

THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

Vol. 101 No. 19, 11 November 1998

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Photograph by

Making music
in church



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Christian

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Vol. 101 No. 19, 11 November 1998

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Editorial

Relating to Culture

DON SMITH

By sheer coincidence we carry a news story on the restoration of a 140-year-old pipe organ, a feature article on the effective use of modern secular music in services, plus a "Letter" about a new hymn book! Both the churches mentioned share common convictions and commitment to our Movement. Both could enjoy alternative styles in a suitable context. * Yet acknowledging that, it is clear that music in worship has undergone a revolution in recent decades. Whenever change comes there will be difficulties or resistance. The



first four centuries of church history saw "plainsong" develop, unaccompanied by musical instruments, which paralleled too closely the popular Roman and Greek practices. But through the first 1000 years of church history, there were always the innovators who looked to contemporary music. * In much later times organs were controversial, as we well know in our own Movement. Experience shows that change will come with or without us. If we can participate in the change process, hopefully together it can come in a responsible way. * Martin Luther (1483-1546), an accomplished lute and flute player, enjoyed the music of contemporary composers and broke with centuries of tradition by embracing contemporary culture and music. John Wesley (1703-1791) had a commitment that hymn tunes used for his evangelistic and teaching ministry should relate to current music styles, much to the consternation of church leaders. * Relating to culture is the fundamental issue. This is always a basic missionary task. Is there a case for giving this priority? I believe there is. Contemporary culture will express itself in differing forms and levels, and where innovative ministry aims to reach this culture every effort should be made to encourage the ministry. There need not be a clash with the old if there is tolerance and insight about the issues. The missionary task must be primary. Reaching contemporary culture with the Gospel is an obligation laid upon us. Recently I worshipped with the thriving rural church at Numurkah, Vic, just 15 years old. Its music was contemporary, innovative, well-thought-through and allowed for maximum participation by young and old. There is no turning back. Contemporary relevance is the goal and moving forward together is the obligation. *

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Music touches us deeply. We use it for enjoyment, relaxation and to worship. Our writers comment on music and our faith.

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Letters to the Editor

The Australian Christian welcomes letters from its readers. Short letters up to 175 words stand the best chance of publication. All letters may be edited. We reserve the right to omit letters altogether.

Yes Senior Minister

To the Editor,
 Kim Thoday's letter, "Yes Senior Minister" ("AC" 14.10.98) bothered me somewhat. Kim asks if Leadership 2000 is formally part of the National Conference of Churches of Christ (which, incidentally, has now been reconstituted as Churches of Christ in Australia). The answer, of course, is no. It is an initiative of an ad-hoc group of ministers who serve that relatively small group of larger congregations which contain, I believe, about 20% of the people regularly worshipping in Churches of Christ across Australia. Their aim is to train and mentor younger ministers whom they believe have the potential and inclination to minister in the sort of churches they serve. Now

there is nothing sinister about that; all sorts of specialist ministers—theological college principals, pastoral care specialists, sports and military chaplains, etc, do the same.

I understand that the style of ministry and church advocated by the senior ministers has little appeal to Kim. To some extent I share his feelings. However, it is a style of ministry that an increasing number of people find helpful and I, for one, am not going to pontificate on whether or not they should prefer to follow my preferences.

However, my real concern is the tone of sarcasm so evident in the letter and the juxtaposition of Leadership 2000 with Crystal Palaces, Disneyland and "likely lads". I don't find this helpful or fair. As for the reference to a sometime visit to Disneyland, I think this is a cheap shot. Most Australians visiting Los Angeles go to Disneyland. I did so myself once. I also visited Crown Casino in Melbourne (not to gamble, only to look) and an AFL game in Adelaide. I found them all interesting windows into strange cultures, none of which I wish to visit again.

I think it appropriate to recall Jesus' words to his disciples who didn't like the way someone was ministering in Jesus' name but was not part of their group. "Don't stop him ... whoever is not against us is for us." (Mark 9:38-40). I am not one of the senior ministers and I don't do things quite as they do. But I do believe we are on the same team.

—Bob Smith

(National Coordinator, Churches of Christ in Australia)

Together in Song

To the Editor,
 The Australian Hymn Book (AHB) Committee has been at

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Letters to the Editor

work for 10 years on a replacement for the 1977 AHB. On the committee are representatives of the Anglican, Lutheran, Roman Catholic and Uniting Churches and the Churches of Christ.

The new hymnal, tentatively entitled *Together in Song: The Australian Hymn Book II*, is to be launched next June. The melody-line edition, published by HarperCollins, will probably cost \$25.00.

Almost all mainline churches in Britain, Canada and the United States have published new hymnals in the last 15 years. Why a new Australian Hymn Book? Five reasons.

1. New material. The prolific writing of new hymns began in England in the 1960s, with composers like Erik Routley, Fred Kaan and Brian Wren. More recent writers are Geoff Bullock, Graham Kendrick and Darlene Zschech.

2. Changes in worship styles. What is called contemporary worship makes much use of choruses.

3. Theological challenges. The faith is confronted with new issues, such as the care of the environment, the role of women in the church, racism, atomic warfare and a global economy.

4. Lectionary needs. Many congregations use the Revised Common Lectionary. More hymns that are complementary to these scriptures are needed.

5. Language. Many worshippers no longer feel that "men" includes women.

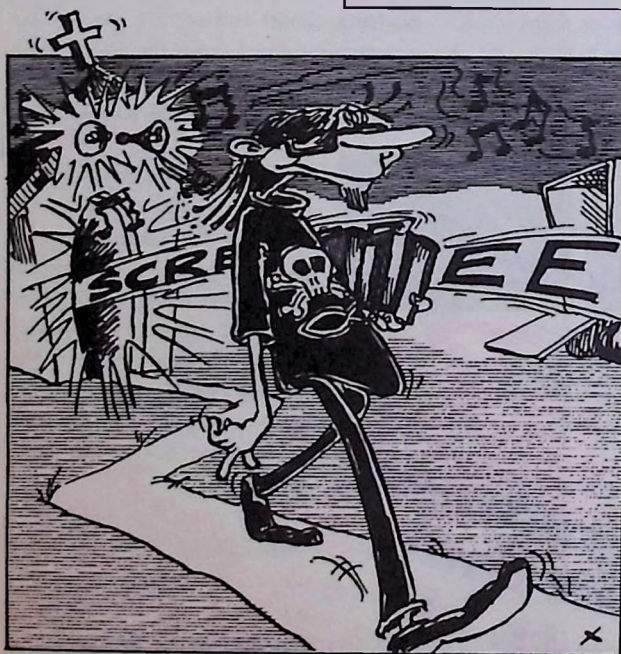
—Ronald Graham
(Johnston, Iowa, USA)

New Manse Dedication and Thanksgiving Service

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NOEL HAD SEARCHED FOR YEARS BEFORE HE FOUND A CHURCH WITH A TWIN EMPHASIS ON NEW TESTAMENT GREEK AND HEAVY METAL MUSIC

Update

Dear readers,

With this issue we welcome some 50 new subscribers from Queensland. Gordon Stirling recently attended the Sunstate Conference and visited churches in the Toowoomba area on behalf of the paper. Gordon also attended the Ministers' Conference and reported on positive comments received about the paper from ministers as well as others at the Sunstate conference.

A mailing will shortly be sent to churches Australia-wide, inviting cooperation in enlisting new subscribers.

Following the use of the cover photograph of Australian students in the United States early this century (issue 17), a reader has contacted Ken Dawson who sent the photo to us and supplied the missing information. For the interest of readers, the students are from left to right: Will Taylor, Will Ewers, Gilbert J. Daniel (Long Plains, SA), Harry Manning, Linley Gordon and Bert Taylor. Thank you Laurel Moore for the information. Laurel is a niece of Will Ewers.

The photo was taken in 1907. Laurel noted the white on the clothing of the students. Apparently they had a snow fight prior to the photo being taken. Ken Dawson remarks that the postcard format of the photograph had two one cent stamps affixed to send it on its journey to Australia via London!

