

THE AUSTRALIAN



# Christian

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

Vol. 100 No. 16, 20 September 1997

PRINT POST APPROVED PP349181/00418

& FAITH



The Sombrero, Messier 104, NGC 4594  
Anglo-Australian Observatory © 1980

SCIENCE





THE AUSTRALIAN

**Christian**

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

Vol. 100 No. 16, 20 September 1997

Editor: Don Smith, Production Manager/Sub Editor: Nigel Pegram Issue 4 October Deadline 25 September; Issue 16 October Deadline 9 October; Issue 1 November Deadline 23 October. Address for All Correspondence PO Box 101, Essendon North 3041. Telephone (03) 9379 1219. Fax (03) 9379 0015. E-mail [aceditor@ozemail.com.au](mailto:aceditor@ozemail.com.au)  
Member publication of the Australasian Religious Press Association. The Australian Christian is published by the Board of Management of The Australian Christian, a Department of the National Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia. Keith Aird, Chairman (SA); Lindsay Mott, Treasurer (Vic); John Batchler (Tas); Lea Nelson (ACT); Tom Glynn (NSW); Bob Smith (Qld); Allen Smyth (WA). Printed by New Litho Pty Ltd, 63 Sunbury Crescent, Surrey Hills Vic 3127. Responsibility for electoral material is accepted by Don Smith, 2 Larkspur Ave, Doncaster 3108. This publication is indexed in the Australasian Religion Index. ISSN 0004-8652. Advertising Rates: Displayed: \$5.50 per column centimetre, Classifieds: \$14.00 for the first 25 words and 25c for each additional word.



# Editorial

## Science and Faith

DON SMITH

I had been invited to attend a lecture by Paul Davies, the prominent English physicist and writer, now based at the University of Adelaide. The lecture was a public part of a national conference for physicists. Davies gave his address and questions were invited. One man asked what seemed a very technical question. Davies replied in polite and equally technical language. As my formal physics never went beyond the School Leaving Certificate, I was not surprised the talk was over my head. What astonished me was that my host, a physicist, alerting me that the questioner



was a "flat earther". Here was this world-renowned figure humbly and gently answering a ludicrous question. \* The issues of science and faith are incredibly complex. They are subject to tensions, misunderstanding and conflict. Paul Davies describes the universe as being "about something, something subtle, clever and elegant". Science can neither prove nor disprove the existence of deeper meaning. His plea is that if there is a future for God it must take account of science and not flee from it. \* Each of our feature writers affirms faith amid their experience of and exposure to science. For some this quest will be long and hard. For others there will be few questions. The Scandinavian dramatist Ibsen has one of his characters say that he cannot live without a fixed point beyond himself. We can probably all relate to that. A criticism of Western Science is that it has encouraged us to see ourselves at the centre of the universe. At the end of this horrendous century we shall do well to seek for a coming together of faith and science. They belong together. There does not need to be conflict, whatever the differences of opinion may be. Martin Flanagan, a journalist commenting on the funeral of Princess Diana, saw the cross as a recurring symbol. He thought it represented an act of absurd romanticism. Yet, he says, 2000 years afterwards we cannot rid ourselves of the story or the idea that it offers an understanding of what it means to be human. Amid the mystery of infinity, space and time, this cross is the Gospel's offer made to a world about the one whom Paul describes as the visible expression of the invisible God, the upholding principle by which the whole universe coheres. \*



## Science and Faith

Science and faith are seen by some to be mutually exclusive. Scientists and members respond.

*A Clash of Cultures?*

*Isn't that a contradiction?*

*The Truth About Science*

*Geology and Creation*

*Open For Choices*

13

14

15

17

18

## News

*Big Bang as Science Meets Jesus*

*New Kitchen for Eatingest Church*

*College's First Year*

*Help us Lift a Cloud of Debt*

*Lorna Ellerby's Ninetieth*

*Community MOPS*

*Vic-Tas Church Planting Director*

*Appointed*

*Bethel Funerals*

*Holloway Hostel*

*More than just a Modern*

*Phenomenon*

5

6

6

7

7

7

9

11

11


12

19

## The Bible Code Con

Randy Edwards expresses serious concerns about a book that is sweeping the nation (and the world).

THE AUSTRALIAN



Christian

SUBSCRIPTION FORM PO BOX 101, NORTH ESSENDON 3041

NAME  
ADDRESS  
POSTCODE

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:\$ CHURCH

PAYMENT CAN BE MADE BY BANKCARD, VISA OR MASTERCARD

PLEASE CHARGE MY— ☐ BANKCARD ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD

NUMBER

EXPIRY DATE SIGNATURE

☐ NEW ☐ \$30 FULL YEAR ☐ \$8 REST OF YEAR

☐ RENEWAL ☐ \$59 TWO YEARS ☐ \$6 REST OF YEAR IF RECOMMENDED BY A SUBSCRIBER (NEW SUBS)

DONATION:\$ SUBSCRIBER

**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.**

## Spiritual Journeys

To the Editor,

Christian spirituality is about the discovery of God rather than the search. It is unfortunate that the contemporary church often limits its understanding of spirituality to internally-focussed piety, mysticism and ecstatic experience, to the neglect of aesthetics, creativity and self-fulfilment (defined as the awe that follows the transcending of one's own limitations).

The medieval church better understood the spiritual capacity of aesthetics, expressed in art, literature, architecture and music, to point us to the divine. I am grateful to Viney Longthorp for reminding us from time to time of the spiritual potential of good music ("AC" 16.8.97). It is said that when the theologian Karl Barth was writing *Church Dogmatics* he began each day with Mozart, followed by a prayer for forgiveness and guidance as he responded to the beauty of the music.

Of course spirituality is also about service. It is never an end in itself. This seems to be the point of several parables and incidents recorded in the Gospels.

—H.E. Hayward  
(Pymble, NSW)

## Spirituality

To the Editor,

Congratulations on the planning, preparation and presentation of this issue ("AC" 16 August) on such an important topic, on the

Great Quest—spirituality—which of course follows the Great Question ("Why am I here?"). I sincerely hope that the articles are carefully read by at least double your current number of subscribers!

Beyond the words written, the articles left me with a renewed sense of awe and a consciousness that to describe the dimensions of the quest for spirituality is like describing the love of God—it would seem to be of infinite depth, breadth, width and length, which should give you plenty of scope for future articles on the subject! It seemed to me that reading each contribution revealed an added dimension—Ruth's word pictures and instructions prompted by the psalms, the need to encounter the great otherness of God, made real by Michael, Roger's encouragement to explore the riches of encountering him through creative, meditative silence, and, completing the beautiful balance of the series, Ted's reminder that our psychological make up can exert a strong influence on the paths we personally prefer to follow in the Quest. I can see the potential for a number of future issues on the subject, leading to a useful study/reference book for theological students. Thanks to the planners and printers of the beautiful edition.

—Dr R.W. Corrie  
(Bellmere, QLD)

## Drug Abuse

To the Editor,

Illegal drug abuse concerns most Australians. They are also concerned about community leaders trying to solve this problem by giving drugs free to drug users or by legalising the drugs. How can treating those at the bottom of the barrel help to stop young people on the way to the bottom?

The most effective way to successfully tackle the problem is to



# Letters to the Editor

attack the drug pushers. Marijuana, LSD, heroin and ecstasy are freely available at most parties, night clubs, rave scenes, schools, railway stations and city streets. Our country is awash with illegal drugs. They are cheaper than buying spirits.

Every secondary school student knows who the drug pusher is in their school or where the local supplier can be contacted.

Long-term programs to build young people's resistance to taking drugs may be of some help, but, if everywhere they socialise drugs are available, they will have much difficulty in resisting.

Instead of spending millions of dollars on free drug trials and education, we should be spending much more on detection and punishment of drug pushers. Special drug squads should be established and carefully vetted to avoid corruption. There should be advertising campaigns to "dob in a drug pusher" and substantial rewards offered for information leading to the prosecution of major drug suppliers.

Only when drugs become unavailable will our young people become drug free. It is pointless spending millions of dollars on anti-drug campaigns while drug pushers rule our streets, schools and entertainment venues. Let's get serious!

—Barry Kearney  
(Ringwood, Vic)

you have guessed it wrong over these minor issues.

We as a nation and as Christians face far greater challenges. As another letter in the same issue by Max Collyer said, social justice questions have to be taken up by the church more than ever, now that governments are relinquishing their obligations to the poor, the homeless, the unemployed, the aged, people in third-world countries, and our own Aborigines struggling for recognition. Jesus directed us this way (Matthew 25) and we must take up the challenge. Heaven knows, in these days of economic rationalism it may only be the church left

fighting for these people. There was one positive in Mr Luxton's letter—if I believe what the CSF

believe, God will pay off my house. Wow!

—G. Clarke  
(Croydon, Vic)

## Update

Dear readers,

In some brief reading of past volumes of the paper I have been interested to see how previous Editors handled significant historical events of their time. One of the most impressive was the death of King George V.

There were numerous comments and reports of how State Conferences recognised the event with great solemnity. Since our last issue we have experienced the deaths of Princess Diana and Mother Teresa. Included in this issue is a reflection by Kim Thoday on Princess Diana.

Science and Faith is the theme of this issue. Our cover photograph of the Sombrero Galaxy was photographed by David Malin. We are pleased to welcome the contribution of four of our members to this theme. David Wilkinson, our fifth contributor, from England, is an astrophysicist and author whose books are all available in Australia. They should be most stimulating for both general and technical readers.

We continue to experience space problems of a different kind, with the amount of material coming to hand. Not everything submitted can be used, but please don't let that deter you. The Pamphlet Club insert in this issue is sponsored by the National Literature Department. New subscriptions are arriving almost daily. We welcome our new readers. We hope that there are many more to come and encourage every church to continue to keep promoting the paper to their members. We can supply additional sample copies. One of our Queensland churches showed initiative by photocopying our promotional poster on one side of a locally prepared application form and enlarging the subscription form appearing on page 3 for use on the other side. It all helps!

