

National Journal  
of Churches of  
Christ in Australia

Vol. 99 No. 7

4 May 1996

Print Post Approved  
PP349181/00418

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

## Families



Photograph by Ralph Petty





Member publication of  
the Australasian  
Religious Press  
Association

National Logo of  
Churches of Christ  
in Australia



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

Keith Aird, Chairman (SA)

Lindsay Mott, Treasurer (Vic)

John Batchler (Tas)

Kevin Bray (ACT)

Steve Downie (NSW)

Bob Smith (Qld)

Allen Smyth (WA)

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

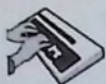
Responsibility for electoral material is  
accepted by Don Smith,  
2 Larkspur Ave, Doncaster Vic 3108

This publication is indexed in the  
Australasian Religion Index

ISSN 0004-8852

Advertising Rates

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



## Editorial

# Mother, I Won't Never Go Drovin'

Don Smith

"Mother, I won't never go drovin'; blast me if I do," is Tommy's poignant cry as he hugs his mother as daylight breaks over the bush.

Henry Lawson's famous story *The Drover's Wife* tells of an overnight encounter with a five foot long black snake, which menaces the little family of four young children and their mother in their two-roomed bush home.

Humour and pathos are the marks of the story. Humour in the account of the dog "Alligator's" attempt to deal with the snake and Tommy's mild attempts at swearing. For pathos Lawson injects the elements of loneliness, isolation, darkness, a thunderstorm, the anxious vigil of the long night, poverty, an absent husband, the children sleeping on the kitchen table for safety and mother coping alone with the snake in hiding.

The mother is a representative figure, revealed through her response to fire, flood and drought. Her tears turn to laughter as she pokes her finger through a hole in her handkerchief or when she takes a lonely Sunday promenade through the bush.

Such situations of poverty are more unfamiliar these days. They speak of an Australia long changed. The strength of the story is in the strength of the mother, her care for the children in danger, her love for a good husband long separated in his work as a drover.

The story characterises the commitment of mothers to children. The story prompts us to reflect on our own mothers and what have been their own sacrifices for the family. These may not have been in a two-roomed bush hut and isolation, but we all understand the point. On Mother's Day we give thanks for mothers and the family context which reared us.

How much more privileged most of us are than our parents. What greater opportunities most of us have had. How easily we accept these things. This is a time to give thanks for mothers and families. This is a time to express these thoughts to our parents where still alive. No parent will ever be perfect. Sometimes they may have



disappointed us, as we will have disappointed them. It is good to come to terms with each other while we are together. If our parents have died and we have negative feelings about our past relationships some counselling may help.

Christopher Robin Milne died in April. He was the one given the starring role in the popular *Winnie the Pooh*, written by his father A.A. Milne. Christopher, who died at 75 years of age, remembered his father as

distant and unexpressive. That is a sad comment on family life and one as parents we must avoid. It can and does happen. Relationships in our families are important. Spoiled relationships are best dealt with promptly wherever possible.

The celebration of family on Mother's Day is also a challenge to the church in our programming and service. These will be expressed from play group through to adolescent groups.

How well does your church care for the family? Is there a comprehensive plan? The church creche is a good place to start. Young parents will look at these issues as never before. The quality of teaching and family life is basic in a growing church.

Our attitude to single parents is also important. Our society has many single parents who need our support. There is no room for moralising on these matters. Some of our single mothers and fathers will also grapple with potential problems when children visit their other parent. Attendances may be irregular. How does your church cope with these challenges and opportunities?

Sometimes, in what seems to be the best of families, children may not fulfil a parent's hopes and ambitions for them. Doubtless Dr Billy Graham and his wife, Ruth, had their moments with their son Franklin. Conversely, we can rejoice with Cheryl Barker's parents in the achievements of their daughter. (See inside.) Parenting and motherhood are not easy. A mature Christian faith offers a strong base for family life through all its phases. Affirmation and expressions of love between all ages are basic in our homes and in the church. ♦



## Contents

### Families

*In this issue we explore the many aspects of family life; from dealing with children through to caring for aging parents*


Rugrats or Rewards? .....	9
Spiritual Nurture in the Home .....	10
Marriage—Surviving or Thriving? .....	11
Family Enrichment—5 Principles or “What happens when the wheels fall off?” .....	12
Single Parenting ... But not Alone .....	13
Care for Aging Parents .....	15
Just Another Women’s Magazine? .....	15
Like Father, Like Son .....	18
Cheryl Barker .....	19

### 20 Peace and Terror in the Troubled Middle East

**David Dolan**, a Jerusalem correspondent, comments on the current peace initiatives

### News

Operation Noah In Nimbin .....	5
Death of Albert Jones .....	5
Wollongong’s Workers .....	6
Seven Hills Closes .....	6
Butlers Retiring .....	6
Don’t Forget Your Toothbrush .....	7
Australian Chaplains for Atlanta .....	7
Tasmanian Convention .....	7
AIS Basketballers hear Gospel .....	7
Sharing Venture .....	7
Mission Convention .....	8
Indonesian Church .....	8



## SUBSCRIPTION FORM

PO Box 101, North Essendon 3041

Name .....  
 Address .....  
 ..... Postcode .....  
 Amount Enclosed: \$ ..... Church .....

Payment can be made by Bankcard, Visa or MasterCard

Please charge my— ☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Number

Expiry date ..... Signature .....

☐ New ☐ \$30 Full Year ☐ \$20 Rest of Year

☐ Renewal ☐ \$15 Rest of year if recommended by a subscriber (new subs)

Donation: \$ ..... Subscriber: .....

## 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.**

### Funding Concerns

To the Editor,

The International Association of Former Child Migrants and Their Families is concerned to learn that an approach may be made for funding from the Australian Child Migration Foundation. We believe the Foundation is aligned with the Catholic Church and in particular to the Christian Brothers of Western Australia, who, as you know, are facing allegations in the Supreme Court of New South Wales of sexual abuse in relation to child migrants.

The Association would be outraged if this Foundation was successful in gaining funding from the churches as this would contravene the desire of most former child migrants to avoid being forced back to these agencies, previously involved in their migration, to obtain a service.

The Foundation, in our opinion, is not a neutral and independent body and therefore we would urge any current or future application for funding to be declined.

—Ms Sybil McLaren-Carr  
(President, IAFCMF)

### Mother Teresa

To the Editor

Christopher Hitchen’s book on Mother Teresa, *The Missionary Position: Mother Teresa in Theory and Practice* (1995 Verso), is a little more complex than Kay McLennan suggests. (“AC” 6 April)

There are two issues which I hope will be explored in Kay’s program. One relates to why Mother Teresa continues to give credibility to some of the world’s best known despots, dictators and criminals. As one commentator wrote, “She takes bribes from political activists,

cult leaders and convicted criminals, and refused to return a one million dollar grant, though she knew it was embezzled from pension funds.” (Tablet 28 10 95) The other issue relates to medical care. Will there be Australians who worked with Mother Teresa who can confirm that “needles were used and reused ... nuns were rinsing needles under cold water taps”. (p. 40) Or that AIDS patients, such as those being cared for in San Francisco by Mother Teresa’s Sisters, were not provided with properly administered medication. (p. 43)

And hopefully there will be those who will be able to confirm that Mother Teresa was not baptising Hindus or Muslims without their permission. (p. 48) Hitchen’s book is not the greatest book ever written, but it does raise some issues which I hope the ABC will explore.

—Alan Matheson  
(Hawthorn, Vic)

### Easter Unbelief

To the Editor,

A sad and discouraged elderly lady observed that a visiting priest had told her church that both the Anglican and Uniting churches were likely to close down soon. No wonder, if their bishops and moderators question whether the resurrection of Jesus was “physical” or “metaphorical”. The Apostle Paul wrote that if there was no resurrection of Jesus from the grave, Christians were, of all people, the most miserable, for their faith was in vain and we were all still in our sins!

The Bible records that when people lose faith, hope dies and people turn to bestiality and all manner of crime. What an outlook for Australia ... and is the writing already on the wall? Or, perhaps, there are other denominations who do care about believing and teaching the truth of the actual, physical resurrection of Jesus?

Please let us all live in hope, preachers and leaders. Can you offer us anything better, with all of your high degrees of training for the job of under-shep-



# Letters to the Editor

herds of the flocks that Jesus has entrusted to your care?

—Gladys Butler  
(Bruce Rock)

## Thank God for Diversity

To the Editor,  
I too thank God for the ministry of Anji and Ashley Barker (Kim Thoday's letter, 20 April). I thank God for Kim's ministry and have prayed for him often. I thank God for the Urban Neighbourhoods of Hope. All of these people have a ministry which I could never exercise, because my gifts are not in this area.

I also thank God for my colleagues serving larger churches, with no traditional guidelines for them in what is innovative, demanding, sacrificial ministry.

Can I make an impassioned plea that our "enemy" is not

some Christian group or method different from our personal experience or understanding. (Luke 9:49-56) The real "enemy" is the evil that disfigures and destroys humans. We are not called to a "civil war" among ourselves (1 Cor 3:3-5), but to the battlefield of our whole society with all of its layers and strata of culture. Instead of denigrating our differences, let us celebrate our God-given diversity (1 Cor 9:19-23).

Surely the time is well past when we simply engage in ecclesiastical pointscoring. There are lost, lonely, bruised, bloodied and battered people who desperately need Christ. I thank God for my ministry which achieves the goal of introducing them to Jesus.

—Ron Elbourne  
(Glen Waverley, Vic)

## Update

### Dear Readers

In this last week we have heard reports of the contents of recent issues being discussed by tertiary students and staff members of a ministry team.

It is encouraging to know that the paper is being used in this way.

In passing, we would like to express our thanks to Defence Public Information Queensland for the use of the photo which appeared on the cover of our last issue.

Another encouragement has been the rise in the number of new subscribers.

We need this to continue as subscriptions are our major source of income.

Some churches have inquired about sample packs of recent issues.

These are available. Please contact our office with your request.

New subscribers only come with people being encouraged to subscribe.

Don't keep the paper secret, tell someone else about it and plan a local promotion.

Each day we receive letters from many sources.

We are always pleased to hear from our readers and the various churches.

Reports and contributions come to us in various forms. Some are typed, some handwritten and others come by fax.

If the copy is to be used directly in the paper we prefer a cleanly typed page of material.

This can be immediately scanned into our computer. A fax message requires re-typing, which obviously entails extra work.

We particularly recommend the use of e-mail as the material then comes directly into our computers. (Note our e-mail address on page 2.)

With a small staff, the less work we have to do on the "mundane" side of things, the more time we have to put into producing an interesting and informative paper.

The family is the theme in this issue. We hope you find the feature useful and interesting. It is diverse and aims to reach a wide range of readers. In our next issue we shall celebrate the festival of Pentecost.

*Sam Elbourne*



## SWANSTON STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Melbourne

(cnr Swanston & Little Lonsdale Streets)

### Sunday

9.00 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Worship & Communion  
Services  
Gospel Celebration

7.00 p.m.

### Wednesday

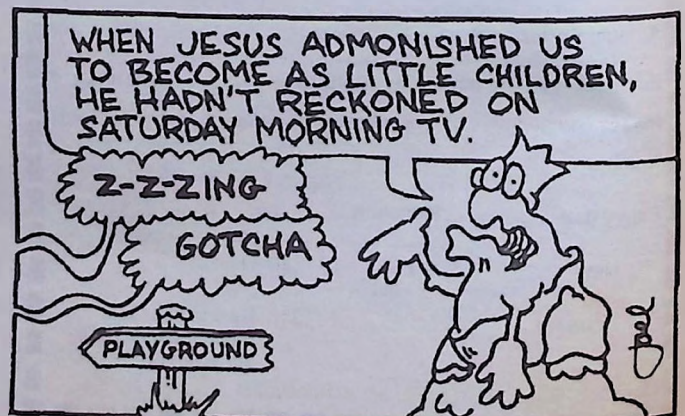
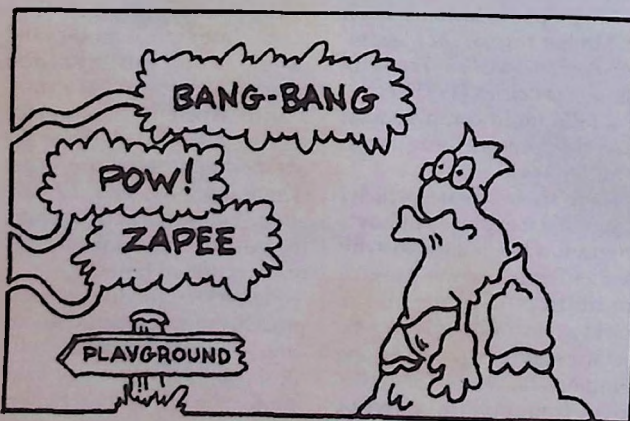
1.15-1.45 p.m.

