

THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

Vol. 101 No. 14, 26 August 1998

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AGEING

A New Challenge

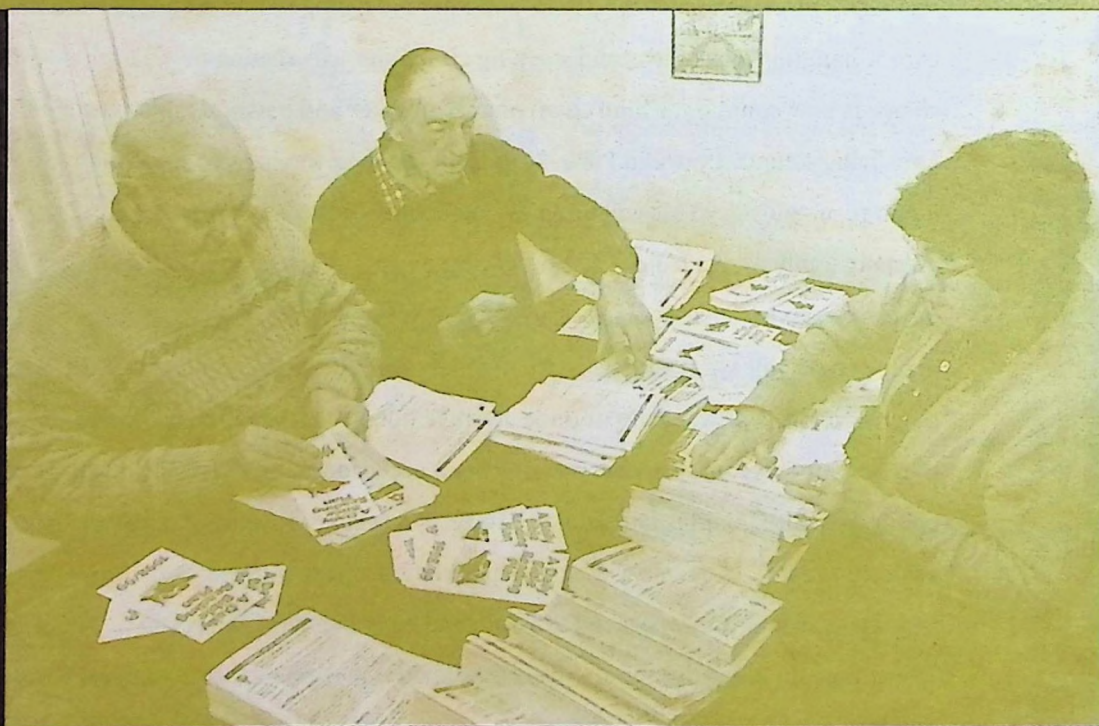


Photo: Keith Pether



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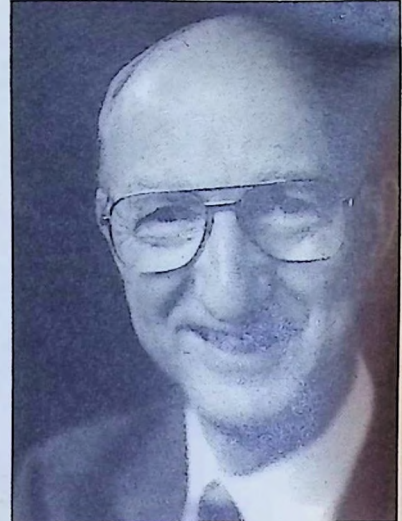


Editorial

A New Challenge

DON SMITH

Imogen and I recently had rusks and coffee together at a coffee shop. Imogen is my 9½-month-old granddaughter. This was my first day of "full-on" baby care (for some years anyway). Fellow coffee drinkers talked easily with us about baby care and how nice it was for us to be together. Later, in the nearby gardens, Imogen crawled everywhere and eagerly ate mashed banana mixed with crushed dried oak leaves. (Imogen's mother need never know about the oak leaves or that I forgot to put on the "going out" clothes.) Upon our return home it took only two verses of singing "Away in a manger" to have Imogen



asleep. This was all a new challenge for me. What's all this to do with ageing? Well quite a lot actually! The experience represents a mother returning to her profession and needing baby care. Changing social ideas and working situations are creating new caring needs. My experience is now common. Children are marrying later and having families later. * We are also now living longer. Between 2020-2030 those born in the post-war population boom are going to reach old age. This will be a new challenge for the Australian church. It will represent an opportunity to reach older adults at a significant time of change in their lives. Such change moments can be open doors for the Gospel. * But even prior to this point, the numbers of older people will swell and, with greatly increased life expectancy, many will live to a much older age and will want to continue in their homes. Already we see churches addressing these changes. In our history, we have been early adopters of new ideas and strategies with children, youth, singles and adults. MOPS is a recent example. A mission thrust has been basic to these moves. * Our ageing population offers a whole new mission opportunity. Services and programs will need to go beyond entertainment and relate to whole-of-life needs. These may include appropriate exercise, health and diet support, voluntary work, outings, holidays, interest groups, continuing education and study groups. Now is the time for thinking, training and planning, locally and regionally, concerning how we can best respond to this new mission challenge. *

Letters to the Editor

Ageing

Ageing is a fact of life. Our writers look at some of the issues facing us personally, and as churches.

The Early Years—55+

Broken Dreams

Growing Old and Enjoying It

Retired Carers

Seniors Ministry

Teresa of Avila: Barefooted “Doctor of the Church”

News

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Church Planter Dies

Senior Ministers

It Works For Us!

Making News

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Editorial

Media Matters

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The Last Word

Update

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.

belong to the political opposition. Bill is a nice guy and a lovely Christian. Ask anyone who really knows him personally.

—Ian Todd
(Caboolture, Qld)

**Overseas Mission
Board, Vanuatu**

To the Editor.

Some months ago, in the company of Lyndsay and Lorraine Jacobs (Secretary, World Convention of Churches of Christ), it was my privilege to visit some of the churches in Vanuatu. Unfortunately, owing to a threatening cyclone, we could not cover all the areas we planned. The areas we did cover really opened our eyes. The church in Vanuatu is thriving with members so loyal and committed that it is thrilling to share time with them, and gain from them some of their enthusiasm and vitality for the work of the church universal.

I could write much more than is permitted in these letters to tell of the great work and plans of this tiny group of islands.

The recent issue ("AC" 8.7.98), with the focus on the work of the Overseas Mission Board, prompted me to write and express my gratitude and appreciation for the wonderful work OMB has done and continues to do in all the spheres of operation.

—Ron Brooker
(President World Convention)
(The Gurdies, Vic)

40 Hour Famine

To the Editor,

My daughters recently completed this year's World Vision 40 Hour Famine, along with more than 400,000 other Australians. I am proud to have sponsored them, and in so doing, to have joined the three million other Australian sponsors of this extraordinary community event.

One Nation

To the Editor,

I was ashamed and disappointed to read recent "Letters to the Editor" concerning Bill Feldman's appointment by the people of Queensland as their Parliamentary representative. As Bill's pastor I would like people to know that Bill is a committed Christian, loves Jesus Christ with his heart, soul and mind, and is an honest, trustworthy man.

It doesn't matter which political persuasion we are. We should all support and keep in "genuine" prayer any Christian who is trying to make Australia a better place. If Bill was representing the Coalition or the Labor Party I would still support him as a Christian person.

Messrs Battersby, Collyer and Dixon should refrain from misusing and abusing God's Word and instead, start to use it properly. Matthew 18 tells us that if we have something against another Christian we should go quietly to that person and work it out. Stop listening to and reading gossip about Bill and his party and instead ask him. He would be more than willing to talk to you. And Mr Collyer himself needs to heed the warning in Matthew 7.

