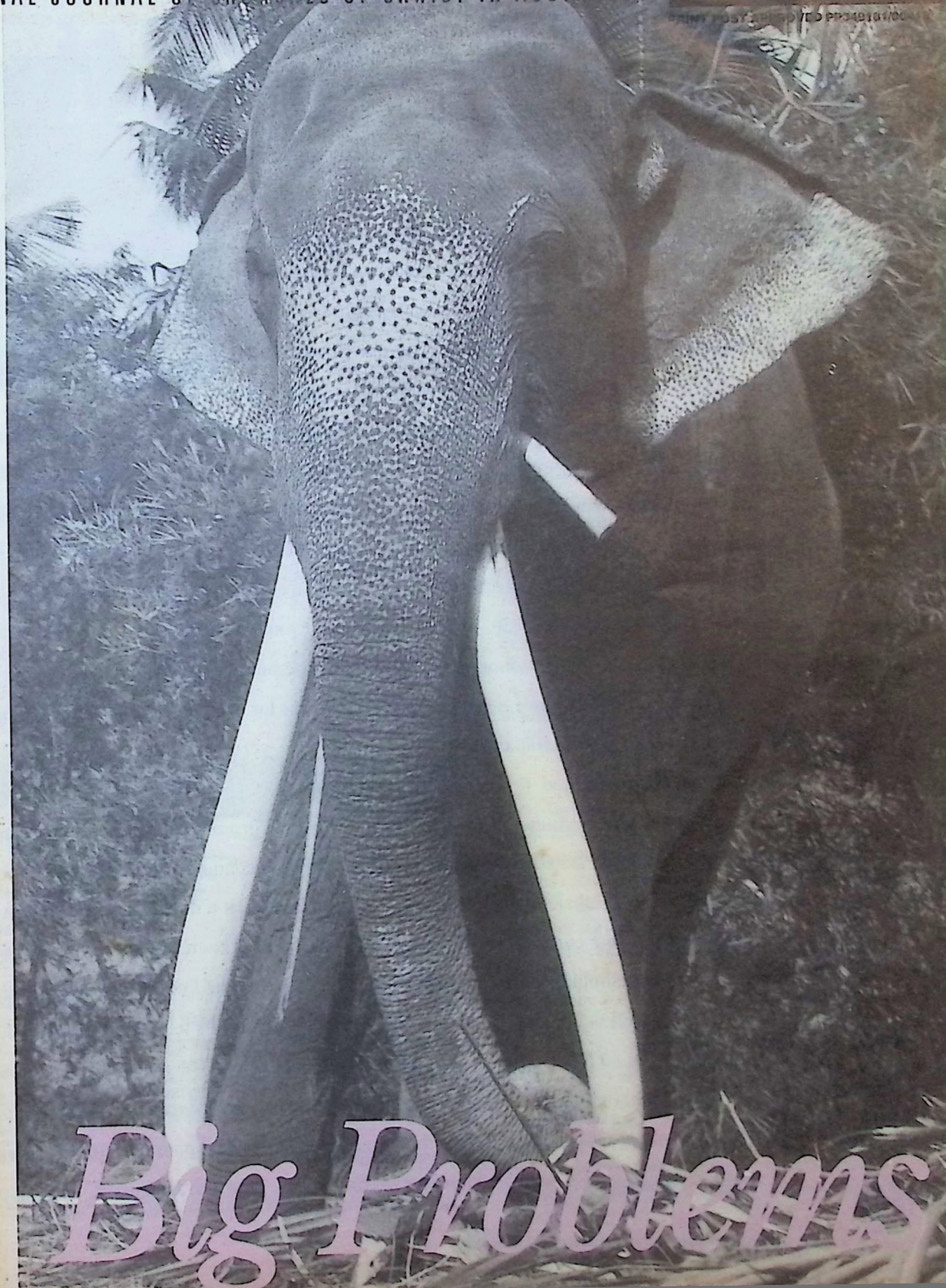


THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

Vol. 99 No. 13, 3 August 1996



Big Problems

Editor: Don Smith, Production Manager/Sub Editor: Nigel Pegram Issue 17 August Deadline 8 August; Issue 7 September Deadline 29 August; Issue 21 September Deadline 12 September. Address for All Correspondence PO Box 101, North Essendon 3041. Telephone (03) 9379 1219, Fax (03) 9379 0015, E-mail aceditor@ozemail.com.au
 Member publication of the Australasian Religious Press Association. 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); Tom Glynn (NSW); Bob Smith (Qld); Allen Smyth (WA). Printed 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 3108. This publication is indexed in the Australasian Religion Index. ISSN 0004-8852. Advertising Rates: Displayed: \$5.50 per column centimetre, Classifieds: \$14.00 for the first 25 words and 25c for each additional word.



Editorial

The Lucky Country

DON SMITH

Australia ranks as the 11th best country in which to live according to a new United Nations' publication, *The Human Development Report, 1996*. For women, we rank as the ninth best country. Rankings were based on indicators such as life expectancy, adult literacy, education, infant health and per capita income. Canada comes first, followed by the United States, Japan, the Netherlands and Norway. Australia "leads the way" among developed countries, with our richest 20% of households earning 9.6% times the income of our poorest 20%.



World trouble spots are not surprisingly, eastern Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa. * Population explosion is a critical world development issue. Africa's doubling of its population in the last thirty years is without historical precedent. Our first billion people was reached about 200 years ago. The next billion took 120 years, the third came 35 years later and the fourth a mere fifteen years. By 2000, expectations are for a world population exceeding six billion people. * The demographic explosion in the third world reflects high birth rates and reduced mortality rates. Given the broad ecological and economic issues and the problems of poverty, there is a powerful case for the stabilisation of populations. * By world standards Australia is doing well. In 1995 we were 19% better off than in 1985 in our real buying power and 40% better off than in 1975. By contrast many nations are far worse off, and some continue to slide. * Against this background we surely have humanitarian obligations which also make economic sense. Where economic stability prevails, there is also likely to be global stability. Australia's record has been a declining contribution to international aid. Our current figure of 0.33% of our GNP has been reduced by successive governments and should not fall further. You could talk to your Federal Member on this matter. We are well below the UN target of 0.7%. * Opportunities to assist world development through the 40 Hour Famine, our own Churches of Christ Overseas Aid, the Christmas Bowl and other appeals need to be uppermost in the annual program of local churches. Each congregation faces demands and challenges to effectively support Conference work. In addition, support for world development needs is at the heart of the Gospel. *

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We examine development in the two-thirds world and also have some personal reports on people's experiences there

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Letters to the 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.

The Church's Mission

To the Editor,

I have at last found a statement which is the ideal description of the church as I envisage it. It comes from a little book *Instrument of Thy Peace* by Alan Paton, that opponent of apartheid in South Africa and the author of *Cry the Beloved Country*.

"I have no higher vision of the Church than as the Servant of the World, not withdrawn but participating, not embattled but battling, not condemning but healing the wounds of the hurt and the lost and the lonely. Not preoccupied with it's survival or it's observances but with the needs of mankind."

This statement could well take it's place as the mission statement of all our conferences and congregations.

—Max Collyer
(Boronia, Vic)

Gun Debate

To the Editor,

I was interested to read (20 July) of Tom Fraser's attack on the subject of the gun issue. As I understand the present proposals he will be able to own the type of guns for which he has been licensed, "automatic weapons" having been specifically "excluded".

—A. Augustine
(Chelsea, Vic)

Gun Debate

To the Editor,

Could Tom Fraser please help me make the link, if there is one, be-

tween "truth and righteousness and ... spiritual values" and the right to own a weapon capable of destroying many human lives in a short space of time?

And Tom, could you enlighten me please regarding the "intrinsic God-given rights of the individual"? I'd be particularly interested to know if Jesus had anything to say about this, as I'd always understood that his whole life and ministry was centred around care and concern for the welfare and needs of others.

Tom, I thought the issue is the banning of automatic and semi-automatic weapons of the type used at Port Arthur, but you didn't specifically mention it. Yet you've had a go at political correctness, anti-discrimination laws, disciplining our children, the justice system, homosexuals, international humanistic socialism and the agenda of the new socialist order. You missed out Asian immigration!

Do you really believe that conservative John Howard's uniform gun legislation initiative is part of "the agenda of the new socialist order"?

You write about "abolition" and "banning guns", but surely you must know that this is not the intent of the legislation. Sporting shooters will still be able to represent their country and aspire to Olympic success as we've just witnessed, and many guns will still be legal, provided they're registered.

You must know too of the huge gap between gun deaths in the USA (38,000 pa) and those in Britain (just 60 pa) or Japan (even lower at 34 pa) both of which have very strict gun laws.

Australia stands at the crossroads. If we don't act now on uniform strict gun laws, we never will. This is just the first but an important step along the path towards a non-

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Letters to the Editor

violent society. Leaders of all parties deserve praise for their firm resolve.

Where would Jesus stand on this issue? Would he support the principle that society's legitimate right to protection and safety overrides the right to own a gun? I think so.

—Greg Foot
(Hobart, Tas)

Homosexual Lifestyle

To the Editor,
Believe it or not:

Only one percent of homosexual males die of old age. The average age of homosexuals dying of AIDS is 39 years. Homosexual activity is not so much a lifestyle as a deathstyle. There is increasing evidence that homosexuals can be helped to overcome their orientation and lead more normal, healthier lives.

—Dr A.H. Jago
(Mildura, Vic)

Leadership 2000 Followup

To the Editor,
Former Leadership 2000 participants are invited to participate in a Followup Leadership 2000 Conference to be held at the Wollongong Church of Christ 2-3 November this year.

Current Leadership 2000 participants are required to be at this Conference accompanied by at least two Board Members or Elders. The focus of the Conference will be to translate the concepts studied into the settings of Australian middle-sized churches. Phone (042)26 5022 for further details.

—E C Keating
(Wollongong, NSW)

Followship

To the Editor,
Beware of the false theology of "followship" that has started to permeate Churches of Christ.

