

THE AUSTRALIAN



Christian

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

Vol. 99 No. 12, 20 July 1996

PRINT POST APPROVED PP349181/00418



"Direct Me by Your Commands"
Psalm 119, verse 35

Photograph by Ralph Petty

Editorial

Exciting and Dangerous Stuff

DON SMITH

New translations of the Bible are now commonplace.

As a young man and a new Christian, I was introduced to the translations of the time by members of the Blackburn church. The keen Bible students were enthused about the Weymouth and Moffatt translations of that era. Then along came J.B. Phillips' translation of the Epistles in the late 40s. Phillips described his feelings as a translator as being like an electrician rewiring a building without the power being turned off. The translation was exciting and dangerous stuff! To this



day some of his translation sustains and excites me. Then along came the Revised Standard Version of 1948. * As a callow youth, I had no knowledge by which to judge the translation. Controversy reigned, even among some of my young male acquaintances from other churches. In some circles there was talk of publicly burning the RSV. It seemed ok to me and was an improvement on the Authorised Version given to me by Auntie Annie when I was six. I liked the pictures in my childhood, but they weren't quite what an eighteen-year-old needed. * These days new translations abound. Name a group, men, women, youth, students, and you can find a translation for them. The early years of the century appear antediluvian now, as far as translations are concerned. By 2010 I've no doubt we shall see more translations grappling with changing culture and contemporary language. We need the help of scholarship and commonsense in our attempts to understand the Bible's meaning. The features in this issue contribute to that end. The Bible is great literature, it contains stories which stimulate and enhance life and spiritual insight. But beyond that, the Bible is the primary witness to the events of God's revelation. In every age it's message has electrified men and women with a passion to share what we believe about Jesus Christ, who is the visible expression of the invisible God, the upholding principle by which the universe coheres. This is the fundamental truth which constrains and inspires us. * Believing the message of the Bible is about passionate conviction which directs, yes directs, people on in the service of the Kingdom of God. Where there is no passion the people perish! *

The Bible

We look at the Bible Society's work, our own and Alexander Campbell's attitude to Scripture, we have a number of perspectives on the parable of the Banquet and we review some books and software

<i>Publishing a Best-Seller</i>	7
<i>Eat Your Greens!</i>	8
<i>What are the Scholars Saying About the Bible?</i>	9
<i>Campbell and the Bible</i>	10
<i>The Parable of the Banquet—Luke 14:15-24</i>	11
<i>Software & Books</i>	12

News

<i>National Gathering for Women</i>	5
<i>Naracoorte Celebrates</i>	5
<i>Young Women to the Fore</i>	6

Gun Control

We present a range of perspectives on the current debate	
<i>One Christian's Perspective on the Gun Issue</i>	14
<i>God, Guns and Gympie</i>	15
<i>A Politician's Perspective</i>	15

Regulars

<i>Coffee Break</i>	16
<i>Media Matters</i>	13
<i>Snippets from History</i>	20

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.

Bastard Children

To the Editor
The thrust of the concluding sentence of my letter ("AC" 18 May) was to focus attention on the continuing weakening of moral fibre throughout our society. The term bastard children was not used to in any way to condemn children; rather it defines the lack of commitment and evasion of responsibility by the parents—"No child deserves that!" —D.V. Waters (Essendon, Vic)

Congratulations for Appointment

To the Editor
Congratulations to A.C. Male on his appointment to the very responsible position of Director General for Queensland's Department of Families, Youth and Community.
I well recall my first contact with A.C. back in the early 70s when my family moved to Brisbane. I could hardly believe that we had someone in our Movement with such drive, vision and energy. He was a human dynamo and of great inspiration to countless numbers of young adults like myself—many of whom were to eventually move into various forms of full-time ministry.
A.C.'s appointment is a tribute to his relentless desire to move heaven and earth in order to simply help people. This was his primary motivation when he was with our Youth Department and has certainly been at the heart of

his internationally recognised work with the Shaftsbury Citizenship centre. A.C. is a leader of great stature who has overcome incredible odds to achieve his dreams and goals. Well done A.C.! We're proud of you and we will back you in prayer as you take on the huge task of running this significant Government Department.

—Graham Agnew
(Marion, SA)

Holy Places

To the Editor,
I agree with Alan Cant that God is present everywhere ("AC" 6 July), but I have difficulties with his consequent conclusion that each place is as holy as another. Unlike Alan, I take the concrete sense of Scripture to be its meaning unless it is obviously indicated otherwise.

Holiness is attributed both to various sites and people in both the Testaments. The very fact that two parts of the Tabernacle (and later the Temple) could be called the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place must certainly indicate a "hierarchy". The very fact that the Gospels mention the tearing of the curtain in the Temple which screened off the Most Holy Place actually indicates that access was gained to this special place by Jesus' sacrifice.

Further, a distinction is made between those who are part of the Kingdom and those who are not, and often the term "holy" is used of them. What is holiness, except that a person or place is set apart for God's use or is a special place of encounter with God?

I agree with Alan that God's love and presence are universal. However, it is not just God's presence that makes a place or people holy, but his choosing of them or people's encountering God there that makes them so. —Nigel Pegram (Kilmore, Vic)

THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

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 ☐ \$14 REST OF YEAR
☐ RENEWAL ☐ \$59 TWO YEARS ☐ \$11 REST OF YEAR IF RECOMMENDED BY A SUBSCRIBER (NEW SUBS)
DONATION: \$ SUBSCRIBER

Update

Dear Readers,

With Bible Sunday on 28 July, the feature articles in this issue focus on the Bible. Our coverage is a small part of what can be said about the Bible. I suggest you spend a few moments reflecting on the verse we chose for the cover—"Direct me by your commands! I love to do what you say." These are good words to take with us daily. I recently had contact with some who will be attending the World Convention of Churches of Christ in Calgary, Canada. For the 200 Australian participants the excitement is mounting. Ron Brooker, Australian Secretary of the World Convention, is delighted with the response. The Convention dates are 30 July-4 August.

I suggest that in your congregation you pray for this event. This is a gathering of people from within our heritage worldwide. Pray for a sense of unity, where there is separation. Pray for renewal in the life of our world fellowship and that an evangelistic passion will characterise leaders and

members. When Ron Brooker returns from Calgary he will be the President of the World Convention. The next Convention will be held in Brisbane in 2000. Plan to be there. Marge Dredge of SA is the incoming World President of CWF.

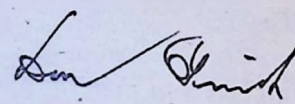
The National Census to be held 6 August. We suggest that when you indicate your religion you write *Churches of Christ*. Your other option is *Other*, which does not help us in later assessment of national trends for our work. The National Church Life Survey will be held during the week starting 25 August. This is the largest survey of national church life ever undertaken in Australia. I hope your church is involved. If not, contact your state office now for details.

The survey is one of the most significant in the world in scope and quality of the research.

In this issue we also include some views on gun control. The material has

come to us from concerned members. It is also good to have comments from Trevor Perrett a Minister in the Queensland State Government.

Don't forget to use our Trial Subscription Offer on page 18.




Churches of Christ
Theological College

Discovery Day

Sunday 25th August 1996

Come 2.00-5.00 pm to discover

CCTC

through human faces

through worship

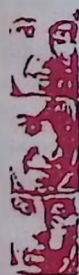
through study

40-60 Jacksons Road, Mulgrave Victoria 3170 (Opposite AFL Gate No. 6)

RSVP: (03) 9790 1000



Pontius' Puddle



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 3049, North Nowra 2541

I USED TO BELIEVE
IN THE COMPLETE
INERRANCY OF
THE BIBLE.



AFTER CAREFUL STUDY OF
SCRIPTURE, HOWEVER, I HAVE
CONCLUDED THAT CERTAIN
PASSAGES SHOULD NOT BE
INTERPRETED LITERALLY.



SO I'VE
MODIFIED
MY STANCE.



NOW I ASCRIBE
INERRANCY TO ONLY
THOSE VERSES THAT
AGREE WITH MY PRE-
CONCEIVED CONVICTIONS.



National Gathering for Women

Second Gathering for Women planned for 1997 in NSW

A second National Gathering for Women is planned for 23-26 October 1997 at Stanwell Tops, NSW. It is hoped that a National Gathering will be held every two to three years, the first one having been held in September 1995 at Nunyara, Belair, SA. Being an inaugural event, the first National Gathering was a successful venture which challenged the women of Churches of Christ throughout Australia.

Local churches are encouraged to work towards sponsoring one or

two of their young women to the Gathering in 1997. Every woman who wants to discover more of God's direction for her life is invited to be a "gatherer" next year. A newsletter titled *The 2000 Woman* (Winter 1996) has been circulated to all churches. It announces the second Gathering, gives updates from the first Gathering, encourages women to claim their "vision", and is the forerunner of the second National Gathering for Women newsletter.