Lunchtime Service

For further enquiries, please ring (03) 9663 3884



## Pontius' Puddle





## Operation Noah In Nimbin

*Church planting project in alternative culture township*

Alan and Denise Broom are seeking to plant a church in Nimbin on the far north coast of NSW. Alan graduated last year from Carlingford College. With the backing of the elders of the Lismore church and the enthusiastic support of many Lismore members, they have commenced the work of raising awareness of what they hope to achieve.

This is being done primarily through sharing the vision at other churches.

They are spending the remainder of their time in prayer and making contacts on the streets of Nimbin.

Nimbin is a unique town in Australia. Many people across Australia may remember Nimbin for the Aquarius Festival in 1973, which transformed this sleepy rural village into the centre of the Australian Hippy culture of the 1970s.

The Age of Aquarius has left its mark on the town of Nimbin., this town is still a centre for various alternative cul-

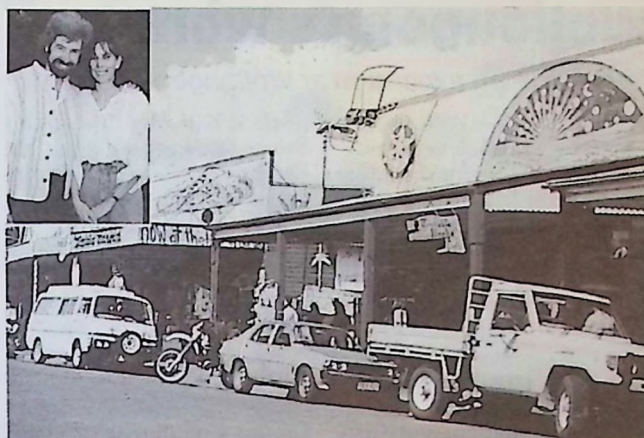
tures and New Age thinking. The people are a real mixture comprising the original "hippies", newer commune dwellers, children of the communes, ferals, New Agers, Drug Addicts, Hemp Smokers and even some of the original conservatives. Most younger people (and some older) are openly offered illegal drugs in the main street very soon after arriving in Nimbin for the first time.

Alan and Denise have been Christians since 1990. Converted from a background of occult and drug/alcohol abuse, their past experiences give them a ready point of connection in helping bring the message of freedom in Christ to those who choose to live in the Nimbin culture.

They have three sons, Daniel, Jonathan, and Hadley, and would highly value your prayers for God's provision and protection on them as a family.

They have a strong sense of call to this ministry.

The strategy is to reach out to



• Alan and Denise Broom (inset) overlooking Nimbin, where they hope to plant an "alternative" church

others by first establishing an op-shop/drop-in centre. Here, through sharing the love of Jesus, discipleship and seeker groups will be established among contacts.

In the longer term they envisage these groups growing and multiplying with trained and committed leadership. Alan and Denise hope to establish regular combined celebration services for the groups they commence.

At present none of the established churches in Nimbin have an effective outreach to the alternative cultures.

It is Alan and Denise's intention not to duplicate the work already being done by the existing churches in Nimbin, but to effectively work alongside these Christians, offering something different—intentionally aimed at those who cannot relate to the way more conventional churches operate.

Alan and Denise ask for your prayers. In Nimbin, the effects of other religious philosophies from New Age to Occult are strong. Nimbin is a very "spiritual" place. Therefore a mobilised effective prayer base is essential.

Alan and Denise's financial needs are real.

Although Alan and Denise wish to devote themselves full-time to this ministry, it will probably never becoming financially self-supporting.

A strong possibility is that those saved and helped

through this ministry will tend to move away from the negative influences of the Nimbin culture.

Thus it will be difficult to grow a group from within Nimbin who are committed to the ongoing benefit that this ministry will provide.

Alan and Denise's desire is to build a supporter base of Christians from throughout Australia who will commit themselves to help provide for them as a family in their commitment to this work. You are invited to become a part of that team.

Anyone interested in receiving regular prayer updates or financially supporting this ongoing ministry are invited to contact Alan and Denise on (066) 25 2558, or write to Operation Noah, 16 Brook Place, Goonellabah NSW 2480.

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

*Are you interested in a ministry that offers a faith-stretching challenge?*

The Overseas Mission Board is seeking a minister who is looking for such an experience. The successful applicant will join Barry and Sue Ward in Suva, Fiji, working with the new and exciting church at Nakasi.

The person we seek will need to have:

- ☆ A willingness to cope with living and working in a cross-cultural environment.
- ☆ A preparedness to work in a team ministry.
- ☆ A strong commitment to Pastoral Care.
- ☆ A strong desire to serve Jesus Christ, to be innovative in approach to ministry, desiring to see the Church grow.

**IS THIS YOU?**



If so, contact Jeff Weston for more information and an application form.  
OMB 180a Gray St, Adelaide SA 5000

Phone (08) 212 4446

Fax (08) 212 6388

## Death of Albert Jones

Just prior to going to press we learned of the death of Albert Jones in Adelaide. Albert, aged 85 years, has been a prominent leader in SA over many decades in the area of social welfare. His book *Captive Audience* on his experiences as a prison chaplain was released last year. A tribute will appear in a later issue.



## Wollongong's Workers

*Ministry team expansion at Wollongong church*

The team of the Wollongong Church of Christ experienced a "power boost" with the addition of: (from left to right) Justin Whitecross—Director of Youth Ministries; Rebecca Lawlor—Pastoral Care of Youth; Monique ten Hoopen—Minister to Single Young Adults; and Brian Bruce—Associate Minister (formerly of Narellan Church).

Rebecca, Monique and Brian are graduates of the Wollongong Campus of the New South Wales Theological College and

Justin is half-way through his course. In keeping with the nature of the church, their ministries will be directed to the under forty age group, both within the church and the community.

They join Ted Keating, (Senior Minister) Dr Carol Preston, (Dean of Theological Studies) Elizabeth Hah, (Music Minister) Marge Keating, (Small Groups Coordinator) Richard Weidner, (Pastoral Director) and Deborah Burford and Dr Amanda Gill who are involved



in outreach ministries.

At the recent induction service for the new team members, Carol Preston (currently NSW Conference President) commented that she had enjoyed

the privilege of having been involved with the training of all the current team (except for the Senior Minister!)

Photo courtesy Wollongong Advertiser

## Seven Hills Closes

*Church closes its doors after 105 years*

In 1890 Seven Hills, NSW, was a fruit growing district and the church met for worship and communion in the home of the Hawkins family, supported by Mr and Mrs Piper. Mr Hawkins conducted the services in these very early days of establishing the church. In 1905, when the Hawkins family left Prospect, the services were then held in

the Piper family home with the help of visitors from Sydney churches. A high note in these times was when Joseph Whelan conducted a Gospel Tent Mission on a clear spot in the bush in 1912. The church experienced a drop in numbers because members were moving closer to Sydney. Sometimes brethren from other churches helped



out. At other times a message from *The Australian Christian* was read for the sermon, because there was a willingness to stay open.

In 1927 the Seven Hills Church was in a circuit with Granville, North Auburn, North Parramatta and Doonside. (Doonside is the only Church which remains open.) When Woolwich College commenced, students would help out in the pulpit at Seven Hills.

There was an influx of people when land was opened up near the railway and it was felt by the membership that they should have a building where the people were living. The new building was opened in 1959. Sunday School increased and a youth work was started. These years were times of growth and activity, resulting in a membership in 1971 of 45 and a Sunday School of over 100 children. The church was blessed with good Bible College stu-

dents and faithful part-time ministers in these years, and a full-time ministry by Barry Reid. In 1990 the church celebrated 100 years of Christian witness in the district. At the Centenary service there were 188 people present.

There have been sixteen people who had been at Seven Hills Church who have served in Conference work in various ways and have given leadership to the wider church. Members of the church have also supported the Department of Community Care Opportunity Shop in Seven Hills.

The Seven Hills district is now a densely populated area about one hour's drive from Sydney. In light of the small numbers attending, the congregation resolved to close and use the resources available for work with neighbouring Churches of Christ congregations for the development of a wider ministry.

## Butlers Retiring

*Thanksgiving service at Northam*

On 18 February the church at Northam, WA, combined their special harvest thanksgiving service with a special thanksgiving for Graham and Heather Butler, who have retired from the ministry after serving in Northam for over eight years, the last year on a part-time basis.

Graham's ministry covered more than the local church, as for some years he was Chairman of the Northam Combined Churches Council and helped set up chaplaincy at the high school, as well as teaching religious education in the primary schools.

Graham and Heather first entered the full-time ministry

when they went to Carnarvon with the Aborigines Mission Board in 1963. They also served with the Board at Esperance, as Superintendent at Norseman, Carnarvon and Roelands. From there they were called to the Bunbury church as minister, and also had a ministry at Carnarvon, before coming to Northam.

The church commended them for their service and presented them with a gift of locally made lambs wool seat covers for their car. A fellowship lunch followed, where people were able to say their personal farewells.

The Butlers are retiring to Eaton in the south-west of WA.



## Don't Forget Your Toothbrush

### Tasmanian Easter youth camp

On the Easter weekend 57 young people, including leaders, from all over Tasmania met at Camp Seaview, Bicheno, on Tasmania's East Coast.

The theme was "Don't Forget Your Toothbrush" and as a part of that theme we looked at the Christian life as a journey, being a spiritual pilgrim and coming home to our Father.

Simon Moore, a New Zealander and student at Carlingford College's Wollongong campus, NSW, was the guest speaker.

Simon's gifts lie in music, worship and teaching.

Some campers who had not previously been very involved in worship found a new excitement and love for God through the worship experiences.

Activities throughout the weekend included an Iron Person event, a worship workshop,

early morning Easter Sunday communion service on the beach, a theatre sports event, a forum on the Simpsons (of TV fame), life issues and a "Don't Forget Your Toothbrush" extravaganza.

The highlights of the weekend, other than the activities and worship, were a renewed sense of community and unity. (Sometimes a rivalry has existed between the north and south parts of Tasmania.)

On the final day, Simon gave a call for response when most of the campers came forward making either a first-time commitment or recommitment.

People were praying for each other in groups, there were tears of joy and repentance and a real expectation about what God is doing in the lives of young people.

—Joel Ratcliffe

## Australian Chaplains for Atlanta

### Olympic committee recognises two SLM chaplains

The Australian Olympic Committee has recognised two SLM chaplains for Atlanta, Peter Nelson the AIS chaplain in Canberra, and Mrs Angela Harris, the AIS diving unit chaplain in Brisbane. [Peter is minister of our Ainslie, ACT, church. —Ed]

Both chaplains need to raise their own airfares and expenses

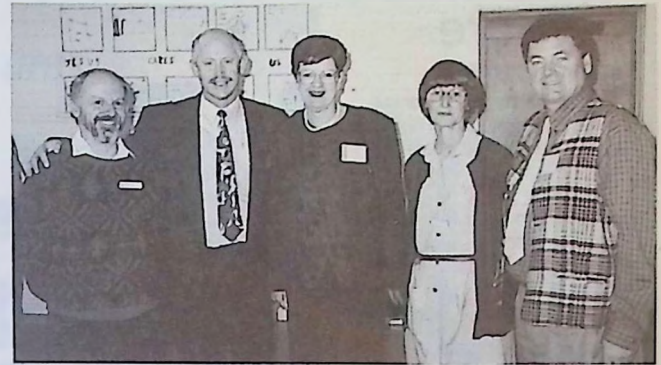
and they will be part of the Atlanta Chapel coordinated by Dr Elmer Goble, a Southern Baptist minister.

