



Editorial

Changing Families

DON SMITH

I recently saw an English television interview with a man whose family could trace its heritage back one thousand years. I was impressed with the memory and the paperwork involved! My attempts at family genealogy falter at 1825 in Northern Scotland, which one may well understand with the search for a name like J. Smith.

* But I have no doubt that my forebears, like every other family, looked on their newborn child with a sense of wonder and joy common to us all. And no doubt, at some subsequent stages they said like any parent, "Isn't she wonderful," or "Isn't he advanced for his age". * Families



have passed through many stages in their social history. Our situation is vastly different from life in a remote Scottish highland hamlet or medieval village. The wonder of it all is that families did live through such situations and left us their special heritage. * In the last five decades we have experienced enormous changes in the way families live. The church's experience with families has also changed dramatically. While I wait for the photocopier which we share with the North Essendon church, to warm up, I often read on a wall an extract of minutes of the Sunday School of 1945, reporting some hundreds of children overflowing into the life of the church. Churches can no longer expect to be supplied with children and families in this way. * As we face ministry to families there are issues which stand out. Our Christian values must be modelled in our lifestyle. There must be no bad memories or experiences for children in our care. Our Christian values must lead us beyond the bounds of marriage and blood to embrace others as family. There can be no endorsement of the concept that only nuclear families are real families. Our society is too fragmented for us to divide it further. * Our Christian values must overcome "feel good" tendencies of a group huddled together in a tight fellowship with no sense of mission. Our family ministry must express faith and purposeful Christian living in ways which are open and attractive to our communities. There are good examples if we look. What are the implications for your congregation? Is there a plan? *

Family

Raising children, moving house, blending two families, we look at a few issues facing today's families.

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Update

Dear Readers,

The cover photo for this family issue has been taken by Ralph Petty.

We continue to appreciate the voluntary services of a number of people who contribute to the production of the paper, including Ralph.

Others include our regular writers, whose copy continues to arrive on time, and especially our proof readers, who work through each page of the paper in the hope that no error will elude them!

In the last two years we have endeavoured to make some comment on the Anzac theme.

This was not possible this year because of a clash with Easter and our dates of publication.

In browsing through a bookshop after Easter I noted *To The Last Ridge* by the late W.H. Downing, published this year by Duffy and Snellgrove, Sydney. It is the story of a young soldier of the 57th Battalion of the First AIF on the Western Front in France in World War 1. The original book was written in 1920, but went virtually unnoticed at that time.

Reviewers have described it as an Australian equivalent to the famous *All Quiet on the Western Front*.

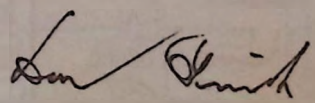
I would have to say that the account is intense and perhaps not for the faint hearted. It is extremely well written and a graphic description of the experiences of Australian soldiers in the conflict.

It helped me appreciate at a deeper level something of my own father's war experiences of which he spoke very little.

In this last week we have faced the complete breakdown of two pieces of office equipment which are used continually. One was the printer which produces the many thousands of fly sheets which carry the address for your copy of the paper. The second failure was a part of a computer. The breakdowns were entirely coincidental, but have left us rather stretched in the week of publication. The expenditure runs to some thousands of dollars and highlights our need to continue to strengthen the financial base of the paper to cover such problems. We are always open to receive gifts towards replacement of the equipment.

The State Library of Victoria, which is a repository for National Literature Department publications, has sought our help in locating a copy of Pamphlet 222, *As in the Days of Noah*, to complete their records. If you can help by providing a copy, please be in contact with our office.

One of our subscribers generously met the cost of sending a subscription to a Zimbabwe national who is also a member of our churches in that country. This man has written to say how much he enjoys the paper and writes quite movingly of his work with adults and children who are suffering terribly because of AIDS-related illnesses. "Pentecost" is the theme for our next issue.



Developments Celebrated

Vietnamese church celebrates growth and building developments



Too young to remember the beginning, but ready to taste the anniversary cake

Jason and Thang were far too young to remember the commencement of the Vietnamese church in Richmond, Vic, in 1983, but they were certainly ready to taste the cake which marked the church's 15th anniversary.

A large number of members participated in a special service on Easter Sunday, followed by a traditional Vietnamese meal. Highlight of the day was the first use of the renovated chapel and hall facilities.

The church had undertaken the renovations with the cooperation of the existing Richmond church

congregation. Further redevelopment of the property is proposed. The Vietnamese church has borrowed \$50,000 from the Victorian Properties Corporation for the alterations.

The management of the church facilities has been passed over to the Vietnamese congregation by the Richmond leaders. The church is making fine progress, with increasing activities, home groups and new members added to the fellowship. Builders who are members of the church will complete the renovations shortly. Nathan Nhan is the minister.

Easter Diamonds

Nubeena celebrates diamond anniversary at Easter



Nubeena Church of Christ, Tas, members surprised Lucie and Ossie Hawtree, after the church's largest Easter morning service

for many years, by celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary with them. They were married in Hobart 12.4.33 by the late J.K. Martin.

The church was thrilled with the large attendance at the Easter service.

L. C. F. Higgins

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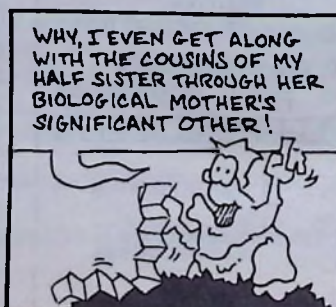
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Here and There

Missionaries Abducted

Armed men recently abducted Swedish missionary couple Daniel and Paulina Brolin who are both 22 years old. They were working with a local church in Makhachkala, the capital of Dagestan, a republic within the Russian Federation bordering the Caspian Sea. A Youth With A Mission Report comments that crime and corruption are rampant in the region following the break-up of Soviet control. The republic of two million people has 30 different ethnic groups and a sizeable Muslim population. Since this kidnapping, police and a UN official have also been taken.

Pontius' Puddle



Warwick Expands Ministry

Three new members on the ministry team

Warwick Church of Christ, set in Perth's northern suburbs, recently inducted three new ministers. The ministers are: Graham Hill, newly-graduated from CCTC, Carlingford, as full-time youth minister; Jodie Mullaley, who has been with Warwick for two years working as a sports intern, as minister, sport and leisure, four days a week; and Paul Sanders who joins as minister, children and families for three days per week. Together with Jim Longbottom, full-time team leader, and Keith Bowes, three-quarter time pastoral and teaching minister, the

team has been extended specifically to extend Warwick's community outreach.

Dr Neale Fong led the induction part of the service, held 22 March 1998. As Director of Youth Vision, WA, Neale already knew Paul, who had been youth pastor at Kalamunda for nine years, and Jodie, who has worked at the Warwick Leisure Centre, operating as the Churches of Christ Basketball Centre, building bridges with kids in basketball teams back into the local church. Jodie continues to run a weekly student focus in the local high school.



Praying during the induction, Margaret Verge, Board Chair, Jodie Mullaley, Paul Sanders, Graham Hill (behind his wife Felicity). Spouses, elders and ministry team laying on hands.

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Washington Experience

FAB Board members attend US National Prayer Breakfast



Cec Grant, Federal Aborigines Board member outside the White House

Cec Grant, pastor of the Albury Koori church, NSW, and his sister Flo of the Aboriginal church, Canberra, ACT, attended the 46th National Prayer Breakfast at the Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington DC, USA, earlier this year.

Both are members of the Federal Aborigines Board and Wiradjuri elders.

President Clinton of the United States attended with his wife Hillary as did the Vice President and Dr Billy Graham. During their stay in Washington the Grants had opportunity to discuss issues relating to Native Americans and Canadians as they applied to the Australian situation. The trip was sponsored by the Tomickin Charitable Trust, Adelaide.

Sharing the Joys and Frustration

Ministers' Wives Retreat, NSW



Many heads nodded as they heard the words "loneliness" and "isolation". Immediately the discussion was under way as 24 women responded to Dr Carol Preston's claim that there was a need for more support for the wives of our ministers.

The 1998 Ministers' Wives Retreat, 3-5 April was held at the magnificent Elanora Conference Centre on the edge of the Kurrungai Chase National Park. It was wonderful to have no responsibilities apart from talking, resting and enjoying ourselves. To have the time (free of children) to complete some craft activities was also rewarding. A highlight of the weekend was the communion service held in the outdoor chapel.