I appeal to the mature Christians who read the "AC". Please don't pick on the person until you have personally found out what he really believes, not what the media tells you he said. After all, they are owned and run by people who

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Letters to the Editor

Although my daughters' famine ended with a hearty Sunday lunch, we know that in Sudan, Ethiopia, Rwanda and parts of Asia and South America, severe deprivation seems almost a permanent state.

The good news is that in many countries World Vision is making significant headway in alleviating the immediate suffering and implementing long-term strategies for community development. This year's 40 Hour Famine will hasten that process.

May I encourage those who fasted to collect all their sponsored money as soon as they possibly can and forward it either to World Vision or to any branch of the ANZ Bank. By so doing we will be expressing the love and compassion of Christ to a broken and suffering world in a real and practical way.

—Michael Frost
(Sydney, NSW)

One Nation

To the Editor,

In a Federal election, I would not be able to vote for either the present Coalition or Labor without serious reservations, but under no circumstances would I vote for the One Nation party.

However, if Orrell Battersby, Max Collyer and Peter Dixon want to take Bill Feldman and his party to task from a Christian viewpoint ("AC" 22.7.98), they need to argue their case.

To take immigration as an example. What would Jesus opt for? How would they go about answering this question? Would Jesus advocate admitting only Anglo-Saxon-Celts? Or only whites? Or the present number of Europeans but a lower number of people of colour? Or a lower number of both? Or the previous higher total number?

Unless they do that, the Battersbys, Collyers, and Dixons

on the one hand and the Feldmans on the other will be like ships passing in the night.

—Ronald Graham
(Johnston, Iowa, USA)

Marginalising Communion

To the Editor,

It seems that the weekly observance of the Lord's Supper is becoming a problem for some churches. In this postmodern world, anything that is "ordained" or appears ritualistic is an anathema.

The difficulty with the Lord's Supper is that you can't "fiddle" with the main elements. It therefore constrains what you can do in worship. So, rather than being a central focus for corporate worship, it is increasingly abbreviated and pushed through as an item in a religious concert. Keeping it short allows more time for the repetition of choruses (which does not count as ritualistic) and contemporary music. The table itself is moved to the side of the chapel and this allows the guitar and bongo drums to have their rightful place "centre stage". Far fetched? Well, the 1996 National Church Life Survey in NSW indicates that Churches of Christ attenders value most "contemporary worship" (34%) marginally more than "Bible teaching/preaching" (30%) and significantly ahead of "sharing communion"

(14%). The figures for other denominations are 19%, 26%, and 18%. In other words, the celebration of the Lord's Supper is only half as important to us as contemporary worship and means less to us than to other communions.

I guess the most important thing is that the church is growing as a result of cultural relevance and the Kingdom of God is being extended.

—Harold Hayward
(Pymble, NSW)

Update

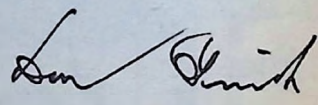
Dear Readers,

There has been a steady flow of Letters to the Editor since our last issue. Recent topics have generated the largest amount of discussion experienced for several years. We have included as many as possible with the space available in this issue. With the format changes in 1996 the Letters to the Editor section was moved to the front of the paper to highlight their importance and increase visibility. Readers have not always seemed to have taken advantage of the opportunity to raise issues. We especially welcome new writers and new themes. It helps if writers can be as concise as possible. We welcome robust discussion on issues of significance.

We also have material, including news items and other articles, which must be held over from time to time. Your patience in these matters is appreciated.

Readers will note that we have

recently carried brief news items from the Overseas Mission Board (OMB). Updated mission information is available from the Board each week. This may be useful for church news bulletins and groups seeking information for prayer items. Access to this information is available both over the telephone, via a recorded message, and by e-mail. You can hear the phone message by telephoning OMB on (08) 8212 4446 between 5.00 pm Friday and 8.00 am Monday. To receive information by e-mail, phone the OMB office on the above number during business hours and inform them of your e-mail address. You can also e-mail your address to them at <omb@netadvantage.com.au>.



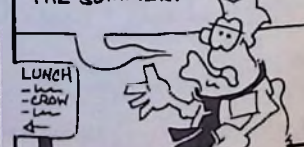
Pontius' Puddle



IN INDONESIA, 500 OF OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED AND MANY OF OUR MEMBERS MARTYRED FOR THEIR BELIEFS. SO HOW ABOUT YOU IN THE WEST?



MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE TOLD HIM HOW THE AIR CONDITIONING IN OUR SANCTUARY WENT OUT ON THE HOTTEST SUNDAY OF THE SUMMER!



Balloons Go Up

Launceston's 114th anniversary

Two hundred and fifty pink and white helium-filled balloons floating above the pews greeted attenders at the 114th anniversary service at Launceston church on Sunday, 9 August.

The special focus this year was the celebration of relationships. We focussed on nine couples and one widow who have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries in the recent past. Together, they represented close to 600 years of marriage commitment and devotion. They were individually presented with commemorative gifts and were applauded by the congregation of over 360. Each couple was asked to pass on some

wisdom and advice to the many engaged and young married couples in the fellowship. Some of the pearls of wisdom offered included "communicate", "trust", "honour", "respect", "pick the right boy", "having and maintaining a sense of humour", "being treated as courteously now as when courting" and "unless the Lord build the house, those that build it labour in vain" (Psalm 127:1).

Craig Spaulding, senior minister, spoke on the topic of "Building Better Relationships". Each of those celebrated had the opportunity to have a complimentary photo portrait taken to commemorate the day. A celebration lunch



(L to R) Back Row: John and Jean Piper, Don and Peg Cleaver, Irene and Les Fulton, Shirley and Carl Annear
Front Row: Albert and Joy Porter, Peggy Harrison, Jesse Simpson, Val and Reg McElwee, Mollie and Geoff Foot
Absent due to ill health: Eric and Alice Bradford, Jack and Elsie Edwards

with friends and the church family followed.

—Wayne Kerrison
(Associate Minister)

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Templestowe Orchards

Church-sponsored retirement villages a growing response

Church-sponsored retirement villages are a growing response to an ageing Australian population. The Templestowe Orchards Retirement Village is one of the more recent examples of these developments in one of Melbourne's outer suburbs, which only a few years ago was an area dedicated to fruit growing.

Templestowe Orchards is a resident-funded village which offers retirees the opportunity to still be involved in community life. It also provides them with the security, comfort, support and companionship of a caring Christian community. At the heart of the village is the Templestowe Baptist Church, a centre of worship and community involvement.

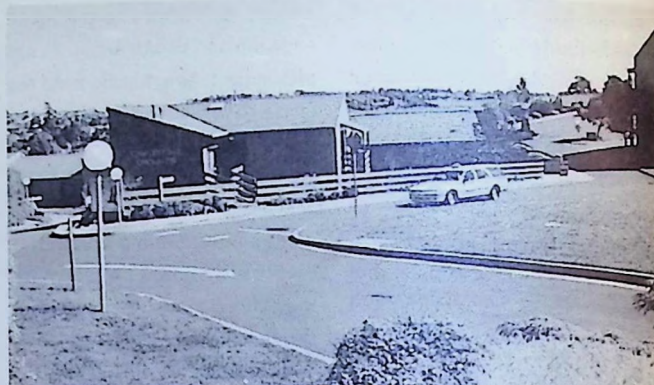
"There comes a time when people need the comfort and security that a community such as ours can provide," said Graham Russell, Village Manager. "We have qualified staff available twenty-four hours a day and they are supported by on-call medical consultants. A doctor, optometrist and

podiatrist attend regularly, and a pharmaceutical service and registered nurse are available," he explained.

Two different living arrangements are available to residents—there are 44 independent-living units and 53 luxury serviced apartments.