Peter has been chaplain at the AIS for 7 years, and Angela, a Commonwealth Games gold medallist swimmer and former Olympian, has been chaplain at the diving unit since 1995.



• Peter Nelson

## Tasmanian Convention



Over 100 people attended the Tasmanian Convention, held 23–24 March and hosted by Howrah church. John Bond of South Perth was the speaker. Prior to the weekend, John had a number of speaking engagements including schools, radio and a meeting with church leaders. Pictured here (L–R) Geoff Morffew, (Tas Convention Secretary), John Bond, Pat Greig, (Vic-Tas Conference President), Sue Hardwick (Howrah) and John Batchler (Tas Convention President).

## AIS Basketballers hear Gospel

### Presenting Christ to top-level athletes

The Australian Institute of Sport basketball squad visited Sports & Leisure Ministry's Sanctuary Lodge in Moruya on the NSW south coast and took part in a 30-minute Bible teaching session. Sanctuary Lodge's coordinator, Dr Mark Tronson, the Australian Cricket Board chaplain, provides bible teaching for each group of athletes who visit. On 1–3 March the basketballers enjoyed the NSW south coast and on Sunday morning, Dr Tronson opened the Scriptures to them, teaching from Hebrews 11 and Ephesians 1. AIS has recognised this as a part of their athletes' overall development to adult maturity, which is combined with the AIS chaplain Peter Nelson's ministry in Canberra. For many it was the first time they'd been introduced to the claims of Christ upon their lives.

## Sharing Venture



Participants in the 1976 PNG Sharing Venture will stage a 20 year reunion at CCTC, Mulgrave, Vic, on 8 June at 12.30 pm, with a BYO barbecue lunch. Interested friends are welcome. Films will be screened during the afternoon. Contact Fran (056) 78 8384 for details. Pictured here is Bill Keddy at Bunam Mission Station making sac sac with a village worker in 1976.

Have you thought of helping "The Australian Christian" in its ministry among Churches of Christ?

Why not include us in your will? The following wording could be used in your will:

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



## Here and There

### Booth Goes to Bat

Former Australian Test Cricket champion batsman Brian Booth has joined the Bible Society team preparing for the challenge of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. His work will include work with churches and para-church organisations to capitalise on opportunities for Scripture distribution during the Games.

### Casino Supports Church

Work has started on the \$NZ2.8 m restoration of the historic St Matthew's Anglican church in Auckland. The church is situated opposite Auckland's new casino which has donated \$450,000 in cash and building materials for the restoration. The church has previously expressed negative views about casinos.

## Indonesian Church



Melbourne's Indonesian Praise Church of Christ has over 30 young adults with responsibilities in church programming. Areas include worship, music, song leading, singing, band, sound, projection, promotion, creative ministry, sport and recreation, catering, ushering, mission, prayer and much more. Sunday attendance exceeds 200, with up to 300 expected by late 1996. The former Malvern Church of Christ buildings are being renovated. Agus Budiman is the minister.

## Mission Convention

### Swanston St's 25th Annual Missionary Convention

Mr. Bob Sjogren (pronounced "show-grin") was the guest speaker at the Swanston Street, Vic, Church of Christ's 25th Annual Missionary Convention held from Sunday 24 March to Sunday 31 March, 1996.

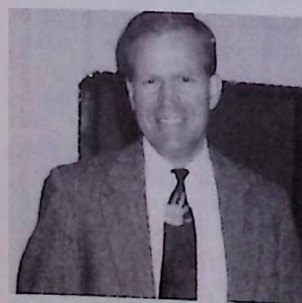
Bob is director of Destination 2000 and president of Frontiers Associates. He was no stranger to the congregation who have shared the Destination 2000 video series, read his books *Unveiled at Last*, and *Run with the Vision* and heard him speak via video for the prayer focus on the Muslim world and in the "Perspectives on World Christian Mission" course taken annually at the church.

Through Frontiers, Bob is working towards a vision of sending 2000 missionaries to plant 200 churches among Muslim people groups in 20 years. Bob works to give lay people an opportunity to become involved in missions. People appreciated his honesty and his tremendous passion to mobilise the body of Christ to reach the unreached.

Swanston Street have adopted a people group in the

Xinjiang province in north-west China. Lorrece Hor-Kwong who has lived and studied among the Uygur people for four years shared throughout the convention and assisted in the launch of a summer trek planned for June/July this year. Lorrece's presence was a special blessing.

As a people Swanston Street Church of Christ recommitted themselves to seeing the glory of God among the nations, \$32 000 was given as a love gift cash offering for our missionary family. The faith promise offering was set a target of \$4000 per week. Over 120 people in-



• Bob Sjogren, director of Destination 2000

dedicated an interest in being involved in global mission and sought more information about opportunities to serve. The 25th

Annual Missionary Convention exceeded all expectations and the church is again focused on "running with the vision".

M E L B O U R N E

PRAISE



8TH ANNUAL CONCERT: MELBOURNE CONCERT HALL SATURDAY 27 JULY 8 PM

Melbourne Praise Choir and Orchestra performing Popular Classics, Traditional and Modern Hymns  
Soloists: Thomas Heywood (Organ) Richard Thomas (Baritone)  
Marien Singleton (Xylophone) Tickets available from 31 May  
\$20/\$17 Pensioners, Students, Groups of 20 plus  
Send self-addressed envelope to Melbourne Praise Inc.  
PO Box 78, Blackburn 3130. Enquiries: 9877 4572, 9878 0110



# Rugrats or Rewards?

Liz Burns

**C**hildren! They take up so much of our time, and teach us to live more of our lives in the present. They take up so much of our energy, and help uncover our buried playfulness. They take up so much of our patience, and test and stretch us into growth.

Those of us who care for children in our families, in our work, in our churches, will probably recognise some ambivalence in our own and others' attitudes towards them. What a privilege and joy it is to be involved in a young person's life when they are still "new", and finding out so much about themselves, others, and the world. A child's perspective can be very refreshing. ("If God is everywhere, he must be wearing my hat", said three-year-old Tom.)

Yet their dependence, impulsiveness, and lack of socialisation can trigger intense conflict and frustration within us. We often expect them to grasp concepts which they are just too young to comprehend. Relating to them can reactivate unfinished business from the past in our own lives.

As the family of God, the church has an important role in assisting parents to fulfil their responsibilities towards their children. However, there can be a discrepancy between the importance we as a church

place on teaching children about relationship with God and what we are prepared to do practically to facilitate this. We like to see children in church, but we do not often like to hear them. Care, teaching and practical provision for children compete with other areas of the church's life for dollars, hours, and square metres.

Our society tends to alternate between conflicting expectations of children: that they will be dependent and demanding and that they will act like little adults. Recently a seven-year-old girl died in the attempt to become the youngest pilot to fly across the United States.

Her mother subsequently spoke in defence of children's right to be treated like adults. On the other hand, children are seen as inconvenient, in the way and excluded from more and more "adult" activities and conversations. We generally don't make things easy for parents with young children. We forget what things look like from a child's perspective and it often costs us too much to shift to their level.

Christianity entails moving into a position of radical difference from the rest of the world. We need to admit and deal with our ambivalence, with God's grace. Preparation for meeting the Lord involves the turning of fathers' hearts to their children, and of children's hearts to their fathers (Mal 4:6; Luke 1:17). Jesus' encounter with little children (Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17) is familiar. Children are important to him. We are to bring them to him, give

them opportunities to hear his call and be touched by him; but it is he who calls and touches. We don't have to worry that we have to do it for them. We just let them come. Children have their own spirituality and are receptive to God. We are to share with them our experiences of God (Isa 38:19; Deut 6:47); meanwhile, our actions speak loudly. I find that my imperfections as a parent at

least give me chances to model repentance. Loving a child helps us understand some of the intensity, warmth and depth of God's feelings towards us.

Some of the things I consider most vital, and difficult, to help my children grasp are

things I realise my father God has trouble getting through to me too: I love you even when I am angry with your behaviour; I set limits and ask you to obey me because I want what's best for you and don't want you to get hurt. Through Joel, God asked his people to return to him in an act of repentance involving all the generations, right down to breast feeding babies (Joel 2:15-16). In church it is good to cater for the needs of different groups separately, but it is also vital that there are times when everyone comes together before God.

It may be helpful to look at the family as a whole system more than we do. Ministry to children easily becomes ministry to whole families. Parents often come to a church because of the ethos of its children's or family ministry.

Ideally a church will reach out on many levels to contact people and draw them into the



family of God. Those otherwise unconnected with the church will be contacted through playgroups, after school Kids' Clubs, holiday programs, RE teaching in schools. Then, as they develop friendships with Christians (perhaps based on the common ground of parenting experiences) they might become interested in Sunday school, youth, women's and men's groups, parenting seminars (with child care available), festivals, special church services, Christianity Explained courses. Good communication between leaders in various areas is invaluable so that needs of different members of a contacted family can be met and the church can build relationships with whole families.

✳ *Liz Burns lives in Ballarat with her husband Stephen and their children, Tom and Ellen. She completed a degree in Experimental Psychology at Oxford University in 1983, then trained as a primary teacher. She is currently completing a Postgraduate Diploma in Adolescent and Child Psychology at Melbourne University. The Burns family belong to York Street Church of Christ. Liz was Playgroup leader there for four years and later family ministry convener.*

## L. C. F. Higgins

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

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



Chartered Accountant



# Spiritual Nurture in the Home

Alan Hermann

**S**ome things never change. The instructions God gave to Moses over 3000 years ago still provide the most effective basis for the spiritual growth of children in the home.

*Memorise his laws and tell them to your children over and over again. Talk about them all the time, whether you're at home or walking along the road or going to bed at night, or getting up in the morning. Write down copies and tie them to your wrists and foreheads to help you obey them. Write these laws on the doorframes of your homes and on your town gates. (Deut 6:6-9 CEV)*

Translating this to our present situation, the following points seem crucial.

In a Christian home the responsibility for the spiritual growth of children rests on parents rather than the church. The role of the church is primarily as the faith community where children can see in action the knowledge, skills and behaviours they have learned at home. This is vital, but nevertheless secondary to what occurs in daily family life.

Faith development within the family setting needs to be planned to include both formal and informal elements. Both are essential and, to be effective, both take time. It has been truly said that; "Children don't care how much you know until they know how much you care," and "Children spell love T-I-M-E". There are no short cuts. The excuse of giving quality time because we can't afford to give quantity time has been exposed as the fraud it is. Large amounts of time given lovingly and willingly is the only way. This must be our top priority. The attitude in which the time is given is as important as the time itself. Any verbal or non-verbal indications of reluctance carry a strong negative and potentially destructive message.

Formal approaches may include a family devotional time, morning or evening prayers,

grace before meals, watching videos or listening to tapes with an appropriate message, reading books together, worshipping, playing games or sharing in service projects. Any activity that is designed to help children grow in the knowledge, attitude and behavioural aspects of their Christian faith, and above all their personal relationship with Jesus, is suitable. The key is that these formal times should be varied, enjoyable and appropriate for the child concerned.

Informal activities with children are probably even more important for their long term spiritual development. It has been well said of Christianity that "more is caught than taught". The Christianity they see parents live will have a much stronger impact than the teaching parents give. The way we spend our time shows what the real priorities of life are. How we use our money and material possessions carries a clear message about where our treasure is. The TV shows we watch, the books and magazines we read, the music we enjoy and the way we use our leisure make it clear what our values are. What modelling do we give in handling failure, frustration and suffering? How well do we live out

repentance or forgiveness or trust? Do children catch us unawares spending time with the Lord in prayer or worship or reading his word?