### Church of Christ Montrose

1877–1997

Saturday 25 October

Tea 6.30 pm

followed by

"Stories Through  
the Decades"

narrated by Janet Thompson

Sunday 26 October

Morning Tea 9.45 am

followed by

Family Worship 11.00 am

Speaker: Dr Greg Elsdon

Join us in celebration

RSVP 3 October

Gwenda Rogers

(03) 9728 2121

### Priorities

To the Editor,

What a naive man you are Mr Luxton ("AC" 2.8.97), sucked in by an American money-making scam. Does it really matter that much how old the earth is, if Noah's Ark existed or if the Bible has been put down word for word as God dictated it? One day we will all know, and I pity you if your God is going to send you to hell if

### Pontius' Puddle





# Big Bang as Science Meets Jesus

Australian conference on science and Christianity

The Conference on Science and Christianity (COSAC 97), held at Moore College, NSW, 11-13 July, provided an unprecedented opportunity for over 120 scientists, theologians and teachers to consider the implications of modern scientific research and thinking for the presentation of the Christian gospel in our contemporary age.

The essential content of the gospel, as we were reminded, is unchanging, but the issues which occupy the minds of thinking people will inevitably differ from time to time.

We are continually bombarded with assertions about the origin of the universe. What was interesting in this conference was the attention paid to its end.

The keynote speaker, who delivered four addresses under the general heading of "Theology and

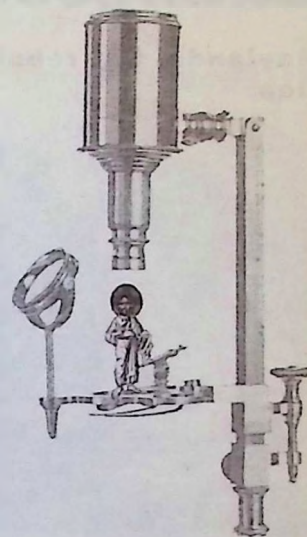
Science in Creative Mutual Interaction", was Dr Robert Russell, director and theologian in-residence at the Centre for Theology and the Natural Sciences, Berkeley, California. Dr Russell is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, but is also by training a theoretical physicist and cosmologist.

He pointed to the increasing interest in cosmological questions in both scientific and theological circles, and discussed various ways in which the two approaches could be related, saying the idea that science and Christianity must necessarily be in conflict is out-of-date.

That God has acted to create the universe, and now acts to sustain it, lies at the heart of Christian theology. The universe is contingent, dependent on the will of God for its existence and continuance.

It is, however, reasonable to be curious about the way in which God has chosen to act to bring about the universe as it is, and to attempt to predict its future behaviour. We know that its continued existence is dependent upon the will of God; but that is no reason why we should not seek to investigate future scenarios. We believe that God is immanent in nature, so that what happens is in accordance with his nature and purpose. As long as the world endures in its present form, the redemptive purposes of God remain and will be carried out as he has revealed in the Scriptures.

The COSAC president, Professor John White, Dean of the Research School of Chemical Science of the Australian National University, summed up by saying, "We have learned the following three things: we have a faith by which



we can guide our lives; we have the book of nature which (as scientists) we love to study; there are models of nature which are pleasant to study, and others which are shocking to us. We should think about the end things as well as the beginnings, and we should challenge the sense of certainty which many people have in relation to Western science. Let the discussions continue."

—Alan Friend

Article and image courtesy *Southern Cross*, used with permission.

## Templestowe Orchards Retirement Village

established by the Templestowe Baptist Church, is a resident-funded village with 44 independent-living units and 53 luxury fully-serviced apartments, offering mature residents the security, comfort, support and companionship of a caring environment.

Situated in an established residential area, we provide:

- \* 24-hour staffing and emergency call system
- \* respite care
- \* quality personal care for all Village residents
- \* dining room where freshly-prepared meals are served daily
- \* mini bus for shopping trips and outings
- \* regular social activities and entertainment
- \* many other quality features.

**Fully Serviced Apartment Now Available**



Templestowe Orchards Retirement Village  
107 Andersons Creek Road  
Doncaster East Vic 3109.

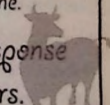
Melway Ref: Map 34 E7  
A ministry of Templestowe Baptist Church.  
Telephone (03) 9842 8433 to arrange a visit or further information.

## Farming ... A walk through life with uncle Reg

88-page life experience,  
humour, common sense, with a  
Christian theme.

Marvellous response  
from readers.

\$28 post paid in Australia  
Reg Broad, PO Box 409,  
Bendigo Vic 3552.





## New Kitchen for Eatingest Church

**Maylands, SA, rebuilds failing facilities**



After 88 years the fabric had crumbled: an outside wall was giving way; an interior wall between two kitchens had a crack that people could see through, the cupboards were falling off the wall and people were starting to go through the white-anted floor. A rebuild was urgent. A \$30,000 project by the Maylands, SA, church has ensured the church has a new kitchen.

The figure excludes the thousands of dollars in volunteer labour. The new work is the first stage of a master plan.

An American visitor once called Maylands "the eatingest church I've ever experienced". The church supplies a light three-course luncheon each week for \$3, a program that began almost ten years ago.

Aimed at a number of people who live on their own, and who otherwise would worship and go home to eat on their own, the luncheon also provides for couples and families.

Some people are probably in the church today because of this luncheon program.

The kitchen also caters for dinners, pre-church and after-church cuppas, the weekly Friendship Centre, and meals that often form part of evening services.

Much of the building work was sub-contracted, under the leadership of property convenor Mark Johnson. Volunteers demolished walls and cleaned bricks. Funds were raised by donations and a number of fund-raising events.

The kitchen was dedicated following a recent morning service, and a church-wide pooled luncheon celebrated the occasion.

### Strack Removals

Removals—Storage—  
Packing—Planos  
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"

## College's First Year

**Joint venture provides training options in Perth**

In January 1997 South Perth Christian College (a ministry centre of the Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College, under a co-operative agreement with the Churches of Christ in WA Ministry Training Centre) started operating at South Perth Church of Christ. This has enabled students to study for ministry at a Church of Christ College, while staying in their own Church in WA. Dr Keith Farmer taught the first course and since then students have studied a variety of courses under lecturers coming from Queensland, NSW, Victoria and Perth.

One student commented, "It is a real privilege to study the material we do under the quality of lecturer we have." So far we have had over 60 different students from a variety of churches in the city and country, doing one or more of the courses. Seventeen are heading towards a Bachelor of Theology Degree, with the remainder being casual students. The intentional character development (mentoring, spiritual formation, integration and practical ministry supervision) built into the training, has

added much to the students' lives. We are excited about the future as we see people equipped and mobilised for ministry in a variety of situations.

For further information call the College Coordinator, David Stanford, on (08) 93131600.

### Here and There

#### Bible Cited to Close Day Care

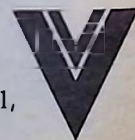
A Baptist church in Arkansas closed its day care centre because the church board believes God wants women to stay at home. Twenty-seven children were left without day care. The church wrote to parents stating that it is sensitive to the needs of single parents, but could not keep the centre open because it encouraged mothers to be employed outside the home. Families could get by one salary if they gave up "Big TVs, a microwave, new clothes, eating out and nice vacations." Titus 2:5 was quoted, referring to "women as keepers at home". The Human Services Department granted the First Christian Church in the area a permit to establish a new centre. (*Christian Century*)

### Churches of Christ in Australia National Literature Department

#### Field Representative—Marketing

Enquiries and applications are invited for the position of a field representative to market the Department's increasing range of publications to wholesale, retail and local church outlets.

An initial period of six months is envisaged on a paid one day per week basis. Experience in marketing is preferred. For details, contact the Department (03) 9379 1219 or PO Box 101, Essendon North Vic 3041.





## Lorna Ellerby's Ninetieth

**Well done, faithful servant**

A special feature of a recent morning service of the Metro North Christian Centre, NSW, (formerly known as Hornsby and Thornleigh Churches of Christ) was the celebration of the ninetieth birthday (on 16 July) of Lorna Ellerby.

Lorna's association with the church dates back to 28 May 1922 when she was baptised by Mr Childs. In February 1928 Lorna married Roy Bishop, who died in 1974. They had five children, and today there are 13 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. In December 1975 Lorna married John Ellerby. Lorna has been active in every part of church life and well known for her hospitality for many who visited the



*Lorna Ellerby*

church. She was church treasurer and organist for over 30 years. Her contribution to church life cannot easily be summed up in words but we can say, "Well done thou good and faithful servant of the Lord."

## Help us Lift a Cloud of Debt

**Appeal for funds for NSW College**

The Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College is launching an urgent appeal for funds to meet the current debt.

This will ensure our quality training program is unaffected by sudden changes in our financial situation.

Our current student numbers are healthier than ever before. However, advances in our training mean that students are now taking longer to do their course, due in part to becoming more involved in local church ministry during training. This reduces the income

for the College without reducing our costs. This has created our current budget problem.

It has been many years since the College has appealed for donations. Action has been taken to cut costs this year and to plan for this trend in future years. But funds are urgently required to meet the needs of today.

A response brochure is available giving you the opportunity to help the College out at this most important time in our history. Please give generously, and help us lift the cloud of debt. Thank you.

## Community MOPS

**Local service organisation helps with equipment for new program**



(L to R) Deborah Burford (MOPS Coordinator), Kira-Lee Godfrey, Ted Keating (Senior Minister, who wouldn't allow Brian Bruce to be in the photo), Grace Ferguson, Mike Ferry (a worshipper at the church and a member of the Unanderra Rotary Club), Colin Eppe (President of the Unanderra Rotary Club) and Nicholas Marzano.

Thank you Unanderra Rotary Club. After hearing that the Wollongong Church of Christ was about to start a MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) program, they decided that this was a great community initiative to support. Their gift of \$4,000 and the "foreman" talents of associate minister, Brian Bruce, ensured a wonderful playground that assists

the MOPS and PlayTime program.

MOPS at Wollongong now has over 60 mothers and 144,000 children (it seems like) enrolled!