The well-appointed, two-bedroom, self-contained units have spacious living areas and allow residents to live as independently as they wish. The serviced apartments provide the extra support that many older people need—personal-care assistance and regular laundry and cleaning services. A central dining room serves freshly-prepared meals daily, but a meal delivery service is available if it is needed.

The Village also operates a respite care program which provides residential support for people looking after an older person at home, allowing them to have a break or take a holiday. It is also available to residents needing recuperation after a stay in hospital.



For people living in the independent units of the Village, assistance with personal care, domestic help, driving or overnight stays is provided. There is also assistance for residents who are caring for a partner.

Templestowe Orchards Village was the brainchild of members of the Templestowe Baptist Church

who felt that elderly people were becoming isolated from community life. At the Village, people can choose as active a lifestyle as they wish. The Village is situated at 107 Andersons Creek Road, East Doncaster. For further information contact Graham Russell on: (03) 9842 8433, or fax: (03) 9841 8486.

Monash City Church of Christ, a growing church in the heart of Glen Waverley, Vic, is seeking committed, gifted and passionate Christians to fill the following paid positions:

Director of Youth Ministries
Director of Creative Arts Ministries
Director of Pastoral Ministries

Positions can either be part-time or full-time. The church has an exciting vision for future growth which requires new staff.

For information please ring or write to:
David Moyes (Senior Minister)
Monash City Church of Christ
46-48 Montclair Avenue
Glen Waverley Vic 3150.
Phone (03) 9560 6599.

Australian College of Ministries

a partnership of
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The position will be a three-day appointment, commencing January 1999.

The person will be located in Sydney but will need to be prepared to do some travelling to teach modules (four-day intensives) at Ministry Centres outside Sydney.

The person needs to be a committed Christian, actively involved in Christian service; qualified to teach in the BTh program accredited through the Sydney College of Divinity.

For further information contact: Dr Keith Farmer, Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College, 216 Pennant Hills Road, Carlingford NSW 2118. Phone (02) 9630 7533

Applications should be sent to Dr Farmer
by 25 September 1998.

Church Planter Dies

Food poisoning kills church planter and his sons

Indonesian church planter, Pak Bawak Waskito (46) and his two sons aged fourteen and twelve died recently in Sumatra, Indonesia, due to food poisoning from eating ill-prepared cassava, because they were unable to afford rice. Sulasinem, the wife of Pak Bawak, and three children (aged 10, 8 and 6) have survived and are recovering.

This is not an isolated incident, in fact, just the day before, another family (including their ten-year-old son) also died for the same reason.

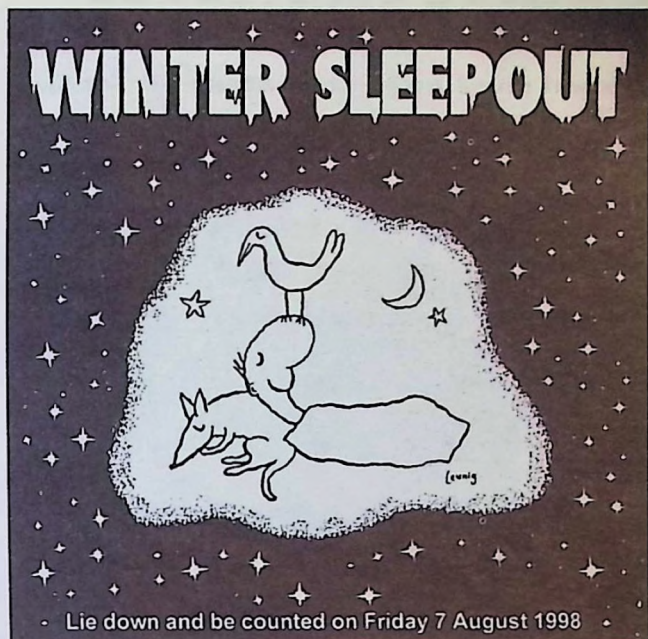
The church planter was a member of Indonesian Churches of Christ. Indonesia is a nation racked with economic and social turmoil. Even basic staple foods are becoming so expensive that they are out of reach for many Indonesian families. Muslim organisations have even been using gifts of rice to entice new Christian converts back to the faith of Islam.

Indonesia is the largest Muslim nation in the world and has long been considered a stronghold for Islam. Despite this, the Indonesian church has been growing

rapidly and now there are approximately twenty million Christians in Indonesia. The spread of the Gospel throughout this nation has been largely due to the sacrifice and faith of church planters like Pak Bawak. Their willingness to leave their homes and work amongst the Muslim communities, often living with persecution and poverty, has meant that thousands of Indonesian people will not die without the opportunity to hear the Gospel.

Pak Bawak was one of a large network of national missionaries living by faith who rely on gifts from faithful Christians to survive. We, as neighbours of Indonesia and brothers and sisters in the faith, with Indonesian Christians are called to respond to the needs of this people.

[The above report was prepared for us by Anne Nanscawen of Fusion following receipt of the news from Paulus Wibowo of our Indonesian churches. A subsequent message from Paulus to the Editor has confirmed this grim situation. Cassava is a tropical root plant cultivated for food. —Ed]



Raising funds for homeless and disadvantaged youth

An estimated 25,000 young people in all states took part in the "Winter Sleepout" sponsored by Australia's City Mission network, in missions located in Brisbane, Hobart, Hunter, Launceston, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Wollongong and Sydney. The purpose of the event was to raise funds to help homeless and disadvantaged young people.

Patrick McClure of the Sydney City Mission said that participation in the event allowed young

people to understand what it was like to go without a warm bed every night. Guides in NSW camped out in Sydney's Taronga Park Zoo and in Perth the event took place at Underwater World Sci-Tech.

Young people in each state shared a range of experiences in homes, centres such as the Sydney Opera House, and other locations. It is estimated that there are 50,000 homeless people, with 30% being aged 15-25.

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Senior Ministers

Annual meeting held at Stanwell Tops, NSW



(L to R) Back Row Ted Keating (Wollongong, NSW) Craig Spaulding (Launceston, Tas) Dale White (Hume St, Toowoomba, Qld) Middle Row Bill Thorburn (Southport, Qld) Paul Cameron (Doncaster, Vic)) Graham Long (Pendle Hill, NSW) Orrell Battersby (Nambour, Qld) Front Row David Ratten (Blackburn, Vic) David Moyes (Monash, Vic).

"What do you do when a team member...?" "Have any of you tried this in a service?" "What proportion of your budget is spent on advertising?"

Informal questions such as these helped make up the agenda of the annual conference of a group of senior ministers from around Churches of Christ in Australia. The conference was held at Stanwell Tops, NSW, in July. Missing from the conference were a couple of "pioneers", Graham Agnew, Northside, NSW, and John Bond, South Perth, WA, who along with Ted Keating, Wollongong, NSW, were among those who helped found the group in 1986.

Apart from mutual encouragement, one of the main achievements of the group has been to organise, in conjunction with Christian Projects, overseas study tours for ministers interested in leading teams in larger churches (Lead-

ership 2000). Craig Spaulding, Dale White, Paul Cameron, David Ratten and David Moyes, who are now part of the group, were previously in the Leadership 2000 program.

One of the agenda items on this year's conference was to firm up the list for the next Leadership 2000. Ministers who will be sub-

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sidised include Agus Budiman (Indonesian Praise, Vic), Craig Farmer (Greenacre, NSW), Peter Willis (Devonport, Tas), Andrew Bennett (Mt Evelyn, Vic), Graham Crowhurst (Northside, NSW), Clinton Wardle (Hobart, Tas), Phil McCredden (Doncaster, Vic) and John Sutton (Kingsway, NSW).

