsequently, he said that he lived on his own and had no friends and that he would welcome any chance to socialise and be with people. It was probably for that reason that he wanted to come to the Bible study. The purists amongst us might think that socialising is not a good reason for coming to church or to Bible study, but Jesus was into making people feel as though they belonged and were loved. I suspect that many people who have been at worship or otherwise in touch with the church for social reasons have got to know Jesus while they were there.

Wednesday

He was renewing an acquaintance with the church after some years. He was at a stage of life where he was feeling the urge to do so. "But I won't be there every week. I am very busy, there's always something to do. I've never been an every-week sort of person." Compared with

other denominations and with our own churches overseas, we have a very high proportion of our members in worship every week. Isn't that the way worship needs to be? However, I didn't discourage this new person. I trust that when he comes he may find such a richness in worship that he will come more and more often. Now there's another challenge for us worship leaders!

Thursday

I called on another new, occasional attender prospect. He was not home, but rang during the evening. He told me that he didn't like to commit himself to anything; there was truth in a number of religions and he was particularly interested in Buddhism, but he liked coming to our services. He said, "Perhaps I should commit myself to something". If we were talking of personal relationships, we would call it "playing the field" or "playing around". Question. Do those of us within the church play around with our faith, dabbling with it here and there, but refraining from complete commitment in the way we live it? We do not have to go to another church to be playing with it.

Friday

Could we ask the same question of many of our marriages?

We do not have to go to another woman or man to be playing with our marriage. If I watch telly night after night as though my wife were not there, am I not playing with marriage? If I insist on my own way all the time am I not playing with the idea of partnership? If I put my wife down in front of other people (or privately), or sneer at her or make fun of her, am I not playing with marriage? Marriage can be likened to heaven or to hell: if we take it seriously we will do our best to make it a foretaste of heaven.

Saturday

We went to the Blood Bank this morning. It is as though we dropped the blood into a bottomless pit. We don't know whether they actually use the stuff; nor do we know to whom it goes. However, like giving money to charity, we trust that most of it gets to a worthwhile destination and that it really helps someone who needs it. Preaching the gospel is a bit like that. Sunday by Sunday, we preach. Day by day, many of us say a word or do a deed for the faith. Mostly, we do not know of any specific result. Occasionally, we hear of an instance where the word struck gold and that keeps us going. We do our best to scatter the seed intelligently and trust that in most cases God makes the seed bear fruit. ❖

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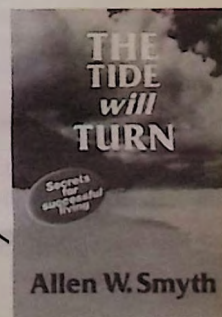
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Travelling to Church

Patterns amongst church attenders

Many attenders, especially the young, will travel some distance to find a congregation which meets their needs.

The late 20th century is unquestionably the era of the motor car. Only 10% of church attenders walk to church or ride a bicycle and just 2% travel by public transport. The vast majority go by car—62% driving for 10 minutes or less, 18% for 11–20 minutes and 8% for more than 20 minutes.

Mainstream congregations are most likely to have local catchments with 80% of attenders living within 10 minutes of the church centre. On the other hand, 42% of Pentecostal attenders and 39% of attenders at small Protestant denominations travel for more than 10 minutes to get to church.

People aged 20–29 years are

most likely to travel further to church. People over 60 years are more likely to walk to church. People who rent housing are also more likely to walk to church, as are the unemployed.

A congregation's catchment area does not necessarily increase with size. Congregations have similar proportions of attenders who travel for more than 20 minutes, regardless of their size. The exceptions are congregations of more than 500 attenders, which have a greater proportion of attenders travelling for more than 20 minutes.

Although most congregations identify their ministry as a local geographic area, congregations in all denominations are drawing attenders from a much wider area. Congregations of all sizes may need to rethink their mission activities

so that they include people within a region rather than just one or two suburbs.

Congregations which are planned as regional congregations need to recognise that their effective catchment area is 20 minutes drive from the church centre. Relatively few attenders will travel for longer than this. Locating a new centre close to major roads could well increase its potential catchment area.

A congregation's ministry focus will determine its catchment area and the type of outreach activities it should plan. Young attenders are more willing to travel long distances to a church or activities they like, while attenders with children won't travel as far. Older people are more likely to prefer activities in their own or a neighbouring suburb.