When a minister beguiles his group of elders to "follow" him, no matter what, and for the elders to think and act towards the membership in a manner that demands unquestioning following, then the seeds are sown for the beginning of a cult.

Church democracy is the first casualty, because the elders have prayed about a matter, and they are convinced that their decision on an issue is absolutely right. If a member has a different opinion, they are quoted the Scripture "Obey your elders". If they don't mutter full allegiance they are told that they must "Repent" or they are not worthy to be involved in any ministry in the church.

Next, they are regarded as "Wolves in sheep's clothing", even if they have loyally served for many years. Then the elders talk quite openly that they would be quite happy for those people with a different viewpoint to leave the church.

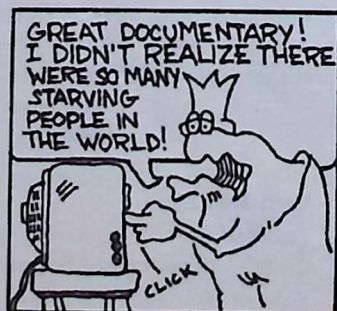
The main problem of this false theology of "followship" is that the church eldership's focus is a power based "master-servant" relationship with their members, where they resort to using their position to demand that the people do what they say.

Let's not forget Christ's teaching of what the Good Shepherd would do, if even one of his flock was lost or missing.

—Rob Wilson,
(Narre Warren, Vic)



Pontius' Puddle



Dear Readers,

In this issue we look at world development. There is only room to glimpse a part of the many aspects of this work carried out by various agencies within the church and the Australian community. The Christmas Bowl Appeal of the National Council of Churches and the TEAR Fund are other Christian agencies doing important work in this field. For our cover we are indebted to Airavata Press the publishers of *Aliya: Stories of the Elephants of Sri Lanka* by Teresa Cannon and Peter Davis. This is an outstanding book and is available from the publishers, PO Box 204, Ferntree Gully Vic 3156 (03) 9758 3361 or from selected bookshops.

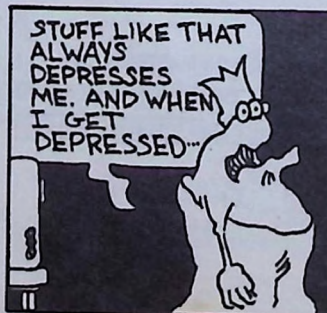
In recent weeks we have been encouraged by churches sending a list of new "AC" subscribers. Marion, SA, Withcott, Qld, and Ainslie, ACT, are among churches responding in this way. Some of these have introduced the paper to their leaders who were not subscribers. We are endeavouring to have the paper appeal to leaders and members alike. In this issue we include a special offer of sending three gift issues to

someone you nominate (see page 7). Please talk to people in your congregation about this offer. Bulk copies of the paper are also available.

The National Church Life Survey is almost upon us, it commences in the week beginning 25 August. Material should be in your church now. This survey is an important opportunity to learn more about the life of our churches and current trends. This information is important to help your church plan for the future. The information is also important to state leaders in strategic planning. If you need help, contact your state office.

As we move into the latter part of the year, thoughts will turn to holiday planning. Some locations will be of historic interest and will have left you with some special thoughts about our nation. Sometimes the scenery will have had an overwhelming impression upon us. We invite your comments on your experiences. At a later point we plan to publish some of these. Please keep your comments under 200 words.

Sam Smith



Jailed Pair Can Dish it Out But Refuse to Eat

Prisoners take part in World Vision 40-hour fast

Prison is not a bed of roses, but there are those worse off, according to two Risdon prisoners.

Wayne Jones and Anthony Chatwin, who are serving their sentences in Launceston prison, are taking part in the World Vision 40-hour famine which began at 8 pm on Friday night.

Along with 500,000 other Australians they will eat nothing except orange juice and barley sugar un-

til lunchtime today [Sunday].

Jones and Chatwin have even denied themselves tea and coffee.

For Jones and Chatwin the sacrifice is major—Jones is the cook for the Launceston prison and Chatwin a wardensman who dishes out the meals.

Lunch yesterday was a bit hard:

"We had baked chicken and chips.

I smelled that and (groan)—boy,

I thought, I want to eat that,"



No porridge: Wayne Jones and Anthony Chatwin, with their barley sugar lollies, contemplate 40 hours without prison food

When Jesus said: 'Suffer the children to come unto Me,' He meant deaf children also.



Cristy is a 10-year-old Filipino girl, one of 3 deaf children in her family. Her twin sister is also deaf. The cause of their deafness is unknown. The father is a share cropper at the foot of the Mayon Volcano and extremely poor.

Through the ministry of 'World Opportunities International Deaf Ministries', she and her sister are now grade 2 pupils at the Fishermen of Christ Learning Centre and being cared for by WOI Philippines.

WOI Deaf Ministries has work among deaf children in the Philippines, Kenya and Uganda.

Sponsoring a deaf child like Cristy at \$20 a month provides education, food, clothing and sound teaching in the Word of God.

If you would like to help by sponsoring one of the hundreds of deaf children in WOI's care, please write to:

**WOI Deaf Ministries
2 Panorama Ave,
Lower Plenty Vic 3093
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or phone **Graham Haylock** on (03) 9464 1567 for further details.

All sponsorship donations are tax deductible.

Cheques should be made payable to 'Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board'.

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Jones said.

"I had the joyful task of dishing up the food for the prisoners," grimaced Chatwin.

"The worst thing for me is caffeine withdrawal. I've got quite a headache."

With help from the Launceston Church of Christ they have so far raised more than \$400. They are staggered by the support they have received.

"Wayne Kerrison (a pastor of the church) said that the response was hard to believe. People were just shoving money at him," Jones said.

"It shows that society can forgive."

The pair have also received good support from fellow Risdon prisoners.

Chatwin came up with the idea of taking part in the famine after seeing an advertisement for it on TV. "I thought, even though we're in jail we're well-off compared to some. We still get three meals a day—we're not starving," he said.

"The famine is giving us a short

burst of feeling what others are feeling all the time.

"And it's giving me a chance to give back to society something I've taken out."

For Jones the driving force was his new-found Christian faith.

"Becoming a Christian since I came in here has helped me relate to society. I'm still a part of society and this helps me in my rehabilitation," he said.

"It shows our hands are not tied, we may be in here but we can still be involved with what's happening out there."

Money raised during the World Vision 40-hour Famine will buy food, medicine, seeds and tools and care for children and their families in countries facing a survival crisis.

What will be the first food for the pair today?

Jones: A big meal—roast lamb!

Chatwin: Coffee!

Picture Paul Scambler

From the *Launceston Sunday Examiner*

—Fran Voss

Sunstate 96

An Invitation From Queensland

Sunstate 96, 31 October – 2 November, is fast approaching. I trust you are getting excited about this event which has the potential to have a tremendous impact on the life and ministry of our churches. We invite interstate visitors to participate.

While in Britain recently I had lunch with Martin Robinson. He is excited at being involved in this Convention and is looking forward to encouraging the Churches in Australia. His heart is really with Churches of Christ and he looks on this as a wonderful opportunity to encourage us. Martin has a message that is important for us to hear if we are to be effective in mission. Michael Frost also has a message that we cannot afford to miss if we want to be effective in ministry to this generation. I encourage you to bring key people in your church. The Queensland Business Session is programmed for after lunch on Saturday. I am looking

for input from churches in this period, "Encouraging Feedback & Exciting Innovations", which follows the business session. If you have something you would like to share at this time would you please contact me. Interstate visitors are welcome to contribute to this session. For those who are not Conference delegates or who are interstate visitors, we are offering the option of a session "Musings with Martin & Michael" or a tour of the Fassifern while the Business Session is in progress. The program commences with the Convention Banquet on the Thursday evening. The Youth Vision Dinner is on Saturday evening. For church leaders who are concerned for ministry to youth (which should be all of us) this dinner is a must. Michael Frost will speak on how to be more effective in communicating with young people.

—Robert E Warwick
(Qld Conference President)

Where on Earth is God?

Winter Camp At Bicheno, Tas

Over the June long weekend Launceston, Ulverstone and Devonport churches, Tas, held a combined youth camp for high school aged young people at Bicheno. Including leaders, 45 attended and enjoyed themselves in the great weather, which enabled all the outdoor activities to proceed. These included surfing (in the non-existent waves), an extended day walk to Wineglass Bay and plenty of evening walks to tire out enthusiastic campers.

The theme of the camp, presented by Joel Ratcliffe of Launceston, was "Where on Earth is God?" Joel presented a series over three days very effectively through his

talks and through the camp leaders in smaller study groups. Several young people have made commitments resulting from decisions made during camp.

It was sad to leave camp knowing that this had been Basil and Ida Mardens last time as managers of the Bicheno complex as they go into retirement. They certainly have looked after campers over their years of service.

The June long weekend camp has become a "must" in the youth ministry program and is looked forward to with enthusiasm by the young people each year.

—Peter and Sue Daniel
(Camp Directors)

CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION

A training program for personal and professional development in ministry is offered each year at Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute.

The course is full time and designed in units of eleven weeks duration. Applicants may apply for one or more units commencing Autumn 1997.

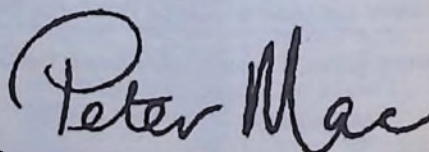
A limited number of study grants (up to \$5,000) are available for those undertaking more than one unit. Training involves on-call weekend and evening duty for which allowances are payable.

Applicants should have previous experience in pastoral care.

Closing date for applications is 27 September 1996.

For further information please contact:

Ms Jan Morgan, Director, Clinical Pastoral Education, Pastoral Care Department, telephone: (03) 9656 1301, fax: (03) 9656 1855.



Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute
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Here and There

Restoration Heritage Conference

A one day meeting for leaders of the US-based Christian Churches and the churches of Christ was held prior to the North American Christian Convention in July. Both groups were exploring ways of co-operation. At a previous Restoration Forum in November 1995, over 200 people attended to discuss heritage issues and possible closer links. The event was hailed as the best yet. Several from the Disciples of Christ were present.

