

THE AUSTRALIAN



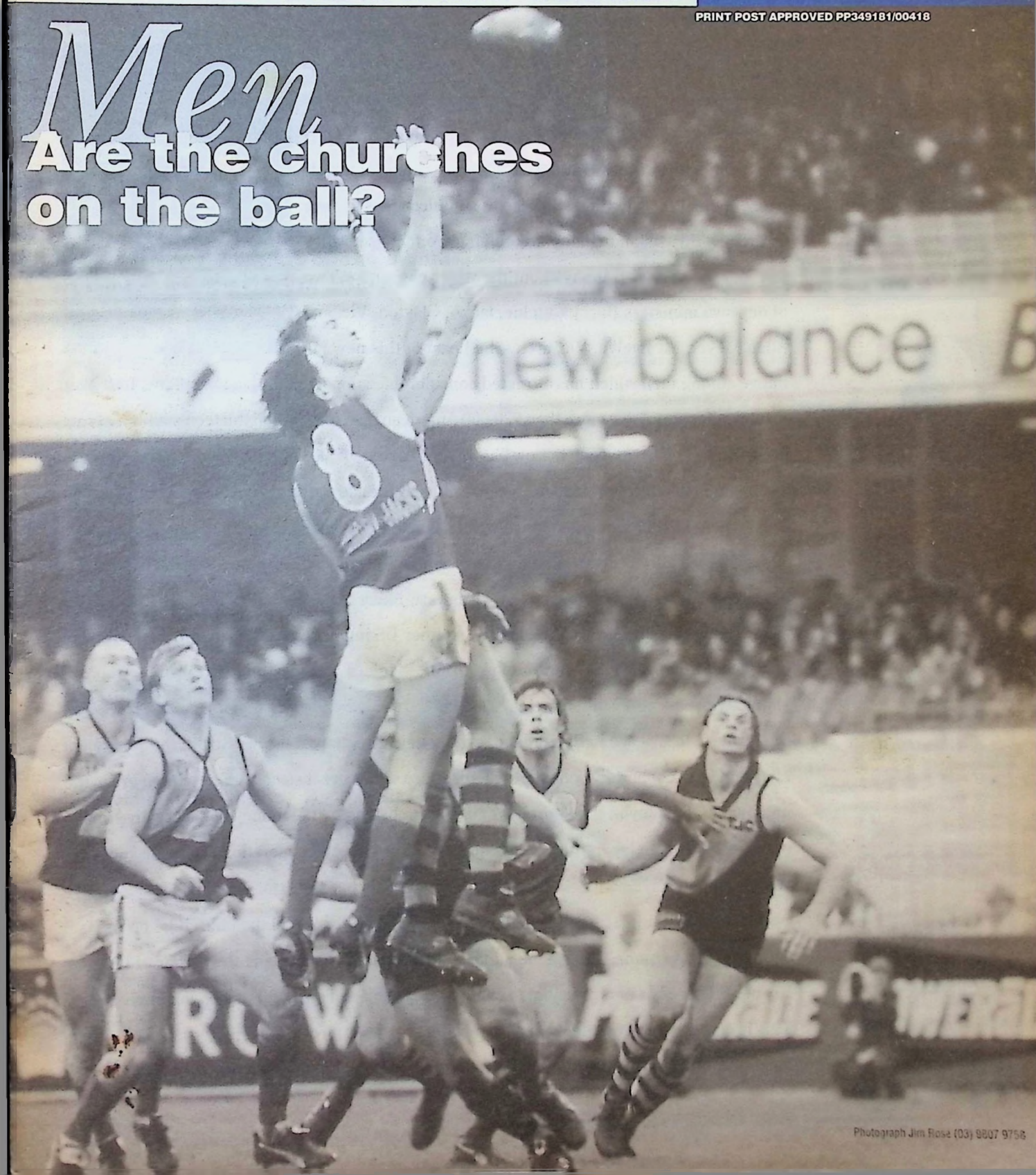
Christian

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

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Men **Are the churches on the ball?**



Photograph Jim Rose (03) 9807 9756

Editorial

On the Ball?

DON SMITH

We are in the midst of some remarkable stirrings among men within the life of the church. It may be small as yet, but there is a new power, confidence and creative imagination abroad. Promise Keepers is the most visible expression of this stirring. It is also of significance that once again new thrusts and vitality are coming from conservative streams. What does this say about the wider church? * Two of our own ministers Barry Cutchie, late of Clayton, Vic, and Allan Meyer, Mt Evelyn, Vic, are at the heart of this new initiative among men which has attracted considerable support in such a short time. Last year Promise Keepers drew more than 720,000 American men together in thirteen stadium events nationwide. The US movement now has 300 employees, 65,000 organisers, offices in 25 states and an annual budget of US\$65m. This year a conference for ministers is expected to attract 85,000 men. In 1997 a million man march is planned for Washington (*The Christian Century*, 6 March). * There is little question that Promise Keepers will continue to influence men in the Australian church. Churches of Christ are likely to be fertile ground. Is this a good thing? There may be reservations about another US import and for some, the conservative lean. Is all this healthy? Given the low profile of men's work in the Australian church, we should welcome a new initiative and feel encouraged that we are making a contribution to the leadership. We are in the midst of seeing new directions been written in the Australian church. Older cooperative church structures are under great stress. They seldom grasp the imagination of many in the churches. They are mostly short of money and a creative imagination. There is no joy in this! * The maps of inter-church cooperation are being redrawn. We live in new days with new emerging leaders. This is a time for supporting cooperative ventures embracing renewal, development and challenge. * Will the church be on the ball with ministry to men? This can be a many-sided ministry embracing the vigour of Promise Keepers. There is a new potential to challenge, recruit and strengthen men in our churches. This is an opportunity to develop a largely untapped resource. In the history of the Australian church this is possibly the moment of greatest potential to challenge men for Christ. *



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Men

With Father's Day approaching, we present different perspectives on men's roles, on the Church's response to ministry with men and men's faith in later life.

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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.

Images of Jesus

To the Editor,

There are several images of Jesus among conservative Christians in our churches. First there is the "spiritual" Jesus who saves "souls", but ignores issues of justice, peace and the integrity of creation. This Jesus is prominent in much of popular evangelicalism.

Second, the "new right" Jesus is popular with militant fundamentalists. He is the Jesus who champions the wealthy and the powerful and is opposed to the economic rights of the poor and the oppressed.

Third, the "Santa Claus" Jesus of health and prosperity dishes out presents to those who are appropriately in the charismatic groove. None of these images has anything to do with Jesus of Nazareth whose central task was to establish justice for the poor and the powerless by creating a new community of God's people living under the reign of God in a life and lifestyle of radical and costly discipleship oriented to his cross.

The liberation Jesus of Nazareth brings is integral liberation. Spiritual yes, but not spiritual only. This Jesus is concerned with *shalom*.

To obtain peace with justice also means adopting a preferential option for the economic and social poor and a caring for the whole of God's creation.

—John Arthur
(Marangaroo, WA)

The Gun Issue—RSL Perspective

To the Editor,

It may interest readers to learn of the opinion of Australia's largest body of ex-servicemen and women, namely the RSL, on this issue. The June/July issue of *Stand To*, had the banner heading "RSL Backs Firearms Ban". This backing comes from the National Executive.

I want to make two brief points only:

1. Many of us have seen, first hand, over a number of years, just how devastating these weapons are. I have a very close comrade whose lower leg was so badly shot up that he lost this section of his limb. Many of my comrades continue to think of their friends lost in this manner.

2 The National Executive of the RSL, which represents members from each state and territory, are all ex-servicemen from conflicts from WW2 onwards, most of whom have had personal experience in (1) above.

There has been overwhelming support of our National Executive's decision on this matter from the membership of our organisation.

—Robert (Jock) Scott
(RSL Member, Curtin, ACT)

More in Tune with Today

To the Editor,

I am delighted to note that *The Australian Christian* is having a facelift and adopting a format which is more in tune with today's world.