Carol noted that the results from her recent research highlighted the loneliness, isolation and need

for friendship felt by many ministers' wives. Over the weekend she encouraged us to share the joys and frustration of this unique position we were in. She challenged us to do something positive to help others in the same position. We made recommendations for forming a support network, a prayer chain and a newsletter to encourage friendship and sharing throughout New South Wales.

—Marge Keating

Doncaster Community Church of Christ
presents

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Performance dates:

8.00 pm	Friday, 22 May 1998
2.00 pm & 8.00 pm	Saturday, 23 May 1998
7.00 pm	Sunday, 24 May 1998

Cost: \$14.00 Adults, \$6.00 Children, \$35.00 Family, \$10.00 Concession/Groups

For ticket bookings ring the church office on (03) 9848 1546.

Venue: Doncaster Community Church of Christ,
680 Doncaster Road, Doncaster Vic.

Think

Life is relational. Build relationships with potential future allies. Identify and build relationships with potential future opponents.

—Lyle Schaller,
Strategies for Change

Positive Outcomes

"AC" Board welcomes good news presented during annual meeting



Don Smith (Editor), Keith Aird, SA (Chairman), and new Board members Beverley Grenfell (Qld) and Lea Nelson (ACT)

Lunch gave Board members of *The Australian Christian* an opportunity to relax from the discussions and planning which took place on 4 April in Melbourne. Members welcomed reports of the positive outcomes from the Centenary Year in 1997, the improved financial position and en-

dorsed a range of nationwide promotional initiatives to be implemented during 1998. Continuing new subscriber enlistment, increased advertising revenue and further design and content developments were all seen as fundamental to the progress of the paper.

Success Story

Successful start to youth ministry course



Some of the course participants in dialogue with leader Tim Corney on the first night of study

Nineteen enthusiastic, committed young adults have enrolled for the newly-created Diploma in Youth Ministry course. The course is a joint venture between the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave, Vic, and Youth Vision, Vic. Fully accredited, the course has been developed by Tim Corney, who works with both the Victorian-Tasmanian Division of Mission and Revitalisation and Youth Vision.

Both the College and Youth Vision are excited about this new development in youth ministry, which represents the culmination of a lot of effort by Tim and a considerable allocation of resources by both the Conference Board and especially Youth Vision.

Course information is available from Tim Corney or Andy Brough, the Youth Vision administrator, at the Conference Centre on (03) 9326 8900.

Life Ministries Directors

Noel and Tricia Newton Queensland Directors

Life Ministries—Campus Crusade for Christ has appointed Noel and Tricia Newton as Queensland Directors of Jesus: Gift to the Nation.

Life Ministries is a faith mission with over 16,500 full-time faith workers in the world.

After thirty years in pastoral ministry with Churches of Christ in Queensland, Noel and Tricia will

be stepping out in faith as missionaries with Life Ministries.

Their role is to organise, through the churches, to offer the *Jesus* video and the Gospel of Luke to every family in Queensland by the Olympics in 2000.

They will be travelling to each town and city to share the vision with ministers' associations and then train people to deliver the

video, door to door, to every home. The exciting part of this venture is that they will be going out on the "cutting edge", taking the Gospel to the unreached.

For details of the ministry contact the Newtons at 23 Harran St, Bellevue Park Qld 4215. Phone/fax (07) 5531 4353.

Noel and Tricia Newton



New Appointment Drink for the Thirsty

Chair of CCTC Mulgrave appointed



Dr Don Mansell, who has served on the Board of the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave, Vic for over thirty years in various roles, has been appointed chair of the Board of Management. He has replaced Dr John Bailey, who resigned from the Board in July 1997. Dr Mansell is Associate Professor of Engineering at the University of Melbourne and a member of the Doncaster, Vic, church.

Gift allows easy access to water for deaf ministries

Thanks to a generous gift from COCOA (Churches of Christ Overseas Aid), World Opportunities International's Immanuel Christian Centre for the Deaf in Legaspi, Albay, The Philippines, and their school for deaf children in nearby Ligao township now have a regular safe water supply.

Prior to this, Mrs Febe Gavia, Director of the Centre, and deaf missionary to the deaf, Aslaung Kristiansen, used to have to get up at 2.00 am to collect water in bottles during the hour or so when the pressure was strong enough to do so.

Now a pressure pump and storage tanks ensure running water at any time of day.

The Immanuel Christian Deaf Centre is an outreach to deaf young people and adults in the city of Legaspi and surrounding communities.

It is the home for a family of six, a missionary and a temporary shelter for deaf young people in need. It also provides a meeting place for the deaf, a fellowship and counselling centre, a resource centre on deafness and a training and job-placement centre for the deaf. Legaspi's Immanuel Church for the deaf uses the premises each Sunday for services and Bible Studies.

Nearby in the school for the deaf, COCOA's gift also met the water needs of a school and home for 80 deaf children.

Leaking pipes and diminishing pressure not only wasted water and the school's meagre financial resources, but also meant that water did not reach the dormito-



An innovation—running water any time of the day

ries, toilet and bathroom buildings. Now with a new well, new pipes and storage tanks life is much easier for children and staff alike.

World Opportunities International's work among the deaf in the Bicol area of the Philippines is concentrated in towns and rural communities around the foot of the Mayon volcano.

Through schools, skill-training programs, self-help income-generating projects and farming, some of the physical needs of the deaf are being met. Through church planting in the deaf community, camps, Bible studies and Christian education, the main aim of the ministry is being met—the winning of deaf people to Jesus Christ. Thank you to COCOA and the Overseas Mission Board of Churches of Christ in Australia for your help and cooperation over these many years.

—Neville Muir

Mobile Mission Maintenance

New General Director begins role for church support organisation

Alan Baker began his new appointment as General Director of the Christian volunteer trade skills group Mobile Mission Maintenance on 30 March. Mobile Mission Maintenance commenced in 1975. The group offers building and maintenance assistance to Christian groups and individuals unable to meet the normal costs of construction. The Mission has centres in six Australian states, New Zealand, Zambia and Hong Kong.

In the last nineteen years Alan has held ministry positions at Reservoir, Vic, North Dandenong, Vic, and Swanston Street, Melbourne. Churches of Christ. In 1974, the Bakers served a term with the Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board in Vanuatu. Alan and Nola's ministries have included evangelical urban outreach to international students, children and youth, a ministry of prayer and



Alan Baker, with his wife, Nola

preaching, church planting and the development of a global vision.

Mobile Mission Maintenance will offer the Bakers opportunities to use their many skills in reaching out to community groups at both national and international levels. Alan Baker began his career in 1959 as a carpenter and joiner. His practical trade experience will be of significant help in his new leadership role.

Revolution Continues

Revolution in ministry training continues at Wollongong Ministry Centre

When it opened in 1986, the Institute for Contemporary Church Leadership at Wollongong, NSW, claimed to provide a "revolution in ministry training".

The goal of this unique model was to "launch a new period of dynamic growth in Australian Churches of Christ".

The hands-on approach whereby students trained for ministry within the life of a growing church was a far-cry from traditional models of theological training.

The revolution in training and the initial vision of the Institute continues in 1998 at the Wollongong Ministry Centre, with the intake of new students whose church affiliations represent five denominations.

A rich variety of ministry areas is represented: ministries to the hearing impaired, youth and children's ministry, pastoral, recovery and music ministries.

Field training in a dynamic church is a course requirement.

Our students are already making quite an impact on the community and on other churches.

Our trainee children's minister, for example, has been instrumental in introducing a MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) program. College student and MOPS coordinator, Deborah Burford, hosted a MOPS seminar here in November last year.

Deborah led another seminar in Tasmania during April.

Youth pastor, Blake Moore's ministry focus is not just on youth alone. Parent-teen evenings and camps reflect the family focus of this youth ministry, where parents and teens bond in a relationship of mutual love and respect.

A ministry to the hearing impaired led Heather Stanton to en-

rol in a combined Bachelor of Theology—Diploma of Ministry course.

Heather and her sponsoring church, Wollongong Congregational, has been instrumental in translating the *Jesus* video into AUSLAN.

Wollongong Ministry Centre's reputation for providing training in church leadership will be enhanced with the commencement of the Graduate Diploma of Ministry in Church Leadership and Administration later this year.

Leading and developing a church into the 21st century will demand skills that initial theological training may not have provided.

The Graduate Diploma addresses the needs of ministers in the areas of administration and team leadership.

The Graduate Diploma also provides church leaders with the opportunity to revitalise their thinking and management skills through study and interaction with other ministers.

Senior Minister of Wollongong Church of Christ, Ted Keating, believes the mentoring sessions with senior ministers will perform a vital role in the training model of the Graduate Diploma.

