

National Journal
of Churches of
Christ in Australia

Vol. 98 • No. 12

15 July 1995

Print Post Approved
PP349181/00418

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Revving up the Tigers



Picture: Terry Pheasant

—page 3

In Whom we Put Our Trust

—page 16

National Conference

—page 4

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

—page 2



Member
publication of the
Australasian
Religious Press
Association

National logo of
Churches of
Christ in
Australia



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

Keith Aird, Chairman (SA)

Kevin Bray (ACT)

Lindsay Mott, Treasurer (Vic)

John Batchler (Tas)

Bob Smith (Qld)

Steve Downie (NSW)

Allen Smyth (WA)

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

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

This publication is indexed in the
Australasian Religion Index

ISSN 0004-8852

Advertising Rates

Displayed: \$5.25 per column
centimetre

Classifieds: \$13 for the first 25 words
and 25c for each additional word

Gordon Stirling

"The Baptism of the Holy Spirit"

Gordon Stirling

There seems to be a lot of confusion about "the baptism of the Holy Spirit". Some say that it only happened twice, at Pentecost, and in Cornelius' house. Some say that it is a once for all highly charged "second blessing" experience. Some say that the only way that you can know that you've had it is to speak in tongues. Others say that it happens at baptism in water (Acts 2:38). Some haven't a clue about it. And the strange thing is that the phrase "baptism of the Holy Spirit" does not appear in the NT. John the Baptist is reported as saying that Jesus would baptise people with the Holy Spirit.

Well, one of our ministers, Allan Norling, also a practising psychologist, has set out to settle the question and has researched the New Testament long and hard to discover how the members of the first Christian church understood it. The fruit of his diligent research is in a 290-page book, *Jesus—The Baptiser with the Holy Spirit*. It was reviewed in *The Australian Christian* (5 November 1994). Everyone interested in discovering the New Testament position on "the baptism of the Holy Spirit" should read it, especially those of us who have made up our minds that we know what it is. The foreword of the book has been written by Gordon Moyes.

Allan's main conclusion is that the New Testament teaches that Jesus Christ is the baptiser with the Holy Spirit and that it happens whenever a believing Christian becomes involved in a particular ministry or service in the mission of the church. He believes that Christians are filled with the Spirit all the time, but when special dynamic is needed Jesus baptises the person with the Spirit to meet that need. Allan claims that spiritual gifts are not given once and for all, but only with the baptism with the Holy Spirit for particular "pieces of ministry". He does not agree with the slogan "discover your gift and use it". He says that when we accept the challenge of service Jesus Christ baptises us with the Spirit and gives us the appropriate gifts at the time.

Allan Norling asked me to comment on the book, which I did in a long letter. Here are some extracts from it.

"I congratulate you on such a thorough piece of research. I can't say that there is anything in your book about which I seriously disagree.

At college I was taught the McGarvey theory of 'the baptism of the Holy Spirit', that there were only two occasions for the phenomenon. I did not feel satisfied that the theory expressed what John the Baptist and the prophet Joel were talking about. I soon came to the understanding that 'the baptism of the Holy Spirit' was the continuing overwhelming by the Spirit in the life of the Christian and of the church. I concluded that the phrases 'baptism of', 'infilling of', 'anointing' and 'the gift of' were all figures of speech describing the overwhelming power of the Spirit in the life of the church.

"I also concluded that the three lists of gifts were not meant by Paul to be exhaustive. The fact that each list differs from the others seems to indicate that Paul, in dictating to his amanuensis, on each occasion quoted the gifts that came to his mind as appropriate to that occasion.

"I like your corrective word on 'discovering our gifts and then using them'. This concept, as you say, has been the biggest excuse ever used by people wanting to 'cop out' from ministries that are hard in order to opt for the more 'cushy' or spectacular ones, especially as used by those ministers who do not like making house calls.

Your concept of our awareness of the baptism with the Holy Spirit mostly only after the event, or maybe never, is a healthy corrective to the highly charged so-called 'baptism of the Holy Spirit' experienced by some under the influence of high pressure, either self-induced or induced by others.

"You have usefully categorised the various works of the Holy Spirit and I like very much your concept of the baptism with the Spirit when appropriate gifts are needed for each work of ministry. After all the biblical purpose of the Holy Spirit is to support the ministry of the church. However, while it is useful to categorise the activities of the Holy Spirit, we cannot expect him to confine himself to our categories.

"I like your affirmation that Jesus Christ is the baptiser with the Holy Spirit. After all is this not what the John passages and the John the Baptist passage have been saying? And of course the church histori-

Continued on page 3

Revving up the Tigers

AFL chaplaincy

God knows why Richmond is playing well. Undeclared, undaunted but no longer underestimated, the Tigers are playing with that intangible force called spirit. With just a touch of the spiritual as well.

Speak to anyone at Punt Road and it won't take long before the conversation drifts around to the almost serene bond which exists between players and officials. Then take a look at the bench on match days and you will notice the football manager, the runner, the trainers, the three interchange players and one other person whose role during a game is not defined, but who is described by coach John Northey as "one of the best moves I have made in football".

His name is Paul Cameron and he is known to the players as The Rev. The senior minister with the Doncaster Church of Christ, he has filled the role as chaplain for the Richmond Football Club for the past three years, offering emotional support and encouragement and, when appropriate, spiritual guidance.

Continued from page 2

cally has been affirming this in such credal statements as 'the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son'. I also like your affirmation that Jesus Christ initiates a special work of the Spirit with special gifts for each act of ministry. This reflects the Old Testament concept of the work of the Spirit for special occasions.

"While your book is about the Holy Spirit its main theme is the centrality of Jesus Christ and that I endorse heartily. I am also pleased that you have drawn attention to the fact that the chief work of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus Christ." ❖

Jesus—The Baptistiser with the Holy Spirit is available for \$14.95 from Allan Norling, PO Box 219, Beecroft 2119, or by phoning (02) 481 0267.

The decision to have Cameron on the bench is recognition of the growing role of sports chaplaincy in the 90s. There are about 100 sports chaplaincy appointments around Australia, including at least seven in the AFL, with several other clubs now closely looking at finding a man of the cloth for next year.

The non-denominational Sports and Leisure Ministries were started about a decade ago by Baptist minister Mark Tronson, who is chaplain to the Australian Test cricket team, and if you consider the success of that particular group of men of late, maybe the Tigers are on to something.

Cameron is used to all the religious jokes, the likes of which Geelong and Gary Ablett have endured in recent seasons, and people are always asking him how he manages to fit in Sunday games. (For the record he holds two services before dashing off to the game with the full support of his congregation.) But he stresses his role at the club is not to ram religion down the throats of the players but to offer advice and support on a whole range of issues.

"The key is that chaplains are sensitive people who relate to others. We are people who are not going to be Bible bashers, but that doesn't mean I am going to compromise my beliefs or values. I think some of us relatively younger ones in the ministry are trying to break down some of the images and ideas of what ministers are like. We try to connect to people on a one-to-one friendship basis, so the connection I have with the players is as a mate, but so they still know where I am coming from.

"We tend to operate at the most basic level of faith. Part of the role of the chaplaincy is to break down some of the church packaging, so people can understand God is accessible to everybody and not just certain branches. I guess we are trying to keep the rumour of God alive

at the football."

Northey introduced a chaplain at Melbourne when he coached the Demons and on his return to Tigerland was adamant a chaplain could add something to the mood of a club. "He has been terrific for us. It's not only when somebody gets married or somebody dies, Paul is as much a psychologist as a minister," Northey said. "The players accept him and they are happy to sit down and talk to Paul, where they might not want to talk to the coaching staff."

Footballers who are injured or down on form normally find The Rev sidling up at training and lending an ear. He has conducted marriages at the club and memorial services when there has been a death. When skipper Tony Free broke his jaw for the second time last season, it was The Rev who drove him to hospital. When he did his knee last week, one of his first visitors was The Rev, offering consolation and encouragement. When players are dragged during a game, the pat on the head and the inspiration to lift, will more often than not come from The Rev.

"He is a very good bloke to have around the club for the young kids," wingman Michael Gale said. "If someone gets down on form and dropped to the twos, they might like to talk to The Rev, because he is not involved on the match committee. My grandfather died last week and I suppose I was OK about it, but it was still good to talk to Paul."

Matthew Knights said the players were surprised when Northey told them they were getting a chaplain. "He has certainly added a different dimension to the club. Paul has been invaluable; just a good bloke to have around a club. If any of the boys have a problem they want to talk about whether it be family or whatever, he will listen and he keeps everything under the cuff."

Cameron said supporters sometimes did not realise footballers were human beings, whose form could be influenced by other parts of their



Picture: Terry Theakston

life. "It might be that he has had a tiff with his lady and that's why he is down. I am an independent person, and therefore players feel free to talk to me about a feeling they have that may or may not be club related. I have to be careful in that they are going to talk to me on the basis of trust and I could blow my credibility if I report back, but sometimes there are ways of communicating in general or vague terms between them and the coaching staff."

Cameron stressed he only acted as a go-between for the players and coach with the players' permission. And he stays right out of pure football discussions, especially on match days.

Northey said football clubs now had trainers, weight trainers, doctors, physios, dietitians. "This is an area which people had not thought about but it has been so beneficial."

And Cameron is as big a fan of Northey as Northey is of him. "The coach and the coaching staff have a sense of family, and there is a real commitment in the club which has enabled the players to play to their absolute potential. John has a unique ability to be able to discern potential, to be able to play a wild card and pick a winner. Whenever we feel trusted, we rise to the occasion and that fits right into this Christian gospel stuff that I am talking about. That is exactly what Jesus did; he saw the sinner and saw their potential and released them to that potential."

The Tigers' sins are that they haven't made the finals for 13 years. They may be about to repent.

Sports Weekly 10 May 1995.
Report: Mark Harding.

National Conference Deferred

New structure being prepared

The planned National Conference, originally to be held in Adelaide, 7-15 October, has been deferred.

The reason for the deferral is that the National Council is in the process of preparing a new national structure, which will require a new national constitution to be considered, passed and implemented. This new structure and the preparation of the constitution has not been completed and requires further consideration by the state conference bodies and the National Council itself. This further con-

sideration, and the determination of the 1996 date, will be given at the meeting of the National Council to be held in Melbourne 25-27 August.

The restructure is a direct request from the last National Conference, when the council was asked to bring recommendations for a new and more contemporary way for the conference to operate.

The planned changes now being considered will enable Churches of Christ in Australia to implement our vision of being a contemporary Christian

community, witnessing to the values and beliefs of the New Testament in a dynamic way that expresses Christ's mission and provides hope, justice and renewal.

We will enter the future with a new dynamic and determination to be a contemporary Australian Christian community.

Apologies for those who anticipated "catching up" in Adelaide but the new structure hopefully will be worth the wait.

—Ian Allsop
(National Conference Secretary)

National Gathering

Church of Christ women's gathering

Included in this issue is a supplement newsletter titled "The 2000 Woman: Mid-Winter edition". It is published on behalf of the National Gathering for Women (and men) to be held at Belair in the Adelaide Hills, 21-24 September 1995.

The first edition appeared as a supplement to *The Australian Christian* of 4 March. People who responded to the tear-off

slip at that time and since have received regular information and a registration form.

Each State Conference and Women's Executive personnel have been supportive in having additional information circulated throughout their state. The same applies at a local church level.

The goal has been to reach every woman in Australian

Churches of Christ with the news that there is a National Gathering, inviting them to come and, whether they are able to attend or not, to at least be aware that this inaugural event is happening in September.

Please pray for the "Gathering" Task Group as they prepare for the program and for the speakers and leaders.

National Gathering Music

Talented leader

Donna Hodgson is a young woman with a lot of talent. She has been invited to be the evening worship leader at the National Gathering for Women, at Nunyara Centre, Belair, SA (21-24 September).