I was also much encouraged on reading the letter from Glenys Janssen 15 June, about the letter to her church's board regarding the sombre music. I too am someone with grey hairs, but I love the more "modern" praise music, while still appreciating the mag-

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Letters to the Editor

nificent older hymns. We need a mix of music as we need a mix of people, to not only survive, but to grow

I would like to encourage readers to advertise their services in *The Australian Christian*. My husband and I cannot help but note the preponderance of advertisers from Victoria. This is natural, as the publication originates in Victoria, but I would love to see many more businesses and holiday resorts from all over Australia, using our magazine to promote their services. [We did not solicit this suggestion, but we do think it a marvellous idea! —Ed]

Come on, Australia, get out there and promote your services by advertising in a publication which has a nationwide readership. I'm sure that there must be many more like myself, who would love to patronise a local business, or to attend a local event, if only I knew about it. —Helen Drew (Mt River View, NSW)

Gun Control

To the Editor,

I have read the three articles on gun control in your issue of 20 July. I support Tom Fraser's views. It might not hurt Alan Matheson to read *Lock, Stock and Barrel* so he can see how law abiding people can be treated by police. Trevor Perrett says there is no policy for disarming the nation. If this is so why are there so many reasons that allow fire arms to be confiscated?

Why are there 58,000 licences out of 68,000 licences in Tasmania to be cancelled? Why will these people be forced to hand in their fire arms without compensation? Why will police be given powers to enter homes and ransack them? Damage done will not be covered by insurance.

A reduction in fire arms numbers may reduce their use in acts of

violence, but will it shift to other implements? Robin Lee wrote in the *Daily Telegraph* 18 March 1996 on firearm control in England, "Human nature itself is the greatest threat to a peaceful society. Ridding ourselves of that menace is an impossible dream." Removal of arms from law abiding citizens does not encourage confidence in government.

—R. Hardwick
(Richmond, Tas)

Treatment of Aboriginal Children

To the Editor,

The Governor General has said that reconciliation with the Aboriginal communities would not be achieved "until the effects of past oppression and dispossession of Aboriginal people had been dealt with".

Given that statement, the continuing attacks on Aboriginal institutions (ATSIC) and the ongoing struggle for land rights under the Native Titles Act, it would be helpful if the leaders of our various state conferences could use these pages to inform us on the ways which our churches are assisting in the reconciliation process.

The Governor General's warning came a few days after the "Anglican Church confessed its' complicity in the separation of Aboriginal children from their parents" at the Sydney hearings of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families, and admitted that "the Church has to accept its' complicity in carrying out a policy that was obviously not in the interest of Aboriginal people and the

Church must accept some responsibility for that".

The evidence shows that thousands of children were separated from their families.

Have Churches of Christ representatives appeared before the Inquiry?

Were we "complicitly involved" in "carrying out a policy that was not in the interest of Aboriginal people"?

Have Churches of Christ in all states made available to the In-

quiry all our records? As a National Conference do we support the Anglican Churches' call for compensation?

—Alan Matheson
(Hawthorn, Vic)

[An abridged form of the Federal Aborigines Board's submission to the National Inquiry into Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families will shortly be published as a Pamphlet Club in *The Australian Christian*. —Ed]

Update

Dear Readers,

This issue marks a recognition of Father's Day. We are a little ahead of the actual day, but this comes about because of the three-week interval between this and our next issue. The feature articles focus on men, with fatherhood as one aspect. We hope the material will be of interest to all our readers

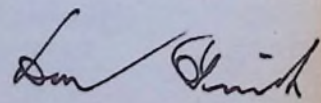
As this issue goes to press we are looking hard at the remaining issues for 1996. Planning for each issue is under way, with lots more to do. As soon as possible we shall carry reports on the World Convention and the Olympic Games. We are awaiting a report from Peter Nelson after he telephoned from Atlanta. I'm sure it will be full of interest. We also hope to include a report from the Para Olympics by one of our members who is a participant. These Games commence immediately afterwards.

Planning for 1997 is under way. The first issue in February will mark our 100th year of publication. We are already lining up some interesting interna-

tional contributors. Let's have your ideas about how we could mark this important celebration. We are also in the process of arranging additional feature columns. After preparing this Update column, I plan to complete our Census Form. Yes it is 6 August.

The forthcoming National Church Life Survey commencing on 25 August is of importance. Your church needs to be involved to give us a national overview of our church life and membership.

Each issue of the "AC" goes to our printer compacted onto a small disk. The whole issue is prepared in the office on computer. This equipment is aging and has been superseded by much faster and more advanced technology. We need at least \$6000 which is hard to find at this time. You may like to discuss our needs or have your church consider a gift as a project..



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Accommodation Scam

Warning about well-known deception

Ministers and local churches, are advised that a middle-aged woman has falsely obtained accommodation in places as far apart as Launceston, Tas, and Derby, WA. Usually a telephone call purporting to come from a hospital social worker is received by a minister, with a request for accommodation. To cover the

scam, another call is made after accommodation has been arranged. During the stay the person using the accommodation is likely to use the telephone in the early morning or when people are at worship. Upon departure a promise is made to send payment which never arrives. Police are aware that the person is widely known around Australia.

Want something to do on a Sunday afternoon?

Like Singing Hymns?

Why not join us on Sunday 8 Sept, 3.00 pm, for a joyous time of hymn singing?

Church of Christ Gardiner
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1040 Articles Recognised

Twenty years of writing for local paper

Ron Elbourne, Senior Minister at Monash City Church, Vic, was recently presented with a certificate from the Pastoral Minister, Martin Gillespie, in recognition of over 20 years of weekly articles written for the local paper, *The Waverley Gazette*.

"Parson's Pitch", presented the Gospel to the community readers of the local rag through Ron addressing contemporary social and personal issues, and then offering a biblical perspective on these.

The column was widely read and many people expressed their gratitude to Ron for the helpfulness of his articles.

After more than 20 years, *The Waverley Gazette* chose not to continue publishing Ron's articles, but God opened up for him a new



Ron Elbourne receiving a certificate in recognition of 20 years' writing

opportunity and he continues to write under the heading of "Viewpoint" for *The Monash Post*.

—Martin Gillespie

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Drug-Arm on the Move

Innovations in the work with alcohol and drug abuse

Thirty students from several Brisbane secondary schools were brought together by Drug-Arm (Qld) to debate in the setting of the Queensland Parliament, as part of Drug-Arm Australia's annual conference held 1-5 May in Brisbane. They debated that the drinking age should be raised to 21 and that the use of marijuana should be decriminalised. This innovative feature, preceded by a motivational talk by NBL coach, Eric Bailey, was a highlight of the Conference.

Other features were visits to treatment and rehabilitation centres, Logan House, Palm Beach-Curumbin Clinic, Fairhaven and Mirakai, and to Shaftesbury Citizenship Campus, which was founded by Alan Male; lectures by professionals on Evaluation, Quality Assurance, Prison Training Programs, Strategies for Parents, Political Lobbying Strategies, and Writing Submissions for Grants; in-house discussions on marketing, fund-raising, opportunity shops, a draft constitution and projects for 1996-97. The conference closed with worship in the City Salvation Army Temple.

The Australasian Drug Council, successor to the Australia South Pacific Temperance Council, held its final annual meeting during the conference, making way for National Drug-Arm and Associates Australia to coordinate Drug-Arm's Awareness and Relief Movement, with its concern for lives affected by the use of alcohol and other drugs. Next year's conference will be in Melbourne. Representatives of Drug-Arm in each of the mainland states and New Zealand, the Salvation Army, the Seventh Day Adventist Church and Ansvar Insurance attended the conference.

A prominent and growing feature of Drug-Arm is its Street Van outreach. Some hundreds of trained young-adult volunteers take part in this ministry to persons at risk. Public support is on the increase as service clubs, businesses, churches and private donors contribute towards the purchase of vans. Further information is available from Drug-Arm Vic, 9 Mason St, Dandenong 3175, (03) 9794 9296) or other state offices.

—Bruce Alcorn
(Vice-President, Drug Arm, Vic)

CCTC Appointments

Principal's appointment extended, Dean of Studies appointed



Greg Elsdon



Stephen Curkpatrick

The Board of the Churches of Christ Theological College, Vic, (The College of the National Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia) is delighted to announce that Dr Greg Elsdon has accepted an extension of five years to his current appointment as Principal of the Churches of Christ Theological College.

The invitation to Dr Elsdon was extended to him following a comprehensive review process.

This means that the College can expect to have the benefit of Greg's unique gifts of leadership

and scholarship at least until the end of 2002.