Naracoorte Celebrates

Historic church celebrates its contribution



On the 17-18 August the Naracoorte, SA, church will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the opening of the present buildings in Jenkins Tce.

Naracoorte has connections with Thomas Magarey, who owned Naracoorte Station from 1859 and leased property in the south east in the mid 1800s. We cannot find evidence that he held meetings in the area. Evangelist, H.S. Earl, who was visiting Thomas Magarey at Naracoorte on a Sunday in November in 1865, preached twice in the Presbyterian Church. Churches of Christ have been meeting in Naracoorte from about that time. According

to a report in *The Australian Christian Pioneer* on 11 March 1873 the following statement is made: "We still continue to hold our meetings every Lord's Day, small though our numbers be." After tent missions held by H.P. Leng, the congregation built the first chapel which was occupied on 4 March 1906. In 1966 the present buildings were dedicated. Naracoorte church has influenced churches all across Australia and overseas as former members have scattered in all directions. Ron Holmes is the guest speaker for the celebrations. For any information please contact Iverson Simons on (087) 621656.



NATIONAL
COUNCIL OF
CHURCHES IN
AUSTRALIA

**Applications are invited for
the position of
Associate General Secretary
and
Director of Christian
World Service**

The National Council of Churches is an ecumenical body comprising thirteen Orthodox, Protestant, Roman Catholic and Anglican churches.

As Associate General Secretary, the appointee will assist the Council's chief executive officer. As Director of Christian World Service, he or she will lead a staff team of some fifteen people to help Australia's churches act together in partnership with churches elsewhere in response to human need.

The person appointed will have a deep commitment to the Church, ecumenical experience, management and promotional skills, and sensitivity in working with people of different cultures and denominations.

Lay or ordained people with suitable qualifications are invited to apply. The post is Sydney-based.

Applications close **Friday 30 August**.

Further information from the NCCA's General Secretary:
Private Bag 199, QVB PO, Sydney NSW 2000.
Tel: (02) 299 2215. Fax (02) 262 4514.



**SWANSTON STREET
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Melbourne
(cnr Swanston &
Little Lonsdale Streets)**

Sunday

9.00 a.m. & 11.00 a.m.

Worship & Communion
Services

7.00 p.m.

Gospel Celebration

Wednesday

1.15-1.14 p.m.

Lunchtime Service

For further enquiries, please ring (03) 9663 3884

Young Women to the Fore

Young women's involvement in 110th Vic-Tas CWF Conference

Young women had an impressive part in the Vic-Tas CWF Conference in May.

Six younger women, who all had mothers or grandmothers in office as past CWF Presidents, spoke of how they used their gifts

in church and community life. They described their roles as women in a chain of faith and service.

In the evening 130 women of all ages heard Anji Barker of UNOH, Trudy Abbatangelo of Matthew's

Party, St Kilda, and Ruth Jones of Latrobe Terrace, Geelong, describe their participation in special ministries.

Worship segments gave opportunity for different expressions of devotion, which included drama and the use of clowns.

The Women's Day at Monash City church marked the 110th Conference.

Lola Adam presided over the event. Shirley Wallis is the incoming President.

Here and There Adrian Plass in Australia

Adrian Plass the British motivational speaker and writer, well-known for his humour and down-to-earth Christian lifestyle, will tour Australia July-August. Visits will be made to all states, including numerous regional centres. He will be accompanied by his wife Bridget, who joins him part-time on stage. Call (02) 894 8844 for information.

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

1996 Spring Festival of Arts & Crafts

Churches of Christ
Theological College
40-60 Jacksons Road,
Mulgrave, Vic

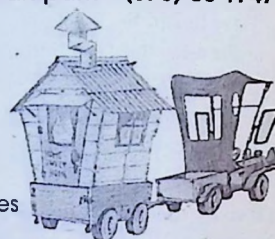
Friday 11 October 4.00-9.00 pm
Saturday 12 October 10.00 am-4.00 pm

Toowoomba's Quietest caravan park—(076) 35 1747

GARDEN CITY CARAVAN PARK

Eiser St, Toowoomba

- En suite cabins
- Overnight vans
- Powered & en suite powered sites
- Swimming pool & free BBQs



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"

Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania

The Conference Board of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania invites expressions of interest from suitably experienced and qualified people for the newly-created position of:

Conference Executive Officer

The Conference Executive Officer will be directly responsible to the Conference Board and charged with the responsibility of coordinating and facilitating the various aspects of the life and mission of the Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania. Commencement date to be negotiated, preferably December 1996 or January 1997.

The successful applicant will be a person with theological and ministerial competence, a proven commitment to the mission and ethos of Churches of Christ, a high level of administrative competence and demonstrated capacity for leadership.

Applications close on 31 August 1996.

Written applications and requests for further information should be made to:

Mr Dean Phelan
Chair of Board
Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania
12 Montrose Street
SURREY HILLS VIC 3127
Phone (03) 9820 1484 (W)
Fax (03) 9820 0312 (W)

All initial inquiries will be treated in strictest confidence.
The Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania is
an equal opportunity employer.
The Conference Board reserves the right to invite people to apply.



Telephone Marketing



Enquiries are
invited from
all states for
part-time
assistance in selling
advertising space in
The Australian Christian.

Some experience
preferred.
Casual rates apply.

Write, or call (03) 9379 1219.

The Bible

Publishing a Best-Seller

THE BIBLE SOCIETY

Floodgates is the word used by the Bible Societies to describe the unprecedented worldwide demand for Bibles. The Bible continues as the world's best-selling book. In the post-Soviet countries such as Russia and Mongolia the demand is enormous. A major problem confronting people is that many are too poor to pay even the cost price of a Bible. Copies costing \$6.00 are sold for \$2.50—a price people can afford to pay. The publishing program is subsidised by the Bible Societies. In countries where Communism has not yet died, such as China, Cuba and Vietnam, the Bible is still the

The Bible is still the most wanted book. Worldwide demand for Bibles is greater than at any other time in history

most wanted book. Worldwide demand for Bibles is greater than at any other time in history. *

Partnership

Today there are many organisations involved in Bible translation. The United Bible Societies and the Summer Institute of Linguistics (Wycliffe) are among the best known. Today the world's fourteen most important Bible translation organisations have formed a partnership in "The Forum of Bible Agencies". The demand for Bibles means that a disjointed approach spreads resources too thinly and wastes them by duplication. In Australia new projects with which the SIL is involved are assisted by the Bible Society, with financial grants to help indigenous

translators, professional consultants on Biblical exegesis and translation workshops. *

Indigenous Translators

Once translation work took a long time. The linguist, before commencing Bible translation of the language, first had to learn the language and if the linguist died or left the mission, a new person often had to start all over again. The translations were useful, but more often were in the missionary's slightly foreign version of the language. Now the emphasis is upon the indigenous translator. In Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are translating the Bible for their own communities. The process is faster and results in more accurate work, and is in the true language of the people. However, translators rarely have knowledge of Hebrew or Greek, so this new approach requires the special skills of professionals such as SIL linguists and Bible Society consultants. Their task is to help the translator understand the Scripture they are translating before translation of a book of the Bible commences. It is also important to ensure the final result is faithful and accurate, that it is truly the Word of God. *

Adelaide Meeting Plans Translations

Representatives of the United Bible Societies met in Adelaide 13–23 June. From reports and discussions at the conference, the breadth and scope of the translation program in our region was obvious. Of the 681 projects, 188



are in Africa, 62 in the Americas, 71 in Europe and the Middle East, and 360 in the Asia Pacific region. In our region a part of the Bible is being translated for the first time in 290 languages. * The Gospel of John in Chinese, with study notes, is now at the printer. This translation has been especially designed for Buddhist audiences and has been prepared with the assistance of Buddhist scholars *

New Office For Brisbane

A new regional office will be established in Brisbane. The Brisbane office will serve the East Asia region, which includes the national Bible Societies in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the South Pacific, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines. A UBS Director for the Indo Pacific region will be located in the Brisbane office. It is planned that the office will be operational early in 1997. *

The Bible

Eat Your Greens!