None of us are perfect in these areas, but it is not perfect models our children need. They need parents who show them how to repent of sin, ask and

give forgiveness, depend on God when we have nothing left to give, and above all be honest with them and God about our weaknesses, fears and dreams.

It is as we introduce the relationship with Jesus that is the centre of our being into all aspects of our relationship with them, that faith will grow as a natural part of life. Through sensitively guided conversation we bring the things of God naturally into our talk with our children. Watching TV, driving, shopping, walking or even gardening all present opportunities to

build a picture of God as a caring parent whose world this is and whose children we are. Sin is seen as causing him pain, rather than arousing his vengeance.

We as parents need to distinguish the important from the trivial and help children do the same. A child arriving home with a purple spiked mohawk haircut is trivial, but the reason



behind it may not be. Our reaction is crucial. An atmosphere of openness and acceptance in the home both allows all issues to be worked through and at the same time models an accepting God who fully understands and with whom we can be completely honest.

A similar honesty is needed when discussing doubts and difficulties with their faith. Again the trivial and the important need to be clearly distinguished.

In summary, if we let our care for them be a reflection of God's care for us, we won't go far wrong. Two important points to conclude with.

Children are very resilient. They will usually survive our mistakes. They are people in their own right. We are not finally responsible for their lives. ❖

Alan Hermann is a staff member of the Queensland Department of Church Development and Education, working in the area of educational services, and also part of the team ministry at Pine Rivers church.

## Ink'n'Image

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



## Family

# Marriage—Surviving or Thriving?

Kevin Harvey

**"T**he best thing my husband ever did was to die!" I shall never forget that comment made to me in my student church while at College. I went straight to the Marriage Guidance Council in Melbourne and bought £25 worth of books! So began my interest and hopes for a marriage that would thrive. Thirty-five years down the track and working with hundreds of couples over the last 16 years have yielded a few insights into thriving.

**Commitment to Growth:** David Mace, one of the pioneers in marriage counselling, made that comment many years ago. Without growth all living things die. Growth, whether it be as an individual or in a relationship, is risky and painful. It takes time, discipline and effort.

**Learning to Love:** A chance interview on the radio gave me this insight. A divorced Indian lady was saying, "I married the man I was in love with, but now I am learning to love the man I am married to!"

Dr David Olson, the pioneer of Prepare/Enrich, used in marriage preparation and enrichment programs, once said, "Romantic love is the worst indicator of a good marriage!" Maybe romantic love is the starter motor of the car, but then it needs good fuel and regular maintenance.

**A Healthy Respect:** Most of us are taught at school that if something is right then the opposite is wrong! In a relation-

ship, respect for differences in gender, personality and beliefs is basic. One of the hardest lessons to learn in intimate relationships is that I may be right but my partner is just as right as I am, but may think quite differently about things. I often get people to draw the shape of their house and I ask one to draw what they see from the front garden and the other to draw what they see from the back yard. When they start correcting each other they wonder why I laugh!

**Win/Win not Fight/Flight:** Fighting and flighting may be a great strategy for survival, but give me the "abundant life" that Jesus promised

any day. And that happens when everyone in the family works at finding a way where we all win—and that includes children

**Issues versus Processes:** Most couples come into counselling for help to resolve issues, but

mostly I find the processes or tools which people use to resolve issues belong to the cave. Communication that is open, responsive and which seeks to understand is surely basic to that quality of safety, trust and intimacy which most humans seek with at least one other human being. What tools to use and how to use them appropriately are taught early in the training program for ap-

prentices by the master tradesperson. Maybe we have failed to equip our young people with the tools necessary to cope with the requirements of today's marriages.

**Time:** A couple came to me for help once. He had a full-time job. She had five part-time jobs and there were three children. Before we got into the session I suggested they go home and assign priority to their six jobs; three children and one marriage! They went home in shock; and rang a week later to say thanks for the kick up the



tail and they had commenced a new journey of marriage and family life with more time for each other and for the children. I sometimes think "quality time" is a cliché and quantity time can be empty. Am I greedy to want both? Are they not two oars of the row boat we all paddle in the stream of life? For twenty years my wife and I shared a bath each evening and I am sure there were those who thought we were kinky. But if twenty minutes each night of open responsive communication was equal to \$1000 in our bank balance, that means \$7000 per week. Say we lose \$2000 a week in misunderstandings, tiredness, etc, we still net \$5000 a week. That means we are multimillionaires!

**Create plans or dreams for the relationship to grow:** Several years ago a couple were not getting anywhere counselling and they told me that they planned a sensuous evening once a month. My eyes lit up and the lady said, "Kevin, I've got you!" Only then I realised there were five senses! They took turns to plan an evening each month with a focus on one of the senses. Their marriage never looked back. We decided to experiment for a year. Guess what! It works! ♦

*Kevin is a Churches of Christ minister and psychologist with a wide experience in counselling. He and his wife Gwen currently run a retreat centre in SA.*

## SCHOLARSHIPS

A Bible College  
Education by Extension  
ABS & BBS Degrees

Write for information and application form to:  
**CHRIST'S EVANGELICAL FOUNDATION**  
PO Bexhill, NSW 2480, Australia  
Phone (066) 24 6662 Fax (066) 24 6661





# Family Enrichment—5 Principles or "What happens when the wheels fall off?"

Alan Niven

## 1. Families and marriages constantly change and develop.

I often tell people I've been married to Chris for 18 years and have known her for 10. An exciting journey!

Some marriage educators suggest that we don't marry people, we marry projections, ideals and illusions and may feel overwhelmed in the face of the reality-testing of our ideals, the pain and anger of disillusionment and the dismay of our partner as previously-hidden drives and needs surface.

Becoming married often feels like peeling back the layers of an onion—with just as many tears.

The task is further complicated by predictable life-cycle crises (birth, adolescence, mid-life, retirement, etc) and those that are unpredictable (unemployment, illness and death, unexpected pregnancy, etc).

One of our goals in pastoral care is to communicate and nurture a belief that each couple or family has the key to untapped resources to negotiate even the most difficult demands. Experiencing "life abundant" could begin with a commitment to 10 000k services in communication skills, conflict resolution, deeper and more spiritually significant intimacy, and family goals. As our families travel the miles, does the car or the spouting get better and more regular care and maintenance?

## 2. Roadblocks and deserts are normal.

As we journey on, old strategies must be reviewed. Patterns of discipline may become coercive power struggles as adolescence begins. The whole family has to negotiate more flexible rules. As the last child goes off to school some mums find a job

and the balance of powershifts. Many men struggle with the developing independence of partners who are no longer happy to be an appendage or a satellite spinning around the needs and goals of their husband.

If such blocks are not acknowledged or if the skills to negotiate the changes and necessary alternative routes just aren't there, the dry and dusty desert may seem to stretch endlessly ahead for both. Moments of crisis, unwelcome as they seem to be, become opportunities for growth and change. You can try a cover-up or you can get thinking, get talking, get help.

The innards of an engine-bay amaze me when they're working, and induce despair and helplessness when they don't. At my best, I ask for help from a handy mate who has a few tools I can borrow and I then set to work by myself. I probably won't enjoy the dirt and grease or the skinned knuckles! Nevertheless, I've learnt something and I move on to the next stage of the journey in good repair, rather than clanking along into my next task where the problems will just accumulate.

As a minister I see this often as I marry couples who have never really successfully become independent from their family of origin or where parents have never managed to let their children go.

## 3. Families change as they hit the "potholes".

I can think of a few "potholes" our family has hit over the years. Sometimes our shock-absorbers (warm family time, one-on-one talks, couple

time, encouraging affirmation, cuddles and hugs, chats about where God and faith fit in, etc) are ok, we hit the bump, settle down, and travel on; a wiser, stronger and different family. Sometimes it's a bit rougher if we ("I") haven't worked at maintaining these "cushions

to adversity". Think of natural crises where family members become closer, begin to talk again, resolve old feuds or simply realise that they have grown distant through laziness. Some fall apart as the apparent resources don't quite match the tasks.

Let's encourage people to see that potholes are normal and that asking for help is a sign of health. If the church (you and I) is more open about the potholes we hit maybe others won't think they're weird or incompetent failures just because they've run out of answers. They may even get the idea that potholes can be survived and that James was probably onto something! (James 1:2-3)

## 4. The spirit in the church community enables change.

Inner resources can be released through prayer, wor-

ship, reflection upon Scripture and the grace of fellowship in a community where reconciliation and forgiveness are foundations. Change is stimulated by providing a supportive, growth-encouraging network of other couples and families, not relying on programs alone. People need people. Families need to interact with families to observe and explore new ideas, strategies and alternative role models. Family is not an idol, but a means to understanding relationship. It is not a bank of relational and cultural riches to be gloated over when others seem to mess things up, but resources to be offered in servant humility.

## 5. Develop the language of health, change and faith.

Metaphors of change (eg "new creation" 1 Cor 5:17ff) can be used with relevance and hope as we review the road we have travelled. It's important to see the potholes and remember the hardships, but let's not forget what we have learned. When we do make significant progress it is good to celebrate this and to ask the question: "Where can we as a family contribute to the mission of the church or simply as neighbours?" Did Jesus say something about this?

❖ Alan Niven is a lecturer at the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave, Vic, in pastoral ministry

Experiencing  
"life  
abundant"  
could begin  
with a  
commitment  
to 10 000k  
services

History's worst  
atrocities were  
carried out in good  
faith.

—Anthony de Mello



# Single Parenting ... But not Alone

Cheryl Johnson

It is estimated that 16.5% of Australian children will experience their parents' divorce before they are 16 years of age. What can we do through our Christian faith to have a supportive ministry to the parents and the children going through this experience?

Divorce leaves multitudes of parents disrupted, divided and damaged, wondering how to handle difficult situations as a single parent. The local church can provide a place of safety for those wounded by the breakdown. Instead of deserting the wounded, we are challenged to understand and nourish those who are in pain. People often feel enormous shame and guilt concerning the many aspects of their broken relationship. The Christian faith needs to decide if it is going to inflict further guilt or be a vehicle for people to experience God's grace and forgiveness.

This is where the rubber hits the road concerning pushing us to live faith and not only talk faith.

The breakdown of a marriage is in total conflict with our ideals, expectations and desires for people as they embark upon a new life together. Our Christian faith encourages us to give as well as to receive, to desire the best for our partner, to seek a life lived through our commitment to God.

We are shocked and challenged when a relationship breaks down and there is conflict and incredible pain. But here is an opportunity not to blame or pass judgment, but to realise that God's unconditional love is available in the midst of disappointment and discouragement.

Issues single parents face that two-parent families do not include:

- Carrying the load of all household responsibilities
- Lack of time
- Loneliness
- Difficulty with other-gender friends
- Lack of freedom
- Children playing one parent against another
- Lack of social experiences
- Financial challenges
- Pressure from society and maybe the church environment

How can the local congregation provide support?

- Conduct seminars for single parenting, stress management and parenting

- Organise social activities for the adult as well as the children.
- Provide an attitude of support and compassion
- Other parents in the life of the church can provide a role model for children who may

be missing out on an appropriate adult figure. (Note: it is difficult to be both mum and dad to the children).

- Preaching—stories in worship—be aware of the fact that not everyone belongs to a two-parent family.

- Support a single parent by taking the children for an evening
- Affirm single parents allow

them to have leadership roles in the church

- Be sensitive to the fact that children from single parent families cannot always participate in all the church activities due to access arrangements
- Educate the congregation, we need to nurture people in their understanding of what others experience in their single parenting roles
- Preach about the many aspects of being "a family".

The single parent will work through the issues surrounding their situation but it can be very refreshing and renewing if they can experience the support of their church family.

We just do not know what to do! Is a true statement in many situations, but the greatest gift we can give each other is the willingness to "be there".