People from lower socioeconomic backgrounds are under-represented in the life of the church, perhaps because of their comparative lack of mobility. Congregations which want to reach the less affluent or less mobile will need to provide transport to services and activities, or take activities to where people are, using community facilities or housing.

While developing regional congregations may be an important strategy for ministry to the young, denominations may also need to invest in a network of local congregations, if the elderly and those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds are to have equal access to church. This is an important issue for denominational planning. —From *Winds of Change* the latest book from the National Church Life Survey

The other day I watched a talk show which dealt with the subject of grief. One of the guests, a Grief Counsellor, was asked how long grieving lasts. "Forever," she replied. As one who has experienced grief, I can relate to that answer. We never get over the loss of a loved one. But we should work through our grief. Unfortunately, outward expressions of grief are considered "bad form" in today's society. Grief is suppressed and, consequently, prolonged for the person experiencing loss. We are taught at an early age that feelings and displays of deep emotions are not appropriate. As a society, we are uncomfortable when confronted with displays of grief.

One of the most helpful places to turn to in the Bible for understanding grief is the Old Testament book of Psalms. No fewer than 61 of the 150 psalms are categorised as Psalms of Lament. To lament is to mourn, grieve, weep or wail. To lament is to express deep sorrow. We

simply do not lament these days. Not so the ancient Hebrew people. The Psalmists respond to loss in a very healthy way. They lament, they mourn. To use the modern vernacular, they "spill their guts", they "get it out of their system".

Careful reading of lament psalms yields a common pattern with countless variations. Psalm 71 is a good example. The psalmist is an old man grieving, amongst other things, for the loss of youth. As with most psalms, the opening verses are a cry for help. Then the psalmist moves on, with rhythmic movement, amongst various descriptions of his problems. As the psalm continues, the expression of pain seems to diminish and the expression of hope in God increases until the psalm ends with a hymn of praise. Almost

as if lamenting has a therapeutic value.

Unlike people experiencing grief all over Australia, the psalmist does not conceal his distress, there is no attempt to disguise personal fears, misery, grief and the suffering of the psalmist. Unlike the majority

of sufferers today, the psalmist does not "suffer in silence". The psalmist does not "bottle up his feelings".

The lament psalms are recorded for the use of other sufferers who need effective words to give vent to their own unhappiness. If we follow the example of the psalmist and humbly and honestly give our pain to God, hope in his all sufficient grace will increase, and our songs of lament will end in hymns of praise. ✧

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Who Cares for the Carer?

Tom Frazer

Recently I arrived home fairly depressed from a round of visiting. A number of little things had mounted up and by the middle of the afternoon I was ready for "a fix". So I put the jug on to prepare a cuppa.

The bell at the back door rang. On opening the back door, there before me was a young 80-year-old Baptist lady. She was a member of the Baptist Ladies Circle, she informed me, and in July each year the group visited a number of people in the Boort district as their program for that month.

She had come to see my wife Lila as the group felt she would appreciate a visit. My visitor had picked the wrong week, unfortunately, as Lila, like many in Boort, was laid low with the flu. However here I was, physically fit and well,

ready for a visitor, I invited her in.

It was a good half hour for me as we talked and shared. This kind lady was now my visitor. What was Lila's loss was my gain. Coming at the right time for me, she was an angel in disguise.

As I reflected on the visit afterwards, I pondered on the questions, "Who ministers to the minister?" and "Who cares for the carer?" The conclusion I came to was that any person who comes in love to any other person is a carer.

I don't know if my visitor had been trained in eye attention or body language, or whether she had been taught to make the right sounds to keep me talking. It didn't matter. All I knew was that this new friend was interested in me.

I didn't talk about how I was feeling. I didn't have to. Just by relaxing and talking I was lifted out of my low mood.

It doesn't always happen that easily for people, but it happened this day to me. It wasn't the subjects we talked about—it was the presence, the knowledge that somebody cares.

I am well aware that there are many carers in Boort and other rural towns who are under greater pressure today than in former days. School cut-backs, hospital changes, economic downturns, uncertain futures and other circumstances mean that, for many, the potential for having "low days" has increased.

Rotary Clubs throughout the world will have as their motto for the next 12 months the words, "Be a Friend". A deeper way of presenting the same

thought is found in the scriptural injunction, "Love one another". The secret of being truly community is to not only say the words, but to also act them out at all times. In our own right we all have the potential to be carers.