In addition, Christian Projects has agreed, as a part of its commitment to leadership development, to include music and worship directors employed by their churches. The successful applicants for this category include Tim Ferris (Epping, NSW), Cindy Waters (Doncaster, Vic), Brett

White (Kingsway, NSW), Pam Harrison (Ballarat Family Church, Vic), Christine Sharp (Ringwood, Vic), Scott Burford (Wollongong, NSW) and Tim Foot (Northside, NSW).

The group will be visiting churches in the Los Angeles and Phoenix areas, as well as attending a leadership conference at the Crystal Cathedral. At times, the music and worship group will have a different itinerary.

All successful applicants will be able to incorporate their study tour with the Graduate Diploma in Leadership and Administration being offered by the New South Wales Theological College.

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Alpha—a marvellous tool for churches

The Telopea Church of Christ, NSW, embarked on the Alpha program early in 1997 under the leadership of pastor Michael Priddle. Telopea, in Sydney's Dundas Valley, is a low-income, high social services area with great needs, and the church is seen locally as a community carer. Three adult

Alpha courses were run (on Wednesday evenings) during 1997 and one so far in 1998. Over the same period, three youth Alpha courses were run. The church is now looking at daytime courses to reach people with little to do during the day. We recognise that the work is the Lord's and that Alpha is a tool he has blessed for our use.

The Alpha program consists of a good, cheap meal, a talk, supper and then group discussion. Telopea uses the Nicky Gumble tapes for the main message, and the professionalism of these tapes—with the wit of Nicky Gumble—has received praise from many of the participants.

The first courses were heavily attended by members of the fellowship, with a few from outside the fellowship. The course helped many revisit the fundamentals of their faith and many then stayed on to help with following courses. In later courses the ratio of attenders changed to include more from the outside community.



One of Telopea's Alpha groups. Inset: Jason Elsmore a ministry team member who conducted the youth Alpha courses.

Just prior to running our most recent course, the team visited local residents specifically to invite them to attend. The response was very positive, with the most common question being, "What would we do about the kids?" Naturally, we arranged child care during the course and some previously disinterested local residents attended.

The visitation proved to also be a good way to meet new residents (mainly Housing Commission flat dwellers) and let them know what else is happening at the church through the week as well as on Sundays.

Every Alpha course so far has had two or three people commit to Jesus, many of these coming from outside the fellowship. The Life After Prison team encouraged their clients to attend and many of the converts came from those ranks.

For Telopea, following the English format, with consideration of

Australian culture, has proved to be a successful formula, but we agree that there are many variations on the theme that would work. The Telopea team looked at the options and decided that it was better to follow a tried practice than to try to reinvent the wheel just to be different.

One of the main features of the course is the weekend away for talks and study of the work of the Holy Spirit. It was here that many lives were changed, both for Christians and non Christians. The significance of the courses has been three-fold:

- People turning to Christ and sharing in the fellowship
- People being trained for ministry within the fellowship
- Lives being changed at many levels, plus a new spirit for prayer and ministry in the church.

While we are sure that there are many churches embracing the Alpha program, some with greater stories to tell, we would be happy to assist anyone considering Alpha as an evangelistic tool. Telopea's Alpha course administrator, Alan Cupit, would be happy to talk with potential Alpha staff after hours on (02) 9871 2188.

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Ageing

The Early Years—55+

PAM CLAPSHAW

Are you a senior at 55 or 60 years of age? I guess the answer to that question depends on which agency you are dealing with. There is however, a growing recognition that turning 55 years of age is a significant milestone in life and indicates a movement into the more mature years. In one sense, it is a new beginning, a time for many to do the things that were impossible earlier due to family responsibilities, financial restraints and work commitments.

The "cluttered nest" syndrome is becoming a reality for many.

In the next few years we will see a growing surge of Australians moving into this younger senior age range as the Baby Boomers start to turn 55. As churches we will need to rethink our whole approach to ministry with seniors. We must understand the unique pressures this group faces while recognising the differences between those 55+ and the older senior age group.

Some of the vital issues for those 55+ to address are:

Employment While for some younger seniors the pressure may be to stay on in full-time employment longer than they anticipated, others will not have that option. Some find themselves retrenched in their 50s and face the prospect of not gaining further employment. All at some stage, with joy or sadness, must face the prospect of leaving the work force. For some it will be a gradual transition, moving initially from full-time to part-time employment. For the majority of men and a growing number of women self-esteem and iden-

tity are bound up with "what they do". If this is the case, then retirement or retrenchment present major threats to the person. As churches we need to recognise this potential danger and plan to address it.

Financial Management Closely related to employment is the issue of financial management. We are now being continually encouraged to provide for our own retirement years. Those 55+ face the potential of a longer life expectancy, but also the possibility of a Social Security system unable to cope with the growing number of pensioners. Baby Boomers have tended not to be savers or planners, so this area will be a cause of stress for many.

Family We have heard often of the "empty nest" syndrome—the loss felt especially by women when the children grow up, become independent and move away from home. This certainly is an issue for many younger seniors, but the reverse is also an increasing problem. The "cluttered nest" syndrome is becoming a reality for many. Just when you thought you had the house to yourself and had the freedom to travel and enjoy life, the children start coming back. This time, though, they come with grandchildren in tow and home will never be the same again! As marriages and relationships continue to break up at such an alarming rate and house prices soar, the cluttered nest will continue to be an issue for younger seniors. For some, the grandchildren won't move in but will be dropped off occasionally, or more likely frequently, to be minded so parents can work. This may bring joy to the younger senior grandparent, but it may also cause resentment at the loss of freedom. At the same time as providing support for the younger generation,



those 55+ may also be called upon to care for ageing parents, and this is addressed elsewhere in this issue of *The Australian Christian*.

How Should the Church Respond?

We wouldn't dream of asking our fifteen-year-olds to attend a program designed for 25-year-olds. Similarly, we must recognise that in the senior age range there is no such thing as one program fits all! How can the church minister to those 55+? Here are just a few suggestions.

- Provide retirement planning and financial management seminars.
- Offer grandparenting courses and support groups. How about a playgroup for grandparents to take the children they mind to?
- Equip younger seniors for ministry. Show them they have gifts that can and must be used in God's service. Recognise them as valuable members and contributors to the ministry of the local church.
- Plan small group opportunities to invite non-Christians who are 55+ to discuss and dialogue on the Christian faith.

Pam Clapshaw is the NSW Conference Ministry Leader for Seniors.

Ageing Broken Dreams

HOWARD WHITTAKER

The hope of many families is to enjoy life, love one another, worship God, and as the years go by, plan to grow old together. This was Joan's and my dream, until she developed the early symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.

We were a nuclear family with four children, and Joan was a happy, outgoing, loving wife who went to work, yet tirelessly cared for our family. She took an active interest in all their activities and accompanied me on business and social occasions. She always showed concern for others, was a willing helper and at all times acknowledged the presence of God. Life was good.

My prayers were sincere, emotional times ... I prayed for a miracle, but it did not come.

About sixteen years ago Joan's journey took a different path as she gradually developed Alzheimer's disease. It was distressing to the family to see personality changes, confusion and memory loss as she fought a losing battle. I shared her pain and frustration as she struggled. I loved her, ached for her, cried for her and prayed intensely for her.

My prayers were sincere, emotional times as I confronted God with what was happening. I prayed for a miracle, but it did not come. I was disappointed but did not lose my faith.

Like many others, Joan had to travel on this rocky road and I had to be her strength and share it with her. I took early retirement and cared for Joan

over six difficult years before she went to a nursing home.

Joan always loved giving and this became more prominent as her Alzheimer's progressed.

I remember the day when to my astonishment she gave away our audio system.

On another occasion it was our collection of records. When visitors were leaving she would look around the home for something to give them, often people would understand and the item was secretly returned. I never embarrassed Joan because of the joy she derived from giving.

Joan gradually lost the ability to do normal household tasks. I tried to be sensitive and to know when it was time for me to take over and do this in such a way that she continued to retain her sense of worth.