"It is an exciting contact with the community and provides a wonderful service for the community as well," said Deborah Burford, the MOPS Coordinator.

The Wollongong Church of Christ is hosting a Seminar 1-2 November where Carol Kuykendall of MOPS International will be the guest speaker. This will be most suitable for churches wanting to develop a family ministry. Inquiries to Deborah, (02) 4226 5022.

(Photo courtesy of the Wollongong Advertiser)

**L. C. F. Higgins**

**7 The Parade  
Norwood SA 5067  
Phone (08) 8362 1665**


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



**Chartered Accountant**

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



**BEAR'S**  Free quotes • Packing Insurance • Storage  
7 Swift Way, Dandenong Vic 3175  
**Moving and Storage Pty Ltd.**  
Member of the VRTA  
Twice weekly to Qld (03) 9706 5616

*Introduce someone to  
an "Australian Christian".*

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

**Sunday**  
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship & Communion  
7:00 p.m. Services:  
Gospel Celebration

**Wednesday**  
1.15-1.45 p.m. Lunchtime Service  
For further enquiries, please ring (03) 9663 3884

## Balaklava Church of Christ

**120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Sunday 12 October 1997, 9.30 am**

**Theme: Striving for Excellence**

**Guest speaker: Steve Blacket**

**Venue: Balaklava Town Hall, SA**

For further information, ring Grant Spangenberg  
on (08) 8862 1807, or after hours on (08) 8862 1729.

## Oakleigh Church of Christ

Cnr Warrigal & Willesden Roads, Oakleigh, Vic

will celebrate its

**81<sup>st</sup> year of witness**

at

**10.00 am Sunday 12 October 1997**

You are invited to share in this anniversary which will be  
followed by a light luncheon.

**Guest speaker:** Charles Bayer  
visiting lecturer at CCTC

**Guest soloist:** Geraldine Morrow

**Replies to:** Dorothy Nash (03) 9579 3809  
Freda Fraser (03) 9568 7555

**MUMMY, IF WE  
CAN'T SEE GOD,  
HOW CAN WE FIND HIM?**

"Where in the World is God?"  
introduces your child to  
the personal experience of  
discovering God.



**BONUS Growth  
Chart Offer**  
Details inside book

**DOESN'T  
ANYONE  
WANT  
TO HEAR WHAT  
I DID  
TODAY?**

"Will anyone listen to  
me?" introduces  
your child to the  
personal experience  
of Prayer.



**BONUS Wall  
Calendar Offer**  
Details inside book

Two new children's picture books created by Michelle and Paul Andrews.

**Vital  
OF  
Kids**

**VITAL  
PUBLICATIONS**

P.O. BOX 101, NORTH  
ESSENDON, VIC 3040  
TEL: (03) 9375 1219  
FAX: (03) 9375 0515

Name   
Address   
Postcode  Telephone   
Payment ☐ Cheque ☐ Money Order ☐ Visa ☐ Bankcard ☐ Mastercard  
Card no.   
Signature  Expiry date

**I would like to order**

— Copies of "Where in the World is God?" @ \$3.95ea —

— Copies of "Will Anyone Listen to Me?" @ \$3.95ea —

Postage and Handling —

Total —

Current Postage & Handling Charges (Australia)  
\$1 per book. Maximum charge \$6



## Vic-Tas Church Planting Director Appointed

**Milton Oliver at the cutting edge**

Milton Oliver, Senior Pastor of the Sunbury Community Church, Vic, has been appointed Director for Church Planting in Victoria-Tasmania.

In April 1991 Milton pioneered the Sunbury church and led it in sustained and unprecedented (in Vic-Tas) growth. The congregation is now about 400,

most of whom are from un-churched backgrounds. There were 45 baptisms last year and 22 so far this year! In 1995, Sunbury planted a new church



*Milton Oliver*

in Roxburgh Park and is planning another later this year in Melton.

Milton's role as Director will be to coach existing church planters, to coordinate a network and to facilitate ongoing relationships among church planters. He will manage conference resources under his portfolio and liaise with other appropriate agencies within and outside conference. The position is part-time and Milton will operate from his church base at Sunbury. This is in line with the Division of Mission and Revitalisation's policy of being actively engaged in mission work at the cutting edge.

It is believed that Milton's unique skills and the unre-served passion he brings to the task will result in an increase in the number of new churches and a growing support and networking of the current church planting program. Church planting is the strategic area of mission focus as we hurtle towards the new millennium.

—Alan Hirsch.

### More About Effective Family Ministries

1 November 9.00 am - 2 November 4.00 pm



#### A Seminar for Church Leaders, Ministers and those involved in Children's & Family Ministries

**Keynote Speaker**  
**Carol Kuykendall**  
Vice President MOPS International

Seminar fee \$45  
Disc. \$10 each for 5 or more  
Child minding \$4 per day

Carol Kuykendall is a writer and Vice President of Communications Ministries at MOPS International (Mothers Of Pre-Schoolers) in Denver, Colorado. An outreach ministry that encourages mothers of young children. She has written several books on parenting issues and family transitions. Carol has also taught classes and retreats around the country for many years, and has appeared on the Today Show(USA) and Hour Magazine.

Carol graduated from the University of Colorado with a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism, and lives in Boulder, Colorado with her husband, Lynn. They are members of First Presbyterian Church in Boulder, and have three grown children, Derek, Lindsay, and Kendall.

#### Program Features

Carol Kuykendall will be speaking on "Why MOPS should be part of your Church Ministry", "The Value of a Mother" and "What Every Child Needs"

There will be practical Workshops for MOPS Leaders

This Seminar will help your Church take positive steps into the future

Many growing Churches are rediscovering the importance of Children's and Family Ministries

Ministers and Church Leaders from around Australia will share aspects of successful Family Ministries

The "Ministry to Children" is becoming a greater feature of stalling in larger Churches

*Please Contact us for further information and Registration Forms*

Wollongong Church of Christ, O'Briens Rd, Figtree NSW 2525, Australia.  
Ph: (02) 4226 5022 Fax: (02) 4228 3828 E-mail: wgongcoc@magna.com.au



Health Care in Christ is sponsoring:  
**A four-day course for ministers,  
 counsellors and health carers**

## “Equipped to heal”

Evangelism, Healing  
and Deliverance, 1997



**Speakers:** Peter and Fiona Horrobin and a team  
from Ellet International Ministries

**3-6 December 1997**  
 Sydney CLC, 188 Young St, Waterloo, NSW

**This course will inspire and equip you  
to minister in healing power to a lost world.**

“I can honestly say it was a week where God moved in  
the most amazing way and has changed my life.”  
*Participant in the 1996 course.*

For information phone/fax  
 Health Care in Christ (02) 9365 7137.

CCTC



*Every year CCTC host their annual  
 Spring Festival of Arts and Crafts*

*Friday 10 October, from 4.00 pm to 9.00 pm &  
 Saturday 11 October from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm  
 At the Churches of Christ Theological College  
 40-60 Jacksons Rd, Mulgrave, Vic  
 Entrance opposite gate 6 AFL Park  
 Melway map reference 80K3*

*featuring quality craft stalls, craft demonstrations, light refreshments and  
 cuisine, children's activities and school arts competition.*

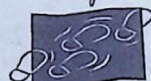
*For additional information call Colleen on (03) 9790 1000 (B11)*

*signed Pro Hart print*

*assorted quality items*

*James Hird football jumper*

**Auction**  
 7.00 pm Friday night



**Auction**  
 7.00 pm Friday night

**S P R I N G F E S T I V A L**

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY WORKERS COMPENSATION DIRECTOR'S AND OFFICER'S LIABILITY

## CHURCHES OF CHRIST PROVIDENT FUND-NO. 1 FUND

announces the appointment  
 of  
**Rupert Taylor Insurance Consultant Pty. Ltd.**  
 as  
 Insurance Consultant Coordinator

The purpose of this appointment is to raise funds by way of “commissions” on insurance transactions. All policies will be underwritten by **QBE Insurance Limited**, a wholly owned Australian underwriter, where the premiums and profits remain in Australia. QBE has branches in every capital city and many major country towns where a fast claims service is provided.

All churches, conference committees and facilities, together with church members are invited to seek quotations *when you receive your next current renewal notice*. Simply telephone Rupert Taylor on the toll-free number, i.e.

**1800 023 270**

Rupert Taylor has been acting as insurance advisor to the Churches of Christ in NSW for over forty-five years and has been instrumental in raising well over \$1,000,000 in commissions that have gone into the Lord's work. Your insurance transactions can be of assistance to the Churches of Christ Provident Fund-No. 1 Fund. Accordingly we invite all ministers, church and conference officers as well as church members *who are not committed to other worthy causes* to seek professional advice on their insurance transactions from Rupert Taylor. By doing so you may save on premiums, you will keep your insurance premiums in Australia and you will assist the work of the Churches of Christ Provident Fund-No. 1 Fund.

Jim Ashley  
 Secretary

Nicole McGing  
 Office Manager

PUBLIC LIABILITY PRODUCTS LIABILITY VOLUNTARY WORKERS COVER BURGLARY MONEY LOSS



## Bethel Funerals

**Christian funeral service to aid mission**

Twenty years ago Wycliffe Bible translators set up an investment company, Word Investments Ltd. Many supporters of Wycliffe have invested capital in this company and the return on funds invested is distributed to various missionary projects.

It has become increasingly difficult for churches to be supporting other than their own ministries.

In response to a growing need for finance for workers involved in Christian ministries in Australia, it was decided to research ways in which some non-profit business operation might help subsidise the income for such workers.

As a way to increase the availability of funds to missionaries working with Wycliffe Bible Translators, Caleb Institute and other Christian organisations, and, at the same time, have a ministry to individuals and the church, the Board of Word Investments Ltd looked at the concept of setting up a Christian Funeral Service.

Bethel Funerals, located in Blackburn, Vic, is the outcome of these considerations. It is a not-



*Doug Carr, formerly of Swanston St Church of Christ, Vic, now supporting mission with Bethel Funerals*

for-profit company and after costs have been met, remaining funds will be disbursed for selected ministries and mission work.