The Graduate Diploma offers subjects in a convenient four-day module format, which will require ministers to travel to Wollongong only twice during the year. A real benefit for those who wish to enrol from interstate.

Not only is the Graduate Diploma attracting a great deal of interest, but Wollongong campus continues to attract inquiries from outside the local area as well—flexibility of enrolment dates and class times being key factors.

—Susan Walker



Revolutionaries from the Wollongong Ministry Centre

Angel with the Lime Green Halo

After Sunday School
baby Joseph
wide eyed & trusting
sits
on the edge of a mat
kicking his feet
delighted
by older children
who want to play with him.

A dainty girl
sitting in the circle
rolls some play dough
between small fingers
deftly fashions a lime green sausage
curls it onto baby's head.
"Now Joseph's an angel,"
she says proudly.

As Joseph looks heavenward
he gently shakes his head
then tilts his head sideways
but the sticky green halo
stays in place
on his soft, fine hair
so the children giggle and
he responds with his angelic smile
while I think
baby Joseph was already an angel.

—Joy Broughton

Family

Kids — Get Real

MARY DEWBERRY

It had been a long, exhausting day and I knew that if I didn't laugh, I'd cry. "But mummy, I was just trying to help." Having my 2 ½ year old son put his best shirt in the toilet and push the button to wash it was not my idea of helping. His look of surprise that the shirt had disappeared indicated that this was a genuine attempt to make up for earlier misdemeanours that day. Parenting young children is physically and emotionally exhausting. I especially remember the sleepless nights.

It doesn't mean they'll readily comply, they'll push boundaries to the limit over and over again.

Understanding what's going on for the young child helps us to respond appropriately; to support and affirm their development. In the first six months, a baby learns whether he can trust the world. If he cries, will he be fed and comforted? With increased mobility and coordinated functioning, the toddler loves to explore. She's not being naughty when she touches things, she's just discovering her world. We do ourselves and our children a favour when we child-proof our house at this stage and encourage safe exploration.

The preschooler gradually acquires knowledge; also language and thought-development occurs. A child in early primary begins to play "with" other children rather than merely "alongside" them. There comes a consciousness of other people and the child's world becomes less egocentric. Through most of the primary school years a child will

fluctuate between being independent as new skills are acquired, and reverting to wanting someone else to take over the responsibility for care and comfort. It is easy to see the young child as rebellious rather than asserting their independence, as rude rather than naturally inquisitive, as defiant rather than wanting to master new skills, and we may see the natural, original egocentricity of a young child as selfish rather than developmental.

However, there have to be boundaries. Children are more secure with fairly firm boundaries and consistent, fair discipline. It doesn't mean they'll readily comply, they'll push boundaries to the limit over and over again. If we give in, it just teaches them that if they push hard enough they'll get what they want. It's a gradual process—learning to share, learning to give, learning not that they aren't "special" but that everyone is "special". Kids will absorb more by osmosis, by soaking up what we do and who we are, than by what we say. Accepting our child's humanity ... and our own, helps. As the kids would say, "Get real, Mum". Failure (for children and parents) is a part of life, especially when we strive hard and take risks. Acknowledging our failure to our children, as we would to God, will often strengthen rather than weaken our relationship. ("That's OK Mum. Have you had a hard day?")

The challenge is to love our children, to listen, to encourage them to express their feelings in constructive ways. We demonstrate God's love through unconditional acceptance and affirmation of them (as distinct from their behaviour). What role do our churches play in accepting and teaching young children? Fortunately these days children are often seen and heard in church. How



do we do this in a way which is sensitive to the needs of all God's people? How do we ensure church is relevant to kids? I see many Christian parents allowing young children to not attend church. We wouldn't neglect our children's education ("that's OK—if you don't feel like school today) and yet we may neglect their spiritual growth, and the child learns to see church (and often faith) as an optional extra.

Caring for children also means caring for ourselves. If you have a partner, protect your "couple space". Talk through the issues, rely on your support network.

Be encouraged that it is "normal" to feel exhausted and inadequate at times. Let's also celebrate parenthood—the enormous privilege we have, the rewarding experiences that make it feel all worthwhile. I remember when my youngest son Luke started school. As he gazed seriously into my eyes, he squeezed my hand and said, "You'll miss me Mum, but you'll be OK." As we learn about life from our children and invest in their lives, we can thank God for the experience of parenting.

Mary Dewberry is a member of the Cheltenham, Vic, church. She has two sons Chris (10) and Luke (8) and is married to Lindsay. She is a psychologist and marriage counsellor.

Family

The Sandwiched Generation

SUSAN WALKER

Futurist Faith Popcorn uses the term "99 lives", to highlight the 90s trend to super-busyness.

Neatly replacing the 70s image of the superwoman, "99 lives" labels the tendency to over schedule that typifies the lives of today's midlife parents.

Sociological factors such as delayed child birth, single-parent families, re-marriage and forming second families combine to ensure that midlife is full of frenetic activity. Chauffeuring children to after-school activities fills each week. Then there are meetings to at-

It reminds us that life is more than an over-scheduled search for self-gratification.

tend and rosters to fill. Church-going families are certainly not exempt. They simply have a variety of "Christian" activities to include in their diaries. Added to this are genuine safety fears for their children's moral, spiritual, psychological and physical wellbeing.

Longevity due to improved medical technology and health care means that midlifers are acting in dual roles of being care-givers to their children and to ageing or ill parents, justifying the label the "sandwiched generation". US statistics suggest that "the average care giver is a married woman in her mid-forties who works full-time and has more than one child under 18." This, of course, coincides with the stage in life when many women are re-establishing careers and new work patterns, and studying. At the same time, their spouses are responding to increased workplace demands. They may also be supporting the casualties of the present

economic climate, their unemployed adult children who are living at home longer.

This tendency to over schedule reflected in the "treadmill" pace with which today's 40-50 year olds perform their activities, is partly due to the influence of another significant sociological factor. Today's midlifers are also the "Baby Boomer" generation. Rich with a diet of self-help and self-awareness, and a strong sense of individuality and self-interest, they want to experience everything life has to offer—before they get "too old".

Hugh McKay in *Generations* suggests that for Boomers, "old-time religion" has been replaced by other contenders for deification: sex, travel, food, information, personal growth. In their background is the influence of their parent's work ethic, subtly promising success through the god of education.

So where does God fit into the life of today's 40-plus generation? For many, midlife is a time of unrealised expectations. The plethora of new age religions suggests that sex, travel, food, information, education and self-gratification have not fulfilled their promises. Many have lost their frame of reference.

Is the "churched" midlifer exempt from unrealised expectations? No! However, commitment to a church family provides a healthy frame of reference for values—a focus for goals and expectations. Sure, it adds to our already-full schedule. But, it reminds us that life is more than an over-scheduled search for self-gratification. It puts us in contact with people who share our frame of reference and allows us to connect with others who need the stability of a frame of reference that a church provides. It also reminds us that although we are "sandwiched" between different gen-

erations
t h a t
m a k e
conflict-
ing de-
mands on
our time,
our fam-
ily is
also part
of our
Christian
commit-



ment, our first mission field. Our Christian commitment requires that our response to these demands be motivated by love and not guilt.

Involvement in a family church also provides a solution to the anxious search for value and significance that marks the Boomer generation—by constantly placing before us eternal values which transcend social and economic trends. Rather than seeking self-fulfilling activities, the practical nature of our Christian beliefs allows us to focus on relationships.

The substitutes for "old-time religion" have been found wanting. But, they are no different from the values that Jesus turned upside down when he said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven." By "seeking first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness" today's midlife generation have the opportunity to escape the tendency to over schedule and search for self-fulfilment. At the same time they will be providing a stable frame of reference and a spiritual heritage for the next generation.

Susan Walker is the mother of three children, a lecturer at Wollongong University International College and Coordinator at the Wollongong Church's Ministry Centre.

Family

Moving Home

PAUL AND HEATHER POTTER

Ross and Sue sighed as they finally sank into a place to at last sit—the front seats of their Falcon. “I thought we’d never be off.” Sue smiled a tired smile back as she thought of first the excitement, then the anxiety and finally the exhausting work of moving city.

The move came as a career opportunity for Sue. For the past five years Ross’s career had flourished in one of the new breed of companies providing computer services. Now the focus turned to Sue, with an exciting job in the hospitality industry interstate.

As they travelled, they thought about what they would face in their new city. Ross had contacts and great references,

Church. “I wonder what’s around?” he thought.