As this issue carries various comments on music, readers may be interested to know that Churches of Christ Hymn Books are available from the Vic-Tas Conference Office (03) 9326 8900 at \$9 for both words-and-music and words-only editions. We also include two items covering the release of recent CDs from young adults and music groups within our churches. Numerous items similar to these from a range of musicians and groups are received from time to time. It is not always possible to include them because of space.

Pastor

**Twyford Street Church of
Christ, Bundaberg**



This is an established church requiring a pastor from February 1999. You will need to be committed, gifted in the areas of preaching and community outreach, and mature in Christian outlook and in pastoral experience.

Although established for some years, we are looking for someone to rebuild the church and inspire us to go forward into our community.

For more information, contact Roger Burt, PO Box 5176 Bundaberg West Qld 4670. Phone (07) 4153 3191. All applications should go to the above address.

Historic Organ Refurbished

Refurbished historic organ dedicated in Geelong

Latrobe Terrace, Geelong, Vic, church held a dedication service on 1 November to mark the refurbishment of the pipe organ originally installed in the building in 1858.

With the assistance of Heritage Victoria, the Properties Corporation of Churches of Christ, Vic, and interested members, the work has been completed at a cost of \$21,000.

The organ is of national historic interest as it is the oldest of the Courcelle Organs supplied to Victoria. Markings on the bellows have confirmed the dating. Re-

pairs were contracted to Fincham & Sons to strip down the organ, transport it to their Burnley workshop and completely rebuild it as close as possible to its original condition.

The chapel was originally built for the Free Church of England and was subsequently acquired by Churches of Christ.

The organ's pitch has been slightly lowered to accommodate the need to use the organ with other instruments. Guest organists for the day were J.W. Smail, G. Witham, B. Carrigg and R. Calderazzo.



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Harare Assembly

A time to "Turn to God and Rejoice in Hope"

The coming Assembly of the World Council of Churches to be held in Harare, 3-14 December, evokes for me images of a struggling Africa, as well as those of African Christianity and worship with its music of joyous celebration. Africa witnesses to Christian Hope in the midst of suffering and struggle. It is a continent that exhibits much paradox, complexity, ambiguity and uncertainty. Yet African Christians challenge and enrich as they witness to a hope known and experienced in the struggle.

The World Council of Churches Assembly to be held in Harare will embrace all of the positive and painful experiences of Africa and the wider world. It will be a time to hear the reports of the efforts of Christian witness as expressed through the member churches and the programs of the WCC through the past 7 years. It will be a time to become informed and to determine the directions for the future program areas and actions for the Council.

This Harare assembly will be more than a time for business. It will be a time to celebrate the faith together, giving thanks for the



fifty years of Christian witness through the World Council of Churches. It will be a time to affirm the direction setting Common Understanding and Vision, and to determine policy directions for the future.

The challenges for the future involve Churches of Christ in Australia being a part of determining Christian responses to some emerging global issues. Foremost will be Christian unity in a world that is increasingly experiencing pain and division, while at the same time becoming "one world" through many aspects of the globalisation process. Other issues will involve Christian witness, justice and peace, and stewardship. Your prayers for this Assembly will be valued because it will not be easy facing the painful divisions within the church, African society and the world. Our theme is "Turn to God: Rejoice in Hope". It is most appropriate at this time.

—Ian Allsop
Ian Allsop has been a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches (1991-1998) and the Assembly Planning Committee. Ian and Kerry Handasyde (Boronia, Vic) will represent Australian Churches of Christ at Harare.

Promise Keepers at Bendigo

Many men from various churches meet in Bendigo



More than ninety men from Melbourne, Castlemaine, Echuca and Rochester gathered at Bendigo, Vic, on 27 July to hear Barry Cutchie, National Director of Promise Keepers, challenge men on family life issues, integrity in their personal living and Christian discipleship. The event was held in the Bendigo Church of Christ. The night of worship, testimony and preaching concluded with a pie and pizza supper.

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Christian Fellowship Association Notice of Meeting

The annual meeting of the
Christian Fellowship Association (CFA)
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in the Board Room
at

77 Capel St, West Melbourne

on

Monday 16 November at 7.00 pm

Special Business
Amendment to the Memorandum and
Articles of Association

All members are encouraged to attend.

Light supper to follow.

Stirring Sunstate

Australian Christians at Queensland's Sunstate '98



Churches of Christ international representatives at Sunstate '98: Dot and Ron Brooker and Marj Dredge

Our advance copy of the program for "Sunstate '98" made it obvious that this Queensland Annual Conference would be different from

any other State Conference we had attended. It was a live-in event, held in the rural town of Boonah, an hour's drive from Brisbane.

Boonah is an ideal location in the heart of The Valleys of the Scenic Rim. It has adequate accommodation in a motel, the Outlook Centre (originally built as a youth-training centre) and local camping areas. The church has a spacious modern plant, including a large auditorium and hall separated by foyer and offices at one end and facilities at the other, with a paved garden area in between.

More of a convention than a conference, there were praise sessions, drama by GROCK, music ministry by Doug MacFarlane and guest speakers.

Allan Meyer of the Mt Evelyn, Vic, church led pre-breakfast Bible studies and sessions on evangelism and church health in the 21st Century. Peter Corney of St Hilary's, Kew, Vic, addressed "The Changing Face of the Australian Church". Peter Woodcock, an English evangelist, "Blew the Dust off Leviticus" and Jeff Weston of OMB contributed with "Let's Get on with Mission". There was a total of seven hours

of speaking, but no one seemed to mind.

Shuttle buses took delegates to a variety of electives in halls around the town.

Electives covered such themes as Managing Change, Healing, Creative Arts, Christian Leadership, Drama, Seniors Ministry, Christian Missions, Spiritual Recovery and Minister-Congregation Relationships.

A short business session featured plans for restructuring the work of the Conference and its agencies. These were presented for discussion in the churches and ultimately for action. Due recognition was given to Robert Warwick, retiring President, and to Rod Foster, Conference Secretary. Peter Overton, the incoming President, was inducted at the opening night banquet. Three fraternal delegates attended from Korean Churches of Christ.

The final night was slanted towards youth and seniors with hearing aids in their pockets and purses. It was entitled "The Battle of the Bands". The auditorium was packed to overflowing.

—Gordon Stirling

[Gordon represented the "AC" at Sunstate '98.]

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Please contact the Secretary, South Tamworth Church of Christ, PO Box 83, South Tamworth NSW 2340

Deaf Ministries

Deaf Ministries director appoints Australian board

Neville Muir, founder and Director of Deaf Ministries recently completed a three-month visit to Australia. During this time, he travelled through four states, speaking at meetings on reaching the deaf for Christ in nine countries.

This unique mission, begun in Korea by Australian-born Neville and his Norwegian wife Lill, with a handful of deaf converts in 1979, now has 50 deaf churches, two schools and two Bible Schools operating in Korea, Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Myanmar (formerly Burma).

Although the mission had its roots in Australia, it is not as well known here as it is overseas. Financial support from Australia is very low in comparison with support received from other countries. In August, Neville met with a group of committed, long-term supporters and established an Australian board, with responsibilities for promoting the work of Deaf Ministries throughout Australia. Board members include John Dodwell from South Melbourne Church of Christ who will act as board secretary.

The new Board will major on promoting the work in the Philippines, this being the country closest

to Australia in which Deaf Ministries operates. Sponsors will be sought for the support of children in the two schools—sponsorship is now \$25 per month. (See advert on page 22.) Major projects such as the establishment of a "Rice Mill" that would eventually lead to the schools becoming self-supporting, will also be promoted. The Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board has assumed responsibility for the receipt of all donations to the work of Deaf Ministries. The Board has been supportive of Deaf Ministries and has contributed generously to various projects through the Churches of Christ Overseas Aid fund (COCO). Donations, including child sponsorship, should be sent to "Deaf Ministries", c/o Overseas Mission Board, 180a Gray Street, ADELAIDE SA 5000. Cheques should be made payable to Overseas Mission Board. Donors will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

Production of a newsletter *Deaf Ministries Update* is a team effort. The letter is written by Neville in Japan, then e-mailed to his son Brent in Australia, who formats the letter and attaches accompanying photos. The letter is then passed to Barry Cutchie at "Promise Keepers" in Oakleigh, Vic.