Independence was a real need for Joan and long walks on her own were therapeutic.

She would sometimes walk 20 km, occasionally get lost and confused and then family and friends would send out the car brigade to find her. Aware of the dangers, I had to weigh up the benefits to Joan against confinement.

Her behaviour pattern kept changing and sometimes, late at night, she would slip out of home and go walking. On one such occasion she was enjoying a walk in the dark along a railway line, the driver stopped the train and the police brought her home. After other similar incidents, the pressure on me was to overreact and take freedoms away. This would have given me a sense of security but would have lessened her quality of life. I tried not to do this.

My family and church were always supportive and I believe God was with me at all times. My love for Joan grew, as



well as my desire to allow her journey through life to be as smooth as possible. With God beside me I did everything out of love.

It was a sad time when I could no longer care for Joan at home. For a further seven years she lived in a nursing home and I continued to look after her each day.

The nursing home was now a support for the many tasks I could no longer carry out. As time passed she did not know me. She gradually lost language, mobility and eventually all movement left her. Each day the nurses would carefully lift her into a special wheel chair so that I could take her out into the fresh air.

Joan's condition continued to deteriorate and in May this year as I held her in my arms she closed her eyes and went to be with the God she loved. I feel I am now closer to God and I thank him for the life that Joan and I shared together. My earthly journey with Joan has ended, our dreams were not complete, but I am thankful for the memories that will remain with me.

Howard Whittaker is a member of the Chadstone, Vic, church.

Ageing

Growing Old and Enjoying It

KEITH HORNE OAM

From the moment we were born the process of growing older began and will continue until finally we die. For some, ageing is a painful experience and for others it is a pleasure. But that is life, and regardless of age nobody is exempt from the possibility of pain or loss, especially the aged. Yet, in spite of all the deficits, people still enjoy life and live each day positively and well. How do they do it? First they have learned to accept what is, and not what might be. Humans like

I have come to enjoy this new freedom I have to be me.

everything else in creation are subject to change and decay. As beautiful as it might be, nothing lives forever. We may delay and minimise the laws of nature, but to deny or rebel only makes things worse. On the other hand, acceptance can lighten the load, free us and even help us make the most of every day. Regardless of our age, at any stage of life to be able to "accept the things we cannot change" is the first step to living each day well. Acceptance is not "throwing in the towel" or giving up. It is marshalling the resources we have to fight the real battles.

Having accepted what cannot be changed, we can then adapt to what is and work toward developing what might be. The formula for surviving life's setbacks and hard times is "adapt or die". Paul was doing this when he wrote, "I know how to be content in whatever circumstance I find myself".

This may not take away the pain of loss or the limitation, but it does free us to be at peace and use our resources to make the most of what we have, and find the courage to change the things we can.

For forty-five years I was in full-time ministry and gave my best to my people and the community. I was truly blessed and enjoyed to the full those years. Almost seventy, I retired and in a diminished way still used whatever gifts I had as generously and freely as I could. In the last twenty months, aged seventy four, even that has had to be surrendered.

But as one door closed other doors have opened and life is full of pleasures I was once too busy to enjoy. The freedom to potter in my garden; to indulge myself in my grandchildren; take in a few day trips with COTA; mix with some good friends in Probus and the bowls club; taking some regular walks for the good of my body; attending free music concerts; reading; listening; viewing and enjoying the time Gwen and I still have.

It is all very different to the life I once led.

Having learned to accept the limitations, I have come to enjoy this new freedom I have to be me.

Most of all we need to cultivate a **thankful heart**. I find these days that my prayers have a lot more "thankyou" than once they did.

Look around and you will soon see that people who grumble, complain, make demands, refuse to listen and insist on having their own way or the last word on everything isolate themselves from the very things they most want out of



Keith and Gwen Horne, enjoying growing older

life. But a warm heart, generous spirit, openness to change, ability to see good and affirm others and in it all say thankyou brings special blessings and opens the door to happier living.

I remember with deep affection those "old people" who in younger years of ministry were the encouragers. Generous, loyal souls who supported the young enthusiast who was their minister, even though at times I suspect they were not sure of where he might take them. I pray that now, I too, might be like them.

With the years faith becomes more simple, especially the core of our faith—the love and faithfulness of the God we see in Jesus. No matter what each day brings God is already there and he will see us through that day and every day. Never forget the aged must have a very special place in God's heart because he says so much about us in his word.

Keith Horne is retired in Adelaide, SA, after fifty years of ministry with churches and Departments in three States.

Ageing

Retired Carers

JEAN FLINT

"I'm sorry I can't come this afternoon. Mother has had a fall and we are on our way to Sydney to see her!" This call is typical of many which we receive, for in our Bible study home group we have several retired people who are in the position of having to deal with ageing parents. In our society these people are now called retired carers.

Each week it seems that there is another incident or problem to be dealt with. "It's the little things which create

Each week it seems that there is another incident or problem to be dealt with.

tension," they all say. Parents who are in "care" who have nothing much to do but want constant visiting. Or parents who should be in frail care facilities but demand to hang on to their independence in their own homes, with the resulting demands that their children run to them every few days to straighten out life's problems. This becomes particularly stressful if the carer is an only child, or has no close siblings with whom to share the burden.

The feeling of not being in control by both parties is a major problem. "I do everything for my mother, care, shop, cook but she argues over every dollar I spend and runs me down to others, but when my brother comes occasionally to see her she gives him large sums of money." "Some days my mother acts as a child and I have to treat her so, then another day she resents and abuses me because she thinks that I know nothing as I am her child."

Abuse of the elderly has become an in-

creasing problem in our society. The carer sometimes begins to neglect, both physically and emotionally, the parent because of their own feelings of anger and frustration as a reaction to the occasions when the parent acts in a wilful, demanding way. The carer says, "It is hard to forgive and forget behaviours which appear intentional and hurtful". The self-esteem of the carer is jeopardised.

Frustration and anger is built up in retired carers because they had looked forward to taking things easy in their retirement years. Often they have worked longer in paid employment to help their children and grandchildren who have been through unstable situations. Now their finances are restricted and their health is deteriorating, but their aged parent is living on, sometimes in better financial circumstances and physical health than the carer.

How do we deal with these problems? Accept the situation. Remember that God is in control and that "all things work together for good to those who trust the Lord" (Rom 8:28). Don't forget that you are going through a grieving process for you are losing your "parent", even before they have died. God will give you the strength to deal with each day.

Develop "anger management" techniques. Don't feel worthless because you find that the demands made upon you are so hard. Say "I accept this situation. I won't fight it. I'll deal with it. I'll be positive. I can do this through Christ who strengthens me." (Phil. 4:13) Share your struggles with a support group. Let them pray for you and love you. Feel free to ring them and say "today has been particularly hard". Don't try to be the super-saint. Listen to the advice of your partner or others as they



sometimes see the situation more clearly as they are not involved in the parent-child relationship.

Be aware of all the helps in the community which you can utilise. For example, your church family; home care, who provide meals and do household chores; dementia support groups; Community Care day centres and respite care facilities, so you can have some renewal.

Develop strategies for dealing with time pressures. Schedule time for physical activities, relaxation, worship and prayer.

*Sometimes I have so much to do
I think it must be done.*

*I'll work so very very hard
From morn till set of sun.*

*But here is something I have found
This really doesn't pay*

*I've always found I've weaker grown
If I have failed to pray. —Anon.*

Jean Flint is a Certified Professional Counsellor who worships at the Lower Blue Mountains Church of Christ, NSW, and is a member of the NSW Senior's Ministry Team.