Chairman Retires

Ian Smith, minister of the Ivanhoe, Vic, church has recently stepped down from the position as chairman of the Social Questions Committee of the Victorian Council of Churches, after a six-year term. He also chaired a special task force on the environment during this period.

Disciples Historical Society

Members interested in Churches of Christ are invited to extend their interest by contacting the Disciples Society, 1101 19th Ave South, Nashville, Tennessee 37212 2196. Peter Morgan is the President. The Society offers a quarterly journal for a \$US20.00 annual fee. The library is of international significance and houses a large quantity of material relating to the Campbell-Stone Movement. Further information available from Don Smith.

Kendrick Still Tops In Worship

Singer-songwriter Graham Kendrick continues to be top of the pops for congregations and fellowships using modern songs for worship, according to a survey by the Eastbourne-based Christian Copyright Licensing, which provides 19 500 churches, schools and others with licenses to reproduce religious music. Kendrick's "Shine, Jesus, Shine" was number one in a recent survey. His songs occupied five of the top 25 places.

Leadership for the Ministry of the Church

Ministry Changes at Blackburn



(L-R) Back Row: John Rowe (Pastoral Care), Beryl Graham (Administrative Secretary), Cindy Waters (Student Minister), Paul Worsnop (Student Minister), Anne Spoelder (Singles), Eleanor Roberts (Outreach Secretary). Front Row: David Ratten (Senior Minister), Bob Bolduan (Small Groups), Rohan Waters (Youth)

Some significant changes and additions to the ministry team at Blackburn Community Church of Christ, Vic, have happened in 1996.

The church is excited by the new opportunities for mission that these changes represent.

At the close of 1995, Tracey Ware concluded a very successful five years as Director of Small Group ministries. Tracey's replacement

is Bob Bolduan who, along with his wife Eve, has been in membership at Blackburn for many years. Bob had recently taken early retirement following a successful career as an engineering executive with Shell.

Bob brings to his position considerable ministry and organisational gifts.

Also added to the ministry team this year are Cindy Waters and

Paul Worsnop. Cindy is currently in her third year of ministry training at the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave. She is involved in various areas of ministry in the church, including work with young adults and worship. Paul Worsnop is in his first year of ministry training at Mulgrave. He is a music teacher and professional musician. Paul is contributing significantly to the development of various aspect of the music and worship ministry. The church is looking forward to the arrival of Russell and Karen Croxford and their family. They begin at Blackburn in July. Russell's appointment reflects an increased commitment to youth ministry and a desire to see the development of more effective programs and outreach for young families.

The members of the Blackburn Community Church of Christ are excited by these developments in the ministry team. They are looking to the team to lead them in the mission of the church: to build a community of faith committed to empowering people for ministry and communicating the good news of Jesus.



Introduce Your Friends to an Australian Christian

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Youth Ministry Takes Off in PNG

Shem Tema reports

Working with Melanesian young people, one has to know their interests, needs, likes and even their dislikes if you expect a good ministry with them. To present the Gospel effectively to these young people I believe one needs to appreciate their interests, needs and likes, rather than introducing new smart and fancy ideas which may not be accepted in the culture and may be hard for them to handle.

Sports and music hold a very special place in the lives of our many young people in PNG. While having very little expertise in these two areas, I hunt around for available resources and people with expertise who can help us. This year was a success when I talked with government officials who were just too happy to help and contribute to the development of the area of sport for our young people.

Because of this, the first sport administration course was conducted by the Department of Sport in the Madang province 5-26 May. More than 200 young people came to this, which to the government was the highest number ever to attend any of their training programs in the country. The Churches of Christ were honoured for this as they said that it will go into the history of their training program for the whole country!

Those who attended this course stood out right under the sun on the soccer, basketball, and volleyball field for their first time to put into practice what they have learned in refereeing the games during a seven day camp at Tsumba on the Ramu River, 16-22 July. Sport was one of the main activities for the camp and over 1,600 young people registered before the camp began. At the camp we had 90 games of soccer, 65 games of boys' basketball, 72 games of girls' basketball, 85 games of boys' volleyball, 60 games of girls' volleyball and 600 boys and 600 girls competing in 100, 200, 400, 800, and 1,000 metre races, and also in high and long jump.

The program itself is appealing to so many other organisations like government and other denominations. The government sent five officials to this program to help me and our newly-trained sport leaders to run the sport activity part of the camp.

Many of our young people were so excited about the program that they travelled to the camp site 3-4 days before the starting date. Many spiritual activities were also part of the camp, so pray that many young people will make a clear stand for their Lord.

In my next report I will share with you many of the exciting results from this program.



Shem, Elizabeth and Steve Tema, in youth work in PNG

A Real Lifesaver

Thanksgiving for act of selfless courage

On Tuesday 16 April, the Bourdon family, members at Castlemaine, Vic, were enjoying a few days away at Halls Gap, Vic. Ross Bourdon was sailing a small yacht with two of his boys, Tyson and Dale, and two other people, on Lake Bellfield.

The yacht capsized, throwing everyone into the chilly waters. By the time anyone on shore became aware of their plight, hypothermia was becoming a real threat to the younger members of the sailing party.

Fortunately, a young 17-year-old trained lifeguard, Rowan Baldock, was visiting Lake Bellfield at the time. When Rowan became aware of the situation, she plunged into the chilly waters and swam some 400 metres to the capsized yacht. Using her lifeguard skills, she swam back to shore with young Tyson. Shortly after, further help arrived and the other four very

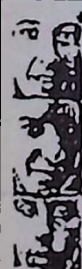


Rowan Baldock, life-saver, with Ross Bourdon (minister) in the thanksgiving service

wet and cold people were brought to shore.

So on Sunday 12 May it was a privilege for Tyson to make a small presentation to Rowan for her act of selfless courage. It was also an opportunity for the church family, not just the Bourdon family, to express their gratitude.

—Jan Jones



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

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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.

Handing Over the Reins

Brian White leaves Caringbah, NSW



Brian White handing over the team leadership to John Sutton

With Brian White concluding his ministry at Caringbah, NSW, at the end of June, a new interim team has been formed to maintain the ministry as the church seeks a new team leader.

Brett White will be responsible for music, worship and some preaching, Marjan Beer will look after pastoral care and some preaching and John Sutton will be the team leader.

The church, with its contemporary style of worship, though in an ageing community, has a high percentage of under 40s. They also sponsor an effective ministry to large numbers of intellectually disabled people and run two homes for homeless girls.

Following three months long-service leave, Brian will commence a ministry at Dandenong, Vic, in October.

"Triple J" Comes To Bendigo

Ministry team developments in Bendigo



The "Triple J" team—John, June and June

With June Hopley being commissioned as Children's and Youth Director the staff team at Bendigo, Vic, went "Triple J". (For our non-Melbourne readers, JJJ is the call sign of a Melbourne commercial radio station.) Prior to this, June Anderson had become relief Administrative Assistant, owing to Annette Trahair being on maternity leave. So together with John Sweetman as minister, the team is now "Triple J" with John, June and June.

June Hopley takes on oversight of children's and youth ministries, including playgroup, Bible Buddies, Gold Miner's Gang and the youth group. But the most exciting news is that June will be heading up a new project with the launching of the "Bubble Club". This will be held weekly at the Comet Hill Primary School, in one of the suburbs of Bendigo. The club name comes from the dome building, known as the Blue Bubble, where the after school outreach will be held.

Already God's blessing is evident on June's work, as the church was recently involved with a number

of other churches in a Pat Mesiti Crusade, initiated by Bendigo Apostolic Church. June was the church's representative for follow-up and John Sweetman was on the Advisory Board. Seven referrals were received.

What has also proved invaluable to June has been her fourteen years' experience on the police force. In her time on the force, June specialised in work with women, children and teenagers. This included being in a specialist squad working with victims of serious sexual assault.

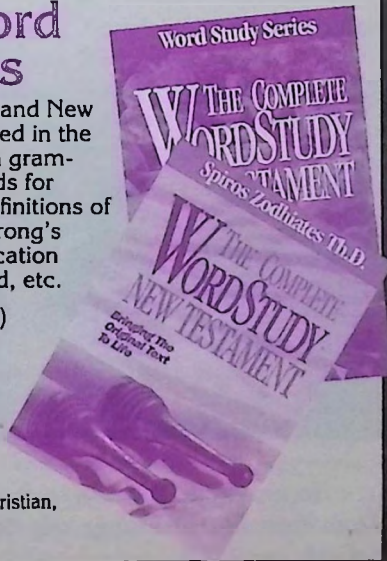
Working together with capable teams of volunteers, June's ministry spans the city and suburbs of Bendigo. It comes at a significant stage in the life of the church, with this year marking the church's 130th anniversary and being the tenth year of John Sweetman's ministry with the church. There could be no better way to celebrate than to invest in people who can aid the church in being on a mission of hope and help. This is the vision that is being achieved thanks to the grace of God.

Bible Word Studies

Each word in the Old and New Testaments is presented in the original language with grammatical and lexical aids for study. Included are definitions of key words, links to Strong's Concordance, identification of forms of words used, etc.

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Brothers, in Black and White

Christian fellowship in black and white



I was standing in the foyer at Thornbury, Vic, when a man appeared at the entrance. Dressed in an African costume, white with gold braid, he was so dark skinned that my somewhat tanned complexion looked significantly pale in comparison. Yet the colour of his skin seemed unimportant, for he had a smile on his face and a glow coming from inside that immediately identified that here was a "brother in Christ". His name was Kwasi Agyeman, but we

called him Steve. Little did we know what would happen in the four years, while Steve was on a part scholarship at Monash University, to study and complete his thesis on Agro Forestry. He had been willing to be away from family and friends in Ghana to help save his country from environmental desolation, because he felt strongly called by God to do so. Steve's wife Celia, three sons and a daughter have had to be without him for most of the four years and beyond.

On that day, 7 April 1992, I welcomed Steve as a brother, and he has truly been that, not only to me, but to the whole fellowship meeting at Thornbury.