Brent, David, Neville, Ian, Lill and Erik Muir, in mission with Deaf Ministries

Barry and his secretary Judy Sheppard, from Clayton, Church of Christ, are then responsible for the printing and mailing of the letters. Judy would welcome people who could be called on occasionally to assist with the folding and enveloping of newsletters. Anyone interested in helping for a few hours every six weeks or so could

call Judy on (03) 9551 5602. For information on Child Support or other aspects of Deaf Ministries, contact John Dodwell on (03) 9527 6896 (phone/fax), or write to PO Box 1023, South Melbourne Vic 3205. For deputations contact Graham Haylock on (03) 9464 1567 or write to 132 Darebin Drive, Lalor Vic 3075.

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Australian Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board

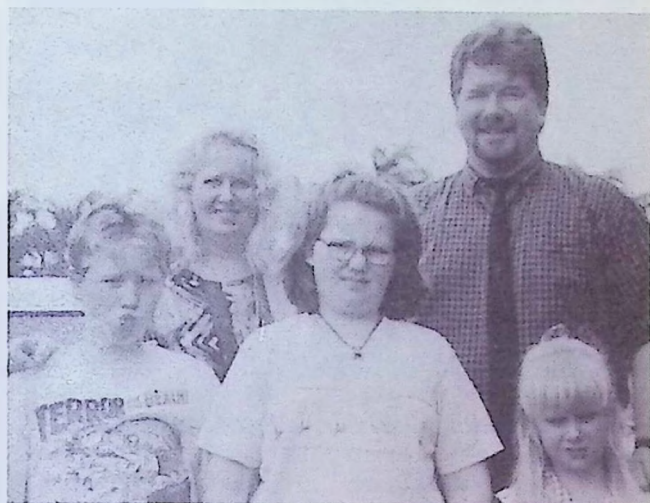
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Lifeline Director

New director appointed in the Fraser Coast District, Qld



Julie and Paul Scully and family

Paul Scully has been appointed the Director of Lifeline in the Fraser Coast District, Qld. He commences in December.

Paul and his wife Julie have served in local church ministry for fourteen years.

They have served within Queensland Churches of Christ at Acacia Ridge, Caboolture and Bundaberg.

Paul's new ministry covers the towns of Maryborough, Hervey Bay and the Wide Bay Region. Fraser Coast Lifeline serves a population of over 80,000 people which has one of the nation's highest unemployment levels and suicide rates.

Fraser Coast Lifeline has two counselling centres and several shops for its clothing ministry. Originally from Mayfield, NSW, Paul studied at Kenmore College, Qld. Paul and Julie have been married for sixteen years.

Paul has completed his BTh and Grad Dip in Pastoral Care, and trained in counselling through Deakin University and Relationships Australia.

Currently Paul is enrolled in a Master's degree in counselling at New England University. The key responsibilities for Paul's new ministry will be the supervision of the counselling staff and leadership of the centre into a new era of growth. Paul, Julie and their three children will live in Hervey Bay.

Operation Christmas Child

SA Girls' Brigade aid project



State Manager of Girls' Brigade SA, Keryn McElroy (Noarlunga Centre), and Office Assistant, Di Hubbard (Marion), sorting the boxes ready for collection

The Girls' Brigade in SA became involved in Operation Christmas Child this year, a project of Samaritan's Purse, a Christian relief and evangelism organisation. Shoe boxes are packed with a variety of gifts and distributed to

needy children in desperate situations around the world. With the cooperation of companies throughout metropolitan Adelaide, 86 shoe boxes of gifts were collated. 14th Adelaide (Noarlunga Centre Church of Christ) were supported in this venture by their church as well as by the Marion church and the Happy Valley church's "50s Plus Club".

Here and There

South African Deputy to WCC Assembly

His Excellency Thabo Mbeki, Executive Deputy President of South Africa, has accepted an invitation to attend the forthcoming World Council of Churches Eighth Assembly in Harare, Zimbabwe. Mr Mbeki has been invited to convey to the Assembly his vision for Africa in the coming years and to reflect on how the churches might best express their solidarity with the peoples of Africa in the Third Millennium.



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Making News

Ten Festival Conversions

Victoria's Richmond Vietnamese and Carlton Chinese congregations report ten conversions during their recent "Moon Festival" evangelism celebrations.

Battle of the Bands

Music competition during Queensland's Sunstate 98

Two hundred mainly young people came together to witness the inaugural Churches of Christ in Queensland Battle of the Bands, Saturday evening, 10 October 1998.

The competition was the youth event of Sunstate 98, the annual Churches of Christ convention, held at Boonah over the weekend 8-10 October.

Eight bands or groups took part in the event and the night proved to be a learning experience for many who have never performed in competition before.

The judges for the evening were Doug MacFarlane, a well-known gospel recording artist, Allan Meyer, minister and musician from Mt Evelyn Christian Fellowship, Vic, and Daniel Philippe, music teacher and lead musician at Ipswich Regional Community Church, Qld.

The groups were judged on originality of music, melody, overall sound musically, overall sound vocally, presentation, spiritual content and impact on audience. The competition was divided into two categories, either bands (one or two lead vocalists with more than two instruments) or groups (2-8 singers with up to two instruments). Four entries were involved in each category.

Most of the bands and groups performed original songs and presented a Christian message to those listening. The standard was high and it was a hard task for the judges to choose the best on the night. Music ranged from rap, to alternative rock, to a capella style. Towards the end of the evening Doug MacFarlane sang and presented a challenge to the young people to get their lives right with God. About eight young people responded to God's call on their lives.



Soulframe, battling it out during Sunstate 98's Battle of the Bands

WINNERS

Bands

1. Serenity (Ann Street)
2. Soulframe (Southport)
3. Sook (Southport)
4. Exit Only (Mackay)

Groups

1. The Four Penguins (East Ipswich)
2. Adoration (Bundamba)
3. Stealth Mode (Springwood)
4. Naked Spirit (Arana Hills)

Death of World Vision Leader

Graeme Irvine dies aged 67

Graeme Irvine (pictured below), immediate past president of World Vision International, died 6 September in Sydney. He was 67.

Mr Irvine headed the world's largest Christian relief and development agency from 1989 until his retirement in 1995.

Born in Launceston, Tas, he served as executive director of

World Vision, Australia 1968-1975. In the late 1970s, he chaired a task force that oversaw the transformation of World Vision from a US-based organisation to a global partnership with representation and operations in nearly 100 countries.



Steve Reynolds, World Vision

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—Lindsay Mott, Treasurer

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Mission Enterprise

Wagga Wagga, NSW, focuses on Mission

Promises of \$10,170 were made for the Wagga Wagga, NSW, church's missionary convention held 2-4 October. Last year \$9,170 was promised.

The aim of the program was to focus on the missionary enterprise of the church and to encourage prayer and involvement in

support of Churches of Christ missions and inter-denominational areas, with a special emphasis on those regarded as members of the church family.

Some 140 people attended presentations from the Sydney Centre for World Mission, which included drama, film clips and a speaker.

A prayer breakfast and a ladies night were other features of the program. Special sessions included a focus on work in the Sudan and Chad.

Here and There

Walking Off the Shelves

The recent Vital Publications book *Will Anyone Listen To Me* by Michelle and Paul Andrews was awarded "Booksellers' Choice" by the Australian Christian Book of the Year Awards and was described as one which "walks off the shelves", "fun", "great grandparent's gift" and "great for Sunday School presentation". Copies are available from Vital Publications, the national publishing arm of Churches of Christ, contact (03) 9379 1219, or PO Box 101, Essendon North Vic 3041.

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WA Women's Meetings

Visit of Marj Dredge to WA



Marj Dredge speaking at Women's Camp, Serpentine

The women of WA were blessed by the visit of World Christian Women's Fellowship President Marj Dredge in September. From 13-22 September she spoke to nearly 600 people at twelve meetings around Perth and the South West.

She was also the main speaker at the Women's Annual Camp on the weekend 18-20 September, where the theme was "The Fragrance of Christ".