Donna is married to Paul, one of the ministry team at the Blackwood, SA, church. They first ministered at Tweed Heads, NSW. Donna grew up in the Magill, SA, church and was actively involved in the youth work and music there, and was a member of the musical group "The New Connexions" for 16 years. She has a love of music, particularly singing. Donna sees her role in worship as an opportunity to lead

people into recognising the presence of God and inviting them to praise and worship him, but stresses this can only be done in God's strength, not her own—an awesome responsibility.

Donna says, "My prayer is that we will encounter and meet our God, and worship him together."

Registration for the National Gathering will close on 11 August, so people are advised to post their registration forms without delay. They are available from local church women's leadership, state conference offices or Marj Dredge, 2 Gannet Avenue, Glenalta SA 5052.



330-350 Frankston-Dandenong Road
Seaford 3198
Phone (03) 786 8679

Managed by
Church of Christ
Frankston

1 and 2 bedroom villas
Motel type lodge suites
Waiting list open

Calendar

VP Thanksgiving Service

An ecumenical Thanksgiving Service to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Victory in the Pacific (VP) will be held on 13 August at 12.30 pm at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance. All heads of churches and other faiths have been invited to attend. Veterans will hand over to young people the task of maintaining and guarding the peace. The service will also feature a Tri-Service Guard and drums will be piled and draped with flags to form an altar.

Australian Church Womens National Conference

Women of all mainline denominations and associated organisations are meeting in Melbourne 21-25 August the Australian Church Womens National Conference (at Corpus Christi Conference centre, Clayton). They will discuss issues and implement strategies to increase their profile and the role of women working together across denominational lines. Bible studies will be led by Rev Jill Manton (Ashburton Baptist Church), a director of Well-spring which conducts retreats, prayer days and spiritual direction. One of the main speakers will be Lynette Leach, field officer of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education & Development (Churches of Christ). Affiliated with the Asian Church Womens Conference, ACW strives to promote the dignity and living standards of women in countries less privileged than their own. More information can be obtained from Eunice Reidy, ACW President on (03) 9725 5328.

Women United

For the past two years Christian Womens United (a group of women from different denominations) have held a conference in Bundaberg, Qld. Their next conference is being held 1-3 September. Information is obtainable from Margaret Murray (Secretary), 42 Elliot Heads Road, Bundaberg 4670. Phone (071) 51 6339.

Australia

Drug & Alcohol Abuse

More than 20,000 Australians die each year from causes related to drug and alcohol abuse. According to research by the National Drug Strategy, drug use accounted for 23,000 deaths, 180,000 hospital visits and 1.6 million bed days a year. Cigarette smoking, the most common cause of drug-related deaths, killed 18,920 in 1992 with alcohol accounting for 3,660 deaths and illicit drugs accounting for 488 deaths.

Homosexual Access Bills

A new Federal Bill to be introduced by the Australian Democrats in May or June looks to prepare the way for homosexual access to religious schools. The Private Members' Bill prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of sexuality is said to urge that all exemptions for church groups and religious schools be dropped so that homosexuals can have full access to all children, not just in public schools. In Victoria, similar legislation is due to be decided on in Parliament soon. Two churches have entered this debate—the Uniting Church in favour and the Catholic Church against.

Funeral Co Buy Out

The world's biggest funeral company, Texas-based Service Corporation International, has brought 30% of the Melbourne funeral market, 40% of the Sydney funeral industry and a share of the Queensland funeral business, plus companies in Adelaide, Perth and Darwin.

Single Parents

There are now 500,000 single parent families in Australia, of whom 48,000 are single father families.

Thanks

The Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development acknowledges with thanks an anonymous gift of \$400 received for church planting at the Vic-Tas Conference in April.

Hospital Visitation

Community care in action



• Peter Bradley, chaplain (front row, far right), and June Andrews (front row, second from the left), hospital visitation superintendent, with some of the visitors at a recent luncheon

The Victorian Churches of Christ Hospital Visitation Committee is going very strongly.

There are 80 visitors in all, visiting 40 hospitals and 25 nursing homes. Most visitors usually visit weekly, but some are out three or four times a week.

We may never know the number of people who have gone back to church after many

years absence because of a hospital visit.

June Andrews visits many city and country areas on behalf of the committee so if churches would like to hear more about the work she would be happy to visit. To support the committee with this work in Melbourne there is still need for the help of all our churches, both city and country, in providing gifts to give patients.

All parcels of gifts are eligible for free transport by rail if marked "Churches of Christ Mission (Hospitals)" and sent to Victoria Park Station. (They used to go to Bell Station but it has recently closed). They are then picked up by Stuart Peterson from Community Care and delivered to the Andrews' residence, where they are sorted for their respective hospital or nursing home. If country churches would like official tags to put on their parcels the committee would be happy to send some.

Country people are always appreciative of a hospital visit, so if you know anyone (they don't have to be Churches of Christ) having to go to hospital in Melbourne, could you please let the committee know so they can be cared for while they are away from their family and friends.

Hospital Visitation is part of Vic-Tas Community Care. Paul Creasey, Community Services Director, gives oversight to this program. He may be contacted on (03) 9326 8977 or contact June Andrews on (03) 9878 5860.

Mission Awareness

YWAM raising church mission awareness

Youth With A Mission are conducting a series of Night of Mission programs throughout Australia beginning in August.

These programs are aimed at increasing the awareness of churches to the opportunities to reach every people group by

the end of the century with the gospel. Missions Interlink, a network of missionary societies, are cooperating with these programs. Churches of Christ Overseas Mission committees are part of Mission Interlink and we encourage churches to watch out for information about Night of Mission programs so they can be part of them.

On 12 August, YWAM will present videos and dramas from their Night of Mission program at Doncaster, Vic, church; this will be in cooperation with Vic-Tas State Overseas and Aborigines Committees and Youth Vision. The Doncaster program will also feature Berwick Church of Christ's team who are going to the Philippines in September; they will present their songs and dramas which will be part of their ministry while they are away.

—Barry Jenkins

NEW ZEALAND TOUR 1996—19 DAYS

Departing 1 March, Returning 19 March, 1996

Travel with the AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN TOURING PARTY in association with Kirra Tours and enjoy a comprehensive coverage of both Islands of New Zealand, including the Bay of Islands, Auckland, Waitomo Caves, Rotorua's Thermal area, Maori Concert, Wellington, Marlborough Sound, Franz and Fox Glaciers, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Mt Cook and Christchurch. The world in a nutshell—South Pacific Paradise, high class accommodation with private facilities, all dinners and breakfasts included at an economy price. From Sydney to Sydney—\$2,620 (Aust). Price from other states available on application.

For complete details write to:

Mr R. Bowen, Lot 18 Johns Road, WYONG NORTH NSW 2259.
Phone: (043) 52 1738 (after 6.00 pm)

Lic No 60355

Caveside Building Again

Country church plans for expansion

The first Caveside, Tas, building was erected at Western Creek and occupied in June 1911. However, soon after, the decision was made to move the building to a more central location. It was sited on Western Creek Road, where it served as a place of worship for many years.

In the early 1950s, under the ministry and vision of its minister, Allan Harvey, the Caveside church began planning for a new building. It was not until 1955 that work commenced, and the new chapel opened free of debt in November.

The following year, 1956, the original church building was moved again, this time on the same block, but on new foundations, and there it still serves as a small hall (7.2 m x 4.4 m).

Now, 40 years since the last building project, the church has commenced building again, this time to erect a multipurpose room (10.8 m x 8 m) that will connect the two existing buildings and give the church greatly improved facilities to enable it to initiate new programs of outreach.

The church has been very conscious of God's leading in the planning stages of this

project—a project that humanly speaking is far beyond the resources of this small congregation to achieve, with estimated material costs of \$18,000 (one and a half times last year's total offerings). The church has been excited and encouraged to see the way God is already beginning to provide the finance needed to see the completion of the building. This provision ranges from the \$20 sent by a visiting Queenslander who had stopped to ask directions to find his wife's birthplace, to an anonymous gift of \$2,000, and also includes sacrificial giving of members.

Working bees have been well supported by young and old and have seen the hall porch removed, concrete paths broken up and removed, the site levelled, footings dug and poured and concrete blocks laid to under floor level. Between digging the footings and filling them with concrete, Caveside had five inches of rain in four days and none of the holes had to be bailed out. Just one of the many ways God has blessed this project.

So far about one-third of the material costs have been provided.

—John and Colleen Harrison

1000 Attenders at Church

Warehouse sale

Over 1000 attended a warehouse sale conducted by the Rowville, Vic, church on 3 June.

The church meets in a factory building.

18 stalls provided a great range of merchandise and members provided Devonshire teas, a sausage sizzle, a cake stall and other activities. Over \$1,100 was raised for church funds.

The event was organised by Alan Small and a team of volunteers.

The sale greatly increased the profile of the church and new contacts were made. Many positive comments were made about the location of the church in the modern factory park.

The church has also prepared an information leaflet, which was widely distributed in Rowville along with advertising for the sale.

Rowville commenced in 1990 and is a part of the joint CROP initiative of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development and the

Australian Clergy Crisis

Character and personality flaws

A university study has found that most Australian churches are experiencing a leadership crisis and are considering or experimenting with new ways to select clergy.

The study suggests that many churches are recruiting too few clergy to fill vacant positions and are also finding that clergy-related problems are due to "character and personality flaws" of ministers. [However, in Churches of Christ at the moment there is an oversupply of ministers to fill positions.—Editor]

Ray Reddcliffe, as part of his doctoral thesis for the University of Queensland's Department of Religious Studies, examined the selection of clergy in four major Australian denominations—Anglican, Roman Catholic, Uniting and Baptist.

His research suggests that churches should emphasise healthy personality traits, such as empathy with others, when they select applicants to train for the ministry.

He said, "Churches are increasingly realising that most problems arising between the clergy and their parishioners are due to character and personality flaws within the particular minister or parishioner, rather than external stress factors in the environment."

He found that in the Roman Catholic Church only about 20% of applicants for the priesthood moved beyond the initial selection phase. In the Anglican, Baptist and Uniting churches up to one-third of applicants were rejected or deferred.

Pressure on selection procedures was increased by the early retirement of ministers. In the Uniting Church 50% retired before the minimum retirement age. Reddcliffe said that resignations were mostly forced by stress-related health problems.

Among strengths needed in candidates, he included a strong sense of self and a mission in life, realistic ideals, a genuine sense of humour and awareness of vulnerabilities.

Philip Hughes, of the Christian Research Association, said that the reasons for the crisis varied between denominations. The Roman Catholic Church is struggling for numbers. In the Uniting Church, ministers, who on average were older, were finding it harder to adapt to new demands.

In many churches, congregations did not always understand what ministers were saying, and ministers were not trained to communicate their knowledge. —Stephen Webb

(Ecumenical News International)

Properties Corporation. The church is located in one of Melbourne's fastest-growing outer suburbs.

Retirement Dinner

To express appreciation to

Don Smith

Executive Director of Department of Mission, Education and Development for over 33 years

Will be held on

Saturday, 16 September 1995

at

Golden Sands Reception Centre East Burwood

For further information or tickets contact your Church Secretary or Judith or Margaret at the Department Office on (03) 9326 8900

Replies needed by 11 August

Panorama of Mission

Bright day at Maylands

With a day of sunshine, in the middle of a SA winter, the Panorama of Mission held on 3 June at the Maylands, SA, church proved to be a happy day.

The purpose was to promote mission and 12 mission groups were represented.

They set up displays, used videos and brought a 10-minute spot talk in the morning or afternoon sessions.

Brian and Julia Coates, Churches of Christ members, travelled from Waikerie to represent African Inland Mission.

Special thanks to Jeff May, who had only just returned from Zimbabwe and was still suffering from jet lag, for highlighting the work there.

In the afternoon 60 enjoyed hearing God's mission work in

the world today. An art, craft and cultural display featured a shell collection loaned by the Beasley family.

Despite the lack of young people, we were well entertained by a visit by a clown.

Eileen and David Lewis brought the mission stamps, and cards were also available for sale.

While the object of the day was to promote missions nearly \$200 was raised through donations, trading tables and food.