As a minister I am aware of



the tension to support the ideal of a Christian marriage and to work hard to keep it together.

Sadly there is a reality, even if we do not agree, that marriages will break down.

So do we bury our head in the sand, or do we pastorally care in a way that encourages people to rebuild their lives?

The choice is now ours, because Jesus made a choice to be with those in pain, to reach out to those who needed healing and to forgive those who were experiencing brokenness.

What am I doing for the single parent? ❖

## Resources

*Single Adult Ministry*, compiled by Terry Jones, Navpress 1991.  
*Children & Divorce*, Archibald D. Hart, Ph.D.

*The Fresh Start Single Parenting Workbook*, Thomas Whiteman, Ph.D. with Randy Petersen.

*Cheryl Johnson has been minister at Williamstown, Vic, church for many years. She has responsibilities in singles ministry development with the Department of Mission Education and Development in Vic-Tas. She is very much in demand for seminars in divorce recovery, sexuality, single parent family life and understanding the needs of the single person.*

Union of  
Vision Church of Christ &  
Camberwell Church of Christ

Dedication Service

10.00 am 19 May 1996

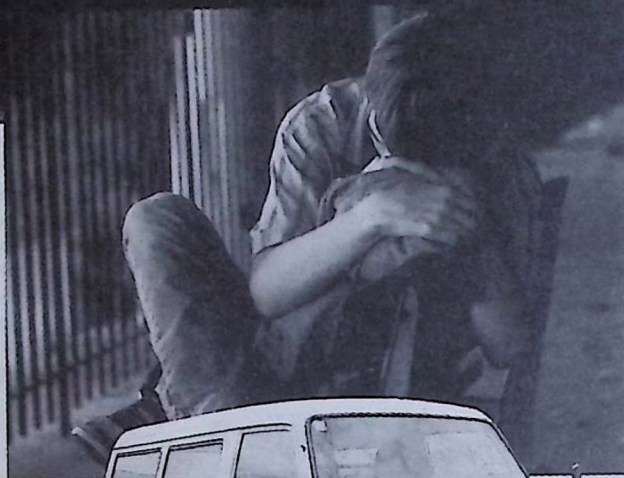
Speaker: Dr Geoff Whiting

Friends and former member of both churches most welcome.

Inquiries to Secretary, Jean Ryall (03) 9882 3632



# Helping You, Helping the Homeless



**When you insure your house, contents, car, church or business with ANSVAR Australia, you can be assured of all the benefits you would expect from one of Australia's most respected established insurers. Competitive rates. Fast, professional handling of claims. Individual attention and care.**

But when you insure with ANSVAR you are investing in much more than just a competitive insurance policy. You are investing in the future of Australia's young people.

That's because, unlike other insurers, ANSVAR has no shareholders requiring dividends, so all surplus profits can be put back



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

Recently, ANSVAR purchased a Ford Econovan for Drug-Arm, a group which aims to promote a healthy lifestyle without the use of unnecessary drugs. Street Van, as it is known, takes assistance to the young people on the street, helping them to explore options to move out of this harmful environment.

Together with other community initiatives, this project reflects ANSVAR's commitment to the responsible use of profits.

So when you insure with ANSVAR, both you and our homeless young people benefit. And that's good for everyone.

## ANSVAR

Australia Insurance Limited

A.C.N. 007 216 406

## We're here for you

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

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



## Family

# Care for Aging Parents

Donald E. Stewart

**I**ncreasingly, families are confronted with decisions about how to care for aging parents.

The cycle has changed and the parents who cared for their children in the vulnerability of childhood now need to be cared for in their old age. But how do we do that so that the dignity and value as a person of our aging parents is respected and preserved?

The first realisation is that each person is unique and they must be involved in every major decision that is to be made. There are important issues to be considered.

Old age is not a disease, it is a road which we shall all travel if we are fortunate enough to live that long.

Medical conditions can be treated: some can be cured and others managed. We need to assist our aging parents to get the medical attention that they need for their medical problems. "You are getting older" is not sufficient reason to give up on treatment.

Old age brings with it conditions of frailty, which cause restriction of movement.

This can lead to isolation and loneliness. Perhaps the most

important issue is to keep our aging parents involved in family, church and community affairs.

Do not take over because they are older.

They will tell you when they can't handle something any more.

At the same time do not load them with tasks that will extend their

frailty beyond their ability to cope.

It is sometimes hard for families to allow their aging parents to choose their own way of liv-

ing. We need to resist the temptation to want to make arrangements for them. By all means, open discussions on options that are available. Remember there are support networks within the community that can give help. Sometimes there are serious problems such as the onset of dementia. If that is the case, seek help. You will need it. If you have questions on aging or aged care please ask. ♦

*Don Stewart is the Director of Churches of Christ Care in Queensland. He graduated from Kenmore College and the University of Queensland and has had ministries in Traralgon, Vic, and Hobart, Tas, prior to returning to lead the work in Queensland.*

Old age is  
not a  
disease, it is  
a road which  
we shall all  
travel

# Just Another Women's Magazine?

Rose Dalgarno

**I**s the latest, successful big-budget glossy women's mag, *Marie Claire*, as shallow and subversive as its competitors?

The Australian version of the French women's magazine, *Marie Claire*, hit the newsstands last September. It has been hailed as a new generation of women's magazine; hard hitting and intelligent, seeking to get women talking and thinking. But do we really need another women's magazine?

Flipping through *Marie Claire*'s glossy pages, one finds the usual fare: fragranced Calvin Klein ads, the latest from Europe's catwalks, make up how-tos, health reports featuring anything from endometriosis to liposuction, a scantily-clad Elle McPherson sporting her latest lingerie lines, your 1996 horoscope guide (a free 13 page

special), an interview with a movie actress, a 28 day diet and exercise program and articles, the subjects of which seem straight out of a Donahue program: "I'm a part-time witch", "My girl-friend became a man", "Living with a cross-dresser" and "I went to sex school" (concerning New Age sex workshops which teach women to "unleash your goddess within"). These intermingle with fashion spreads from exotic locales, nifty ideas for summer barbecue marinades, ads for diamond rings and IBM computers.

To some, all of this may be

merely a bit of a yawn. To others, the inevitable New Age elements will certainly set off alarm bells, and rightly so. Personally, I have always been

wary of magazines which

purport to be for women but feature impossibly perfect images of "feminine beauty", which only serve to feed

women's insecurities and breed dissatisfaction and self-loathing.

The women's magazine has been criticised, by Christian and non-Christian alike, for its creation of a shrine to a billion-dollar beauty industry which both perpetuates and is fuelled by women's negative self-im-

age. At first glance, *Marie Claire* would seem to do little to alter this prevailing status quo. Popular culture is, nevertheless, typically fraught with contradictions.

There are elements within *Marie Claire* which are both informative, valid and well worth reading. Each edition provides a special report and/or investigation, drawn from current news headlines. These particularly address women's social issues.

Reports include: women's exploitation within Japan's notorious Sarin cult (the group allegedly responsible for nerve gas attacks on the Tokyo subway); the rape and enforced impregnation of Muslim women and its result; the abandoned babies of Bosnia; women

*Continued on page 19*



## Classified

### BIRTHS

**HARRISON** John and Colleen (Caveside, Tas) give thanks for God's gift of their second grandchild Jake Anthony, born to Simon and Cathy (Melb), 4 April 1996. A brother for Jessica.

### ENGAGEMENTS

**CONRY-CLARK** Del and Allan of Glen Waverley, together with Frank and Jill of Ballarat, are happy to announce the engagement of Janelle and Matthew.

### IN MEMORIAM

**SCOTT** Bob. Died on 1 May 1989. Although you have been gone seven years, your loving memory and smile will always be with us. Loving wife Betty and family.

### HOLIDAYS

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

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

**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.

## Hospital Chaplaincy

# I Don't Know What to Say

Glen Wegner



**I**t's a most difficult task to be the bearer of bad news. To convey news of a death or terminal illness is a heavy load. In circumstances like this it's natural to feel that we don't know what to say. In the context of a

hospital, it's usually a doctor's responsibility to communicate such news and hopefully there may be opportunity for a pastoral carer to follow up with support.

The use of euphemisms when speaking of death (passed away), are frequently used to convey such news. Euphemistic messages are often misunderstood. They are also symptomatic of our discomfort with our mortality.

Once heard a doctor pass on news of a death to a man whose wife had just died by saying, "We have been unsuccessful in treating your wife". Naturally the man, who was already distressed, did not understand the message.

While not wishing to be blunt when conveying such news, clarity and honesty are essential. Communication must be unambiguous.

Of course bad news needs to be explained slowly and gently, accompanied with compassion, support and guidance.

Pastoral carers may often minister to people who have received stressful news.

A common mistake here is to offer comfort by providing what amounts to false assurance.

The alternative is to hear and accept what is said, and focus

on how the person is thinking and feeling as a result of such news.

Sometimes when we don't know to say, empathic silence is often appropriate.

Remember Job's friends who tried to provide answers

to Job in the midst of his suffering.

They did more harm than good.

In such circumstances the premature use of Scripture or prayer may exacerbate the situation and become a form of escape for the carer. Don't hide behind the Bible.

The wisest strategy is to be sensitive, to listen to accept and journey with the other person. Allow them to express how the experience impacts on them and what it might be meaning for them.

Don't sermonise or theologise prematurely (we must accept God's will), or offer fragile reassurance (it'll be all right), such responses usually come out of our own anxieties.

As people are given bad news they will respond differently. No two are the same.

For some there may be shock, disbelief, denial, anger, or maybe relief, (now I know). Some may urgently need pastoral support, others may need solitude and become responsive to pastoral support a day or so later.

The important thing is not so much in finding the right words, but rather in being the right person and sitting together in the shadows. ♦

## Churches of Christ Care Brisbane Region

### DIRECTOR OF CARE

Churches of Christ Care Brisbane Region have a position available for a Director of Care at our Buckingham Gardens Hostel, Alexandra Hills.

Buckingham Gardens Hostel & Units were opened in 1992, a modern Aged Care Hostel of 50 beds, comprising 5 houses with 10 beds in each house, and Sandringham Place, comprising 6 independent living units.

The successful applicant will be a Registered Nurse who has qualifications and/or experience in aged care, nursing administration and able to actively participate in professional development. In addition, the person shall possess qualities of organisation and leadership, and have the capacity by personal knowledge, as well as dedication, to exemplify and implement the caring standards and policies of Churches of Christ Care. Relevant experience in aged care will be highly regarded.

Please apply for an Employment Application by phoning Carole on (07) 3358 3233.

Applications close 10 May 1996.







# You've Seen the Film— Now Read the Book

Viney Longthorp

**F**ilms based on books and plays are often a boon to libraries, publishers, and booksellers.

The enterprising among these use the popularity of the film to help sell their wares; our title is one of their advertising methods.

Literature and the cinema have always had a close relationship which has profited both.

The cinema has relied greatly on stories contained in literature. Conversely, many people have found in films an excellent introduction to literature in all its forms.

Here is a list of films based on well-known books and plays, where the title of the book has been retained as the title of the film. And what often adds to our enjoyment is an appreciation of the ways in which each medium translates to the other.

*The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton. A sumptuous spectacle of manners and morals in nineteenth century Boston.

*City of Joy* by Dominique Lapierre. Tragedy and triumph in a medical mission in the hell-hole of modern Calcutta.

*Black Robe* by Brian Moore. The tragic story of a Seven-

teenth Century Jesuit mission to native peoples.

*Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmund Rostand. A swash-buckling tale from the days of the French Revolution.

*Dances with Wolves* by Michael Blake. The clash of cultures in the USA last century involving the Sioux Indians.

*Forrest Gump* by Winston Groom. An inspiring tale of a man, who as they say, was "intellectually challenged".

*Land and Freedom* by Ken Loach. Superb film about the Spanish Civil War. It owes much to George Orwell's *Homage to Catalonia* and Ernest Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.