The women were challenged to spend time in renewal so that we may be the pure fragrance of

Christ in our world. While in the West, Marj had meetings with the WA state executive of Women's Ministries and also with the national executive, which is currently located in WA.

Western Australians were encouraged to attend the Women's National Gathering and the World Convention in Brisbane in 2000. Marj was also able to help the women see themselves as part of the wider family of Churches of Christ around the world. There is strong financial and prayer support in WA for Marj and the World CWF project, Khayelihle Children's Village in Zimbabwe.

Making News

Amsterdam 2000 Evangelists' Conference

More than 10,000 participants from over 185 countries speaking over 25 official languages are expected to attend Amsterdam 2000, a conference for preaching evangelists sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.



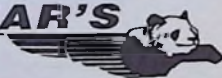
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Anticipate the Day

Blackwood Church of Christ releases it's CD and song book



Ben Williams, Sharon Vicars and Emma Rowe during one of the recording sessions.

As the launch day approached, the excitement grew. CDs, song book, pre-launch drinks and eats, rehearsals, programming—everything in place. On the day, Blackwood was alive with musicians, singers, sound and lighting guys, and people of all ages worshipping God. There was an excellent turn out, with representatives from the music industry, SA churches, surrounding schools and politicians in attendance. The

CD *Anticipate The Day* was officially launched by David Brooker, the State Minister of the Churches of Christ in SA.

Since the launch the Willow Creek Association has agreed to promote and distribute the CD. The Uniting Church in SA offered support through a reference in the state paper *New Times*, with the comment that "the CD is professionally produced, compares well to other worship CDs and it's all original local music". A local Christian radio station has selected tracks for air-play, with positive comments about the technical and spiritual aspects.

The launch of the CD was the fulfilment of a dream of a passionate group of people to communicate the message of Christ in contemporary language by music and words. The CD and song book can be viewed on the web site <http://www.listen.to/anticipate>. For further information, contact the Blackwood Church of Christ office, phone (08) 8278 8666, fax (08) 8278 1727, or write to PO Box 476, Blackwood SA 5051.

In Praise and Faith



a collection of 30 Christian songs by Chas Shinkfield for use in worship services.

To order your music book and sample tape, send cheque or money order for \$20.00 payable to Ararat Church of Christ, c/o 33 Barkly St West, Ararat Vic 3377. Inquiries phone (03) 5352 2694 AH.



With Hearts and Hymns and Voices

by Pam Rhodes (Lion Publishing). \$12.95.

The Vicar is nowhere to be found when the BBC rings to ask about filming *Songs of Praise* in his village.

His wife takes the call, and the news spreads. It is greeted with excitement, apprehension, indifference and some stubborn opposition.

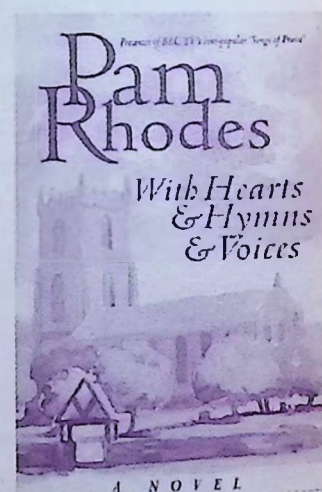
Only two months elapse between the first contact and the final performance, but during that time life in the village is changed beyond recognition.

From the moment of that first phone call to the day when the last truck drives away, you will believe in the people, their relationships, and their conflicts. Regular viewers will be certain they have seen this particular program on air.

Pam Rhodes is a popular presenter on *Songs of Praise*, and has drawn on her experience to write this novel. She appears in the story, and the self-portrait is delightfully frank. The stories she tells against herself must be true! *Songs of Praise* viewers will love this book, but the story of an English village turned upside-down by a "close encounter" with television makes for great reading, even if you've never seen the program!

An excellent gift idea.

—Janet Thompson



Orange and District Ministers' Association

High Schools Youth Worker

To coordinate SRE at two local high schools with a team of enthusiastic volunteers and to be part of the schools and churches pastoral care network.

The position is currently 17 hours per week, with potential to develop to a full-time position.

Job description available from Bev Rankin, c/o PO Box 70, Orange NSW 2800. Phone (02) 6361 4578. Applications close 27 November 1998.

Music

Contemporary Music

GAILANN SMITH

Over recent years, contemporary music has been integrated more and more into the worship life of our churches. But what exactly is "contemporary" music? The word contemporary is used to refer to things (in this instance, music) which proceed from the current time and present generation. We could say that the Psalms were the contemporary music of David's day, and our well-loved hymns were contemporary in their day. This is not to say that psalms and hymns are of the past and, therefore,

The most important reason to use contemporary music is based on the great commission.

outdated. Psalms and great hymns such as "Amazing Grace" and "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" are still powerful in bringing us before the Lord. They make us aware of our own needs and shortcomings and help us to recognise the compassion and work of our own personal Saviour, Jesus. However, the hymns that have stood the test of time are those whose words are simple and easy to understand as we pour out our hearts in worship to our great God.

The most important reason to use contemporary music in our worship services is based on the great commission to go into all the world and spread the news of Jesus among all nations. On the day of Pentecost people heard the message of Jesus proclaimed to them in their own languages. Likewise, today we have the opportunity to use music

that reflects our current language and culture. Music is a significant tool for evangelism, reaching out to the people of today that God yearns to draw to himself.

The use of contemporary music in the church raises questions of sources of music, use of different musical instruments and the need to achieve a balance between various styles of music. In services where we have

a broad age range, we need to provide music with which the different generations can identify as we come together as a body of believers to worship God. The body of Christ, the church, has many parts. Unity is brought about through accepting diversity. In practical terms, our services can incorporate hymns, familiar choruses and new contemporary songs. By doing so, we recognise each generation's need to worship in a style that enables them to express their love to God.

Different styles of music also lend themselves to a variety of musical instruments that can be used to create various atmospheres and moods for worship. The use of bands introduces many possibilities to reach out to younger generations who do not have a church background by using the style of music that they listen to every day. This is underlined by the growth of youth services where contemporary music is used almost exclusively and youth are able to worship in less formal and traditional ways such as raising hands and jumping.

There are many resources available. These include the widely-used Scripture in Song, Praise and Worship Resource Christian Music and the cur-



rently popular Hillsongs Australia publications. There are also many other churches producing their own worship songs. This is both exciting and desirable because the music will be relevant to that church's vision and where its congregation are in their Christian walk. An excellent example of this

are songs written by Sam Towns for use in worship at Hobart Christian Life Centre and now used throughout Tasmania.

While the music, instruments, methods and forms of worship continue to change, as they have done over the centuries, the purpose of worship should never change. When we worship, it is to express to God our love and devotion with honesty and sincerity. The Hillsongs Australia songs are particularly appealing for this purpose, because of their easy, conversational style and language. This is another important reason for using contemporary music, and is shown by the worldwide popularity and success of their live worship albums.

Has our worship become routine or is it fresh and alive? Does it draw needy hearts to Jesus and help us to focus on God?

Christ is growing his church, worldwide, and one of the tools he is using is contemporary Christian music. Let us make the most of every opportunity available to us to be effective in reaching people for Jesus and establishing his Kingdom in this age.

Gailann is worship coordinator for morning worship at the Launceston, Tas, church.

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Music

Music in the Smaller Church

DON SONSEE

Our utmost appreciation must be for those musicians who, week after week, sit at the organ or keyboard or piano or whatever instrument they play in our worship services. This is especially so in our smaller churches where their ministry is usually a solo effort. We assume their presence. We assume their commitment. We too often assume their infinite ability to play whatever music we dump on them five minutes before the

But let's face it, sometimes the reality of music in the smaller church can be, well, different!

service is due to start. We rarely thank them for their ministry, yet all too readily frown when they struggle to play to our satisfaction that new song, you know, the song we heard on the most recent CD, the one with orchestral backing and professional singers! We may even make the choice to leave, to go to a larger church because they have a "better music ministry". But they won't, the faithful musicians in the smaller churches won't go, they can't go, they will be back next week to serve. Encourage them, love them, appreciate their ministry. Discouraged musicians can still play, but they can't breathe life into their music.