PS: Visiting a church member the other day late in the afternoon, I was surprised to find one of the community's carers drop in to have a cup of tea and a chat. Here before my eyes I witnessed a carer being cared for. Its already happening, may the frequency increase. ❖

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As well as being minister of Boort, Vic, church, Tom at the moment is part of the pastoral team at Boort Uniting Church.

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Eternal love he gives to me,
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And yet it's true—I have his Word.
Eternal love, I stand amazed,
As humbly at the Cross I gaze.

Oh awesome love that paid the price,
For all my sin, my every vice.
My heart with love is now aflame,
With joy I bless his Holy Name.
Obedient Lord please help me be,
That I may prove my love for Thee.

—Margaret Croucher
(Scarborough, WA)

A Distorted Ministry?

Alan Matheson

Distort: "To twist awry or out of shape, to misrepresent".

Two items puzzled me in a recent issue of the "AC" (3.9.94). (I must say it's always a good issue which provokes puzzlement, frustration and inspiration.)

First, came the insert heralding the fifty-four courses offered by one of the state theological colleges. The breadth and diversity, certainly had me wondering about the worth of my thirty-year-old 'Dip COB'!

However, what puzzled me was the approach to ministry. Is ministry no more than 'pastoral care'?

Having spent nearly four decades in a number of countries as a teacher, minister, social worker and union official, I am only too well aware of the mess individuals and their families get into.

But I wonder, in the complexity that confronts both our movement and our congregations, whether or not our ministry has gone 'awry'?

In short, have we ended up with a badly distorted ministry?

The course options provide, for the study of the "Foundations of Pastoral Care", but not the elements of a prophetic ministry; or Christian Education—theological and psychological foundations, but not the sociological and political dynamics of congregational action for justice.

There was "Pastoral Leadership", but no prophetic mobilisation to witness to the Kingdom.

I could end up with Advanced Counselling (DP 112G, 113G or 115a), but in vain I looked for graduate training in advanced prophetic social and political analysis and action, "praxis" even!

The article on C. Kirk Hadaway's congregational research in the USA ("Research Findings" by Don Smith) puzzled

me further, and prompted me to dig out one of his earlier studies.

His 1993, study of "church" (read "congregational") and "denominational" developments (*Church and Denominational Growth*, David A. Roozen and C. Kirk Hadaway, Abingdon Press) provides a creative balanced assessment of church growth.

I must admit, incidentally, that whenever I read of experts in church growth and their cry for change because the church has failed, I reach for my history books.

Browsing, recently, through a 1920s study of evangelism in the Australian Church, I found the author noting that, "it is admitted by all denominations that the habit of public worship is on the decline ... Thousands of people honestly feel that neither the average service or the average sermon is likely to help them in the way in which they feel the need of help" (*Evangelism in the Australian Church*, Moorhouse Lectures for 1923, G.H. Cranswick, Angus and Robertson, 1924).

Hadaway's study highlights, both intrinsic dimensions of "the church"—the congregation and the denomination.

Too often, over enthusiastic proponents of American church growth in Australia, focus solely on the congregation and in some cases, in fact, become almost anti-denominational.

Hadaway, notes first, that "the increasing dominance of religious consumerism, as a form of cultural individualism, is the most important change in the American religious market place of the late 1980s".

The American churchgoer, he concludes, chooses a church and attends "because it is warm, provides personalised meaning, has a clearly 'spiritual' focus, is not 'too organised', is not too restrictive and has just enough—but not too

much—emphasis on social justice".

Is this where our ministry is taking us?

Some of his most challenging findings relate to the other side of the congregation, the denomination (in our case our Conferences). They're findings which should be read by all who serve in our various departments and committees.

In a real sense, he concludes, "denominational loyalty is reduced because denominations remain a mystery to many church members".

Denominations, he concludes, "must rediscover their constituency and allow their constituency to rediscover them".

At one level this rediscovery is increasingly difficult. Opportunities to examine and debate accountability in our conferences grow increasingly more limited. Less and less time is given over to examination of conference departments, and the committees and officers who serve them.