Ross and Sue both started at their old church as children. When they went to services they expected to see the group they’d grown up with. And their families—although most of them attended in the morning. They’d come to love the blend of contemporary music and preaching style of their old church.

Ross didn’t think finding a new church would be too difficult. “We’ll have to try a few at first,” he thought. He continued to drive, imagining scenes in anticipation, all the while realising his experiences in the new city would no doubt be nothing like he pictured in his mind.

Ross and Sue faced much hardship in the months ahead. Finding a house to rent—that was easy. After two months Ross managed to get a temporary contract and hoped it may turn into more permanent work. Most things seemed all too different, unfamiliar and difficult. And finding the right church turned out to be tougher than they expected.

They tried a few until they found one that used a mix of music mostly familiar to them. With everything else, that took them six fairly lonely months. They found this church in a denomination different from their home church. They thought they could get used to different ways of having communion and seeing baptisms. One thing worried Ross. The minister at the church they’d left knew them well and both couples had sometimes done things together socially. The new minister seemed a bit of an intellectual and wasn’t married. After several weeks they hadn’t really had a conversation with him. They began to wonder if they’d made a mistake, because they always felt uncomfortable.

Finding a house to rent—that was easy ... Finding the right church turned out to be tougher than they expected.

feeling sure in just a few weeks he could find a good position. He felt surprised by the calls, farewells, gifts, even tears over their going.

Ross’s practical mind turned to the things they needed to do in their new community. Even before he started to make the rounds of the network for a job, he needed to look for a decent house to rent. Being a renter’s market should make that easy, he thought. He and Sue planned to find the right sized place in a pleasant location and then look for a convenient doctor, dentist, hairdresser, mechanic. And church. “No kids yet.” He thought. “But maybe we should be looking at schools too.”



When they thought about it, Ross and Sue knew they would never find a church like their old one. But telling themselves this didn’t seem to make it any better. They felt uneasy and out of place. The whole week seemed a bit like this too. Surely the church should be a refuge, a place that felt like home? Ross could chase those thoughts away if he really tried to. What worried him most were the tears he saw in Sue’s eyes, and sometimes felt himself, just below the surface, and especially after church.

Ross and Sue tried several more churches until they finally settled 18 months later. They discovered the churches of their new city were a part of that city, and as unfamiliar as the city itself. They knew what they’d look for next time they moved. A church broad enough to accept them for who they were, friendly without being overwhelming and plenty of small groups to let them develop some strong relationships quickly. And the denomination doesn’t matter.

Paul and Heather Potter minister in Belconnen Church of Christ, ACT. Paul as Ministry Leader and Heather as Pastoral/Community Minister.

Family

Teaching Teenagers Values

TOM KOPP

Remember when the time came to teach your child how to ride a bike? I wonder if you sat him down at the table and began to describe all the parts of a bike or how pedalling fast enough would allow him to pull against gravity. I wonder if you drew out diagrams for him of how pushing on the pedals with his feet would cause the tyres to propel the bike forward. And of course, you gave him a lengthy list of examples of what could happen to him if he failed to ride the bike properly.

Some things must be experienced to be learned. Values definitely fall into this category.

Of course you didn't do that! You knew he had seen others ride a bike. What he needed was to experience riding a bike. So you gave him a quick explanation of what he was about to do and then off he went, with you running by his side helping him maintain his balance. It wasn't long until he wanted to do it by himself (a quick flashback went through your mind of when he was two—"I do it!") Off he went. It was great to watch, and then it happened. Crash! Down he went. You didn't run over and berate him for falling. No, you ran over to comfort and to evaluate what harm might have happened to him. Then you explained what caused him to fall. After some encouragement from you, it was off and riding again.

Teaching children to ride a bike provides us with a pretty good model for teaching values. Some things must be

experienced to be learned. Values definitely fall into this category. No amount of diagrams, lectures, or discussion will teach values the way that experience will. So how do we create "value teaching experiences" for our children?

I suggest this:

1. Decide what values you want to teach your child.
2. Provide an opportunity to see this value in action.
3. Give a brief explanation of what must be done in order for this value to work in life.
4. Let the child begin to experience the value with you running alongside.
5. Let the child go it alone.
6. Run to the child's side when failures (falls) occur, to comfort and to help assess the damage to the child (if any).
7. Process together what went wrong.
8. Repeat steps 4 through to 7 as often as necessary.

How does this look in practice?

Let's say you are going to teach the value of spending money wisely.

1. Allow your child to see how you make choices regarding your spending.
2. Explain how learning the value of spending money wisely will allow him to be a good steward to God, and will also allow him to get the most for his money.
3. Give him some money and help him spend it wisely. This might be done by giving your child an amount of money for his activities for the month.
4. Sit down with him and explain how he will need to budget his money to last the whole month. Then let him make decisions about what he wants to spend it on.



Chances are, the first time he will run out of money before the end of the month. And it is likely that there will be some essentials that he doesn't have money for by week four.

5. Here is where you come alongside him after his fall and help comfort him and assess if there is any damage caused by his poor spending.
6. Now go back through the items that money was spent on for the month and help him evaluate what needed to be done differently in order to have enough money to last until the end.
7. Now give him money for the new month and let him go!

This process does not insure instant success, but it does allow for your child to experience the values you are trying to teach. It also allows him to fail on things that will not cause great damage to his future. Most important, be sure to be praying for your child throughout the whole process of learning values through experience.

Tom Kopp is the youth minister of Impact Christian Church, Brisbane, Queensland.

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Family

Blended Families

DAN AND MARY LEONARD

"So does this mean you are going to get married?", asked one of the children, on hearing of our house hunting plans. Discussion followed, with all the children, the physical logistics of a wedding, housing, vehicles and the like. We had been mulling over these things for what seemed a long time. Our beliefs are similar, even though our Catholic-Protestant backgrounds would suggest otherwise. When it came to planning the wedding, we chose a simple service, held in a garden. Our minister and church of today have been more than supportive.

The blending of two different families takes a great deal of planning, presents many challenges and provides much fun and laughter.

As we both had been married previously, there were many issues to be resolved before we could discuss honeymoon destinations! Even in today's moral climate, we did not consider living together because of our beliefs and to set an example to the children. When we finally told the children that we had set a date, it was met with a resounding, "It's about time too!" Dan would say that the best things about being married are the "sleepovers", and I have to admit it's great not having to "kick" Dan out the front door at midnight!

The blending of two different families takes a great deal of planning, presents many challenges and provides much

fun and laughter. With two children each, three boys and one girl aged between twelve and seventeen years, we became a family of six. The need for a car large enough to take all of us seemed a priority. Driving two cars wherever we went is a thing of the past. The children are now capable of driving my old tiny car, providing them with transport, less "taxi service" for us and independence for the children.

All of us have shared in the ongoing planting and restoration of our garden and home. With my ideas, Dan's brains and the children's muscles we have a lawn and a delightful rose and lavender garden to be proud of. Life is extremely busy, sharing in the children's many sporting, school, music and social events.

With every second weekend spent as a whole family, those days are precious, as we know that they are "limited" as the children grow older and become more independent. We do appreciate the "rest" we have on our weekends off! Cooking for six (plus usually!) takes time and energy, and we make good use of barbecues and the "faithful Webber". We needed to make many adjustments, not only as a couple, but also as two different families. We have two children part-time and two full-time. It is a constant challenge to create a home where no one feels left out. During the football season, we have a "footy tipping" competition, where other family and friends are involved. This helps give us ongoing contact and much fun.

We had hoped to find a larger home, but couldn't, so stayed at my house. The most difficult day of our marriage so far came the day after we arrived home from the honeymoon. The responsibilities of family hit hard. The need to create our own time and space



Michael, Andrew, Dan, Mary, Amanda and Craig

and to balance our children's needs required some fast, deep thinking.

Dan being self-employed in a trade needs my assistance ... at any time. Supplies and phone messages need delivering, so being "on call" has taken some adjustment. "Working together" has new meaning for me now.

The difference in our styles of discipline has caused much discussion. Dan has found this the biggest challenge of our new life. We continue to work at it. I would say that "access" with the children's other parent has been a real challenge, and as Dan and I work through these issues our appreciation for each other grows. We do try to maintain fortnightly "family" weekends (at least a night), but it can become awkward to change when functions clash between the different parents' "access".

It has definitely been a rich and rewarding experience for us. The challenges have caused us to communicate and grow together. It has been wonderful to have the support and encouragement of each other and the children. We look forward to the future with hope and happiness. We are deeply thankful for our new life together.