Working with the often limited music resources of the small church may stretch our tolerance and our understanding of what it means to be a part

of the body of Christ! When the worship leader suggests that a particular song could be played at a different tempo and in protest the organist switches off the organ, stands up and slams the door exiting the platform, one is left pondering words like, "let love make you serve one another", or, "always considering others better than yourselves". Those of us who are musicians in smaller churches have an enormous privilege and a serious responsibility. It is our privilege and our responsibility to share our particular ministry in a way that builds up the whole body of the church, the church together in worship and praise, in grief and joy and celebration, in proclaiming the Good News. There is opportunity for shining solo performances in the smaller church, but sensitive, cooperative participation strengthens the whole body.

Even so, within the limited music resources of the smaller church there can be some exciting opportunities. Take, for example, a small church in a small rural town. One keen pianist starting with a few people who like to sing, working together, enjoying their stuff, recruiting others from around the community. Before long you have an Eisteddfod-winning choir singing to the glory of God! Or perhaps our small church is found in an inner-suburban community and the young adults group is given the opportunity to conduct some of the worship services. Within their group they find musicians and singers, a united commitment and a sensitivity to the worship needs of the whole church. Put it all together and ultimately the whole church is inspired,



enriched and encouraged. We may not be able to say that Paul was thinking particularly of the small church and its music ministry when he wrote the following words to the Ephesians but they are certainly relevant! "So when each separate part works as it should, the whole body grows and builds itself up through love." Participation may not always be readily achievable, but it is definitely worth the effort and the risk.

But let's face it, sometimes the reality of music in the smaller church can be, well, different! It is Sunday night, 7.00 pm, small church, small town. The people are ready, anxious to sing. You announce the first song, walk over to the pedal organ, pull out all the stops, pedal like mad and play your very best, one hand! Later there is a complaint about your worship leading; "He doesn't sing while he's playing the organ." Anyone for a cappella?

Don Sonsee is in ministry with the Inglewood, WA, church.

Music

Leading Worship

ANNE OLIVER

In my teens, I spent Sunday evenings at the gospel services of our church. I guess many of you did, too! These would begin with the "song service", with someone designated as song leader helping us to start together and to generate enthusiasm. This was my early experience of worship leading, although we didn't use that terminology.

I remember that some were better than others at inspiring the congregation to participate fully. With what I know now,

Worship is not about doing the latest songs as loud and fast as possible.

I would say that they were gifted in leading worship.

Our understanding of worship and worship leading has developed over the past twenty years or so. My personal journey has largely mirrored that development. Each experience has been valuable as it met my needs and challenged me at that point in my development.

With the introduction of "choruses" (I prefer the term songs), came a greater freedom to participate. Simpler words meant that we could sing without staring at hymn books. Some songs had our toes tapping and even our hands clapping! It was easier to feel involved and enthusiastic.

Later, as I participated in the instrumental side of the service, I began to realise the need to establish an appropriate atmosphere for worship through the music. I also developed a frustration that some didn't really participate in the times of worship. Looking back,

I see that my own growing understanding of God and his holiness was impacting on my attitudes concerning worship services. Realising the greatness of our God tends to make us want to do our very best for him.

When we established the church in Sunbury, Vic, I had no idea I would end up worship leading, and in fact heading up that whole creative ministries area in our church. Because of God's grace, I've been able to grow with the church. Sensing the presence of the Holy Spirit was a significant step, enabling me to feel more confident that the Lord was leading in this direction. Another step was realising the importance of worship as a means of God speaking to us, not just as a means of expressing our love toward God.

Over the last eight years the music and worship team at Sunbury has grown from two (Milton leading, me playing!) to twenty-five musicians and singers, plus the technical guys and the choir. This, too, has been a process of growing gradually, and in line with the church's needs at the time. The most important factor has been that the music has reflected the vision of the senior pastor for the church. In our case, that has meant that the songs and music have to be relevant to the unchurched. The language and style must be accessible to those who may never have been to a church before.

The desire to do our best for the Lord has encouraged those involved to continually try to develop our talents and abilities. But the most important thing we look for in those who would like to be involved is spiritual giftedness. There are some who are gifted leaders and who love to worship. They are our worship leaders! Some sing, play or dance in such a way as to inspire those



in the congregation to worship. These are the people we encourage onto the platform.

Worship is not about doing the latest songs as loud and fast as possible. It is about using the gifts and abilities God has given his people to give back to him the worship which is his due. We have found that his grace kicks in to fill gaps in our own abilities! It doesn't matter which style of music you use, or which instruments you have, God blesses your efforts as you offer them. To be effective, it is important to maintain unity among the worship leading team—and godly character! It is important to have strong leadership. And without prayer underpinning everything, nothing of significance can be achieved. When these things are in place, people—even totally unchurched people—are drawn to the Lord, either for the first time or into a deeper relationship. And as a song we sing says, "that's what we came here for!"

Anne Oliver is the full-time Creative Ministries pastor at Sunbury Community Church and co-planted the church with her husband, Milton, in 1991. They have three sons, the eldest of which, (Dean who is 13 years of age), is an accomplished percussionist & drummer and is also involved in the worship ministry.

Music

Musical Theology

GEOFF PAYNE

The discussion regarding music in the church goes on and on. (Not unlike some of the music in question!) The issue of music continues to be as volatile and divisive as ever, with arguments ranging from the majesty, theology and tradition of the well-loved hymns, to the cultural relevance, emotion and appeal to newcomers of contemporary music. Perhaps this debate is destined to continue, as every generation and every new innovation has met with the same questions and struggles.

For some, the basic text book for theology is the hymn book, rather than the "Good Book".

One of the basic issues centres around the questions of why we worship and the part music plays in worship. When we gather as a church we give verbal expression to our faith in and our love of God. Music has been a way of doing this in every generation and in every culture. It has always been a part of our language of love. But who is the music for? If our music is for God, then I am sure that God is not so much concerned with the style, language or tempo of the music, but takes delight in the attitude of our hearts as we present our praises (in whatever way) to him. If our music is primarily for the benefit of the gathered congregation, then we must recognise the diversity of personalities and tastes of the people. Further, if our music is for us, then each of us has a Christian responsibility to facilitate and celebrate that which is of ben-

efit to each other. This means that for each of us, our personal preferences are secondary to others' needs.

Some would argue that the style and language of music ought to be determined by the people we are seeking to attract to our church.

This is to say that

we endeavour to provide a service which people outside the faith would find attractive and relevant. The risk here is that our constituents might find that music uninspiring.

The theology of our church music is another important consideration. In fact, for some, the basic text book for theology is the hymn book, rather than the "Good Book". The words of the songs and hymns we sing are remembered before we commit the Scriptures to memory. I have heard the words of songs quoted as authoritative in the same way the we might quote Scripture.

I am not advocating that we substitute the music stand for the pulpit, classroom or study group as the primary way to shape our theology, but we must face the inescapable conclusion that music is a powerful medium and that our thoughts are shaped by the content of what we sing. It is, therefore, important that we consider the content of our music and seek to use that which is the product of good and thoughtful theology. We should further seek to keep a balance between the many aspects of our faith. It is easy to become narrow,



Geoff and Liz Payne

with a musical bias towards grace or justice or the Holy Spirit, or any one of any number of aspects of faith, but to the exclusion of other equally valid truths.

We must also recognise that some of our songs and hymns are written about God and some of them are written to God. One of my concerns is the predominance of the word "I" in contemporary music. There is an abundance of songs with titles like "I will worship", "I love you Lord", "I will run", "I will follow", and such like. My earliest memories of church are of only singing songs about God. We must maintain the balance of singing of the holiness, grace and wonder of God, as well as our response to him. Let us also make a place for issues such as justice, community, mission and discipleship in our music.

We must continue to work with all of these considerations as each church community works towards music that is a unique expression of their people, their passions and their mission.

Geoff Payne is one of the ministers at Blackwood, SA. He is a musician and, occasionally, a song writer.

Music

Secular Music

SCOTT BURFORD

If you are old enough to remember "Computer Games" by Mi-Sex, can you imagine it being used as an introduction to a sermon? Or "Material Girl" by Madonna, or even "Don't Change" by INXS?