We have embedded in much of our organisational management, practices which affirm 'the mystery' and discourage 'discovery'! For example, committees are selected through "old boys" networks, leadership positions are decided by small groups and departments increasingly do not advertise

vacancies. No department has an equal opportunity policy for staffing or Committee appointments. In some states, departmental officers are appointed for life, there are no contracts, and no external review processes in place. But the gap between our congregations and our movement is much more than management.

How much more effective, for example, would the current internal National Council discussions on the future of our Movement be, if executive officers had made the process more open and accessible to those they serve.

With our total preoccupation with a "church growth" philosophy and a limited approach to ministry, we are in great danger of losing our identity and our purpose as a movement which calls itself Churches of Christ. ❖

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"I am sorry to inform you that your daughter Janene Robyn Alexander has been transferred from Gosford Hospital to The Royal North Shore Hospital in a very critical condition." With these words from the two police officers at our front door, the lives of my wife, our other children and their families, and my own, were shattered and changed forever. It was 22 December 1993. In utter confusion and disbelief, we drove to the hospital arriving about 9 am. We spent this traumatic and agonising day talking to doctors, a social worker, chaplains and earnestly praying to God for Janene's life, but to no avail. At about 2 pm, we were informed that Janene had died.

Janene was murdered by her husband, who shot her through her head with a .303 rifle whilst asleep in bed.

When Janene's husband was finally arrested and charged, my wife and myself then cared for the three young boys who were without a mother or father. Throughout this difficult period, except for the loyal support of our family and friends, we seemed to be alone in our grief with no help from other people who should know about these types of situations and be able to guide us through this minefield of stress and confusion.

It was only by pure accident that our youngest daughter heard about an organisation called The Compassionate Friends from whom she obtained brochures and contact phone numbers. Over a short period of time, The Compassionate Friends told us about two other organisations, one being the Homicide Victims' Support Group, who are there

for family support after murder, and The Bereavement Care Centre, who counsel people who have lost someone in tragic circumstances.

These three organisations have been a very big help to us; with friendship, understanding, compassion, kindness and support through these traumatic and stressful times, as we try to come to grips with this tragedy.

My wife and I have been members of the Bexley North, NSW, church; my wife for 61 years, myself for 35 years. They also have been a comfort to us, but neither the minister nor the elders had heard of these organisations or others similar to them, nor had they come upon this type of situation before. I wish to bring this information to ministers and elders of all our churches, so that if any member or friend should suffer a similar tragedy then this information can be given to them quickly, so that they can receive the support they will need and not be left wondering where to turn to next for help.

To help people understand a little of the emotional upheaval that one goes through, the attached poem, which a mother in the Homicide Victims' Support Group wrote after the murder of her son, will help to explain some of our needs and feelings as we grope for help and understanding.

The Compassionate Friends is an international organisation of bereaved parents, offering

friendship and understanding to each other following the death of their child. They can be contacted Colonial Mutual Building, 12th floor, 14 Martin Place, Sydney 2000. Monday to Friday 10.30 am-3.00 pm, phone (02) 233 3731.

Homicide Victims' Support Group offers family support after murder. They can be contacted at the NSW Institute of Forensic Medicine, 44 Parramatta Rd, Glebe 2037. Contacts are John Merrick and Martha Jabour on (02) 660 5977.

Bereavement Care Centre address is 41 The Boulevard, Lewisham 2049, phone (02) 569 9311. ❖

Don't look at me with pity;
I need your strength
Don't crowd me with words;
just let me talk
Don't touch me; I will reach out to you when I'm ready
Don't call me; I need time to think and work it through
Don't tell me how I should feel;
feelings are beyond my control at this time
Don't stop my tears and screams;
they are my path to release and healing
Don't cross the road to avoid me;
just smile and say "hello"
Don't say you understand;
just thank God you can't
Don't be hurt by what I say or do;
my pain is clouding my judgement
Don't think I'm going mad;
I'm doing the best I can to retain my sanity
Don't tell me I'll get over it;
all I expect is that I learn to live with my loss
Don't tell me I'll forget;
his memory is all I have left
And whatever you do ...
Don't think I don't appreciate your being here
—Maya Hessel



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Sunday

9.00 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Worship & Communion Services

7.00 p.m.