Dan and Mary Leonard are members of the Marion, SA, church family, with Mary serving as a voluntary office assistant.

What flavour was Communion?

MIKE FOLLAND

I was with my family attending the Mitcham, Vic, Church of Christ on deputisation for the Overseas Mission Board, prior to departure for Vanuatu. The communion leader had presented her thoughts clearly and with meaning and the servers were passing out the trays of grape-juice. With my head bowed, and feeling a sense of solidarity with

I drank the juice—and tasted onion!

those around me, I drank the juice—and tasted onion! Apparently those who prepared the grape juice had unknowingly put the trays into the fridge with a large plate of freshly cut raw onions destined for a church barbecue that day. There was not a dry eye in the congregation, although no one was sure whether it was from the onion, the emotion of communion, or suppressed laughter. Little did I realise what a realistic preparation for missionary service in Vanuatu this incident would provide. Since arriving to lecture at the Banmatmat Bible College in April 1997, the elements used to share communion have been of a different combination almost every

week. Most Sundays we attend the church at Ranputor, a short twenty-minute walk over the mountain. Or once a month we attend a combined regional service. The variety of forms communion has taken is quite remarkable. Hence the question by one of my daughters, "What flavour was communion today, Dad?"

So far, the "bread", representing Christ's body, has included taro, yam, coconut, lap-lap, cabin cracker, Orange Slice sweet biscuit or once even bread. If a biscuit, it is invariably crushed to a powder requiring a pinching action to retrieve enough to eat. The "wine" representing Christ's blood, has included coconut milk, red cordial, lemon juice, pamplimus (grapefruit) juice, water or milo! All juice, except the coconut, is mixed with several spoons of sugar. Reflecting on this cultural experience with Principal Samuel Vusi, it becomes apparent that the choice of elements is simply "all they have". At college, students are encouraged to use taro for the "bread" and coconut juice for the "wine". These elements reflect most simply the staple diet of Ni-Vanuatu people. Both are available all year round, and indeed provide a survival food. During the dry season some islands run out of fresh water completely. Cooking

and washing is done with salt water and coconuts provide the sole source of drink. Taros, also, grow in different varieties and can be relied upon as food throughout the year. These two elements therefore symbolise dependability, survival, nourishment and life. The communal attitude towards food gathering and sharing also ensures that taro and coconut express a meaningful communion together in daily living. While the "ingredients" of communion are bound to surprise me each Sunday, the essence of who they represent remains firmly the same. This is a comforting factor, not only in a cross-cultural environment, but also in the changing sands of modern life. Christ is present with us in every circumstance



and communion helps us to intentionally remember this assurance. The sharing in communion with other people and the sharing of a common staple food and drink, engages us in a union that expresses God's solidarity with the world. Perhaps it has taken a changing "flavour" to help me appreciate the unchanging nature of God's love.

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US Promise Keepers has laid off all of its 345 salaried employees from 31 March for financial reasons. It is anticipated that volunteers will assist to continue the ministry. In 1997, 630,000 men attended 18 stadium events compared to 1.1 million in 1996. Lower attendances are the cause of the lay offs. Regional rallies in 19 US cities are currently planned. *Christian Century*

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Comment Titanic Tales

ALISON CARR

Have you ever tried to explain to someone what it means to be a Christian? Have you ever tried to put into words the difference Jesus makes to your life? In our increasingly cynical society, this can be a difficult task. Many people draw on the words of John chapter 3 and talk about being "born again", but, more often than not, this expression is met with a cringe. "Born again Christians", over recent years, have been given a bad name. Perhaps the expression has been used too often, but, nowadays, it seems to conjure up in the minds of the uninformed some kind of cartoon character! It's not a good start when you're seriously trying to explain a life-changing experience.

Perhaps we need to search for other ways to communicate our faith? Perhaps we need to draw

on words, phrases and stories that are already familiar to our 1990s listeners. I am always looking for ways to explain my faith to people in terms they can understand. And a couple of weeks ago, as I cried my way through the film *Titanic* (for the second time!), I became aware of a familiar underlying theme. If you haven't yet seen the film, here's a very brief outline:

The central female character, Rose, is a good, little rich girl who has been pampered and stifled her whole life. As she prepares to board the *Titanic* and

on his back. Jack, who never knows where he will find himself from one day to the next. Jack, who has an insatiable zest for life. Jack, who dares to love a rich girl.

Their love affair is brief and ends tragically, but it has a profound effect on Rose and alters the course of her life forever.

Towards the end of the film, she tries to explain this change.

"Jack saved me," she says, "in every way that it's possible to be saved". As a result of the time she spent with Jack, Rose was given courage to fight for life in all its fullness.

Rose's story is a familiar story to those who have experienced "new life in Christ". When we talk about being "born again", we really mean that, like Rose, we have been saved "in every way it's possible to be saved". For some of us that means being saved from guilty memories that have the potential to drag us down. For some of us that means being saved from a life of selfishness. For some of us that means gaining courage to tackle life head on. For all of us,



it means having a friend beside us who loves and understands us.

Our stories are not so strange. In fact, they're the kind of stories that people want to hear. It's always nice to discover that "miracles in the midst of tragic circumstances" are not limited to the big screen.

So, how about you? Do you have a "Titanic" story to tell?

Allison Carr is a graduate of the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave, Vic, and a member of the Doncaster, Vic, church.

Perhaps we need to draw on words, phrases and stories that are already familiar to our 1990s listeners.

begin a new life in America with her mother and fiancé, she has a sinking feeling. She desperately wants more out of life, but plans are being made for her and she is simply being dragged along.

But then she meets Jack. Jack, who has nothing but the clothes

Here and There

Pope Cements Conservatism

Pope John Paul II has recently appointed new cardinals. They come from Latin America (4), North America (3), Europe (10), Africa (2), and Asia (1). Eight of the European cardinals were Italian. These appointments are likely to cement the Pope's conservative influence well into the next century, according to a news comment in the US-based *Christian Century*.

Lutheran Minister Stood Down

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America has recently stripped an Iowa pastor of his ministerial status for violating the denomination's rules barring non-celibate homosexual clergy from ministry. The 150 member congregation can no longer retain the 38-year-old minister.

Christian Century



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Faith Thrives in China

GORDON MOYES

There are thousands of unmarked graves in China of faithful missionaries who died taking the faith to the Chinese. Most missionary gravestones were destroyed during the Cultural Revolution, which burned churches, books, libraries, institutions of learning and any sign of western influence.

One newly-erected gravestone marks the grave of the Olympic

That Sunday Pastor Samuel Lamb started all over again as more than a 1000 people stood in tears in a totally empty house.

Gold Medallist and China missionary Eric Liddell, who was the subject of the great film *Chariots of Fire*. But there is one grave in Hueili in the western province of Sichuan which I wanted to see on my recent visit. My desire goes back to when I was a teenager attending youth camps in the old Waterman Camp buildings at Monbulk, Vic.

I remember the sonorous tones of our leader, Laurie Trezise, telling of the origin of the camp's name. Will Waterman was a young missionary in Hueilichou during the 1920s and 1930s. His fiancée Grace, travelled out to be married to him in China. The Watermans and the Killmiers were married in a double ceremony in April 1923. Joan and Win Waterman

were subsequently born there. It was there that Will Waterman, the clever linguist, died at 35 of peritonitis and was buried in the mission compound. The deep tones of our camp leader told us on a still summer night under the stars, around a camp fire, that an Australian heart still lies in the heart of China.

I was determined to make a pilgrimage and try to see if anything of the church in Hueili remained. Nothing had been heard of it since the evacuation of Australian missionaries after the Communist take-over in 1949. Then in July 1996, as I was making my plans, I heard that Jeff Weston of the Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board had just made the pilgrimage. I was thrilled at the news.

The church remains. The old buildings built by Australian Churches of Christ during World War 2 still house the only Protestant congregation in the area. Each Sunday over 400 Chinese people meet in worship, filling the building. Many have been imprisoned and beaten for their faith. The church has endured fifty years of persecution. Pastor Wang led the work since the communist government came to power. He was imprisoned for fourteen years for his faith. He died in 1993, but his widow continues as pastor, assisted by three elders. The work of pioneer Australian missionaries remains.

In 1925 Will Waterman wrote: "Our territory supports unnumbered multitudes. There are half a dozen distinct peoples and languages. Everyone here is to be won for Christ with your help." His wife Grace in later years prepared my college meals during my years of study, telling me much of China. I re-

member the Watermans, Killmiers, Andersons, Clarks and Rosa Tonkin and others who achieved much in China. In the heart of China, there remains, in an unmarked grave, the heart of an Australian.