Ageing

Seniors Ministry

RON ROBERTS

I sat with a group of people from the congregation who were primarily interested in seeking out a minister for their congregation. They were warm, welcoming and eager to search out answers to their questions. Most, if not all, were in their seventies. I soon learned that this group of lovely people was drowning in an understanding that the future of the church was dependent on young people being in worship on Sunday morning. They honestly believed that they were failing themselves, their fellow members and

done must be built around three basic principles. **Acceptance.** Another person's journey in life may be different, but it doesn't necessarily mean that it is wrong or inappropriate. Acceptance gives room for discovery and growth. **Development.** Whatever is done or attempted must have a purpose that forges growth forward, rather than creating an opportunity to only reflect on the past. Seniors have a vast reserve of experience, born out of a journey through extensive changes in their lifetime. (I am still amazed at the rate of change between the cat whisker crystal set to today's technology of communications.) **Excellence.** Everything done deserves to be done to the best of our ability. Whether the task is big or small, it makes no difference, rough enough is not good enough.

Freshness in spiritual journey is as important for seniors as any other age group. Seniors experience exactly the same pressures and life issues as anyone else, with the added difficulty of tension between capacity and desire. Therefore, a careful approach to change is needed. Not only have seniors moved with the massive changes they have seen, but became essential cogs in the wheels of time to create those changes. In our ministry to seniors we consider it essential to recognise that among all of that change it is important to hold on to some areas of sameness. We don't dispense with traditional practice altogether, although we do not operate from a base of habit, but rather an approach of relativity. Ministry/worship/life journey must all be meaningful.

Part of Glenelg's journey in dealing with the issues of letting go and moving on has been a specific approach to management. The result of which is



that the church is able to recognise the significant contribution made by people of long standing, without the need for those people to hold power or position. Indeed, the position is changed from rank to team or partnership. This enables new people to feel immediately accepted and to find a place of participation in the kingdom.

Developing a ministry with seniors requires patience, the gifts to work alongside, a strong belief in seniors, but more than anything else, a desire to see God have his way through a group of people who are often put on the shelf or seen as getting in the way. And to see these people break free and find energy for life and faith gives enormous energy for ministry.

I am grateful to God for the opportunity to learn about the huge resource he has given both the church and community, which we often call "seniors". By the way, we also have a developing ministry to young people which is complementary to our emphasis with seniors and it is exciting everyone.

Ron Roberts is the minister of the Glenelg, SA, church. He previously served with the Federal Aborigines Board, Noarlunga Centre and the SA Conference.

Freshness in spiritual journey is as important for seniors as any other age group.

most of all their God, because the average age of the congregation was about the mid-seventies. As we talked it became apparent to me that although their future was being expressed in the "past", this church had a great potential to grow forward, using the very strengths which they had seen as weakness or failure. It didn't take me long to learn that the Glenelg, SA, district was the largest seniors community in Australia, and the congregation needed to hear it loud and clear. Here, right on our doorstep was a mission field of people with all the kinds of needs which the current congregation could relate to and vice versa.

Through the activities of the church, seniors are encouraged to be active as participators, rather than spectators. Each group operates with its own integrity, understanding that whatever is

Teresa of Avila: Barefooted "Doctor of the Church"

BILL TABBERNEE

In 1154, the "Order of Our Lady of Carmel" was founded in Palestine on Mt Carmel, the site where Elijah had challenged the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18). The Carmelite Monks, many of whom had come to the Holy Land as crusaders, followed a

They set out hoping to be beheaded as martyrs by the Moors

very strict discipline ("rule"). They rejected all worldly goods, went barefoot, purposely lived in extreme poverty, and devoted

their time to prayer and contemplation in almost complete solitude.

After the crusades, the order was re-established in Europe, where an Order of Carmelite Sisters was founded in the Netherlands in 1452. This order spread quickly to France, Italy, and, especially, Spain—where it obtained its most famous member, Teresa of Avila (1515–1582).

Teresa was born into a Spanish aristocratic family. A pious child, she and her young brother, having read stories about saints, once set out hoping to be beheaded as martyrs by the Moors. An uncle caught up with them just outside Avila's city gate and returned them to their mother.

Teresa became a Carmelite nun when she was 21 years old, but it was not until she was 40 that she experienced the mystical visions which changed her life and reformed the Carmelites.

Believing herself to be called by Christ to help her order return to its original strict asceticism and assisted by her disciple John of the Cross, Teresa established throughout Europe numerous Carmelite houses where the earlier discipline was strictly observed, including the practice of not wearing sandals. In 1579 the Discalced ("barefoot") Carmelites became a separate order, with Teresa and John as co-founders.

Despite vehement opposition from the "Calded Carmelites" (or, perhaps, because of it), Teresa's spiritual life deepened and she wrote some of the most significant Christian mystical works ever published. The most famous of these is called *The Interior Castle*, a timeless classic on contemplative spirituality in which she sets out seven



stages leading to mystical union with God.

This and her other writings, including a wonderful autobiography recounting her spiritual development, led to her being made a "Doctor of the Church" by the Roman Catholic Church. However, while she was made a saint only forty years after her death, it would take another 348 years for her to be declared a "Doctor of the Church" in 1970. She is the only woman among the thirty scholars who have thus far received this designation.

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Peter Mac

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TM/PSB824

Coffee Break Honourable Elderly

CAROL PRESTON

How do you feel about growing older? Are there many older people close to you who share your life in significant ways? Where do your ideas about the elderly come from? How well do you honour and respect the elderly? These are important issues for all of us, as one day, if we are still around, we will fall into that category. I'm sure we all get dis-



The elderly are growing in numbers

gusted when we see lack of respect for the elderly, but the truth is we can easily be caught in society's attitudes of disrespect for parents and elderly people. We live in a society that worships youthfulness, that honours power and productivity, exalts winning. This affects our attitudes to people, especially the weaker members of the community. We have old people being abused in their own homes, robbed while in their beds or watching TV, mugged on the streets because they are easy prey. Our worship of technology and the latest things makes old people less valuable, their ideas, knowledge and skills outdated. Most people have come to dread old age because it has been associated with being helpless, inept, lonely, and useless. We project onto old people elements we do not want in ourselves: vulnerability, mortality and powerlessness. We do all we can not to look or act old. Growing older seems an affront to our self-image, a deterrent to our plans and a general inconvenience to society. But the ta-

bles are turning! The elderly are growing in numbers, so if they can hang in there long enough, they may yet have the numbers and power to get their own back! Old age may yet become again an honoured estate.

For what is there more to be respected and honoured than a long life of learning, struggling and overcoming; where God's wisdom and grace has flourished? Literature and history recount stories of the richness of a long life well-lived. The later decades of human life can continue to be characterised by opportunities for development and personal growth. Studies in gerontology show us a great diversity exists among older persons, that many feel good in themselves and about themselves, and that they have an important contribution to make to any society, community or family.

Part of the challenge of the mature years is to transcend the sources of personal identity and significance that have characterised early and middle adulthood, and I'd like to focus on these next month. For those who have not yet reached this stage of life, we need to honour people who have journeyed before us and look to them for wisdom and inspiration for our own journey!

Media Matters

Figuring it Out

VINEY LONGTHORP

Modern government is very dependent on statistics which measure key aspects of the nation's life. The latest report of the Australian Bureau of Statistics has us figured out, so to speak. Here is a smorgasbord of a few, among many, of those indicators. For lots of reasons they must have a wide appeal, because the print media always gives them prominence.

The Melbourne *Age* gave the headings "Richer, healthier and cleverer but not sharing it around". Well, yes, average weekly earnings were \$574 in 1996 compared with \$368 ten years earlier. And the source of those earnings is significant. Ten years ago 58.7% of people relied on salaries as their main source of income; that has fallen to 55.5% today. During the same period, government payments (pensions, etc) grew as the main source of income from 27.7% to 29% for the population.