Gospel Celebration

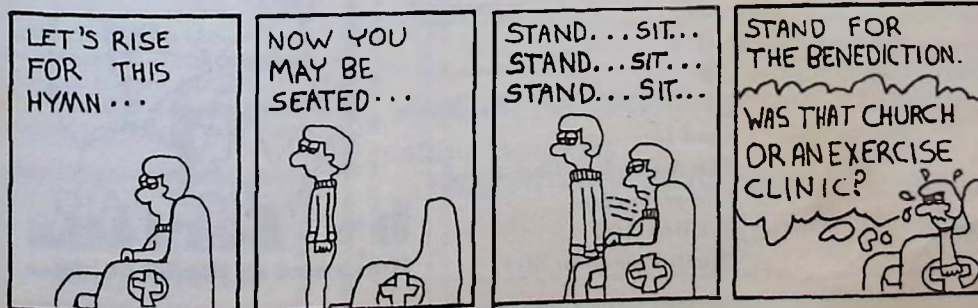
Wednesday

1.15-1.45 p.m.

Lunchtime Service

For further enquiries, please ring (03) 663 3884

JUSTIN TIME



Personal

Baptisms

•Scott Haselden, Byron Bay, NSW
•Susan Hutchinson, Victor Harbor, SA
•Samantha Cross, Stephen Capom, Fremantle, WA

Marriages

•Denise Kirwood & Ben Donachie, LaTrobe Tce, Geelong, Vic

Deaths

•Jean Sprigg, Portland, Vic •Mrs Alma White, Maylands, WA •Colin Shepherd, Victor Harbor, SA
•Edith West, Fremantle, WA



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Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Beard, Geoffrey R.

(14.9.94) Geoff left us all saddened and shocked that this man with the infectious personality and indestructible faith and love in God, could ever succumb to the frailties of the body. It is impossible to detail all the things that he did for his family, church (Hamilton, Vic), community and strangers. He constantly amazed us all with the amount of work, guidance, love and help that he could cram into his busy schedules of working for others. The church has been blessed and strengthened by his many presidential addresses, prayers, singing and the spontaneous whistling and greetings. We are all the richer for having met and known Geoff. The deep sympathies of the church have been expressed to his wife, Norma, and their family.

—Tom J. Trimnell

Fancourt (nee Lawrence), Valerie (28.10.94) Val Lawrence was born at Woolloomooloo, NSW, in 1902. Her family moved to Paddington in 1909 and became involved in the work of the church there. In 1928 she married Richard Fancourt and they moved to Lane Cove, attending the church there and at Chatswood. When Dick died in 1940, leaving Val to raise their young family, she moved to Willoughby and they became fully involved in the work at Chatswood. In 1960, Val married her widower brother-in-law Reg Fancourt, moving to Emu heights, becoming active in the Penrith church for over 20 years. Reg died in 1981. The chaplain of the Waldock Nursing Home, where Val spent her final year, Rev Arthur MacCullagh, paid tribute to her faith and life of service. She will be sadly missed by daughter Isabel McPherson and her husband Alan (Castle Hill) and son Richard and his wife Marcia (Budgewoi) and their families; and by Reg's family, by whom she was greatly loved and respected.

—H.E. Hayward

Head, Harold

Harold Head moved to Australia from England with his family at the age of 20 and became associated with the Balwyn, Vic, church, where he met Gerta, his future wife. After moving to Surrey Hills, Harold, Gerta and their three children attended the Benson Street Methodist Church. Harold's involvement in the Methodist Church included roles as a lay preacher, trustee, steward, choir member and circuit steward. In the mid-sixties he co-pioneered the telephone Daily Bible Reading service, compiling and reading them for the first year. In 1968, Harold began serving full-time as a Methodist Minister in Wimmera circuits until 1973. In 1983, they renewed their Church of Christ association with the Tootgarook congregation. Harold's contributions to the "AC" were evidence of an active and inquiring mind and an intense interest in the role of Christianity and the church. A thanksgiving service, 13 September, was a tribute to Harold's life of dedication, love and service.

Church News

NSW

BYRON BAY (Stephen Templeton) Began church services on Sunday mornings at 9 am. Attendance first three 38, 18 & 32 ... Moving away from Shire ministry, focusing on being ministry to community of Suffolk Park, being first church in this growing part of the Shire ... Small groups ministry has begun in the Brunswick Valley area with a vision to establish a church in the near future.