MARK WILSON WITH WAYNE BETTS

In Paul's second letter to Timothy, he reminds his young friend that, "All Scripture is God-breathed, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." Paul, of course, was referring to the Hebrew Scriptures. *

Many centuries later, we apply the same affirmation to the whole of the Bible. Or do we? *

Though we would all heartily agree in principle with the inspiration of all of Scripture, sometimes our practice can inadvertently reflect a more "pick and choose" approach. We all have favourite parts of the Bible, the pages of which are no doubt well-thumbed. But are

If you're serious about dealing with the whole of Scripture, you have some hard work ahead of you

there other pages that are still in pristine condition? *

Let's try a little experiment. Preachers, what's the mix of Old and New Testament passages? How often do the epistles rate a mention compared to, say, the minor prophets? Home group leaders, which would you rather lead a study on: Ephesians, or Song of Songs? On the issue of women's ministry, which text is determinative: Gal 3:27 or 1 Tim 2:12? See the difficulty? *

Why utilise the whole Bible? Because if all Scripture is inspired by God, we must treat all Scripture seriously. Every one of us has a set of preconceived notions, personal history and perspectives which affect how we read and interpret the Scriptures. *

There is always a temptation to use Scripture to back up what we already believe, ignoring or explaining away those parts which don't fit our "comfort-zone". However, if we are seriously "people of the Word", we must always approach that Word humbly, submitting ourselves to it (even the difficult passages), rather than subjecting it to our own preconceptions and judgments about what we will or will not use. *

This is not the easy road—if you're serious about dealing with the whole of Scripture, you have some hard work ahead of you. Let's be honest, some parts are heavy going and may not always sit comfortably with our personal perceptions! But the rewards are well worth the effort involved. In fact, the insights gained can and will transform us—and isn't that the whole idea? *

Here, then, are some broad principles and practical suggestions which you may find helpful. *

Our use and interpretation of a particular passage should be in keeping with the overall unity of witness in Scripture.

For instance, Romans 13 regarding the Christian's attitude to the state must be kept in tension with that of Revelation 13—both have something to contribute to our understanding of this issue. *

Taking time to research some of the more difficult passages can help us move closer to the original meaning of the text, preventing "over the top", fanciful interpretations, however ingenious they may seem! This is especially true for Old Testament texts, where background information can often be crucial in determining what God was saying to his people in that context and, from that, what he says to us now. *

Because Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God, we can affirm that the whole Scriptural revelation revolves around



and finds its ultimate meaning in him. But this is not to deny the original message of the Old Testament, nor to treat it as merely a quarry for Christological "proof-texts"—far from it! The more you understand Old Testament hopes, values and practices (for instance, the sacrificial system as expounded in Leviticus), the more facets of insight you gain into the work of Christ. In fact, a lot of New Testament teaching about what Christ accomplished can only be properly understood in the light of the Old Testament witness—the book of Hebrews, or the concept of justification, for example. *

The temptation will be to stick to those areas with which we feel most comfortable. And though we may like to feast on cream cakes all the time, we do need brussel sprouts occasionally as well! *

People need to hear the "whole counsel of God". We need to be taught, rebuked, corrected and trained in righteousness by the whole of Scripture. If we're serious about the inspiration of Scripture, our treatment of God's word demands a unified, holistic approach. Eat your greens! *

Mark Wilson is team leader at our Whitford, WA, church, where he has been in ministry for 5½ years. Wayne Betts has been in ministry with the Salvation Army and is now a home group leader and part of the worship team at Whitford. He is currently pursuing further study in Theology.

The Bible

What are the Scholars Saying About the Bible?

GREG ELSDON

Not everything the “scholars” suggest is helpful and constructive. But this is no reason to dismiss out of hand the positive contribution made by those who dedicate their lives to the careful and attentive, study of the Bible. As Bible-reading Christians we should never feel compelled to accept the opinions of the experts without critically evaluating what they have to say. But neither should we listen to those who suggest that they have nothing to contribute to the life, faith and mission of the Church. *

Christians are notorious for using the Bible as a “grab-bag” of words, ideas and images

Many scholars are reminding us that taking our Bibles seriously involves exploring what is often called “the world **behind** the text”. The many different books and letters which make up our Christian Scriptures all come from specific historical, social, political and religious settings. To read the various books of the Bible without giving careful attention to their background is to run the risk of abusing the Bible by using Biblical words to speak *our own message*. *

For instance, can we really understand what it means for a Canaanite woman to address Jesus as “Son of David” without an awareness of the long history of animosity and violence between the Canaanites and the Israelites? What

would the first readers of Matthew’s Gospel have understood by the term “Son of David”? (Matt 15:21–28) *

As modern readers of ancient texts, we are obliged to equate ourselves with the world from which these texts emerged, allowing them to speak to us without imposing our own cultural overlays which distort the author’s intentions. * The worlds of the Biblical texts were vastly different from our own. Issues such as being male or female, rich or poor, Jew or Gentile, slave or free all mean very different things to us today. *

Other scholars remind us that we must also attune ourselves to the “world **within** the text”. Christians are notorious for using the Bible as a “grab-bag” of words, ideas and images for constructing their doctrines and theologies. Take a few verses from Paul’s letter to the Romans, a couple of words from John’s Gospel and a sentence or two from Jeremiah, mix them all with a liberal dose of fervour and, hey presto, we have a “doctrine of whatever”, which bears little or no resemblance to the original message of these texts. Scholars do the Church a great service when they remind us that *a text without a context is a pretext*. *

Paul’s letters, for instance, were written to address the specific needs of particular groups of people in a unique set of circumstances. *

This means that Paul’s letters must be read as whole letters, and not diced up into a series of isolated propositions which can be conveniently repackaged and marketed to meet the needs of religious consumers. We would never think of reading our own correspondence in this haphazard fashion. Why

then do we abuse Paul’s letters in this way? *

It is equally important to note that we are being called to acknowledge the “world **in front** of the text”. What do we, as contemporary readers of the Bible bring to our reading of Scripture? What experiences, traditions, belief systems, biases and even prejudices do we read through? *

There is no one quite so misguided and dangerous as the reader who believes that they do not come to Scripture powerfully influenced by their own pre-suppositions and biases. *

As we pay attention to the world “in front of the text” we will be confronted with the need to acknowledge this reality and open ourselves to the scrutiny of Christian people who come from different backgrounds and have been influenced by different experiences of God’s grace. *

Finally, the community of Biblical scholars is reminding us that the Bible belongs to the community of **faith**. It has come to us from the life and experience of the Church, and should be read, interpreted and responded to in the life and experience of the Church. Reading the Bible as individuals is important. Reading the Bible with our brothers and sisters is indispensable! *

The “scholars” have much to offer Christians who wish to explore their Scriptures with open hearts and open minds. By engaging the ideas and insights of the “scholars” the wider Christian community will be enriched in their quest to know what it means to be God’s people in God’s world. *

Dr Greg Elsdon is Principal of the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave, Vic.

The Bible

Campbell and the Bible

LERoy GARRETT

In one sense Alexander Campbell saw no need for the Bible to have special rules of interpretation. It was to be interpreted like any other book, according to the rules of common sense. The Bible is for common folk, he insisted, and they can understand it as well, or perhaps better, than the clergy. He once demonstrated this when he called a little girl who was playing outside his Bethany study and asked her the meaning of a single line of Scripture, "The Master is come, and calleth for thee." (John 11:28) A Calvinist theologian had found much of his

The Bible is for common folk, he insisted

doctrine in that one line, even the Effectual Call. *

Reading the passage in context, the girl said that it simply meant that when Jesus arrived at the home of Mary and Martha he asked to see Mary, and that Martha was telling her so. Campbell assured his readers that a child's innocence allowed her to see only what was in the text, while the clergyman's predispositions led him to impose what was not there. Common sense interpretation! *

Campbell was mindful of modern Biblical research. This is evident in *The Living Oracles*, his own translation of the New Testament. He omitted a favourite "Campbellite" verse, Acts 8:37, which includes the eunuch's confession, because it is not found in the oldest Greek manuscripts. *

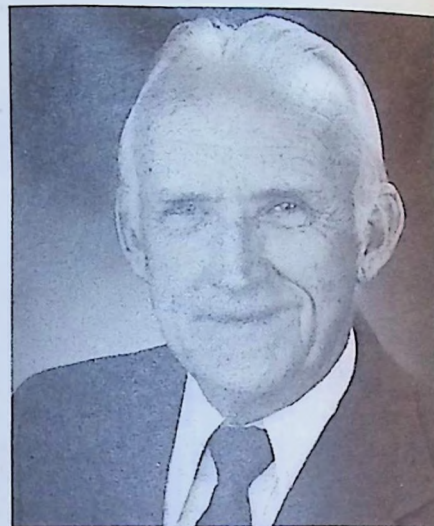
Some recent critics have faulted Campbell for viewing the Bible as "a book of facts", charging that this makes the

Bible a legal code. They fail to see that to Campbell a fact is something said or done. He distinguished between fact and truth. That God exists is a truth, but not a fact. That God created the world is both a fact and a truth. Facts have power. Truths do not. When Campbell speaks of Scripture in terms of "the mighty acts of God", he is telling us that in our study of the Bible we are to look for facts (what God has said or done), not only truths. *

In his seven "Rules of Interpretation", the last one is the most innovative: "We must come within understanding distance". He deemed this as "indispensable" to understanding the Bible. We must approach Scripture with open hearts and minds, and with eagerness to know the will of God. There is a circle of understanding, he noted, and God is at the centre of the circle—and humility is the circumference. We must come within that circle. He thus made humility a rule for Biblical study. *

The other six rules were more common, reflecting methods that one would use in the study of any book, such as Rule 1: "Consider the historical circumstances of the book". This is the who, what, when, where, and why of the text. Rule 3 points to what we have alluded to: "The same laws of interpretation which are applied to the language of other books are to be applied to the language of the Bible". In this he was ahead of his time, for this calls for critical study, including what the scholars now refer to as "lower" and "higher" criticism. *

In other rules he provides guidance in dealing with figurative language, urging the reader to "ascertain the point to be illustrated," and not to draw from the symbols more than is intended. The Bible is to be allowed to interpret itself.