The staff comprises Rod Veal and Doug Carr, with the assistance of casual and part-time personnel. Doug's background is in missions and pastoral service. He is a member of the Swanston Street, Melbourne, Church of Christ and was previously a member of the church's ministry team.

### Here and There Collection Raffle

The sweet Heaven Holy Church of God, in Carrollton, Virginia, USA, has come up with a novel way to attract the unchurched. Visitors who put money in the collection plate receive a ticket with a number on it. At the end of the service the lucky number is announced and the winner receives \$100 from the collection plate. (*Southern Cross*)

### Craft Fete

**Ringwood Church of Christ  
Saturday 25 October  
9.00 am - 1.00 pm**

If you would like to have a stall at our craft market, please call Ronda Clarke  
(03) 9899 1914 (W),  
(03) 9725 2733 (H).

**\$10.00 per table.**

## Holloway Hostel

**New hostel commemorates dedicated servants**

As I grow older, I find myself remembering the countless number of church members and ministers who have been colleagues in worship and service in churches, on departments and committees.

Among them I recall with thanksgiving the Holloway Family, Mr and Mrs George Holloway and their daughter Betty, now Mrs Robert Sercombe, senior.

It was in the 1920s that my mother and Mr & Mrs Holloway became friends at the Carnegie, Vic, church.

Because he was a butcher by trade, the Holloway family moved to a variety of places. Yet when there was a crisis in our home the Holloways were there to comfort, advise and encourage us.

During what is now known as the polio epidemic, they insisted that our mother take my brother and I to Barham, NSW where we spent several months away from the affected area.

I saw this wonderful couple as images of the Master whom they both loved to serve.

Recently I was invited by The Keilor Hostel for the Aged Association to attend the opening of "Holloway Hostel" The letter of invitation explained, "The Churches of Christ Community Care manage the hostel on behalf of the Keilor Hostel for the Aged Association Inc. Their philosophy complements that of this Board; that the residents live in an environment which is as homelike as possible; which enhances their independence; and which supports them with the care they need."

At the opening service I learned that the vision to build a hostel in Keilor was conceived by Robert



*Robert Sercombe MHR with Trevor Giles Director of Vic-Tas Community Care at the opening of Holloway Hostel*

Sercombe MHR who gathered a group of local citizens together. This committee worked hard, raised finance and with the support of some service clubs and local organisations built the hostel.

After interviewing representatives from various organisations, the committee selected the Churches of Christ Community Care Department as hostel managers.

When determining a name for the hostel Mr Sercombe related how his grandmother Mrs Holloway had been involved for many years with the Women's Committees of the Social Service Department of Churches of Christ in the earlier days of the establishment of our work among the aged.

It is so appropriate that the hostel commemorates the name of one who gave so much in service to Christ and his church.

—Clive Ward



# More than just a Modern Phenomenon

KIM THODAY

**T**he tragic death of Princess Diana has affected most people I know in some way. It has sent shock waves around the world. Her life certainly touched millions. Just as many of us may remember where we were and what we were doing when other significant people died, such as JFK, Martin Luther King Jr and John Lennon, so we will have such memories over

*Diana symbolised hope, justice and self-giving—characteristics that speak to the very depths of our souls.*

Diana's death. As some observers have rightly said, this global grief for such people is a modern phenomenon. Grief by such masses of people has much to do with the media and modern technologies that bring us vivid images and detailed bulletins.

Because of satellite technology, TV, radio, newspapers and magazines, celebrities become part of our daily living. It is little wonder then, that when such a leader or celebrity is taken tragically, many of us experience this as intimate loss. \* However, I believe that the grief for Princess Diana and other great figures goes beyond the technological explanation. It is as much, if not more to do with our recognition that a person such as Diana symbolised hope, justice and self-giving—characteristics that speak to the very depths of our souls. We see in her a glimpse of something that is rare in public life. This "something" I would argue is the spirit of Christ that lies latent within all creation. Diana tapped that source and made it explicit. Her death, therefore, had a deeply dislocating effect. When King was assassinated many blacks around the world felt as though their quest for civil rights had been dealt a definitive blow. In many ways it had been. With Diana's untimely death, similar feelings will surface. Deep theological questions will be asked, such as, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" \* There are some parallels, I think, between Princess Diana

and Jesus of Nazareth. Both were born on the "wrong side". Both did not quite fit the monarchical system. One observer has eloquently said that Diana was like a comet that flashed across the stuffy sky of royalty. Jesus, who after his death and resurrection was given royal titles, was rejected in his earthly time as a King. Diana in many ways was also rejected by the system. While it would not be healthy to think that she was without some serious flaws, nevertheless it does appear that she was treated badly by the royal establishment. \* History shows that people with integrity, compassion and vulnerability are often treated poorly by those in power. Those who become a thorn in the side of the elite often pay for their humanity, sometimes with their lives. In a sense Diana's life and death epitomises this truth. We sometimes refer to a life such as hers as "a Greek tragedy". \* Like Jesus, Diana also worked for justice and stood up for "the underdog". Perhaps one real difference between them, however, is that Jesus also lived alongside the outcasts and the poor. Nonetheless, Princess Diana's work for the abolition of



landmines, her advocacy for AIDS sufferers and her various other humanitarian projects will last as a testimony to a hope—a God-inspired hope—that all the principalities and powers cannot extinguish; not even death itself. Well we may grieve, but the Christian story reminds us that God always has the last word—that out of tragedy can emerge new hope. As Christians we recognise this most clearly in the resurrection of Jesus. \* The non-conformity, love and compassion of Diana will live on in new and powerful ways despite her death. In this we draw strength to continue our work for peace, justice and salvation ... in Jesus' name. \* Kim is the minister of the Hewitt Community Church of Christ, SA

## Visiting Canberra? Stay with a Church Family

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

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

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

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

Advance bookings appreciated

## LANGFORD CONSTRUCTIONS

**RBP**



Reg. Building Pract. DB-UI2054

Specialists in  
Restorations & Extensions

**(03)9888 6458**

12 Albert Street, Surrey Hills Vic 3127

or **0412 276 170**



# Science

## A Clash of Cultures?

GRAHAME CROWHURST

**S**ometimes, when your mind is wandering, you might find yourself thinking back to your school days. If you're like most, you will probably be remembering incidents and people (your successes, injustices you suffered, friendships you made) rather than the things you learned. \* I hadn't been teaching science for long, when I realised that my students would not remember very much of the knowledge I taught them. Strangely enough, I didn't find this disheartening, because

*I do not believe Christianity is an unreasonable faith, and so science in no way excludes it.*

I started to realise they would remember things that were far more important: for instance, some of the skills in problem solving they had practised. But also they would remember some things about me: my attitudes to science and to them. \*

In fact, I think most of us remember the way (good or bad) in which our teachers related to us—and how they inspired us, if we were lucky enough to have teachers like that—a lot longer than we remember the things that they taught us. And that is the reason why I enjoy teaching so much. It's an opportunity to have an effect on people's lives ... a chance to get them excited about ideas and to inspire them. In this way, there are a lot of similarities between my role as a teacher, and my role as a minister. \*

However, I am often asked whether I have difficulties in reconciling science

with faith. Interestingly, the people who ask me these questions may be people with religious belief or not, but rarely are they people who have a scientific background. Perhaps this is because science has a way of opening people's eyes to just how intricate, immense and awe-inspiring the universe is. To me, the universe which science helps reveal is a reflection of the God of the universe, not a competing attraction. \*

Whether I am teaching about the huge distances involved in astronomy, the microscopic world of cells or the fascinating intricacy of reproduction (a great subject for a Christian to teach, because many issues about relationships and beliefs often arise), I try to encourage the students to see themselves as being on a voyage of discovery. As Hopkins put it: "the world is charged with the grandeur of God". For me, my understanding of science strengthens my experience of God. \* The scientific approach of solving problems using logical and analytical methods is not in opposition to faith. In fact, with the rise in our society of all sorts of alternative belief systems, from the very fundamentalist to the very new age, a rational approach is as valuable as ever. I do not believe Christianity is an unreasonable faith, and so science in no way excludes it. \*

It seems to me that clashes between science and religion often happen when people become slaves to dogma—scientific dogma or religious dogma—rather than seeking to ask questions. So when apparent clashes occur in the classroom, I believe that it is important to provide a forum for the students' points of view. After all, students (like adults) will be more open to a Christian who will listen to them than one who wants to ear bash them. And they



will be more likely to ask questions that lead to faith. This really does happen. I felt very privileged to be contacted recently by an ex-student of mine who told me that, after she left school, she had become a Christian. And she rang me because I was one of the first Christians she had ever met. In class she was always asking excellent questions and, after she left school, she kept right on asking them! \*

The sorts of questions which science provokes are often the big questions like, "Why do we exist?" or "Why does the universe exist?", which almost inevitably leads to questions about God. These sorts of questions lead both to creativity in science and to a willingness to explore, understand and seek faith. If students catch the spirit of the quest in science, I think they are well on the road to seeking the Spirit of the God who is its author. \*

Grahame Crowhurst has been a teacher of physics, chemistry and science for the past eleven years in the state and Catholic education systems in NSW, and in England. In the last two years he has been working as a part-time teacher and a part-time minister at Northside Community Church, Sydney, as well as studying at the Churches of Christ Theological College, Carlingford.