I recall at a men's breakfast, I introduced Steve as my brother. The whole party at the table stopped eating with spoons halfway to their mouths. Every eye darted from Steve to me and then

back to Steve, while Steve rocked with laughter, his white teeth gleaming. I then explained, "He's my brother in Christ". I'm sure that all those at the table got the message that I was trying to convey, "We are all one in Christ". Steve was a far greater blessing to us than we ever were to him, for, when he prayed, he lifted us into a higher plateau. He proved that faith in the Lord and his calling can triumph in the face of extreme adversity.

The obstacles in his way to prevent him completing his thesis seemed insurmountable, especially when his scholarship dried up during the latter part of the course. We gave financial support. But, further support came from an unexpected source. The staff of Monash Uni were so impressed with this lovely Christian from Ghana that they employed him in part-time office work.

On the completion of his thesis, prior to his return to Ghana, they held a special evening and presentation, attended by the top management of the University, who testified to his gentleness, humility, warmth and faith.

Steve's thesis acknowledges first and foremost God's faithfulness and guidance and secondly the support of the members of Thornbury.

At Steve's farewell service, we were both sad and glad. Sad that he would be worshipping with us no longer, yet glad because he would, at last, be back home with his family and friends in Ghana.

God willing Steve will be back for his graduation next March.

The carved wooden plaque "Prayer is Warfare" presented to the church by Steve will be a constant reminder of this wonderful prayer warrior from Ghana.

—Les Stewart

No Half-Baked Idea

More than money passed on to struggling church

Some months ago an article about our fellowship in the Upper Yarra Region appeared in *The Australian Christian*. Recently we received a wonderfully encouraging response to that article. A group of ladies from the Mitcham church presented us with a cheque for \$1,500! The result of lots and lots of baking!

Talk about timely. Our struggle to be fully self-supporting with a resident minister employed three days a week was frankly seeming impossible with our most basic expenditure constantly exceeding

our income. We had just scheduled a special members' meeting to look at our situation, and some of us were feeling pretty discouraged at the lack of any interest from the wider Churches of Christ community. To say that we have been encouraged is an enormous understatement. Not only can we pay some pressing bills, but we can say to our special meeting next week—we are not alone in this, the wider Churches of Christ community at Mitcham cares and is prepared to share our struggles.

—Sue Hoffman



Glen Hardwick (minister) and David Hoffman receiving cheque from Marj Whiting, Nell Pfeifer and Margaret McLeod

Barney the Bunyip a Big Hit

Novel ministry team member at Marion

"Getting out of the suit is probably one of the trickiest things about being Barney," says Jonathon Spiker, one of a team of young men at our Marion, SA, church who plays the role of the lovable Barney the Bunyip during Sunday morning services.

"Just recently I was about to remove Barney's head at a time when I thought no one was around, but I suddenly noticed one of our young four-year-olds standing nearby.

Luckily I saw her in time, as I can only begin to imagine the possible psychological damage this young devotee may have suffered if she had seen a headless Barney!"

Barney is the creation of members of Marion's Youth Executive, in particular Marion Bertram who made the Bunyip suit. Barney ap-

pears in the children's segment at every morning service and is a real hit with both parents and children alike.

"One of the most frustrating things," adds Jonathon, "is that Barney, like Humphrey B. Bear, doesn't speak and often it's a real discipline to remain quiet and in character when there are things you feel you'd like to say!"

Since the introduction of Barney some 18 months ago, the church has enjoyed a spectacular increase in the number of young families with children who attend the morning services.

"He's almost one of the Ministry Team," comments Graham Agnew the Senior Minister. "I can't imagine life without this lovable character. He certainly highlights the benefits of having a mascot of this nature as a drawcard."



Cynical Statue

Unwanted statue of Jesus to be erected in East Timor

The world's second largest statue of Jesus is planned for Dili, East Timor. (The largest is the Christ of the Andes statue in South America.)

The statue is to be placed by the ruling Indonesian government to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the "integration" of East Timor with Indonesia (called the "takeover" by the East Timorese). The statue, built by the predominantly Muslim Indonesian government, is in the form of the sacred heart of Jesus, but is being placed in Dili against the wishes of the church. Bishop Belo, leader of the predominant Catholic

Church in East Timor, has been told to attend the unveiling of the statue on 17 July and reputedly feels compelled to do so, as a refusal would be seen as a provocative gesture, possibly resulting in much anti-Timorese backlash and misery.

The statue is to be 17 metres high, representing the 17 July date of East Timor's forced incorporation into Indonesia, and possibly 17 August, Indonesia's own independence day. The base of the statue has 27 steps, symbolic of the 27 Indonesian provinces (including East Timor after the takeover). Both these symbols are

regarded by the church as provocative nationalistic symbols that are unworthy of being part of the statue.

While the statue has been donated by Indonesian government airline Garuda, the \$2 million base is to be paid by a compulsory levy on East Timorese civil servants. The glossy Indonesian magazine *Gatra* says that the project may not reach completion because the East Timorese civil servants are refusing to contribute and that Parliamentarian Manuel Carrascalao claims that the ruling forcing the civil servants to make compulsory contributions is "ex-

tortion". The placement of the statue of Jesus, replete with nationalistic symbolism, by a predominantly Muslim government against the wishes of the dominant church, might be seen as another sorry chapter in the already sorry saga of the Indonesian takeover of East Timor, which has had the complicity of each Australian government since 1975. Readers may wish to express their feelings to their federal members of Parliament, and to Foreign Minister Alexander Downer at Parliament House, Canberra.

—Richard Lawton

Development

Good News and Bad News

PHILIP HUNT

What a year this has been for those of us who regard Canberra-watching as a fascinating spectator sport! Not to mention for the actual participants in federal politics. *

Those of us in the Church who believe politics to be important have found it particularly intriguing, as many controversial issues are deeply spiritual. These discussions are more than just spectator sports. Most of these issues deeply affect peoples' lives. Many of them are quite literally matters of life and death. *

Take overseas aid. We often discuss this in terms of percentages of Gross National Product (GNP) and United Nations' targets. The stark reality is we are dealing with people's lives. If there are cuts to aid, Australia will send fewer

*And we do not just
happen to be rich
while other nations
just happen to be poor*

boxes of life-sustaining high-energy biscuits to Rwanda and Burundi. *

It's that simple. Less money allocated to aid means more children will suffer from starvation and die. More money means faster development of sustainable communities and more children leading safe and healthy lives. *

Regarding Australia's response to this reality, there's good news and bad news. *

A recent survey for the Australian Council for Overseas Aid found that almost 60% wanted to see overseas aid maintained or increased. *

But we don't just think giving is a good idea, we actually give. *

Right now World Vision Australia is collecting the donations promised through this year's 40 Hour Famine. We are on target to receive 7.4 million dollars this year, mostly raised through the creative and sacrificial efforts of Australia's youth, including many young members of the Churches of Christ. *

We have just this week passed a highly significant milestone. Australians have now given one hundred million dollars through the 40 Hour Famine since its inception 22 years ago. That's a mighty effort. And that's just one fund raising campaign. *

Global figures show that during acute emergencies, such as in Bosnia and Rwanda recently, Australian individuals have responded remarkably generously. *

The bad news is that at a government level, we are becoming less generous to people in need overseas. *

Not so long ago the Australian Government affirmed the United Nations target of 0.7% of our Gross National Product to be allocated to Overseas Development Aid. *

In the early 1970s our Government allocated around 0.6%. Successive governments have reduced this year by year. Last year, in the last Labor Budget, it was just 0.33%. It is likely to be lower still in the first Howard-Costello Budget, probably 0.25%, the lowest ever in our history. *

We can afford to do much better than this. We are still a very rich country despite our immediate fiscal challenges. And we do not just happen to be rich while other nations just happen to be poor. They are poor because we are rich. Colonisation and the continuing unfair rules of international trade have led directly to the entrenched poverty of many nations. *



The Minister for Foreign Affairs Alexander Downer has said that his Government "remains committed to the eventual target of 0.7% of GNP as budgetary circumstances permit." So we can hardly be accused of meddling in political affairs if we gently—or even firmly—remind our representatives of their commitments. *

Recent argument in Parliament and the media over abolishing the soft loan DIFF scheme, which is part of the overseas aid program, focussed on the sound self-interest reasons for assisting our neighbours, such as trade, defence and the environment. These are fair enough, but there is one motivation for restoring our diminishing overseas aid allocation which should be paramount, especially for Christians. *

We are members of the human family and we care about people who desperately need our help—whoever they are and wherever they are. *

We can help them and we must. *

Philip Hunt is Chief Executive officer of World Vision Australia and a member of the Doncaster Church of Christ, Vic.

