

National Journal
of Churches of
Christ in Australia

Vol. 99 No. 1

3 February 1996

Print Post Approved
PP349181/00418

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Christmas Creativity

—page 6



—page 5



Editor: Don Smith

Production Manager/Sub Editor:
Nigel Pegram

Issue
17 February
2 March
16 March

Deadline
8 February
22 February
7 March

Address for all correspondence
(including subscription payments)
PO Box 101

North Essendon Vic 3041

Telephone (03) 9379 1219

Fax (03) 9379 0015

E-mail aceditor@ozemail.com.au



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 Australian Christian, a Department
of the National Conference of
Churches of Christ in Australia.

Keith Aird, Chairman (SA)

Lindsay Mott, Treasurer (Vic)

John Batchler (Tas)

Kevin Bray (ACT)

Steve Downie (NSW)

Bob Smith (Qld)

Allen Smyth (WA)

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

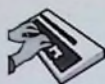
Responsibility for electoral material is
accepted by Don Smith,
2 Larkspur Ave, Doncaster Vic 3108

This publication is indexed in the
Australasian Religion Index

ISSN 0004-8852

Advertising Rates

Displayed: \$5.50 per column centimetre
Classified: \$14.00 for the first 25 words
and 25c for each additional word



Editorial

The Leadership Issue Again

Don Smith

It is a new experience for me to face a deluge of papers which include news items, press releases, photographs, letters, reports, articles and magazines all on my desk at once. Two items stood out as far as having long-term national strategic significance for our churches and the wider work of the Kingdom of God. These items covered the graduation of students as reported in this issue. It is an inspiring story

of so many men and women taking up ministry in our churches. When linked to the reports from Brisbane and Melbourne last December, it is even more impressive. With larger numbers of students studying, there has been some concern as to our national ability to place so many. There are also others studying in extension-type situations in some capital cities. These matters need continuing review as to numbers and the most appropriate ways to train people for the multiple opportunities emerging across our Australian network.

This is a moment to celebrate what must be the largest number of men and women going forward as leaders to our churches in our national history. The quality and range of the training offered has never been better. That is a tribute to our theological college staff. Our graduates go forward to situations all so different. Small, middle and large churches each have their special demands in leadership. The styles and roles will be different according to size and location of churches. Inner-city is different from a rural situation or a large provincial city. When we discuss leadership, these are some of the issues which



must be continually recognised and addressed.

Any Conference receiving graduates with an apostolic commission will expect that alongside appropriate training, there will be deep conviction about the Gospel and its relevance in Australian society. As members of a local church we need conviction too, but if we are to be taught effectively, equipped and led, conviction in leadership is paramount.

Sacrifice is another quality that we expect in leaders. This is not to suggest that we take advantage of our ministers and leaders, but little seems to be achieved by leaders where there is no spirit of sacrifice. The New Testament church has some interesting examples.

Passion is another quality we would hope for in Christian leadership. It is not a quality that is exclusive to Christian leaders. Passion may express itself in diverse ways in our human experience. What we hope for in our new leaders is a passionate commitment to the truths of the Gospel and the mission of the church. Conviction, sacrifice and passion speak of a deep stirring of our inner spirit and being. We all need these qualities but especially any who submit themselves for leadership roles.


Some time ago, I heard a young man speak of his forthcoming acceptance of an important leadership role. A person who was both friend and mentor, asked him the question, "What will you die for?" A sobering question when one is about to embark on a significant mission task! The question still haunts me.

Contents

- 6 Leadership 2000**
12 Australians for US study tour
- 7 44 Graduate**
Record number of graduates from Carlingford College
- 9 Vineyard Pruning**
Toronto Blessing group ousted from Vineyard church
- 12 Jeff Weston—The Interview**
Jenny Ellis interviews new Overseas Mission Board Director
- 19 Bedlam in Bethlehem**
Alan Matheson surveys national daily Christmas editorials
- 20 When the Whole World's Jewish**
Lawrence Hirsch keeps encountering people who ask him "that question"

Regulars

Hospital Chaplaincy	15
Media Matters	17
Personal	21-22
Church News	22-23
Exploring the Day	24



SUBSCRIPTION FORM

PO Box 101, North Essendon 3041

Name
 Address
 Postcode
 Amount Enclosed: \$ Church

Payment can be made by Bankcard, Visa or MasterCard

Please charge my— ☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Number

Expiry date Signature

☐ New ☐ \$30 Full Year ☐ \$29 Rest of Year

☐ Renewal ☐ \$22 Rest of year if recommended by a subscriber (new subs)

Donation: \$ Subscriber:

Letters to the Editor

We intend to give new prominence to letters from readers. The shift in location is one step in the process. The comments below will preface the letters column in each issue. These comments set out what has been past practice. To gain space for wider access we need shorter letters. Some readers will choose to make brief comments in 100 words or less. Let's hear from you.
—Editor

The Australian Christian welcomes letters from its readers. Short letters up to 175 words stand the best chance of publication. All letters may be edited. We reserve the right to omit letters altogether.

Christmas and Life

To the Editor,
 Congratulations! What delicious irony on page 19 of the 2 December issue. Comment by Dr Arnold about Trevor's failings (or strengths) and underneath StClair Oldfield's beautiful questioning, "Christmas Observed".

While historical beginnings may be important, in a pain-racked world, where a mesmerised society produces the opposite of Christmas and the little children, for whom Christ came, are stricken by the pain, disease and hunger of an adult mania for substitutes, we wait.

—Ted Heard
 (Colonel Light Gardens, SA)

Judging Leadership

To the Editor,
 I am very concerned at the debate, or should I say public conflict taking place over the leadership of churches within Churches of Christ. Again, we are running the risk of open judgement on one another.

I have taken an active part in small church with one minister, a large active church with one minister, a church sharing a team ministry and a large church with a senior minister. In each of these churches, there has been practised the "priesthood of all believers". The members have had a say either through their church board (and have elected them), through the eldership, or directly on issues of major importance. In each church, there has been the "mutual ministry". Each member has the right to become actively involved in the work of the church. Each church has got on with the job of promoting Christ's Kingdom in the community and within the church. The paid ministry is made up of human beings, as is the mutual ministry, not always "reaching the mark"; but who am I to judge, whose life is full of spiritual blunders! I would like to see us return to affirmation of one another, and in true Churches of Christ style, present a united front to our colleagues in other denominations.

—Beth Butler
 (Marion, SA)

Small Churches

To the Editor,

What a gracious letter from Tony Sands in the 16 December issue. Here in Western Australia there is a total of 38 metropolitan churches, of which eight have an active membership each of considerably below 50. If these churches were closed ex-members would be quite adequately served, in each case, by surrounding Churches of Christ, or churches of other denominations in the same suburb.

This would release property to the value of over several millions of dollars, which could be used for new causes or the funds given to the poor. It is futile for these churches to hang on hoping that the membership will improve. One of the eight churches mentioned above was established in 1916 in a suburb which is fully developed, surrounded by the sea and a river (and therefore has little growth potential). These

Letters to the Editor

small congregations need to face up to the situation, particularly as Christians are so mobile these days.

—F. Hewitt
(Wembley Downs)

Welcome

To the Editor,

On behalf of Churches of Christ in Australia, I welcome Don Smith as the Editor of *The Australian Christian*. Don brings with him to this appointment the extensive knowledge and understanding of our movement garnered from his former role as Director of the Australian Board of Church Development and Education.

"The Christian" is the national journal of our churches, bringing together the members of the churches through their views, concerns, understandings and leadership. It provides a national voice for our movement, an opportunity for people within our churches to share each others hopes and to pray in an informed way for one another's work of being Christian in our nation.

With Don's well-known wish to grow churches, to bring people to an understanding of Jesus as Saviour and wanting churches to have a well developed sense of mission to their own community and beyond, there is little doubt this will be reflected in "our paper" as he joins it as Editor. His involvement too with the Federal Literature Department will ensure that those who have something of worth to say will be heard.

One of the practical ways we can welcome Don is by seeking more subscribers, so providing him with a sound on-going base to work from. Welcome Don! We look forward to your continuing contribution to helping Churches of Christ to be in the forefront of Christian evangelism and church development in your role as 'our' Editor.

—Robert Leane
(National Conference President)

A Blessing and a Curse

To the Editor,

Now that Victoria's Toronto Blessing appears to have fallen

over backwards, the mainstream Church struggles on.

The united voice of Victoria's mainstream churches is currently having a major impact (for the good) on Mr Kennett, the public at large, and at least one local Member of Parliament!

The One who has given us the ministry of reconciliation and in whom "all things hold together" is characterised by oneness, a coming together in the name of Christ. Although conflict with the State is uncomfortable, it's encouraging to see what happens when the Church responds with one voice to the Spirit of God in our midst. As the State eats & drinks of its redemption at the gambling table, those who can least afford to lose, lose. And here at ground level, usually anonymously, people suffer.

On these more down-to-earth evils, our Pentecostal friends are surprisingly quiet. Come along and join in, oh children of the Spirit, "Come out with your hands up!"

—Jonathan Moore
(Ormond, Vic)

Left Wing, Right Wing?

To the Editor,

It was interesting to read in the *Age* newspaper's *Good Weekend* 23/2 that Churches of Christ were described by one who claims to be a member as, "A small denomination, which would be regarded as being very conservative. I suppose some people would say it was fundamentalist."

The speaker reported in the article was Mr John Bradford MHR for McPherson, Qld, who

is also secretary of the Federal Parliamentary Christian Fellowship. He also "finds it hard to understand how anyone who is a Christian could be left-wing". The reporter also talked to M/s Mary Crawford, also a member of the PCF. She referred to Mr Bradford's statement and made the comment, "There are others who would argue that they can't see how anyone who is a Christian couldn't be left-wing." Perhaps

before John Bradford tars us all with his fundamentalist, right-wing brush he should examine more closely the teachings of the Jesus he claims to follow. I have never thought of him as being conservative. Why was he crucified? —Max Collyer
(Boronia, Vic)

How to Respond?

To the Editor,

I am writing to seek some help from readers who may

Update

Dear Reader,

Greetings! As the new editor I look forward to sharing with you in the time ahead. January has been especially busy with the dispatch of subscriber invoices. We look forward to receiving your renewal. Each morning, subscription payments fill our mail box. As I open the envelopes I am pleased to see so many from people I know or from others whose names are familiar. I have before me a warm greeting from a subscriber of fifty years standing. This lady assures me of her intention to subscribe as long as she is spared.

In this issue you will note some new developments. We welcome Janet Thompson to our back page. Janet is well known in our midst as an author. She will contribute on a monthly basis. Next issue we have a surprise for you, with a second regular contributor for the back page.

Having seen the new material, I am sure you are going to like it. Nigel Pegram, our sub-editor, and I look forward to progressively introducing you to a number of new features. Maybe we can even find someone from the South Pole!

Chris Ambrose, our past editor, is now settled in Goolwa, SA (well almost). We wish Chris and Mary well in their new ministry. Our chairman Keith Aird suggested we include a review of Chris Ambrose's term as editor. You will find this on page 18. Last year, I greatly appreciated Mary Ambrose's work on past editors. I inherit a great tradition since 1898. I am deeply conscious of the privilege and responsibility of my new role.

Until next time,

Don Smith



Pontius' Puddle

GOAL: TEACH CHILDREN TO READ AND WRITE.

TEACHERS RESOURCED WITH A VAST ARRAY OF TEXTBOOKS, COMPUTER PROGRAMS, AND STATE-OF-THE-ART VIDEO.



PUBLIC EDUCATION

GOAL: INSTILL THE VALUES AND BELIEFS THAT WILL GUIDE AND SHAPE EVERY DECISION THROUGHOUT LIFE.

TEACHERS GIVEN A RUSTY FILMSTRIP PROJECTOR AND A BOX OF BROKEN CRAYONS!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Letters to the Editor

have found a solution to the following problem I regularly face. As an economist by training and university lecturer by profession, over the years I have frequently been a guest speaker at meetings of local community groups and service organisations, a task which I enjoy and which I believe has been well received by the audiences. On numerous occasions, while being thanked for my participation, I have been presented with not inexpensive bottles of alcohol. As a lifelong teetotaler and opponent of alcohol, I always feel awkward when these circumstances arise. (Why is it always assumed that alcohol is a welcome gift?)

I am unsure how to respond to these public situations without embarrassing my hosts and yet without compromising my position with regard to alcohol. What should I say and what should I do in these circumstances?

—Ken Dundas
(Goonellabah, NSW)

Leadership

To the Editor,

In the recent Pamphlet Club publication on leadership in Churches of Christ, Graham Agnew seems to have made a number of dubious assumptions.

1. That strong church leadership needs to be hierarchically-based "servant" leadership adapted from the management techniques of corporate capitalism and Dale Carnegie. 2. That such techniques "reach back to the ministry of Jesus". 3. That our "ex-

cessive" emphasis on the priesthood of all believers has inhibited the right kind of leadership.