# Science

## Isn't that a contradiction?

AMANDA GILL

**T**hat was the question my GP asked me when he found out I was giving up science to train for the ministry. He knew that I had a doctorate in Medical Biology, had worked in research overseas and done some teaching at our local university. Now that I am over half way through my Bachelor of Theology, our scientific friends who are not Christians are starting to ask "What is Mandy going to do when she finishes her degree?" as though the obvious answer—be a minister—is unthinkable. \*

*"Nature" found that approximately 40% of scientists believe in a personal God, a figure which has not changed since 1916.*

But the confusion is not just on the side of the scientists. At college I have had many people who have been shocked to find one of their fellow students was once a research scientist and were even more shocked to find that I was a Christian at the same time as being a scientist. Am I a freak then? \*

Not according to the very prestigious scientific journal *Nature*. In April this year they published a survey on the religious beliefs of scientists and found that approximately 40% of scientists believe in a personal God, a figure which has not changed since 1916. \*

So how then do the two fields combine for scientific Christians like myself? Very well by my experience. As a scientist, when I discovered something no

one had known before, or read about an interesting discovery someone else had made, I was often amazed by the

*Many were shocked to find that I was a Christian at the same time as being a scientist. Am I a freak then?*

complexity and order of the created world. No matter how much someone finds out in one particular area, it seemed that there was always a new subtle twist or another layer of complexity which could be added to the story. The more in-depth I look, the clearer it becomes that none of this could have happened by accident. It is all so beautifully complex and exciting and works so well! To me it is like being invited into the creative mind of God, only to be overwhelmed by it's greatness and my inability to comprehend it. Studying the Bible in depth for my college assignments now, I often have a similar experience. It seems as I learn more about God, the picture I have of him becomes increasingly complex, unfathomable, and yet amazingly wonderful. So it does not surprise me when Paul comments in Romans 1:20 that "since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse". \*

So why is it that people see science and religion as being opposed to one another? Perhaps because more than at



any other time we live in the age of specialisation, separation and individualisation. Not that long ago all university degrees included the study of science, philosophy and religion. Now we separate religion from science and politics, feelings from knowledge, people from community, spiritual from physical and emotional, religion from education and social welfare, and we seem to have lost the idea that our faith can and should be part of everything in which we are involved. Just as when he was here on earth, Christ belongs and can fit in to every aspect of life. Jesus' words and actions demonstrated that he understood the lives, thoughts and feelings of fishermen and chief priests, lepers and rulers, so please don't sell Christ short by separating religion and science. Scientists are people just like you ("When you cut us do we not bleed?") and they need to have Christian friends who can show them God's love. Try to understand scientists so you can talk to them and understand your own faith well so you can take it confidently into any arena. You, the world and the church will be all the better for it! \*

Amanda Gill is a member of our Wollongong, NSW, church.



# Science

## The Truth About Science

DAVID WILKINSON

**I**t's not often that you get to debate the Christian faith, in six minutes, with the Vice President of the Humanist Society on national radio! I had been asked to speak about how science and faith helped each other and Professor Lewis Wolpert was there to oppose me. I had heard that he ate Christians for breakfast—but at least it was teatime! \*

His argument was a simple one. "Science is about reason, while religion is just about faith." \*

He was setting up faith against reason—science only involves reason and

*I had heard that he ate Christians for breakfast—but at least it was teatime!*

therefore it alone must be true. So according to Professor Wolpert it made no sense to be a scientist and a Christian—the two were always in conflict. Science and religion were a little like Mike Tyson and Frank Bruno, that is a conflict where there is only going to be one winner! \*

Unfortunately, many Christians accept such a conflict model, although they back a different winner. "Faith" is supreme and if science seems to contradict it, then science is simply wrong. Such a view has given many Christians a very negative picture of science as the arch enemy of Christianity. It has also left many scientists who are Christians feeling embarrassed and isolated concerning their work and vocation. \*

But this is far from the truth of the matter. This widely believed conflict model is a modern myth. It is attractive in its simplicity, but far from con-

vincing in its detail. The simple fact is that the vast majority of leading scientists were not atheists, rather that many of them were committed Christians. Indeed many of them from the founders of the Royal Society through to Michael Faraday saw their work as having a Christian motivation. They were "thinking God's thoughts after him". Over the famous Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge were inscribed the words from Psalms 111:2: "Great are the works of the Lord, they are pondered by all who take delight in them." \*

Some say that that was all in the past. While Rob Frost and I toured the UK with the presentation, *The Truth About Science*, we heard of a biology teacher who stated to Rob's son that of course no leading scientist today was a Christian! Yet night after night we were joined on stage by some of the foremost names in British science, all of whom are evangelical Christians. Professor Derek Burke told us of his work on the commission that cleared genetically engineered tomato puree, Professor Colin Humphreys spoke about his work in medical engineering, Sir Robert Boyd told us of his role in shaping British space science, Professor Sam Berry told us of his work in genetics and Sir John Houghton spoke with the authority of one of the world's leading environmental scientists. All shared a deep faith and an excitement with the gift that God has given us in science. I wish we could have taken them all to meet the biology teacher. \*

It is simply untrue to portray science and Christianity in total conflict. Both faith and reason are involved in both science and Christianity. Reason and evidence are at the heart of biblical Christianity, for God has revealed himself within the space-time history of the



universe in a way we can understand. Christianity is not mindless belief with no evidence. Biblical faith is trust on the basis of evidence—primarily the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. In a similar way scientists themselves use faith, in that they make judgments on the basis of evidence. \* Rather than being in conflict, the two are complementary. The picture is more like Shearer and Sherringham working together in partnership. They have different roles in exploring the Universe but often interact together. As a professional astrophysicist, I found science helping me to understand how the universe worked, while at the same time my Christian faith giving natural answers to questions which science raised but was unable to answer: \*

### **What is the Purpose of the Universe?**

Although science may tell us how the universe came into being, it does not answer the question why? The two are different. Science can tell me how a kettle boils in terms of heat energy, the velocity of water molecules and how bubbles form. But science does not tell me why it is boiling in terms of whether I should make coffee or tea. Furthermore, in a universe made up of more stars than grains of sand on the beaches, what is the significance of humanity? Is there any purpose to our



# Science

existence? Such questions lie beyond science, but not Christianity. \*

In fact, more and more scientists are recognising this. Although some have interpreted Stephen Hawking's best-seller, *A Brief History of Time* as somehow disproving God, this is not the case. Hawking clearly acknowledges that even if science gives a complete description of the early moments of the universe's history, the why question still remains. \*

*Sir Fred Hoyle ...  
stated that nothing  
had shaken his  
atheism as much as  
this discovery.*

## **Where do the Laws of Science Come From?**

One of the most awe-inspiring moments of my life came about on a wet Monday morning sitting in a lecture on the subject of electromagnetism. Not an obvious venue! But I saw written on the board for the first time Maxwell's theory of electromagnetism written in tensor form. So what, you might say! However, what I was seeing was a way of mathematically describing electricity and magnetism in an equation which was so small and elegant that it could be written on the back of my hand. When you start to think of all the ways that our lives are influenced by electricity, the question arises of how is it that underlying the complexity of the universe are such simple and elegant laws? Why is the universe so ordered that science itself is possible? \*

Science assumes that such an order underlies its laws, it cannot explain it.

And why can we understand the order? Einstein said, "The most incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it is comprehensible!" The Christian says that the laws of physics are a reflection of the faithfulness of God the law giver, and we can understand them because that same God underlies the rationality of our minds. \*

## **Why does the Universe Seem So Well Set Up for Life?**

Life in the Universe is only possible because of a number of very sensitive balances in the laws of physics. Over the last 30 years scientists have often been moved to ask the "why" question as we have discovered more. For example, if the energy levels in carbon and oxygen were only a fraction of a percent different to what they are, there would be no carbon in the Universe and therefore no you and me! Sir Fred Hoyle, who pioneered work in this area, stated that nothing had shaken his atheism as much as this discovery. \*

Now in the past Christians have tried to prove the existence of God by pointing to design in the universe. Such attempts failed miserably, which is not surprising as God is beyond human logic. However, it is clear that for some these pointers do raise the God question and Christians recognise God's careful creativity behind these balances. \*

## **How can we Know a Creator God?**

In stark contrast to the atheism of Richard Dawkins, many scientists in recent years have begun to recognise that science does not give us all the answers. Some have found pointers to God in the purpose of the universe, its laws and its balance. But how can this God be known? If I am driving and I see the car ahead slow quickly, how can I know the reason? It could be that the

driver is ill, or they have seen something on the roadside, or a Bob Dylan track is on the radio and they want to stop to give it (rightly!) their undivided attention! I can get some pointers by how quickly the car slows, and by looking myself at any circumstances around us. But I only get to truly know if the person steps out of the car and reveals the reason to me. The great truth of Christianity is that this God who creates and orders the universe, has stepped into our humanity in Jesus and reveals his truth to us. \*

In my own life, Christian faith did not come through the stars or even the laws of physics. These things have taught me about God's greatness and power, but little about whether this creator God can be known personally. It was only in an encounter with Jesus, both in history and experience, that I came to know the personal love of this creator God in relationship. \*

You can be a scientist and a Christian with integrity, because of Jesus. In fact, he is the place where the two things meet. For as Paul would say he is "the image of the invisible God" and "in him all things all hold together". The scientist in exploring the universe is exploring Jesus Christ. Science is a Christian activity and we should affirm it and enjoy it! \*

David Wilkinson has a PhD in theoretical astrophysics and is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. He is currently minister at Elm Hall Drive Methodist Church in Liverpool, England, and Chaplain at Liverpool University. He is author of "God, the Big Bang and Stephen Hawking" (Monarch, 1996), with Rob Frost "Thinking Clearly About God and Science" (Monarch, 1996), and "Alone in the Universe? The X-Files, Aliens and God". This article first appeared in "Idea Magazine" (Evangelical Alliance, UK) and is reproduced with permission.