The Board is also pleased to announce the appointment of Stephen Curkpatrick, CCTC Lecturer in Theology and New Testament, as Dean of Studies.

In this role Stephen will be responsible for the coordination of academic administration.

This will include communication with the relevant bodies of the Evangelical Association and the Melbourne College of Divinity as well as oversight of the course structure of CCTC students.

Visiting Canberra? Stay with a Church Family

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

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

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

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

Advance bookings appreciated

Mt Druitt Community Church

A Church of Christ
8 Calala St. Mt Druitt NSW 2770

Are You God's Man for Mt Druitt?

The above church is seeking the services of a pastor who can relate to working and middle class people. We are looking for a man with the ability to show care and understanding to young and old alike.

The Mt Druitt church is a Bible-based church operative in the Gifts of the Spirit and enjoys being in the presence of God. The church is looking for a man around 45 years of age, married and who has the total support of his wife.

If you are interested, please forward your CV to the Secretary, Selection Committee of the above church.

Interim Ministry

Training event for skills and issues in interim ministries

Plans are well advanced for a training course for potential interim ministers or ministers who would like to develop their skills in this area. The course will be held at the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave, Vic, 18-21 February 1997. Leaders for the event will be two visitors from the United States. Neil Chafin who has supervised the training of interim ministers for eleven years will join with Nancy Tanner who has been involved for many years in consultation and training of interim ministers for the Disciples of Christ. Graham Carslake of Warwick, WA, is the national organiser of the event.

The course will help ministers develop skills in approaching the dynamics of termination and group grief and how to deal with them. Other areas include assisting churches in significant con-

gregational development, preparing for the new minister and creating a healthy relationship between the congregation and the new minister.

The course is designed for ministers who have served in local church ministry or in other forms of ministry and have decided to spend all or part of their time doing interim ministries where they are needed. The program is open to ministers in all states. Information has also been forwarded to State Conferences. [Allan Avery's article "Doing An Interim" see page 16 is a useful commentary on the role of the interim minister. —Ed]

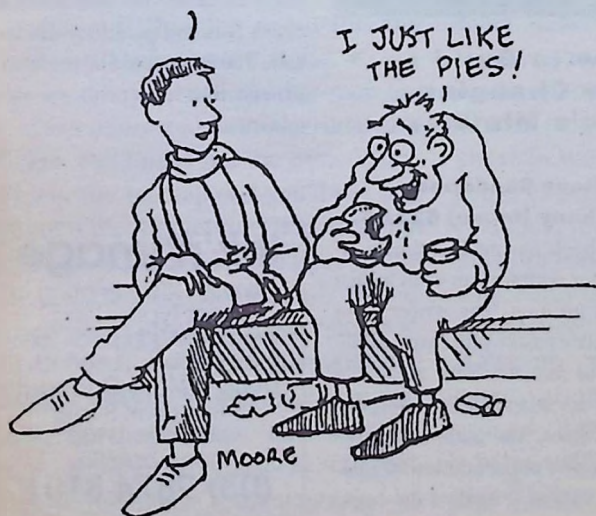
Full details are available from Graham Carslake, 77 Ellersdale Avenue, Warwick WA 6024, telephone (09) 447 7877; or Dr Keith Bowes during Graham's absence overseas until 13 September.

"AC" Board



Pictured (L-R) are staff members Nigel Pegram and Don Smith with Keith Aird, Board Chairman of The Australian Christian, discussing the paper's new format at the recent annual meeting. All states and the ACT were represented. Highlights included a substantial planning session led by Dean Phelan. Major issues considered included promotion, new subscriber recruitment, financial strategies and celebration of the 100th year of publication in 1997.

I FIND THAT BEING PART OF A FOOTBALL CROWD APPEALS TO MY SUBCONSCIOUS NEED FOR TRIBAL AFFILIATION; ALLOWS FOR CATHARTIC EXPRESSION OF ELEMENTAL EMOTIONS; AND PROVIDES A VICARIOUS SENSE OF INVOLVEMENT IN A TERRITORIAL CONFRONTATION!



CONSIDERED MISSIONARY SERVICE?

We have the following positions available to begin 1997:

Lecturer Banmatmat Bible College

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Office Skills Coordinator

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

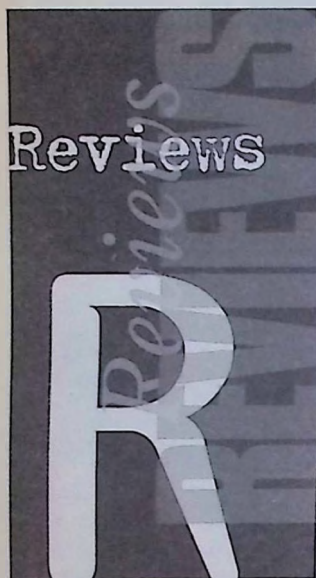
Teacher/Literacy Worker

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.

OMB

Overseas Mission Board

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



Books

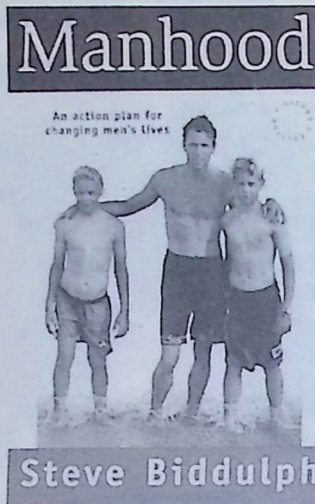
Manhood

by Steve Biddulph (Finch)
\$19.95.

The Nineties have been declared "The Decade of the Bloke". It is a catch up time for men as they come to understand the many changes which have been happening and the changes they need to make to stay in touch. How to catch up is very well outlined in the book *Manhood* by Steve Biddulph.

Biddulph offers some very helpful insights into men exploring where they are at with their fathers; what's involved in relating to women as equals; the challenge of being a real father and in particular raising boys; the huge energy source of sex and how this can be directed for positive outcomes; how to develop supportive friendships with other males; and discover a new appreciation of your spirituality and what makes boys turn into men.

This book has made a significant contribution to my understanding of being a man and helped to



clarify some important issues. For a down to earth and practical look at what being a man is all about, I highly recommend it.

—John Rowe

Longing for Love

by Michael Frost (Albafross) \$12.95

Longing for Love as the cover describes it is a book about Gender, Sexuality and our Experience of God. Michael Frost of Sydney speaks with the passion of an evangelist, a role he gladly accepts. He moves easily among contemporary film and writing to mainstream theologians, philosophers, poets, figures in church history and yes basically the Bible. I found I couldn't rush through the book. It is writing in depth, but never obscure.

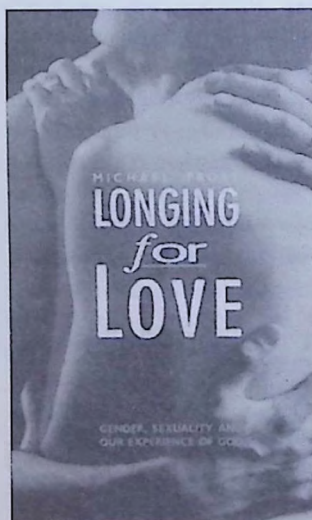
Frost emphasises our humanity and the inner desires of men and women. A spirituality for today is the continuing quest. Spirituality is described as a way of seeing. Spirituality is the way humans connect with their world. Spirituality is also clearly linked with sexuality. Sex is about gender, about our relationships, about our values and choices and our way of seeing ourselves.

From this we plunge into the at-

tributes of God, transcendence, immanence, holiness, love and so on. If this sounds like a theological text book, don't be put off. The treatment of holiness is outstanding, especially in the way the points are linked to our experience. Frost emphasises the importance of our personality and inner life, the masculine and feminine in us all.

This is a book for women as much as for men. Male and female competition is rejected. He sees God, sexuality and grace as three of the most wonderful realities to be encountered by people who hunger for wholeness. This is writing especially directed to a market beyond the church.

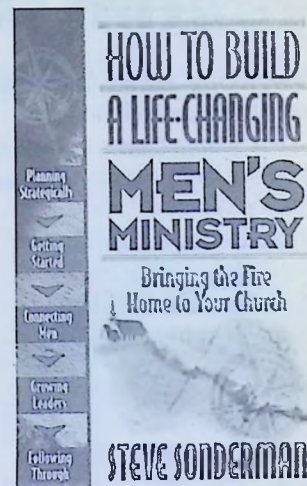
—DHS



How to Build a Life Changing Men's Ministry

by Steve Sonderman
(Bethany House) \$23.95.