These assumptions are completely at odds with the historical Jesus of Nazareth who identified with the poor and the powerless, established communities of equals, welcoming and empowering the least and the lowest.

The historical Jesus showed that true power comes from the renunciation of power and positive identification with the powerless in their struggle for social justice. The non-hierarchical, but strong, servant leadership modelled by Jesus is radically different from the "servant" model advocated by Graham.

On the other hand, Kim Thoday's article is clear, consistent and radically biblical, giving priority to Jesus' leadership model. Graham's article appears to have been included to directly rebut this position and to justify the growing elitist trends in our churches.

However, Kim's biblically relevant and scholarly approach stands in deep contrast to Graham's cultural accommodation.

—John Arthur
(Marangaroo, WA)

First SA Church of Christ

To the Editor,

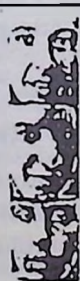
Following recent interest in this matter, I am pleased to advise that I can now make available the majority of my research information. Sixty-two pages of articles can be obtained by writing to me at 15 Tabitha Drive, Athelstone SA 5076. Cost is \$4, which includes postage.

—Trevor Lawrie
(Athelstone, SA)

Think

The numerically growing congregations and denominations in the first years of the third millennium will be those that are both able and willing to make the changes necessary to respond in a meaningful way to the religious needs of sceptics, seekers, searchers, inquirers, and pilgrims.

—Lyle Schaller, 21 Bridges to the 21st Century.



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

News

Advent Adventure

A merry Christmas at Brisbane North



• The Children's Day nativity play

Take bells, red & white pipe cleaners, curtain rings, red felt, tiny empty boxes, and pine cones, mix with ingenuity, nimble fingers, and fun—the recipe for an exciting series of advent worship services at Brisbane North Church of Christ, Qld.

9 November, saw our creative "crafty" people making these "bits and pieces" into baskets full of small emblems to be distributed during advent services. (Many were seen later being worn as pendants or medals and on Christmas trees.)

On the first advent Sunday, the congregation came into the chapel to find it festively decorated with silver tinsel and stars, red bows and the first of our three lovely Christmas banners.

The theme on this first Sunday was proclamation, with an explanation of the advent candles. The guest speaker, Charles Grey of HCJB, told how this organisation proclaims the gospel in far places. Tiny advent wreaths with tinkling bells were given by small children to all present.

The second advent Sunday was children's day, with presentation of gifts to cradle roll children and those in Sunday Outback (our Sunday School). The children took part in a nativity play and distributed the day's token, a tiny Santa. It was a joyous day of noise and laughter, with the sermon tracing the

history of Christian caring and giving in the Santa myth.

"A candle in the wind—don't blow it out"—the third advent Sunday focussed on the way God's light shows in the world in various ways. Jesus came to be the light of the world—a gift from the heart of God to meet the desperate needs of humanity for a saviour. The work of the Christmas bowl goes "like a candle in the wind". The day's token, beautifully wrapped tiny empty boxes, portrayed the idea of giving rather than expecting to receive.

A pine cone Christmas tree was the symbol of the fourth advent Sunday—"What does Christmas mean to you?" To the shepherds, it meant wonder and worship; to Mary, worship in obedience; to us does it mean the pleasures of excessive eating, drinking and spending, or have we converted the pagan green tree festival into a symbol proclaiming God's great gift from his caring heart to meet our great need.

With carefully chosen appropriate hymns and choruses, with variety in programming, with involvement of the wonderful singing of the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga (who share our premises) and with dedication to a standard of excellence in our worship, this advent season has been a time of inspiration and joy to the whole church and our frequent visitors.

Outside the Walls

Becoming a Christian Presence in the Community

During the month of December the Mount Clear, Vic, church put their Vision Statement into action and began to relate to the local community in new and meaningful ways. The recently endorsed statement reads, "becoming a dynamic, relevant, Christian presence in the Mount Clear and surrounding communities; offering God's love, help and hope to all". We have realised that if we are to be this Christian presence in our local community, we must move outside our four walls and interact meaningfully with all types of people.

On the first Sunday in December the local Lions Club were invited to participate in our morning worship service. They spoke about their work in the community and we included them in our prayers, encouraging them for their service to our community. We were thrilled when five or six of these Lions Club members returned to worship with us in subsequent weeks and on Christmas Day.

Later in the month, our team of Christian Religious Education (CRE) teachers organised two Christmas Concerts for the Mt Clear Primary School. Hundreds of local parents and other relatives joined with the children as each class presented Christmas carols and favourite songs from CRE. A couple of contacts for Sunday School came following discussion with parents afterward.

In mid-December a specially formed Christmas choir went carolling in the local shopping centre. The singing attracted the attention of onlookers, who also received invitations to the Mt Clear/Mt Helen Community Carols Night which was organised for the following week. It also attracted media attention and a large newspaper article about the carolling appeared next day in *The Courier*.

The highlight, however, was our Community Carols Night held on 10 December. Just five years ago our annual Carols Night was held in the chapel and attracted a congregation of 100. This year we moved to the



• Children form a nativity scene during the Mount Clear Community Carols Night

University auditorium and attracted a near-capacity crowd of 700 to a diverse program involving school choirs and bands as well as church soloists and musicians.

The month of December, with Christmas on the way, seems to be a time when people

are more open to attending programs of worship and fellowship. We feel that last year we began to capitalise on this. With record church attendances leading up to Christmas and a number of new community contacts, it seems to have really paid off!

—Dale White

Leadership 2000

Third study tour team chosen

Successful applicants for the third Christian Project's sponsored Leadership 2000 program are Chris Ruby (NSW), John Sharpe (Vic), Paul Hodgson (SA), Craig Spaulding (Tas), Steve Blackett (Vic), Russell Croxford (Vic), Ron Chapman (Vic), Ian Docker (NSW), Tony Sands (NSW), David Moyes (NSW), Andrew Ranucci (NSW) and John Crosby (WA).

They will be leaving in early September for a study tour of churches in the Los Angeles, California, region as part of a leadership development program. In November they and their church boards will be sharing in a training program at Wollongong, NSW.

So far, Christian Projects has sponsored 42 ministers in this

development program. Successful applicants will be given the opportunity of becoming part of the Graduate Diploma in Leadership Development being offered by the NSW Churches of Christ Theological College. The program will be an optional part of the Diploma.

Christian Projects is giving consideration to broadening its leadership development program in the future and has appreciated the support of churches who purchase products through Christian Projects. This is done primarily through Graham Bagley (Engadine, NSW) who gives many voluntary hours to ensure the success of Christian Projects.

—Ted Keating



**Churches of Christ
Theological College**

(The National College of Churches of Christ in Australia)

**ENROL NOW
for 1996**

- * Learn more about the Bible's message for today.
- * Develop your faith in a supportive environment.
- * Nurture your personal and spiritual development.
- * Enhance your skills for Christian ministry.

Simply phone
(03) 9790 1000
and request your enrolment to
be arranged by mail or by
special appointment

**Last day for
enrolments
19 February**

First to Finish

Graduation from the Institute for Contemporary Church Leadership

It was a great night of celebration for the Wollongong Church of Christ, NSW, and for the eight graduates who were the first to complete their Diploma of Ministry and Bachelor of Theology at Wollongong, 10 December 1995.

As one of the growing number of Ministry Centres for Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College, it was exciting to have with us people from Ballarat, Tasmania, Mel-

bourne, Coffs Harbour and Sydney, as well as our own congregation of family and friends.

Awards were presented to those who deserved recognition for outstanding work in homiletics, church growth and academic achievement. Our speaker was Tim Hanna, who will begin at the Carlingford/Telopea Centre this year as Centre Coordinator. His message about the church as a radical institution was challenging for graduates and visitors alike.

Dr Keith Farmer, Principle

44 Graduate

NSW college graduation



• NSW College graduates

The Churches of Christ (NSW) Theological College had one part of its 51st Graduation on 8 December 1995. This service was for those graduating from the Carlingford-Telopea Ministry Centre. 800 were present, making this the largest graduation service in the College's history.

The service included the annual awarding of prizes, with Alison Roeth being named Dux of the College for 1995. In his sermon, Ron Hewitt spoke on the theme, "What sort of church would it be, if the church was like me?" The large number of graduates was bolstered by two classes graduating together. This included the last of the four-year students. Twenty Seven will receive the Degree of Bachelor of Theology. Two students received Christian Service Certificates, two were awarded Certificates of Church

Leadership, one of whom was the first person from the Manning Valley Centre to receive an award. A further ten students fulfilled the requirements to convert from a Diploma of Ministry to the Degree of Bachelor of Theology. One student will receive the BTh without the Diploma of Ministry.

The 44 graduates are certain to make an impact for the Kingdom of God in Australia. There is a wide diversity of appointments for the graduates who will take up work including pastoral ministry, youth ministry, university campus ministry, church planting, overseas mission, market ministry, high school chaplaincy, aged care chaplaincy and ministry to Muslims. Some of the graduates and their families will continue to serve in local congregations while engaged in secular employment.



• 1995 Wollongong graduates

of Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College, led the prayer of commissioning for the graduates, who will take up a variety of ministries across Australia.

Monique ten Hoopen and Rebecca Lawlor on the ministry team at Wollongong, NSW; Glenn Cumbers in Nubeena, Tas; Andrew Tonkin in Hobart, Tas; Steven Robinson continuing at Narellan, NSW; Pierre

Engelbrecht continuing his work with Operation Mobilisation; Matthew Zarb in Port Macquarie, NSW; and Trevor Touzel, still deciding on his direction for 1996.

We look forward to seeing what God will do through these in their new ministries and praise God for his leading, past and the future, in the work of training and equipping for ministry at the Institute.

Top-End Tales

News from Darwin Church



• Darwin's one-day cricket match—including an energetic cattle dog

The Darwin Church of Christ concluded the year with two well-attended social activities.

The first was a combined quiz night and progressive dinner, which saw a large group of people walking between courses around Malak.

The second event was our very own one-day cricket match. Varying degrees of talent were displayed and there was much discussion over bowling styles. They say only mad dogs and Darwinians go out in the mid-day sun during the hot, humid weather of "The Wet". The cricket match continued throughout a drench-

ing tropical storm, with attendant thunder and lightning. Any excuse to cool down!

Minister Jim Larkham was doing a fine job of fielding, but had to move closer in to the wicket to avoid being swept away in the torrent of water that filled his previously shady spot at deep gully.

Those of you familiar with Thomas E. Spencer's poem "How McDougal Topped the Score" would have had a quite chuckle as an energetic cattle dog joined in the game, fielding with great enthusiasm. Unlike McDougal's Pincher though, he did return the ball!

Seems Like a Dream

The Vanuatu experience

From 2-24 December, a group of twenty young people travelled from Blackwood Church of Christ, SA, to Ranwadi High School in Vanuatu to assist in the re-roofing of a number of buildings and general maintenance work around the school.

After spending three weeks together in a country as beautiful as Vanuatu, it was impossible for us not to come away changed people. It was an amazing experience that none of us will ever forget.

Project Vocation Vanuatu began in late 1994, when it was recognised that a number of roofs needed replacing at Ranwadi High School on Pentecost Island. It had been a long-term goal of one of our ministers, Paul Hodgson, to lead a group of young people in a mission situation and, as the proposed dates of this venture also coincided with the National Vanuatu Youth Convention, it seemed much more than just a coincidence that everything was falling into place.

Dates were set for December 1995 and a year of promotion and fund raising began. Through all of our ventures, such as pizza deliveries, 'slave auctions', information days and garage sales, we raised over \$16,000 towards the cost of the project. It was encouraging to find some local companies donating tools, or providing materials at reduced prices. Perhaps most exciting though, was to see the whole church community supporting us right throughout the year, offering so much of their time, assistance and prayer, without which the project would never have succeeded. All who knew about the project wished us well and this love culminated in three final cheers for the team as we left the church on a bus bound for Melbourne Airport.

Even now, I think we still do not fully understand what we have achieved and what we have given. What was to us merely maintenance work, was to the people of Pentecost is-

land much more than they could ever achieve in two years, let alone two weeks. Often it is easy to recognise God's work in your own life, but it is so much harder to realise when you are working for God in the lives of others. Although we were told so a number of times, no-one could quite grasp the implications of being the answer to so many people's prayers. Zacchaeus, father of Silas Buli the school's Principal, spoke at our welcoming service about the loving relationship between Australia and Vanuatu. He said that the people of Vanuatu had come to love Australia because, like God, we had first loved them. He was physically moved to tears as he told us how grateful they were for what we were doing and the love that we had shown by going there.