If your church would like more ideas about promoting missions contact the SA State Committee for ideas and suggestions.

They were very helpful to us at Maylands.

—Eleanor Matthews

Junior Church

Successful start



• Junior Church—it just takes the cake

In May the Hampstead Gardens, SA, church took a step in faith by replacing Sunday School with Junior Church.

Many reasons were behind this, the main ones being a small Sunday School and having trouble maintaining consistent teaching personnel for small classes.

Sunday School coordinator, Brian Busbridge, had the brainwave of combining all children together under the banner of Junior Church.

After discussions with the elders, board and parents plus any other interested people, it was decided to give Junior Church the go ahead. Brian Busbridge remains the Junior Church Coordinator, with Robert Coombe as the man at the helm of the musicside. With the help of parents and members Junior Church is now going ahead.

The curriculum being used is "The Whole People of God".

This is a great help with Junior Church as the children can relate to their parents what they learnt knowing that they were also learning about the same subject in the early morning service, which coincides with Junior Church. It also enables the children to be involved at times in the presentation of this early service.

Another great plus from the Junior Church is the way in which the older children have become involved in its planning and running. This is a very important step for these children. While giving them a great introduction to teaching God's word to other children, it also is teaching them more about God's word, thus making their faith stronger.

If anyone has any handy hints or ideas please drop a line to B. Busbridge or D. Bradley, c/o the Hampstead Gardens church (26 Gambia Avenue, Hampstead Gardens 5086).

Belmore's 89th

Sharing memories

There was a wonderful day of sharing at Belmore, NSW, church's 89th anniversary.

At the morning service Kevin Crawford (former Conference Secretary) was the speaker and at the evening service it was Dr Bill Blevins (Johnson Bible College, Tennessee, USA).

It was good to share with Bill and Peggy during their few days in Sydney on their way to PNG to visit their family involved in missionary work. Three Belmore members spoke

about the church as it was when their fellowship with the church began.

Harry Handley shared his reminiscences of the 1920s, Ruth Wakeley the 1960s and John Perumalla the 1990s. Elsie Hall from New Zealand revisited Belmore, where she attended Sunday school 76 years ago. Tea followed the evening service and more than half the congregation was of a non-Anglo-Saxon culture.

—Elma Bowser



SWANSTON STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Melbourne

(cnr Swanston &
Little Lonsdale Streets)

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) 9663 3884

Bayswater Church of Christ

Opening of New Chapel

2.30 pm Sunday 30 July 1995

All Welcome

Inquiries: Ian Wilson (03) 9729 2868

Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Public Utilities

To the Editor,

Mr Stockdale ("AC" 17 June), what does it profit a person or a state if they gain the whole world but lose their soul? The public utilities belong to the people of Victoria and are part of the Victorian soul. We, along with many thousands of other Victorians, say they must not be sold.

—Pat Rivett

(11 Chaudry Street,
Ferntree Gully, Vic)

[The letter was also signed by fourteen other members of the Knoxfield church.]

COB Transformed

To the Editor,

Friends of the College of the Bible and especially its past students will be interested to know that "a rundown former theological college in Elm Road, Glen Iris, is to be repaired and refitted as a respite centre for the mentally ill".

As the *Southern Cross*, local paper for the City of Stonnington, reports: "An historic Victorian home in Glen Iris has been chosen as the site for a \$400,000 respite centre for the mentally ill. The Campbell Edwards House Respite Centre, the first of its kind in the southern Melbourne region, will provide short-term, live-in care of one to three weeks for up to twelve patients. Two permanent paid staff will be employed at the self-funding facility, which is expected to open at the end of the year."

Operators of the Centre, the Schizophrenia Fellowship of Victoria, will lease the Elm Road house for a "peppercorn rent" from the owners of the property, the Malvern Elderly Citizens' Welfare Association. The Centre's go-ahead follows a long-term push for such a facility by local charitable trusts, service groups and churches. A public appeal has been launched to raise funds for the respite centre renovation.

In a separate development, the aged care service for Stonnington also plans to de-

molish administration buildings on the same site to accommodate 10 new units for the disadvantaged elderly. These units are being fully funded by the Government under the Community Housing Programme.

A worthy transformation from college to community care.

—Ken Barton
(Ashburton, Vic)

Old Testament and Christ

To the Editor,

David Allison says "since God and Jesus loved the world (all people), the 'Flood and Ark' just has to be a myth" (AC 17 June).

His argument is that both God and Jesus so loved the world that they could never destroy it. He says that God's love is unconditional. While it is true that God's grace is unconditional (available to all), his salvation is conditional; it hinges on our will to submit to God's will (Rev 22:17). But it is only by God's grace that we can even try to obey him. As Paul has written, "The Law was in charge of us (as schoolmaster) to bring us to faith" (Gal. 3:24). The Flood happened before the Law was given, proving that mankind could never make it without the "second birth", the Spirit birth.

The texts given by David Allison, although shockingly cruel, must be viewed in the light of the unshakeable purpose of God to bring all creation into right relationship with himself. He chose the descendants of Abraham as his vessel for this. When they failed him so many times, he still did not change his purpose. We are finite, God is infinite and sees the end from the beginning.

Does David believe in universal salvation? If so the cross of Jesus was and still is a nonsense way of salvation.

In the prophecies of the end times, Jesus told his disciples that the world would become as it was in Noah's day (Matt 24:37). In those days the people were not conscious of the fact that they needed a Saviour; they took no notice of Noah preach-

ing to them and warning them of the Flood. It hit them suddenly and they were totally unprepared.

Today, the first coming of our Lord has been painted in rosy pictures. Our children are not to be shocked by gory pictures of Jesus on a cross. What of the Holocaust, Rwanda and Yugoslavia? Are we so civilised after all?

—Gladys Butler
(Bruce Rock, WA)

Creation Science

To the Editor,

I am seeking help. When letters on Creation Science first appeared in *The Australian Christian*, I took a mild interest in the points of view, as I had for other subjects that allowed differing opinions but which with time had bubbled up but then subsided.

However, with the subject of

Creation Science, it seems the champions are more concerned with maintaining their position on the subject than with setting out what the subject is all about and this is my problem. I don't know what they are talking about.

So, is there someone out there not directly involved with the points of view given so far who can give a picture of what Creation Science is all about? The name does not tell me a thing.

I do not want lengthy "proofs" from either "side", nor do I want to view a video(s) prepared to establish a particular point of view.

I would appreciate a brief statement simply told from someone who knows what this subject is all about but who until now has not taken sides.

—Stan Allison
(Tootgarook, Vic)

Letters to a Travelling Companion

Commitment Is Not a Dirty Word

Dear Daniel,

Having just read of your efforts to establish some small-group networks in your church, I understood the frustration you must have felt when people lapsed from giving their time and resources regularly to these groups.

It seems that "commitment" has become a dirty word in our "politically correct" vernacular these days. Even our church-growth experts are telling us we shouldn't use the word, but words like "community" and "compassion". They say that the word "commitment" turns people off.

However, I would argue that, in order to have "community" and "compassion", there must be "commitment". If people are not committed to their relationships with each other, how can community and compassion exist? While I accept that community and compassion are essential qualities for healthy church life, I would also suggest that the greatest obstacle to the formation of a compassionate community, whether it be a cell group or the wider congregation, is the reluctance of people to commit themselves to regular participation in life together.

Looking to Jesus' example, we can see the three qualities inseparably bound. He showed compassion and encouraged community because of his single-minded commitment to the task of bringing the values of the kingdom to reality. So it is in church life. "Commitment" may not be a popular word, but take it out of the equation, and "compassion" and "community" soon become dim memories.

Until next time,
Pastor Salt

International Church Defrauded

The former treasurer of the Episcopal Church (Anglican) in the US has allegedly defrauded the church of US\$2.2 million over the past five years.

Abortion Decrease

More than 500 US hospitals and clinics have stopped offering abortions since the early 1980s, according to the Washington Post. In addition, the number of young doctors who learn abortion techniques as part of their training has plummeted.

Jesus Comes Second

The second most important historical Jew is Jesus, according to a new book by Michael Shapiro, *The Jewish 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Jews of All Time*. Moses tops the list, with Albert Einstein the third most influential Jew in history.

Prayer to Evangelism

At least 1,000 Peruvians became Christians at a prayer meeting that turned into a rally, according to evangelist Alberto Mottes. About 20,000 had gathered in Lima. A large number of unbelievers, including government leaders and the families of a presidential and vice-presidential candidate, attended unexpectedly and responded to the gospel message.

Scientology Not Church

The Church of Scientology is not a church, according to the German Federal Labor Court, but a business using its appearance as a religion as a "pretext for pursuing business interests". The court was ruling on a claim for unpaid wages by a former Scientology worker. The Church of Scientology was established by science fiction writer Ron Hubbard in 1954. It has come under heavy criticism in Germany over its involvement in large-scale real estate deals. The court said in its ruling that it was not enough for a group just to say it was a religious community; its spiritual content and outside appearance should reflect its religious nature. "With Scientology, this is not the case. In reality, it is engaged in trade."

Darebin Churches Combined Service

Demonstrating unity



• These balloons went off with a bang

In mid-June, Churches of Christ located in the City of Darebin, Vic (formerly Preston and Northcote municipalities), met together for a combined service in place of their normal morning worship. The Preston Arts and Entertainment Centre

was the chosen venue and over 220 were present, including one of the Commissioners of the city.

The aim of the service was to demonstrate our unity as Churches of Christ and to identify our commitment to Chris-

tian service within the city. The Northcote, Preston, West Preston and Thornbury churches were well represented and there were a number of visitors who also shared with us.

The guest speaker was Conference President, Pat Greig, and communion was led by Bruce Alcorn (Northcote). A group of 15 children from West Preston presented a memory verse with clear diction and appropriate actions and Kaye Twining (children and family ministry Preston) provided a children's talk (with popping balloons) to illustrate that we are one body within the church. Thornbury church provided the band for the bright singing within the service and Mike Janssen (Preston) made sure everything flowed smoothly. A cup of tea and a "gabfest" followed.

The ministers and elders of the four churches cooperated in planning the occasion and, judging by the positive comments received, it is likely to be repeated some time in the future.

—Marion Weir

Doll's Night Out

Old dolls, new dolls, big dolls, little dolls ...

On a cold wet night (6 June) at the Boronia, Vic, Good Companions the dolls came out. Then the dolls went!

Ninety, including Goodies and their friends, family and church members, brought 250-300 dolls for display and com-

petition. The youngest "girl" was three months and the oldest 83 years.

Competition sections were for the best dressed, oldest, smartest, biggest, knitted, teen doll and baby doll. The oldest doll was 113 years old, while the smallest (about 2.5 cm high) was a Thai "worry" doll. The Thai believe that if a girl puts this doll under her pillow and tells it her problems, these will go away by morning. For the younger girls there was an activity making a paper line of dolls.

The girls saved their pocket money to buy from a stall that had a variety of dolls' clothes and accessories and craft items for adults. \$308.90 was raised towards the Kidsmin 1995 project—an obstacle course at Camp Waterman, Monbulk.

—Lois Paterson and Pam McDowell



A Night of Challenge to Youth

Doncaster Church of Christ,
Saturday 12 August, 8.00 pm

Featuring

- * Youth with a Mission—videos and skits
- * Telephone Interview
- * Berwick's Mission Team for the Philippines

Overseas Mission • Aborigines Mission • Youth Vision

Poatina's Official Opening

Village with a purpose

Hundreds crammed the previously vacant street for the official launch of "the village of hope", Poatina, Tas, on 10 June.

Poatina has been purchased by Fusion Australia and is now established unashamedly as a whole town built on Christian commitment and values. "Poatina Village—The Way Life Was Meant To Be" is the slogan that Fusion uses to point to that value base. While there are other Christian communities in Australia, the significance of this one is the provision of a whole township, with superb facilities that can be both a first-rate tourist centre and a caring community in which young unemployed people can

be assisted. Poatina Village is to be a centre for meeting and planning for the National Awakening Advisory Board and a centre for the administration of the AD 2000 movement in Australia.