# Science

## Geology and Creation

ALLAN WILSON

I quote from D.J. Wiseman's 1977 foreword to his republication of his father's (P.J.W.) *Creation Revealed in Six Days*, first published in 1948. "Reasons are given for [P.J. Wiseman's] firm view that the original text of the Bible never said that the world was created 'in six days'. In fact, Genesis uses the Hebrew word *bārā* 'create' very sparingly. It occurs in the first chapter of Genesis only three times. This is at the three major stages in the acts of

*The time-frame for this opening of the ocean is colossal and the age dating has confirmed this.*

God in Creation: (1) the creation of the inorganic earth (v. 1); (2) the creation of organic life (v. 21); and (3) the creation of man (v. 27)." \*

Elsewhere in Genesis, *asā* is used and can be translated as "make" (as a man makes a table out of wood). \*

The realisation that the Genesis account is based on the three doublets displays God as the sole Creator. This implies that the doublet days cannot be days of actual creation. Rather, it is a statement of what God had already done. \*

Surely, "In the beginning God..." can accommodate the fact that the Earth can be very old—about 4.6 billion years, and our planet is part of our universe, which is at least twice as old. \*

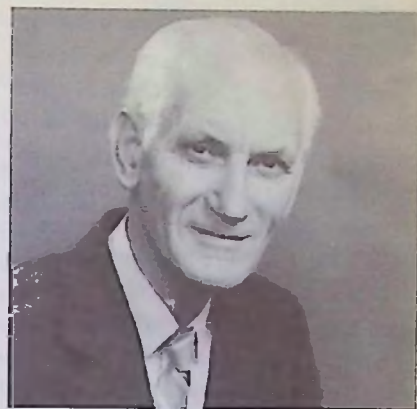
Why is it so important for us to know the age of rocks? The major use of the age of rocks is to build up a sequence of events in Earth history, and their

relationship to mineral and petroleum resources. I give two examples: \*

In the early 60s, my laboratory in Brisbane measured the age of a large number of granitic and other intrusions which occur within the ranges of eastern Australia. The potassium-argon ages show that several distinct groups of these intrusions revealed ages ranging from about 20 millions of years to about 600 millions of years, and older. These results revealed several of these groups are clearly related age-wise, and these turned out to be economically very valuable. \*

Second, in both 1965 and 1967, I was active in a UNESCO mineral "task force", first in West Africa, and later in Eastern Brazil. There we found part of the tin-bearing granites of Nigeria on a rocky coast in Brazil, about 4,900 km WSW of the Niger Delta (see illustration). The two continental blocks were forced apart from the volcanic Atlantic Ridge. The ocean is continually opening, currently at 38 mm per year. The time-frame for this opening of the ocean is colossal and the age dating has confirmed this. We now know that other oceans act similarly. Thus, geologists are now using this technique to find mineral deposits, perhaps thousands of kilometres away. \*

What are the implications for Christian belief for such mind-bewildering time frames in these global events? I believe that, in his own way and time, God has planned and set in motion, for his own reasons, the Earth and its place in our Solar System, and in our universe. We notice that the volcanic and mineral developing mountain chains between the Andes and the Pa-



cific Plate are very active today. This results from the continual forcing westward of South America to collide and react with the Pacific Plate. Thus, massive recycling of the elements is involved. \*

I believe that God, the Creator, so planned the interaction of the various forces focused on the solids, liquids and gases of the Earth, that his fantastically efficient global recycling system is an essential part of the creation of the Earth. \*

The more I discover about the way this planet functions, the more I marvel that there are still so many people who say, "It all just happens—no plan, no God!" \*

Emeritus Professor  
Allan Wilson is an  
elder of Kenmore



Church of Christ, Old, and was Chairman of the Kenmore Christian College Board 1972–1994. He was Professor of Geology and Minerology, University of Queensland, 1960–1985.



# Science

## Open For Choices

PETER SHANNON

**S**cience in this century has dramatically changed its view of the world in which we live. Not since Copernicus argued that the world circled the sun, rather than the opposite, has there been so profound a change in scientific explanation. Einstein's theories together with physicists' and astrophysicists' observations now point to a universe that they see as infinitely more complex than that portrayed by previous scientists. \* It is now widely held that the universe is expanding. The whole system is not

*One emphasis coming from both alike is the openness of the universe we live in.*

in a steady state of equilibrium, but one of imbalance which ensures continual change. This has brought many to the position, from believing that science has the answers, to feeling it only raises questions. Or again, rules that were considered in the past as fixed, are at best probabilities. This is, for many, confusing rather than reassuring. In mid century there was frequent reference to this being the Age of Anxiety. As we approach the end of the century, doubt, puzzlement, uncertainty and despair are common in many societies. Reassuring solutions are no longer widely held or even seen to be available. Many argue that science, or its products, have run ahead of our understanding, and so created problems rather than giving answers. \*

Despite all this, many feel that these matters are of no concern to them, whether they approach from a Biblical perspective or some other. When these

matters are considered at all, many understand them to be external to them and not in need of examination. Some others just ignore or deny that such ideas exist. Others note such observations and arrange them in their own minds to fit their already-present system of beliefs. In psychological terms they rationalise the situation. For some others this is all incomprehensible, but is held in awe. It takes on a magical aspect—it is to be believed, but not understood. Reason is cast aside. \*

Into this situation of flux comes many answers. There are all manner of self-help books with simplistic solutions. There are self-help groups which those with like mind find useful but not always satisfying. There is magic in physical forms such as crystals and people with magical ideas. There is a plethora of professionals, each group with their own formulae for success. \* One emphasis coming from both scientists and theologians alike is the openness of the universe we live in. Rather than the system being fixed in terms of the past, the present is open to choice and consequent change, and the future is, as a result, yet to be determined, influenced by the choices made now. \* This attitude is very different from that held by many Christians. The picture of a cosmic clockmaker is still with us. In this view God created the world as a watchmaker designs and constructs a clock. It is then set going and performs according to the laws of its manufacturer. \*

Any one of these views fails to fit the openness within the universe which has been referred to. Some feel this openness appears to leave God out of the world. I would suggest however, that in fact it makes room for the God who is intimately involved in our world and



life. In classical terms, God's imminence is extremely important in such a proposal. This is to be balanced with God's transcendence. Rather though, in many expressions of belief, transcendence is emphasised while imminence is ignored. \*

If we are to have a meaningful dialogue with those who take a modern scientific view of the world, we need to be able to see where this fits with our belief system. \*

Jesus in his teaching told many stories to illustrate various aspects of the Kingdom of God. In the context of this discussion it may be said that the Kingdom of God is like a continuous series of multiple-choice questions. We are constantly being faced with new questions. \*

As we move through life the questions keep coming to us and we answer them whether we appreciate them or not. At times we get some wrong. To others we give partially-correct answers. Hopefully, to many we give assent to the best answer. The imminent God is with us in all of these situations. \*

Peter Shannon is a psychiatrist. He and his wife Olwyn are members of the Dalkeith Road Church of Christ in Perth, WA.



# The Bible Code Con

RANDALL EDWARDS

**M**ichael Drosnin's *The Bible Code* has become a bestseller in the US and is now sweeping Australia. He claims that the Bible predicts present and future events through a code which has only been discovered since the invention of powerful computers sophisticated enough to decode the "hidden" message of the text. Continually stating that he, himself, does not believe in God, he suggests that the code was placed there by an intelligence that may no longer exist today, but existed when the Bible was written. \* Unfortunately many Christians are being sucked in by Drosnin's seemingly overwhelming evidence that the Bible code exists. \*

For Drosnin, the most significant biblical prediction in terms of proving the code is the assassination of the Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin on 4 November 1995. Drosnin claims to have had prior knowledge that the assassination would take place and following the event claims to have found the name of the assassin near the prediction of the event. He goes on to show from his "arrays" that he is able to find details of the deaths of Abraham Lincoln, J.F. Kennedy, World War III and a catastrophic earthquake which will devastate Los Angeles, California. \*

There are several major flaws in the so-called Bible code. The first is in the "theory" that it is legitimate to arrange the text in "spaceless" columns with the length of the line determined by a computer. While it is true that the original text was most likely written without spaces between the words (all ancient manuscripts are found this way), it is not legitimate to read words

that will not fit into the context of the verse by making breaks between the words that make nonsense out of the rest of the text. \*

Furthermore, in order to make the code work, some words have to be read backwards, a sort of literary "back-masking". Moreover, the code is based on a theory called Equidistant Letter Sequences (ELS) which was promoted by a mathematician from Hebrew University in Jerusalem name Eliyahu Rips. The theory suggests that you can find hidden messages in the Bible by reading letters that are "equal distance" apart when you eliminate the spaces between words. Some words are read by letters separated by one letter or two letters, while others are separated by 4772 letters. \*

Herein lies the problem. A computer program was written to find these hidden words by searching various ELS. \*

However, others have run similar experiments on other books and have found that random searching for ELS will produce similar results without the text being related to the Bible. My own little experiment with Daniel 7:5-7 (selected because it has the Hebrew letters for Kenmore) demonstrated that by manipulating the line lengths, I could find a number of other Hebrew words by using the array as a sort of "word-search" puzzle. In those three verses I found "predictions" that Kenmore would "become mighty", "be subdued", and "be ambushed". No need to worry about conflicting predictions, Drosnin says, because the text only predicts probabilities and it is capable of predicting all possibilities. In other words, you can find almost anything for which you search in the text. \*

Two disturbing issues concern me most about his book. The first is his listing of the text on page 15 in which it appears that he has altered the Hebrew text to fit the code. \*

The second is Drosnin's differing parameters when he speaks of the Bible. He often uses the term to refer only to the Torah (the first five books of the Old Testament), yet he cites references in Daniel and Isaiah which according to the code prove the code's validity. He also derives coded words from the Mezuzah, two significant texts from Deuteronomy which the Jews place together in a single document. It appears that the Bible means whatever part of the text best produces the results he wants, and one quickly gains the impression that it would not matter what text one selected, if Drosnin believed the code was present, it would be found. Thus, the text is made to fit the code. \*

The mathematical procedures which produce ELS are apparently sound enough, but the conclusions which Drosnin draws are absolute "scaremongering". Even the original formulators of the procedures have denounced Drosnin's conclusions which when claimed to be related to a power beyond this world are absolute "science fiction". \*

In his opening statement in the introduction he claims to have no "preconceived beliefs"; a statement equivalent to the captain of the Titanic claiming there are no icebergs in this ocean. \*

Don't let your well-grounded faith in the inspiration of God's Word be twisted into belief of an ill-concocted, misdirected theory about "secret codes". God speaks in plain language



*In other words, you can find almost anything for which you search in the text.*

that all can understand. He has no need of hidden codes, nor modern day pseudo-messiahs who will reveal the hidden secrets. \*

If you would like a more detailed analysis of Drosnin's book, contact Kenmore Christian College, PO Box 55, Kenmore Qld 4069 (kcc@mailbox.uq.edu.au) and request the booklet, *Bible Code or Con?* by Randall Edwards. (Cost: \$5.00, which includes postage and handling within Australia.) \*

Randall Edwards is Principal of Kenmore Christian College.