This book has made a timely arrival for review in an issue with a focus on men. The writer is an associate pastor with responsibilities for ministry with men. The ideas are adaptable for churches of all sizes. The author is aware of the new opportunities for ministry with men against the back-



ground of "Promise Keepers". There is an examination of the perceived needs of the US male, which is transferable to our situation. The goals for men are summarised with a good piece of alliteration—Integrity, Intimacy, Identity and Influence. Ideas for building a team are discussed along with desirable qualities of leadership. There is a helpful section on the unspoken needs of men which must be useful in any area of work with men. The place of special events is also helpful as a starter to planning. There are many ideas ranging from activity in the local church to participation in much larger events. Small group ministry is well discussed.

Each chapter has summaries, check lists and points for discussion. The book would be useful for prospective leaders of a men's ministry.

—DHS

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Men

Relationships Between Men

DAVID AND TRACEY WARE

The Church—Are men interested?

How well does the church communicate the message of God's love to men? *

Take Phil, a typical Aussie "bloke". Ask him about his football club and you'll start a conversation about Collingwood that could go on for hours. Ask him about his two children and he'll proudly tell you all about them. But try and turn the conversation to God and watch the barriers go up! *

Joe is a single guy who doesn't have any time for the church or for God. If you ever talk to him about either he will to hark back to incidents that happened years before and tell you that church was, and still is, a total turn-off, a bore and full of hypocrites. *

Men are interested in community, connection and involvement

Steve does go to church most weeks, but ask him why and it soon becomes clear that he only goes to keep his wife happy. For most of the service he is "tuned out" thinking about the golf game he'll enjoy later that day. *

It's tempting to believe that men are just not interested in the spiritual side of life. But this is not the case. Watch Phil at the football and you'll see him come alive! Something happens that can't be explained in everyday terms. He experiences excitement. He belongs. He is involved. He worships! *

In the pub after work Joe shares in community with his mates! The language is not like that heard in church, and the topic of conversation may be different. But for Joe, this is communion. *

And follow Steve on the golf course. Gone is the bored, apathetic look he had in church. He is chatty, interested and involved. *

Men are interested in community, connection and involvement. These are the very gifts of fellowship that the church offers, but many men will never receive them unless we are prepared to minister to them at their points of openness, their families, work and sport. *

As a Christian and a man I pray that God will use me to minister, and witness to, the men that I regularly meet. The challenge I face is the challenge we must all address if we are to better communicate the message of God's love to men. *

A Woman's Perspective on Fatherhood

As a mother of a little boy, who will one day be a man, I want to do all I can to make sure my son has a deep and significant relationship with his father. *

Ultimately it is up to David (my husband) and Justin. There are some things I think I can do as a mother to help. As I have only seven months experience as a mother I can in no way claim to be an expert, but here are some ideas which will make a difference in the relationship David and Justin will build. *

Women are generally the primary care givers in the early years. We soon become expert and efficient in nappy changing, feeding, dressing, etc. *

This can leave men feeling inadequate and reluctant to show off their inexperience! *

However, creating opportunities to care, (preferably when you're not around to interfere and give expert advice!) will deepen the bonding between father and child. *



Encourage one to one time. Special excursions just with dad, a walk in the pram; when the child is older, football, shopping. Time to play together, read together and time to learn together, (helping Dad put up a shelf, washing the dishes together, etc). *

I need to model respect for my husband. Too often I have heard couples put each other down in front of their children. Modelling is very strong, so if this is done frequently the child will do likewise. *

Develop an atmosphere where sharing ideas, feelings and disappointments is a part of life. Where home is a place where talking and listening happen. This will help children learn that it is OK to share at this level and learn the importance of listening to others. *

Setting up clear goals in areas of discipline, routine, lifestyle and other important issues so misunderstandings don't occur. Hopefully this stops children playing Mum and Dad against each other. *

Although I can teach my son lots of things, I have my limitations. I want him to appreciate the uniqueness and freedom of being a man, he can't learn that from me. Boys learn to be men from their fathers. I need to accept that and let him be free to learn. *

Men

Being Fathers

Grandfather

Evan Adermann Nambour, Qld.



Evan and Joan Adermann with grand-daughter Taylor

With the urgency of earning a living replaced by retirement, there is more time and opportunity to share the exciting world of our grandchildren. To have them climb on to our lap, to feel their arms around our neck, and to hear them say "I do love you," is an experience which mere words cannot possibly properly express. To listen to their endless questions, and to see how completely they accept all we say as the truth is a very sobering experience.

It brings a realisation that grandfather is not someone remote, but one with a role to play in guiding young footsteps along life's pathway. Their trust and love for us provides opportunity to gently advise, guide, and even reprove.

It requires endless patience and understanding; an ability to enter their world which we passed through so long ago. But how immeasurable and joyful are the rewards as they put their hand in ours, look into our eyes, and say "I want to grow up to be like you, Pa."

We sought to raise our family in the nurture of the Lord, and now we share with them the role of leading another generation of little children to the Saviour who stretches wide his arms and says "Let the little children come unto me." That's the wonderful joy and privilege of being a grandfather.

Fatherhood

Graham Reed

It is only in more recent years that I have come to fully appreciate the powerful way my understanding of how to be a good father has been shaped by my own experience of being fathered. How many of us at one point or another have said to ourselves, "I won't ever do the things to my children my father did to me"? In spite of this, how often do we catch ourselves being exactly like our father and end up hating ourselves for it? *

I carried for years the hurt of my father's apparent disinterest in me—the feeling I would never be good enough to warrant his love. For me, these hurts and feelings of resentment and anger have been a real obstacle in my relationship with God. *

Through the growth group I am a part of at the Blackwood Church of Christ, I have discovered to my surprise that others share similar burdens. It was somehow comforting to know it was not just me who had struggled with this issue. *

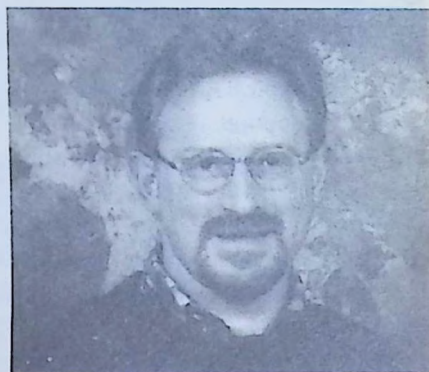
I have also come to a point in my own journey of being able to understand something about why my father was like he was, to forgive him and in a very real sense learn to respect him. Sadly for me, I am unable to celebrate this with my father as he died suddenly five years ago. In a strange way though I sense he knows the way I feel. *

My encouragement to others who may be dealing with similar burdens is to understand they are not alone and that there is a way to deal with it. If we are able to forgive and accept our fathers we will be able to accept ourselves, and in so doing be better at allowing God's love to shine through us. *

Graham is the father of four and a member of Blackwood, SA, church.

Being a Father

Brett Nichols



Recently, my daughter and I were having a discussion about the nutritional value of her evening meal. The end result of this conversation was her statement "You wait till Mum gets home. You'll be in big trouble". *

Later, after telling my wife Joanne about the episode, I started to think about the way my children respond to my parenting. The responsibilities I assumed when I became a father have changed dramatically as my children have grown. Now with Rachel (8), Hayley (6) and Laura (2), I need to be more than one type of father. Their physical, emotional and spiritual needs are as different as their personalities and experience of life. I find that I need to be a consistent standard they can refer to. I need to understand their perspective, their logic and give time to understand the world they are part of. This isn't always easy. *

The love we have within our family is intense and unreserved. God has blessed me by providing a family that accepts me and shares its experiences with me. Being part of my family has helped me to understand the love Jesus has for me and it is this that I attempt to pass on to my girls. *

Brett is a member of the Hobart, Tas, Church.