The Registered Churches

The registered churches are growing. Since 1979, over 12,000 church properties have been handed back to local church councils for use in worship. Sunday schools are not permitted, youth activities for people under 18 years are banned, evangelistic outreach is not allowed, but worship is.

In most major cities the Council of Churches (Government registered) is listed in the telephone book and will give you worship times.

One Three Self Patriotic Movement Church in Beijing, a Government registered church, was built as a Methodist Church in 1840. It has been burnt down three times, wrecked by the Boxers in the Rebellion of 1900, damaged by the Japanese occupation from 1937 to 1944, and closed down by the Red Guards in 1966 during the Cultural Revolution.

But in February 1998, while I was there, it was packed. Two thousand crammed into the church and annexe, with another one thousand packed into the basement, watching by closed-circuit TV! Bibles were sold in their bookshop from the Amity Press, with a long queue of purchasers. I saw one elderly man purchase about twenty Bibles, pack them on the back of his bicycle and ride off without attending the service, probably to go to some unregistered church.

The Amity Printing Foundation, with paper and support from the United Bible Societies, have



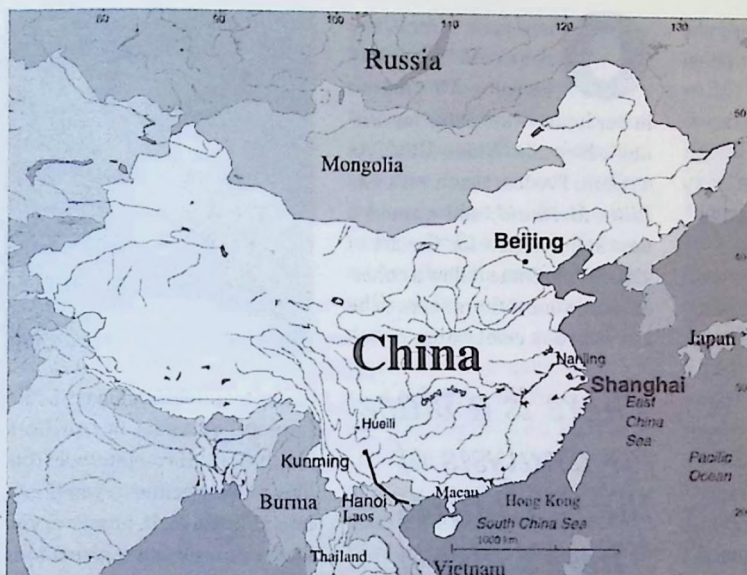
printed 16 million Bibles, Testaments and hymn books since 1988. Three million Bibles and portions will be published this year. Almost all of these are sold by registered churches in major cities. Roman Catholic and Protestant members of the registered churches number about three million.

The Unregistered Churches

The unregistered underground churches, however, have seen greater growth. It is estimated that 85% of the Christians in China belong to unregistered churches meeting in homes. Government estimates acknowledge now up to 30 million home church believers. Underground leaders told me they estimate 50 million members. China watchers talk about 70 million Christians in total in China.

I have been told by leaders of the unregistered churches that there are currently about 50,000 groups.

One home church where I spoke was held in a university dormitory block. It was filled with students and lecturers. They were thrilled with the dozens of Chinese Bibles Beverley and I gave them, which we had got past customs legally. The location of their underground church is constantly being revealed by other people who hear



the singing. Yet they manage to move before the police arrive each time and still keep their members all informed where they'll meet.

Several of the team I was with were stopped, searched, interrogated, had Bibles confiscated and all details entered into Government computers against any further entry into the country. One friend was "chatted up" by a lovely lady in a McDonalds. He was asked his purpose in his visit. He witnessed to his faith. She then revealed she was a member of the plain-clothes police charged with arresting aliens who violated China's culture and religious standards! She let him off with a warning. It worked!

My book *Discovering Jesus*, used in many countries of the world, has been printed in Chinese in China. The home churches and the registered churches are both using it. I understand widespread distribution is planned in the future.

One underground leader I met does not keep his location secret. Pastor Samuel Lamb of Guangzhou, refuses to move and has lived on and off in the

same three-storey narrow house belonging to his grandfather and father for 68 years. I say on and off, because he had to flee the Japanese in the 1940s. He started a house church at Easter 1950, just after the Communists came to power. The Public Security Bureau has outlawed this church in his house. In 1955 he was imprisoned for one and a half years. In May 1958 he was imprisoned for "brainwashing" for five years, where he counteracted communist teachings with memorised portions of the Bible. He was sent from that five-year confinement to 15 years' slave labour in the Shanxi Talyuan Xiyu coal mine. It was here he composed many hymns which are sung in the underground churches today. After 20 years' imprisonment, he was released in 1978 and returned to the little house and started services again. Then 300 people attended, crammed together in the tiny rooms on three levels. By 1986 over 1000 people were attending three services.

In 1988 the Government tried six times to close him down. He started over again. On 22 Feb-

ruary 1990, at midnight, over 50 police smashed their way into his narrow house and confiscated all the Bibles, hymn books, recorders, close-circuit TV, organ, tracts, pens and pencils. Pastor Samuel Lamb was interrogated for 25 hours. That Sunday Pastor Samuel Lamb started all over again as more than a 1000 people stood in tears in a totally empty house. The same thing has happened in

1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995. Nothing happened in 1996.

Last year Pastor Lamb was again interrogated over Hong Kong's return to China from Britain. Last year the church held more services, conducted 351 baptisms, and averaged over 2,000 people attending weekly. This year, over 2000 a week are attending the five services (each of two hours duration) with about 80% (my estimate) being young people. On 10 February 1998, the authorities again tried to close his house church down.

I was with him in March this year when Government officials said that if the church stays open beyond Monday, 16 March 1998, Pastor Lamb will be fined \$50,000 and if in default, face an extended period of imprisonment. He does not have the money. He is 74 years of age and in poor health, suffering from degeneration of the spinal discs and cerebral arteriosclerosis. But whatever happened on Monday, 16 March 1998, I am sure Pastor Lamb will start again. These Chinese Christians need our prayers.

Since October 1996, Govern-

ment restrictions and human rights violations have dramatically increased. House church pastors told me that when their members become known to the Religious Affairs Bureau, their electricity is cut off, their education is ended and their employment is terminated. This is now officially documented. Several told of houses where home groups meet having been bulldozed to the ground. The US State Department declares that human rights violations have dramatically increased in the

In the heart of China, there remains, in an unmarked grave, the heart of an Australian.

past year, including torture, forced confessions and arbitrary detentions.

The faith is being tested. The 140 years of Protestant mission, up until the Liberation of 1949, has borne great fruit in the lives of faithful Chinese believers. But the situation at this moment is the worst since the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976). One bright spot is that in taking over Hong Kong, 1 July 1997, China took over thirteen seminaries producing evangelical graduate students for ministry, who are keen to serve anywhere in China. The Red Dragon is breathing fire and smoke, but the Christians are thriving and are faithful even unto death.

Rev Dr Gordon Moyes, AM, is Superintendent of the Wesley Mission, Sydney.

Classifieds

DEATHS

KILLMIER, Raymond Neville Passed away peacefully at Wangaratta on 21.4.98, aged 73 years. Loved brother, brother-in-law, and uncle to Bruce (dec), Brian and Joy, Roger and Beryl, Rae and Kevin Wilson, and families. To live is Christ, to die is gain.

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Here and There Kingdom's Transformation Celebrated

The anniversary of Augustine's arrival in Britain 1,400 years ago was celebrated when George Carey, the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury travelled by barge along the River Stour to Richborough, close to the 597 AD landing place. Archbishop Carey, like his predecessor, carried a cross and a Bible and was greeted by pupils of Dane Court School, Broadstairs, who presented a drama re-enacting Augustine's meeting with the King. Through the conversion of the King and Queen a mass movement was initiated which, during Augustine's seven-year tenure, resulted in the conversion of the kingdom and the unification of seven kingdoms into one English nation. The Bible Society presented students at Broadstairs with copies of the Gospel of Luke in the popular format *Don't Judge a Book by its Cover*.

PBC Lecturer Appointed Perth Bible College has appointed Ruth Henderson as a full-time lecturer in Missiology, Old Testament Studies and Hebrew. The appointment follows the recent accreditation of PBC to confer their own Bachelor of Ministry degree. Ruth completed most of her Old Testament studies in Israel, where she spent thirteen years studying and lecturing in Hebrew. Her experience in living within a different non-Christian culture will also directly benefit students training in cross-cultural ministry.