A feature of the village is the high-tech equipment that has been installed to help with the production of Awakening materials in print, multimedia and radio production. "The digital radio production equipment, the desktop publishing gear and the World Wide Web connections have put us firmly into the 21st century," said National Director of Fusion, Mal Garvin. "And we are soon to move our video production to Poatina as

well. Already we are able to produce our own CDs, which is transforming the way we are able to disseminate information. Already we are receiving responses from across the world to the Poatina story on the Internet." While finance will be a continuing challenge, the development of the radio station in the village to train Christian broadcasters and the video production area will help the church stay on the leading edge in using the media.

"Fusion's vision of bringing together unemployed young people with those who have been retired early or retrenched is a simple yet profound model of a way of dealing with a ma-

nor social problem across Australia," the Northern Midlands Mayor Mr Von Bibra told the crowd. Television crews from the ABC and WIN captured the events of the day. A crew from *A Current Affairs* spent the whole day there and returned later to film more for a special report on Poatina. *The Launceston Examiner* gave the event significant coverage and even *The Australasian Post* sent a reporter and photographer to write up the story.

Fusion has assisted in the lead-up to the opening and since by mammoth efforts from both Mobile Mission Maintenance and a team from Youth With A Mission. The MMM team spent several weeks building radio and production studios and helping prepare the motel for its opening.

Nambour Consultancy

Taking a long hard look at your church

We recently moved into a new home, which we elected to paint ourselves. Silly people! Of course, we began with much enthusiasm and commitment, but as time passed our enthusiasm waned. Six months down the track some areas are still unpainted. At first the unpainted areas stuck out like a sore thumb. Now we no longer notice the unfinished business.

How much unfinished business is there in your church? Are you even aware of it? It has been said that within six months of joining a church, people no longer notice even the most glaring deficiencies. How much more difficult it is for long-term members to take a long, hard look at their church. Might I suggest that it is almost impossible to take an objective stance.

The Nambour, Qld, church recognised the need to evaluate its direction and life. A once-thriving church that in the past few years had begun to decline was beginning to see growth again. The leadership felt this was the time for another set of eyes to evaluate the church.

Ron Elbourne, senior minister at Glen Waverley, Vic, was approached, and over a period of a week he met with a wide range of people from the congregation. He experienced the worship services and listened to people's perspectives on the church. He looked over the church's facilities. Coming with a breadth of ministry experience and a different perspective, Ron was able to evaluate the church without the assumptions that members and leaders would bring.

The consultant's report steered away from making broad generalisations. Rather, the church was presented with a clear, concise working document that offered a series of practical steps towards further

building the life of the church and taking on new directions. The strength of the report was that it was produced by someone with no vested interest in the church and with a greater sense of objectivity.

The consultancy was the easy part. The danger is that the church will read it and then simply file it in a bottom drawer.

The challenge, as a people of God, is to take the essence of the report and begin to take

action towards bringing into being the changes that need to be made. The consultancy would have been a total waste of resources if the church was not ready to act on the recommendations.

May we encourage churches that are ready to be vulnerable and open to consider a consultancy as a way to evaluate more honestly where they are going and to take action to reach out with the love and compassion of Christ? —Doug Fitzpatrick

FOR A NEW HOLDEN SEE MURRAY ECKERT

OVER 24 YEARS EXPERIENCE as a master sales consultant.

Competitive Prices in a Competitive market. **Guaranteeing Integrity, Service and Sound Advice.**

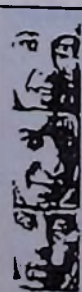
Member of Blackwood Church of Christ.

CALL IN OR PHONE MURRAY ON (08) 272 1600 FOR YOUR NEW OR QUALITY USED CAR



Claridge Holden

363 Unley Road, Malvern
Phone (08) 272 1600 A.H (08) 278 4515



ON YOUR OWN, YOU'RE NOT ALONE

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

SPRING CONFERENCE

A World Class Speaker



Dr Martin Robinson

plus

ten practical workshops led by specialists in different aspects of local church ministry

Leaders from small, middle and large churches will experience spiritual stimulus and inspiration. The practical ideas in evangelism and church development will benefit every congregation.

*Wollongong
4~6 November 1995*

WOLLONGONG CHURCH OF CHRIST
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE
AUSTRALIAN BOARD OF CHURCH DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION

SPRING CONFERENCE

It's for ...

ministers

youth leaders

music directors

elders

*women in
leadership*

pastoral visitors

deacons

*education
directors*

Dr Martin Robinson will be our guest preacher at Spring Conference. Martin has served as a church planter and conference secretary with our British churches. His role as Director—Mission and Theology with the United Kingdom Bible Society has taken him all over the world as a speaker and consultant. He has a passion for the Gospel and will address the great themes of revival, renewal and mission. Following Spring Conference, he will speak at a Seminar for Church Planters, 7–8 November, at Wollongong.

Your leaders will be inspired and challenged. The worship will be outstanding. The electives and general sessions will be practical and focused on ministry that proceeds from an apostolic confidence in the Gospel. We believe God's Spirit will bless this conference and lead us forward with a great vision.



Don Smith
Australian Board of Church
Development and Education

Ted Keating
Wollongong Church of Christ



*Bring your ministry team
and your key leaders*



WOLLONGONG CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORKSHOP LEADERS



RENEWAL AND MISSION FOR THE SMALL CHURCH

Focus: Reports on how smaller churches have turned around and what makes the difference. Explores the causes of renewal and growth, common mistakes and the kind of leadership needed.

Leader: Dr Martin Robinson, pastor and experienced consultant on mission and renewal

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH—THEIR PLACE IN MISSION

Focus: Affirms the importance of a partnership with men in local church outreach and the need to reach women of all generations with a relevant message.

Leaders: Dr Carol Preston, Dean of Wollongong Institute and NSW Conference President, and Lynette Leach, Director of Educational Services, Vic-Tas DMED



DRAMA, DANCE, MUSIC AND MUSICIANS

Focus: Overviews possibilities for the development of the creative arts in local churches. Offers new ideas about building an effective team.

Leaders: Elizabeth Hah, Director of Music and Worship Coordinator, Wollongong

Church with Joanne Lynch, who is a music teacher at a performing arts high school.

EFFECTIVE YOUTH MINISTRY

Focus: Describes the steps in planning and launching effective youth ministry and examines the need for program diversity for teens, young adults and subcultures. Discusses options for volunteer or part-time staff.

Leader: Robert Lynch, Youth minister at Wollongong, previously youth worker with Sydney City Mission, together with youth ministry associates from Youth Vision, Australia.



EMPOWERING TIME MANAGEMENT

Focus: "What do you do?" The way you answer this question affects every part of your role as minister. Learn how your role empowers your time.

Leader: Mike Folland, Minister, The Patch (Vic), Chairman, Vic-Tas Department of Ministry

SPIRITUALITY AND THE ACTIVIST

Focus: Covers a range of ways busy leaders can develop an authentic spirituality. Examines methods in meditation and prayer, use of the Scriptures, devotional resources, retreats and how to relate them to daily life.

Leader: Alan Hirsch, Minister at South Melbourne (Vic), Director of Urban Ministry in Victoria-Tasmania and incoming Director of ABCDE



DEVELOPING SPIRITUALITY THROUGH SMALL GROUPS

Focus: Overviews the place of small groups in membership assimilation and personal growth. Outlines ways to make the small group effective for spiritual development in people of all ages.

Leader: Tracey Ware, Associate Minister at Nunawading (Vic), Coordinator of Small Groups

UNDERSTANDING THE SPIRITUALITY OF YOUNG ADULTS

Focus: Seeks to penetrate the mind and experience of young adults and their quest for a spirituality that relates to a developing lifestyle, new personal relationships and increasing secular responsibilities. Suggests ideas, resources and experiences.

Leader: Ted Keating, Senior Minister, Wollongong Church. Extensive experience in pastoral care and ministry to young adults.



WHAT'S NEXT

Focus: An examination of the next steps for middle- and larger-sized churches as their leaders strive for relevance and a contemporary expression of the Gospel.

Leader: Ted Keating, Senior Minister, Wollongong

GETTING YOUR CHURCH IN THE NEWS

Focus: Describes how to prepare relevant information for media outlets. Learn how to make more effective contact, what to avoid and what to do. Look at success stories.

Leaders: Media team with specialist skills in a range of areas

Spring Conference ~ Wollongong ~ 4-6 November 1995

MICHAEL FROST

Michael Frost will speak on "Australian Christianity in the 21st Century". An evangelist and author he has a gift to communicate the gospel in a contemporary style to unreached adults and youth. He is a lecturer at the Baptist Theological College of NSW.



RUSSELL FRAGER

Russell Frager will speak on "Worship in the 21st Century". Russell is the music pastor at Hills Christian Life Centre, Sydney. He is a song writer and a talented musician. He has experience as a producer and engineer and has a background in education.



LARRY GALBRAITH

Larry Galbraith is the speaker at the Saturday evening celebration. He is senior minister at York Street, Ballarat, Church Of Christ. Prior to this he served as Wollongong's youth minister after eleven years of youth ministry experience with Sydney Anglicans.

Conference at a glance

CUTTING EDGE ~ INSPIRATION ~ METHODS

SATURDAY

8.30 am Registration
9.00 am Worship
Address
Martin Robinson
11.15 am Address
Michael Frost
1.30 pm Workshops
3.15 pm Workshops
7.30 pm Address:
Larry Galbraith

SUNDAY

9.45 am Worship
Address
Martin Robinson
1.50 pm The Lausanne Experience Interviews
3.30 pm Workshops
7.00 pm Gospel Celebration
Address
Martin Robinson

MONDAY

9.15 am Worship
Address
Martin Robinson
Panel
11.15am Workshops
2.00 pm Russell Frager
3.30 pm Workshop
Networking
7.30 pm Closing Rally
Address
Martin Robinson

Church Planters Conference ~ 7-8 November

Open sessions, you are welcome. Details: State offices.

Register with Alan Hirsch, 77 Capel Street, West Melbourne 3003 (03) 9326 8900 Fax (03) 9329 0902.

\$60

per person

\$30

for students, pensioners,
unemployed, partners of
one enrolled

"It is necessary for the church to rethink its stance entirely and to become a missionary church within the West."

—Martin Robinson

MEALS—Available on site or at takeaways nearby

ACCOMMODATION

OPTION 1—Sovereign Motor Inn, Princes Highway, Figtree (042) 71 1122. 1 km from church. Special rates for Spring Conference

OPTION 2—Leisure Coast Motel, Carters Lane, Towradgi (042) 83 5533. Special rates—double, three and four to room. Special ministers' rate also

OPTION 3—City Pacific Motel, 112 Burelli Street, Wollongong (042) 29 7444. Special corporate rates

OPTION 4—Boat Harbour Motel, Campbell and Wilson Streets, Wollongong (042) 28 9166. Special rates for Spring Conference

ATTENDANCE—Try to attend all sessions. Monday is a key day for professional staff.

Register yourself and your key people

ENCLOSE FULL PAYMENT WITH YOUR REGISTRATION. CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO WOLLONGONG CHURCH OF CHRIST

SEND THIS FORM TO—SPRING CONFERENCE

WOLLONGONG CHURCH OF CHRIST

O'BRIENS ROAD, FIGTREE NSW 2525

PHONE (042) 26 5022 Fax (042) 28 3828

NAME ADDRESS

CHURCH POSITION (CIRCLE) SAT SUN MON

NAME ADDRESS

CHURCH POSITION (CIRCLE) SAT SUN MON

NAME ADDRESS

CHURCH POSITION (CIRCLE) SAT SUN MON

NAME ADDRESS

CHURCH POSITION (CIRCLE) SAT SUN MON

People

Kidnappings in Colombia

Two US missionaries kidnapped in January 1994 by left-wing Colombian guerrillas were killed during a skirmish between the guerrillas and government troops. The bodies of New Tribes Mission workers Steve Welsh and Timothy Van Dyke were identified by a mission representative. An army official in Bogota claimed that the missionaries were shot by guerrillas who were attempting to escape the approaching troops. New Tribes officials declined to comment on a local report that suggested that it was actually Colombian military fire that killed the missionaries. The two missionaries were working at a school for missionaries' children. They were kidnapped by members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. The murders have heightened concerns about four additional US missionaries also held captive by Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia rebels. Three other New Tribes missionaries have been missing since their abduction in January 1993 and the other from Wycliffe Bible Translators Summer Institute of Linguistics was kidnapped in March 1994.