Men Promise Keepers

BARRY CUTCHIE

"And just what is Promise Keepers?" was the curious bank teller's question. *

"We're all about helping men keep their promises to be good husbands, fathers, citizens and Christians." *

"Well, I'd like to see that!" was her somewhat dubious response. *

But it is beginning to happen. Men all over Australia are now responding to a new stirring of the Holy Spirit and committing themselves to the process of becoming Promise Keepers. And families, communities and churches are reaping the benefit:

A father for the first time in 45 years tells his son how much he loves him and is proud to be his dad

- A father for the first time in 45 years tells his son how much he loves him and is proud to be his dad
- A husband of 20 years quits trying to change his wife and begins accepting her as she is ... and the marriage improves out of sight
- A separated husband admits his failure after years of stubborn resistance
- A pastor moved to tears as the men begin to pray for and encourage him
- A church with more than half their men in small groups. *

The story begins in 1990 with Colorado University head football coach, Bill McCartney and a friend sharing a goal to fill the stadium with 50,000 men "honouring Jesus Christ". A year of prayer and fasting by 72 men results in 4,200, then 22,000, then the dream fulfilled—50,000 men in 1993. *

But God was doing something in men's hearts that was bigger than Colorado. This year will see up to 1.5 million men gather at 22 Conferences in America and thousands more gather in Canada, NZ, South Africa and Australia. *

Each Conference is a time of inspirational worship, down-to-earth preaching, great fellowship and prayer, as men of all ages and denominations gather in non-threatening sporting venues. Evangelism has been a powerful result, with up to 10% accepting Christ for the first time or making a rededication. *

Australia was one of the first nations to respond to this move of God's Spirit among men, and in a short time a National Board and State Committees were established. Gatherings of up to a thousand men have been experienced in Perth, Brisbane and Melbourne. *

Promise Keepers is a Christ-Centred ministry dedicated to uniting men through vital relationships to become godly influences in their world. *

The need for this is great: marriage and family life is breaking down, domestic and community violence is increasing, suicide is the major means of death for men aged 12–60, and there is an alarming absence of men in Church, only 38% of regular worshippers are male! *

Men in Australia are responding spontaneously to this new challenge. *

The primary result is men who are willing to commit themselves to the process of becoming Promise Keepers through the grace and strength of Jesus Christ. The great beneficiaries are not just the men, but their wives, families, churches and community. *

In Australia there are four major aspects to the ministry:

1. Conferences. These inter-church gatherings act as a catalyst to motivate men to become Promise Keepers, en-



couraging and strengthening them to holy living. *

2. Seminars. These are used to train, equip and inspire men to start or strengthen men's ministry in local churches, to be better husbands and fathers, and to be Christian influences in their world. *

3. Accountability Groups. We encourage men to meet 2–4 times each month with a few others, granting them the right to enquire about his progress in relationship to God, family, integrity, etc. They also commit to pray for and encourage one another in the application of God's Word to their life. *

4. Resources. We will offer resources that will facilitate men's ministry in the local church and godliness in men. *

Promise Keepers finds some of its greatest prayer supporters and volunteer workers among women, because they are at last seeing a ministry that is specialising in helping men, and also from local pastors, because men are becoming enthused about growing as Christian and serving the local church. *

Those wishing to learn more should contact: Promise Keepers Australia Inc, PO Box 5211, Clayton Vic 3168. Phone (03) 9558 2966, Fax (03) 9558 2199. *

Men

Australian Men

NEIL FONG

Australian men have been stereotyped for many years now as the blue-singletted, beer-swilling ocker or the sweaty, dusty stockman with an independent and "larrikin" approach to life. *

Recently cracks have appeared in this view with the emergence of the so-called "sensitive new aged guy" (SNAG). I believe they are both a bit false anyway. Worldwide, the phenomenon known as the Men's Movement has arisen. In Christian circles movements like Promise Keepers have

Australian Rules football is an important aspect of Australian life and demonstrates some good, bad and ugly aspects of the Australian male character

emerged to unite and excite men to deeper dimensions of self-knowledge and the meaning of community. *

Australian Rules football is an important aspect of Australian life and demonstrates some good, bad and ugly aspects of the Australian male character. For the spectator, it can thrill and it can demoralise. For the player, it can promise so much and in the space of a millisecond, through injury, end a career. The recent spate of serious disabling knee injuries in the AFL is a good example of this. *

For the past four years now I have ministered as the Chaplain to the West

Coast Eagles, arguably the most successful AFL team in the 90s, with three Grand Final appearances and two Premierships. The opportunity to come alongside and be invited into the guys' minds and hearts is an immense privilege. *

The word "invited" is carefully chosen. The basis and "success" of any significant ministry, but especially ministry with Aussie men, is in relationship—and for that to be real you need to be involved. Title, position or even credentials really count for very little. *

It is only as we are prepared to risk ourselves to others and to be available in relationship, can there be any opportunity for significant ministry. And what is "significant" ministry anyway? For an AFL chaplain it means "hanging out"; it means enduring some of the more risqué moments in the locker room or showers; it means genuinely listening and being willing to play a low-key serving role in a high profile environment. *

Most men, and footballers in particular, are keen to talk and open up if we take the time and are honest in our motivations. Concerns about personal relationships and pressures about futures and expectations weigh heavily on the footballers I work with. Building a friendship that will last means that sharing of the Good News about Christ takes place in the right context and at the right moment. *

Aussie men are not afraid to talk about God. They just need to see and know a few people who have some authentic relationship through whom they can be introduced. Actually most people are looking for that. *

Some people think AFL footballers are gods, and in one sense they are. But they are also ordinary blokes who



have ordinary struggles like the rest of us. *

Steven Biddulph in *Manhood* comments that men in our society are hurting and that there are three enemies of men: loneliness, compulsive competition and lifelong emotional timidity. He goes on to say, "Men (and women) are co-victims in a pattern of living and relating that is in drastic need of revision ... And we need help to change ourselves." *

There is no doubt that this revision involves facing the spiritual issues that ultimately lead to the questions of knowing God and understanding his purpose in the world and in our lives. Robert Bly in *Iron John* states, "Our society produces a plentiful supply of boys, but seems to produce fewer and fewer men." *

As a man, ministering to men is hard work, because we all have a lot to learn about our own emotional inheritance, sexuality, place and role in society, and relationship with women. As a male, it's a journey I make fearfully but expectantly. As a chaplain and friend to other men, I will help to assist them most as I grow towards true manhood. *

Neil Fong is Chaplain to the West Coast Eagles, a medical practitioner and Director of Youth Vision, WA

Men

Faith in the Senior Years

TREVOR PARRY

I remember the surprise and amusement in my late thirties of wanting strongly to take up all sorts of activities, start new things, change career directions, only to discover that, as for my contemporaries, I was beginning what has been called the "mid life crisis". It was quite fun, a little disturbing but safe when I realised that it was a "normal phase", and was supposed to last only a few years. I could therefore let it all happen and even enjoy it. *

However the problem was that it didn't seem to stop! And it became accompanied by a realisation that time was passing, and so was energy and opportunity,

*One by one the
"balloons" of youthful
hope and expectation
were bursting*

and I was beginning to focus with regret on what could never be experienced or regained. One by one the "balloons" of youthful hope and expectation were bursting and in my mid fifties I had to come to terms with the present realities that "life is just like that", and accept it and get on with it. But it raised the question as to what these adjustments meant to my faith journey, and what was the Biblical view of life in these adjustments so that faith itself didn't become one of the balloons and deflate or disintegrate. *

One of the helpful things was to realise that all this is common and normal, just part of the developmental phases. Realising that we struggle in a way that is common and normal for humans is reassuring, but what has the Bible to say to us? *

The Bible encourages us to reflect on the character of God: "From everlasting to everlasting You are God", "New every morning is your love and great is your faithfulness", "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever". He is one who has integrated everything into wisdom and is available to help. In the richest sense he lives in the now, but not in the restrictions of our time. Involved in our time, certainly, (and best in the Incarnation of Jesus), but beyond the confines of our time and forever now. Jesus, (who incidentally as a man did not reach these older stages!) taught us to pray, "Give us **today** our daily bread" and not to be anxious about tomorrow. For those moving into the more senior years, there may be future anxieties about career directions or securities, health, marriage quality, "retirement" (or should it be "redirections"?), and the nagging uncertainty of whether we are becoming marginalised. *

The advice of Jesus to learn from the way God goes on providing for the lilies of the field and the birds is an encouragement to go on trusting the generosity of our Heavenly Father in all seasons of our lives. A characteristic of the more senior years is to function better with long term memory than with short term. *

This can be positive as we recall God's goodness and integrate what we have learned of him and life into wisdom. However, for many, the memory of past years is to recall with regret the missed opportunities, the vanished dreams, the mistakes, the apparent unanswered prayers, the "burst balloons" and even to doubt the goodness and personal care of God. Faith may then wobble and even bitterness begin to erode our confidence. Stagnation may follow as dis-



appointment blocks the flow of the Spirit. We will then lose hope for the future and "exist" rather than live in the now. *

Or, for others, we may fall into the trap of thinking that past experiences mean that we know "it" all and have arrived. Paul as a senior is helpful to us again here: "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have been made perfect ... But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." (Phil 3:12-14). Interestingly he goes on to say: "All of us who are mature should take such a view of things." *

We appraise our past, deal with it with God, and move on to the next part of the journey, for there is always more with him. When Jesus turned water into wine he taught us, among other things, that the best is yet to be, and his resurrection gives us this certain hope. It should give us a definite sense of excitement. *

Trevor Parry is a Developmental Paediatrician approaching Senior Citizen Status. He is Director of the State Child Development Centre in Perth, WA, worships with the Churchlands Vineyard Christian Fellowship, is married to Liz and has two grown children.