SA

MUNDULLA (J. Main) Church accepted the challenge of new ministry direction ... Farewelled Deane & Winsome Dinning, moving to Adelaide following farm sale ... Sunday School family BBQ raised \$48 for Bible Society ... Rosemary Hunt working with Mobile Mission Maintenance recently in Hong Kong ... Six week Bible study on Philippians commenced ... Church future vision focussing on community outreach ... John Main & Wendy Brown members of State Board Rural Ministry Taskforce.

VICTOR HARBOR (Don Wesley) During the school holidays we were having a combined service in the morning. One of which was a baptismal service for Susan Hutchinson & another a dedication service for Amy Brown ... Last Saturday we had a talent night featuring our young people, with money raised going towards "Farmhand". A total of \$273 was raised.

Biography of Gordon Stirling

Life of Tertius, the biography of Gordon Stirling, is still available and would make a great Christmas gift at only \$15 per copy (two for \$25, three for \$35). All prices include postage.

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Life of Tertius
PO Box 101
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Life of Tertius



by Tertius
Illustrated by Daniel Changer

Church News

Qld

SOUTHPORT (W. Thornburn) Sermon "Life in the Body" was "Sense of Sending", to launch missionary couple Alan & Carol Bickell, preparing to work in PNG with APCM. Phone contact in service with Bells at Camarvon ... Junior Choir delight presenting "Arkeology" ... Exciting video President Chiluba of Zambia dedicating government & whole country to Christian way of life ... Pastor Jim & Beverley Hohnke to visit daughter Rebekah who is working on *Doulos*, at present in Italy.

WA

MAYLANDS (Robert Drown) Wonderful weekend October shared by folk from all over Australia as Maylands celebrated 90 years of ministry. Church filled to capacity on Sunday morning with 190 present. Visiting speakers former ministers Lloyd Cooke (Tas) & Phillip Wyllie (NSW) ... Group with tour director Trevor Streeton enjoyed bus trip through Great Southern region ... Robert Drown settled into 50/50 employment Kinway Counselling Services & Maylands church.

FREMANTLE (J. Caporn) 30 October, baptism of two BS scholars ... "Highlight" of church's 102nd anniversary, 6 November, was welcoming into church membership of one of these, Stephen Caporn, by his father ... Anniversary tea & service held in hall attended by many former members ... At pm services, representatives of Drug Arm, European Christian Mission & Aerial Mission, have spoken of their work ... Church camp at Busselton attended by 31.

Vic

SPRINGVALE (John Carmichael) September School Holiday Club reached 29 children, 15 from non-church homes ... Bethel study certificates awarded to nine, 24 September ... Pastoral care team of six visiting all church families ... Church shared two combined services with Vietnamese Church. Ministers spoke in English with translation into Vietnamese by Pastor Quang ... \$8,000 raised for missions through 93/94 Faith promises. Total missionary giving, all sources, \$12,000.

PORTLAND (P. Kerrison) Winter months took toll on older mem-

bers. Some still confined to their homes ... Study groups continuing in homes ... 10 attended Careforce Recovery Seminar at Stawell ... Meat & potatoes donated & distributed to needy & elderly families ... Locals led service whilst minister on holidays & study leave.

OAKLEIGH (W.J. Edwards) Tom & Sylvia Weir celebrated Diamond Wedding in church hall ... Minister & wife returned from holidays ... Speakers were Peter Bradley, Graeme Chapman, Peter Pitts, Bill Sharrock, Chris Ambrose ... Les & Vi McCredden, May Barton on sick

list ... Church anniversary 16 October, Pat Greig spoke, offering \$1300 ... CWF officers reappointed at annual meeting.