Development

Survival Despite the Odds

NELATHI M. NANAYAKKARA

As dusk falls and the shadows lengthen in the seemingly peaceful hamlet of Maha Ara in the Hambantota district in Sri Lanka, 205 km away from the capital city of Colombo, people hurry home. Those who have been engaged in farming activities pick up their agricultural implements and prepare to return to their families. They fear the "rogues": not humans but elephants. These "rogue" elephants are usually male elephants who are isolated by the herd and attack without provocation. They are a menace to life and property in this village. Most of the locals are farmers, and the elephants have destroyed much of the produce they grow. "The problem is that our village is situated on the outskirts of an animal sanctuary," says a villager. *

Elephants are a menace to life and property in this village

Even though stringent animal protection laws forbid the killing of elephants, people would not think of harming these animals because they hold pride of place in religious and cultural practices in Sri Lanka. "We are caught in an uncompromising situation. We cannot kill the elephants but more than ten elephants would come into our village every night and destroy life and property," says Mr A. Gunatillake, a local farmer. "We have learned that to survive the odds, we have to be united as a community," he says. Villagers have constructed "elephant look-outs," eudjan [woven palm leaf] huts on exceptionally tall trees in strategic locations in the village. "A few of us volunteer to

stay up all night on these look-outs and warn people of the presence of elephants," says one villager. An eerie cat call in the night would send the villages the vital message that the unwelcome visitors were near. *

Gunatillake, who has been assisted by World Vision to establish a thriving brick making business, has found a unique solution. His home is situated very near the boundary of the animal sanctuary, and elephants frequent his habitat, damaging his crops and his newly established brick making venture. Up on top of a large tree next to his house, nestled among the branches, is a sturdy tree house. "If we are warned of the presence of elephants my wife and children climb the tree to safety," he says. Gunatillake remains on the ground to guard his property. The method is to light fire-crackers. This is an exercise in noisemaking to scare the mighty beasts away. *

These drawbacks have not broken the will of the people to survive—in fact it has made them grow stronger and it has proved that they are innovative and cooperative in solving their problems. World Vision heard of this community, and identified the areas of health care, hygiene and sanitary facilities as urgently needing attention. They initiated a child sponsorship project in Maha Ara only six months ago, and yet much has been achieved in the short span of time. With determination and grit born out of their rugged existence, villagers are determined to develop their community, and make something of their lives. With the input of local labour, available material and assistance from World Vision, almost all the villagers now have a sanitary toilet. The village has a trained volunteer health worker who actively visits homes and gives assist-



ance and advice to local mothers. "We use simple messages to reach the women," says Ms S.P. Samalatha, the village health worker. "If we find that the child's weight-for-height index is low, as indicated on the maternal card, we ask them what could be the cause, and how that should be changed. Very often the mothers themselves provide us with the answers." *

In December 1991, before the World Vision project was initiated in this village, the village went through a dark period of drought. Several deaths had occurred among children as a result of malnutrition, dehydration and disease. "We are determined never to let that happen again," says Mrs S. A. Malini, a mother of six, clutching her children closer to her side. Malini's young daughter was saved from death's door during this period, after being hospitalised for dehydration caused by diarrhoea. Despite the many hurdles, Malini is hopeful about the future. *

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Development

Ministry in a Refugee Camp

KIM THODAY

We were in Thailand, passing military and police check points on our way to the Mae La refugee camp, deep in the mountainous jungle on the Thai-Burma border—a “no go” area for “whities”. * Suddenly out of the dense smoky jungle emerged an area teeming with human life. Amongst the hundreds of makeshift bamboo huts, children, women and men were busy trying to survive a civil war and their non status under the ambivalent supervision of the Thai authorities. The refugees are mainly Karen Burmese, a high percentage of whom are Christian. In 1988, under increased violence and strategies

They will be tortured and executed if captured

of genocide against such indigenous groups, thousands began to pour across the border into Thailand. Since then many refugee camps have emerged and constant attacks have been mounted against them by the military forces (SLORC) of the Burmese dictatorship. Our camp, like others, lives under the constant fear of imminent attack and forced repatriation. * We had been invited to come and offer support and encouragement to Simon Thoo, a Baptist minister and leader in the camp and to teach the Karen Bible students. This could not be an official visit. It had become illegal for foreigners to stay in the camp. *

Important lessons:

1. Ministry is sacrificial. Ministry is being willing to give up everything for the Gospel. Simon was a professor of theology in Rangoon. When he learned

what was happening to his people, he, his wife, three daughters and his father in law left their house with its servants and walked 400 kilometres to the camp. The father-in-law died on the way and they are now regarded as traitors. They will be tortured and executed if captured. *

2. Ministry has a bias. While Jesus Christ offers salvation to all, he primarily worked amongst the poor and oppressed. The Karen refugees understand this profoundly. Incredibly a Bible college has been set up in the camp! But we didn't really teach them. They taught us! Among these refugees I truly encountered the living Jesus. That is why they have so much hope amid so much suffering. I knew how much more at home Jesus was here, than in many of our churches in Australia. *

3. Ministry happens in community. In the camp, the church is the family. Possessions are shared. Households are public places. The ultimate concern is worship of God through practical acts of love of neighbour, undistracted by the idol of private material gain. They cooked the best food and managed to get bottled water for us, because we would get sick on the rats and frogs and low protein rice that they eat. This is how the stranger is treated. After all, one student told me, the stranger might be Jesus. *

4. Ministry is incarnational. Jesus shared the people's greatest moments of joy and their darkest times of pain. We must not minister from a distance or from behind a desk. The refugees told us of a group of foreigners who stayed in a guesthouse some distance away. They would come and preach, but not live with the people. They said that they did not show them much understanding or concern. *



5. Ministry has integrity. True leaders are known by their fruits. They are accountable to their people. They do not operate from above or in isolation. Ministers in the camp make the major decisions with the people. Simon spoke of his role as partly to raise new leaders for the future. Thus the Bible college in the camp. *

6. Ministry is prophetic. We need ministers who are willing to challenge our cultural and religious captivity to the gods of power, materialism, comfort and instant gratification. The heart of the Gospel is that we are totally dependant upon God. The Karens receive God's grace with empty hands and hungry hearts. I got dysentery at the same time as we learnt that some armed SLORC agents were in the camp with a directive to kill or capture a foreigner. I felt dependant upon God like never before! *

Please pray for the Karen people. If anyone would like information about how to assist them, call me on (03) 9386 0209. For ministers looking to experience other models of ministry, a trip like this could be one option. *

Kim Thoday is in ministry at our North Essendon, Vic, church.

Development

Bosnia's Paradox

AMY GOPP

Amy Gopp, Disciples associate working as a peace intern in Croatia, has helped the Mennonite Central Committee deliver relief aid into Bosnia on a number of occasions. Here are excerpts of her reflections on a winter trip to Kakanj. Reprinted from "The Disciple" with permission of Christian Board of Publication, 1996.

I was at once exhilarated and heart broken. All that God has created to be beautiful and natural and good stands in sharp contrast to the sights, sounds, and aftermath of all that we as humans have utterly destroyed. Breathtaking vast mountains stand covered with colourful autumn trees; white snow sugarcoats the countryside; clear, blue water fills the many rivers and lakes. This is Bosnia—a paradox, a sad, twisted irony, a glaring example of how we have failed to live out God's commandments on this Earth. *

If sheer beauty could stop a war there'd be no killing here

One of our trucks full of relief aid overturned on the side of the road. It had slipped on a patch of ice. *

Thanks to nearby Slovakian United Nations soldiers, we were back on the road after a few hours. To thank the soldiers for helping us right the truck, we drove into a small town to buy bread and drink. *

It was there I could hardly bear to watch children playing in a pile of rubble, parts of homes and other once-important possessions in bits around them. *

In the midst of destroyed, burnt homes we found a market open. Unfortunately there was no bread for sale. My companions obviously were disappointed

that they could not return with a loaf of fresh bread for the soldiers. I was amazed at the importance of bread in this culture, and how in this situation it was a symbol of friendship and thanks—a communion of sorts. *

Doing our best to travel the UN-carved road through the mountains, we were forced to stop several times in blizzard-like conditions. One of our trucks got stuck in the storm and could not go any further up the mountain. *

The four of us went ahead to find somewhere to sleep. *

We managed to find a hotel in the city of Bugonjo, which was practically abandoned, complete with bullet holes in all the doors, the walls, and no hot water or heating. *

Throughout the night I was awakened by the sound of grenades. As my whole body stiffened and my mind raced with visions of my life and all those that I love, I realised a little of what it must feel like to live with that fear daily. *

I was amazed each time we stopped at a local customs office at the hospital. After everything was unloaded at Kakanj we departed for Jelah, a town near Dobo where we planned to spend the night. We stayed with a friend of colleagues, Suada, who treated us as royal guests in this modest, wooden-plank protected Muslim household. It finally occurred to me that this was typical Bosnian hospitality! *

As we were getting ready to leave the next morning, I noticed a big, beauti-



Lying in ruins are many Bosnian cities like Mostar, Bosnia. This photo is taken looking down on the crumbled roofs from the hillsides around the city. Once a tourist's paradise of quaint homes and shops, Mostar is decades from rebuilding. (Week of compassion photo, Johnny Wray)

ful home that had been completely destroyed. Suada told us it was where her brother used to live. Two minutes later a grenade sounded very near to us. Never before have I seen such fear on anyone's face. Suada immediately ran into the house and yelled for her husband and children to follow. *

I could not imagine living like that on a daily basis. I thought how easy it would be to become complacent, numb, paralyzed—to lose hope that there is any way to rise above or improve this horrible situation. But I shuddered at what my numbness would risk: acceptance of the horrors of the former Yugoslavia. *

What harsh irony. I cannot describe the breathtaking beauty of this place, the mountains, this snow, this water—and especially these people. If only we could see with new eyes the beauty and ingenuity of God's Earth and creation as unique and sacred, then perhaps we could see one another as God's children. Maybe then, we would find it absolutely impossible to kill. *

Development

Bringing Hope to the Hills

JEFF WESTON

Modern India is a land of great contrasts. There are the vast overcrowded cities of Mumbai (Bombay) and Calcutta, with their poverty and degradation equal to the worst living conditions on the planet. There are also the lovely farming communities, with agricultural practices that have survived industrialisation and mechanism. Most, however, would be surprised to discover that India also has some villages that are so isolated that the lifestyle is believed to be the most primitive in the world. *

India also has some villages that are so isolated that the lifestyle is believed to be the most primitive in the world

Living high in the hill country of Malkangiri, Orissa State, India, are the Bondo Hills people. These people wear few clothes and live out a very isolated lifestyle in a very harsh environment. For many years they have remained cut

off from the mainstream of society. However, local authorities are attempting to draw the Bondos closer as their traditional lands are encroached upon by civilisation. *

While government efforts to assist the Bondos and introduce development

in this isolated area have had little success, a Christian organisation is making great inroads. The Reaching Hand Society (RHS), established in 1994 on the work previously begun by the late Dr R.A.C. Paul and now continued by his wife Dr Iris Paul, is effectively reaching and helping the Bondo people. *

Many serious health needs exist in the Bondo hills. The most prominent, tuberculosis, is a major problem in the community. Estimates are that 80% of the population carry this disease. In addition, violence is common. As a result the population has declined rapidly. It is estimated that only 4,000 Bondos now remain in the beautiful hills of Malkangiri. *