In the end, we even surprised ourselves with the work that we completed. Despite the intense heat, humidity and several occasions of heavy rain, we re-roofed one of the boys' dormitories and the chapel. We also managed to remove rust from, and paint the roofs of the International House and typing room, and painted the insides of four classrooms. No-one could complain about the working conditions! The views were magnificent and the rooftops proved to be a great vantage point. We were even able to see the glow of two volcanoes on a nearby island in the night sky.

I think our biggest problem was not the work itself, but the times when we could not work; when it was raining, and when we were waiting for the convention to commence. It was difficult and uncomfortable for us to accept the love of these people when we weren't doing anything for them in return. Like God, they loved us (and fed us!) in the times when we thought we could offer them nothing. I guess there was a lot for us to learn about unconditional love.

Unfortunately, transportation problems meant that the Convention was postponed, postponed again, and finally, to our disappointment, cancelled. There were, however, a number of groups of people from the islands of Santo, Malekula and Ambae who came to Pentecost and created a 'local convention' and visited many villages in the area. We were able to worship with these people and get to know them a little better. We also had the opportunity to spend time with Silas, his wife Vinette and their young family, and a number of other families living on the school grounds. Working in the kitchen was made far more pleasant by being able to chat to the home economics teacher, Lave, and her daughter Rosin, who had stayed back during their holidays to help cook for

us. Each of us discovered how loving and welcoming the niVanuatu people are. They were always so friendly, so generous, so willing to help, despite their laid back approach—'time blong Vanuatu'. Even in Vila, the capital of Vanuatu, strangers would wave to us on the street or call good night. They are so refreshingly alive.

It is strange being back in Australia. Our time in Vanuatu seems almost dream-like now, as if we were gone for no time at all. Yet we accomplished and discovered so much in those few weeks. It is definitely a time I will never forget.

Thank you God, that we could do so much for these people, but thank you also, that no matter what we did for them, they could always give and teach us so much more.

—Rebecca Whyatt



Churches of Christ Care

Brisbane Region

Announce the Opening of the new

Moonah Park Aged Care Hostel

at 28 Blaker Road Mitchelton, Brisbane
on 17th February 1996 at 2.00 pm

In 1950 Churches of Christ in Queensland began residential care work with a Christian Guest Home in Spring Hill, which a few years later was named "Burdeu House". In 1993 the Hostel was renamed "Mirunya", following the opening of the "Clive Burdeu" Nursing Home at New Farm. Our new facility at Mitchelton "Moonah Park" will replace the old "Mirunya" and residents from "Mirunya" will be moving to Moonah Park Hostel at 28 Blaker Road, Mitchelton in February.

The Moonah Park Hostel will house 30 residents in three houses accommodating ten residents in each. The three houses have been designed along individual styles and themes, with furnishings and fittings to match. Each house is self-sufficient, containing a residents' lounge, dining room and kitchen, plus a private lounge and dining room for residents to entertain family or friends, and each bedroom has its own en suite.

It is with pleasure we announce the opening of the new Hostel, "Moonah Park" and extend to you an invitation to join us at the opening ceremony, followed by an inspection tour of the facility and afternoon tea. We do hope you can join us and we look forward to meeting with you on the 17th February.

Daryl McLeod, Regional Operations Director. Phone (07) 3358 3233.
RSVP by February 9th.

Vineyard Pruning

Toronto Blessing Group ousted from Vineyard Church

The church whose ecstatic worship style became known worldwide as the **Toronto Blessing** has been ousted by its parent denomination in Anaheim, California, in a split that is certain to send shock waves throughout many churches around the world. John Arnott, pastor of the Airport Vineyard Fellowship in Toronto, Canada, told Larry Stammer, Religion Writer of the *Los Angeles Times* that he had been told last week by the Association of Vineyard Fellowships that his 1,000 member congregation had gone "over the edge" by encouraging worshippers to be so filled with the Holy Spirit that they would bark like dogs, swoon on the

floor and laugh uncontrollably during services. "We weren't asked to leave," Arnott said in an interview with the *LA Times*. "We were told we were out." Todd Hunter, national coordinator for the Vineyard Fellowships, has said that he did not expect Arnott's departure to precipitate a wider split within the organisation, which has a reported 200,000 members in 600 congregations worldwide.

Mecca For Christians

As reports of healings and "dramatic encounters with the Holy Spirit" began some two years ago, the Airport Vineyard, just a short way from the runway at Toronto International Airport, became a Mecca for Christians from many parts of the world. They would make pilgrimages to "catch the spirit" and then attempt to bring that revival to

their home congregation. Two other churches, one in Pasadena and another in Missouri, have asked to leave.

"The major disagreement, the denomination said, is over Arnott's emphasis on Christians being dramatically filled by the Holy Spirit before they are adequately equipped to evangelise, start new congregations and minister to the poor and others," said Stammer.

Criticisms

As long as a year ago John Wimber, leader and founder of the Vineyard Association of Churches, called a special board meeting in Anaheim to review Arnott's ministry. It is understood that Arnott had been repeatedly warned that his conduct amounted to insubordination. Criticisms included attempts to offer theological jus-

tification or biblical proof-texting for any exotic practices that are extra-biblical. Vineyard leaders disagreed with the tendency to spotlight exotic and non-biblical manifestations. Toronto leaders were unwilling to test the spirits or manifestations, or to sort the good from the bad. There was a belief that the many good results relieved leaders from the responsibility to deal with abuses and excesses. Critics believe that the exotic and extra-biblical experiences are not necessarily part of renewal. There were also concerns about how crowd expectations were handled. Vineyard leaders have sought to avoid "hype", being conscious that crowds can be manipulated by suggestions and emotions. Acceptance of prophecies which set up an elitist mentality among churches, that incite a division between "haves" and "have nots", and which treat expressions of concern as quenching and opposing the work of the Holy Spirit, were also noted. The Toronto leadership had also tied the current outpouring with an expectation of a final last days revival, signified by the signs and wonders evident in the church. A "prophetic theology" centred on a new kind of ecstatic prophecy heralding a second Pentecost, a second book of Acts and the last days revival was seen to supersede the normal practices of evangelism, healing, missions and church planting.

In making these criticisms Vineyard leaders agreed that the Toronto leaders have been generous, gracious, and full of good intent to bless the church. There has been no question of immorality. It is recognised that the time to part appears to have come, because of the growing divergence in theology and philosophy. In separating from the Toronto group, Vineyard leaders were keen to affirm their continuing commitment to renewal and openness to the work of the Holy Spirit.

International

Mongolian Stabilisation

Relations between the government and the Christian community in Mongolia have steadily improved in the past year, according to several foreign church groups working in the country. The authorities have failed to implement many of the rigid religious regulations passed in 1993, and many officials are admirers of Christian activities and have invited church groups to set up social work programs throughout the country. "Things are stabilising," said one observer.

Rape as a Weapon

Rape has been used by Muslim extremists to pressure Egyptian Christian women to convert to Islam, alleges Jubilee Campaign, a UK-based Christian human rights group. The extremists promise to arrange marriages between the victims and Muslim men, if they convert. This is an attractive proposition for rape victims, having lost their virginity and therefore unlikely to find husbands in conservative Egyptian society. Jubilee alleges that Christians in Turkey are being slandered, property is being unfairly confiscated, villages are being destroyed, and that some Christians have even been assassinated.

Churches of Christ Theological College

(The National College of Churches of Christ in Australia)



COME and join us!

GARDEN PARTY
Saturday
2 March 1996
(NOT 9 March as previously advertised)

Meet old friends!

Food and drink stalls!

Make a night of it!

This is an enjoyable way to show support for new and returning students.

Bring your whole family or come as a church group to enjoy a relaxed time together.

The program will cater for all ages.

Food and drinks will be on sale at reasonable prices—or BYO if you prefer.

Bring a rug and folding chair if you can.

Ample parking available.

The more formal program begins around 6.00 pm. (Special provision will be made for children.)

A Young People's Ball will follow at 8.00 pm.

People

Horsham Loses Harvey

Not lost, but leaving after long ministry

On 17 December 1995 Harvey Clark conducted his last service at the Horsham Church of Christ, Vic, after a 13 year pastorate. During his address Harvey stated that there had been more changes in the Horsham church during the past 12 years than in the previous 50, and then went on to enumerate some of those changes. He said that the willingness to accept these changes had been the reason for the growth of the church during the past few years.

At the end of the service, Harvey handed over to Steve Blacket, incoming pastor, three symbolic items. A Bible, to remind Steve of his responsibility to preach the word of God; a home communion set, to represent his priestly duty; and the marriage register, to repre-



• Harvey Clark

sent the pastoral care aspect of his work. Harvey and Elizabeth, his wife, will be missed by their many friends and parishioners whom they have faithfully cared for over the past 13 years. —Pauline Keyle

110!

Special birthday

Mary Ann Huggan celebrated her 110th birthday on Friday 12 January 1996, with some family, friends, and the residents and staff of Fred Combridge House, Northcote, Vic.

A special birthday cake made by Sophie, the home's cook, and afternoon tea were shared by all present. Trevor Giles, Director of Community Care, wished Mrs Huggan a happy birthday on behalf of the Department and friends who had gathered for the occasion. Bill Huggan thanked Trevor and all the home's staff for the tender, loving care that had been given to his mother and that had enabled her to reach the great age of 110 years.

Mrs Huggan is the oldest resident in our homes, having entered Emmaus 23 years ago, from where she moved to our Murrumbidgee Nursing Home and then to Fred Combridge House when it opened.

Mrs Huggan and her late husband (Andrew) joined the



• Mary Ann Huggan on her 110th birthday

church in 1933 during T.G.H. Westwood's ministry at Middle Park. Moving to Carnegie, they attended the church there. In retirement they went to Selby to live and worshipped at a local church.

Mrs Huggan renewed fellowship with the Carnegie church when she entered Emmaus.

Media Review

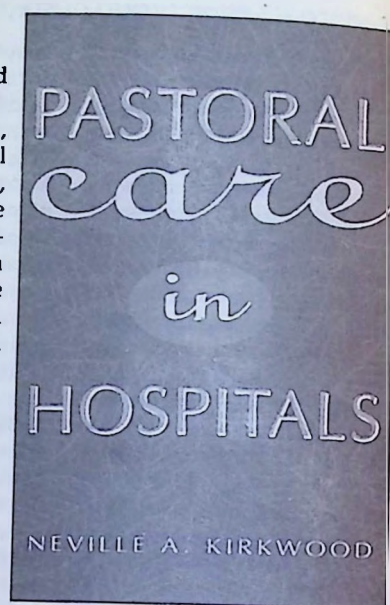
Books

Pastoral Care in Hospitals

by Neville A. Kirkwood (E.J. Dwyer) \$24.95.

Dr Neville Kirkwood, who has been a hospital chaplain for some 16 years, has produced a readable and useful book about hospital ministry. This is not a specialist book for those who are experienced in hospital ministry, but an informative book for those new to pastoral ministry. The book is practical rather than academic, which is its value to those needing an introduction to the work of pastoral care in hospitals. The book is significant because it has been written by an Australian practitioner of pastoral care and has an Australian publisher. The book focuses on the areas of understanding the patient, the basis of hospital visitation, the importance of the carer's self-awareness, theological reflection and some ethical issues. This is an essential manual for those beginning hospital ministry, or for those wanting to reflect on their pastoral ministry.

—Glen Wegner



Papers

Dismantling the Walls that Divide Listening to the sufferers, reflecting on the beatitudes: an approach to mental illness

by Chris Brown (Zadok Paper S78) \$5.

The abstract of this paper in the Zadok series gives much of the intent of the paper:

"Four years of contact with people who experience mental illness have exposed us to deep human suffering, oppression and marginalisation. We have sought to place ourselves in their position and have freshly encountered the teaching and example of Jesus concerning poverty of spirit, sense of place, comfort, mercy and justice. Four of the beatitudes contained in Matthew 5 have assisted us to tackle the barrier of fear which stands in the way of our extending love to those who suffer deeply. Our experiences, the insights of those who are familiar with suffering and the teachings and example of Jesus all help to shed light on the personal transformation which is necessary for us to love others and work for their freedom."

Chris Brown became involved with people who experienced mental illness through a South Brisbane based para-church friendship network "Waiters Union".

This paper reflects on the beatitudes and their offering of hope and the plight of the marginalised in our society because of mental illness. Interesting insights that could be helpful in many situations (not just for those with or ministering to people suffering from mental illness).

Available for \$5 (includes postage) from the Zadok Institute, 59 Scotchmer St, Fitzroy North, Vic 3068 (Phone/fax (03) 9482 6442).

—CRA

Pitts Farewelled

Keith and Frances Pitt leave Parkdale

On 15 December 1995 the church at Parkdale, Vic, held a special function to farewell Keith and Frances on completion of three consecutive terms of ministry amounting to 13 years.