*Amadeus* by Peter Shaffer. The film closely follows the play in taking great liberties with the character of Mozart in order to enhance the conflict with Salieri. But with such a glorious soundtrack, all is forgiven!

*Hamlet* by William Shakespeare. The 1948 production by Laurence Olivier is still the definitive version.

*Howard's End* by E.M. Forster. The producer does a great job in translating Forster's very "literary" style onto the large screen. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Lee Harper. A heart-warming story of race prejudice and enlightenment in America's "deep south". Gregory Peck is all humanity.

*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte. A true classic on account of Bronte's ability to create characters of great substance.

*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens. Many consider this to be his best novel. David Lean's 1946 version is excellent, thanks mainly to the abilities of the young John Mills.

*My Father's Glory* and *My Mother's Castle* by Marcel Pagnol. A lovely and warming portrayal of French rural fam-

ily life at the turn of the century.

*Memphis Belle* by Monte Merrick. The "heroine" is an American B17 bomber in the days of World War 2.

*The Last of the Mohicans* by James Fenimore Cooper. Mateship, life, and death in the days of the American War of Independence.

*Shadowlands* by Leonore Fleischer. A modern heroic tale of the love and devotion of C.S. Lewis in his caring for his wife as she dies of cancer.

*The Three Musketeers* by Alexandre Dumas. For sheer panache, still the greatest.

*Tom and Viv* by Michael Hastings. A portrait of the dysfunctional marriage of the poet T.S. Eliot.

*Orlando* by Virginia Woolf. A visually stunning film, but only devotees of the writings of Virginia Woolf should apply.

*Proof* by Jocelyn Moorehouse. A remarkable Australian film which captures the spirit of a fine book.

*A Man for all Seasons* by Robert Bolt. Henry VIII's chancellor, Sir John More, opposes the "merry Monarch" in a mas-



terly crafted presentation on stage or film.

*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. A "futuristic" tale of life in a totalitarian regime where books are banned. The job of the fire-brigade here is to burn books, not put out fires.

*A Month by the Lake* by H.E. Bates. A slow-moving film which never quite conveys the motives of the characters involved. David Niven, had he been alive, would have done a much better job than Edward Fox.

*Enchanted April* by Elizabeth van Armin. A well-told tale of a comedy of class and manners.

*The Mission* by Robert Bolt. Eighteenth century colonial mistakes which lead to brutality. Considered by many to be an American "apology" for the war in Vietnam.

*All Quiet on the Western Front*. There are several versions of this essentially "anti-war" film about trench warfare in World War 1. The films faithfully parallel the writings of Erich Maria Remarque.

*The Ten Commandments*. In this Hollywood blockbuster, Charlton Heston is a mighty Moses in Cecil B de Mille's 1956 production.

The box office loved it; but many American theologians complained that it put Old Testament scholarship back by a generation.

This could be a signal example of, "Forget the film—stick to the book!" ❖

## STRACK REMOVALS

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

**David Strack**  
(Proprietor)

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

"Service since 1907"



## Family

# Like Father, Like Son

Michelle Haines

**H**e has the same level grey stare. The same tall good looks. The same measured, southern drawl. And the same passionate purpose.

"I am here for one reason only: to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. That's what God has called me to do," Franklin Graham told a media conference on 7 March.

"The message I am going to preach is the same message my father would have preached: God is reconciling the world to himself through Jesus Christ. I want to give men and women the chance to repent of their sins and confess Jesus Christ and invite him into their hearts."

Mr Graham spoke at Festival '96 from 9-11 March, an event which was originally to have featured his father, Billy Graham, who was too ill to come. Over the three days, 25 000 people attended at the Parramatta Park site, taking part in youth, family and multicultural programs. Over 1500 of them came forward to make commitments to Christ.

Franklin Graham may be his father's son in many ways, but he struggled alone to come to terms with God. Growing up the son of Billy Graham placed the usual "preacher's kid" burdens upon him, but he was partly shielded by his home's remoteness—in the wilds of western North Carolina. And he says he never felt pressured

to toe the family line.

"No one is born a Christian. If my mother gave birth to me in a garage, that doesn't make me a car. We're born as sinners, and I was born into a life of sin," said Franklin.

As he was growing up Franklin said he "believed, but wasn't ready to commit". He was the "rebellious" son, given to drunkenness and a wayward lifestyle. Eventually, at the age of 22, he spent one night in a Jerusalem hotel that changed his life.

"I was reading my Bible, and Jesus forgave my sins. I didn't deserve it, but he did it," he said.

He is at pains to point out that being the son of the most famous evangelist in the world doesn't give him special standing with God, and that when the rewards are handed out in heaven "I'll be way down the back of the line".

Seems he's inherited his father's humility as well. The media have for years been searching for the chink in Billy Graham's armour, but are constantly thwarted by his modesty and honesty. Franklin faced the same kind of attacks in Sydney last month, and defended himself with the same disarming sincerity and seriousness.

To the charge that an evangelist shouldn't be staying in a swank hotel (the Sheraton on the Park), he revealed that the



• Franklin and Billy Graham: focused on the same goal.

room was complimentary, as the owner was a good friend of Billy's (So there).

All the interest in his father he takes in his stride.

"I love my father, I respect him and I understand that people are curious about him," said Franklin. "There is a tremendous amount of affection for him here, and I appreciate that."

Just as the rain came down for his father in 1979, the three days of Festival '96 were wet.

But that didn't stop people listening: the crowd included families, young people (80 per cent of all who came forward were under 25) and even inmates from the local prison. And that's just the way Franklin would have wanted it.

"You can be a murderer, a prostitute, a drug addict. God will forgive you if you're willing to let him," he said. ❖

Story and photo from *Southern Cross*, used with permission.

### Avonsleigh Church of Christ

Avon Road, Avonsleigh

The first church in the Dandenongs

**111<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
and Hymn Sing-a-Long**

at 2.30 pm, Sunday 26 May 1996

### THORNBURY CHURCH OF CHRIST

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
Sunday 26 May 1996**

10.30 am Celebration Service  
Guest Speaker: Dr Rowland Croucher  
Soloist: Chris Sharpe

Smorgasbord lunch to follow in the hall  
Afternoon program to follow

Church located on corner of Smith Street & St Georges Road  
Inquiries—Pastor Larry Holt. Phone (03) 9484 2918



# Cheryl Barker

Cliff Warmbrunn

**T**he *Marriage of Figaro* is a comic opera in four acts by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The role of Countess Almaviva in the current production by the Australian Opera is played by Cheryl Barker.

Cheryl is a daughter of the manse. Her parents Lawrence and Ruth Barker now live in Geelong, Vic, where Laurie is school chaplain at Oberon High School, while Ruth is currently organist at Belmont Church of Christ. Cheryl's grandfather, Keith Macnaughtan, was well known throughout Churches of Christ for his evangelistic preaching and long ministry at Swanston Street Church of Christ in Melbourne.

The reviewer Brian Chalmers wrote of Cheryl's performance, "Singing in the *Marriage of Figaro* at the Victorian Arts Centre on opening night she confirmed her status as a world-class singer. Fresh from schedules throughout Europe to take a leading role in this Australian Opera Production at the State Theatre she brought to the

countess's part a depth of sensitivity and insight unusual for the buffo style. The incomparable humanity expressed in Cheryl's first aria was a great emotional moment. All eyes were upon her."

**She gives  
God the  
glory and  
allows him  
to be her  
guide and  
Lord**

During school days her singing and acting abilities were evident quite early. Her parents noted that she "had a good pair of lungs". As a high school student she appeared in several musical productions of the

local Gilbert and Sullivan company. At that time she sang in Belmont Church of Christ's production *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* and *Cool in the Furnace*.

After completing her schooling in Geelong Cheryl worked in the ANZ bank for a year and then left to study full-time at the College of the Arts. She came into contact with Dame Joan Hammond who consented to teach her privately and would call at the manse and give her lessons on the way to her property at Aireys Inlet.

After joining the Victorian Opera Chorus she soon was sharing roles in Victoria and South Australia, e.g. Blonde in *The Abduction from the Seraglio* for the State Opera of South Australia.

Then came marriage to Peter Coleman-Wright, also a Belmont, Vic, local who aspired to be an opera singer.

The couple moved to England and Cheryl was fortunate to be selected for the Welsh National Opera. She was awarded the Dame Mabel Brookes fellowship in 1986, and represented Australia in the finals of the Metropolitan Opera Audition Competition held at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, and won the Royal Overseas League Competition in 1989.

Cheryl retains her Christian faith and expresses it at appropriate times. She comments on the spirituality that she sees in many of her co-performers and encourages dialogue with them. She and her husband Peter currently worship at the local Anglican Church at Fulham and several of their musical friends have asked to



attend services with them. The chapel needs a new roof and recently Cheryl and Peter performed for the purpose of raising funds for the new roof.

You could say they raised the roof!

Cheryl now has a wide repertoire which includes First Lady in the *Magic Flute*, Mimi in the highly successful production of *La Boheme* by the Australian Opera (and now available on video). Micaela in *Carmen* for the English Touring Opera and Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin* for the Scottish Opera. She has also performed at the Edinburgh Festival, the Spoleto Festival in Italy and most recently at a dinner in honour of Prince Edward.

Her most recent achievement was in the leading role of Jennifer in *A Midsummer Marriage* at Royal Opera House Covent Gardens. Cheryl won widespread praise for her performance—a truly high point in any opera singer's career.

Throughout her successful career Cheryl has remained the same person—generous and natural and unchanged by fame and she gives God the glory and allows him to be her guide and Lord. ♦

## Continued from page 15

in India's untouchable caste who are learning to fight back against rape and murder, under a system which has humiliated and oppressed them for thousands of years; the horrific conditions of women factory workers in Indonesia, Taiwan and the Philippines who are used as pawns in a profiteering system dominated by multinational companies.

These reports are often highly disturbing. They invite outrage and a call for action, sensitising our social conscience. Many of the articles contain interviews in which a woman's voice speaks out across the massive gap that divides her culture from ours. For instance, a Filipino woman is paid a pittance to sew a minimum of three hundred labels

onto t-shirts, every hour of her day. As she sews, she wonders if the people who wear her t-shirts ever think of her.

Inevitably, if one dwells upon it, there are deep ironies involved here. Within a magazine which owes its very existence to the promotion of fashion and beauty, the gap between the two worlds becomes all the more obvious. Those with a heart for social justice must give Marie Claire the credit for providing the names of appropriate organisations and contact addresses for readers who are moved to lend their support. ♦

*Rose Dalgarno is a part-time lecturer with an interest in media theory, The Simpsons and Hal Hartley films.*

Reprinted with permission from *On Being*, PO Box 434, Hawthorn 3122.





# Peace and Terror in the Troubled Middle East

David Dolan

**"W**hen will the terror end?" cried a distraught Israeli bystander as pieces of Jewish flesh were once again scraped off sidewalks and buildings next to Jerusalem's main street, Jaffa Road. The wave of suicide Islamic terror that struck this country in late February and early March left most Israelis asking the same question. When will the Islamic fundamentalist war to destroy the Jewish State end and final peace come to the war-weary Middle East?

Leaders of Israel's Labour party, which negotiated the preliminary 1993 peace accord with Yasser Arafat's PLO, insist that only a final peace settlement with the entire Arab world can bring an end to Palestinian Islamic terrorism, which has taken over 200 lives since the initial accord was signed. They firmly believe the premise that the Muslim jihad against Israel is mainly the result of bad politics in the Arab world, which they largely attribute to widespread poverty and scholastic ignorance. Therefore, the holy war can only be eliminated by a change in policies and living conditions in surrounding Muslim countries. Such changes will flow

out of a final peace settlement.

Labour leaders agree that Iran is a different story. A large, non-Arab Mideast nation, it has been the centre of anti-Israel Islamic activity for almost two decades. It was, in fact, the driving force behind the late winter suicide binge, say Israeli leaders and Yasser Arafat, supplying money and training to Muslim terror groups, if not ordering the attack.