CAROL PRESTON

DIAMOND WEDDING

LEE-ARCHER (HUGHES) Married 15 August 1936 at Brighton, Vic, by the late Andrew Hughes. It is with love and gratitude for their Christian lives and example all the family of Jess and Henry celebrate with them their diamond wedding anniversary.

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THANKS

ALLAN CUNNINGHAM (12 June 1918-30 May 1996) My family join me in expressing our grateful thanks for the love, understanding, prayers and support expressed through letters, gifts and your presence on the day of his funeral service. Though we deeply feel the loss of our husband and father, Allan Cunningham, we are grateful for the memories and praise God for his example of faith, courage and vision. Marjorie Cunningham, Golden Age Retirement Village, Unit 12, 60 Ridgeway Avenue, Southport Qld 4215.

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What do you do with your anger? Perhaps you go quiet and hold it all inside? Or let it out in little bits of nagging, criticism or sarcasm? Or send messages by refusing to cooperate, sabotaging others by being late or forgetting things? Maybe you're the honest type who just "gets it off your chest". Some of you slam doors or kick walls (or cats), and a few gossip to get even. Yes, these are all expressions of anger. They only differ in who or what they hurt. * Anger is a very powerful emotion. It has been called the chief saboteur of the mind. It is a significant factor in the formation of many diseases, and one of the leading causes of misery, inefficiency, accidents, marital breakdown and crime. Is it any wonder that the Bible warns us not to let the sun go down on our anger! *

Anger is a very powerful emotion. It has been called the chief saboteur of the mind.

What causes such a process to go on within us? Yes, I'm going to say it again. It's the way we think! When somebody does what we don't want them to do, or doesn't do what we think they should, our expectations are violated, and disappointment, indignation, or rage arises in us. The more important the expectation is to us, the stronger the feelings. Of course some of us have been taught that anger is sinful, so we've learned to hold it inside. But don't fool your-



self—it leaks! And what doesn't leak, starts to erode us from the inside. *

So what can we do? If we had completely righteous expectations (like God), we would have his choices here: to help people change into what we wanted them to be, to forgive, or to pay the price for their wrong-doing ourselves. We do have those options, but first we must examine the validity of our expectations, because our humanity means that sometimes we misinterpret situations, make mistakes in judgement or have selfish expectations. So we may need to change our minds! *

If our expectations are righteous, we can put our energy into confronting in love and helping others to change. We can forgive, letting go of the desire to punish or take revenge. And sometimes the most loving thing we can do for ourselves and another is to remove ourselves from a situation that is constantly unjust or violates our boundaries. Anger at it's best becomes "bold love"; fighting evil, not people. *

To prevent unhealthy anger, or habitual frustration and hostility, we need to be examining our thoughts regularly, to make sure our expectations are godly and realistic—right for us and right for others. We can have a mind set for peace, not war. *

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

Media Matters

The Turner Exhibition

VINEY LONGTHORP

The exhibition of paintings by the British artist William Turner drew record attendances when shown in Canberra; adjectives such as "magnificent" and "stunning" were used with abandon. Having just attended the exhibition in Melbourne I can see what they mean. It ends on 10 September. Interstate visitors in Melbourne are encouraged to attend if practicable. *

"That's not the way I see a sunset!" To which the curator replied, "But don't you wish you could?"

William Turner (1775–1851) is arguably Britain's greatest painter. After about the age of 16 his output was amazing. At his death he left some 19,000 works, including 232 paintings. In the present exhibition we have the opportunity to see 33 of the paintings, 60 water col-

ours, and 25 prints. This is but a small sample of his output but it is enough to give endless delight and enable one to appreciate his genius. *

Like many great artists he had humble beginnings. His father was a barber in Covent Garden. Young William started his career as an architect's draughtsman but his talents as an artist quickly became evident. He was an inner-city boy who fell in love with the sea and the countryside. At 26 he was made a full member of the Royal Academy, a record that still stands. *

Turner lived in the same heroic age, of rapid social transition, as did Byron and Beethoven, and with these two great artists helped to express what Paul Johnson calls, "The Birth of the Modern". *

What do we expect from such an exhibition? Pretty pictures and fanciful images merely to delight our eyes? An anecdote should give the deeper perspective. Thus it is told how a viewer of one of Turner's paintings exclaimed, "That's not the way I see a sunset!" To which the curator replied, "But don't you wish you could?" *

Look if you will at these two paintings. They are typical of

Turner's special genius. There is *Snowstorm*, with the supplementary title, *Steamboat off a harbour's mouth making signals in shallow water and going by the Lead*. Michael Lloyd, an authority on Turner, said of him that in all his works it was a case of the artist "being there". That is, Turner gives a deep sense of immediacy and involvement in whatever subject is depicted. So with this painting. We are there in all the terror and excitement of a ship inching its way out of harbour in a severe storm. The ship Turner depicts was in fact the steam packet Ariel leaving Harwich harbour. The story goes that Turner had himself strapped to the foremast and from there made his preliminary sketches. His magnificent technique gives us the "feel" of the storm; everything is grey or white, or dull bluish. All the lines are broken, tentative, diverging from the horizontal or vertical. The composition produces a sense of dislocation, of being in a chaotic void. *

Then there is the *Keelmen heaving coals by Moonlight* (1835). Turner is above all a poet of light. And here by moonlight is a scene at Newcastle where coals are being loaded in frantic haste for the London market. The date is significant for this is the industrial revolution where time is money, and "making money means making muck". So the grubby, coal-soiled sails on the boats at the picture's right contrast with the pristine white sails of the wealthy on the other side of the river. *

Turner's contemporaries, Wordsworth and Carlyle did not like what they saw of the industrial revolution. Turner embraced these social changes, and fearlessly and honestly ex-



pressed its significance. He even saw beauty in it. *

Turner gave us very little in the way of what we deem to be religious works. That group of artists which followed him in mid-century, the Pre-Raphaelites, so-called, went straight back to the supposedly religiously saturated Middle Ages and laid on the "spiritual" with a trowel. Oleographs of artists such as Burne-Jones, D.G. Rossetti, and Millais have adorned the walls of our Sunday Schools for four generations and have helped mould our images of God and the biblical stories. *

But Turner's spiritual impact is of a different order. His seascapes, especially, are full of that sense of awe and majesty which we find in the later chapters of the Book of Job—feelings which transcend argument and earnest didactic. Percy Dearmer, a theologian who understood art, gave us a clue to see Turner aright: "Art makes the mind that enjoys it, as it makes the mind that produces it; it is both in the artist and in his audience a discovery of self—and God." To which we may add the words of Charles Simeon, preacher and scholar: "There are but two lessons for the Christian to learn: the one is to enjoy God in everything; the other is to enjoy everything in God." *

Church Planters' Conference

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Doing an Interim Ministry

ALLAN AVERY

For the past twelve months I have been conducting interim ministries at Chadstone and Mornington. I have made the point that the future of churches is not with people my age. There is a case for interim ministry in situations such as: after a long and successful ministry where the interim can act as a buffer between two longer ministries; to take the heat out of a situa-