Thinking Biblically Revelation

WAYNE BETTS

Once upon a time, the required Saturday morning TV viewing in our house was "Saturday Disney". Now it's "Video Hits". As a result, I've lost touch with *The Little Mermaid*, and gained a new appreciation for the art of video clips. Some follow a coherent story line, others seem to be a boisterous celebration of col-



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our and movement. Having recently re-read parts of Revelation, I think that the video clip might be an important tool in interpreting this often-misunderstood book. Let me explain.

Many people have pored over the intricacies of each vision in the book, determining links to contemporary events and people. That spiritual detective work has been fascinating, but often in the process, something more important has been lost. It's like pulling apart a perfectly good watch, so you can examine the significance of each little cog. I'd suggest an approach where you sit back and allow the images and visions to play out on the screen of your imagination—then reflect: "How does this make me feel?"

For instance, in Revelation 4, rather than trying to work out what all the precious stones (v. 3) mean, or who the elders are (v. 4) or what the living creatures represent (v. 6), just picture the vision. Then as it con-

tinues to unfold in chapter 5, the Lion (v. 5) turns out to be a Lamb (v. 6)! If you interpret this like a documentary, you'll run into difficulties. If, however, you let the images flow—sometimes distinctly, sometimes tumbling over or merging into one another—I think you'll get closer to the spirit of the text. Remember that the Scriptures would have been heard as a whole by their original recipients, rather than dissected, word by word. The overall effect of this approach? You won't get a detailed blue-print of the end-times, but what you will have is a heightened appreciation of God's majesty and sovereignty, and a renewed desire to join with all creation in worship (5: 13). There is a place for analysis of the Scriptures. There's also a time to experience the word of God. By the way, I'd love to see what "Video Hits" could do with Revelation! Definitely a Number 1 hit!

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Some Family-Friendly Films

VINEY LONGTHORP

One often hears parents of small children (and not so small) ruing the fact that there seems so few movies and videos which can appeal to the whole family.

Those parents who do not wish that their children be exposed to scenes and language which they consider unsuitable are acting responsibly. At one time

"The Castle" is Australian to the core, and it may be likely that you will both hear and see yourself in it.

or another, most of us have made similar decisions to avoid certain programs.

Dr Ted Baehr, publisher of *Movieguide*, and founder of the Christian Film and Television Commission of the USA has re-

cently published a list of recent movies which he claims are well-made and refreshingly free of excessive sex, violence and foul language. His organisation, this year, made awards for films with excellence. At the ceremony, Dr Baehr said, "It is our prayer that the movie industry will make more and more recommendable movies and that they will remove all offensive elements in them". However Dr Baehr is no Pollyanna and admits that some of these may contain "strong subject matter; caution is advised".

His list included: *Air Bud*, which stars Kevin Segers; *Anastasia*, which has the voices of Meg Ryan and John Cusack; *Cats Don't Dance*, which stars the voices of Natale Cole and George Kennedy; and *Flubber*, which stars the ubiquitous Robin Williams.

Movieguide judges also gave a vote of confidence to *Mr Magoo*, starring Leslie Nielsen and to *Leave It To Beaver*, which stars Cameron Findley and Christopher McDonald.

Adventure and historical films were included in the awards.

They were: *Wild America* with Jonathan Taylor; *Jungle 2 Jungle* with Tim Allen. There were no surprises that *Her Majesty Mrs Brown* made the list, with the excellent Judi Dench and Billy Connolly. Then there was *Batman and Robin*, with George Clooney and Arnold Schwarzenegger. Many of these films are available on video.

The following received awards as "family-friendly made for mature audiences": *Amistad*, starring Anthony Hopkins and Djimon Hounsou; *Paradise Road*, starring Glenn Close and Pauline Collins; *The Apostle* with Robert Duvall; *Air Force One*, starring Harrison Ford and Glenn Close. Others include: *Ulee's Gold*, with Peter Fonda; *The Edge*, with Anthony Hopkins, Alec Baldwin and Elle Macpherson; *The Rainmaker*, which featured Matt Damon, Danny Glover, Jon Voight and Danny De Vito; *Conspiracy Theory*, starring Mel Gibson and Patrick Stewart; *My Best Friend's Wedding*, starring Julia Roberts and Rupert Everett. Finally *Shall We Dance*, starring Kajoi Hakusho. This last is a



Japanese film which is an utter delight. The sub-titles may put many young people off (it is in Japanese); in which case mum and dad should hire a baby-sitter and go it alone.

Finally allow me to commend *The Castle*. Dr Baehr may not have heard of this Australian production.

It was made on a shoe-string budget and in parts, this is painfully obvious. But it is a romp of a comedy, a laugh a minute, as they say. A suburban "David" takes on a big corporation "Goliath" and wins the day. But we warned: *The Castle* is Australian to the core, and it may be likely that you will both hear and see yourself in it.

Expressions of interest for

Associate Ministry Church of Christ—Maitland, NSW

This ministry will complement the existing role, gifts and personality of the Senior Minister, R.N. Hawkins. The person appointed will have primary, but not exclusive, responsibility to:

- i Reach young people within the church and community with the Gospel
- ii Accept responsibility for the Sunday evening services.
- iii Pastoral care with other team members
- iv Lead the church, in association with the present ministry team, into new dimensions for the 21st century

The person considered will need to sign the NSW Ministers Code of Conduct agreement. He will also need to be in agreement with the aims and intent of the church as outlined in its guidelines.

Information can be obtained from:
The Elders, Church of Christ—Maitland,
PO Box 88, East Maitland NSW 2323.
Phone/Fax (02) 4933 6983.

Closing date for expressions of interest 1 July 1998.

Kalgoorlie Church of Christ, WA Centenary Celebrations

7-9 August 1998

Guest Preacher: Pastor Glen Rogers

Friday, 7 August	Rally
Saturday, 8 August	Churches of Christ Council Centenary Banquet Cost \$35.00 per person. Tickets available from Mrs E. Kinney, PO Box 10146, Kalgoorlie WA 6430.
Sunday, 9 August	am Thanksgiving Service pm Celebration Service (Combined Churches)

All inquiries, please contact church office on (08) 9021 2296,
PO Box 10146, Kalgoorlie WA 6430.

OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES are limited to 100 words
JACKSON, Beryl Mavis (Pritchard)
 (5.4.98) Beryl was born 7.11.13 and lived with her family at Glenelg, SA. She gave her life to the Lord in her early teens. At 20 she went nursing to Berri, SA, and met and married John Jackson in Berri church. They had three children, Robert, Joylene and Elaine. After John's death, Beryl moved to Adelaide and became a member at Colonel Light Gardens. She was a faithful worker for Community Care for many years. When she was unable to manage on her own Beryl came to live at Glenrose Court Hostel.

—Lorna DeBoo

KILLMIER, Raymond Neville
 (21.4.98) Born 26.3.25 at Hueli, China, Neville was the eldest son of medical missionaries Dr and Mrs E.R. Killmier. The family returned to Australia in 1928 and after a short stay in Trentham, Vic,

settled in Thornbury. Neville made a commitment to Christ and joined the Thornbury church in 1938. Although he battled with schizophrenia and required medication all his adult life, his faith and his sense of humour remained strong and supported him through every trial. After a long illness, Neville died peacefully at Wangaratta. We thank God for Neville's Christ-like patient endurance through trying times.—Roger Killmier

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SA

MILE END (Barry Benz) Easter Week services were inspirational, encouraging attendance. Easter Sunday morning, when "Resurrection Drama" written & directed by Elke Benz was performed, brought events of Easter to life. Drama repeated at 6.00 pm for combined Mile End & Cowandilla congregations. ... Plans under way for 90th anniversary celebrations 31 May.

WHYALLA AGM 1 March ... Resignations of Alby Kittel as elder & Marj Kittel as deacon received with regret ... Ian Cunningham elected as third elder. Don Berrett & Isobel Cunningham elected as deacons ... Church functioning well, though missing the services of a minister ... Richard Lawton dedicated baby Bonnie Taylor & inducted elders & deacons 29 March.

BROOKLYN PARK (John Main) Guest speakers while minister holidaying:

Ron Holmes, Ron McLean & Mark Dodd (on furlough from Vanuatu) ... Sharing Mark's ministry through Living Link and farewell lunch ... Small-group network going well ... Completed Lenten studies ... Church looking forward to commencement of "Followers" group, meeting for light meal, study, praise, prayer ... "Shout for Joy" service for differently abled people, inspiration to all. Well supported.