One rule urges that words be defined by "common usage" and that an ordinary dictionary will prove helpful. * Biblical study was to Alexander Campbell a pilgrimage of joy, an exciting adventure of learning and discovery. One cannot linger with holy Scripture long without catching its spirit, he insisted, and this is what the Bible is about, "to catch the spirit" of its great heroes. * One of Campbell's favourite verses was Mal 4:2: "The Sun of Righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings." To him this pointed up the progressive nature of revelation. The starlight age (Patriarchal) gave way to the moonlight age (Mosaic and Prophetic), which in turn anticipated the sunlight age (Christian). *

The Sun of Righteousness in the Person of Jesus Christ is thus the focal point of Scripture. The Old Testament anticipates the coming of that Light, the New Testament points back to it. As it shines upon our troubled world, it has healing in its wings. To Alexander Campbell this is what the Bible is all about. *

Dr Leroy Garrett is a distinguished church historian among our American churches.

The Bible

The Parable of the Banquet—Luke 14:15-24

We asked three members to reflect on the parable from differing points of view, including those of the participants in the story.

An Overview—Ken Patterson (Perth)

Jesus, among others, is the guest of a leading Pharisee at dinner. Amid the table talk, Jesus defends healing on the Sabbath, chides self-promotion and commends hospitality to the needy. * Someone then says something like, "It'll be great when we all sit down to eat at God's Messianic banquet!" Then Jesus puts this parable. *

The overtures of God may so easily be treated with indifference, even rudeness

Its meaning: God doesn't find it easy to get his guests. Many of the invited decline. They have other interests. They are engrossed in their own acquisition and enjoyment of wealth, fame, position and pleasure, land, working capital, me and mine. These are "necessities of life, reasonable pursuits, things for which one must make time". They are hooked on these things and prefer them to the invitations of God which come inopportunistically. *

The overtures of God may so easily be treated with indifference, even rudeness. But God is not mocked. His guest rooms shall be filled by those who know they cannot make recompense, but who shall forever in what they do and say share his loving kindness—their re-

sponse as that of Saul Kane in Masfield's *The Everlasting Mercy*:
I knew that Christ had given me birth
To brother all the souls on earth;
And every bird and every beast
Should share the crumbs broke at the feast. *

From the Servant's Point of View — Judy Gordon (Sydney)

We are called to be servants of the Lord and in the parable we see our daily dilemma. We know what the Lord wants us to do. That is to be obedient and follow his instructions. This seems appropriate, until we start to see the problems. The servant would not have expected trouble. All he had to do was to invite people to what could well have been the best banquet in town. He did not expect rejection, excuses, or rudeness. The task he was given should have been completed quickly and the banquet room filled with eager guests. It would be confusing and totally inappropriate to get their excuses. *

We notice that the servant did not feel rejected. He had done what he was asked to do. The fact that people refused was not his problem. The rejection must be passed back to the master. *

We will find experiences that hurt and make us feel rejected, unappreciated, misunderstood. What do we do with these emotions? It is the easiest thing in the world, to take things personally and to think that we must respond to the ones who hurt us? No! The servant took the reactions of people, back to the master. As an obedient servant, he had no need to "wear" the inappropriate behaviour of others. The master could deal with it. *

What a wonderful reminder for us. It is Jesus, who will deal with the rejections.

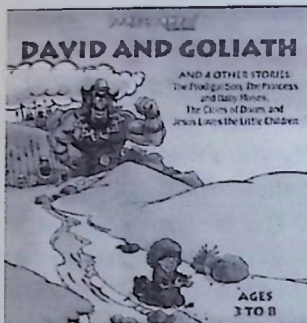
The master knew how to help his servant. He didn't send him back to deal with those who could have hurt him again. The servant was sent to people who would be responsive and appreciative of the servant's message. It is our Lord, who invites us to come to him with our experiences and allow his healing. He knows our limits and how much we can take. He invites us to his banquet and offers us joy in serving him. He knows that we will face problems, and we know that we must simply return to the master again and again and share the experiences of the journey. *

From the Host's Point of View— Ruth Edge (Mildura)

Anyone who has ever prepared the food for a party would identify with this host. All that work. The invitations have been sent, the great day is looked forward to with anticipation. The guests have been chosen from his most esteemed friends. Then the apologies arrive. Excuses, that is all they seem to be. He could just cry! Snubbed by those he considered to be his friends. It makes him feel rejected and unloved. After all the times he has made allowances, trying to be understanding, holding nothing back so that they would feel accepted and affirmed. Well! They have had their chance. He will find some people who will be happy to come and party with him. He goes out into the streets to invite the poor and the disabled. They come, and still there is room. He looks in the subways and the demolition sites to find those who are different, the outcasts, the abused. These make no excuses and are happy to come and be his friends. They have nothing to get in the way. "Many are invited but few are chosen." *

Software

David and Goliath



(Zondervan) \$49.00.

This is one of a series of three titles which have a number of Bible stories on CD ROM. (This title also had The Prodigal Son, The Princess and Baby Moses, The Cities of Doom and Jesus Loves the Little Children.) Each story is presented in book form and may be read by the child or be read to them by the program. If the child chooses to read, help is available for difficult words simply by clicking on them. As an addition, each page of the storybooks may be coloured with the on-screen crayons. Each page also includes a number of humorous hidden pop ups which are sure to delight the smaller child in particular. For ages 3-8. (DOS/Windows and Mac.)

—NDP

The NIV Thematic Study Bible

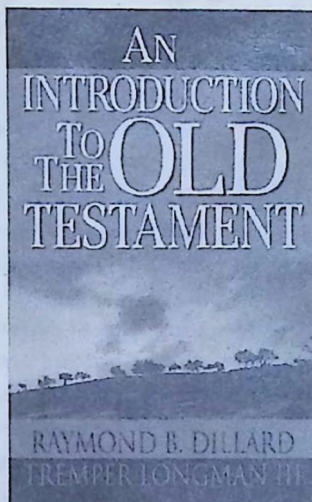
(Hodder) \$59.95 rrp.

This new Bible is an outstanding aid to study. It is the imaginative work of a panel of British scholars including Alistair McGrath, J.I. Packer and D.J. Wiseman. Each Book of the Bible has a detailed outline, introduction and comment on major themes. Almost every verse carries a reference in the margin to other related texts. This all becomes a built-in commentary. More than 2000 themes (doctrinal, ethical, historical and cultural) are explored. These are grouped into nine categories: God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, Creation, Humanity, Sin and Salvation, God's people, The Life of the believer and Last Things. All of these are indexed and cross referenced. The references are easy to use and precise. The treatment of the Holy Spirit is an outstanding example. There are nine pages of references, with clear headings and themes. The scholarship is sound, the presentation inviting and the references to the point. This book will be useful for ministers, students and all interested in Bible study.

—DHS

Books

An Introduction to the Old Testament



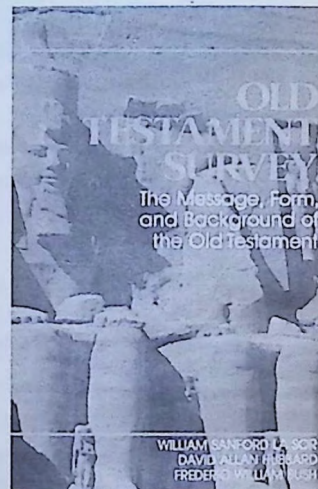
by Raymond B. Dillard
and Tremper Longman III
(Apollos) \$25.95.

Old Testament Survey

by William Sanford La Sor,
David Allan Hubbard
and Frederick William Bush (Eerdmans) \$29.95.
Both of these are useful additions to your library. Both discuss the books of the Old Tes-

tament, giving a general summary and discussing many of the significant issues involved in study or understanding the Biblical text. *Introduction to the Old Testament* is quite up-to-date, as it was only published last year. *Old Testament Survey*, even though first published in 1982, has shown its worth over a long period and was only reprinted last year also. I would suggest that *Old Testament Survey* is perhaps a little more technical than *Introduction to the Old Testament*, but my advice is to take a long hard look at both.