Baptist Woman Lay Preacher

In Victoria the once all-male Baptist Lay Preachers Society now has a woman preacher. Jean Crowe applied for membership this year. On Easter Sunday she took the service at Tottenham, when the pastor there became ill. They asked her back and her home church, Mitcham, have also asked her to preach. Jean was a missionary with the Australian Baptist Missionary Society from 1961 to 1984 and has done ABMS deputisation work regularly since.

Sir Cliff Richard

Christian pop singer, Cliff Richard, born Harry Webb, has been knighted. Cliff has had 115 hits since 1958, including 26 consecutive top 10 hits. His concerts always include Christian music. He has often toured Australia with a purely Christian concert. He is currently working on the script of a musical, *Heathcliff*.

The Work of Many Hands

Women in Tasmania help FAB



• Part of the craft for FAB

There was a five-table display of knitting, sewing and crafts in the foyer of the Launceston, Tas, church on 4 June. All articles were to be sent to the Federal Aborigines Board.

Coordinated by Laurel Arnot, the goods were contributed by women's groups and

Girls' Brigades from throughout Tasmania.

Desley Moyle (FAB in WA) has always expressed her appreciation for the goods sent from Tasmania and again this year she will be delighted at their number and quality.

—P. Harrison

Longwood Upgrade

SA Campsite to be upgraded

The South Australian Conference have approved a loan for the upgrading of the Longwood Campsite in the Adelaide Hills.

The most notable feature of the renovations will be for the comfort of campers. Bunk room walls will be insulated and re-lined. En suite toilet facilities will be included in all bunk rooms. Bunk rooms will be reduced from eight beds to six

and the camp will now accommodate 80 (with the use of trundle beds Longwood will be able to accommodate 100). In addition, the shower room will be upgraded.

Already purchased are a whiteboard, overhead projector, two televisions and a video player. Included in the upgrade will be amplifiers, CD players and dual cassette recorder, two

70th Anniversary

For the glory of God

The Pyramid Hill, Vic, church celebrated its 70th anniversary on 23 April. Over 230 attended the services.

Speaker at the morning service was Gordon Henderson, currently ministering at Nubeena, Tas. A barbecue lunch followed, then a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon at which Martin Goldup (Peel Street, Ballarat, Vic) was the speaker. Former members had the opportunity to recall their memories of years gone by.

The cake was cut by Ron Lacey (son of Alf and Elsie Lacey who were instrumental in the establishment of the church), Mary Edwards (daughter of foundation members Ernest and Robina Poor) and Beth Broad (the longest-serving member of the church).

A history of the church, *For the Glory of God*, was launched. Copies are still available for \$10 from Mrs Estelle Farrar, PO Box 46, Pyramid Hill, Vic 3575.

table tennis tables, a Pipehenge teaching aid for astronomy, geography and maths which also doubles as a play gym. Beach volleyball, flying fox and low rope elements will be installed together with a fire circle.

Three people are working on the renovation program which is due for completion in September.

Another feature for campers is the close proximity of Warrawong Sanctuary, just a short walk down the road.

PARKERS

S O L I C I T O R S

Available 24 hours a day 7 days a week

- Conveyancing
- Wills
- Probate

Contact: Ian Parker (03) 9762 1671 259 Forest Road Boronia 3155
Jo Deeth (03) 9762 3736 Fax (03) 9762 2990

Ink'n'Image

Small Offset Printing
Laser Typesetting
Specialising in small jobs
Newsletters Leaflets
Doug & Marg Goddard
3 Tennyson Street
Mitcham 3132
Phone and Fax:
(03) 9874 8101

Media Review

Books

The Ministry of Elders: A handbook for Elders in Congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

by Edwin C. Linberg and Rod Parrott (Oikodome Publications/Disciples Seminary Foundation)

This is the first of a projected series of elders resources that are being produced for the Disciples churches in the US. The material is of interest because of common links we have with the American churches and the use they make of elders. The first chapter provides a long introduction to the development of eldership in our tradition. It includes some good biblical material plus a look at the role of eldership throughout church history. Other chapters cover the role of elders today and the place they have in the American church.

There are some differences between the way elders are seen and operate between America and Australia, but this does not detract from the book's usefulness. One issue that the authors raised concerning the recognition of the conclusion of service as an elder, should be picked up and thought through in an Australian context.

There is also an interesting companion paper/booklet on *A Service of Installation with Forms for the Ordaining and Commissioning of Elders in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)* by Keith Watkins published by the Disciples Seminary Foundation. This would be useful to use alongside *Effective Eldership* by Jeff Deuble (Vital Publications) which is an excellent handbook for elders. Prices are unknown and those interested should contact the Disciples Seminary Foundation, PO Box 1177, Claremont, CA 91711-1177, USA.

—CRA

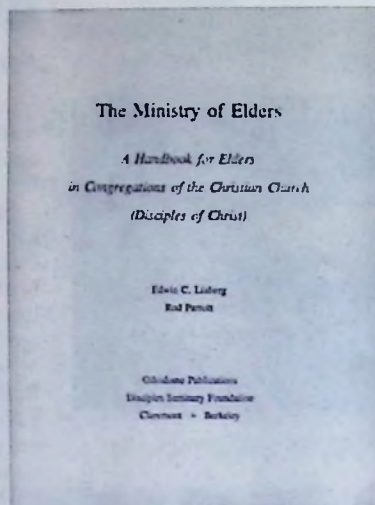
A History of Christianity: From St Paul to the Late Middle Ages

by Marisa Crawford (Series editor Graham Rossiter) (E.J. Dwyer). \$7.95 for each book including the Teacher's Guide, complete set (six books) \$45.

For many people, there is only one thing worse than reading history and that is reading church history. The thought of memorising dates of all that mouldy stuff and issues pertinent to the middle ages, puts many people off.

Marisa Crawford and Graham Rossiter have produced *A History of Christianity* (well, from Paul to the Middle Ages) which may change the poor perceptions some have of this subject. Although written for high school students, this simple series may find wider appeal.

There are five books in the series and a teacher's guide. The guide appears to be expressly written for those without much knowledge of church history. That can be a problem in itself. However, the authors, both educators in the Roman Catholic education system for which the series was primarily designed, use a thematic approach, with well-reproduced photographs and diagrams. Definitions are adequate, rather than expansive, but nevertheless appropriate for the target audience.



Controversial issues, for example to the place of women in society, the Inquisition, etc. are told simply and dealt with fairly. Perhaps the main concern would be that students studying this series may think that the issues were trivial and decide that church history was not something to be studied further. Some of the things that happened in the history of the church were perceived by some to be a good idea at the time. Those who minimise the study of church history may be doomed to repeat it.

—RWT

Australian Meditations

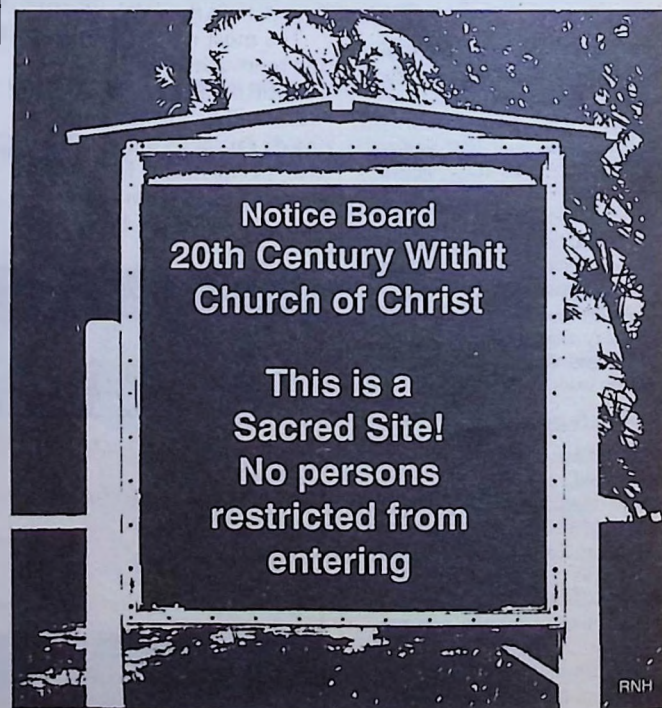
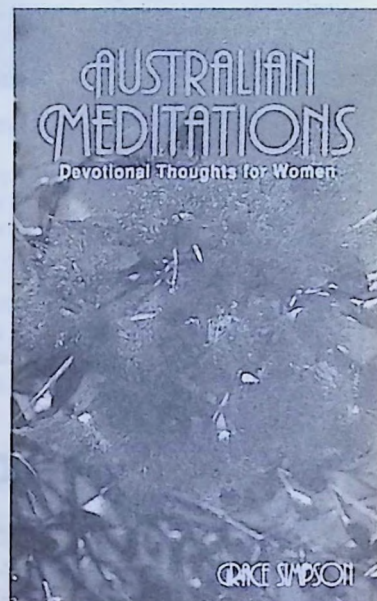
by Grace Simpson (Openbook) \$13.95.

I normally read the blurb on the back of a book with grave suspicion (they are trying to sell the book), but in this case I heartily agree with the publisher's endorsement.

This is a book of delightful, light devotions for women. Definitely not a book for those interested in an in-depth study of the *parousia* but ideal for new-ish Christians or those short on time. Personally, as a mother of three young-uns (two toddlers and a baby), I found that the short and sweet devotions were just perfect for me. I could read them with a cuppa in the morning or last thing at night.

The book is encouraging, positive and biblically sound. It would make a great gift. Definitely a good buy.

—Cathy Clun



Covenanting Proposal

Ecumenical decision in USA

The 20-24 October General Assembly of the [US] Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will make the most important ecumenical decision in the history of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) since the union of the Stone and Campbell movements in 1832.

That's the opinion of Paul Crow, Jr, president of the denomination's Council on Christian Unity, concerning a nine-denomination unity proposal for "covenant communion". The CCU board of directors unanimously endorsed the proposal and recommended its adoption by the General Assembly.

Paul Crow sees Churches in Covenant Communion as a culmination of the Disciples of Christ's efforts at Christian unity. Christian unity, said early Disciples, is the church's "polar star".

The plan "reaffirms us as a church wanting to contribute to the whole body of Christ, and not turned in on itself and dealing with its own problems," Paul Crow said. It also makes clear that the denomination is an ecumenical church, he said.

Essentially, what the Covenant will do is allow ministers from each of the nine denominations to participate fully in the worship of the other denominations by allowing them to be communion celebrants (if not more).

[The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is one of three US groups that are heirs of the Stone-Campbell or Restoration Movement to which we belong. They are organised in a Conference structure, while the Christian Church (Independents) are not. The first split in the movement produced the Churches of Christ (also known

Burmese Human Rights

Response from churches

The Burmese military dictatorship, the State Law and Order Restoration Committee (SLORC), has one of the world's worst human rights records.

Refugee Week (18-24 June) saw the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) and the churches of Richmond, Vic, organise a forum, **Burma: Our Response**, to activate Melbourne's churches and wider community for the support of human rights and justice within Burma and the needs of almost 200,000 refugees in Thailand and Bangladesh via Christmas Bowl funding and the resettlement

as a cappella or non-organ churches). There are other theological and organisational differences to the three groups, which have a similar heritage to Churches of Christ in Australia.—Editor]



• Burmese dancer

ment of Burmese students in Australia with the help of local churches and the Burmese community.