Keith had already been recognised for his services to religious education in schools in the area and by the Mordialloc Inter Church Council, but rep-

resentatives of both groups still attended the farewell and spoke positively about the contribution he had made in their respective areas of service. In particular, Keith had been President of the ICC for a time and provided excellent ideas and leadership over a number of years.

Speakers attested to Keith's ministry as pastor and through

the provision of special services of worship, such as Harvest Thanksgiving, Spring Flower Festival and seasonal services at Advent and Easter.

Frances has been a faithful and active member of the CWF group, being President and Treasurer at various times. She has given willingly of her talents as organist and in floral arrangements. At their Christmas break-up, the CWF honoured Frances with a "This is Your Life" book and a presentation of a crystal vase.

We feel we have participated in the development of their family, all of whom completed their

education, found employment and have married during their term. Keith and Frances have shared all these events with us and offered the hospitality of the manse most generously.

The good wishes of the Church were extended to Keith and Frances through a formal gift of a clock and a wallet of notes "from the hearts and purses of the congregation", the generosity of which was testimony to the affection in which they are held. We wish them God's blessing as they seek his leadership for the future.

—Arthur Scott

(Secretary, Parkdale, Vic)

Tony and Elaine Butters

Missionaries from Tasmania

Tony and Elaine Butters, from the Launceston church, have been appointed as Director of Finance and Administration at Madang, PNG. They replace Fred and Tricia Forbes, who returned to Queensland last December. Max and Rae Thompson from SA are presently doing this work until the Butters arrive on 29 February, subject to visas and work permits.

They are presently on deputation in Tasmania until 8 February, and then in Victoria from 11–21 February. Churches interested in having them speak



• Tony and Elaine Butters

at their church or a group, or accepting them as their living link support, please contact Jack Edwards, 109 Willesden Road, Oakleigh Vic 3166, or phone (03) 9568 1825.

Kenmore Leadership

Rod Tippet retires as Principal

It is with sadness that Kenmore Christian College, Qld, announces the retirement of Rodney Tippet as Principal from 31 December 1995.

Rod joined the staff of Kenmore in July 1989 and has served as a faculty member for six and a half years, of which the past five have been as Principal.

Rod brought almost 30 years of ministry experience with him, most of which as Chaplain in the Australian Armed Forces.

While he was principal, the College gained its initial accreditation of its Diploma and Associate Diploma courses with VETEC (now TEQ). The decision to move from a BTh program to the BMin program was also taken under Rod's leadership. He was particularly responsible for the development of a deeper working relationship with other theological colleges in Brisbane. However, Rod's primary commitment was to his students. Many hours both inside and outside the classroom were invested in them, providing pastoral care and vocational guidance. More specifically, Rod was responsible for the development of a significant program of Supervised Field Education. His unique contribution will be greatly missed.



• Rod Tippet

Rod leaves the College to take up his PhD studies with Griffith University in the field of Australian church history. The College wishes him well in these studies. He will continue to assist the College by lecturing in a part-time capacity.

The Board of Management wishes to acknowledge with deep gratitude the contribution which Rod and Jenny Tippet have made. An official recognition of their contribution will be made at the opening celebration of the new College year on 16 February.

The Board has appointed Randall Edwards as Interim Principal for a period of up to two years, until a more permanent appointment can be made.

Ministry Training

by
Correspondence

• Nondenominational • Evangelical • Start any time

DIPLOMAS
MASTERS DEGREES
DOCTORAL DEGREES

DEGREES
(prerequisite: degree,
any discipline)

Specialisations available: Bible, theology, counselling, church ministries, education, missions, comp. religion (incl. cults) and apologetics (incl. archaeology)



Pacific College
PO Box 21, St Leonards Tas 7250
or phone (03) 9354 8941

Jeff Weston—The Interview

Jenny Ellis

A yearning for adventure 22 years ago was a turning point for the man who now leads the Australian Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board. Jeff Weston took up the position of Executive Director of the Board on 1 January, having spent the past twelve months as Assistant Director.

His first taste of cross-cultural ministry came in the early 1970s. Jeff was working in Melbourne as a carpenter when his desire for adventure prompted him to investigate the possibility of overseas missionary service.

"I went to Papua New Guinea as the mission carpenter in July 1974 for a three-year term, with a wife and a new baby," he said.

"It was really out of a sense of adventure. I didn't really feel some sort of pious calling from God to suddenly become a mission carpenter."

"The thing about it was that it was the transition point in my life, while I was there I felt a strong calling to come home and train for ministry and to look at moving out of carpentry and into pastoral work."

Upon his return to Australia, Jeff studied for a Bachelor of Theology Degree, then spent 14 years pastoring churches in Darwin and Hobart.

A three-month stint at an Aboriginal community in Normanton in far north Queensland, after he completed his Hobart ministry, rekindled Jeff's desire to work in cross-cultural ministries.

Shortly after, Jeff was appointed to the position of Assistant Director of the Overseas Mission Board.

Jeff sees his new position as entailing two main responsibilities; acting as a middle man between overseas churches and the Australian Churches of Christ; and "awakening within the Australian church a desire for mission".

He said it can be difficult to encourage churches to look beyond their own walls.

"In some respects the church is becoming more secular in the sense that it is becoming more self-interested.

It's becoming more interested in its own personal growth and it's not always looking out beyond its walls to see what God is calling it to," Jeff said.

The Overseas Mission Board is currently working in partnership with national churches in Zimbabwe, India, PNG, Vanuatu and Fiji, at the invitation of members of those churches.

"In Churches of Christ work, we've always gone at the invitation of national people," Jeff said.

"With some missionaries agencies, they followed on the back of colonisation, but we've never gone in and said 'Hey we're here and we're going to do something for you people.'"

"That has even deepened in the last 20 years, because even when I went to Papua New Guinea there was a sense of 'We were the white people who came with all of the resources and all of the knowledge and we were going to reach all of these PNG nationals with the gospel.'"

Modern missionaries are posted on the basis of job descriptions supplied by the national churches and most serve in training roles.

"Where it is leading in the future is that we will just be sending people for short terms, say six to twelve months, to



fulfil a specific training role with national people," Jeff said.

Australian Churches of Christ's track record and close relationship with national churches opens doors for its staff in the mission field.

"In most countries now it is very difficult to gain work permits and visas, so there is a lot of discussion between the national churches and their governments about the reasons for wanting people to come and the position those people will fulfil when they come," Jeff said.

It was really out of a sense of adventure

"We've found, in fact, that in just about every country we're working in we don't have all that much difficulty obtaining visas be-

cause the people we are sending are highly skilled people and we have a track record in training national people."

"We've got to assist people to move from a dependence situation to an independence situation," he said. "It would be wrong of us to go to a country and encourage the people to always be dependent on overseas aid."

This approach to outreach has paid off. For example, in the last 40 years churches supported by the Australian Churches of Christ in PNG have grown to include more than 7,000 members.

"It is continuing to grow rapidly because it is national people reaching national people," Jeff said. As well, a number of nationals have been trained as carpenters, school teachers, of-

fice workers and professional fishermen.

"In Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Zimbabwe there is a clan mentality, so if one person benefits, the whole clan benefits", Jeff said.

Jeff is keen to encourage church members to become personally, not just financially, involved in mission. "We've had a number of people who have used their annual vacation to go to somewhere like Vanuatu and help in the office and get to know the people," he said.

Attitude is the most important qualification for a modern-day missionary.

"We don't want people who are of the attitude that we have to go out to these savages who are primitive and don't understand the basic concepts of being civilised," Jeff said.

"We want people who are saying 'These people are of value and worth and I want to be a partner with them in spreading the Gospel, and encourage them and resource them so they can do the work.'"

"There are 15,000 to 20,000 people overseas who are Christians and they wouldn't be but principally for the ministry of the Australian Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board," he said.

Jeff sees a bright future for the cross-cultural ministry of the Australian Churches of Christ.

"It is becoming easier (to promote mission work) with some churches because there are a number of thinking people who are keen to see the church looking out," he said.

I believe that there is a big world out there and it is only by encountering that world that we start to experience the wonderful and great things of God," Jeff said.

Jenny Ellis is a professional journalist and a member of the Wollongong Church of Christ.

Letter to a Church Leader

Ted Keating

Ted writes to a fictitious local church leader. Trevor, a new graduate from the Wollongong Campus of the NSW Churches of Christ Theological College, has become the church's first full-time minister.

Dear Mike,

Thanks for your letter. Congratulations! You have finally inducted your first full-time minister. You will enjoy having Trevor and Wendy with you in ministry. Mike, even though this is a wonderful time for you and the church, it may be one of the most difficult for you personally. You have helped build the church from one that first met in your lounge room nine years ago. The development of the property and the building have both been outstanding efforts and a tribute to your great leadership. I'm also aware of the encouragement you gave the congregation to extend themselves to support a full-time minister.

Why will it be difficult? You are such a strong and inspiring leader that unless you and

Trevor understand each other, it may be a little like having two cooks in the kitchen. Trevor will also want to use some initiative and introduce some new concepts of outreach. It may mean new directions! I pray that both of you

will have a wonderful and compatible relationship that features prayerful consultation.

You asked for some tips in looking after a new minister.

- Recognise his strengths and engage those. The elders can support Trevor in the areas where he is not as gifted.

- I liked your idea of drawing up a list of priorities for ministry right at the outset. This will enable both minister and church to know what areas need to receive attention.

- At times Boards and elders clash with their minister be-



cause they concentrate on "control" and their power of veto. Rather than make this mistake, encourage Trevor to be accountable, but give him the latitude to develop his ministry. In the initial stages, the elders should estab-

lish some guidelines about the extent of latitude and review them in six months.

- Build into the church calendar a review system where some elders can sit down with Trevor and honestly, in an affirming way, evaluate areas of ministry.

- The little affirmations, like remembering birthdays and anniversaries, are wonderful surprises that encourage a minister to love his people.

- Make sure Trevor and Wendy have adequate support groups from within and out-

side the church where they can share the joys and frustration's of ministry. The elders may not always be appropriate for this.

- As Trevor will minister to your church, let the church minister to him. He is a hard worker and will give more voluntary time than most others. However, make sure he has scheduled adequate time at home. Remember that Wendy has needs too. This is the first time she has been away from her family. Every now and then, in addition to their normal leave, give them a chance to look at other churches on Sunday.

- If your dream is fulfilled and the church begins to grow, appreciate that Trevor's role will begin to change too. He may not be able to fulfil those original expectations as he keeps up with the new people.

Have fun! Your original God-given vision has now started to come to fruition. It has come a long way since those early days in your lounge room.

Christian greetings,
Ted.

The Pain and The Privilege

Jenni Ashton

I recognise your name on the theatre list and head straight for your room. As I enter the doorway you jump off the bed and almost leap into my arms. I find myself holding you as close as I can. One look at your smiling face encourages a flood of memories, while the tears welling up in your eyes convey the pain of those memories.

It was almost two years ago now.

An afternoon that continues to linger in my mind as one of the most poignant in my unpredictable ministry as a hospital chaplain.

I remember being told of your mother's diagnosis—the malignant tumour—the speed of its growth—the lack of hope—the inevitable death. I remember my feelings of complete and utter helplessness as I introduced myself to you and your family, and wondered where that introduction would lead...

Once the funeral was over and the follow-up calls made,

your family became one of the many I hold close in my thoughts and prayers, but fail to keep in contact with. Until today, when you enter my life again, like a long lost friend and reawaken the depth of feelings I hold for you. I sense the heightening of your emo-

tions as I represent a time in your life that you have struggled to put behind you. And yet, that time in your life is the

link that draws us close and causes me to consider again the pain and privilege of ministry. The pain of watching human tragedy unfold and the privilege of witnessing the strength of human endurance. The pain of another's hopelessness and the privilege of being invited to stay close. The pain of losing a loved one to death and the privilege of making a friend for life.

Thank God for the pain and privilege of ministry. ❖

Jenni is Chaplain at Bethesda Hospital, our Churches of Christ hospital in Claremont, WA.

Helping You, Helping Young Australians



When you insure your home, contents, car, church or business with ANSVAR Australia, you can be assured of all the benefits you would expect from one of Australia's most respected established insurers.

Competitive rates. Fast, professional handling of claims. Individual attention and care.

But when you insure with ANSVAR you're doing much more than ensuring your peace of mind. You are ensuring a brighter future for Australia's youth.

That's because ANSVAR has no shareholders requiring dividends, so all surplus profits can be put back into the community

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

Developing alcohol awareness and education programs for young people is just one of these initiatives. Recently, ANSVAR distributed a special alcohol education film to all

Australian secondary schools. "The Choice is Yours" challenges viewers to consider the way in which alcohol can impact on their own lives and on society. Similar products are available throughout Australia from all ANSVAR offices.

ANSVAR is committed to this policy of responsible use of profits. So when you insure with ANSVAR, you insure a lot more than your valuables. You ensure a better future for all Australians.