—NDP



Increased Sales

Mean we need



**Good Quality
Saleable Furniture**

for



**Vic-Tas Community Care
Opportunity Shops**

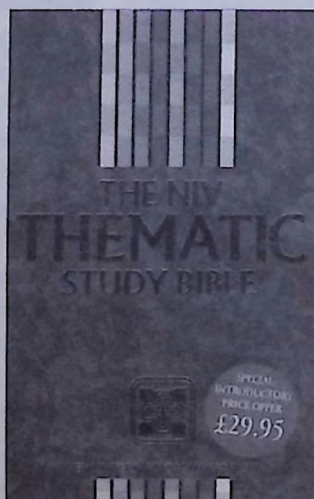
Contact Stuart Peterson
on 015 806 599 for collection.

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.



Media Matters Games People Play

VINEY LONGTHORP

All the excitement and euphoria of the 46th Olympic Games of the modern era is now sweeping the world—and the media. For a few short but frenetic weeks, Atlanta, USA, will be the centre of world attention. Literally so, since it is estimated that some two billion people will be watching on television. It is not only us Aussies who are sports mad. *

So while we are in this "Olympic mood" you may find the following four films both interesting and entertaining. They are all of high quality. *

The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner The film depicts a Borstal Boy who is in detention for robbing a bakery. His only redeeming quality, it seems, is that he is a natural runner. The governor of the prison, seeing an opportunity for a bit of positive notoriety for his institution, sets up an athletic competition with the local public school—a school of the "better sort". The

loneliness of the boy's outings to train is seen as he reviews the futility of his previous manner of living. What makes the film so poignant is the way in which our runner is used as a pawn in a contest that is really a species of class war. *

On the great day he easily leads the field and is all set to win, but then, in a fit of pique and anger, he deliberately "throws" the race. *

This is the film in which the actor Tom Courtenay made his fine reputation. He became the essence of the "angry young man" and "born loser" which were the undercurrents of so many British films of that time. *

This Sporting Life The story is about a Yorkshire coalminer who literally bashes his way to the top as a rugby player. It gives many graphic details of the brutal underside of professional football in England's provinces—both on and off the field. *

Counterpointing the pain of maintaining celebrity status on the field, is the player's pain and frustration in pursuing a love affair with his landlady. His uncertainty in matters of love mirrors the uncertainty he feels when dominating scrum packs; the public is very fickle and one is only as good as one's last game. It is alienation all round. Our "hero" is really a very unattractive person, but our hearts go out to him, as well they might. *

This film gains its satisfying impact because of the brilliant combination of social comment and a "warts and all" depiction of many of the personalities who make up these games. *

Requiem for a Heavyweight This movie is sombre fare; not all Hollywood movies had happy endings. In brief, everybody's favourite, Jackie Gleason, plays the part of the manager of an ageing prize fighter, played by that heart-throb, Anthony Quinn. The manager had bet a mobster that his man could last only one round in a fight. Out of loyalty the boxer manages to keep on his feet until round seven. The mobster wants the bet settled in three weeks or the consequences will be dire! In further acts of blind loyalty, the fighter takes on demeaning jobs in order to raise the cash. He becomes a "wrestler" at a circus sideshow. We see the pathos of a once fine physique reduced to comic capers. Of interest in this movie is the fine role played by the middle-aged Mickey Rooney—a far cry from the insufferable Andy Hardy days. This is a moving study of friendship, trust, and betrayal. *

Chariots of Fire This film made a tremendous impact when it was first released in 1981. That it was widely imitated both in its



genre and in the stunning sound-track is the best commendation one can make. *

It is a true story about what it means to win and what one must do to achieve success. Eric Liddell is a committed Christian

The public is very fickle and one is only as good as one's last game

who regards his sporting abilities as being all for the glory of Jesus. Harold Abrahams is an English Jew, also a fine sportsman; his motivation to succeed on the field is in order to be accepted. The movie makes a clever cross-cutting to reveal the careers of both men, which climaxed in their roles in the 1924 Olympic Games. Liddell became a missionary in China and died in a Japanese prisoner of war camp. Abrahams became a revered leader in English amateur athletics. *

All who have seen this movie regard it as one of the most inspiring they have ever seen. It will certainly evoke Paul's words: "I have run the straight race," and, "They do it to win a fading wreath; we, a wreath that never fades." *

Want to Help Build a New Church?



Or would you rather get
Top Interest on your Money at Call

You Can do Both with Us!

The South Australian Churches of Christ Building Extension Mutual Fund has some interesting figures for you, especially if you are a pensioner.

Write to Churches of Christ in SA Inc, 263 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide SA 5006. Phone (08) 239 0233. Fax (08) 239 0914.

One Christian's Perspective on the Gun Issue

TOM FRASER

From my earliest recollection a gun has been part of the scene in which I have lived. Not a fantasy scene as promoted by the TV screen, but a hard real world where the gun was an essential piece of equipment for rural living. During my earliest childhood years, the living area of the family home was a split slab building that my pioneering grandfather had built from bush material. *

There was a gun kept behind the door and I was disciplined

The ability to use or abuse, to allow things to be a blessing or a curse is the challenge the Lord puts before us

to have a right and responsible attitude towards it and its use. That early discipline has stood me well for 60 odd years and I have been trusted by the community with a licence to own firearms, both pistols and long arms, automatic weapons excluded. However, now because of the irresponsibility of others, I may no longer be trusted to own certain types or numbers of guns. *

We are all appalled at the evil associated with the killings in Tasmania, but does this justify the innocent being penalised for the guilty. In a so-called Christian community, what are the long-term implications of our

politicians disregarding British common law and bringing in discriminatory legislation on a surge of emotionalism stirred up by the so-called news media. *

Among the emotional reports, some Christian leaders have made impassioned pleas to take guns out of the community. May I suggest that any Christian teacher worth his salt should know that abolition is not the answer. Blame is not to be put on inanimate objects but on the attitude of human emotion. God created the world and everything in it and saw that it was good. This leaves no latitude for us to condemn created things. The ability to use or abuse, to allow things to be a blessing or a curse is the challenge the Lord puts before us. *

When Cain refused to control his emotions (Gen 4:7) and killed Abel, the Lord disregarded the instrument of death, but indicated that Cain was to be held accountable. Accountability was re-emphasised in the covenant handed down to Noah, and it is still embodied in spiritual law, even under grace. If there is no repentance, Paul says, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation." * Responsible gun owners have been asking legislators to enact stronger laws against irresponsible use of guns. This has been disregarded and almost all legislation over previous years has been directed at the responsible gun owner. Why? *

Throughout the world where responsible gun ownership is encouraged, crime with firearms is always significantly lower than where abolition or strict controls are enforced. Chicago, New York and North-

ern Ireland are cases in point, where restrictive controls have been in place for decades, yet firearms crimes are on the increase. Paul deals with a relevant spiritual principle in Romans 7. *

If we relinquish truth in the divine absolutes of Scripture, the basis of a free society is demolished, for people will do what is right in their own eyes and every one will be turned against their neighbour. There is appalling lack of understanding of British common law as a moderator in a free society, particularly among Christians. *

Fundamental to community living is that every person has intrinsic rights and freedoms, provided their actions do not impinge on the rights of others. Basically, *Magna Carta* is a document condemning authoritarian rule over the intrinsic God-given rights of the individual, and it is being ignored by today's humanistic law makers and judiciary. Guns are not the issue, it is a free society versus international humanistic socialism. *

If society assents to banning guns, what will be the next right to be taken from us? We have already lost the right to free speech in preference to being

politically correct. We've lost the right to be accused by two or more witnesses, we've lost the right to defend our families against tyranny and criminals, why is it that some deviates of society can invoke the discrimination laws, while honest God-fearing people may not be able to. We've lost the legal right and responsibility to discipline our children. *

It may seem queer, but soon it may not be acceptable to encourage our children to be shooters, but OK to let them to become homosexuals. Removal of the rights to private ownership of properties is on the agenda of the new socialist order, as has been the banning of private ownership of firearms. The general attitude is that it will never happen here. It is already happening and will continue to happen until the church begins to stand for truth and righteousness and the community understands the profit in spiritual values. *

Tom Fraser is an elder of the Maitland, NSW church.

**DIAL FOR
NEW HOPE
(03) 9877 9191**

Visiting Canberra?