Labour party officials realise that Teheran's policies will probably not be modified by anything Israel can do, short of agreeing to disband the Jewish state. However, most still maintain that if an regional peace settlement is reached, Iran's influence over Palestinian and Lebanese Muslim groups will be weakened to the point where it basically loses all ability to act against Israel. Right-wing Likud party leaders say this is an unrealistic hope at best.

However left-wing they may be in ideology, Israel's Labour party leaders and their political allies are basically realists. They know that the Arab states and the PLO are not about to budge on their minimum requirement of a final Arab-Israeli peace accord—the total abandonment of the strategic

Golan Heights plateau to Syria and the establishment of a truly independent Palestinian state over most of Judea and Samaria, with part of Jerusalem as its capital.

The fact that government leaders have continued negotiations with Syria in the face of sustained Hizbullah violence in south Lebanon and

pushed through an accord with the PLO that included "final status" talks on Jerusalem, shows that they are prepared to meet at least most of the Arab demands.

Labour leaders realise that the only possible chance that a final and permanent Arab-Israeli peace accord can be achieved is if the Jewish state basically abandons its claim to the ancient Temple Mount, along with other parts of east Jerusalem and most of the West Bank.

Although they understand that militant Muslim groups like Hamas, Hizbullah and Islamic Jihad are working for Israel's complete destruction, backed by the Iranian and Libyan regimes, they seem to sincerely believe that the jihad against the "Zionist entity" will

end if Israel gives in to Arab demands on Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

Like their Labour party counterparts, Palestinian leaders also insist that Islamic terror attacks can only be permanently halted by an overall Arab-Israeli political settlement. They repeatedly make clear that such a final accord must include the handing over to them of Judaism's very heart and soul—the Walled Old City of Jerusalem with its sacred Temple Mount.

A leading Palestinian Authority official said in March that the entire Palestinian community will return to the path of violence if Israel does not yield to this basic PLO and Arab world demand. The threat was delivered in a secretly recorded speech given by Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath, who helped negotiate the preliminary Israel-PLO accord. His ominous threat was more forcefully spelled out than similar ones issued by Yasser Arafat late last year (Such as Arafat's insistence that anyone who opposes Palestinian control over east Jerusalem will end up "drinking the water of the Dead Sea," which would of course, kill the presumably Israeli drinker).

The warning of a new and probably more violent Palestinian uprising, coupled with ongoing terror assaults from Islamic opponents of any peace accommodation with Israel, paints a bleak picture for the near-term future of the Jewish state. As in the days of the prophet Jeremiah, there is much talk in Israel of "peace, peace" but real evidence for the same is quite hard to discover.

❖ *David is a journalist working in Jerusalem. He writes for a range of US press agencies and will contribute on a regular basis.*

**There is much talk of "peace, peace" but real evidence for the same is quite hard to discover**

KS  
CA

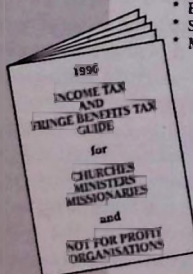
### 1996 TAX GUIDE INCOME TAX FRINGE BENEFITS TAX

- Latest tax rulings
- Ministry savings plan
- Exempt fringe benefits
- Social Security benefits
- Missionary allowances
- Austudy changes
- Substantiation rules
- Superannuation
- Family payment news
- Tax tips for 1996

Remuneration options for churches  
70 pages of up-to-date tax information

\$50 includes annual update service  
ring Simone for a subscription form

**Kimberly Smith & Associates**  
accountants auditors advisors  
104 Auburn Road, Auburn VIC 3123  
Ph: (03) 9816 9622 Fax: (03) 9816 9588





Gordon Stirling

# Reconciling our Theology with our Cosmology: Prayer

Gordon Stirling

In our family home there was a dramatic painting of Jesus in Gethsemane. It never failed to impress me. Jesus in his agony was looking to God "up there". In one of my boyhood books there was a picture of Daniel praying in defiance of the royal edict and he was open-eyed and looking up. In our church prayer meetings the most vehement prayers lifted their faces skyward.

Yet my Mum and Dad taught us that God was here with us all the time. My Mum took a little advantage of this fact, informing me that if I "sinned" she might not see it, but God would. So I was conditioned to praying to a God "up there", while believing in a God here and now.

It was not until my late teens that I realised that there was a contradiction. I will never forget the first time that I prayed to God intimately as being with me. It was a bit hard at first. I had been used to "firing prayer

salvos" heavenward. Now I was in conversation with the great God of the universe, the Creator, the Father of the Lord Jesus, right with me and in me and all around me. That prayer set the adrenalin flowing. The very thought of it gave praying a new meaning and reality. Prayer became, and still is, a communion with the ever-present God.

But some one says, "But doesn't the Lord's prayer say, 'Our Father in heaven'?" It certainly does, but it does not say, "Our Father somewhere up above". Heaven is where God is, and God is here, as well as everywhere else. The New Testament makes it clear that what we call "eternal life" or "the heavenly life" begins here and now and goes on for ever, with death opening the door into new dimensions of being with God. Paul says that believers are already living with God in "the heavens" or "heavenly places" (Eph 1:3; 2:6).

The fact that the God to whom we pray is with us and in us is most significant when we think of intercessory prayer, the prayer that we pray for other people. Let us take the fictional case of a friend whom we will call Fred.

I am concerned about friend and feel the strong urge to pray for him.

But it is not medown here praying to God up there, hoping that God will send down to Fred an appropriate answer. Nor is it me letting a busy God up there know that Fred has a problem that God hasn't heard about yet. Nor is it the case of a reluctant God so far removed from Fred that he has to be pleaded with to give some priority to Fred, among all of the mil-

lions of others being prayed for. Nor is it a matter of me telling God about Fred's problem and how it should be handled.

God is with Fred and he knows Fred's need far better than I do and he is more eager to supply Fred's need than I am, and he loves Fred a lot more than I do. God also knows that he cannot do a thing for Fred until Fred is good and ready to let God into the situation. Because God has given free will to Fred and the rest of us, he will not push in against

Fred's will. But that is where intercessory prayer comes in.

So let us look at Fred's case again. When I pray for Fred God is with me and in me. He is also with Fred and in him too. God is also in all of the space between us. He is already surrounding Fred with his love and is ready to move into Fred's

problem as soon as Fred becomes ready to open up to God's action in him. My prayer for Fred is me beaming my love through "the medium" of God towards Fred. If that love and concern is genuine and continuing and costly, it may well begin to open the door into Fred's problem that lets God in to begin his work. So intercessory prayer for Fred is my love being added to the love of God who is with us both.

The words I use are unimportant. I may even be asking God for

all of the wrong things for Fred. What I am asking for Fred may not be in harmony with what God has in mind for Fred, because God sees things from an eternal perspective.

So whatever words I use, or whatever unspoken wishes I have for Fred, the important thing is my deep, consistent and selfless love and concern for him.

There is really nothing new in what I have written. It is all in Matt 6:6, expressed much more succinctly and to the point.

So whatever words I use, or whatever unspoken wishes I have the important thing is my deep, consistent and selfless love and concern

For all your car requirements see Ken Geyer

**Ken Geyer**

LMCT 6549

SELECT USED CARS

**Ringwood Auto Gas**

Accredited LP gas conversions  
Ring for an obligation-free quotation

**Ken Geyer Automotive**

for reliable service or repairs  
on your vehicle

**Phone (03) 9879 4004**

**47 Bond Street, Ringwood 3134**



## Personal

### Here and There

#### 1996 Jesus Pro-Am

This year's Christian surfers' carnival will be held 25-26 May, at Bendalong Beach, NSW. Over 90 contestants have been invited and the two-day contest will attract both professional and amateur surfers from Australia and overseas. Christian Surfers operates 20 clubs around Australia. Participants will camp together and the event will offer a family surfout for any family, adult and child combination. Contact John (043) 85 1592.

#### Landmines Initiative

The Anglican Archbishops of Sydney and Adelaide have declared their support of the recent joint announcement on landmines policy by Alexander Downer, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Ian McLachlan, Minister for Defence. The Ministers declared Australia's support for a global ban on the production, stockpiling, use and transfer of antipersonnel landmines, and also a unilateral suspension on their operational use by the Australian Defence Force.

#### Ok Tedi Visit

Uniting Church representatives have returned from a visit to the Ok Tedi region of Papua New Guinea. A statement issued by group members said that they were given every indication that Ok Tedi Mining Ltd is determined to address the environmental problems and that most Papua New Guineans in the area see OTML as an important contributor to their wellbeing.

#### Templeton Prize for Inspiring Movie

The first Templeton Prize for "inspiring movies" has gone to "Dead Man Walking", a film based on a nun's work with prisoners on death row. The first award for "inspiring television" went to an episode of "Christy", a series about a missionary school teacher. John Templeton set up prizes for inspiring movies and television to encourage inspirational productions that result in "a great increase in either man's love of God or man's understanding of God".

### Changes

**PORTLAND:** Secretary—Darren Colihole, 79 Otway St, Portland 3305. Phone (055) 21 7445. **Ministers**—Blair & Julie Davis, 39 Tyers St, Portland 3305. Phone (055) 21 8118 (H) (055) 23 1574 (W). All correspondence—PO Box 198, Portland 3305.

**METRO NORTH CHRISTIAN CENTRE:** New office number—(02) 651 4166, fax number (02) 651 4177.

**MIDWAY POINT:** Secretary—Mrs K. Triffett, PO Box 592, Sorell 7172. Phone (002) 57 5160 (H).

### Baptisms

•Peter Vandermyle, Brooklyn Park, SA •John and Carolyn Balding, Tweed Heads, NSW •Toni Harvey, Neil Clow, Kath Partridge, Donna Wood, Twyford St, Bundaberg, Qld •Janice Hordern, Bayswater, Vic

### Marriages

•Jodie Dodd & Greg Beaumont, Brooklyn Park, SA

### Deaths

•W.(Bill) Royals, Lil Wood, Brooklyn Park, SA •Edward

Wilbur Graham, Enid Kathleen Noon, Dalby, Qld •Audrey Cook, Jack Kerridge, Dorothy McWilliams, Mildura, Vic •Lois Strack, Ede Marshall, Montrose, Vic •Grace Tumney, Portland, Vic •Dot Byard, Caveside, Tas •Jack Rodger, Maidstone, Vic

### Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

**BYARD, Doris Victoria Mansfield**

(23.3.96) Born 21.2.04. Dot's association with the Caveside Church of Christ began when she moved to the district following the death of her first husband, Clem Wagner, when she was 32. She became housekeeper at the "Brookhill" property where she met and married her second husband, Clem Byard. She was known throughout the district for her love for people and for her family; and for her involvement in Red Cross and CWA. But above these, she was known for her love for her Lord and his church. She is deeply missed by her family Frances, Alex, Jean, Donald and Austin and their partners, her 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

—John N. Harrison.

**Davis, Phyllis Lorraine**

(10.4.96) Phyl was born at Italian

Gully, Vic, on 24 April 1917 to Edmund and Beatrice Davis. She lived the majority of her life in Burnley and North Balwyn, and left an indelible impression on the lives of many people. Phyl was a strong, gentle, caring woman of remarkable Christ-like character, integrity and loyalty, who gave her best to any pursuit to which she devoted herself. In 1990 she was appointed as President of the Victorian & Tasmanian Conference and was the first woman to hold that role. Phyl was a beautiful servant who has entered into the presence of her Lord.

—Darren Kittel

Have you thought of helping

"The Australian Christian"

In its ministry among  
Churches of Christ?