ANSVAR

Australia Insurance Limited

A.C.N. 007 216 406

We're here for you

**Victoria
New South Wales
South Australia
Western Australia
Queensland**

20 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000. Phone: (03) 650 9711
419 Church Street, North Parramatta 2151. Phone: (02) 683 4166
202 Glen Osmond Road, Fullarton 5063. Phone: (08) 338 1900
8 Clive Street, West Perth 6005. Phone: (09) 321 6291
157 Ann Street, Brisbane 4000. Phone: (07) 221 8449

Hospital Chaplaincy

Hospital Chaplaincy

Glen Wegner

We welcome Glen Wegner to *The Australian Christian*. Glen is a full-time hospital chaplain. He will write his

World Vision Australia Overseas Positions

World Vision is a Christian relief & development organisation seeking to serve the poor in over 90 countries around the world. We are wanting to develop a pool of suitably experienced professionals who are interested in working overseas for periods of 12 months to 2 years. Vacancies for specific position in Africa and Indo-China arise periodically in the following areas:

Logistics and Commodities

- Receipt, storage, distribution, monitoring documentation and reporting associated with relief commodities.
- Management of the logistical components of relief operations, including maintenance of vehicles, road repair projects and general construction projects.

Health

- Implementation of health and nutrition programs based on local need.
- Planning, designing, documentation, evaluation, research and liaising with government entities.

Agriculture

- Technical assistance to subsistence farmers, including management of material inputs and education regarding appropriate agricultural technologies.
- Supervision and training.

Financial Accountants

- Development and implementation of the range of financial activities, including grant accounting.

All positions require at least 5 years specific task experience, proven cross-cultural sensitivity, excellent communication skills and relevant qualifications. Living in the developing world requires strength of character and personal maturity. Interested applicants must be supportive of the Christian orientation of the organisation and be able to work as part of an international team.

To register your interest, please send a detailed resume stating relevant experience, availability and motivation to:

The International Personnel Coordinator
World Vision Australia
GPO Box 399C
MELBOURNE VIC 3001
Fax: (03) 9287 2427



column once a month as a practical help for all concerned with hospital visitation.

Since WWII Chaplaincy or Pastoral Care departments have been estab-

lished in a growing number of hospitals. Visiting ministers and lay workers have always called at hospitals to visit their members and they continue to provide a valuable pastoral service. However, some hospitals, recognising the

contribution that pastoral care can provide to the healing process, have taken the initiative to establish and fund their own Pastoral Care departments.

The integration of chaplaincy into the hospital system has been evolving over the past 25 years. Previously, hospital chaplains were provided for and supported by local churches, and some still function this way.

In this context, pastoral ministry catered for the religious/

spiritual needs of patients, often with a strong priestly and sacramental focus, with such chaplains usually coming from traditional or established churches.

However, in recent years this focus has changed. Chaplaincy has become more ecumenical and pastoral. While sacramental ministry remains valuable, it's the pastoral focus which is of major importance. There is now a strong expectation by hospitals and the community that chaplains will have the capacity to minister ecumenically.

The chaplain's role is to care for staff as well as patients and their families. Chaplain's engagement with staff includes education and training programs, teaching about grief, stress, and understanding the needs of the terminally ill. Chaplains are available to assist staff during stress and be a resource person to facilitate debriefing following incidents of stress or crisis.

Expectations of chaplains have increased, with chaplains expected to function as professionals in a multi-disciplinary health care team. Chaplains need both personal and professional skills. The former relates to the personal qualities of the carer, while the latter relates to acquired pastoral and counselling skills.

The core work of chaplains is as time permits, making ward visits from patient to patient. Although routine (like pastoral visitation in the local church), this is indispensable as it connects with people, begins relationships and builds trust and credibility.

Chaplaincy is usually a team effort. Chaplains coordinate the work of volunteer chaplains visiting clergy and others. Cohesive team spirit in a pastoral care department is important as it becomes a mutually supportive resource for the pastoral care team.

Chaplaincy is usually a team effort

The first of Five Forums for 1996

What do we mean by New Testament Christianity?

This is the topic for the first forum to be conducted by the
Churches of Christ Theological College

(The National College of Churches of Christ in Australia)
at the

Mitcham Church of Christ

455 - 457 Springfield Road Mitcham Vic 3132
at 7.00 pm

10 March, 1996

Greg Elsdon and Stephen Curkpatrick

will introduce the topic
and invite response from a panel and those gathered.

This forum is designed to involve local congregations in Biblical and theological reflection on issues intrinsic to our roots as a people of God seeking to be both Biblical and contemporary in their proclamation and practices.

Other Topics in This Series

Does the Church Shoot Its Wounded?

Mission, Ministry and Leadership

Male Spirituality

The Church's Call to Participation in Justice

with Alan Niven at Doncaster Church of Christ

with Darrell Guder at Blackburn Church of Christ

with Graeme Chapman at Southern Community Church of Christ

with Merryl Blair at Willimastown Church of Christ

*Come and grow
through serious dialogue.*

Classified

BIRTHS

ARMSTRONG Lynette and Tony (Dianella WA) give thanks for God's gift of their first grandson, Jacob Phillip, born to Tania and Phillip (Launceston) 23 December 1995.

WEDDING

BOLDUAN-DALE Bob and Eve Bolduan have much pleasure in announcing the marriage of their daughter Kerrie Anne to Paul Dale at Kew on 30 December 1995.

GOLDEN WEDDING

BURTT Married 9 February 1946 at Oakleigh Church of Christ, Oakleigh, Vic, by the late Pastor Stan Neighbour, Bart and Margaret give thanks to God for 50 years of shared happiness. Congratulations from Allison and Wayne, Christine, Roger and Jacky, Janine and David, and ten grandchildren.

HILL-WERNER Cora and Les together with their family give thanks for 50 years. Married at Dimboola Church of Christ 26 January 1946 by the late C. Jackel. Congratulations and love, Corinne and Bruce, Rhonda and Vyron, Noel, Bronwyn and Ian, Phillip and Mary, and nine grandchildren.

DEATHS

LITTLEJOHN (BOWRING) Florence Alma B.E.M. Passed away peacefully at her home in Red Hill on 10 January 1996, aged 83 years. Dearly loved wife of Herbert William (dec'd), loving mother of Thelma, Edward, Jean and Ian, mother-in-law of Doreen, Donald and Beth. Adored grandmother of eleven. "A lifetime of beautiful memories, A lifetime made beautiful by kindly deeds, And in God's hands you are now blessed, In our hearts you will stay, Loved and remembered every day, Reunited in peace with Dad.

PARK (nee Ewers) Grace Emily, of Wembley WA. Passed away 12 December 1995, aged 86 years. Grand-daughter of D.A. Ewers. Daughter of Kate and Rob Ewers. Sister of Dorrie (Elliott) dec, Dave (dec) and Frank (dec). Cherished wife of Lewis for 63 years. Lovingly remembered by Margaret, Roberta, Frances, Dorothy, Georgina and families. "I have finished the course. I have kept the faith."

TORLEY Ian Francis Passed away 24 December 1995. Dearly loved husband of Lois, loved father of Andrew and Jamie (dec). Devoted Gramps to Stephen, devoted Pop to Jonathan, Hannah and Bryce. We thank God for him.

WARMBRUNN (Ford) Irene Called home by her Lord and Saviour on 4 January 1996, aged 79 years. Lov-

ing wife of Clive (dec). Much loved mum of Eris, Darren (dec) and Marion. Adored and devoted Nana of Bronwyn, Carolyn and Kristen. Mum, Dad and Darren reunited and forever with their Lord.

ACCOMMODATION

QUEENSLAND CURRUMBIN Beach frontage cottage to let throughout 1996. Rental \$200.00 per week. Phone (07) 3870 9002.

FOR SALE

Two lift-top desks. Fourteen steel frame primary chairs. (Price negotiable). Phone (03) 9569 8727.

HOLIDAYS

AYR, NORTH QUEENSLAND Travelling up the Queensland coast? Stop over in the "Bountiful Burdekin" at Ayr Shamrock Motel. Friendly service, reasonable rates. Phone (077) 83 1498. Owned and managed by Dudleigh Oakes.

GRAMPIANS SUNRISE HOLIDAY UNITS Modern FSC, 6 2-BR units, 1 3-BR cottage, games room. Superb views, farm setting with hand-fed animals. Suit family holidays, reunions, small group camps or retreats. Speak to Bruce or Marilyn Bertram (053) 56 6300.

"GUMTIPS" BED AND BREAKFAST offers you a private double room with en suite and cooked breakfast. Guest lounge with full-size billiard table. Quiet bush setting at Grantville (20 minutes from Phillip Island) \$85 per double. Les and Fran Peters (056) 78 8384.

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 & VICTOR HARBOR SA are perfect holiday spots. 2 and 3 bedroom self-contained units in each location for hire. More Uniting Church-owned units at Belair, in the Adelaide foothills. Phone UCA (08) 212 4066.

PERSONAL

CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL. Worldwide friendships, penfriends, holidays, possible exchange visits. For single Christians. Details—CFFI, 39 Hoylecourt Drive, Baildon, Shipley, W. Yorks BD17 6ER, England.

A Church ABC

Dareton church commenced in 1929 out of a Sunday School held in a shed on a fruit block owned by the late Rudy Fechner. The new irrigation settlement

number of outlying stations up the Darling River and west to the South Australian border.

Keith is looking forward to the variety of ministry in the parish.

Focus on Dareton



arose from the Soldier Settlement Program after the First World War.

Dareton is in the Shire of Wentworth in south-west NSW, not far from Mildura, Vic, and is surrounded by the Coomealla irrigation area, a large grape growing centre. During the 1970s the church began cooperation with the local Methodist Church and later the Uniting Church of Australia. Buildings from three church properties were relocated onto a central site to form a most attractive modern complex.

Keith Thompson was inducted as the new minister in January 1996. He also serves the Wentworth church and a

At Dareton there is a Kids' Club with an enrolment of 80, women's groups and a Bible study program. Services are held each Sunday morning.

Over the years, local members have been deeply committed to working with Aboriginal people in the community. Following the recent commencement of worship and other activities among Aboriginal people, new cooperative links are developing between the two churches. At a recent annual parish dinner there were 120 present. The parish has some 150 members and associates. Churches in the parish other than Dareton have mostly a Uniting Church background. ❖

For all your car requirements see Ken Geyer

Ken Geyer

SELECT USED CARS

LMCT 6549

Ringwood Auto Gas

Accredited LP gas conversions
Ring for an obligation-free quotation

Ken Geyer Automotive

for reliable service or repairs
on your vehicle

Phone (03) 9879 4004

47 Bond Street, Ringwood 3134

The Troubles of a King

Viney Longthorp

When making improvements and reforms of any kind, we often have a propensity to throw out the baby with the bath water. For instance: for many of us "oldies", the history taught at school was little more than a roll call of the kings and queens of England. Then along came Manning Clark who successfully advocated the study of Australian history. So out went Elizabeth I and the Spanish Armada, King John and the Magna Carta; in came the Eureka Stockade, Burke and Wills and Federation.

But as Clark was quick to point out, one of the significant aspects of any study of Australian history is an appreciation of what he called the "mental baggage" which came with the men and women of the first fleet. In the long run, it was felt, this type of baggage was more important in shaping the new nation than the other kind of baggage in the holds of the ships; notably the ploughs, the seed, the axes, the clothing.

This mental baggage was "Made in England; it consisted of ideals and ideas, traditions and convictions about God, social classes, political economy, justice, government, reason—all that we think of as Eighteenth Century Enlightenment. British history, then, has something to say to us Aussies

as we seek to understand and appreciate our emerging identity.

Back to the First Fleet. In Governor Arthur Phillip's ship's safe were Articles of Commission signed by His Gracious Majesty, King George III. Now, thanks to the art of the film-maker, we have an opportunity to have a closer look at this most interesting man. *The Madness of King George* is in every way great viewing. When we look both at the film as well as into it, we may be seeing more about ourselves than may be realised immediately.

That is one good reason to view it, but there are many other good reasons as well. To begin, it is a handsome film with a rich period look. Nigel Hawthorne (Sir Humphrey Appleby, in *Yes Minister*) lets fly with a bravura performance as the monarch afflicted by a mental disorder, whose behaviour scandalised the court and prompted some royal scheming among family and politi-



When we look at the film, we may be seeing more about ourselves than may be realised immediately

cians. Poor George, had he been alive today, his disabilities would have been much better understood and the treatment far more effective.

That leads to another good reason for seeing the film. It offers an appreciation of progress in the treatment of illnesses. Today the word "progress" is suspect. Because, for example, of emerging problems of the environment due to widespread industrialisation, we are beginning (rightly) to question what

we mean by progress. But in the field of medicine we have real achievement. Note in the film the so-called "cures" as applied to the hapless monarch. One practitioner does not even want to examine the patient. Rather, on the basis of second-hand reports, he prescribes "blisterings", "blood-lettings" and "purges". These were based on the teachings of the ancient Greeks. Others were more interested in the contents of the royal potties, not so much for diagnoses but as a means of divination.