The task is basically to fulfil the ministry of the church and to make the way as easy as possible for whoever follows

tion and to prepare the way for the next ministry; or where a church is struggling to find that next ministry or may not even be sure what they are looking for. *

Sometimes a congregation even needs time to recover financially. *

One of the things I do as the interim minister is to take the church and the Board through what I call a check list at least once a month. This includes a range of issues. *

Promotion and Publicity

What is the profile of the church in the community. We use local papers, letter-box drops, the church paper, road-side banners, etc. *

Land and Buildings

Should we be building/extending/relocating? What situation offers the church the best opportunity for ministry? *

Music

One of the most important aspects of worship revolves around the use of music in the service. In one of my interims I had the services of a brilliant keyboard player, trumpeter, flautist and guitarist. That was in a church of fifty plus members. What I am looking for are people skilled in music. *

Secretarial Assistance

After being used to having four to five in the office with others doing voluntary work, it is now me in the back seat of the car with a biro. One of our ministers made the observation he would rather have a office secretary than an additional minister. *

Youth Ministry

Sometimes churches are fortunate to have a skilled voluntary worker, but in today's world you usually have to pay for it. What is happening in this area of work? *

Pastoral Care

I am still old-fashioned enough to believe in calling on the members in their homes, at work, wherever people are. It often amazes me that even in the smaller churches there is this network of people who keep in touch with members. Encourage this kind of activity. Appoint a social/fellowship convenor to organise events. *

Small Groups

This includes men's groups, women's groups, and Bible study groups. Don't throw over a CWF that is working. Sometimes it can be the most dynamic group within the church. There is a great advantage and need to multiply these groups as much as possible. *

Worship

We check out who is leading the worship, who can lead it, how well is it prepared, how well does it flow. Many people these days are just as concerned about the music and worship in a service as they are about the sermon. It's important to get it right. *

Finances

It's not a matter of "Are we paying the bills?" but, "What is the state of our stewardship?" A healthy church has a healthy budget and is in a healthy financial position. If the cause or the program is challenging enough the resources will be there. A congregation will rise to a worthwhile challenge. *

Auxiliaries

How many are there? Are they worthwhile? Auxiliaries are not always the same as small groups. Auxiliaries often de-



mand time and effort on the part of the leaders within the church. Are they helping to fulfil the mission of the church? * Where are we as far as future ministry is concerned? What do we want for the church? Do we need a minister or ministers? How long do we have to find what we need in ministry? This is our check list. *

Interim ministers are there to guide, encourage and lead where and when asked for. They don't set precedents that make it difficult for the new minister on arrival. The task is basically to fulfil the ministry of the church and to make the way as easy as possible for whoever follows. *

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Here and There

Schuller and Schuller

The Board of the Crystal Cathedral Ministries has announced the appointment of Robert A. Schuller (41) as the successor to his father Robert H. Schuller. The senior Schuller began his ministry at a drive-in movie theatre. The present centre is at the Crystal Cathedral, built in 1980. The younger Schuller said that the need for a successor became clear when his father had an accident in Amsterdam in 1990 and required brain surgery. The father is in great health with 10 years of goals ahead.

Members and Money

The US based National Council of Churches reports that mainline membership continues to decline while income rises. The Presbyterian Church (USA) lost 98,000 members, a 2.6% drop in 1995. The United Church of Christ, with whom Disciples have strong links, dropped membership by 28,000 or 1.89%. The Disciples lost 20,000 members or a 2.13% loss. Each of these churches reported an increase in income, with Disciples registering a 3.34%.

New Role For Brian Howe

Brian Howe, the Deputy Prime Minister in the Keating Government, has been appointed to assist in theological education for the Uniting Church. He will work in the areas of social ethics and public policy. Mr Howe retired from The Federal Parliament after almost 20 years of service as the member for Batman, a Melbourne electorate. He is a minister of the Uniting Church.

Plea for Tasmania

The Tasmanian Council of Churches has issued a call to Australian churches to support Tasmania by continuing tourism and especially making a visit to Port Arthur. The statement notes that 80% of the Tasman Peninsula's income is generated from tourism. Members are also encouraged to visit local churches.

OBITUARIES

Obituaries are limited to 100 words BEATON, Bill

(22.6.96) Bill lived in Devonport, Tas, for over 30 years. In 1963 he married Beryl Smith. They had two children, Leslie and Amanda. His love for his family included his extended family (he and Beryl cared for underprivileged children). Bill worked at APM for 26 years. He died one week before retirement. He was an active member of the Devonport church for 25 years, utilising his experience as a deacon and helping out wherever needed. His devotion to Christ was reflected in his life. He will be remembered as an absolute gentleman and Good Samaritan. He will be missed by all. He was 55.

CASSIDY, Shaun

(27.6.96) Shaun lived in Devonport for all his short years 17 years. For such a short life he had an immense impact on our community. He worked in a number of shops and was respected by all he came in contact with. He was an average student at Don College, where he was admired by his peers

and involved in the student consultative committee, encouraging students to do their best. He devoted his life to helping others. His funeral was attended by 600 people. His enthusiasm for life was an inspiration. His contribution to the community will always be remembered, especially his smiling face.

WRAY, Kaye Laraine

(26.6.96) Kaye was born in Kalgoorlie where she made a public commitment to Christ at age 11. She moved to Owen, SA, after her marriage to Reg Wray in 1964. Kaye's faith grew and matured. She expressed it through her talent of writing, her family and as a journalist. She served as chairperson

of Owen Church of Christ, elder of Owen Community Church, and at the time of her death was the first woman President of SA Northern Districts Conference. Although she suffered in different health for 20 years, no one expected her death at age 51. Kaye Wray's contribution to church, family, community and her work expressed her faith and desire to help others.

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Think

The small church is a caring church. There is very little expectation in the small church that the care extended by its members is going to produce large scale growth. Rather, care is seen not in terms of potential evangelistic growth, but simply as something that the small church does because of the emphasis it places on people and relationships.

—Martin Robinson,
Celebrating the Small
Church

1996 Spring Festival of Arts & Crafts

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

Friday 11 October 4.00-9.00 pm
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CHANGES

HARCOURT, Secretary—Mr H. Rice, Midland Highway, Harcourt Vic 3453. Tel (054) 74 2248. **Elder**—Ms L. Rice, Blackjack Road, Harcourt Vic 3453 Tel (054) 74 2333.

BAPTISMS

•Sharyn Dayman, Jean Phillips, Kelly Souter, **Elizabeth, SA** •Debbie Colliver, Sue Baker, **Red Hill, Vic**

MARRIAGES

•Isobel Hiron and Matthew Evans, **Hobart, Tas** •Clea Stowell and Herman Eykelkamp, **Elizabeth, SA**

DEATHS

• Harry Middleton, **MI Barker, SA**
•Kaye Wray, **Owen Community Church, SA** •Terry Simpson, Betty Sward, Esma Stacey, Allan Hall, **Hobart, Tas** •Emily Whisson, **Fremantle, WA** •Ern Austin, **Morwell, Vic**

WA

FREMANTLE (J. Caporn, R. Fairman) Eight hours of prayer on 25 July focussed on specific witness of church in Fremantle district ... New side entrance into chapel constructed for use by disabled people ... CWF presented program at Illawong Hostel ... Sympathy extended to Whisson & Stevenson families.

TAS

LAUNCESTON (C. Spaulding, W Kerrison, J Ratcliffe) Promise Keepers rally for Launceston & NW Coast on 18 July when over 200 attended ... Minister Craig Spaulding to be a member of the Leadership 2000 Study Tour to US ... Dedication of baby Harriette Bastick at morning service 21 July. **HOBART (C. Wardle, A. Tonkin)** Marriage Enrichment Seminar held ... Denise Moore elected to Vic-Tas Board

... Andrew Tonkin & Trish Wardle attended Hillsong Music Convention, Sydney ... Introduction to Promise Keepers, men's groups well attended by a number of churches ... Leaders & new attenders dinner held ... WOT "Women Out Together" meet monthly for social activities & fellowship with women from other churches & outreach to non-Christian friends.

NUBEENA (G.C. Cumbers) Greg Jacobson gone to Newcastle to renew friendships & with aim of joining ministry team ... Brownies & Gumnuts service held on 28 July ... Three attended seminar at Howrah led by Alan Hirsch & Steve Addison ... Community barbecue held on 3 August as appreciation to minister, policeman & school principal.