The enthusiastic forum of 100 participated in a varied program, including "Nowhere to Run", a slide show documentary on the Karen people's struggle for independence, speakers on the political context, human rights, refugees and trafficking in women, refugee testimonies and a Burmese dancer.

The forum concluded with a political mime by Burmese students and concluding prayers, involving offerings of incense and the lighting of candles in St Ignatius Roman Catholic church, Richmond.

The Christmas Bowl is channelling funds for relief and development through the Burma Council of Churches and for refugees through churches in Thailand and Bangladesh. More groups to help fundraise and settle Burmese refugees in Australia are needed.

For information on fund raising, refugee sponsorship and political advocacy ideas contact John Ball, Refugee and Migrant Services, NCCA, on (03) 9650 6811.

L. C. F. Higgins

7 The Parade
Norwood SA 5067
Phone (08) 362 1665

- Accountancy Services
- Business Management
- Retirement Planning
- Taxation Returns



Chartered Accountant

Visiting Canberra?

Stay with a Church Family

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

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

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

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

Advance bookings appreciated

Pontius' Puddle



Classifieds

80TH BIRTHDAY

FISHER Audrey (nee Briggs) of Long Island Village, Frankston, celebrates her 80th birthday on Saturday, 15 July. Congratulations and best wishes from your Adelaide family—Ron, Dawn, Dean, Kelli and Mark.

DEATHS

HILL (STEVENS) Essie Maud, aged 97 years and 10 months, passed away on 22 June at "Betheden". Dearly loved wife of Robert Hugh (dec), loving mother of Dorothy, Thelma, Alan, Esma and Evelyn. Loved mother-in-law of Neil (dec), Allan, Joyce, Jack and Jack. Loved Nana of her 12 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren.

WANTED

ALEXANDER'S MALE CHOIR BOOKS Required for men's Choir. Contact John Marshman, PO Box 34, Owen 5460. Phone (085) 28 6041.

FLORIST

JAY'S BOUQUETS Specialist in wedding flowers, bridal flowers, church flowers, reception flowers. Free quote. Ring Janine on (03) 9764 4883.

BUILDERS

IAN & L.A. McDONALD Carpenters and builders. Renovations, new houses, units or alterations. All jobs

large and small. For free quotes please ring (03) 9764 4883. 14 Hampshire Court, Rowville.

HOLIDAYS

HERVEY BAY, POINT VERNON Whale watch or explore magical Fraser Island. Premier holiday position. New 3BR house, lock-up garage. All modern cons, has everything. Fully furnished, carpets, colour TV, washing machine, dryer, microwave. Short stroll to Bay, boat ramps, shops and parks. Bookings phone (02) 790 3710.

HOUSEBOAT "White Heron" 8-berth. Moored at Blanchetown, SA. Phone (08) 365 1153 or (085) 40 5250 or write 7 Gameau Rd, Paradise 5075.

PORT ELLIOT, SA, is a historic seaside town. 2 & 3 BR self-contained units for hire. Sea views. Short stroll to popular beach. More self-contained units at Victor Harbor and Belair. Phone UCA Booking Office (08) 212 4066.

VISITING HOBART 3BR fully furnished house. Phone (002) 34 1637, fax (002) 23 2446 (or write to Johnson, 75 Mt Stuart Rd, Mt Stuart 7000).

**DIAL FOR
NEW HOPE
(03) 11610**

Kingsley Church of Christ—Perth, WA

invites applications for the position of

Full-Time Minister

to commence early in 1996.

We are seeking a suitably qualified minister with gifts of evangelism, pastoral care and leadership, to lead a young, active congregation with 120 members in serving Christ in the local community. The applicant must have good communication and motivational skills to promote and share our vision to the future.

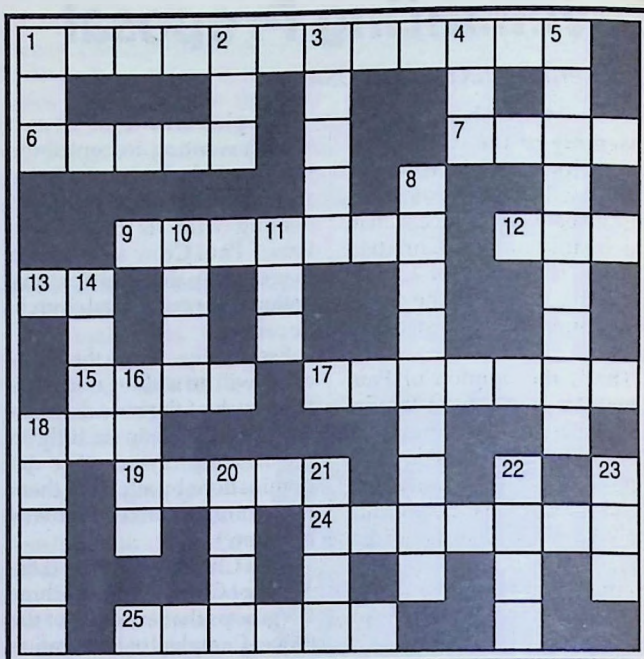
Applications should include a voice tape of a recent preaching assignment and state qualifications, experience and references. Please forward to:

Albert O'Neill
26 Fallbrook Avenue
WOODVALE WA 6016

Telephone enquiries: A/H (09) 409 1325

Closing date: 31 August 1995.

Crossword



Clues

ACROSS

- 1 Fruit of the Bible
- 6 Strong one of these in the city (Jdg 9)
- 7 Olive leaf carried in this
- 9 One of the Twelve
- 12 "O Lord, Hear and ___!" (Dan 11)
- 13 Abram's home town
- 15 What the first will be
- 17 Does this exist between Christ and Belial? (2 Cor 6)
- 18 Principal Babylonian deity (Jer 51)
- 19 City of wickedness
- 24 Every kind of these trees mentioned in Song of Songs 4
- 25 Jesus was ___ the other high priests (Heb 7)

DOWN

- 1 Jeremiah saw one boiling
- 2 Place near Ibleam (2 Kgs 9)
- 3 Preposition, e.g. "As he was ___ to enter Egypt" (Gen 12)
- 4 Land mentioned in Judges 11
- 5 The wise men went ___ for the new-born king
- 8 Way to worship God (Heb 12)
- 10 Drowned on account of evil spirits
- 11 Boaz ___ down at the town gate (Ruth 4)
- 14 What the rich do over the poor (Prov 22)
- 16 Adverb used 813 times in Bible
- 18 There is no end of making them (Ecc 12)
- 20 Spice that was tithed
- 21 Teeth whiter than this in Gen 49
- 22 A gatekeeper (1 Chr 15)
- 23 Harvest workers

STRACK REMOVALS

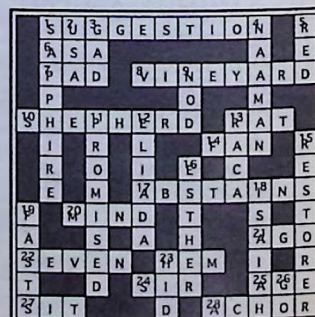
Removals—Storage—
Packing—Pianos
All Suburbs—Country—
Interstate

David Strack
(Proprietor)

Office and Store
45 McIntosh Street
Airport West 3042
Telephone (03) 9370 3737
(03) 9330 2211
Fax (03) 9330 3039
AH (054) 27 0472

"Service since 1907"

June Solution



Read Any Good Books Lately?

Viney Longthorp

The twenty-third of July will be observed in many churches as Bible Sunday. In like manner, many communities observe Book Week at various times. During a brief visit to Adelaide, I was rewarded by being able to attend an excellent exhibition of communication through the centuries at the South Australian State Library. This was to mark Australian Library Week. On display were baked clay tablets from very early times from the lands of the Bible, with the display ending with a range of contemporary computer technologies, including Internet facilities. But my attention was lavished on the books! There they were. Some magnificent examples of hand-written tomes, a tribute to the calligraphers' art; then the books printed by movable type in the age of Gutenberg. There were some superb examples of the rapid progress in the bookmakers' art during the 500 years following the "Gutenberg Gal-

axy". Books must surely be numbered among the chief artefacts of humanity.

It is alleged that Martin Luther once threw an inkpot at the Devil, not in defence, but as an act of defiance. This act was symbolic of what books have come to mean over the years. For Luther's Devil, as the father of lies who works in the darkness of ignorance, superstition and fear, certainly had his realm diminished by means of cheaply printed books, whereby people had a more ready access to information, learning, ideas and discourse. Most historians consider that print played a decisive role in the spread of the Protestant Reformation in Europe.

Will books survive? There are "alarums and excursions" being sounded. Paper is becoming more expensive due to the contraction of the world's forests; thus some New York newspapers are reducing their number of editions. Then, with the exponential increase in fa-

cilities offered by the electronic medium, books could be rendered obsolete—or so some say.

Books have often been under threat in other ways. Heavy-handed governments and pressure-groups, who felt that they knew best what other people should think and believe, have often tried to suppress books. Will we ever witness that futuristic nightmare depicted in Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, where it was the work of the fire brigade to burn books, not put out fires!

However, the good news is that many of the world's idealists are still opting for the power of the printed word. For literacy is still regarded as a leading indicator of a society's standard of living, as far as the United Nations is concerned. With a literacy level of 98 point something percent, Australia sets a high standard. At a recent Social Summit conference held in Copenhagen, a target was set for "universal availability of basic education" by the year 2000; this implied greater access to books as well as to electronic wizardry.

In all of this, it is ironic that while most Australians can read, many choose not to or confine themselves to the sports pages. It has been pointed out by a concerned American agency that those who can read but don't, the a-literates, have no advantage over those needy souls who want to read but can't.

Why read books? Why read significant literature, that range of books which the French so elegantly describe as *Belles Lettres*?

For a start, books are a source of real pleasure. Reading is an enjoyable activity, far removed from that type of crass pleasure—mere hedonism. Good books contain the important facts, information and knowledge about life in its finest dimensions. The quality of literature is the quality of humanity.

It is the quality that communicates the secrets of human hearts and the story of the human adventure. Literature is a branch of the fine arts and, as such, conveys the vision of the good and the beautiful. While knowledge and information may not necessarily lead to the discovery of wisdom, the person who is bereft of the type of knowledge literature can give, is unlikely to be found "in the courts of the wise".

Books enable us all to expand our interests and broaden our sympathies. They can also make us feel good. When writing about the novels of Charles Dickens, G.K. Chesterton noted: "Some great people make everyone else feel inferior; but the truly great person makes everyone else feel great".

Books and literature are powerful means to personal motivation. In a discussion about books, a friend of mine once confessed how the reading of G.H. Lewes' *Life of Goethe* had inspired him to take another look at himself. He described it as a conversion experience. Harold Bloom in his most recent book, *The Western Canon*, writes that one purpose in reading "is to confront greatness". Maybe this is what helped make John Curtin such a great Prime Minister. As a young man, he read voraciously in order to educate himself; one wonders what sort of books he read in those days when he went without meals to maximise his time with books in the (then) Melbourne Public Library. John Curtin was a fine example of the saying: "We are what we read".

Literature also assists our development of language and speech. Teachers have always been aware of the close and positive correlation between students' reading habits and their facility with words. Language is one of the most pre-

Continued on page 16

Church of Christ, Noarlunga Centre

POSITION VACANT

MINISTER FOR FAMILY AND YOUTH

The Church of Christ, Noarlunga Centre, is centrally located in the rapidly growing City of Noarlunga, 20 km south of Adelaide in South Australia.

The church, with modern buildings and facilities, has weekly contact with over 800 folk through an active community-centred program. Current membership is 240, with up to 350 at worship services.

The church is seeking a full-time "Minister for Family and Youth" able to start in early 1996, in response to God's call to join our ministry team.

The person we seek would have a proven ministry "track record" and would particularly concentrate on ministry to younger families and youth. High priority would be given to equipping leaders/potential leaders in Christian discipleship, leadership and outreach.

The qualities of the person would include a well-recognised personal maturity and spiritual depth; an ability to give leadership yet function as part of a team; an ability to minister on the "cutting edge"; and a caring relational attitude.