The film also offers exercise for the historical imagination—always a help in forming a sense of identity for any community. Thus we see poor King George forever ruining the loss of his American colonies. For many this is his chief claim to fame. But he need not have been so

distressed. Many historians have been quick to point out that Britain could never have controlled America for long when all too soon America became an economic colossus. It is intriguing to watch a monarch who reigned rather than ruled. George presided over events far greater than he or most of his ministers were aware of.

The film begs a comparison of the problems of the king's household with those of the present royal family. Such problems are the central themes of the film. The Prince of Wales of that time was kept waiting in the wings for a long time, since his father lived to a ripe old age—in spite of the doctors!

What makes a successful monarch? Well, George was not always loved. In 1775, John Wesley had to admit that most people "heartily despise His Majesty, and hate him with a perfect hatred". But times and circumstances changed. For George in his madness, so called, was a better monarch than many others in all their sanity.

He became very popular, since it was obvious that he was the icon of Britain's "greatest century". He identified with the new agricultural prosperity—he was known as "Farmer George"—and like the contemporary leader of another country, was interested in the better breeding of pigs. He became a figure-head in the defeat of Napoleon. And in spite of some difficulties, his family life was admired because of its simplicity and wholesomeness. Thus it was in his reign that the song "God Save the King" became the national anthem.

Though this film is a beautiful spectacle and highly entertaining in the best sense of the word, it possesses a deeply serious undercurrent.

It is a timely reminder of the ways of history and the ways of God in history. ❖

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"

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

Comment

"AC" Editors—C.R. Ambrose

Mary Ambrose

In response to a request by the Board of "The Australian Christian", Mary Ambrose adds to her previous "Historical Digest" article on "Editors of The Australian Christian". This time she reviews the immediate past Editor, Chris Ambrose.

Chris grew up in a theologically conservative home and joined the Hobart Church of Christ when he was twenty. He graduated from the University of Tasmania with an Economics degree and gained experience in taxation and accounting before entering the College of the Bible in 1975. Chris undertook student ministries at East Kew, Croydon and Pascoe Vale, Vic, churches. He completed a Bachelor of Divinity and was ordained to the work at *The Australian Christian*, where his previous experience enabled him to carry out the business management role.

As sub-editor/manager he learned much about the tradition of *The Australian Christian* from his predecessors and Gordon Stirling. As Editor, G.R. Stirling contributed articles, undertook widespread deputa-

tion work and was ultimately responsible for the policy of the journal, but the everyday running and production was Chris's job. (Shirley Wallis had been part-time office secretary for A.E. White and continued for many years in this role.)

Chris learned to "put the paper to bed" using a photo off-set printing press and he also used an obsolete hand-operated addressograph machine for the address labels. Aided by a substantial gift from the Vic-Tas CWF, desktop publishing computers were purchased and *The Australian Christian* became one of the first Australian Religious Press Association members to use such facilities in its production.

Chris was appointed Editor of *The Australian Christian* in 1989. His ability to read voraciously, absorbing the contents of hundreds of books and articles, enabled him to maintain an awareness of current issues pertaining to biblical scholarship, theology, local, national and worldwide church affairs. His intention was to produce a balanced presentation of news, devotional, theological, pastoral and ecumenical material.

The computers and equipment needed to produce *The Australian Christian* by desktop publishing necessitated the use of more space than was available in the office, which was located in the North Essendon church and had been graciously

organised for A.E. White when the Austral closed. Many subscribers donated money when a special appeal was made, enabling renovations to be carried out and a much larger office to be established and equipped.

Chris served terms as Treasurer, Secretary and President of The Australian Religious Press Association. He is a member of the Federal Literature Committee, the Australian Committee of the World Convention of Churches of Christ and the Executive of the World Convention Committee, and has served on the Federal Conference Executive and the later National Conference Executive.

In a period when subsidised newspapers of many religious and charitable bodies were ceasing to exist because of insurmountable financial difficulties relating to printing costs, publishing and postage, *The Australian Christian*, with its limited number of subscribers in a small body of people, has continued, often precariously. Maybe our churches will never fully realise how much that survival depended first, on Alf White and later, on Chris Ambrose. ❖

Maybe our churches will never fully realise how much that survival depended first, on Alf White and later, on Chris Ambrose

AN UNFORGETTABLE HOLIDAY

as a valued guest at the
Daku Estate Resort, FIJI

Tours departing over June-August, 1996

The Daku Estate Resort is owned & operated by the Anglican Diocese of Polynesia with a dual purpose - to help generate funds for local villages, schools & churches, & to provide overseas visitors with a unique insight into the "real Fiji" by developing friendship with the Fijian Christian community. This is not your normal tourist fare - this is vintage Fiji without all the tinsel - few people ever get to enjoy it as you now can. The resort is set on the shores of Savusavu Bay, one of Fiji's renowned beauty spots.

Tour cost is a modest \$2,250* (ex Melb) & \$2,150* (ex Syd) & includes all airfares, meals, touring & entertainment.

conquest
Tours
Licence No. 21A003969

For details, call John or Beth Bridgford
10 Yoolarai Cres., Nelson Bay, NSW 2315
Telephone (049) 842-363

FOR A NEW HOLDEN SEE MURRAY ECKERT

OVER 25 YEARS EXPERIENCE
as a master sales consultant.

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

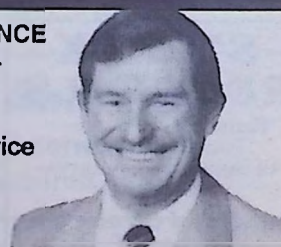
Member of Blackwood
Church of Christ.

**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



Bedlam in Bethlehem

Alan Matheson

Bedlam in Bethlehem and chaos in Calvary dominated the news in the Holy Land at Christmas 1995.

For the first time in twenty-eight years, Israeli troops were no longer patrolling Manger Square and a record six thousand people a day were visiting the grotto where Jesus was said to be born.

So how did the Christmas editorials respond?

Secular

An intriguing theme of the 1995 editorials was the suggestion that Australia was becoming more secular. The Brisbane *Courier Mail* saw it as "an increasing secular world"; in Perth "the more secular our society becomes, the more frantic appears the urge to celebrate the festive season," said *The West Australian*; and in Hobart, "our current secularisation is an entirely new experiment, unprecedented in human history."

Religious books, for example, outsell every other publication in the United States of America; Australia has never seen so many journals and books and organisations given over to things spiritual and even in Hobart, the editorial writer noted that, "Crowds bigger than for the footy grand final and the test match combined, were at just one Carols by Candlelight service."

If we are becoming more secular, why do editors continue to run highly religious and, in some aspects, deeply spiritual, reflections in the pages of their papers?

Anxiety

There was also anxiety with two other issues.

The first was multiculturalism. The national paper, *The Australian*, usually containing some of the most thoughtful reflection on multiculturalism, highlighted "tensions that have arisen as a result of a form of multiculturalism which considers Christmas should be dumped".

Having spent three decades in the midst of migration and multiculturalism debates, I have yet to hear such a proposition.

In contrast, both the Sydney and Perth editors were much more positive and creative.

The West Australian editorial writer, reflecting on the significance of festivals and rites of passage, wrote of "ethnic and Aboriginal communities, which play such a vital part in

our society, reminding us of the cohesive force and vibrant energy that ancient symbols, ceremonies and festivals can retain—even in an age as cynical as our own".

The writer of the *Sydney Morning Herald* editorial noted that, "In multicultural Australia the contrast of Christmas obliges Christians to reach out in understanding and acceptance

to all people ... Christmas shows all people are of infinite worth to God ... It provides the basis of a thoroughly multicultural society. It calls Australians forward to a world where all people are of equal worth and to abandon the last vestiges of superiority of any class or race."

For the Christian, multiculturalism with its commitment to justice, equality and dignity, reflects what Christians call the Kingdom of Heaven. Appearing also in a number of editorials, were expressions of concern for the great Australian enthusiasm for gambling. In Victoria 2.1 billion dollars were spent gambling in 1995; shareholders in the Melbourne Casino picked up in the past year a neat 1 billion dollars profit.

While Melbourne readers were being warned that "a large slice of Yuletide money was being spent in chancing our arm with Lady Luck", I wonder what Sydney readers thought of the suggestion that the opening of casinos in all states was, in short, "evil".

Real Christmas

Again it was the *Sydney Morning Herald* which conveyed the most challenging of all the Christmas reflections. The

writer concluded, "The real Christmas makes a tremendous appeal to all people. The message is abiding. It points to the forgiveness of God whose justice is unquestioned and who accepts the best and worst of us. It holds up a beauty of selfless giving and releases unlimited joy into human relationships. It enhances the family and provides the basis for reconciliation with God and with each other. It calls the world from materialism, which places a blight on the human spirit, to a spiritual interpretation of existence. The contrast of Christmas is the hope of the world."

On Christmas Day, the Melbourne *Herald Sun* wrote of a priest asking a Bosnian family who had lost their father and were now settled in Australia, what they thought of the war. "When we were on the farm," they replied, "occasionally there would be a drought and the crops would fail. Then we would wonder why anyone should believe in God. But after everything that has happened in these five years, now we wonder why God believes in us."

The Australian Roman Catholic Cardinal in his editorial (*Catholic Weekly* 24. 12.95) wrote, "Christmas demands a response from us all. We cannot remain non-committal. Christmas calls us all to a profound conversion of mind and heart. It is only with such a conversion that we can hope to turn our lives around, otherwise Christmas is nothing more than just another public holiday with no lasting or worthwhile consequences."

That response applies to you and I as much as it does to editorial writers and their readers.

Alan is a member of our Camberwell, Vic, church and received an Order of Australia for services to ethnic industrial equity on Australia Day.

Attention—Keyboard Players

- Do you enjoy playing good contemporary music ?
- Do you enjoy playing an electronic synthesizer—Roland E86 ?
- Would you like to play with a trumpet, flute and guitar ?
- Would you be prepared to be involved in the growth of a small but progressive church ?

Interested?

**We can help you
and you can help us.**

An assistant keyboard player is required to play once a month or twice a month at

Chadstone Church of Christ, 147 Waverley Road, Chadstone, Vic.
Phone Steve Smith (03) 9557 2778.

When the Whole World's Jewish

Lawrence Hirsch

When I was a young boy, I used to listen to a record album of Jewish comedians called *When You're in Love, the Whole World's Jewish*. The title of the album used to confuse me, since most people in the world were not Jewish. I used to wonder what falling in love had to do with being Jewish. However, I'd enjoy listening to the skits and songs that celebrated Jewish culture and humour.

Now that I am older, a believer in Jesus and a missionary, I think I have finally worked out what that sentiment means. I doubt that my understanding reflects the original intention of the producer, but it seems to me that when you are in love with Jesus, the whole world's Jewish. At least, the world seems Jewish to me, since I bump into so many Jewish people in the most mundane everyday encounters.

Well, how mundane can you get? What about a blocked drain?

Blocked drains remind us of a part of our lives we would rather forget. Little did I know that when I woke up to the awful stench, there may have been an eternal plan in action. I looked through the Yellow Pages and called a plumber. Once David had finished his work, he asked me what I did for a living. Since my occupation involves my faith, and since I have a most unusual juxtaposition of being Jewish and believing in Jesus, I love it when people ask what work I do, because it gives me an opportunity to talk about Jesus. As it turned out, David's father was Jewish, and he expressed an interest in the gospel. He eventually left with a cheque for the job and a book about the Messiah.

If you think that's not mundane, what about a shoe-repair?

My wife's favourite pair of shoes broke and when she took

them to the local cobbler, she discovered that he was a Russian Jew. Excited about this, I volunteered to pick up the repaired shoes, hoping for an opportunity to talk about the Gospel with him. Although language was a barrier, Vlad was reasonably interested and so I promised to return with some Russian literature. A few weeks later we were buying shoes for the family at the Victoria Market. Out of all the shops we

could have chosen, we "happened" to buy our shoes from a Jewish shopkeeper who "happened" to ask me that wonderful question, "So, what work do you do?"

Another contact!

From shoes to cars. After looking for a second-hand car in the *Trading Post*, I made an appointment with a man to view his vehicle. I suspected, after the phone conversation, that he might be a Russian Jew. I was right, but would you believe that Sam was also a shoe salesman! At that point I thought that God must have a special interest in the shoe trade. Sam asked the inevitable question, so I was able to tell him about Jesus. He said he was not very religious but that his daughter would love to speak to me. Even though I did not like his car, I really did appreciate the opportunity that God gave me to witness to him.