Travelling through thick rain forest on primitive, and at times nonexistent, tracks, Dr Paul and the nineteen RHS workers reach out in love to many of these isolated communities. To date, the RHS work has focused on literacy, agricultural development and health work, all within a Christian context. A special prison outreach has recently been added to the growing ministry. *

Working in this remote location presents a great challenge to the staff of RHS. Temperatures are often in ex-



• Dr Iris Paul, helping the Bondo Hills people

cess of 30°, with very high humidity. The villages are extremely remote and the RHS workers often have to walk up very steep hills for up to five and a half hours to reach some villages. However the RHS staff always express enthusiasm for the task as they seek to present the love of Jesus in this demanding area. *

This Australian Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board are partners with RHS as the key funding body for this vital work. Through our COCOA (Churches of Christ Overseas Aid) fund we are providing the necessary finance to purchase medical and other supplies, as well as to assist with travel costs. We've also provided a four wheel drive vehicle and motor bikes to assist with access to some villages. *

The latest news from Malkangiri is that the government have allocated a parcel of land for RHS to build a small hospital and other facilities. It is hoped to begin preliminary work on the project later this year. This vital and fruitful work is only possible by your continued support of COCOA. Please remember all gifts to COCOA of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible. The RHS staff and people of the Bondo Hills are grateful for your support. *



A World View Greetings from the Gulf

BARRIE YESBERG

I am the Chaplain and a Churches of Christ pastor on the *HMAS Melbourne*. We are heading for the Arabian Gulf on an operational deployment. *

At the three weeks mark we have arrived in Goa in India. If first impressions are anything to go on, then this was not going to be a good port in which to stop. A short walk from the ship, the town of Vasco de Gama had a great impact on most of the crew. Nearly sixteen years pastoral experience, which included time with the Federal Aborigines Board, as well as living in outback towns, had not prepared me for this experience. *

Goa had a sobering impact upon many of the crew and it was not just a case of the tummy bug that went through the ship either

The smells, seeing people living on a blanket on the footpath, human waste and litter everywhere and people, from the very young, carrying even younger siblings, to the aged, touching you and asking for money was not easy to grasp initially. This was the same scene over much of the district of Goa. Quite an impact on the crew and me as was evidenced by what they said to me. *

As I looked into the eyes of the people I couldn't help but wonder whether in their trying to

put food into their tummies, that they knew love and hope. There didn't seem to be much about, even though it is a very strong Roman Catholic area. The Portuguese brought their religion with them. They venerate the saints in a way I have not seen. In the Basilica, for example, they have the body of St Francis of Xavier, on display for all to see. They speak very reverently about these saints. Their trucks and buses are named after saints and I am sure not even these saints if they were able to, would be able to protect drivers and passengers. To be driven by the Goans is an experience. A tour guide said "You need a good driver, good brakes and good luck". *

This also opened up some doors to talk more about Jesus as well. We had an Orphanage come to the ship from Panjim. They were part of Mother Teresa's group. The children were overawed with it all, and to get ice cream was something else. On a return visit to the Orphanage, we were told by the Sisters that the children have to leave the place when they have finished their schooling. While they were sorry to see them go and were aware of what could happen to them, they were confident that they had given them hope for the future, not just physically but spiritually. This confidence came as a result of their own faith in the Lord. The ones who went were impressed with the children. Hearing the children sing many of the old favourite Sunday School songs, I could not help praising God that here were some children who will grow up to know love and hope. *

Goa had a sobering impact upon many of the crew and it was not just a case of the tummy bug



RAN Chaplain Barrie Yesberg (left) speaking with one of the crew

that went through the ship either. They appreciated that what they have in Australia is very good. In the church service on the Sunday, as we left, we thanked God for what he has given us. *

We head now into the operational area. *

For many of us who have not been there before, it is an unknown. The tension is rising as we go into action mode and will be like this for the next three and a half months. *

It is not a long time compared to what some have experienced in the past but nevertheless, real. *

Please pray for the crew and our families. Please pray that I may

have many open doors into peoples lives and that Jesus will become real to many on this trip. *

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Media Matters About Faith

VINEY LONGTHORP

There are suburbs in Sydney and Melbourne where more attend the local mosque than all the local Protestant churches combined. That is one reason why many of us need to be more aware of the faith of others. * SBS Television is addressing the religious aspects of our society. Between 11-17 August it will broadcast a series of important programs which centre on faith. The producers of the series say: "[The programs] run the gamut from religious conviction to political commitment, from personal inspiration to social domination. Some are delightful, some dramatic and oth-

Some are delightful, some dramatic and others may be a little bizarre: such is the human experience

ers may be a little bizarre: such is the human experience." * Below are samples of a larger offering. Consult TV guides for the full fare. *

Sunday 11 August

7.30 pm. "Everyday Life in the Vatican" Here are some of the intimate workings of daily life of this autonomous city within a city. There are insights into the process of beatification and the way miracles are defined. * 9.30 pm Movie: "Heaven and Hell" based on a true story which occurred in Germany in the 1980s, sensationalised by the popular press. A German girl, aged eleven, is tormented

by a fanatical Catholic sect. She becomes obsessed with the idea that she must save the soul of her "sinful" mother. *

11.00 pm Talking Heads: "The Search for Meaning" Helen Vatsikopolous brings together a group of distinguished thinkers, including Paul Davies and Charles Birch. They talk about how they understand the roles of religion and science. *

Monday 12 August

7.30 pm "Women of Islam" This is part one of a trilogy in which women from Islamic communities around the world present widely differing views on a range of social issues which profoundly affect their lives. *

8.30 pm Music: "The Life of the Last Prophet" Cat Stevens, the man once known as multi-million record selling pop star, now a convert to Islam, describes his life and faith. *

11.50 pm "Not a Job for a nice Jewish Girl" Jaqueline Ninio was a practising lawyer when she decided to travel to Israel to take up a course of rabbinical studies. When her five years of study are completed she will become only one of three Australian women rabbis. *

Tuesday 13 August

12.30 pm Movie: "The Passion of Joan of Arc" This 65 year old silent classic is one of the finest religious films ever made. *

7.30 pm "Front Up" Andrew L. Urban presents insights into the Australian psyche regarding personal beliefs and religion. Andrew asks the "big spiritual" questions. *

8.30 pm The Cutting Edge: "Father, Son and Holy War" An impressive and passionate documentary which explores the roots of sectarian violence in India today. It suggests that religious fanaticism is not the only problem. There is a strong con-

nection between religion, violence, and male identity. *

Wednesday 14 August

12.30 pm Movie Matinee: "La Symphonie Pastorale" A most beautiful film which tells of an orphaned blind girl who is lovingly cared for by a Swiss pastor, who imbues her with a sense of the world as a place of beauty and harmony. (Cynics should avoid this one. It will "shake their faith".) *

Thursday 15 August

12.30 pm The Shakers: "Hands to Work. Hearts to God" A vivid portrait of 200 years of Shaker life, guided by the recollections of the last Shaker. Some rare archival footage of this strange and noble sect that produced some of the finest architecture and furniture in US history. *

8.30 pm As It Happened: "Hitler's Religion" This documentary shows the religious elements in National Socialism and how Hitler planned the creation of a state religion based on the cult of his own personality. *

9.30 pm Movie: "Jesus of Montreal" *

1.05 am Movie: "The Seventh Seal" This will both puzzle and inspire. It gives a sense of that fate and freedom which pervaded Christian faith in the Middle Ages. *

Friday 16 August

12.30 pm "Children of Jehovah" A powerful and haunting look at



one of the fastest-growing and media-shy cults in the world. * 7.30 pm "The Body in Question" A documentary which takes us to Jerusalem to explore recent archaeological finds. Almost 2000 years after the crucifixion of Jesus, questions about what happened in the three days following it are attracting unprecedented attention. *

Saturday 17 August

4.30 pm "The Singing Nun" Sister Marie Keyrouz is the world's most renowned Byzantine chanter. The ethereal and mystical sounds of her Eastern Christian chant are backed by the exotic sound of authentic Middle Eastern instruments and her "inspired" choristers. * 9.00 pm "The Church of John Coltrane" Here is one of the true jazz innovators of this century. John became a devotedly religious man who believed that music was the ultimate form of worship. *

Henley Beach Church of Christ

invites you to a

Thanksgiving Service & Luncheon

10.00 am, 8 December 1996

as we prepare for our closure at the end of the year

Speaker: Jeff May—State Conference President

RSVP 3.11.96: Robert Dodd, PO Box 164, Henley Beach SA 5022

Send contributions to a book of the Henley Story—

Memories & History (Max 200 words) by 15.9.96 to:
Robyn Walsh, 271 Military Rd, Henley Beach SA 5022,
or e-mail rwalsh@net.advantage.com.au

Classifieds

Hospital Chaplaincy Critical Incidents

GLEN WEGNER



Following the Port Arthur tragedy, I was moved by a media photograph of our Prime Minister comforting the senior surgeon at Hobart hospital. Perhaps we assume that experienced medical professionals are so accustomed to traumatic accidents that they cope with such a crisis without a pang of emotion. The media photograph reminded us that this is not the case. We all have our humanity and associated feelings. *

In fact there are times when hospital staff experience considerable stress. I'm sure Hobart hospital staff felt under stress as

briefing. Some hospitals have a small team of trained people (including chaplains) who can respond to critical incidents by supporting staff following a crisis, by offering a defusing. *

Defusings or debriefings, are usually offered to help staff who have witnessed or been a part of a traumatic event. Examples of such events may be a bank hold-up, an unusual death, a series of deaths, suicide, or violence. *

A defusing uses the small group process of gathering together those affected by the incident, and providing them a confidential and supportive environment where they can listen to each other, describe what impact the incident had on them and release some of their emotional stress. *

While a defusing is not guaranteed to be a quick fix or cure all, it does facilitate the recovery and healing process. A defusing should be made available as soon as possible after the incident is over. *

Some of the key skills used by a defuser are pastoral, these being listening, facilitating catharsis, supporting, encouraging, and guiding; and in some cases making a referral for individual counselling. *

Once an attitude prevailed which implied, "If you can't stand the heat you shouldn't be working in the kitchen."

they cared for Port Arthur victims, and also had to deal with media attention, as well as care for the one alleged to be responsible for the shootings. *

Once an attitude prevailed which implied, "If you can't stand the heat you shouldn't be working in the kitchen." This outdated attitude denies staff their humanity and leaves them feeling unrecognized, stressed, facing emotional burnout, and unsupported. *

A recent development to respond to such stressful situations has been the process of offering staff a defusing or de-

BIRTHS

MARSH-KING To Andrew and Elizabeth on 1 July 1996 a daughter Jessica Elizabeth, a sister for Rebecca and a second beautiful grand-daughter for Wendy and Kevin and great-granddaughter for Edith.