Our evening service recently "experienced" a series of sermons based on the concept of what God might say to a particular individual about their life and actions. These were then extrapolated to be applied to our own lives. Whether Christian or not, we experience a common humanity that sees us undergo similar experiences and emotions.

Some people started making suggestions about the subject of a sermon so that they could hear a particular song they liked.

Some of the individuals that were the subjects of a sermon included Bill Gates, Alannis Morissette, Michael Hutchence, and even Bart Simpson. Before the sermon we would perform a song by the individual, if they were a musician, or something that could be related to them if they were not.

The response was fantastic. People were dying to hear our associate minister Brian Bruce sing "Computer Games" before the senior minister Ted Keating preached on "What God might say to Bill Gates". Members of our morning congregation who do not typically attend the evening service came specifically to hear the song performed in church. (Sorry Ted!) There was a buzz around the church as to what we

might do next. Some people started making suggestions to me about what issue or individual could be the subject of a sermon so that they could hear a particular song they liked.

Secular music has been used before in our church, but to my knowledge not with such consistency and not always with the attitude in which it was presented during this series. Why was it so well received?

One of the philosophies behind our church services that we have been developing is that of accessibility to both the regular church attendee and those who may be at church for the first time. We are blessed with having new visitors on an almost weekly basis. A comment that has been made on more than one occasion is that people did not expect that church could be so contemporary or relevant. Secular music has added significantly to this image of our church.

If nothing else, the use of secular music has value in itself in that it is fun or exciting. By extension the church can be seen as a place that is fun or exciting to be at. Christian music is often perceived in the image of a nun playing the acoustic guitar while singing "The Lord's Prayer" by musicians I work with in the pubs and clubs. The structure and philosophy of our church and our music (both our worship styles and use of secular music) has helped to take that misconception away and spark curiosity about a church that is willing to be a part of the "real world". When Jesus communicated his message to people, he did it using language and symbolism that was relevant and understandable to them. His messages and methods were very simple so that all could understand his call on their lives. Music as a dominant, dynamic



and very accessible cultural force within our society can be readily used to convey that message. Artists such as Midnight Oil provide an embarrassment of riches in using relevant language and symbolism that can convey a two thousand-year-old message to a people so far removed from those who originally received it.

One of our teenagers, following a sermon in which the writings of Solomon and lyrics of Alannis Morissette shared the focus, made a very poignant comment on the impact of the comparison between the two. The Bible on that night was no longer a message that simply came from the past and related to people who at best were conceived in an abstract fashion, but was in this particular approach brought into the present with a powerful connection to their lives. The message of the Bible came to life for these kids in that sermon and I suspect it did for a number of the adults too. I wonder which bands or musicians Jesus or Paul might quote if they were to preach today!

Scott Burford is the music director of the Wollongong, NSW, church and works as a professional musician.

Matt O'Brien—Singer/Songwriter

CINDY WATERS

Matt is a member of the Doncaster Community Church of Christ, Vic, and is actively involved in Worship Ministry. Matt has a heart for worship and for wanting worship songs which connect people and God, in challenging ways.

Matt, how did you come to be a part of Churches of Christ?

I found a network of Christian friends via a Youth Vision camp which I attended at the end of 1995. I started attending Doncaster [Church of Christ] at the start of 1996.

I know that you're a songwriter Matt; how did you get involved with song writing?

Basically learning chords inside out to the point where I could just sit at the piano and play without playing anything in par-

ticular.

What has inspired you to write the sort of material you write?

The material I write comes out of what I feel at the time. I draw on that emotion at that time rather than saying "I'm going to write a song today". I see it as God sending me the material rather than me deciding that I'm going to write it. The best songs always come when you're not planning on writing them. If you have to sit there for hours it's probably your doing rather than God's.

Doncaster Community Church of Christ recorded a live CD, "Change My World" at their Exchange 97 Creative Ministries Conference, what part did you play in that?

I had the privilege of singing some of the songs on the re-

cording. I was also able to contribute some of my own songs to the project.

What sort of songs are they?

Every song on the CD is Christian material, but interestingly enough non-Christian listeners have related to a lot of the words. I suppose that the ultimate success would be that the recording would relate to Christians and non Christians alike.

There is a wide range of themes covered on this CD from personal worship to collective worship and issues such as social justice. We even had Russell Fragar from Hills Christian Life Centre, Sydney, contribute a song.

"Change My World" Exchange 97 CDs, music books, and overhead transparencies are available from Doncaster Community Church of



Christ. It contains a selection of easy to play material, suitable for large worship bands or small worship bands, with only a piano or guitar.

Since this interview with Cindy Waters, Matt has launched his own CD "To Believe" in September 1998, which is also available.

Contact Doncaster Community Church of Christ, Vic, on (03) 9848 1546.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR (YOUTH & FAMILIES)

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CREEK Syd and Jean 12 November 1998. Mum and Dad, you have passed onto us a wonderful heritage. You have demonstrated what it is to be followers of Jesus. You have shown us how to live and how to love. We congratulate you on your 60th Wedding Anniversary. We are proud to be your family! *Ann, Jeff, Sue, Mark, Zoe, Luke, Tiana, Darren, Christina, Mike and Lisa; Geoff, Brendan, Jonathan, Josephine and Tristan; Jim, Ave, Michelle, Gary, Ben, Caleb, Jacob, Shad, Vera, Sharon, Steve, Twoey and Ginger Blue; Bill, Lynn, Sam, Bianca and Chey. Beryl and Elizabeth.*

DEATHS

CROCKETT Lachlan Thomas 19 June 1998 – 22 October 1998. Loved son of Andrew and Jill. Brother of Timothy. Grandson of Samlyn and Duncan Crockett. Only with us a short while, but greatly loved. Will always be remembered.

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WAYNE BETTS

"If only we were more like the early church!" How often have you heard (or expressed) sentiments similar to this? As members of a movement which has at its very foundation a desire for the restoration of New Testament Christianity, it's little wonder we look fondly at the record of those exciting early days, and wish we could have been there.



Try to find one of Paul's letters that doesn't reveal some tension or crisis within the churches.

that fledgling community also included the Ananias and Sapphira incident (5:1-10), allegations of favouritism (6:1-4) and bitter disputes between leaders (15:37-40, see also Gal 2:11-14). Throw in the paradigm shift required for people of Jewish background, who were taught from childhood there was only one God, to comprehend and express that Jesus of Nazareth, somehow, was also God (Col 2:9) and you've got further complications. Just to top it off, imagine how you hold together an essentially Jewish, conservative, Law-observant Jerusalem brand of Christianity (James is an example), with Paul's ever-expanding mission to the Gentiles, which seems to chuck out all the sacred traditions (circumcision, food laws, etc). Would you like to be in charge of that lot? Me neither! So when you've come home from church after someone's snubbed you about something, and someone else's kid has gone off the rails, and there's some bloke spouting weird and wonderful teaching about something or other, and you're wondering why you bother, take heart! Don't worry about how far you've departed from New Testament Christianity. You may actually be closer to it than you think!

But when you read Acts and the Epistles carefully, the picture painted isn't quite as rosy as we tend to make it. Try to find one of Paul's letters that doesn't reveal some tension or crisis within the churches. In a number of the letters (Galatians, Colossians, Corinthians), he spends most of his time trying to sort out problems of belief, behaviour, or (usually) both. Even in those letters which aren't prompted by a crisis (Romans, Ephesians, Philippians, Thessalonians), there's always some fine-tuning to be done (Romans 14, 15; Ephesians 4, 5; Philippians 2:1-4, 4:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15). Similarly, in Acts, we love to linger on 2:42-47, Luke's rosy summary of life in the early church. We forget that life in



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Travels in Space and Time

VINEY LONGTHORP

It has been said that, "of the making of books there is no end". Of all the type of books made none are more popular than books about other people's travels. What riches we have been offered by writers such as Eric Newby, H.V. Morton, Charles Doughty, Freya Stark—world without end!

To these must now be added the name of Simon Winchester. His latest book is an account of his

rice-growing south. Almost 500 million people live and work along its banks. This means that one in twelve of the world's population draws their livelihood from its vast environs.