Around the same time I needed a haircut and so I ven-



Sam asked the inevitable question, so I was able to tell him about Jesus

tured into the local hairdressers. Should I have been surprised when I found out that the hairdresser was a young Russian Jewish woman who was open enough to accept a Russian-Hebrew Bible and some Russian literature?

God surprised us yet again when the newly-arrived volunteer for our handicapped daughter said, "I hear that you have faith, please tell me about it". It was obvious to us that Lindy was really seeking

a relationship with the Lord. As we shared our faith in Jesus with her, we found out that Lindy had a grandfather who was Jewish. We continue to share with Lindy as she helps us with Sarah once a week and we pray that she will soon come to faith in Jesus as her Messiah.

As missionaries we are always looking for opportunities to share our faith. We deliber-

ately place ourselves in positions where we hope to have a witness—like going out onto the streets to hand out gospel tracts or visiting Jewish people in their homes. But how wonderful it is when God, in his providence and sovereignty, connects us with someone who is open to the message, especially when we expect it least.

It is true that when you are in love with Y'shua, the whole world becomes your mission field. God gives us all many opportunities to share the good news of the Messiah in our day-to-day events.

Would you pray that God will help you recognise those opportunities? Would you pray especially that God will give you opportunities to share your faith with a Jewish person? Let my people know: Messiah has already come and we can celebrate Him Now.

❖ *Lawrence Hirsch is a church planter in Melbourne who has links with our South Melbourne Restoration Community. He has been appointed recently the Lausanne Consultant on Jewish Evangelism and area coordinator for Australia and New Zealand.*



330-350 Frankston-Dandenong Road
Seaford 3198
Phone (03) 9786 8679

**Managed by
Church of Christ
Frankston**

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

L. C. F. Higgins

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

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



Chartered Accountant

Pastor Required

The Forest Hill Church of Christ near Mt Barker in Western Australia is looking for expressions of interest for the position of part-time pastor.

Those who respond should be able to show leadership in the fellowship and be a good Bible teacher. This person needs to be looking at this as an opportunity to serve God in this way and be able to support themselves part-time. Those interested, and for more information, please contact Mr Ray Pickens on (098) 51 2192, or write to the Church Secretary, PO Box 442, Mt Barker WA 6324.

"An Impossible Dream" (by Ruth & Keith Skillicorn)

Rejoice with the Skillicorns in the publication (by invitation) of their above-mentioned book on the Internet at:-

<http://www.sccsi.com/Imartin/d/TOC.html>

Also by invitation (from the W.H.O.) they conduct their "Forum on Leprosy" at:-

<http://www.who.ch/programmes/lep/keith.htm>

Their "home page" for discussion on theological, social & environmental issues is at:-

<http://dove.mtx.net.au/~rkskilli/dovehpag.html>

R & K Skillicorn, 292 Milne Road, Modbury Heights SA 5092
Phone (08) 265 0417 E-mail rksilli@dove.mtx.net.au



Positions for Registered Psychologists

ITIM invites Expressions of Interest from Psychologists who are registered or undergoing supervision for registration and are seeking to work as part of a team providing services to South Australian workplaces.

Our organisation is at the forefront in delivering pastoral care, counselling, training and consultancy programs to a large variety of private enterprise, government and non-government service organisations.

We are a non-profit organisation and our purpose, culture and activities are based on Christian values and 35 years of pioneering and leadership in our field.

Availability to work on-staff or in a contract relationship can be explored.

Please ring Ruth Prescott on (08) 224 0004 to obtain further information or mail a written response by 15th March 1996 -

To:

ITIM, 99 Halifax Street, Adelaide, SA, 5000.

Interchurch Trade & Industry Mission
- Caring for People at Work -

Werribee Baptist Church

is seeking a

Part-Time Youth Pastor

To join our Existing Pastoral Team

The position is 2.5 days per week

This position has the oversight and development of the youth ministry of the church fellowship.
Applicants must have a commitment to Christ and to ministry with youth.
Werribee Baptist is located in one of Melbourne's growth corridors.

For role description and application form contact

Rev John Evans, PO Box 1020, Werribee Plaza Vic 3030
Ph: (03) 9749 3166

Closing Date: 1 March 1996

This position is being readvertised

Commissioning Service For Tony and Elaine Butters

(Launceston Church of Christ, Tasmania)



to Director of Finance and Administration

Madang, Papua New Guinea

with Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board

Sunday 18 February 2.30 pm

Monash City Church of Christ (Glen Waverley)
41 Montclair Ave, Glen Waverley

Offering: overseas mission work
For deputation or Living Link support,
see news item page 11.



CONSIDERING MISSIONARY SERVICE?

We have the following positions available:

LOGISTICS/PURCHASING OFFICER

Located in Madang, Papua New Guinea. Experience in administration preferred.

VOLUNTARY WORKERS

Currently we have a number of opportunities available for short-term missionary service in Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. Opportunities also exist for Work Teams.



A duty statement for each position is available from the Executive Director, Australian Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board, 180a Gray St, Adelaide SA 5000
Phone (08) 212 4446 Fax (08) 212 6388

Personal

Changes

SMYTH A.W. & M.—Villa 86, St Ives Northshore Retirement Estate, 177 Dampier Avenue, Kallaroo WA 6025. Phone/fax (09) 402 4117.
GLEN WAVERLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST—Change name to Monash City Church of Christ. Address and telephone unchanged.
GISBORNE—Secretary: Mrs Rosemary Graham, PO Box 51, Gisborne Vic 3437, Treasurer: Mr Milton Perkins, PO Box 51, Gisborne Vic 3437.

Baptisms

•Patrea Quick, Bribie Island, Qld
•Sharon and Michelle Laffin, Morwell, Vic
•Bruce Pigdon, Marion McPherson, Marlene Andrew, Yarrawonga, Vic
•Laura Bryant, Belinda Criddle, Lisa Jessup, Kimberlie Prosser, Joshua Page, Matthew Ratcliff, Adrian Riessen, Happy Valley, SA
•Andrew Horstman, Warwick, WA
•Alison Driscoll, Harold Driscoll, Ann Sprague, Horsham, Vic
•Brenda Hon, Monash City, Vic
•Desmond Andrew, Dalby, Qld
•Jacquie Dollard, Kara-Lee Rabbetts, Naracoorte, SA

Marriages

•Matthew Moore and Kylie Fraser, Camarvon, WA
•Cindy Taylor and Rohan Waters, Frankston, Vic
•Karen Durand and Lance Hawkins, Maitland, NSW
•Rebecca Pitt and Ian Mason, Parkdale, Vic
•Lynda Howell and Matthew Pope, Metro North, NSW
•Catherine Preston and Brett Steinicke, Howrah, Tas
•Marie Coulson and Sid Wylie, Warwick, WA

Deaths

•Hugh Hince, Monash City, Vic
•Elma Hercott, Swan Hill, Vic
•John McCosker, Mayfield, NSW
•Arnold Farrar, Numurkah, Vic
•Ethel Spinks, Launceston, Tas
•Cameron Lang Smith, Lillian Chequer, Horsham, Vic

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words
Chequer, Mrs Lillian

Lillian Chequer was born at Dutchembegarra in 1908. She attended the Polkemet Church of Christ, being baptised in the Wimmera River by B.J. Combridge in 1920. She was later a member at Pimpinio, finally transferring to Horsham in 1942. She was active in the church as a regular attendee, at Evening Women's Fellowship and through teaching Sunday School. She was appreciated for

her hospitality and her fervent faith. Though blind for the past 25 years, she was admired for her independence, particularly her cooking and her ability to manage the wood stove. Sympathy is offered to Max, Lorraine (McDonald) Errol, Gary and the wider family.

—Harvey Clark

Park, Mrs Grace E.

(12.12.95) Born in Perth on 26 April 1908, Grace was a granddaughter of D.A. Ewers. Her parents, Rob and Kate Ewers were active in the church at Lake Street, Perth, and Grace grew up with the same strong faith and desire to serve. She was an effective Bible School teacher teaching Scripture in schools and in Christian Endeavour. There is no doubt that she and her husband, Lewis, contributed positively to the growth into Christ of many young people. At a packed memorial and thanksgiving service in the Wembley chapel, one of the speakers, Des Croot, said that in writing down some of her characteristics he was listing the fruits of the Spirit outlined in Galatians 5—a high tribute.

—GAE

Smith, Cameron Lang

Cameron, aged 19, died in an accident in the Grampians in December. He was the son of Faye and Neville Smith of Horsham and brother to Kate. Cameron attended Horsham College after his family moved to Horsham in 1989. In 1995 he studied social sciences at La Trobe University. Cameron was a regular attendee at Horsham church and played in the tennis team. He was a quiet, friendly boy who endeared himself to those who knew him. Cameron had a close circle of friends and enjoyed many holidays with family and friends in the Grampians, which he loved. Cameron was buried in Green Lake cemetery after a service in Horsham Church of Christ. —Harvey Clark

Have you thought of helping

"The Australian Christian"

In its ministry among
Churches of Christ?

Why not include us in your will?

The following wording could be used in your will:

I give and bequeath \$ (or a percentage of the total estate) to "The Australian Christian", the national journal of Churches of Christ in Australia, absolutely for the use and benefit of the organisation free from all debts, funeral and testamentary expenses.

Church News

WA

APPLECROSS (Sean Bainbridge) 100 attended ecumenical Advent service hosted by Applecross. Minister spoke on "Hope Fulfilled" ... Sunday school made delightful presentations to mark end of year ... Kids' Club concluded with an evening for all their families. Games, carols, candle tree. Well attended ... LiveWires finished year with pool party ... A very busy, but happy, December for the church.

CARNARVON In the absence of a minister our senior men are much appreciated as they fill the gap ... Two busy bees have seen the hall roof replaced ... The Christian school has completed its first year of operation using church facilities ... New Church Council working well ... Prayer breakfasts held monthly ... Mike Birch acting as administrator.

DIANELLA (Tony Armstrong) Church ended year on encouraging note ... Thanksgiving dinner in November ... Good attendances through Advent & Christmas services ... Choral group & newly-formed youth band contributing ... 7 baptisms & 2 baby dedications in November–December ... Kids' Club well established ... Break up tea & entertainment followed by carols night ... Bible student Rod Clarke elected to youth ministry.

WARWICK (G. Carslake, K. Bowes, R. Ratcliffe) 1,000 at-

tended 3 Christmas services ... Former Sport & Recreation Assoc chairman, Gary Archer, & family transferred to NSW ... Vivian family shifted to Singapore for job appointment ... Jan 96 morning services featured interviews with Nathan Boothman, "Man Overboard", Matthew & Carmel Basbach, "Mugged in Africa", Vicki & Lindsay Hope's written statement "Living with Cerebral Palsy" & Ken & Wendy Sym, "Too Hard to Handle" ... Jodie Drown commenced special Sports Ministry at Stadium.

NSW

CHATSWOOD (Rosalie Rofe) Ian Alves concluded eight-year ministry 26 November, with well-attended service & social event following. Tributes & thanks expressed for his family's fine contribution to the work at Chatswood & in community activities. His new ministry will commence at Rockdale in February ... Open day of Friendship Centre results in \$3,600 for "Care Flight" ... Chatswood joins in Carols in the Park (Willoughby).

MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins) Trivia social evening great success ... Singing group's first presentation last November ... Local television station used church buildings & background for Christmas Day program ... Jill Smith, Media Commission, special guest ... Minister was Santa at Green Hills Nursing Home residents' party.

Westside Church of Christ Ministry Profile

The Westside Church of Christ (Queensland) is seeking the services of a Senior Minister to lead a thriving congregation of approximately 150 people, from young families to mature adults, into the next century.

Westside Church of Christ is strategically located in the growing western suburbs of Brisbane, with great potential for growth.

The minister shall set the spiritual tone of the church by a passion for mission and inspire others through pastoral encouragement to participate in the fulfilment of that mission.

Significant qualities sought in such a person are:

- Sound Biblical teaching
- Initiative
- Ability to work in a team
- Good interpersonal communicator
- Capable administrator

Enquire in writing to: The Ministry Committee
Westside Church of Christ
PO Box 211
Mt Ommaney Qld 4074.

Or phone R. Edwards (07) 3378 7633.

All communications will be kept in the strictest confidence.

Church News

SUFFOLK (Stephen Templeton) Goals set for 1996—30% increase in attendances & 50% in giving ... Spiritual growth evident in new cell groups ... 5 baptisms ... 3 came forward seeking spiritual growth ... Minister studying post-graduate course while ministering part-time

METRO NORTH CHRISTIAN CENTRE (Franklyn Elliott, Lindsay McKeon) Church supported Carols in Waitara Oval ... Christmas Day service well attended ... Steve Roggero from Blackburn Baptist speaker on 21 January.