COMING EVENTS

RETREAT IN CREATIVE CHRISTIAN LIVING Camps Farthest Out (International and Interdenominational) 6-8 September. Speakers Rev. Dick and Edith Littleton, Haven Conference Centre, Croydon. All Welcome. Inquiries—Dorothy Parkinson (03) 9890 4124. Register by 21 August if possible.

FOR SALE

ORGANS Baldwin CTR Theatre Organ—2 man/preset 13 note pedals, rhythm unit solid walnut cabinet. Excellent Condition \$500 (negot). **Yamaha Electone MC 200** 2 man. 13 note pedals, many presets/memories. Excellent Condition. \$1500 (negot). Contact David Hoffman (059) 67 3480. Upper Yarra Church.

HOLIDAYS

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

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 cot-

tage, 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.

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.

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**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

70th Anniversary Celebrations Wangaratta Church of Christ

Saturday 5 October

1.30-5.00 pm Meet old friends
over coffee and view memorabilia.

Tales of days gone by.

6.00-10.00 pm Dinner (3 course)
and old-fashioned concert.

Bookings are required for meals to assist with catering.

For information and registration contact: Jim Doyle, 88 Murdoch Road,
Wangaratta Vic 3677. (057) 21 5193; Vivienne Burns (Minister) (057) 21 4860.

Sunday 6 October

10.30 am Worship Service

12.30 pm Light Lunch

Interested in Teaching in a Christian School?

Applications for positions of Head Teacher and general
Teaching Staff are being sought for Shepparton Christian
Community School (SCCS).

SCCS will be commencing the operation of a Primary
School in 1997 and will be affiliated with Christian
Community Schools Ltd.

The school is located at Shepparton, Victoria, in a new
purpose-built facility on 22 acres of land.

For application forms please contact:

Pastor Charles Manley-Breen, Shepparton Assem-
bly of God Church, PO Box 315, Shepparton Vic
3630. Phone (058) 21 1655, Fax (058) 31 1516.

Business Manager/ Accountant

The Council for Christian Education in
Schools (CCES), an ecumenical body
responsible for religious education and
chaplaincy in Victorian State schools, seeks a
Business Manager. This new position has
been established to handle this expanding
organisation and its publishing division.

The successful applicant should have
appropriate accounting qualifications,
excellent computer skills and management
experience. An appropriate package will be
offered in keeping with the responsibilities
of the position.

A Job Description is available on request.

Applications should be made by 19 August to:

Rev'd Peter C. Whitaker
Executive Officer, CCES
3/377 Little Lonsdale St
Melbourne Vic 3000
Telephone (03) 9402 1993
Facsimile (03) 9442 0634



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

45th Anniversary of North Balwyn Church of Christ Sunday 18 August 1996

10.15 am Worship and Communion Service
Speaker—Mike Folland
11.50 am Organ Recital by Scott Harrison
Scott is a well-known and versatile
theatre organist
12.30 pm Lunch

For Information & registration (for catering purposes) please contact:

Jan Geyer, 1/31 Rangeview Grove,
North Balwyn Vic 3104. (03) 9859 2509
Don Russell, 60 Trentham Ave,
North Balwyn Vic 3104. (03) 9857 7318

CONSIDERED MISSIONARY SERVICE?

We have the following positions available to begin 1997:

Lecturer Banmatmat Bible College

Located on the beautiful island of Pentecost, Vanuatu. Preferred
qualification M.Th. but applications with B.Th. will be considered.
Experience in Biblical Studies and Theology required.

Office Skills Coordinator

Located at Ranwadi High School, Pentecost Island, Vanuatu.
Experience in office skills and teaching preferred.

Teacher/Literacy Worker

Located at Chungribu, on the Ramu River, Papua New Guinea.
This role involves literacy work with national people, in
cooperation with a Bible translator, and responsibility for
overseeing the education of missionary children.



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

New Zealand Tour — 1997 — 19 Days Departing 7 March Returning 25 March 1997

Travel with the Australian Christian Touring Party in association with Kirra
Tours and enjoy a comprehensive coverage of both Islands of New
Zealand, including the Bay of Islands, Auckland, Waitomo Caves,
Rotorua's thermals areas, Maori concert, Wellington, Marlborough
Sound, Franz and Fox Glaciers, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Mt Cook and
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The World In a nutshell — South Pacific Paradise, high-class accommoda-
tion with private facilities, all dinners and breakfasts included at an
economy price.

From Sydney to Sydney — \$2,700 (Aust)

Price for other states available on application.

For complete details write to: Mr R. Bowen, 130 Johns Road,
WYONG NORTH NSW 2259. Phone (043) 52 1738 (after 6.00 pm)

LC No 00155

CHANGES

Overseas Mission Board Promotions Officer, (Victoria-Tasmania) Jack Edwards, 6 Bamboo Court, Doveton Vic 3177. Phone (03) 9794 9419.

BAPTISMS

•Mandy Johnson, Mary Gow, Raymond Johnson, Malcolm Ashdown, Caveside, Tas •Ann Menzies, Ulverstone, Tas •Beverley Deconza, Rodney Kemp, Boronia, Vic •Anna Han, Chadstone, Vic •Betty Kronanberg, Tootgarook, Vic •Tamika Neill, Tuggeranong, ACT •Ben Thomson, Sonia Tidsell, Belconnen, ACT •Shandell Elmer, Launceston, Tas

DEATHS

•Archibald Crozier, Morwell, Vic •Esther Holmes, Sarah Preston, Dawson St, Ballarat, Vic •Iona Cornish, Chatswood, NSW •Arthur Burton, David McCrone, Elizabeth Mills, Boronia, Vic •Geoff Woodley, Tootgarook, Vic

OBITUARIES

Obituaries are limited to 100 words
CRAWFORD, William Eric

(12.7.96) Eric Crawford was born in 1905 and was baptised at the Hornsby church. He married Phyl on 19.10.29. They lived at Epping for over sixty years. He worked most of his life with the Gas Company and was a member of Epping church for 63 years. He and Phyl catered for weddings, camps and social functions. He played Father Christmas, and had lollies in his pocket for children on Sundays. For 19 years, he served on the Churches of Christ Social Service Committee. Our sympathies to Phyl, Kevin & Evelyn, David & Margaret, and Eric's seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

—D. Moyes

DONNELLY, Ellen Florence (Nell)
(23.6.96) Nell was born in England in

1908, migrating to Sydney when she was five. Nell was baptised at the Auburn church. In 1931 she married Jack Donnelly (dec.). They were members of the Earlwood church for 33 years. In 1964 they moved to Gosford and joined the Wyoming church. Nell was very active in the Cradle Roll, Sunday School, CWF and missions at both churches. She developed a "Card Bar" at Wyoming which she took to other churches and fetes, with all profits sent to missions. She loved her children, Barbara, Valerie, John and Joan, their spouses, twelve grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

—P.W.

GEEVES, Wade Phillip

(17.4.96) Wade Geeves passed away suddenly in his sleep during the East Ipswich Church of Christ family camp. He was 17. Wade was born on 18 May 1978 and baptised on 27 October 1991. He was school vice captain and house captain and well respected at Bundamba High School. Wade was the life of the party at youth camps. Yet he also had an astuteness and intelligence about him that was recognised in church, work and school settings. He was much-loved because of his active spirit and will be missed by all at East Ipswich, especially his family Phillip and Jenny, Luke and Leah Geeves, and Graham Chalk.

—Darryl Seip

Middleton, Harry

(8.7.96) Harry joined Churches of Christ at Henley Beach and through his life gave of his skills as a carpenter and cabinet-maker. He married May Mortimer in 1933. They raised three children and two foster children. He supervised the building of Longwood campsite. The founding of a church at Mt Barker was Harry's vision. Though sickness prevented him from seeing its final fulfilment, his last meeting with the congregation was to approve the purchase of property. A few days before he died he held the keys of the new church house and prayed for the church. We give thanks to God for his life.

—Grant Simpson

Werribee Baptist Church

Is seeking a

Part-Time Youth Pastor

To join our existing pastoral team in 1997

The position is 2.5 days per week

This leadership position involves 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. Werribee has a young, vibrant population.

For role description and application form contact:
Rev John Evans, PO Box 1020, Werribee Plaza Vic 3030. Phone (03) 9749 3166

Closing date for applications: 6 September 1996

"Empowered for living as a Man"

Blackburn Community Church of Christ
Presents a ...

Seminar for Men

on Tuesday 13, 20, 27 August and
3, 10, 17 September 1996, at 7.30 pm

Presenters: Alan Niven
and John Rowe

Especially for those interested in creating
a Men's Group in their church

For details contact
John Rowe (03) 9877 6077

Senior Minister Required

Are you a gifted Teacher/Preacher?

Knoxfield Church of Christ is a caring, community-minded church with a good representation of all ages.

We are seeking an experienced full-time Senior Minister to join in leadership with our Ministry/Eldership Team.

You will be responsible for:

- Pulpit Ministry
- Development of potential leaders
- Pastoral care of the congregation

Written applications can be addressed to:

Rowan Mitchell, Chairperson Ministry Selection Committee, 2 Pearl Place, Ferntree Gully Vic 3156. Telephone (03) 9758 9785;

Mike Folland, Chairman Vic-Tas Department of Ministry, 77 Capel Street, West Melbourne Vic 3003. Phone (03) 9756 7240;

Mrs Anne White, Administrative Secretary, 429 Scoresby Road, Ferntree Gully Vic 3156. Phone (03) 9801 5798.