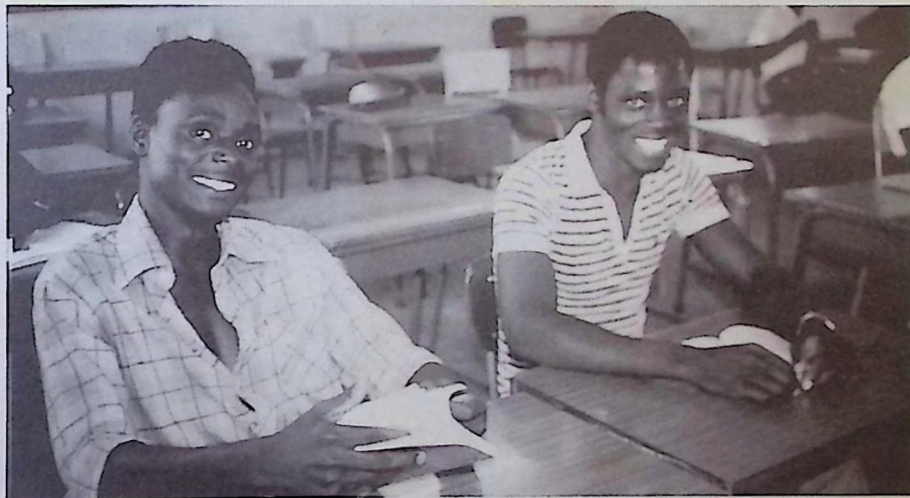
BALWYN NORTH (Keith Bowes, Keith Wiggins) Missionary weekend strongly supported. \$5,000 given or pledged for support of four mission workers ... Stable Association has accommodated 11 families, including 23 children, during last year & assisted them towards independence ... Reunion weekend for former youth group enjoyable & encouraging ... Planned Giving Program led by George Warren. Goal of 25% increase ex-

ceeded ... Church family dinner outstanding success. Boronia ladies catered excellently.

LATROBE TCE, GEELONG (David Jones) 110 enjoyed luncheon following 137th church anniversary. Glen Wegner guest speaker. Outreach offering \$1,126 received ... CWF celebrated 80 years of service. \$537 received for Christian Education in Schools ... \$285 received for Ukrainian Church Building Fund ... Noel Mitaxa, from Sport & Leisure Ministries, guest at first "Month of Sunday Services" ... Young people held pizza, pool & Pictionary night at manse.

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News

Good News Unlimited

Good News takes to the studio

Four of Australia's most committed musicians have combined their talents with one of the world leading record producers to come up with a CD album, *Good News Unlimited*, aimed at sharing the Gospel with people. Vocalist Kathy Campbell, and vocalists and musicians Steve Passfield, David Martin and Brian Patterson are working with Leon Gaer (Producer) to produce *Good News Unlimited*.

"Our album will have wide appeal, not only because of the high level of production and musicianship behind it, but most importantly because of the message of hope it brings," said guitarist and songwriter Brian Patterson.

Brian, was lead guitarist with the number one Australian band of the 60s, "The Executive" and has played with many of Australia's best-loved musicians, wrote much of the material for the album.

The music will be used to support a Gospel Roadshow the musicians are producing. The Roadshow will feature the musicians live and a video sequence featuring leading theologian, author and teacher, Dr Desmond

Ford. "We're very excited about the project. It gives us the opportunity to go into the studio for something really worthwhile. And with a dynamic speaker like Dr Ford being part of our Roadshow and Leon putting the music together, we will really have something people will want to see," Brian Patterson said.

Currently, the album tracks are being completed and work is also under way on videos on each track to be included in the Roadshow. It is anticipated that the Roadshow will be available as an outreach tool for churches around mid 1995.

For further information contact GNCM Ltd, PO Box 10, Tugun Qld 4224. Telephone (066) 74 2271.



• Brian Patterson, Kathy Campbell, Steve Passfield, David Martin

The Last Word

God should be in all of our planning. All of our planning should attempt to reflect God's purpose as best we understand it.

—Edward R. Dayton

Why did the little girl skip?
She had just taken her medicine and forgotten to shake the bottle.

★★★★★

Why did the little boy tiptoe past the medicine cabinet?
He didn't want to wake the sleeping pills.

★★★★★

How do you help a deaf fisherman?
Give him a herring aid.

★★★★★

When my friend John King was staying with us, he broke his newly capped front tooth so he went to my dentist. The receptionist filled in his details as follows:

NAME: King, John.

COMPLAINT: Crown came off.

★★★★★

"What's a howling baby whale?"
"A little blubber."

★★★★★

What do sea monsters eat?
Fish and ships.

★★★★★

What's the best way to communicate with a fish?
Drop it a line.

★★★★★

How can you tell that fish are musical?
Everyone knows about piano tunas.

★★★★★

Which musical instrument could be used for fishing?
A cast-a-net.

★★★★★

What did the boy octopus say to the girl octopus?
I want to hold your hand hand hand hand hand hand hand hand.

★★★★★

Where do fish wash?
In a river basin.

★★★★★



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