For further information and expressions of interest, contact the senior minister:

Roger Risson
on (08) 326 1153 or (08) 414 1069
3 Smith Avenue, Christies Beach, SA 5165

In Whom we Put Our Trust

Nigel Pegram

Human greatness is an overarching theme in these passages. Here we find Isaiah pronouncing the Lord's judgement on all of the people's false pride and security, but this is concluded with a message of hope which declares that a remnant will remain and that they will indeed be the people who were previously mentioned at the start of chapter two. Here again, we find Isaiah dealing with the difficulty presented when considering what the people currently are, compared with what they are destined and called to be. At present, instead of being those who will teach the Lord's ways to the nations (2:1–5), they have been taught the world's ways. (It seems to me that this is a constant struggle the church faces—how to be in the world without becoming one with it.)

The first section, 3:1–7, deals with the folly of dependence on human leaders for strength and greatness. The Lord declares that he will remove all who might be sought for instruction, guidance and leadership, especially those in military, religious and political spheres. (3:2) Because Judah and Jerusalem had relied on human discernment, rather than turning to God, that support was to be removed—then they might turn and rely on their God to be their leader.*

The judgment would result in the ludicrous situation where youths and children would come to rule because no-one else would be willing. Instead of people clamouring for the benefits and prestige of leadership, people would have to be forced into it with the flimsiest excuses being given for their

selection. The end result of their following human leaders would be injustice and oppression. (3:4–7)

What is most ironic about the situation which Isaiah condemns is that the leadership the people were following was not even good leadership, it was leading them to destruction. (Isa 3:8–15) They were more interested in feathering their own nests than in being the leaders God requires. Instead of caring for the poor and oppressed, they stole from the poor and crushed those already oppressed—and these poor and oppressed are those whom God declares to be "my people". (Isa 3:15) It is worth noting that even in the midst of these accusations and judgments, a brief message of hope for the godly is included: in 3:10–11, those who do what is

right are told they will be rewarded with the fruit of their labours. As is commonly the case, this is also the "reward" the wicked shall be given—they will get what they give. It always reminds me of Jesus' comment about doing unto others.

The people of Judah and Jerusalem were no different from us today. We all go through times when discerning God's will and way is fraught with uncertainty and questions. It is much easier to turn to those who proclaim solutions for us, rather than turning to those who are seeking answers in the same way we are. That is the allure of some of the influential, charismatic cult leaders such as David Koresh. They give people a certainty and absolutes, an escape from the responsibility of dealing with life themselves.

We can find comments in Scripture which indicate that even the great prophets had their uncertainties that they had correctly understood or interpreted what they believed was a message from God.† While we know we can have a sure and certain faith in our God, we also know that we have our own human limitations which cloud our interaction and understanding of our God.

Isaiah then moves on to use the wealthy and powerful women of Jerusalem as an image which contrasts the people's contrived glory with the shame that results from it. (Isa 3:16–4:1) "Wealthy women, secure in their luxury and their allure, are reduced to scabrous hags begging to belong to someone ... it is not merely women who love ostentation and luxury, it is all humanity. Nor is it merely women who through an abundance of possession (vv. 18–23) attempt to enhance themselves. It is all humanity which with haughty looks (2:11; 3:9) parades its self-sufficiency across the stage of the world."‡

Continued from page 15

cious of all human faculties; indeed some go so far as to claim that it is language that makes us human—and humane. For language makes possible the forming of mental abstractions of meanings, of escaping the "thrall of the present" by being able to essay the future and understanding the past. One philosopher went so far as to say that: "If you cannot name it, it doesn't exist". The poet Stephen Spender wrote: "The reading of poetry helps us better understand our own inner being whereby we make for ourselves a world out of timeless things".

Related to this is the ability reading gives us to engage in the universe of discourse. In other words, we are enabled through reading, "to shape events in each other's brains with exquisite precision". Reading engages us in the fellowship of understandings and verbal images, engendered by means of word meanings and

the nuances of felicitous language. Some time ago the editor of a London newspaper headed a news item: "Oliver's Twist". It introduced an account of Colonel Oliver North's answers to questions at an American Congressional Enquiry, whereby North used all manner of convoluted "newspeak" to avoid speaking the truth and incriminating himself. Readers of Charles Dickens would find meanings galore in that heading and no small delight.

Bible Sunday, then, is a good time to reflect on language, books and literacy in their relevance to the Scriptures. For there is such a thing as Christian literacy; the reasons for reading, as outlined above, apply very much to members of the Household of Faith.

A deeply revered teacher and scholar of former days, Randall Pittman, used to say to his students: "He who knows only the Bible does not know the Bible". This may sound a bit radical, but he was pointing to

the truth that one needs to be equipped with appropriate language skills through an appreciation of fine literature to apprehend more deeply in the words of the Bible, the Word of the Living God. For the Bible employs throughout, a full measure of literary devices to convey its profound spiritual meanings: irony, paradox, metaphor, puns, suggestion, subtlety, images, hyperbole. They are all here and are used mightily. Thus: "Everything that lives is an expression of God's language". Emerson's wise words are apposite: "Tis a good reader makes a good book".

When William Temple was once asked by a young theological student if he could recommend to him a good biography of Jesus, the great archbishop replied: "Have you ever tried reading the one which Dr Luke wrote?"

Now there is a piece of good advice which can employ our minds, hearts, and spirit for days and years to come. ♦

Church Sound ...making church sound better

Specialists in Design and Installation of High Quality
Public Address Sound Systems for Churches.

Phone (02) 627 1895 Fax (02) 627 5018



A division of Audio Advice Pty Ltd

All this would change. In 4:1 the prophet sums up the total reversal of conditions that would occur. In war, the male population suffers the greatest losses by far. This meant that the women would become so desperate that instead of relying on their allure, wealth or flirtation to "catch" their man, they would beg to belong, not even asking for their normal support of food and clothing and they would even be willing to "share" one man among seven of them.

With this image, Isaiah was declaring the folly of the people's "independence".

In trying to avoid depending on their God, they will end up being dependent in the most humiliating and degrading fashion.

These strong messages of judgement raise the question of God's faithfulness and the ultimate destruction of his people. God's original covenant with Abraham promised descendants, a land to possess and that they would be a blessing to all nations. With this judgment, where does all this now stand?

Is God giving up on his people? It would be like God saying to us, "You are no longer my church, I have cast you off!"

Isaiah 4:2-6 answers this. § It says that not only will God not give up on his people, but that after the "judgment" and "burning", the remnant will in fact become what he has wanted his people to be. Even though they have strayed far away, God will bring about his goals for them even through the judgment. Using images from the Exodus, the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire, God informs them that he will keep them secure and will lead them into their destiny. (4:5-6).

Statements such as these are one of the strongest messages of comfort we can find in Scripture. When it seems that everything is against the realisation of God's plans, even we ourselves can be sure that, somehow, God will achieve his purposes. ❖

* The removal of the nation's leaders was actually accomplished as part of the common Ancient Near East prac-

tice of deporting those most likely to cause rebellion in a conquered people—its leadership. There is no contradiction here, as God's action through people on the stage of human history is just as much a divine act as any supernatural miracle. Later in Isaiah, for instance, a foreign king, Cyrus, is named as God's servant through whom Jerusalem will be rebuilt. Isaiah even goes so far as to name Cyrus God's anointed, his messiah. (Isa 44:28-45:1)

† See Jer 32:6-8. Jeremiah declares the message he received from the Lord in v. 7. Then he records the events occurring as foretold in his prophecy, after which he concludes, "Then I knew that this was the word of the Lord." The obvious conclusion is that before the events took place, he may well have believed it to be "the word of the Lord", but he did not know it was.

‡ John N. Oswalt, *The book of Isaiah Chapters 1-39* (NICOT, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986), p. 140.

§ Upon seeing a phrase such as "The branch of the Lord", many might quickly assume that this refers to the Messiah. This is one instance where such a quick assumption is not really helpful. We always need to let Scripture be our guide, rather than pushing it into a mould we would have it fit. Briefly, the branch of the Lord is paralleled with the fruit of the land, which has no obvious messianic connections. Whereas, if simply taken literally, this verse would seem to be promising renewed fruitfulness for the land after the desolation of the judgement. It is worth noting a parallel in Isa 32:9-20. The women are again the ones being addressed and they are warned that the harvest will fail (vv. 10, 12-13), but when the reversal of the judgement occurs, they are also promised that the desert will become fertile (v. 15). This would seem to support simply taking 4:2 at its literal meaning. For further information see the commentaries.

Ministry Training

by
Correspondence

• Nondenominational • Evangelical • Start any time

Diplomas Degrees

Masters Degrees (prerequisite: degree, any discipline)

Doctoral Degrees

Specialisations available: Bible, theology, counselling, church ministries, education, missions, comparative religion (including cults) and apologetics (including archaeology)



PO Box 21, St Leonards Tas 7250
or phone (03) 9354 8941 any time
for a prospectus and/or immediate
interview

POPULAR CAMPING AND CONFERENCE CENTRES IN SA

Offering extensive facilities
for church groups.

BELAIR - Nunyara
MACCLESFIELD
VICTOR HARBOR - Adare

Full catering. Resident site managers.
Chapel on each site or adjacent.



Uniting Church Camps & Conference Centres
Bookings and Enquiries:
Phone (08) 212 4066 Fax (08) 231 6013

Personal

Baptisms

•Mark Haines, Launceston, Tas
•Ian Blight, Renee Connolly, Footscray, Vic •Kirsty Rowley, Tammy Griffith, Belconnen, ACT
•Mrs Beth Hockey, Nailsworth, SA •Tammy Yates, Eleanore Randall, Elizabeth, SA •John Tibble, Abigail Tibble, Chelsea Bunn, Glen Waverley, Vic •Tina Pinner, Launceston, Tas •Kathryn Holt, Frieda & Wally Hausler, Jacqui & Hayden Price, Swan Hill, Vic •Nicole Heron, Craig Jeffreys, Daniel Tapau, Jon Tapau, Ann St, Brisbane, Qld •Ian Blight, Renee Connolly, Footscray, Vic

Marriages

•Rose Poschl and Micheal Cavanagh, Elizabeth, SA •Robyn Stewart and Brenten Creasey, North Essendon, Vic •Sarah Wardle and Jan Sorg, Brooklyn Park, SA

Deaths

•Albert Scown, Mundulla, SA •May Butt, Launceston, Tas •Jack Acqur-off, Glen Waverley, Vic •Colin Olds, Fremantle, WA •Win Stewart, Swan

Hill, Vic •Olive Hampton, Clarice Westaway, Maidstone, Vic

Obituaries

Obituaries limited to 100 words
Hill (nee Stevens), Effie Maud (22.6.95) Born at Bet Bet, Vic, 21 August 1897, passed away at Betheden Nursing Home, Murrumbidgee. Growing up in the nurture of the faith, she became a member of the Bet Bet church in 1914, commencing many decades of faithful service to her Lord. She and Bob were married at Bet Bet by Charles Young. Together they served the Lord as conscientious members at Maryborough, Ararat and Thornbury. Widowed in 1968, Effie maintained her home until a fall eventually led to her becoming a resident at Emmaus. A couple of strokes, blindness, deafness and diabetes cast dark shadows over her latter years, the last two of which were spent at Betheden where she was much loved and kindly cared for. Sympathy is expressed to Dorothy, Thelma, Alan, Esma and Evelyn and their families. A service of reflection and thanksgiving was held at Fern Tree Gully. —Bruce Alcorn

Church News

Tas

LAUNCESTON (C. Spaulding, D. Tobler, W. Kerrison) CWF held afternoon for Bible Society's Bibles for China appeal & raised \$75 ... Many visitors becoming regulars ... June long weekend, 70 young people in State Camp at Bichenore ... Baptism 15 June ... George Green spoke 25 June while ministry team attended Church for Unchurched Conference ... May Butt, oldest member, aged 101, died in Victoria, 15 June ... Joel Ratcliffe, Wollongong, accepted invitation to join ministry team, commencing October.
LAUNCESTON (C Spaulding, D Tobler, W Kerrison) Allan Orr showed CWF old Launceston buildings, before & after reconstruction ... Church work day 1 July (one year after "Claiming the Ground") ... 10.00 am service 2 July special Friendship Day when adults & children invited friends who do not regularly attend, or ever, to attend. Large attendance ... Video series "Finding God" being shown evening services June-July ... Baptism, 2 July.