NSW

CHATSWOOD (Norris Brook, Rosalie Rofe) Helpful ministry being conducted by interim minister Norris Brook & wife Edith, & associate minister Rosalie Rofe ... Recently-formed choir contributes greatly to Sunday worship ... The late Iona Cornish, tireless long-term worker honoured by memorial service ... Harmony & affection exist between church & Chinese Evangelical Free Church members who witness so strongly for Christ in the area.

MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins) Mark Matthews in Concert much appreciated ... Young people put on "Salty" production—great! ... Hunter School Bible studies going well, 3rd term "Exodus" —R Hawkins, "Person/Work of Holy Spirit" —Max Hall ... Phil & Jenny Bryce & children shared their call to India with WEC in morning service & small groups ... Waratah Girls' Choir presented wonderful evening of music.

QLD

DALBY (Tony Ochse) Great weekend with Ken Ham & team from Creation Science Foundation, youth & family nights held, also men's breakfast. Worship service in our chapel followed by soup & sandwiches. Visitors from other places attended. Almost 700 participated in the activities & \$4000 worth of materials sold. Folk from other churches helped with organising.

SA

SEMAPHORE (Roger Brown) Strong support given to Bible Sunday Service, Laurie Edwards guest speaker ... Robin Mann introduced church to songs from *All Together Now* 14 July ... Rev Mark Hinton speaker at fellowship meeting on duties of an Army Chaplain ... Roger Brown invited to Annual Anglican Clergy Conference to speak on his involvement with outreach.

TAS

CAVESIDE (John & Colleen Harrison) God's Squad member, Chris Brooks, speaker 5 May ... June Younger speaker Mother's Day service ... Four baptisms at morning service Pentecost Sunday ... J. Harrison preaching series from Philippians ... Fortnightly working bees continue with building extension ... 90th birthday celebration for Ena Harvey attended by 180 from all over Tasmania ... Church family camp planned for 26–28 July. Clinton Wardle study leader.

LAUNCESTON (C. Spaulding, W. Kerrison, J. Ratcliffe) Afternoon Fellowship enjoyed singing & pipe organ music with Jan Fulton ... 12 young people attending Hillsong Christian Music Festival ... Kylie Birtwistle gained Fusion Diploma in Youth Work ... Several leaving for World Convention ... Sarah Roxburgh to teach English in Tientsin during holidays ... One baptism at evening service 7 July.

ULVERSTONE (Arthur Symes) Mother's Night 14 May, 90+ attended entertaining concert ... 10+ attended youth camp at Bicheno, June ... Learn & Share women's luncheon theme "50 & 60s", 21 attended ... Children's church led service 30 June, theme "King of Kings" ... Discovery Groups on future of church well attended, great input ... Tim Squib's father died ... Youth group meeting weekly.

NUBEENA (G.C. Cumbers) New & attractive sign erected ... Phillip Bloomfield commenced a challenging six-month YWAM course in Queensland ... New Bible study commenced under leadership of minister & is well attended, theme "Discovering the Church" ... New family services commenced & going well.

VIC

MILDURA (Tom & Ruth Edge) Tom and Ruth well accepted in their interim ministry ... Alan Niven's leadership valued at Board Retreat & of Ron Kallmier at Sunraysia Annual Convention ... A

number travelling overseas, including Beasys & Nankivells who meet up at World Convention, & Heather Atkins on Churchill Fellowship ... All church groups very active ... Heritage Buildings tour fellowship great time of sharing.

MORWELL (Andrew Ogden) Andrew Ogden shared with past student minister, Alf Thistlethwaite, who led service for the late Arch Crozier 6 July, before committal at Yallourn Lawn Cemetery. Chapel was filled with large crowd of friends of Arch & family ... Stan & Irene Bannon indisposed due to sickness, Irene hospitalised.

DAWSON ST, BALLARAT FAMILY CHURCH (Darren Kittel, Rachael Starbuck) Combined CWF Camp with Dawson St & Haddon ladies, Haddon ladies elected to run 1997 "Camp Aca-cia" ... Connection Youth Group ran successful camp at Mt. Cole during long weekend ... Mothers of Pre School Children (MOPS) ran soup sandwich and slice luncheon & gained financially ... Recent planned giving program increased offerings 20%, enabling expansion of ministry team.

BORDONIA (Keith Milne, Darryn Hickling) Keith Milne admitted to hospital following angina attack ... Keith was guest speaker at local Retirement Village's 40th anniversary ... Youth & leaders attended State Youth Games ... Members supporting setting up of "Quiet Place" in large local shopping centre ... Further donation to Nubeena church following generous giving, also proceeds of Trivia Night forwarded to Upper Yarra church.

CHADSTONE (Malcolm & Yvonne Lowe) Church thrilled to welcome Anna Han into fellowship following baptism ... Family luncheons attended by 40 members in 4 homes ... Prime Time continues to successfully cater for children aged 4–12 years ... 20–40 age group meeting monthly, consisting of 10 couples & some singles ... Two small groups meet weekly for Bible study.

WARRAGUL (Les Medley) Greg Elsdon speaker in April ... Board Retreat ... Youth ministry active ... Play groups expanding ... Two special family serv-

ices involving Junior Church ... CWF Street stalls ... Mission support group launched fund raiser—solar panels for Gandep ... More elders elected, Ken Clinton, John Farmer, Mark Finger ... Jeff Weston, OMB, visiting Gippsland churches with mission dinner at Warragul 10 August ... Merryl Blair speaker for CWF Sunday.

TOOTGAROOK (M. Giezendanner) Mavis & Tom Bryant celebrated 60 years of marriage 14 July. Family prepared luncheon & invited church family to share celebration. Tom in delicate health, but enjoyed party ... CWF appreciated visit from Lois Smith, who showed how to keep fit with gentle exercise ... Many members on sick list ... Betty Kronanberg baptised 21 July, fellowship tea followed service.

WA

APPLECROSS (S. Bainbridge) Razor's Edge Group at High School grown to 18 ... Livewires & Kids' Club going strong ... New older youth group commencing 3rd term ... Pastor recently finished series on the Ten Commandments, positive & well received ... Guest speakers or musicians added to services ... Congratulations to Sumner family on birth of Benjamin ... Eight at World Convention.

WEMBLEY DOWNS (D. Ryle) 14 July Dennis Ryle inducted to ministry. All local churches represented. President-Elect represented Churches of Christ ... Church wrote to Prime Minister & Premier urging firm stand in gun debate ... Church loans consolidated with Mutual Fund ... Successful family camp in May ... Attendances & commitment remained high while without minister.

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Exploring the Day The Teacher

JANET THOMPSON

Young Christopher played happily on the floor, exploring the cupboard, chewing on anything he could get his mouth to, and nibbling on a piece of rice cake. We were in the minister's study, planning the services for Easter, but we were all aware of the presence of an active and curious child. He didn't intrude ... much. In fact it seemed that he was ignoring us. We were only talking, and that's a bit uninteresting compared to the allure of toys and potential tunnels under chairs and desks. *

When his mother left to do some photocopying he paused and watched her. "I'll be back in a minute," she said, and disappeared, leaving the door open. We continued our discussion and Christopher played on. But as the minutes passed his activity slowed and his face grew serious. The blocks and the train were not as interesting, and soon even the rice cake was brushed to one side. We smiled, and reassured him, but he kept looking at the doorway. Then he appeared to have decided ... it was time to do something. Ignoring everything and everyone, he crawled to the open door. It was a remarkable picture of a person with a purpose. He looked both ways, like a seasoned pedestrian on the kerb, and he was gone. The minister and I looked at each other, chuckled, and waited to see what would happen next. *

His progress down the hallway was marked by voices. "Hello! Where did you come from?" "Who's this then?" "You must be



looking for Mummy!" He knew she was out there somewhere and he went straight on until he found her. *

When his mother came back he crawled along behind her ... and resumed playing. The toys, the interesting spaces and the rice cake regained their appeal, and he was content. *Mother is near, and all's right with the world.* I was impressed The world is wide open for Christopher. He is not yet two, but already he is capable of taking important decisions for his life and his level of contentment. There is an interesting character developing! *

Watching a child can be a learning experience—about determining priorities, about taking responsibility for our feelings, about taking action. *



30 Years Ago President Lyndon Johnson received a World Convention Citation as a leading world churchman. Similar awards went to Martin Niemoller, Germany, C.C. Morrison, past editor of the *Christian Century*, Jesse Bader and Stephen England. All recipients except Niemoller were closely linked with Churches of Christ.

60 Years Ago The Victorian Home Mission team comprising Dr Hinrichsen and W. Gale made a whirlwind trip to induct A.W. Garland as minister at Hamilton. They left handwritten messages for the churches at Drumcondra, Geelong and Colac—700 km (438 miles) in all.

90 Years Ago 14 brethren had commenced a house meeting in the new suburb of Belmore eight miles from Sydney. In the past year 300 homes had been erected in Belmore and Campsie. A "Macedonian Call" was made to NSW churches to raise £45 to buy land. The local members had already raised £25.

The Last Word

On the day you cease to change you cease to live.

—Anthony de Mello

Sign in front of a home: Anyone's welcome to use our lawnmower, provided they do not take it out of our yard.

*Why did the orange stop?
Because it ran out of juice.*

*"One day my Mum sent Dad into the garden to cut a cabbage for our dinner. Dad took out his knife, bent down—his hand slipped and he cut his throat!"
"Golly! What did your Mum do?"
"Opened a tin of peas."*

*If a girl falls down a well, why can't her brother help her out?
Because he can't be a brother and assist her too.*

*"My baby's a year old. He's been walking ever since he was eight months old"
"Really, he must be getting awfully tired by now."*

Pontius' Puddle



It was only after Phil Blackstone actually snored through an entire sermon that the Reverend began his controversial practice of marking chalk outlines on the pews to single out the spiritually dead.