Stay with a Church Family

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

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

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

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

Advance bookings appreciated

God, Guns and Gympie

ALAN MATHESON

Not all that should be said about Port Arthur has been said. Probably not all the pain, the horror or the evil can at this time be put into words. *

The first response, the pastoral ministry of the church as reported in both the religious ("AC" 18 May) and the daily media has been both moving and profound. *

The ministry of pastors and priests, of grief counsellors, of lay people whether neighbours, or nurses or officers of the police or ambulance services, captured the headlines around the world. *

The second response, the call for legislation to ban all automatic and semiautomatic guns has been decisively taken by all levels of Government. But

is it still enough?. For one of the most disturbing and chilling aspects of the emerging gun debate is the degree to which the church itself is caught up in supporting the right to carry guns. *

God and Guns

The Gympie protests against gun control, the involvement of the church in the demonstrations supporting the right to carry guns and the proliferation of so called Christian organisations supporting the gun lobby have yet to be confronted by Australian churches. *

Of course, mainline churches, such as the Victorian Alliance of Community and Religious Groups for Gun Control (although Churches of Christ appear not to be a member of the Alliance) are active in support-

ing the Federal Government's legislation. *

However, other parts of the church in fact believe that the right to carry guns is integral to their faith as Christians and patriots. *

There is a strange alliance between God and guns which needs to be exposed. *

Christian Patriots

There are a whole range of marginalised and fragmented so-called Christian groups infiltrating our rural churches. * Our churches need to be aware of the distortions of right-wing religious groups and their links with the gun lobby. *

Ministers, elders and church boards would do well to ensure that the likes of the League of Rights, Citizen Electoral Councils (described by the Austral-

ian Jewish community as one of the most active anti-Semitic groups operating in Australia), the Church of the Creator, Christian Identity Ministries, the Christian Patriots Association and the Confederate Action Party are not given platforms in our churches. And such journals as *Lock Stock and Barrel*, one of the most virulent pro-gun journals in Australia, do not find their way into our congregations. *

If the lessons of Port Arthur are to be learned, then not only will we need to continue our pastoral ministry, to maintain our strongest campaigning for gun control, but to expose those so-called Christian organisations which see the right to carry guns as an integral part of faith and patriotism. *

A Politician's Perspective

DON SMITH

Kingaroy is at the heart of one of Queensland's major agricultural regions and well known throughout Australia for its peanut production. It is an appropriate place for a Minister of Primary Industries, Fisheries and

Forestry to represent as a Member of Parliament. *

Trevor Perrett is the member for the State Electorate of Barambah, which includes the Kingaroy area. Trevor is a long-term member of the Kingaroy church. His brother is an elder of the church. Right now Trevor finds himself at the centre of gun control issues in the local community. Kingaroy is not that

far from Gympie where one of the earliest controversial public meetings took place. The *South Burnett Times* quotes him as saying that, "He will not be attending any public meetings called by gun lobby groups as recent experiences of other Cabinet Ministers have been they become nothing more than slanging matches with no reasoned debate and threats of forming other political parties if we do not fully accept the arguments of some extremists." Mr Perrett said that, "It is regrettable much gun law misinformation has been peddled by vocal extremists who seem determined to misrepresent the thrust of the planned new laws." He stressed that there is no policy for "disarming the na-

tion" and there is no participation of the Queensland government in any "international conspiracy as suggested by some extremists". In a personal column in the same paper he noted that Australians are involved in a nation-wide demand, stemming from the Port Arthur shootings, for the removal of sustained high-volume firearms from our communities. He also commented that when some weapons are prohibited, there will still be a wide range of firearms for firearm licence holders. Mr Perrett said the government seeks the cooperation of the general public, and in particular the shooting fraternity, while we address the issues raised by the Canberra conference. *

L. C. F. Higgins

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

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



Chartered Accountant

Wanted Urgently

Do you have any Carpet Bowls that you are not using. We would like donations or are willing to purchase them for our HODOS program.

Phone Jim Tilson
(03) 9336 7129
East Kellor Church of Christ.

ENGAGEMENTS

THURLOW-ROBINSON Robert and Ruth Thurlow, together with Rob and Joy Robinson, are very happy to announce the engagement of Keryl and Brad in Launceston 30 June 1996. May God bless you both.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

WOTHERSPOON (PERCY) Ron Wotherspoon and Dorothy Percy were married at Lismore Methodist Church on 21 July 1936. Ron and Dorothy have worshipped at North Sydney, Penshurst and Lismore Churches of Christ, and currently worship at Rockdale Church of Christ. Love and congratulations from their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

DEATHS

DONNELLY, Ellen Florence (Nell) 23 June 1996, of Adelene Nursing Home, Wyoming, NSW. Beloved wife of Jack (deceased), loving mother and mother-in-law of Barbara and Paul Spence, Valerie and Allan Webb, John and Pat, Joan and Ken Dundas, much-loved grandmother and great-grandmother to their families. Aged 87 years. Safe in the arms of Jesus.

MCCREDDEN, Gladstone Loved husband of Ruby for over sixty years, father of Stan and Lorna, Robert and Pam, Terry and Lyn, grandfather to Phillip, Jenni and Mark, Kathy, Gary, Daniel and Nick. He encouraged his family, by example, to take their place in both conference activities and the local church. A skilled carpenter he gave of his time willingly in the "church in a day" program and in his retirement years, together with his mates, Jim Douglas and Lyall Williams, built halls and kitchens at Knoxfield. A number of eastern suburban churches and the "old" Camp Waterman owe much to his skills. Chaplain to Kappa Sigma Pi, circa 1950's, he provided a role model for young men at the Box Hill Church of Christ.

HOLIDAYS

APOLLO BAY-GREAT OCEAN ROAD Ocean view. Forest seclusion. Wood fires. Comfortable house accommodates 2-10. (03) 9597 0158.

BED & BREAKFAST "AARUNDALE REST" GOLD COAST

Six minutes drive to beach, close to Movie/Seaworld. 2QS (1 en suite) 1 twin room. Warm hospitality. Glenys and Bob Reaby. Phone (07) 5571 6161.

FREMANTLE, WA Bethel Guest House. Short walk to town, beaches, Esplanade. From \$20 pp twin includes light breakfast. Phone (09) 335 4656. Host Bob Fairman.

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.

WANTED

CHAIRS 50-100 padded stackable chairs wanted for new Casterton (Vic) Community Church's new chapel. Phone Robert Newton (055) 81 2000.



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

Coffee Break Who Spoiled my Day?

CAROL PRESTON

Each morning, when I am ready to leave for work, I get into my car. I'm usually not consciously aware of my expectations that the engine will start, but if it does not I am immediately annoyed and my day is off to a very bad start. *

However, the car does not cause my annoyance. My expectation does! In fact if I really did not want to go to work that day, I might feel quite relieved. * This is what I was suggesting last month when we discussed what causes emotions and if we

Sure, your children could help prevent all those reactions if they would just do exactly as you expect them to

can control them. When your child is out late at night and you lay awake feeling worried, angry and disappointed, it's not your child who is causing those feelings, but your thoughts; those expectations you have about when he or she will be home and what might have happened to them. And those knots in your stomach and the headache you are developing are the symptoms of what you are thinking about. *

Sure, your children could help prevent all those reactions if they would just do exactly as you expect them to. We all know that is unlikely. Even if you have a child who knows exactly what



you expect and is prepared always to do that, then you're sure to have a car, a dog, or spouse, a checkout attendant, or bank teller, who will not fulfil your expectations. *

There are many things which happen or don't happen that seem to control your emotional well-being. But what role does your thinking play? The primary role, I suggest, as annoying as that might seem. It would be easier to consider other people and things as the cause of our feelings, but God has given us this incredible brain, capable of great capacities for remembering, imagining and for making connections, and our feelings indicate what connections we have made. It's as we make changes in what we believe and expect, that there will follow changes in our feelings. This certainly does not mean we will never get angry, anxious, or sad, but it does mean we can turn to our thoughts and expectations when feelings are aroused and begin to clarify, purify and reason with ourselves about the cause of our feelings and the most appropriate action to take. *

Over the next few weeks be aware of your anger, anxiety and disappointments and let's look at some of them more closely. *

CHANGES

TWEED HEADS, NSW—Minister, Bruce Warwick, 9 Peppermint Place, Banora Point NSW 2486.

BAPTISMS

•Angela Barrett, Linley McDonald, Suzanne Lelean, **Horsham, Vic** •Tony Drake, Joshua Otten, Bianca Otten, Mark Otten, Karen Otten, Angela Barker, John Creely, Aishah Durbidge, **Bendigo, Vic** •Wal Bennett, **Latrobe Terrace Vic** •Shandell Elmer, Launceston, Tas •Franca Hourmouzis, Lichelle Jansen, David Tibble, **Monash City, Vic** •Lorna Cameron, **Tweed Heads, NSW**

MARRIAGES

•Ruth Barry and Jamie Benney, **Latrobe Tce, Vic**

DEATHS

•Sarah Jane Preston, **Horsham, Vic** •Dorothy Perry, Esma Denver, **Bendigo, Vic** •Iris Gates, **Maidstone, Vic** •Graham Munro, Ron Stokes, **Frankston, Vic**

OBITUARIES

Obituaries are limited to 100 words
AIRD, Hilda Edith Mary

(15.6.96) Edie was born on 1 March 1893 at Everard Central, SA, and was baptised at Lochiel on 29 July 1906. She married Gordon Aird in 1920 at York Church of Christ, where she served as a JCE leader, SS teacher and deaconess, and showed her faith in many practical ways. They have three children, Lyall, Keith and Jean, four grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. Gordon died in 1946 aged 49 when they were members of the Hindmarsh church. During her lifetime, Edie also worshipped at Henley Beach and Glenelg churches. In latter years she attended the Victor Harbor church. Her last four years were spent at Ross Robertson Nursing Home, Victor Harbor.