DARWIN (Jim Larkham) Members of the church involved in assisting flood victims from Katherine and Daly Waters ... Shrove Tuesday celebrated with the traditional pancakes ... Group meeting for Lenten studies ... Maundy Thursday Passover meal held ... Good attendances at Easter Services ... Church sending representative to South Australian conference.

GOOLWA (Chris Ambrose) Easter celebrations: Maundy Thursday foot

Chaplain

The Council for Christian Education in Schools invites inquiries from persons interested in serving as School Chaplain for a country appointment, currently on a three day per week basis.

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Inquiries by telephone should ask for Noel Button.

Written expressions of interest should be sent to:

The Chaplaincy Administrator
 The Council for Christian
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 3/377 Little Lonsdale Street
 Melbourne Vic 3000.
 Phone (03) 9602 1993.
 Fax (03) 9642 0634.



York Street Church of Christ—Ballarat
 invites applications for

Children's and Family Ministry Pastor/Director



York Street is a large, vital and robust church, and is offering excellent conditions for someone to lead all ministry to those below high school age and their families.

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- Pastoral work with children and their families
- Outreach after school clubs / Holiday clubs
- RE in local schools
- Liaison with our playgroups and kindergarten

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- Proven Ministry record showing excellence, quality and growth
- Leader Be able to create, lead and inspire, train and direct multiple teams
- Gifted Specifically for this ministry
- Contemporary Utilising the latest trends in children's ministry
- Credible Have an attractive rapport with children and good liaison skills with parents
- Committed To the two aims of evangelism and nurture in children's work
- Trained Probably teacher trained and theologically trained, preferably both
- Up-Front Have a highly-developed impressive ability to operate in front of a large, discerning congregation

This is a paid, full-time/part-time position.

Applications to Senior Minister: Larry Galbraith, 410 York St, Ballarat Vic 3350. Phone (03) 5331 1079. Fax (03) 5333 2454.

Church News

washing, Good Friday morning service, Sunday, Inter Church Council dawn service held on banks of Murray River. Three young folk baptised during morning service, Catherine Mudge, Brooke Burgan, Lisa Maynard, about 230 present, a great day of celebration ... Death of Beryl Tuckwell regretted.

ACT

AINSLIE (Paul C. Douglas) Maundy Thursday Service very moving ... Good Friday and Easter Sunday services well attended ... Church members involved in Easter Festival at Glebe Park organised by Awakening movement ... Church approves major renovations to manse ... Minister preaching series in morning service on practices and beliefs highly valued by the congregation ... Evening services to be organised and led by lay people ... Food bank continues to be well used by local community.

VIC

BAYSWATER (P. Clayton) Over 70 attended World Day of Prayer held in chapel ... Carol Davis, Volunteer of

the Year in municipality, gave challenging address ... Church filled for special Easter presentation with drama & music, directed by minister ... Youth Bible study commenced during morning service, led by Ashley Clayton ... Increased numbers attending several groups ... Travel Club enjoyed bus trip to Phillip Island.

NSW

WOLLONGONG (E. Keating, B. Bruce) Successful vision dinner ... Sermon series on holiness ... State funeral for Bev Lawson (NSW Deputy Police Commissioner) ... Visiting speakers Dr LeRoy Lawson (USA), Merryl Correy, Dr Rod Irvine ... Amanda Nelson & Blake Moore, new youth leaders, organised fund raising for Tamworth Aboriginal mission ... Family camp & young adult camp successful ... "Serving Christ" seminar with Ken Bond ... Palm Sunday music festival. Outdoor Easter dawn service.

METRO NORTH CHRISTIAN CENTRE (Franklyn Elliott) Good Friday service well attended. A number from the church supported the churches of

Dural area Easter Sunrise Service at 5.45 am at Fagin Park, Galston. Special guests Easter Sunday were Rachel & Bert Park from USA, who led in worship by song & testimony ... Parks also shared in DCE youth camp at Stanwell Tops ... Lorna Ellerby now a resident in the Chesalon Nursing Home, Beecroft.

TAS

DEVONPORT (Peter Willis) Wilbur Ratcliffe, Past National Director of Gideons, speaker 19 April ... Members voted to accept proposal to purchase adjoining property to church. Special meeting held to consolidate relevant issues ... Natalie Smith keeping church in touch with her missionary activities in Nigeria ... Men's prayer breakfasts held on regular basis ... Many members enjoyed church camp held at Riverbend.

LAUNCESTON (C. Spaulding, W. Kerrison, T. Gray, S. Fitzallen) Church voted to extend Tom Gray's appointment for a further 2 years & Craig Spaulding's term until December, 2005 ... Baby Lachlan Unwin dedicated on 19 April. Guest speaker 7.00 pm, John Glen-Dwyer & on 26

April, Doug MacFarlane. Evening service well attended ... Church saddened at passing of Joyce Miller. Farewelled at a service on 23 April.

CHANGES

FLINDERS PARK, SA—Minister Maurice Hodgson, 19 Abelia Ave, Flinders Park SA 5025. Telephone (08) 8352 3740 (res), (08) 8443 6014 (church office).

WEST LAKES UNITED PARISH, SA—Minister (correction) Robyn Walsh, Phone (08) 8341 5310. E-mail <rwalsh@netadvantage.com.au>.

BAPTISMS

•Rina Cuzzubo, Anthony Elliot, Catherine Guest, Andrew Lukies, Barbara Lukies, Teresa Marzano, Matthew Piper, Tom Setuwait, Emily Stratford, Lachlan Walker, Wollongong, NSW •Brooke Burgar, Lisa Maynard, Catherine Mudge, Goolwa, SA

MARRIAGES

•Alison Read and Derek McCaig, Alicia Rodgers and Vaughan Lewis, Kelly McLean and Phil Boaretto, Wollongong, NSW

DEATHS

•Fred Rees, Wollongong, NSW •Joyce Miller, Launceston, Tas •Beryl Tuckwell, Goolwa, SA

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Exploring the Day

Dress Code

JANET THOMPSON

As I sat in church during the distribution of communion, I noticed what the helpers were wearing. (I admit that I don't always pay attention to the "correct" things during a church service!) One of the women was formally dressed in trousers and a tailored jacket, the other was wearing jeans and a jumper. Both men were wearing parkas, one of them plain navy, and the other multi-coloured and quite startling.

My mind went back to the time when I was growing up, and the contrast was astounding. All the men wore dark suits, white shirts, and ties. In the searing heat of summer, they were permitted to remove their suit coats—but they all had to remove them. Uniformity was essential. Of course, women were not allowed to perform official duties (apart from playing the organ), but they were uniformly attired in their "Sunday Best". Hats and gloves were mandatory at morning services, but not in the evening. If one of the women had dared to arrive in trousers, the entire building would have collapsed in the resultant shock wave!

I looked at the young man in the loud parka, jeans, and sneakers, (a member of the board), and wondered what would have happened if he had appeared as a "helper" in the 'fifties. I have seen and heard confrontations and complaints on the subject. There would have been an uproar! Words like "disrespect", "suitability", "irreverence" and "example" would have been flying around, together with questions about his



position on the board. I think he might have been given a second chance—but only after stern lectures from the minister and the elders.

The young man in question will be amused by this reflection, because those days have gone. Over the last forty years we have been discovering the joys of worshipping informally—in varied settings, everyday language ... and comfortable clothes. I appreciate the openness and feelings of involvement that have come with the changes. Reverence and respect have not gone missing, because the essence of our worship is in our minds and our attitudes—not in external things.

Jesus had some fairly strong words to say on this subject—and that was almost 2,000 years ago.

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The Last Word

He that takes away Reason to make way for Revelation puts out the light of both.

—John Locke.

*What is the name of your bank?
"Piggy".*

I crossed a woodpecker with a parrot. Now, when the tree starts to fall, it shouts, 'Timber'.

What do you get if you cross the Atlantic with the Titanic? About half-way.

I told my boss that I went to church and prayed for a raise. He told me never to go over his head again!

The clever cat eats cheese, then breathes down rat holes with baited breath.

I have a suit for every day of the year. And this is it.

A comedian is someone who knows a good joke when he steals one.

Why was the author happy to live in a basement?

It was a best cellar.

My uncle died and all he left was an old clock.

Shouldn't be much trouble winding up his estate!

Pontius' Puddle



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Families