The narrative starts at Shanghai, that bustling cosmopolitan megalopolis where the Yangtze enters the Yellow Sea, discharging its millions of tons of water, mud, and sand every day. Winchester claims that Shanghai is China's economic power base and dynamo. In this regard,

move over Hong Kong! But from his account of its teeming millions, it is a place where most of us would prefer not to live.

His description of the river near the Three Gorges is powerful writing. Here the trained geologist speaks: "It courses along a natural fault-line, tearing through rock that has already been crushed and weakened by the tectonic forces that have shaped this geologically chaotic corner of the world. Near-vertical cliffs of limestones and granites, porphyrites and slates, soar directly up on either side the stream for fully seven thousand feet; the mountains of which they are faces rise up behind them to twelve thousand feet."

Then the social commentator offers scathing criticisms of the decision to build the Three Gorges Dam. He sees it as an unmitigated environmental disaster, a product of political stratagems, rather than of sound economic and social analysis.

This book has its own inherent worth as literature. But it will certainly help us understand the great awakening giant which is China, which is variously estimated within the first two decades of the new millennium to become the second great superpower on our beleaguered



planet.

Journeys in time are no less fascinating than those in space. One historian who is able to show us the shape of things that were is Christopher Frayling in his latest book, *Strange Landscape—A Journey Through the Middle Ages*.

Things medieval may be strange, but they also grip our imagination. Think of those swashbuckling films such as *Knights of the Round Table* (MGM) of such television features as *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (BBC), J.R.R. Tolkien's novel *The Lord of the Rings*, and Umberto Eco's whodunit *The Name of the Rose*. And incredibly, the austere yet beautiful chants of Hildegard von Bingen took the musical world by storm. Hence, one almost regrets that Columbus's stumbling across the Americas was partly instrumental in bringing this colourful, rumbustious, and calamitous world to an end!

Yes, it was a strange world as far as we moderns are concerned. The sheer austerity and simplicity of the lifestyle of most would distress we conspicuous consumers. Life was a daily physical grind. For many, life was "nasty, brutish and short". Few of us could handle being locked into the compartmentalism of

the feudal system. The "law's delay and the insolence of office" would be the cause of smouldering hatreds. Much of Europe in the 1100s and 1200s lived under the constant threat of Armageddon—not unlike the threat of the nuclear bomb in the second half of this century. Contradictions abounded. The deep spirituality of Francis of Assisi and Dante live cheek by jowl with magic and superstition. The beauty of Chartres and Beauvais cathedrals is witness to one thing, the murderous crusades against the Cathars and the "infidels" of the east another.

The constant presence of death such as when the Black Plague decimated the population of Europe and when, at the best of times, only one in five children survived to adulthood, meant that images of morbidity had a hold on most minds. Yet those "explosive expressions of community joy" and the absence of any "identity" crisis (since each person knew their place) adds further to the contradictions of this age—and its strangeness. This age mirrors our own more than we realise. Here is a book which may help us not to lapse into that hubris whereby we imagine ourselves to be the sole peak of God's creation.

The deep spirituality of Francis of Assisi and Dante live cheek by jowl with magic and superstition.

journey up the entire length of the mighty Yangtze River—all 6,250 km of it. *The River at the Centre of the World* is compelling reading because the author is not only a trained observer in matters of geography, but possesses a positive and appreciative outlook on all he surveys. However, he also brings informed criticism to his subjects. This great river is a fascinating subject in its own right. It splits China in two, between the wheat-growing north and the

Here and There

Male-Only Elders

After debate over a number of years, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria resolved that, based on Scripture, only men are to be ordained into the office of elder. (New Life)

BAPTISMS

•Kathy Clayfield, Samantha Clayfield, Louise Macgill, Melody Macgill, Prospect, SA •Eileen McNabb, Croydon, Vic

MARRIAGES

•Brenda Tinebro and Craig Beasy, Mildura, Vic

DEATHS

•Howard Trezise, Les Parker, Mt. Clear, Vic •Isabell Leng, Grange Waters, Mildura, Vic •Althea (Mundy) Fielder, Joan Lincolne, Hobart, Tas •M.J. (Jack) Edwards, Launceston, Tas •Elsie Haskell, Fremantle, WA

OBITUARIES

Obituaries are limited to 100 words
HASKELL, Elsie
(8.10.98) Elsie, born 1.4.15, was a Fremantle, WA, girl all her life, through school, work, and after marriage to Les in 1936. They had five children: Jill (husband Arthur Johnson, Fremantle

church elder); Robin (husband Keith Bowes); Rhonda, Nola and Geoffrey (dec). Elsie was very active as a baptised member of Fremantle church. Other special loves were gardening, cooking, and providing food and household help for families in need. She leaves behind her elder brother (Dick Saunders, Melbourne); sisters Jessie and Jean, seven grandchildren and one great grand-daughter. "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into your reward", would be very applicable to Elsie.

LENG, Isabell

Isabell Leng, at the time of her death, was the longest-serving member of the Mildura, Vic, church. She spent her 85 years within the church environment. Isabell attended Sunday school, Christian Endeavour, Phi Beta Pi and at an early age became a Sunday School teacher and served for many years. She married John Leng, a church member. They spent their short married life together raising two daughters, Janice (Renfree) and Pam (Diggle), working a citrus block at Irymple, and being fully involved in the life of the church. Sadly, John died in

1964. Isabell and the girls continued their involvement in all the activities of the church.

—Doug Beasy

MAIDEN, Florence Elsie Elizabeth
(1.10.98) Elsie was born at East Perth on 4.6.98. Baptised at Narrogin Baptist Church, she later joined Churches of Christ at Northam, where she mar-

ried T.D. (Dick) Maiden. Ten WA ministries followed 1933–1973. Her sweet singing and practical care endeared her to many. Her life was one of service to her family, church and community. She will be fondly remembered as a gracious Christian lady.

—Peter Moyle

Can You Help A Deaf Child "Hear" About Jesus?



Raquel is a twenty-year-old deaf Filipino girl was brought to our Davao dormitory by her elderly uncle. It was discovered that she had been raped by a teenage neighbour and was traumatised by the experience.

Through the love and care of our Davao workers, she is now settling in well and is attending school for the first time, at kindergarten level.

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

Sponsoring a deaf child like Raquel at \$25 a month provides education, food, clothing and sound teaching in the Word of God.

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

WOI Deaf Ministries
c/o Secretary, John Dodwell
PO Box 1023, South Melbourne Vic 3205.
Phone/Fax (03) 9527 6896.

All sponsorship donations are tax-deductible. Cheques should be made payable to "Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board".

Response Slip

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c/o Secretary, John Dodwell
PO Box 1023, South Melbourne Vic 3205.

I would like to sponsor a deaf child in the Philippines.

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Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

THE WINTER & VEVERKA TRUSTS

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If you are interested in making a gift to these Trusts to form part of the investment capital, or, if your NSW church would like to be helped, please contact the Secretary, Winter & Veverka Trusts, R. Broady, 11 Gordon St, Caringbah, NSW, 2229

WA

FREMANTLE (John Caporn, Bob Fairman) Speakers: Alan Gordon, Robert Taylor. Guest Artists: Ron Gething, Jenny Marshall, Four Plus ... "Nostalgia Night" raised funds for sewing aids for Nepalese women ... Even-song now 7.00 pm ... Annual camp, Busselton, 26-30 October ... 106th church anniversary 1 November ... CWF family wildflower picnic Wireless Hill Park ... Loving sympathy to family of Elsie Haskell who passed away last week ... Give thanks for Pastor John's recovery from bronchitis and Assistant Pastor Bob's successful surgery.

SA

GOOLWA (Chris Ambrose) Geoff Bullock seminar a real spiritual event. 170 attended seminar. Over 450 at two concerts. 35 churches represented ... Chris Ambrose commenced series "Gifts of the Spirit" ... Church has started monthly BBQ lunch after service ... Phillip Anderson is new chairperson of YCM church ... Thanked Dave Skewes for 22 years' service.