—G. Pitman

COLE Thelma Winnifred

(22.1.96) Thelma was born at Ma Ma Creek, Qld, 18 March 1930 to George William and Winnifred Hannah Cole, the fifth child in a family of six, after the birth her brothers Colin(dec), Lester, Raymond(dec) and Norman. Patricia was born later. Inspired by the work of her maternal grandmother Mrs Bade, who was a bush nurse in the horse and buggy days, she took up a career in nursing. She was a dedicated nurse with a great sense of humour. She served in numerous hospitals and developed skills in operating theatre procedures. She became a Fellow of the College of Nursing in 1976. Her life was marked by a consistent faith and dependence upon God.

GRAY, Ernest

(25.6.96) Ernest Gray was born Yorkshire in 1902 and died in Skegness, England. After training at Overdale College, Birmingham, he was ordained in 1930 and went to Malawi under the auspices of the British Churches of Christ. After a lifetime of missionary work, he and Louie (dec.) worked in the Hampton, Vic, church in 1974. His background gave him a unique perspective. Ernest used lectionaries before their time. His sense of humour caused him to write *Fun in the Bush*. He saw himself as preferring complex whole truths rather than the "simplistic" ones. Ernest helped the UK Churches of Christ join with the United Reformed Church; no mean feat because the URC is not believer-baptist!

—Rev David Brown

(Malvern Uniting Church)

LIVINGSTONE, Ellen Isabell

(6.7.96) "Auntie Livy" was born into the rural community at Harvey, WA in 1905. Together with her husband Merv (dec), she was a committed member of the Harvey church, raising their five daughters through some difficult years. In 1957 Merv and Ella "retired" to Mandurah, where Ella's generosity, love for music and her Lord provided stimulus to a new church. Her fishing skills and stories were amazing, as was

her determination in overcoming the loss of her right hand in a car accident. Her fellow residents at Joondanna Village knew her as "the happy Christian". Family and friends celebrated her life with a thanksgiving service.

—Don Sonsee

McCREDDEN, Gladstone

(25.6.96) Glad, as he was affectionately known, died aged 86. A member at Box Hill Church of Christ for over 40 years, Knoxfield and Montrose, he served as a carpenter, building churches in a day, and in maintenance; as a KSP and camp leader; in church football and as an usher. He was a faithful, forthright, Christian who led by example. Married to Ruby for over 60 years, they were the parents of Stan, Rob, and Terry. He was father in law to Lorna, Pam, and Lyn, and grandfather to Philip, Jenni, Gary, Kathy, Daniel and Nick. During the service at Montrose, family members

offered their tributes in music, symbol and in words. Glad is remembered with respect and love. —H.A.L. Clark

PRESTON, Sarah Jane

(23.6.96) Born in Warracknabeal, Vic, in 1918, Sarah Wilson married Harold Abbott in Horsham Church of Christ in 1936. She became the mother of eight children: Ron, Bill, Graham, Joy, Judith, Kevin, Peter and Carolyn. After being widowed, she married Tom Preston in 1987, moved to Ballarat and worshipped at Dawson Street. Baptised at Horsham in 1947, her main sphere of Christian service was in catering, a ministry she offered capably, willingly and efficiently. A regular attendee at services, she also conducted the trading table at CWF. A large congregation packed the Horsham church where the service was conducted by Darren Kittel (Dawson St), Steve Blackett (Horsham) and Harvey Clark (Montrose). —H.A.L. Clark.

Food Services Manager

Stanwell Tops Christian Conference Centre requires the services of a Food Services Manager to work as part of its ministry team in the provision of services to guests of the Centre.

The successful applicant will have competencies in the areas of:

- Managing a small team of kitchen assistants
- Planning menus, ordering and maintaining stock
- Working within the agreed budgets

A current driver's licence is a requirement as are the willingness to live on-site and work within the ethos and values of the Centre.

Preferably the candidate will

- Have appropriate tertiary qualifications
- Be trained in First Aid procedures
- Be computer literate

The appointment will initially be for a three-month probationary period.

Remuneration will be in line with Churches of Christ in NSW Minister recommended salaries.

Applicants seeking more information should contact Greg Rees during business hours on Freecall 1800 816 496.

**Stanwell
Tops**

Stanwell Tops Christian Conference Centre is a ministry of Churches of Christ in NSW

TAS

LAUNCESTON (C. Spaulding, W. Kerrison, J. Ratcliffe) Brian & Julia Coats recommissioned for service in Zaire on 9 June when Brian also preached ... 12 of our High School students attended State Winter Camp at Bicheno ... Instruction & encouragement classes for readers to be held ... At 10.00 am 16 June, Ernest Lloyd, a missionary to the Jews was speaker ... A number of members attended Fusion Open Day at Poatina on 22 June, a real eye-opener, mainlanders coming to Tasmania must visit.

VIC

BENDIGO (JOHN SWEETMAN) Services well attended ... Church fair & wares night raised over \$1200 ... Dedication services for 8 babies over 2 Sundays ... New youth director June Hopley commissioned 17 March ... Commenced after school Bubble Club at Comet Hill Primary School, over 40 attending ... Youth services last Sunday each month ... Gold Miner Gang average attendance 15 ... Sweetmans on long service leave.

MORWELL (Andrew Ogden) CWF 50th Birthday Celebrations held with Lynette Leach as speaker ... *Morwell Advertiser* has a photo of members in its pages ... Bible School children shared in service 23 June ... Prayer groups available for members during week ... Arch Crozier has been unwell for some time ... Heather Galbraith remembered at this time on death of her grandfather.

KNOXFIELD (Rod Brown, Jack White, Jason McCheyne) New youth minister Jason McCheyne welcomed ... After 12 years, Rod Brown believes it is time to move on. Selection Committee looking for minister to commence 1997 ... Visiting speakers have included Graeme Chapman, Alan Hirsch & Noel Buchanan of the 'Graffiti Ministry' During this term the church has conducted Self Awareness & Suicide Awareness Seminars.

MONASH CITY (Ron Elbourne, Martin Gillespie) Martin Gillespie conducted camp for men & marriage enrichment seminar ... Craig Brown appointed part-time youth minister until end of year ... 5.00 pm services for June, July & August ... Young people successful at State Youth games ... Elders shared in strategy conference ... Planned Giving review conducted ... Special Easter services including Messiah in the Passover & Servanthood.

KANIVA (Paul Bauer) Doug & Dorothy Wallis celebrated Golden Wedding anniversary ... Fellowship enjoyed at progressive lunch in church hall & two homes ... Sympathy to Sanehia Rowe on death of father, local doctor for many years ... Study groups enjoying *Lets Look at Creation* & film *Jesus of Nazareth* ... YP Group from Peel St Ballarat visited Kaniva & Serviceton churches.

BURWOOD-MOUNT WAVERLEY (Peter Wing Tang) Meaningful Easter services appreciated ... Moses Abbatangelo, St Kilda Gatehouse, spoke & showed video of the work ... Ron Burrell, Jean Grayden & Perc Ruff hospitalised ... Church farewelled Ester Mambwe who has completed her Master's Degree & returned to Zambia ... Eliza Jane Purdie new member ... Parent dedication & child naming of Sarah Wing Tang.

LATROBE TERRACE (David Jones) 97-year-old Wal Bennett baptised & received "right hand of fellowship" with Jan Combridge & Cecil Pickard ...

Young people participated in State Youth Games ... Dr Mackenzie & Neil Galbraith guest speakers at services 30 June ... Jones family give thanks for over \$1000 received in 40 Hour famine donations ... CWF enjoyed talent demonstrated at musical afternoon.

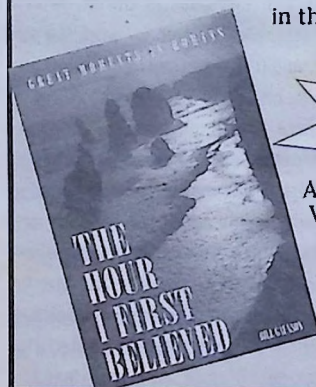
MAIDSTONE (A. McMillan) During Andrew's holidays church welcomed visiting speakers-Malcolm Knowles (Bible Society), Graeme Wigney (CCTC), George Dajozzer (Leprosy Mission) and Peter & Jenny Stokes (Salt Shakers) ... Young people enjoyed Queenscliff Youth Games ... There are many sick, church saddened by home-call of Iris Gates ... Fay Freiberg took service in absence of Andrew McMillan after ear operation.