NT

DARWIN (Jim Larkham) Consistent attendance throughout the wet season ... Chandler family farewelled ... Regular Sunday evening meals shared by many ... Working bee well attended, trees planted & new signs erected ... Youth group activities have been met with enthusiasm.

Qld

BRIBIE ISLAND (Colin Smith) Church rejoices in baptism of Patrea Quick 5 November. Also welcomed into fellowship Rene Perrett, Jackie Stocks, Ken & Janine Matthews & family, Dr Neville & Vera Kirkwood ... Parent dedication held for Ken & Janine Matthews & thanksgiving for new baby Sheree ... Much rejoicing as congregation celebrated 100th birthday of Flo Thomas in September. She is able to attend morning service every Sunday ... 12 November special "Thanksgiving for Peace" service at which local Naval cadets paraded.

DALBY (Tony Ochse) Combined Christmas eve service held with Baptists ... Farewell luncheon held for youth minister Sue Colyer who is taking up position as chaplain to state high school in Dalby ... Board retreat held at Bunya Mountains very worthwhile.

REDCLIFFE (Adrian Risson) 170 attended Kidz Club concert ... Bible School evening & prize giving well supported by parents ... Choral presentation "Come to Bethlehem" held morning service 24 December ... Speakers in January were Eddie Free, Brian Albutt, Allan King & Ern Smith ... 40th Anniversary this year with many events planned July–September.

SA

NARACORTE (Steve Kitto) Jacqui Dollard & Kara-Lee Rabbetts baptised ... Monty & Wendy Gale welcomed into membership ... con-

gratulations to Craig & Cathy O'Connor on birth of baby daughter ... Many involved in carol singing from back of truck which was appreciated by community ... Friendship centre had busy year & ministry of encouragement to many people ... John & Ros Patterson spoke at SS Anniversary ... Melainie & Jennifer Verco joined family in Victor Harbor and will be missed.

HAPPY VALLEY (Andrew Ratcliffe) December was exciting month with seven young people baptised ... Young people led service at Goolwa ... Hub Club children participated in service with Christmas theme led by Raelene Ratcliffe ... 6 members who attended preaching classes spoke on theme of Christmas ... Carol singing concluded evening service for year.

Tas

HOWRAH (A. Blyth) Gifts sent to Hunt family, PNG, for Christmas ... Jonathan Morfiew raised \$330 in Bike for Bibles ... Allan Blyth and family farewelled 31 December ... Allan entering CCTC Carlingford for Pastoral Care & BD studies ... Tasmanian painting, blackwood clock and cheque presented as love gifts. Local mayor & community representatives present at farewell ... Paul Kerrison commences ministry in 1996.

LAUNCESTON (C. Spaulding, W. Kerrison, J. Ratcliffe) Church voted to acquire 2 properties adjoining church ... Christmas & holiday services well attended by visitors ... Tobler family farewelled to Qld 31 December ... 6 weeks of Summer special electives being held while small groups program in recess ... Jess Parry & Jack Edwards celebrated 90th birthdays ... Tony & Elaine Butters preparing for service in PNG.

NUBEENA (Gordon Henderson) Reg & Mary Noye retired as treasurers after 40 years, Phyllis & Ian Parker taken on the position ... Ethel Mundy home after lung transplant ... Church blessed Phillip Bloomfield as he left for Qld for work and to apply for 6-month course with YWAM ... Glenn, Anne & Jason Cumbers arrive 27 January ... Gordon and Gwen Henderson retire 29 February.

Vic

MORWELL (Alf Thistlethwaite) Bazaar raised over \$1,000 ... Dedication service for baby Andrew James Holka & parents 12 December ... Final service for Alf 23 December, with farewells to Alf & Alice

at BBQ & later at service. Church made presentations ... Scholars took part in service 17 December as they led & sang ... Andrew & Shelley Ogden to be inducted 2 February by Paul Cameron as they begin full-time service. Andrew is graduate of NSW College.

PARKDALE (Keith Pitt) Keith and Frances Pitt farewelled at well-attended evening 15 December. Keith taking long-service leave while awaiting God's leading for future ministry. Last sermon preached 7 January ... "Reverse" Christmas tree available for gifts suitable for hospital visitation. Tree was laden ... Church prayerfully awaits commencement of joint ministry with Ian Whitelock & Alby Fitt.

BAYSWATER (P. Clayton) Peter, Dorothy & Ashley Clayton welcomed at service 21 January ... Brendan Hughes home from US after three weeks with under 18s Vic Basketball team ... George and Wendy Elliott, William & Kenneth returning to PNG with Wycliffe Translators.

SWAN HILL (L. Edwards) B. Looney, G. Owers & J. Forrest speakers while minister on leave ... Board retreat planned for February ... Call to Commitment Program planned for April ... Many visitors welcomed during holidays ... Children's church and small groups recommenced.

YARRAWONGA (K. Thompson) CWF under leadership of Sylvia Thompson held annual service ... Dedication service for baby Hannah Leeworthy ... Joy over 3 adult baptisms ... Presbyterians combined with us for Christmas service ... Leaders and children attended Cheshunt camps in Jan ... Keith and Sylvia Thompson farewelled 7 January.

WERRIBEE (G. Batley) Lyne family farewelled in December on departure for Qld. ... G. Batley commences part-time ministry in February ... Carols by Sunlight held in church grounds with three local schools ... Explorer team in Murray Marathon ... Mark Urquart finished 404 km course, was 6th in his class.

PRESTON (R. Bone, M. Janssen, K. Twining) Christmas Eve midnight service great success. Guest artist Laurie Elshaug. Item by Greek Church and sparkler finale ... Theme for 1996 "Do Your Dreams" ... Family services continue last Sunday each month ... Courses for 1996: Parenting, Theodynamics, Marriage Enrichment, Christianity Explained ... Heather & Geoff Crossman will minister at Coburg in 1996.

NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn) G. Crossman speaker at service 10

December, followed by lunch when prayer partners renewed ... Church represented at carols in Batman Park and Inter Church Carols at Fairfield ... CWF had lunch at home of L. Nation ... Evening services resume in February.

SPRINGVALE (J. Carmichael) 5 new members welcomed, including Elva Head & Sri Lankan couple ... Cathy Matthews approved by CCTC for probationary student ministry course ... Folk from other churches helping with music backing and song leading in new format Reachout services starting 11 February ... Theme is Celebrate Sunday.

LYSTERFIELD (S. Wilkerson) Inaugural meeting held 7 January at Lysterfield Primary School ... Service led by Stuart Peterson, solo by Mary-Anne Allan, challenging message by S. Wilkerson. Barbecue followed and enjoyed by all.

KANIVA (P. Bauer) Lunch followed SS anniversary ending first year combined with United SS ... Gospel group "Endless Praise" gave concert ... Appreciation recorded for long services of Harold Wheaton and the late Rex Thompson ... Chris & Debra Clugston welcomed following transfer ... Chris appointed deacon ... G. Brown, Mundalla and I. & J. Whitelock & locals assisted while minister on leave.

MOUNT CLEAR (D. White, J. Leviston) Carols night attracted 700 at local University auditorium ... CRE teachers organised Christmas concert at primary school ... Morning attendances averaged over 190 at pre-Christmas services ... \$1,360 raised for COCOA ... Youth camp held at Torquay ... Lachlan Walker involved in mission trip to PNG with Wycliffe ... Brian & Alison Creek gone to Gove, NT with Missionary Aviation Fellowship.

CHADSTONE (Malcolm & Yvonne Lowe) New ministry couple welcomed into church on 4 February, David Ratten & Ian Allsop took part in the service ... Light luncheon followed.

TOOTGAROOK (M. Giezen-danner) Services well attended over holiday period. Conference President speaker at New Year service ... Several members leaving to go into sheltered accommodation ... Farewelled Vin Long. Members enjoyed fellowship and beautiful garden ... Church roof completely covered with colour-bond. Iron roofing sold & sent to Fiji ... Keith Forster, Tom Bryant & Arthur Wren recovering from illness ... Church praising God for mercies over past year.

Exploring the Day

Starting From Here

Janet Thompson

I get my petrol at the service station in the local shopping centre. It's not only for convenience—I like the attendant on the cash register. He is grey-haired and balding, with a weathered face and a smile. The first time I went in he said, "Ah, the young lady on No. 7!" Cheeky, but friendly! He chatted for a while, and I said, "You're remarkably cheerful. This must be a good day." His reply set me thinking, and has kept me thinking ...

"There's no point in being anything else, love. Every day's a good day. I wake up in the morning and I say, 'You beauty, another day!' Being gloomy gets you nowhere."

I have heard him tell many people the same thing, but I don't know any more of his philosophy, or the background. Is he a Christian, a mystic, a hippy; has he survived cancer, or been resuscitated after "dying?" Whatever the reason, he is spreading his message of hope and wholeness to all who pass through his door.

It's a simple message—one that appears in many forms and in many places ... Look to this day ... Seize the day ... Today is the first day of the rest of your life ... This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it (Psa 118:24); but I've never



heard it put so plainly, or with as much common-sense.

When I wake up, I look at the clock, work out what day it is and think about it for a while. Sometimes I groan at the thought of an unpleasant task. If I'm not in any particular hurry, I just drift into the day. Mostly I take the whole thing for granted.

But what a difference it would make if I were excited at the prospect! I wouldn't be able to wait to get started. This is not the same as rejoicing and being glad in the day—it goes a step further. It means going into the day eager to discover its possibilities; ready to explore and experience the things that are hidden. It is an attitude that finds things, uses things and does things. Mind you, this isn't only a physical approach. It can also be an exploration of thoughts and ideas; an opportunity to learn and to grow in understanding. If I were totally bedridden, I could still investigate all that a day has to offer.

I have always loved the "seize the day" philosophy. This takes it further into daily choices and decisions. Exploring the day opens the door on limitless fields. Hmmm ... a good title for a column!

New Year is the traditional time for taking up a challenge, and this one has a bonus—I think it will be fun! ❖

The Last Word

Many claim to be disciples of Jesus Christ who have not denied themselves and taken up the cross to follow him. They have changed the level of their living, but they are still living for self.

—T.A. Hegre

Coming home from church, a mother questioned her child about Sunday School. "It was about houses," came the reply. "Your shack, my shack and a bungalow."

"I've just fallen in the water." How did you come to fall in?"

"I didn't come to fall in. I came to fish."

Judge: "Crime doesn't pay."

Defendant: "I know, but the hours are good."

These modern electric toothbrushes are having an effect on tooth care. In fact, my dentist was telling me that the major cause of tooth decay is weak batteries.

Half the lies they tell about me aren't true!

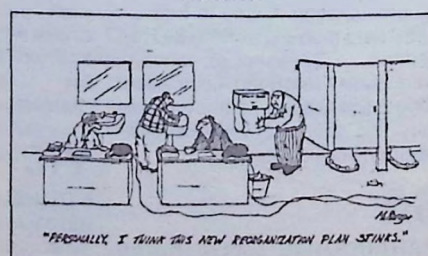
My uncle believed in reincarnation. In his will he left everything to himself.

It was so cold that my teeth were chattering all night—and they were in a glass on my bedside table.

Young candidates for baptism, reaching for the hand of their smiling pastor, stepped into the water and immediately winced. Through some error, the water was steaming hot. The pastor, wearing wading boots, knew it was warmer than usual, but hadn't realised how hot it was until he saw the faces of the children.

As the beet-red new members climbed from the tank, the congregation assumed the children were just flushed with excitement.

But the truth was out a few months later, as the congregation celebrated the pastor's retirement with humorous stories from his ministry. The children showed up in T-shirts that said, "Good and faithful servant," on the front. They turned around to reveal the rest of the message: "Well done."



"FRESHLY, I THINK THIS NEW REORGANIZATION PLAN SPINKS."

Source: *McPherson Goes to Work* by John McPherson (Zondervan, 1993).

The Australian CHRISTIAN

30 Years Ago **Communist Government Preferable** Twenty-four clergymen at a meeting in Sydney expressed the opinion that a Communist government in Vietnam with a measure of neutrality towards the West and China would be better for the people of Vietnam than a long war. The meeting was chaired by the Rev Alan Walker and included Churches of Christ representatives.

60 Years Ago **Lack of Parental Restraint** Mr. Robert Lee, President of the Federated State School Teachers' Association, in his presidential address, severely criticised the lack of parental restraint and the manner in which homes are ruled by the young members. He said the weak, pampering, short sighted parents of the present day were giving to the race a selfish, pleasure-loving, work-shirking, spineless, thriftless lot. (Ira A. Paternoster, from Tasmanian Newsletter.)

90 Years Ago **A brother asks:** "Would it be wrong to elect a brother of good report for the office of deacon who has no children?" In our judgement it would not. If a man is married and has children, he ought to do what he can to bring them up properly, but if he has none, this he cannot do very well. A little commonsense imported into our interpretation of the Scripture would be a good thing. Ed.