*The Bible Code* is shown as ranking sixth in sales of non-fiction books in Australia and fifth in London, according to the September issue of *The Australian's Review of Books*

—Ed



## Classifieds

### BIRTHS

**HONE** Belinda Clare born 12 June, 1997 to Rod and Janine.

**MITCHELL** Thomas Andrew born 19 August 1997 to Gary and Janette. A sister and a cousin for Stephanie.

**TILLING** (Earl) Ray and Lynette Earl welcome with love their third grandchild, Ashley Edwin, born at West Gippsland Hospital 25 August 1997. Congratulations to the proud parents, Adrian and Wendy Tilling of Poowong. Fourth great-grandchild for Joan Peterson. Third great-grandchild for Harry Earl.

**WALLIS** (Myers), Judith and Ian announce with joy the birth of their daughter Olivia on 7 September 1997 at the Royal Women's Hospital. A sister for Robert, second grandchild for Irene and Bruce Myers (Footscray church) and ninth grandchild for Shirley Wallis (Footscray). Thanks be to God for this wonderful gift.

### ENGAGEMENTS

**LEACH-TUNKS** Rob and Thelma of Canberra are delighted to share the news of the engagement of their son Wayne to Katie, daughter of Roslyn and Russell. Our love, support and God's blessing for the future.

### WEDDINGS

**RICHARDSON-WILSON** Ben Richardson and Margaret Wilson will be mar-

ried at the Church of Christ, Croydon, Vic, on 4 October 1997 at 3.00 pm.

### DEATHS

**ALEXANDER**, Ena Frances on 28 August 1997 at Geelong Hospital. Dearly loved and loving wife of Arthur. Loving mother of Lorraine (Mrs McGuinness), Ray, James and Yvonne (Mrs Edwards). Loved mother-in-law of Graeme, Lyn, Judy and Graeme and their families. In God's care.

### HOLIDAYS

**BELAIR** Overlooking the Adelaide lights. Uniting Church owned self-contained units for hire. Phone Nunyara (08) 8278 1673.

**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) 8365 1153 or (08) 8540 5250 or write 7 Gameau Rd, Paradise 5075.

**VICTOR HARBOR AND PORT ELLIOT SOUTH AUSTRALIA** Uniting Church 2 and 3 bedroom self-contained units available for hire. Phone (08) 8552 1657.

## Coffee Break On the High Seas?

CAROL PRESTON

It used to be true that if you wanted to go to a new land you had to be prepared to be at sea for a long time. Now it's much quicker to go overseas, perhaps just a few hours in a plane. And for many the idea of being at sea for any period of time is unbearable. We began to talk about transitions last month and I suggested that the space between an old famil-



*It is important to identify what we must leave behind.*

iar situation and a new one involves uncertainty and insecurity, a time at sea, one we want to avoid. Even Peter didn't have to remain on the water, in the midst of the unknown and frightening for very long, and we want Jesus to grab hold of us too and guide us back to safety. However, sometimes it is not back to safety that we are called, nor is it always possible. I believe if we try to make transitions too quickly we often have a lot of extra baggage when we get to the other side, and often end up on the wrong shore. \* So what needs to happen in the transition? First it is important to identify what we must leave behind. For some it will be particular roles at work, home or church. For others it will be a pay-cheque, an office, a title. Sometimes it's people we've loved, or activities we can no longer participate in. Even clothes we once wore, or the way we did our hair can be part of what we leave behind. And it may be very tempting to take

these along! If we don't do this, we may also be giving up parts of life and self we don't need to, parts we need in the next phase of our lives. Some people multiply their losses by leaving friends, places, or skills associated with treasured people or involvements that must be left behind. \*

When we recognise what we must move on from, then we must do our grieving. To not grieve is to not accept loss and change. The grieving may include anger, sadness and disorientation. When we grieve we treat the past with respect. We acknowledge its value and meaning in our lives. We can let go without idealising or denigrating what was. Even when we leave behind a difficult time of life, we need to evaluate its meaning, what we have learned, what we can take on with us, and what good may have been there amongst the bad. \* So one of the tasks of transition is to mark the ending of what is past, say goodbye, celebrate what has been good and take memories that are real and meaningful. Some remembering will still hurt in the future, some will be sweet. But we are then better prepared for what is to come next, which we'll talk about next month. \*



**GREENWAYS**  
**RETIREMENT VILLAGE**

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

Managed by  
**Church of Christ Frankston**

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

**Balwyn**

**75<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary**

**Sunday 12 October**

Worship and Communion  
service 10.00 am

**Speaker:**  
**Dr Greg Elsdon**

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

Past members and  
visitors are  
particularly welcome.

Light refreshments to  
follow.



# The Making of a Century

VINEY LONGTHORP

**H**istory buffs among us will look forward to the first episode of *People's Century*, the most ambitious factual series ever undertaken by BBC Television, which screens on ABC TV on Thursday 25 September at 9.30 pm. This series offers a comprehensive view of the twentieth century. For the children of the twenty-first century, it will offer glimpses of the first century of mass politics, universal education, assembly-line production, new leisure and sport, mass entertainment and total war. \* *People's Century* tells its unique

## History is more a matter of discovering the significance of past events

story by combining rarely-seen archive film with the personal testimonies of people who have lived through the great changes that have shaped all our lives. \* During its four years of production, the series producers worked closely with leading historians. The major changes of the century are followed within focused, narrative stories. The producers searched the world for survivors of events as diverse as the Paris Exhibition of

1900, the first meeting of the African National Congress, the Great War, the Russian Revolution of 1917, the first soccer World Cup of 1930, Stalin's collectivisation, the Siege of Leningrad, the introduction of the first polio vaccine, the building of the Berlin Wall and many others. In parallel, a massive search for new archive film was mounted. \*

The premiere episode is "1900—Age of Hope, the dawn of the age of the common man". The century started with a turmoil of new ideas. But few could have imagined the speed of the changes that were to come. The extension of education and the franchise, the mass press, and new mobility would transform modern life. The working class and the growing middle class could no longer be ignored, while subject peoples in European colonies would soon be challenging their imperial masters. \*

It will be a fascinating series which should enliven the small screen. \*

There are many who suppose history "to be one damn thing after another". But history is far more than learning facts about the past. History is more a matter of discovering the significance of past events and inquiring into their meanings. History is also interpreting the past. \* Our approaching the third mil-

lennium seems to have wondrously concentrated the mind of many in the media as to the importance of history. Some of these may actually deepen our sense of the importance of the past. "The worst excesses of postmodernism is due to a collective amnesia brought about by ignorance of the past which we call history" (Martin Flanagan, *The Age*). And: "Without a sense of meaningful continuity which a study of the past alone can give, we are fated both as individuals and institutions to be stranded in the present without chart or compass. Thus it means we will be a prey to policies of immediacy and an empty pragmatism and sterile logic." And further: "Many young people are not equipped for citizenship because they don't know about the world and how it got the way it is" (Janet McCalman, *The Age*). \*

Then that most insightful Italian writer, Umberto Eco, notes: "One of the reasons for the Wall Street crash (of 1987) was not only due to an exaggerated confidence in computers, but also the fact that none of the yuppies who were controlling the stock market knew enough about the 1929 crisis. They were unable to face a crisis because of their lack of historical information. If they had read some books about Black Thursday they might have been able to make better decisions and avoid many well-known pitfalls." \*



Many observers of the first decade of the twentieth century could have been excused for calling it a "Century of Hope", as the first episode suggests. But writing at the century's end, E.J. Hobsbawm thinks that overall "The Century of Violence" is more apt. One of our fine poets agrees: In reflecting on "ways to kill a man," he writes, "All that is needed is to put him in the middle of the twentieth century and leave him there." \*

But surely better things can be said about the times we live in. In 1949, when the modern ecumenical movement moved into a new and exciting phase, Archbishop William Temple called it, "The great new fact of our time." It will be interesting to see whether it gets a mention. To those who are committed to ecumenical ideals we may look at history to try to discern what difference "the great new fact" has made to the spiritual condition of humankind as we teeter on the edge of another *Fin de Siecle* (End of the Age). \*

### Bethel Funerals

The Caring Australian Alternative

*A unique Christian funeral company  
supporting the work of missions*

24-hour, 7-day service

Pre-arranged and pre-paid funerals

(03) 9877 9900 (all hours) fax (03) 9877 0544

107 Koonung Road, Blackburn Vic 3130



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

### GARDEN CITY CARAVAN PARK

Eiser St, Toowoomba

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





## BAPTISMS

•Leon Hancock, Caveside, Tas

## DEATHS

•Robert (Bob) Geake, Werribee, Vic

## OBITUARIES

Obituaries are limited to 100 words  
**GEAKE, Robert (Bob)**

(19.8.97) Bob Geake first made his confession of faith at Prahran Church of Christ, Vic, on 3.10.37 and over the years served God faithfully at Prahran, Maidstone and Werribee Churches of Christ until his death, aged 78 years. Bob suffered a major stroke in 1976 and further strokes over the last 18 months, yet his strong faith always shone through. A committed Christian who is now forever with the Lord, Bob is at peace. Many Christian friends will miss him deeply. Our sympathies are extended to Robert and Eleanor Geake, Elaine and Graeme Bradley, Margaret and Martin Gauci, Alan and Brenda Geake and their families.