Why not include us in your will?  
The following wording could be used in your will:

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

## ASSETS TEST EXEMPT

### Income Producing Investment Options for Retirees

#### OPTION 1

Guaranteed Lifetime Income  
100% Reversionary Benefit  
Income Indexed to CPI

#### OPTION 2

Guaranteed Terms of 10 to 25 Years  
100% Reversionary Benefit  
Income Indexed to CPI

**For Further Information Or a Prospectus Contact  
BUTLER & BUTLER INVESTMENT SERVICES PTY LTD**

ACN 053326944—Licensed Security Dealer

16 Coral St, Victor Harbor SA 5211 — Phone (085) 52 2411.

11237 Unley Rd, Malvern SA 5061 — Phone (08) 271 9966.

**'A SHARE OF ALL BROKERAGE OR FEES IS PAID DIRECT TO THE  
CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN SA INC.'**

Financial Planning  
Association of  
Australia Limited  
Principal Member





# Church News

## NSW

**GILGANDRA** At AGM David Mudford appointed secretary & Cheryl Jackson, treasurer ... Visiting speakers helping with services ... Meetings at Coeee Hostel well attended, gifts of fruit given to each resident at New Year meeting ... Group attended Easter camp ... Combined service with AIM recently, Pastor Wilson of Uniting Church speaker.

**TWEED HEADS (Bruce Warwick)** Four "At Home" evenings, arranged by Bruce & Cheryl at the manse, greatly enjoyed ... Cheryl has taken on leadership of Tag — Sunday School in other words ... 30 involved in special study, The Divine Drama, elder Bob Treadwell leading ... Board Retreat great blessing ... Coach load travelled to Franklin Graham Sunday meeting in Brisbane ... Passover Meal held Easter Thursday, wonderful experience for many who shared ... Two received by faith & baptism, several rededications.

**METRO NORTH CHRISTIAN CENTRE (Franklyn Elliott & Lindsay McKeon)** Commissioner Allison of NSW Girls' Brigade on 7 April presented a certificate to Joan Glazier in recognition of her 30 years' service ... Sunday services now being held at Pacific Hills Christian School in new auditorium ... Church office is now located at the 4½ acre property in the process of being purchased at 1 Vineys Road, Dural.

## SA

**BROOKLYN PARK (P. Webber)** Amalgamation with Henley Beach



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

& Flinders Park failed, insufficient votes from Flinders Park ... P. Webber not to extend ministry after 1996, ministry committee seeking new ministry support for 1997 ... Fortnightly worship services for intellectually disabled meeting a strong need ... New elders J. Juett, R. Kain ... Tennis courts upgraded.

**COWANDILLA (Wayne Shepherd)** Busy & meaningful week of Easter Experiences including mime of Easter story by the children, combined worship services with other churches & an evening with the Chinese church ... Gag night held ... Men's & Boys' fishing camp held ... Family bush camp planned ... Bible studies, Kids' Club, Men's/Women's fellowships, young adults groups all going well ... Music team enriching church services ... Young women's mid-week get together ... Grant & Dianne Koennecke welcomed into membership.

**COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS (Bryan Sellars)** Bryan Sellars & family welcomed into ministry ... New Members welcomed ... Elections held in March ... Play group commenced ... Children's segment in service & Sunday School begun ... Third Sunday in each month "Special" commenced 21 April at 6.30 pm ... Family teas on fourth Saturday continue to be popular ... Pairs & Spares group growing ... Fifty plus planning a retreat in May.

## Qld

**DALBY (Tony Ochse)** Church has two sets of House Parents at Boarding Houses of Christian School ... Men's ministry meeting weekly ... Planning to help with odd jobs for needy folk ... Attended Western District Fellowship at Chinchilla church camp; theme "Down to Earth" ... Excellent attendances at Easter services ... Busy planning "Creation Science Seminar" with Ken Ham at end of June.

**TWYFORD STREET, BUNDA-  
BERG (Paul Scully)** New ministry to children commenced under leadership of Del Wissman, 30+ children attending regularly ... Sunday morning service moved to earlier time of 9.00 am ... Community Contact Week held 2-9 March, Jim & Grace Vine presented seminars for men, parents & singles ... Autumn Fair raised funds for Drug Arm, a local community service ... Easter services well attended.

## Tas

**CAVESIDE (John & Colleen Harrison)** Church expressed sympathy in the passing on 23 March of

church's oldest member Mrs Dot Byard, aged 92 years. Many unable to be seated in chapel for thanksgiving service listened through outside speaker ... Caveside involved with many combined churches activities: evening worship with God's Squad, Harvest Thanksgiving, The Role of the Christian Man Seminar, Awakening '96 Procession of Witness & barbecue in Deloraine, Good Friday service at Mole Creek Presbyterian.

**MIDWAY POINT (Errol Gilbert)** Church elected new committee ... Building is now completed along with a new communion table & pulpit, new pews commenced to seat 40, with assistance from Hobart & local rural youth group ... Art & craft outreach workshops to be commenced next quarter & local newsletter commenced in March called the "Midway Pointer" ... Church leadership enjoyed participation in John Bond's input at Howrah Conference ... Church looking forward with positive expectation.

## Vic

**BAYSWATER (P. Clayton)** Youth travelled to SA for Easter camp ... First baptisms held in new chapel ... 27 attended Men's Breakfast, speaker Peter Clayton, soloist Fred Strong ... Increased numbers as youth involved in evening services ... Children's program held during school holidays with good result ... Church family picnic held in February at Cardinia Reservoir ... Engagement party for Julie Steele & Ben Zambra in February.

**GARDINER (Pieter Petrusma)** Rededication of chapel, recently painted & carpeted, followed by church luncheon ... Pieter preached at combined Good Friday service with local Anglican & Uniting churches ... Special Korean Eggs embossed with Christian messages presented to worshippers at combined Easter Sunday service led by Pieter, translated by Won Joon Clark, items by Korean choir ... Elaine McLeod part-time ministry during Pieter & Corry's absence.

**MILDURA (Tom & Ruth Edge)** Tom & Ruth Edge inducted as interim ministry team on 31 March, for 7 months. Presentation made to Doug Clarke for 6 years as pastoral minister ... Packed church for special Palm Sunday service, especially involving the children ... Jesus video segments presented Sunday nights in preparation for Easter ... Church appreciates the provision of visiting preachers by Department of Ministry.

**MONTROSE (Harvey Clark)** Church enriched by Harvey's sermons on Ephesians ... Lots of hard, but enjoyable work put in by ladies for CWF Project '96 ... Church was blessed to have Aboriginal deputation team visit in March ... Meaningful Palm Sunday & Easter services were enjoyed by all ... Great to see Altes family visiting from Kalgoorlie ... Church saddened by death of two elderly members.

**PORTLAND (Blair & Julie Davis)** Max Carter led induction service for new ministers on 17 March ... Large congregation took part, followed by lunch where people were able to meet with Blair & Julie & visitors ... Bible studies in progress, local speakers led services while between ministers ... Kel Willis led us in a week's special meetings in homes & chapel.

**LATROBE TERRACE (David Jones)** Inspiring pre-Easter lunchtime services a blessing to many ... Good Friday service brought us to the Cross ... 100 packs of home-made biscuits given to Barwon prisoners ... Laurie Barker spoke on work of Christian Education in Schools on 21 April ... Ross Allen of Tucker's Funerals speaker at CWF ... Youth group enjoyed BBQ & bonfire.

**MAIDSTONE (A. McMillan)** Well attended half yearly business meeting ... After 47 years of dedicated service, CWF have held last meeting ... Good attendance at VWCC coffee morning, Mrs Henson speaker ... New carpet laid throughout chapel, Good Friday service shared with Tottenham Baptists ... Sympathy to Margaret Rodger & family in death of Jack

**NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn)** Minister concludes 9-year ministry in May & has agreed to continue in a part-time role until February 1997 ... Peter Bradley speaker on 14 April, Roy Larkin also conducted service ... CWF has speaker from Zoo ... Some sadness among members who lost friends & relatives recently. Minister and wife in Queensland for family funeral.

## WA

**SCARBOROUGH (Nigel Merrick, Bevan Griggs, Ken Doran)** Bevan Griggs inducted as Associate Minister by Peter Moyle ... Ken Doran leading growing youth ministry ... New outreach, "Student Focus", held weekly at local High School ... Nigel Merrick ministered to FEBC staff in Philippines ... Nigel & Loida Pyle, who are part of our Faith promise family & serve in the Philippines, visited us before journeying to NZ & USA.



# Time to be Patient

Janet Thompson

I do not like clocks!  
We acquired a new microwave oven this week and it has a very bright digital clock in the front panel. There were enough clocks in the kitchen already—and they all make noises. One of them beeps, one buzzes, the new one pings and one of them actually ticks. It's all a bit much. My bedside clock blasts me out of dreamland with a brass band and the clock on my desk will play a tune every hour if I make a mistake in resetting it.

I can get along quite nicely without these reminders that my life is disappearing. As the wall clock ticks, I feel as though it has seized me by the hair and is dragging me into next week. I was enjoying this week, thank you very much.

Clocks do have their uses. Remember the days when doctors didn't make appointments and it was first-come, first-served? Is it any wonder that we are known as patients? It was not unusual to spend the entire morning in the waiting room. (It is still possible, but I no longer have to rush to be early!) And I would like to put a clock by my front door with a notice to all callers: "Please wait one whole minute before deciding that there is no-one home!"

Everyone seems to be impatient these days, and being surrounded by clocks is



part of the pressure. The clock on the dashboard ticks away and people forget that the average waiting time at traffic lights is less than sixty seconds.

Ignore your deadline and watch the other drivers in heavy traffic. They rev their engines, tap on the steering wheel, and look grim.

It would be funny if it weren't so frightening.

We are obsessed with time—a minute here, a minute there, hurry ... hurry! It's enough to give you a stomach ulcer.

I save myself a lot of hassle by not wearing a watch—and there isn't a clock in my car. You can't be trapped by time if you can't see it disappearing.

I would be happy to wake with the sun, slow down as evening drifts in and go to bed when I am tired. Cave dwellers managed. They weren't bothered about four-minute miles, perfectly boiled eggs or getting to church on time. Food was for survival, not for culinary competition; they outwitted the fleet-footed animals if they wanted breakfast and eternity could be contemplated and appreciated by gazing at the stars and feeling good about being alive.

God said to Moses, "Before Abraham was, I am." So there won't be clocks in heaven ... sounds good to me!

## The Last Word

It's no credit to anyone to work too hard.

—Edgar E. Howe

I have eyes, but I can't see.  
What am I?  
A potato

\*\*\*\*\*

I have legs, but I can't walk.  
What am I?  
A bed.

\*\*\*\*\*

I work only when I'm fired.  
What am I?  
A rocket.

\*\*\*\*\*

Where do fish keep their life savings?  
In a river bank.

\*\*\*\*\*

Authorship: A large seagoing vessel belonging to a writer.

\*\*\*\*\*

Autobiography: The life story of an automobile.

\*\*\*\*\*

College: A mental institution.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mosquito: A small insect designed by nature to make us think better of flies.

\*\*\*\*\*

Steam: Water gone crazy with the heat.

\*\*\*\*\*

World: A big ball that revolves on its taxes.

\*\*\*\*\*

Teacher: "If I lay one egg on this chair and two on the table, how many will I have all together?"  
Student: "Personally, I don't think you, can do it."

\*\*\*\*\*

My household appliances now cost more to repair than they did to buy.

\*\*\*\*\*

The combination of a narrow mind and a wide mouth is bound to cause trouble.

\*\*\*\*\*



### 30 Years Ago

The editor Alf White noted that a Postal strike had reduced mail to a trickle. Receipt of the paper would be delayed. The introduction of electronic sorting machines was the cause. The editor noted that the computer age is coming. To fight the electronic brain would be as futile a gesture as historic attempts to break the cotton machines at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution.

### 60 Years Ago

The New South Wales Conference, expressing continuing loyalty to the Throne, authorised a resolution of sympathy to the Governor on the death of King George V. and congratulations to King Edward VIII on his accession.

### 90 Years Ago

The Tasmanian Home Mission report to this paper noted 17 churches and 578 members. Hobart had 188 members and Launceston 51. There were 3 members in the St Helen's church, 80 at Impression Bay, 10 at Nook, with other churches at New Ground, Beulah and Port Esperance, now long gone.



Source: Close to Home Revisited  
by John McPherson (Zondervan)