Still on money matters, while household income almost doubled in the ten years to 1996, almost one-third of income went to the wealthiest one-fifth of the population. The poorest 20% received less than 8%. (Update: This year 12% of Australians live in households where the income is less than the poverty level.)

In 1996 the average weekly income of sole-parent families was \$433. More than half such fami-

lies relied totally on government pensions or allowances.

We are smoking less, drinking less, cutting down on fats, and exercising more.

Public health education seems to be working. These changes in lifestyle have contributed to a declining death-rate and to an increasing life expectancy.

There is also a decline in many of the major causes of death. In the past ten years numbers who died from cancer fell from 182 to 177 per 100,000. Deaths from strokes also declined: from 85 to 61 per 100,000. Over the same period, deaths from vehicle accidents showed a decrease, from 19 to 11 per 100,000. However, some death rates have increased: lung cancer in women and prostate cancer in men. Suicide rates among males 15-24 years peaked at 28 deaths per 100,000 in 1988, but have fallen to 25 deaths per 100,000 in 1996. Overall, families are smaller, parents are older and are less likely to be married. In the 1960s families had an average of 3.6 children and first-time mothers were 23.2 years old on average. In 1996, the average family

had 1.8 children and first-time mothers were 28.7 years old. This has meant that were it not for immigration the

population of Australia would be nearly stationary.

In the decade from 1986 the number of indigenous Australians increased by 55%. They now comprise some 2.1% of the population. In the 1996 census, 386,000 identified themselves and their children as indigenous, that is, those having more than 50% Aboriginal "blood".

In 1987, 21.5% of the population was born elsewhere. By last year, this proportion had grown to 23.3%. The proportion of immigrants born in non-English-speaking countries rose from 12.1% to 14.2% between 1987 and 1997. Victoria had the highest percentage at 18%; Queensland, the heartland of the One Nation party, has 7.7%.

Though a married couple with children remains the most common family pattern at 40%, childless couples are becoming more common, growing in the past ten years from 30 to 33% of all families.

Single mothers now head almost 10% of all families. Births outside marriage increased from 16% in 1987 to 27% last year. Over the same period, the number of fathers recognising such births rose from 70.6 to 84.2%.

The number of women in the work force increased by more than 700,000 between 1988 and this year, and is rapidly approaching the 50% mark.

But this isn't the whole story. Here are some figures which tell of heartbreak. A Smith Family survey taken in June 1996, among low income families in select regions of Melbourne, showed 39% of income spent on private rent, 31% were forced to move six or more times over five years, 45% cut back on food expenditure, 30% had no heating in their homes and 18% reduced spending on clothes.

We are smoking less, drinking less, cutting down on fats, and exercising more.

It is the task of the prophets to interpret statistics to give them a human face. Hugh Mackay says: "We are living in a society which is reinventing itself. The rate of social, cultural, economic, and technological change has been breathtaking. Everything from the redefinition of marriage to the problem of unemployment reminds us that most of the reference points we used to rely on for understanding the Australian way of life has been swept away".

Small wonder so many have a deep sense of insecurity. These figures and the words of the interpreters, both secular and Christian, provide us with our agendas for those prayers of intercession, "for the church and the world", which we may offer each Lord's Day.

We need to figure out what is the mind of Christ for our own true security and, above all, our compassion for others.



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HAVEN, VIC Church closed, please delete from mailing lists.

BAPTISMS

•Leah Olsen, Kate Piper, Amanda Cooper, Frances Williamson, Stan Daniels, **Tweed Heads-Coolangatta, NSW** •Phillip Rawlings, Emma Coleman, Rebekah Turner, Daniel Hart, **Noarlunga Centre, SA** •Paul Shearman, **Bendigo, Vic**

DEATHS

•Austin Seales, Bert Dowell, **Swan Hill, Vic** •Meg Lassig, **Twyford St, Bundaberg, Qld** •Sam Ethell, Aileen Harvey, **Noarlunga Centre, SA** •Thelma Perl, Muriel Morrison, **Bendigo, Vic**

OBITUARIES

Obituaries are limited to 100 words
LYNCH, Maisie

(11.6.98) Maisie Everett, born 14.7.09, married Norm Lynch at Bamba Road, Caulfield, Vic, Church of Christ. They had two children, Neil and Glenys. Maisie was a foundation Sunday School scholar and was still in membership at Caulfield. She served in many aspects of church life: choir, CWF, Phi Beta Pi and tennis clubs, Bible Society, opportunity shop, hospital trolley service and WCTU. She played a skilled game of scrabble, rode a bicycle well into her senior years and still drove a car. Maisie was kind, thoughtful, punctual, reliable and could keep confidences. Her passing was peaceful. She is missed by family and friends who remember her as a lovely Christian lady.

—Dorothy Goodman

MACKLEY, Ilma Betty

(17.7.98) We mourn the loss of Mrs Mackley, who died in Horsham, Vic, in July. She was 73. Her parents were Arthur and Edith Taylor of Queensland. Her two sisters both live in Brisbane.

After her marriage to Archibald Mackley in 1946, they moved to Victoria. They had five children, of whom Beryl Mackley and Margaret Wild remain. Mrs Mackley enjoyed family gatherings and was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She served as secretary and treasurer of CWF and was the treasurer of the Haven Church of Christ for several years, before her death.

—Steve Blacket

Making News

PNG Aid

Donors have given \$5,000 to date to the Overseas Mission Board for relief of PNG victims involved in the recent tidal wave devastation. Funds will be made available through COCOA (Churches of Christ Overseas Aid).

Perth Seminars and Mission Conference

Dr Martin Robinson will conduct seminars in Perth on small and mid-sized churches 23-24 October, prior to attending the Churches of Christ-sponsored International Summit on Mission at Stanwell Tops, NSW. He has written and conducted seminars for churches throughout the UK.

TAS

LAUNCESTON (C. Spaulding, W. Kerrison, T. Gray, S. Fitzallen) 37 of our seniors enjoyed bus outing to Mole Creek in perfect weather and celebrated Christmas in August ... Church anniversary celebration on 9 August well attended, when recognition made of several who had reached 50-plus years of marriage. Lunch followed.

VIC

BORONIA (B. Moore, G. Stirling) Church pleased to announce Brian Ricketts has accepted invitation to full-time ministry commencing October ... Alpha Course starting 31 August ... Good Companions raised \$414 for Bibles for Uganda ... Members participated in World Vision 40 Hour famine ... Members also involved in district CofC radio program through Knox radio 81.6 FM ... Recent speakers, Noel Mitaxa, Andrew Bennett, Les Medley Simeon Parker.

BALWYN (Rob Culhane) Commencing planning for joint involvement with Baptist church at Maranoa Community Festival ... Church restumped as preparation for repair & repainting of 2 sides of building by Mobile Mission Maintenance ... Ian & Fran Penna welcomed into membership ... New Sunday night study group commenced for seekers ... Vision & purpose group after lots of hard work coming up with a vision statement & strategy.

SWAN HILL (Roger Risson) Series of house meetings held during August to

assist Anne & Roger Risson to "get to know" church family ... Lawrence Hirsch (Celebrate Messiah) evening speaker 19 July ... Youth group rehearsing in preparation for musical presentation in September ... Annual meeting 2 August ... Church saddened at passing of Austin Seales & Bert Dowell.

CHADSTONE (Malcolm & Yvonne Lowe) Ray Salmon recovering from major surgery, also Christine Crawford from operation. Marg Patterson & Christine Cooney also unwell ... Lowe's eldest son, Daniel, seriously ill in hospital after neck injury, slowly recovering ... Scrabble afternoon held ... Recent fun night held & well attended ... Alan Hirsch speaker 26 July ... John Sutton at Red Hill church for next six months as interim minister.