—Graeme Batley

**JENKINS (Cleaves), Joyce Lesley**  
Born in Flemington (13.1.19) and baptised in the Moreland Church of Christ. Joyce was active in her faith and served God as Sunday School teacher (later kindergarten Superintendent), as part of the Children's Hospital visitation program, in women's fellowship and was State President CWF. She married Alan on 25.12.41 and they have three children, Geoff, Ian and Anne, and six grandchildren. Following the Moreland closure they transferred to Strathmore. Joyce was a woman of extraordinary faith and cheerful disposition, always positive in her outlook, always thinking of others, and in all situations, trusting her friend Jesus. She was a wonderful praying person and a pleasure to know. She will be sadly missed by all of us.

—JMP

**MERRY, Robert and Sylvia**

The Taree, NSW, church family was saddened by the passing of Bob and Sylvia within a week of each other. Sylvia passed to be with her Lord on 26 June 1997 and within one week Bob followed her. The funerals were held in the Taree church and conducted by

Redentor Reyes, assisted by A.A. Billingham. Bob and Sylvia attended North Sydney for many years and were baptised by H.G. Harward. In retirement they moved to Taree for family reasons and were devoted members of the church. During this time Bob became secretary and an elder. As secretary he was efficient and meticulous. Sylvia was an active member of CWF. In time their health failed and they were admitted to Storm Retirement Village. Sylvia was still actively involved in the church. She was a quiet person and all who knew her loved her. Bob's health worsened and he was admitted to a nursing home at Tuncurry where he passed away. During Bob's retirement in Storm Village he was given the title of elder emeritus in recognition of his services to the Taree church. Bob and Sylvia are survived by their son Robert, his wife Jan and three grandchildren.

—LD

## WA

**DIANELLA (Tony Armstrong) Church** in prayer for Tony, Lynette & family following the death on 22 Aug of Tony's mother, Marion, in Tasmania after a long illness. ... Also prayers for Gwen Wylie in passing of husband Jeff ... Social night of meal & sing-a-long

**David Johnson**

**CARPET CHOICE**

167 Main Road  
Blackwood SA 5051

**Phone (08) 8370 3899**

All carpets, vinyls,  
tiles, remnants,  
timber flooring  
and cork.

**Free quotes  
all suburbs and hills.**

Churches of Christ in SA Inc

Youth Vision SA

## State Youth Minister

*Creativity! Passion! Flexibility! Vision!*

Does this sound like you? Then you could be our next State Youth Minister! We are offering a magnificent opportunity for an energetic person to engage in mission with young people. As State Youth Minister you will provide leadership for Youth Vision SA as it resources local church youth ministry, nurtures new leadership, develops ministry with children in the church, and promotes a long-term vision for ministry amongst youth and children in SA.

To be our State Youth Minister you will need a vital faith, will probably have prior experience in ministry with youth and children, and will be gifted in areas of communication, organisation and motivation. We anticipate that you will have undertaken a program of theological education and/or ministerial formation. At this stage the role is a 0.8 time position over 3 years, although we would be willing to talk with you about full-time options. Further information and role description from:

**David Brooker**

State Minister, Churches of Christ in SA Inc  
263 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide 5006  
Phone (08) 8239 0233 Fax (08) 8239 0001

## HOSTEL SUPERVISOR

An experienced person is required for the exciting and challenging position of **Hostel Supervisor** at Clelland Lodge, a 40-bed aged-care hostel operated by Churches of Christ Community Care at North Nowra, NSW. Applications must be received in writing by Tuesday 30 September.

Preference will be given to persons with experience in the management of an aged-care hostel, or who are currently employed in aged care. Management skills, possession of a current first aid certificate and TAFE "Caring for the Elderly" certificate would be advantageous. A genuine love of the elderly and commitment to their care is important.

Salary and conditions will be in accordance with the Charitable Sector Aged and Disability Care Services (state) Award. Above award salary is paid.

As a church-based organisation, the nature of the position requires that the applicant be actively involved in their local church.

Enquiries should be directed to:

Supervisor Position  
Clelland Lodge  
Locked Bag No 1  
Pendle Hill NSW 2145  
Phone (02) 9636 8688.





# Church News

in August ... Other special events planned ... School holiday program for primary-aged children 6-10 October ... Election of elders in September ... Planning weekend 26-27 September.

## QLD

**PINE RIVERS** (Neale Proellocks, Mick Cross) Series of sermons on the Ten Commandments well received ... Netball teams working hard in preparation for finals ... Drama workshop to be held in October ... Ladies monthly social evening proving popular & making new contacts ... BBQ area constructed & new paved walkways completed ... Evening services have had lots of variety & are attracting many visitors.

## SA

**DULWICH-ROSE PARK** (Garry Harris, Tricia Spargo) Mary Davidson returned from visit to Japan & brought greetings from Paul Williams, son of former minister & his wife Junko. Mary also brought greetings from Tanakers, Japanese members of Dulwich abroad until Christmas ... Gweneth Grundy, formerly of Fullarton (now disbanded) has joined us & supports the choir ... Three of our youth competed in Youth Vision State Games at Mt Barker.

## VIC

**CHADSTONE** (Malcolm & Yvonne Lowe) Thanksgiving service held for Muriel Bischoff ... Fun & games night 20-30-40 Something, victors over Club 147 ... A daughter, Charlotte, to Joy & David Birrell ... Alan Hirsch guest speaker ... Working bee held ... Students from Nunawading Adventist College took morning service.

**WARRAGUL** (Les Medley) Bill Vassilliou speaker at trilogy of men's breakfasts ... Women's ministries Sunday celebrated with Lynette Leach as speaker. Luncheon followed ... Hugh McDonald recognised for 48 years

Sunday School teaching, during family worship service taken by Sunday School ... Reg Lawrence joins hospital visitation team ... Ron Brooker speaker at worship service & Couff's meeting ... Other speakers, Ann Prime, Gary Prime & Reg Lawrence.

**MONTROSE** (Harvey Clarke) Children's guitar group from local community house played choruses & Andrea Salmon spoke at special children's service ... Seminar led by Paul

Cameron to inspire church as it heads for next century great success. Elders & deacons met to prioritise goals for church afterwards ... "Club 56" gained 3rd place in state Kidsmin games ... Special garden planned for church's 120th anniversary.

## TAS

**CAVESIDE** (John & Colleen Harrison) National Bible Sunday celebrated with

message by R. Gow & puppets ... Working bees held to replace floor & paint interior of old hall ... Front of building extension landscaped ... Church to host 1998 Tasmanian Convention ... Keith How recovering in Launceston Hospital after stroke ... Sally Byard, secretary & organist on long service leave from Education Department ... Positive AGM held 24 August ... Leon Hancock baptised 7 September.

## COCOA brings HOPE



**COCOA brings HOPE to many developing nations, such as Zimbabwe. We assist by providing establishment grants for agricultural projects, such as pig farming and vegetable crops.**

**Through these projects people are able to move from a dependence to independence. Giving HOPE for the future.**

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

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....Postcode .....

Amount: \$ .....

Please charge my: ☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Expiry Date: .....

Signature .....

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



# Snippets from History

## The Orchard

GORDON STIRLING

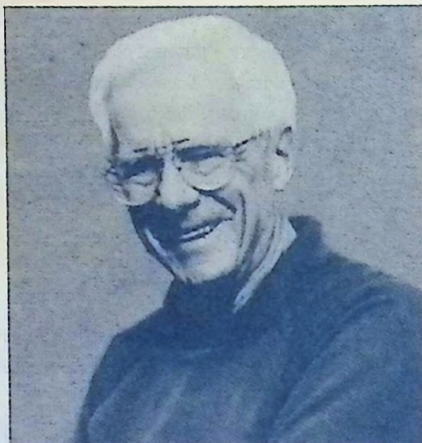
**T**he Orchard was at one end of the three hectares of the grounds of the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, Vic, down by the creek. When I was there in the thirties the fruit trees had been replaced by some healthy gum saplings. This was because Mr Main was troubled by small boys raiding the place when the fruit was ripe. He caught two of them and remonstrated with them that if they had asked he would have given them some fruit. An hour later they were back again politely asking. \*

In my days at College the orchard was well used for elocution (later voice production) and sermon practice. The sound of "the thun-n-n-n-der rum-m-mm-bles among the hills" was heard across Glen Iris. \*

Churches of Christ preachers were known for a resonance in their voices that others lacked. Elocution was too frivolous a subject for other theological halls. \*

There was only acoustic space for one preacher at a time in the orchard. So early in the morning or towards dusk you would hear next Sunday's sermons being trumpeted forth. And occasionally during lectures the thick walls would be penetrated by the sound of a distant gospel appeal. \*

In these days conversational sermons are delivered by quietly spoken preachers into tiny microphones just six inches from their larynxes. In those days there were no microphones and sermons were delivered as



orations with all stops out. So the sermons from the orchard could be heard distinctly 300 meters away. No wonder that birds didn't nest in the orchard! And twice on Sundays the well-practised deliveries echoed among patient student church congregations. \*

Preaching is still important in Churches of Christ and will always be effective, whether it be conversational, oratorical, expository or topical, provided that it always carries a sure word of God to people about their life situations. \*

One can only wonder if future preaching will consist of silent images on the Internet watched by generations of pale hermits living in semi-darkness in their "licky tacky" boxes and "all looking just the same" and perhaps wondering about the meaning of such words as "fellowship" and "community"! \*

## The Last Word

**At the centre of our being is a place of pure light, a place untouched by sin or illusion.**

—Thomas Merton

*We owe a lot to Thomas Edison. If it wasn't for him, we'd be watching television by candle-light.*

*Why Yawning is Contagious: You yawn to equalise the pressure on your eardrums. This pressure change outside your eardrums unbalances other people's ear pressures, so they must yawn to even it out.*

*The earth may spin faster on its axis due to deforestation. Just as a figure skater's rate of spin increases when the arms are brought close to the body, the cutting of tall trees may cause our planet to spin dangerously fast.*

*Communist China is technologically underdeveloped because they have no alphabet and therefore cannot use acronyms to communicate ideas at a faster rate.*



ALBERT

*"I don't mean to criticise, but you put those non-slip decals in the tub upside-down."*

From *Close to Home Revisited* by John McPherson (Zondervan).

## Introduce Your Friends to an Australian Christian



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

Name .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