DULWICH-ROSE PARK UNITED PARISH (David Pill) Dr Garry Harris completed six years' ministry & has moved to pastorate of Grote St, Adelaide. David Pill of Uniting Church has succeeded him ... Church mourned passing of Leita Bowes, wife of Lindsay Bowes.

PROSPECT (Ruth May) 105th church anniversary celebrated with a Saturday BBQ & fun night. Victor Harbor choir sang at worship & luncheon ... Church enjoyed grandparents & grandchildren service ... Recent baptisms include 3 teenagers ... Services changing as new faces, some of them young musicians, take part in worship ... Cost of slab for manse garage donated ... 40 Friendship group members enjoyed Spring bus trip to Barossa Valley.

STRATHALBYN (Paul Smalley) K.V. Schuster away 2 months on overseas trip ... A. Keast broke thigh in nursing home, now back from Flinders Medical Centre ... C. Edwards retired as elder after many years. G. Viel elected ... Bible studies resumed in homes ... Dedication of manse after church anniversary luncheon ... Paul Smalley speaker at WCTU Conference.

WEST LAKES UNITED PARISH (Robyn Walsh) Church challenged to read Gospel of Matthew over November using guide prepared by Robyn ... Memorial Service in November for people who have lost loved ones during last 12 months ... Robyn invited to join Council For Cooperating Ministries, the link body between Churches of Christ and the Uniting Church ... Recently-introduced Tuesday games afternoon building relationships ... Over 2 dozen attended October long weekend camp at Belair Caravan Park ... Training begun for annual cricket match between Minister's 11 and Parish Chairperson's 11.

VIC

MILDURA (Simon Risson) "Activities Day" in September saw 40 members doing odd jobs & maintenance work around property ... Local Country Music Festival singers featured in services in October ... Celebrated 90th "birthday" of chapel 25 October ... Experienced the inconvenience & unneeded expense of 2 burglaries of computer equipment ... Church saddened by death of Isabell Leng.

MOUNT CLEAR (Rod Ratcliffe) 135th Anniversary. Mark Dunn speaker (minister 1980-1982) ... Praying for 3 more small groups ... Phil & Lorraine visited from WA ... Ollie & Ian's grandson Joshua cot death ... Chloe Louise Wythe born for Darren & Pam ... James, Robyn & girls visiting UK ... Lorikeets had aerobics & lingerie demo ... Rod leading "Christianity Explained" ... Group of men attended Bathurst Australian 1000 ... Bill Sutcliffe commissioned for Colac ministry.

LATROBE TERRACE GEELONG (David Jones) Guest speakers 141st anniversary, Sue & Barry Ward from Fiji. Informal afternoon followed family lunch. Offering divided between welfare work, Schenks in Cambodia & the Wards ... CWF celebrated 84th birthday with Drysdale Uniting Church choir as program ... Approx. \$700 given towards Christian education in schools

... 4 organists demonstrated the beautiful sound of the refurbished organ at its dedication on 1 November.

WARRAGUL (Bill Vassiliou, Anne Prime) Monthly fellowship/evening services progressing well ... Mini Bible school "Families Beyond 2000" held ... One lady attended Women's retreat at Camp Waterman ... Liz Tilson guest speaker at Women's Ministries service ... Charles & Val Gray from HCJB led extra evening service ... Alan Niven recent morning speaker, then led pastoral care team training session ... Lawrence family attended World Indigenous Christian Gathering in USA.

CROYDON (Ben Richardson) John Gilmore preacher at 125th anniversary ... Outreach to neighbourhood to commence in November ... Planning with local churches outreach ministry towards end of 1999 ... Working with other Churches of Christ to develop joint ministries.

TAS

HOBART CITY (Clinton Wardle, Andrew Tonkin) Rowland Croucher weekend very good. Ian Allsop consultant. College deputation ... Pat Cavanough, SU, Paul Kerrison, Matt Durose (SU & Elizabeth College Chaplain) recent speakers ... New office administrator Carolyn McGinn appointed ... Pastoral Care training completed ... Clinton & Trish Wardle ran 2 marriage enrichment weekends ... Promise Keepers excellent ... Sad losses, Althea (Mundy) Fielder, Joan Lincoln ... Church very positive.

LAUNCESTON (C. Spaulding, W. Kerrison, T. Gray, S. Fitzallen) Two Girls' Brigade Pioneers received their Queen's Award badge from Tasmania's Governor ... Afternoon Fellowship enjoyed annual garden party at Dunstan's property at Legana ... Pre-wedding party for Doris Allen and Allan Orr held ... Children's Ministry focus on 25 Oct on "The Might & Power of God" a joyous occasion ... Thanksgiving service for life of Jack Edwards held 23 Oct.

Churches of Christ in South Australia Inc invites expressions of interest for the newly created part-time position of

Women's Ministry Coordinator

The Women's Ministry Coordinator will be accountable to the State Minister for broadening the outreach of women's ministry by developing and nurturing new groups in churches/community. The position is for one day per week for a twelve-month initial period. Commencement date negotiable. The successful applicant will have a commitment to the ministry of women, highly developed relational skills and demonstrated capacity for leadership.

Applications close Friday, 27 November 1998.

Written applications and requests for further information should be made to:

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

A Magic Moment

JANET THOMPSON

The end of the day really appeals to me. I love the quiet that seems to descend as the sun nears the horizon.

Cars on their way home move at a more peaceful pace, the light is gentle and people out walking their dogs are inclined to stop and chat.

It's a time for shedding the worries of the day and looking forward to dinner and a good night's sleep. (There are exceptions—shift workers, parents with restless babies, police officers, astronauts!)

This is the time of day when I believe in magic, so I leave the curtains open as long as possible. Mysterious things can happen in the gathering dusk!

Last week, something did.

Two small beings came walking down my drive, slowly and thoughtfully, as if they belonged and had plenty of time.

The first one was a cat, tail aloft, and the second was a child. They stopped at a forest of dandelion "clocks" beside the fence. The cat sat down and watched as the child picked one dandelion head after another, and blew clouds of seeds into the evening air. (Earlier, his mother had told me he loved "blowing away the fairies", and when I said that I enjoyed it myself, she admitted that she did too!) But what had me transfixed, and convinced that I was being visited by elves, was that the child had no clothes on!

It was a picture of idyllic innocence—a moment of enchantment. They left as quietly



as they had come and I found I had been holding my breath.

My guess is that Michael (who is two years old) was ready for his bath, but his mother had been distracted, so he wandered off, drawn by the thought of all those fairies just waiting to be set free.

I watched and listened as he went up his front steps and in the door. There was no roar from an outraged parent, so his escape into the evening has remained a secret between him and the cat.

I might tell his mother about it—one day.

I was right about the magic.

Dusk is the hour of mystery, when the boundaries of time and reality are a little less distinct, and on this particular day they let a fragment of Eden into my front yard.

What a privilege!

The Last Word

All praise to Him
who now hath turned
My fears to joys,
my sighs to song,
My tears to smiles,
my sad to glad.

Amen

Anne Bradstreet
(1612-1672)

Boss: You should have been here at nine o'clock.

Junior: Why, what happened?

Husband: If you'd run a bit faster, we would have caught that train!

Wife: If you hadn't run so fast, we wouldn't have to wait so long for the next one!

They've devised this great labour saving device. It's called "tomorrow".

I was very excited by his last book, mainly because I hoped it was.

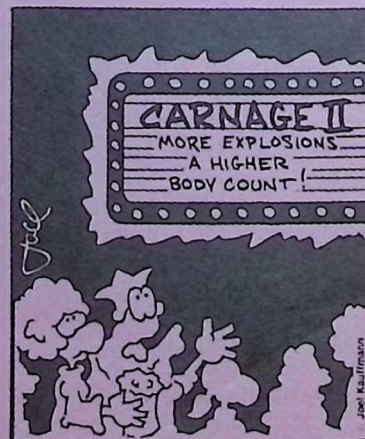
"Have you read any of Shakespeare's plays?"

"Only two of them."

"Which ones?"

"Romeo and Juliet."

Pontius' Puddle



"How come the church condemned movies back when they were benign, but condones them now that they've gotten so gory."

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