DEVONPORT (Peter Willis) Annual Meeting planned for August ... Options for expansion of the church building under consideration because of increasing numbers ... Indoor

Bowls afternoons well attended ... Church saddened by recent deaths of Bill Beaton & Shaun Cassidy.

SA


MT BARKER (Grant & Julie Simpson) A house has been purchased with the assistance of the State Conference & generous friends ... Plans to modify and extend in light of vision for a non-traditional church are under way ... Foundation member Harry Middleton had the vision for the establishment of the church, full-time ministry & a building, he held the keys of the house just days before he died.

BALAKLAVA (Morrie Munyard) Church fellowship group sponsored & catered for Over 50s members in church centre ... Youth camp at Halbury a great success, many young people making commitments ... Terry & Colleen Howard & Peter & Lyn McPharlin attending World

Convention, Calgary, Canada ... Combined youth service held in Uniting Church chapel 21 July ... Church members filling preaching role while Morrie & Florence Munyard take holidays.

ELIZABETH (Lindsay Mayes) Seeker friendly service held, also a Night of Mission with WEC ... Approx. 65 participating in discipleship training "Contagious Christianity" course offered ... Youth camp very positive ... Constitution changed to allow Associate Membership.

GOOLWA (Chris Ambrose) Church camp held at Pt Sturt on holiday weekend, theme "Journeys", 36 lived in, approx. 24 visited daily, fellowship enjoyed by all ... Visit from Lynette Leach of Vic-Tas highlight in July, her enthusiasm encouraged all who attended her meetings ... Numbers are down due to people seeking warmer climate ... Sunday evening service led by youth group a real blessing.



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Christian Singles Fellowship offers friendship through correspondence with other born-again Christian singles and single-again people

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Celebrating 82nd Church Anniversary

15 September 1996,
10.30 am

Pieter Petrusma—Speaker

Everyone invited to join in
Thanksgiving Service,
followed by morning tea.

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

NSW

MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins) 36 young people from America led evening service in song & drama. They were involved with YFC & school ministry ... Paul Grant organised "Pirate Adventures" for children K-6, 130 came ... Youth night with John North of Ambassadors for Christ, band from Adamstown Gospel Chapel, John spoke at Sunday service ... Hunter School Biblical Studies doing Exodus (RNH) & Holy Spirit (M. Hall).

VIC

SWAN HILL (Larry Edwards) Speakers during minister's vacation Gordon Owers, Ross Brinkmann, Darren Rogers & Peter Ratima (York St, Ballarat) ... Youth Group 'Goods & Services' auction raised \$1,400, 10% tithed for missions ... Young people & leaders enjoyed snow trip to Fall's Creek, 13-14 July ... Team from York St Ballarat visitors 21 July & conducted all services ... Anik Forrest in USA for 6 months student exchange.

RICHMOND (Linda Pilton) House Fellowships recommenced first Sunday evening each month ... Monthly Coffee & Dessert evenings opportunity for study & discussion ... Seven participated in Merryl Blair's short course "Women reading the Bible" ... \$100 raised for "Wheels around the World".

HARCOURT (Roy Armitage) Many social events including Maundy Thursday service with local churches, mid-year ministers' dinner with members invited to bring a friend, & farewell dinner to Eric & Lois Patterson, 7 July ... Ladies catered for afternoon tea for residents of Ray Begg Hostel, Kyneton ... Recent speakers Malcolm Gray & Romanus Mphande, CCTC student from Zambia ... Members involved in Gospel Radio 104.7 FM ... Max Carter chaired church vision program meeting.

YARRAWONGA (G. Jackel) Graeme & Sally Jackel settled into ministry ... 14 attending Tuesday night prayer ... 16 attending studies on Ephesians ... Over

recent months 2500 homes given "End Times" prophecy series leaflets ... 50-60 attending evening meetings ... CWF stall raised \$600 recently & puppet stage built, with group prepared to give plays ... Bruce Pigdon organised Men's Breakfasts with 10 attending ... Concern for M. Colless illness.

MORWELL (Andrew Ogden) Ern Austin, brother in law of Gwen, died 23 July. Minister took service in Traralgon ... Grahame Flynn & May Graham had sur-

gery recently ... Minister part-time chaplain with ITIM.

WERRIBEE (Graeme Batley) Church celebrated 24 years since first meeting in Dowling family home ... Past members welcomed back for special service 21 July & shared lunch & birthday cake afterwards ... Church supports work of Wycliffe Bible Translators through Holliday family in New Guinea ... Members powerfully reminded of God's healing power in answered prayers.

RED HILL (Bruce Butler) Church rejoicing in baptism of Debbie Colliver & Sue Baker at evening family service followed by tea on 4 August ... Seminar for Children's Club held 3 August ... Thelma Littlejohn attending World Convention ... Other members enjoying warmer climate up north ... Very enjoyable Country & Old Time Music Night held 6 August ... Church saddened at passing of Jack Henley's mother & also former member, Miriam Field.

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Snippets from History

College of the Bible

GORDON STIRLING

In a concert skit at the College of the Bible in 1934, Alan McDiarmid referred to J.W. McGarvey's *Commentary on Acts*, saying that we were using it until something better turned up. Even though it was meant for fun, for some it was like saying that we were using the Bible while we were looking for something more suitable. *

J.W. McGarvey taught at the College of the Bible in Lexington, Kentucky for 36 years, the last sixteen of them as President (Principal), retiring in 1911, aged 82. He taught many Australian students, sometimes there would be twenty of them at any one time. Most of them did not return for Australian ministries as they married American girls and stayed. It was for this reason that Australian churches agitated for a college of their own. It opened in 1907 in Melbourne and was named "College of the Bible" after the Lexington College. *

McGarvey studied at Bethany under Alexander Campbell. He wrote his authoritative *Commentary on Acts* while only 35 and the busy pastor of a large church. McGarvey broke new ground by claiming that Acts was primarily a book about conversions, including the accounts of those who had the opportunity to be converted but turned it down. *

Another of McGarvey's works that we used at the College of the Bible was his *Lands of the Bible*. For several months he walked through Bible lands with his Bible in his hands, ignoring the guide book legends and



the traditions surrounding some of the "sacred sites". *

In his later years, McGarvey became very deaf and had to use an ear trumpet. One morning the student due to present noticed that the ear trumpet was still on the desk. So lightheartedly he said, "Good morning John how are you?" McGarvey smiled and replied, "Very well Hiram, and how are you?" McGarvey was trying out a new, less conspicuous hearing aid that morning. *

McGarvey believed that there were three requirements for good ministerial education. They were a knowledge of the Bible, a knowledge of the needs of people and a general education in literature and the sciences. *

The College of the Bible became the Lexington Theological Seminary, and Australians Ron Graham and John Paver have served on its faculty. *



30 Years Ago Modern Music at Zillmere. Four teenagers, Tom Sketcher-Baker, tea chest guitar, Greg Kubler and Marjorie McAllister, Spanish guitars, and Gail Slaughter, vocalist, formed a folk rhythm group and played for a modern music service and candlelight coffee bar. They were written up in the *Brisbane Telegraph* and made the front page of *The Australian Christian*.

60 Years Ago Stephen Cheek's Grave. Queensland Conference reported that the grave of the late Stephen Cheek, a pioneer evangelist in Tasmania and Victoria, had fallen into disrepair at Warwick and been renovated at the cost of £16. Cheek died in February 1883 as a result of exposure in bad weather while working in the area.

90 Years Ago South Australian Conference. A report showed 634 gains, 303 losses and a membership of 4,296 in 30 churches. £4512 18s 1d had been given to Conference work.

The Last Word

Encouragement is the oxygen of the soul.

—John Maxwell

What do you call a woman tied to a wharf?
Maude

"What would you do if you were in my shoes?"
"Polish them."

"How did Joey do in his history exam?"
"Not so well, but it wasn't his fault. They asked him about things that happened before he was born."

Gargling with a good mouthwash is a very efficient way to find out if your neck leaks.

Tomorrow is today's greatest labour-saving device.

Too many people reach for a stool nowadays when there's a piano to be moved.

An atomic scientist went on holidays. In his absence a sign was hung on his office door reading, "Gone Fission".

From a Car Sticker
Skydivers—Good to the last drop
Skydivers drop faster

Pontius' Puddle