BENDIGO (Ross Barnes) Church hosted Promise Keepers Rally. A great inspiration. Lots of folk sick during winter ... August is mission month. Launched by Gary Peterson, Wycliffe Bible Translators ... Sunday School excited about using new material called "Oasis" ... Pastor attended Ministers' Conference at El Kanah.

LATROBE TCE, GEELONG (David Jones) Restoration of pipe organ (constructed 1858) now completed ... Terrace joined with Belmont church to hear Conference President, Chek Chia ... CWF had Claire Barton as speaker. Donations sent to Gippsland & PNG relief. Aberdeen St Baptist ladies shared in meeting ... 43 men breakfasted with Tom Treseder, NSW Bible Society, who was guest speaker at Sunday service, when 30 men sang "I need thee every hour".

MOUNT CLEAR (Rod Ratcliffe) Vision Night presentation and supper big success ... New Church Logo ... Leadership Training Seminars ... Youth Winter sleep-out ... Letter from Creelmans ... Harry's Cafe after pm church to support Harry Attison in Vanuatu ... Useful stock now in Food Bank ... Bev Sutcliffe speaker CRE Sunday ... Lorikeets making patchwork square for 2000 Brisbane Conference.

Supervised Urban Ministry Program

Applications are invited for this new program, commencing 22 February to 7 June 1999. This course requires a commitment of twenty hours per week. The focus of the program is on ministerial formation within the urban ministry context. It is available to all in lay and ordained pastoral ministry. Academic credit is available.

Enquiries and requests for application to:

Rev Prof John Paver or Rev Paul Mayfield,
S.U.M.P. Theological Hall, Ormond College, Parkville Vic 3052.
Telephone (03) 9347 7199 or (03) 9372 2151.

Applications close 30 October 1998.

Church News

NSW

TELOPEA (D. Wilson, L. Berthelsen, J. Berthelsen, J. Elsmore, S. Hall) Church continues to send out & welcome home members called to missionary service ... Ken & Dal Mason, formerly on the pastoral team, left 3 August for Botswana with African Evangelical Fellowship ... Lynton & Helen Kallmier are back from work with Servants to Asia's Urban Poor in Bangkok slum district ... AGM 15 August with theme "Let's Shine the Light" ... New sermon series Romans 1-12 commenced.

TWEED HEADS-COOLANGATTA (Bruce Warwick) Quarterly mid-week service with "Drop-In" folk well attended ... John & Honi Reifel from Drug Rehabilitation Centre near Coff's Harbour visited. John brought story of their work which is church's special project for year ... Bruce Armstrong visited & spoke at evening service ... Bush dance, with Murwillumbah joining, time of great fellowship ... Five baptisms & 12 new members in past 2 months.

SA

NOARLUNGA CENTRE (Morrie Munyard, Tony Gibson) Morrie Munyard inducted as part-time senior minister (interim) ... Over 30 youth workers or leaders attended retreat 3-5 July ... New vision for worship being developed involving interaction, colour & touch ... AGM focussed on future rather than past ... Coming events include youth overseas mission to Nauru, family seminars, local schools information night & community information group ... Search for new senior minister by search team.

WA

DIANELLA Church without minister following Tony Armstrong's resignation owing to ill health ... Robin Haley inducted to children & family ministry ... "I have a dream"—congregation to

bring dreams & visions for Dianella's future ... Recent speakers include Dr Pawar from Dhaund Hospital ... Special individual prayer scheme for all associated children ... World President CWF (Marj Dredge) speaking 15 September ... Men's breakfast 22 August. **CARNARVON** (G. Law Davis) "Round Australia" trekkers from Broken Hill church shared fellowship tea & billeted out ... Church met upstream of Gascoyne River for thanksgiving serv-

ice following bounteous rains ... Visiting WEC missionaries Jim & Lyn Dawson were challenging & encouraging ... Numbers growing in newly-formed youth club ... Thanks to Queenie & late Bob Scott's generosity, windows have been replaced in chapel.

QLD

TWYFORD ST, BUNDABERG (Paul Scully) Autumn Fair raised \$894 for

Pierson Youth Support & our youth work ... QCWN President Gwen Taverner & Lyn Parry (President Elect) visited May ... Program for expectant & new parents over 6 weeks ... Combined evangelical service with Bill Thorburn, Southport church, held ... Hymnfest in August ... Bible Society friendship mornings assisted "Bibles for Uganda" ... Congratulations to Katrina & Stephen Johnston on birth of Larz Stephen.

COCOA brings HOPE



COCOA provides finance to develop food crops like this at Londua Training School in Vanuatu.

Londua students are taught a variety of skills, including carpentry, domestic science and subsistence agriculture. These skills equip them to build a better lifestyle.

**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.

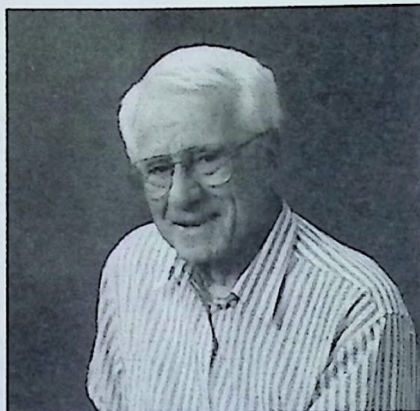
Are We an American Movement?

GORDON STIRLING

As a young preacher at Lower Hutt, NZ, and fired up for Christian Unity and New Testament Christianity, my preaching often referred to the Campbells and our American roots. One day a Scots elder asked me if I knew that Churches of Christ commenced in Britain even before the Campbells. He gave me a copy of *A Short History of British Churches of Christ* by Archie Watters (who later baptised my son-in-law Arthur Morris). I should have been more sensitive in my preaching, for were not half my congregation migrants from the historic churches of Sinclairtown and Kirkcaldy?

Years ago a writer in *The Canberra Times*, commenting on religious traditions in the ACT, wrote somewhat scathingly of Australian Churches of Christ as being yet another American sect, such as the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses. The Editor gave me space to reply that Australian Churches of Christ were rooted in Britain, albeit that they were assisted by American evangelists. Thomas Magarey, one of the earliest leaders of South Australian Churches of Christ, was converted in Nelson, NZ, by Thomas Jackson, who was a migrant from an English Church of Christ. Later, migrants from Scottish churches, such as that at New Mills, strengthened the growing movement in South Australia.

Albert Griffin, the first member of Churches of Christ in New South Wales, had drifted



away from Christianity, but letters from his brother, a member of a London Church of Christ, renewed his faith in Christ and gave him a vision of New Testament Christianity and its possibilities.

In 1853, seven migrants from British Churches of Christ set up the Lord's Table "in the tent of Brother Ingram at Prahran" (Vic). Later arrivals from the home country strengthened the little church.

As the movement grew in Australia and New Zealand help was sought and received from evangelists from America. Also in those early days young men from both countries went to America to train for ministry.

So Australian Churches of Christ are an interesting blend of the best of American and British traditions, adapted to Australian life and culture. So we are an Australian religious movement, and hopefully proud of it!

The Last Word

The empires of the future are the empires of the mind.

—Winston Churchill

Old is always fifteen years older than I am.

That's an interesting outfit you're wearing. Do you think that style will ever come back?

My dad used to play games with me as a kid. He used to throw me in the air and walk away.

Women who seek to be equal with men lack ambition.

Boy: "Can you see the screen all right?"

Girl: "Yes."

Boy: "You're not sitting in a draught?"

Girl: "No."

Boy: "Comfortable seat?"

Girl: "Yes, fine!"

Boy: "Mind changing places?"

I can live for two months on a good compliment. —Mark Twain

It was a really cheap airline. Instead of a movie, the pilot flew low over drive-in theatres.

A garden is a thing of beauty and a job forever.

Don't throw away your empty seed packets. They are often just the right size for storing your crop.

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