HORSHAM (Steve Blacket & Julie Trinnick) Horsham church Community Counselling Service facilitated a 6-

week parenting seminar through May & June entitled "Being Precious as Parents, As Children". Over six-week period, 23 parents attended. Two thirds were from the wider community. Speakers included Judith Bysouth, Jeanie Mitchell, Elaine Wheaton, Kevin Drinkell, Jo-Anne Bates & Julie Edmonds, all of whom held special qualifications.

FRANKSTON (P. Bradley) Meeting considers future ministry needs ... 40 young people attended State Youth Games ... Large farewell for Croxford family ... Youth Ministry Trivia Night raised \$400 ... Operations for Dawn Kitching, Fred Combridge, Marlene Usshers, Smbell & Maureen Daff ... Phillip Bradley concludes ministry on 28 July ... Walking group at 9.30 am each Monday ... Church praying for Natasha Crouch.

Discover what Martin Luther called, "The Chief book of the New Testament"



in this series of practical studies on Romans by **Bill Gaunson.**

\$8.50
Plus \$1.00 postage

A new release from Vital Publications.

Order from:
Federal Literature Department of Churches of Christ
PO Box 101
North Essendon Vic 3041.
Phone (03) 9379 1219.



Introduce Your Friends to an Australian Christian

We would be happy to send them three issues on a trial basis. Simply fill in the form below (with their permission) and send it to, The Australian Christian, PO Box 101, North Essendon Vic 3041.

Name

Address

Postcode

SA

NARACOOORTE (Steve Kitto) 30 attended Pastoral Care & Helping Skills seminar with Alan Niven from CCTC, people from Portland, MtGambier, Kaniva, Bordertown & Naracoorte ... Sunday evening home fellowships through winter... AGM: David Robertson elected as deacon & Lilo Diesslin as deaconess ... Positive attitude to future ... Planning for church anniversary 17-18 August ... SE District Conference here. Chris Ambrose guest speaker. Well attended.

NSW

SUFFOLK PARK (Roger Foletta) Church continues in high spirits ... Templeton family to take some time out of ministry, farewell thanksgiving service for their ministry on 30 June ... Church to be led in partnership with church planting at Ballina ... Play-group continues to attract large numbers, 24 plus ... Church services running at a healthy average of 30.

TWEED HEADS (Bruce Warwick) Minister attended Stanwell Tops refresher... Bruce & Cheryl Warwick moved to own home, manse used for offices & groups ... Several attended marriage of Justin Whitecross & Rebecca Lawlor at Wollongong ... Elsie Sholz, 96 foundation member passed away at Lady Small Haven ... Drama by youth Sunday nights much appreciated ... Trivia night arranged by Ann Bigelow, raised \$800+ for orphans in Philippines.

QLD

DALBY (Tony Ochse) Remy & Theresa Sese & family, with Lyle Morris, visited church. Remy has taken up ministry with Normanton church ... Ladies visited Bongeene CWM to hear Joan Kambouris speak on her experiences at the former Westbrook Detention Centre where she was a helper ... Sunday School held successful sausage sizzle as fund raiser.

REDCLIFFE (Adrian Risson) Many activities this year: Easter Sunday presentation by choir, Autumn fair, Stewardship weekend, Two new fellowship groups, 20s to mid 40s & mid 40s+, Kidz Klub continues active outreach work ... Ern Smith elected as elder ... Work party joined with Caboolture members for weekend of painting at Eidsvold, return trip planned for September ... 40th Anniversary celebrations in September.

WITHCOTT (Steve Fahey & Debbie Clayton) After some difficult times, church is in good heart & thankful to God ... Great rejoicing over recent decisions & baptisms (13 since April) ... Bible study groups studying Ecclesiastes ... Two Christianity Explained classes running, unchurched people attending ... New child care centre opened this year has helped church minister to some practical needs of locals.

WA

CARNARVON Church looking forward to interim ministry of John & June Tocknell ... Busy bees in progress to prepare manse ... Plans afoot to repaint chapel & remodel new main entrance on sheltered north wall ... Don Stanton of Maranatha Revival & Roger Ellam of Compassion were guest speakers at combined churches functions ... Praise God for flow of Gascoyne River.

COCOA brings HOPE



To the isolated people of Orissa State in INDIA, COCOA brings HOPE via medical treatment.

Dr Iris Paul and her assistants travel for many days to reach these people. She brings much-needed medical treatment and supplies. Without our support many of these people would die.

**Will you become a partner in this vital work?
Help spread HOPE though a gift to COCOA.**

Name:

Address:

.....Postcode

Amount: \$

Please charge my: ☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Expiry Date:

Signature

Post to: Churches of Christ Overseas Aid
180a Gray St, ADELAIDE SA 5000.

Snippets from History

Mega Churches

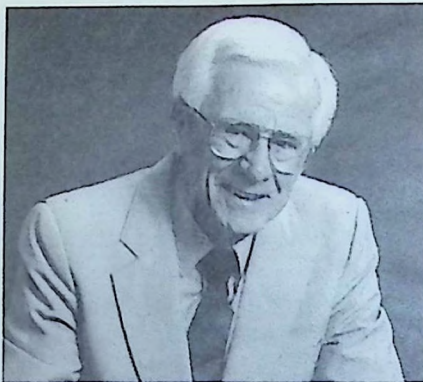
GORDON STIRLING

A mega Church of Christ is one that has over 200 members. *

They had mega churches in NSW, Victoria and SA 100 years ago, especially in SA. At the turn of the century, Grote Street had 484 members, Hindmarsh 505, Unley 332, and Norwood 539, with Queenstown and Balaklava pushing towards 200. Membership in SA doubled 1892-1902. *

But smaller churches were languishing, some without ministers (they called them "evangelists" then). The Evangelists Committee found its funds depleted. They wrote to the churches advising them of the desperate situation. They wrote to the evangelists in subsidised churches advising them that they could not guarantee continuation of their salaries. There was little response. Some churches, including some big ones, were too preoccupied with their own programs and building debts. *

At the 1899 State Conference it was resolved to urge the churches "to make one determined effort in God's name to increase the number of evangelists in the field". This appeal, with an awakened mission conscience, saw the churches going into the new century with new life. A Building Extension Fund was commenced. Dual envelopes were introduced. A mission tent was purchased for £50. Vigorous church planting began. In the first decade of the century churches were commenced at Goolwa, Wallaroo, Mt Hill, Naracoorte, Mile End, Mt Compass, Maylands, Croydon, Semaphore, Railway Town, Murray Bridge, Moonta,



Ungarra, Berri, Mundulla, Dulwich, Forestville and Tumby Bay. *

One of the first things that the new Tumby Bay church did was to buy a block of land on the Esplanade overlooking the bay. A sailing ship arrived to take on wheat. It carried sandstone ballast that had to be disposed of before loading the wheat. The church offered its block of land, for which the shipping company paid them £25. The church then used the stone to construct a fine building. *

The mega churches cooperated, lending their evangelists and increasing their giving. The Norwood church's Young Men's Bible Class took over an old furniture factory (rats and all!) to set up a "mission" in 1907. The central feature was a young men's choir. This eventually became the Maylands church. *

Ten years into the new century, SA church membership doubled again. Will history repeat itself in our new century? *



30 Years Ago In the Open Forum columns a writer commented on the role of women in the church. He noted three objections that are raised. These were theological, personal prejudice and lack of opportunity. The editor commented, "This letter is far too long, but Mr Lawton is a new writer and probably hasn't read the rules".

60 Years Ago H.R. Taylor, writing from SA, noted a resolution to the Premier seeking a reduction in the many betting shops. The Victorian Home Mission Committee eagerly awaited the arrival of E.C. Hinrichsen, the well known Brotherhood evangelist, to conduct tent missions throughout the state.

90 Years Ago An anti-gambling deputation waited on the Premier of Victoria. Church and community representatives deplored the gambling demon in Australia. From Queensland: the Eel Creek brethren intend building a small chapel, Maryborough's annual picnic was in the Protestant Hall owing to bad weather.

The Last Word

What is to give light must endure burning.

—Viktor Frankl

"What makes you think the prisoner was drunk?" asked the Judge.

"Well your honour," replied the arresting officer, "I saw him lift up a manhole cover and walk away with it, and when I asked him what it was for he said, 'I want to listen to it on my record player!'"

"Every time I have a cup of coffee I get a stabbing pain in my right eye. What shall I do?" "Take the spoon out of your cup."

"That's a very loyal dog you have there," the travelling salesman told the Irish barber in a small town in Cork.

"He stays so close to you while you're cutting your customer's hair."

"Not true!" said Mick.

"It's just that now and then I snip off a piece of an ear."

What time is it when an elephant sits on a fence? Time to buy a new fence.

Pontius' Puddle



Try as they might, Goliath's parents could not talk their unruly teenage son out of getting that target-shaped tatoo on his forehead.