Vic

NORTH ESSENDON (Mike Esbensen) Jim Lycett elected church secretary at annual meeting ... House church meets at Mike Esbensen's home Sunday evenings. Communion & shared meal ... 12 children on Junior Church roll. Melinda Osborne, Heather Allen & Karen Racovalis as well as minister teaching. Sunday School rooms refurbished ... Twenty Ways to Handle a Hymn presented by Wal Johnson on Sunday evening 18 June. Essendon attended.

GLEN WAVERLEY (Ron Elbourne, Martin Gillespie, Howard Sanders) Planned Giving review held ... Youth successful at State Youth Games ... Ron Elbourne conducted consultancy at Nambour, Qld ... Dawn & Ian McMillan attended Vanuatu Conference & provided office training ... Pastoral care ministry program (pastoral carers & tele-carers) set up to give regular attention to all.

CHELSEA (Tom Frazer) Many visiting & local speakers since retirement of Ian Whitelock through ill-health ... Tom Frazer called as interim minister until end of year ... Many varied social activities to enjoy fellowship & help clear building debt.

SWAN HILL (Larry Edwards) David & Robyn Harmer (York St, Ballarat) study leaders, & team from YWAM conducted program for teenagers & children at church family camp at Halls Gap over Queen's Birthday weekend ... Parenting seminar held

with Liz Bailey ... Five baptisms over recent weeks ... Target 2000 night of missions held in our chapel on 14 July ... Old photocopyer traded on new model.

MAIDSTONE (A. McMillan) Church saddened by home call of foundation member Olive Hampton & Clarice Westaway. Sympathy to Tom & family, also Westaway family ... Church farewelled Jean & Harry Cooper ... Birthday congratulations Tom Hampton (80) & Dulcie Beaumont (90) ... CWF held successful street stall ... Many still on sick list ... Explorer Boys distributed 2,460 sets Telecom directories ... Ruth Green (LLMS Peru) visited LBS.

ORMOND (Jonathan Moore, Pamela Longmuir) Some members participated in 40-Hour Famine ... Received \$750 from plant stall, \$250 cake stall ... Participated in prayer for Christian Unity ... Present aim for Simaid is supplying three oxygen concentrators to operating theatres at Galmi Hospital, Niger, Africa ... Alan Niven gave three addresses on giving, encouraging, caring ... Social evening & dinner 17 June concentrating on contacts attending & short focus on Churches of Christ.

FOOTSCRAY (Geoff Casey) Church rejoicing in two baptisms plus three new members ... Greg & Rose Gow (UNOH) set apart to work among African community in Footscray ... Music ministry & increase in attendances are an encouragement at morning worship services ... Weekly walking group providing good fellowship.

WA

FREMANTLE (J. Caporn) Inspiring visit by Des Nelson (Conf Pres) ... Video of ministry along Amazon River shown to CWF by Bible Society representative ... Coordinator in WA of Interserve, Helen Duncan, speaker at church tea meeting 2 July. Highlighted were prayer needs of missionaries from this state ... Sympathy expressed to family of Colin Olds on his death ... Roy Thomson returned from visit to Vic.
GERALDTON (Rohan & Rona Burcham) Large sign (Our CH...CH will be complete when UR in it) in front of building site as construction of new worship centre & remodeling of existing administration, hall facilities & manse area ahead of schedule ... Rohan presenting series on grace, spiritual building, Jehovah Jireh & related topics ... 50th anniversary set for 26 November. Special gospel & outreach programs planned for official opening of new worship centre.

LMCT
6549

Ken Geyer

SELECT USED CARS

49 Bond Street, Ringwood 3134
Telephone (03) 879 4004

Contact Ken if you are looking for
a used car or need to rent one

Vic-Tas Department of Community Care
require a part-time (currently 30 hours a week)

Driver/Storeman

to assist with our Opportunity Shop program.

Duties will include the picking up and delivery of furniture, clothing and other items within the near Metropolitan area.

The successful applicant will be a people person who has an ethos for community care and is suitably able to represent the Department.

Our Opportunity Shop program is a rapidly growing activity of the Department, encompassing church involvement in programs designed to be community-linked.

A driver's licence is essential, but it need not be endorsed for heavy vehicles.

For further details please contact: Mr Ivan Humphreys
Churches of Christ
Department of Community Care
27 Chapel Street
WEST MELBOURNE VIC 3003
Telephone: (03) 9326 8777

Church News

NSW

TELOPEA (R. Lewis, B. Pederson) Church continues to receive spiritual refreshment at worship services ... Men's overnight bush camp-out very popular ... Rick Lewis attended Governor's prayer breakfast ... Keith Farmer, College Principal, & Keith Morgan, Bathurst church, recent guest speakers ... Support to local community continues through Telopea Family Resources, offering compassion & practical assistance to families in crisis ... Home groups continue to grow. "New Comers" home group proving successful.

TELOPEA (R. Lewis, B. Pederson) Church continues to support a ministry in local primary & high schools ... Kidz Klub (years 3-6) continues to grow & be well attended by non-church children ... Twice monthly Refreshing Meetings proving a joy to those attending ... Associate pastor Warren Seip spending three months in Chicago with JPUSA ... Church supports several former members now in mission work.

Qld

ANN ST, BRISBANE (Bill Flett) Kenmore student & youth leader, Ardal McMahon, speaker while minister & wife on holidays ... Four teenagers baptised recently ... Mrs Tapau received into membership as baptised believer ... Several older members still hospitalised ... McMahon baby, Ardal Jnr, recovering well after surgery.

SA

BALAKLAVA (Graham Lawrie) Associate State Minister, Ian Corlett, visited 21-22 June. Helped church leaders in vision for mission of the church ... Ecumenical evening services held during week prior to Pentecost, each church hosting a meeting ... Junior camp for 7-12-year-olds held weekend 9-11 June, 38 attended ... Max & Rae Thompson visited 22 June with first-hand information of the mission work in Papua New Guinea.

MUNDULLA (John Main) CWF share/care outreach luncheon well received ... Sunday School morning tea raised \$37 for Bibles for China ... 150 attended community Easter Cross service ... Weekly home fellowship studying Acts ... Women considering role of women in the 90s church ... Conferring with Keith board re effective ministry sharing ... Individuals voicing concern to MPs re proposed SA Euthanasia Bill ... Church luncheon raised \$153 for Overseas Mission.

NAILSWORTH (Daryl Telfer) Winter Features at Five include youth & childrens services; visiting musicians; speakers Colin Jones, Rob George, Alistair Cranney, Pat & Margaret Egan; monthly teas ... 76th anniversary theme Our Church in Mission recognised 15 former nailsworthites who served overseas. Morning speaker Ian Flood, Qld ... Sunday School Walk for Bibles along beach raised \$900 for Amity Press, China ... Engagement congratulations Evan Young & Tamra Maddox.

ELIZABETH (Lindsay Mayes) General enthusiasm & optimism as

attendances, visitors & inquiries increase ... Elders retreat followed by ongoing study program ... Developing discipleship course for whole church ... Children's Ministry under review ... Receptionist position established to staff office full-time. Computer purchased ... Church family camp held at Hahndorf.

BROOKLYN PARK (P. Webber) Minister reappointed by church to December 1996 ... Home discussion groups led by Ian Corlett (Assoc State Minister) ... Barry Benz preacher 21 May, offering pledge day ... Fortnightly Tuesday pm services for intellectually disabled. 60

attending ... Cooperative activities continue with Henley & Flinders Park. Three churches prayerfully await blueprint for amalgamation vote.

STRATHALBYN (Grant & Julie Simpson) Visit of World President of WCTU. All churches invited ... Bible Society dinner raised \$910 ... Dedication for baby Thomas Costello-Smith. Parents welcomed into fellowship. Luncheon followed ... Reunion of youth from Christian Endeavour of the 60s planned for September ... Many members are on the sick list ... AGM planned for August.

COCOA

is involved in medical work
in countries overseas.
Be a caring partner!



Churches of Christ Overseas Aid, 180A Gray St, Adelaide 5000.

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

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Amount for COCOA (tax-deductible) \$ _____

Please charge my

☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard Signed _____

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Expiry Date _____

Sport

Let the Games Begin

State Youth Games

Queenscliff, Vic, was the venue for a gathering of 500 young people for the annual State Youth Games, held over the long weekend in June. Enthusiastic participants, who braved chilly winter conditions (most of them camped under canvas!) soon warmed up by joining in the action-packed program of activities. A variety of sports and competitions were featured throughout the weekend, ranging from passive activities like chess and darts, to more strenuous ones like the Triathlon. The overall winning church was Glen Waverley, who took the shield home for the third consecutive year!

Sport wasn't the only reason for gathering. The young people from York Street Church of Christ in Ballarat led some

inspirational worship and campers were challenged by speaker John Van Groningen, chaplain of the Geelong Supercats Basketball team. The "Rock Pile Cafe" kept people entertained into the early hours and the opening and closing ceremonies were complete with cheer-leading dances and the official State Youth Games "Torch".

Russell Croxford and a team of 25 leaders coordinated the event under the banner of Youth Vision-Vic. State Youth Games has grown rapidly since it began in 1991, becoming the most popular activity on the youth calendar. It serves as an ideal outreach event, presenting young people with a mixture of fun, friendship and challenges in a Christian environment.



• Some of the action at the Games

The Last Word

Seldom is anyone so spiritual as to strip himself entirely of self-love.

—Thomas à Kempis

The church was not going to be out-advertised by the new harness racing track that opened 50 metres away. It countered the track's slogan, "Come on out and play," with "Come on out and pray".

Then it upped the ante in the sign-war with such messages for passing race fans as:

"You can win if you show at God's place."

"Stop horsing around—get to church."

"Trot on over to God's place."

"Don't gamble on life, Jesus is a sure thing."

Finally, the church went for all the marbles:

"Win, place or show, when the party is over, where will you go?"

Two men were before the court on a charge of arson.

The first defendant claimed to be of no fixed abode.

The second then said, "And I live in the flat above".

"Were you in Noah's ark, grandpa?"

"Er—No, I wasn't"

"Then why weren't you drowned?"

He can talk the whole day through without stopping to think once.

So what did your blind date look like?

Well, he looked a lot better over the telephone.

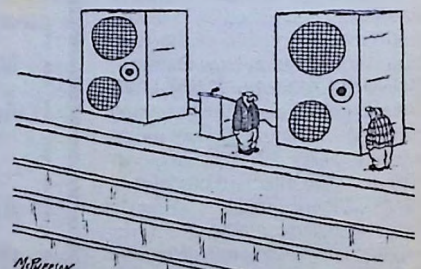
Me, famous? These days I'm not even a household name in my own household.

A holiday is something that turns someone who's tired into someone who's exhausted.

Tenant: "Where can I buy 10,000 cockroaches?"

Landlord: "Why do you want to know?"

Tenant: "Because the lease says I have to leave the premises exactly the way I found them."



I'm hoping these new speakers will give my sermons a little more punch!

Source: *McPherson Goes to Church* by John McPherson (Zondervan, 1994)



SUBSCRIPTION FORM

PO Box 101, North Essendon 3041

Name

Address

Postcode

Amount Enclosed: \$..... Church

☐ Renewal ☐ New Subscription

Donation: \$

☐ \$28 Full Year ☐ \$13 Rest of Year

☐ \$10 Rest of year if recommended by a current subscriber (new subs)

Subscriber:

Payment can be made by Bankcard, Visa or MasterCard

Please charge my—

☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card number

.....

Expiry date

Signature