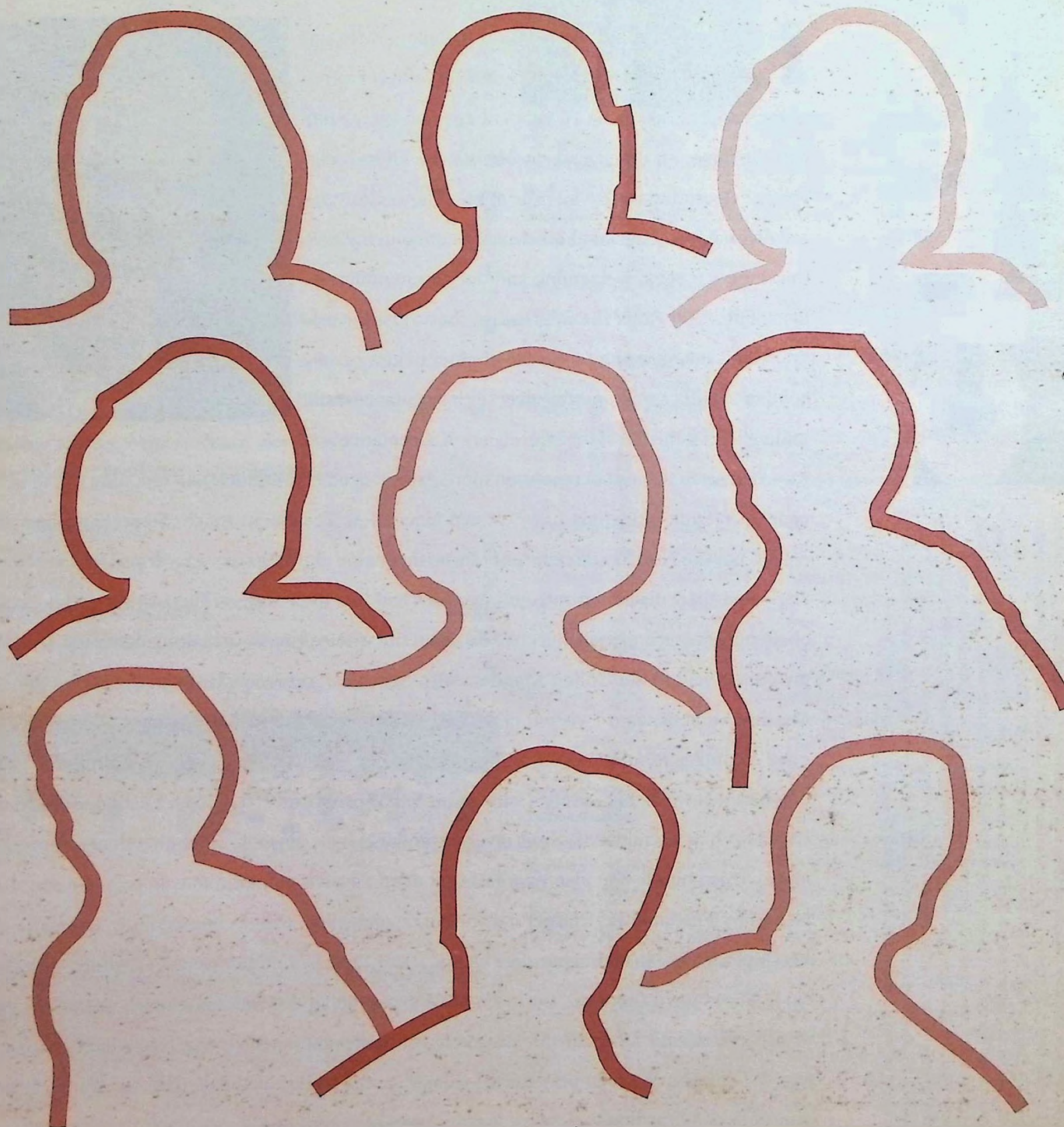


THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

Vol. 102 No. 14, 25 August 1999

PRINT POST APPROVED PP349181/00418



People

Editor: Don Smith, Production Manager/Sub Editor: Nigel Pegram Issue 8 September Deadline 26 August; Issue 9 September Deadline 23 September; Issue 10 October Deadline 23 September. Address for all correspondence: PO Box 101, Essendon North Vic 3041. Telephone (03) 9379 1219, Fax (03) 9379 0015, E-mail <editor.ac@churchesofchrist.org.au>. World Wide Web <www.ozemail.com.au/~aceditor>. Member publication of the Australasian Religious Press Association. Published by the Board of Management of The Australian Christian, a Department of Churches of Christ in Australia. Keith Aird, Chairman (SA); Lindsay Mott, Treasurer (Vic); John Batchler (Tas); Tom Gynn (NSW); Bev Grenfell (Qld); Allen Smyth (WA). Printed by New Litho Pty Ltd, Surrey Hills Vic. Responsibility for electoral material is accepted by Don Smith, 2 Larkspur Ave, Doncaster 3108. This publication is indexed in the Australasian Religion Index. ISSN 0004-8852. Advertising Rates: Displayed: \$6.00 per column centimetre, Classifieds: \$15.00 for the first 25 words and 25c for each additional word.



Editorial

New Faces

DON SMITH

In this issue we introduce you to people new in our midst in five different churches. The oldest church is Devonport, Tas, some 75 years of age and the youngest, Eastgate, an outer eastern Melbourne church currently celebrating twelve months of life. These churches are diverse in background but share a common focus in that they are open, welcoming and deeply committed to discipling. One gains the impression they exist for others. * It is encouraging to see the number of new people coming to faith, sometimes in adverse circumstances, and finding within the life of the church a rich acceptance and



care. These churches become even more experienced in discipling and reaching out to new people. * Such situations have existed since New Testament times. Some churches excelled, but the New Testament reminds us that some churches were far from perfect. They neglected their discipling role and in effect had lost their way. * The stories in this issue challenge us as a national church to be about the whole process of making disciples. During my recent visit to the United Kingdom with Australian representatives of the International Mission Summit team I visited churches across a range of denominations. We looked at good examples of missional churches. On one day we moved from an expanding new London-based network of churches with some 12,000 people involved, to an East London inner-city church in the midst of ethnic diversity and tensions, poverty, unemployment, crime and more. This church was also expressing a deep mission commitment, but not finding the task easy. It belonged to a larger network in rapid decline, with an increasingly ageing membership, with one in eight churches having fewer than 12 members and sometimes with two such churches in the same town. For this group being a missional church seemed a low priority. How easy for us to slip into such a situation and hardly recognise what is happening. * I suggest that you pray for the people in our feature articles. Give thanks for these churches and pray that their spirit may be one which continues to spread through our whole Australian fellowship. This is the quality of life we need for the next century. *

People

We feature stories on a number of people who are new to our churches from around the nation.

<i>The Tie that Does not Bind</i>	11
<i>Joining a Family</i>	12
<i>New Beginnings</i>	13
<i>An Absolute Farce</i>	14
<i>From Eastern Religions to Eastgate</i>	15

News

<i>Jetty Baptism</i>	5
<i>International Christians</i>	5
<i>Global Discipleship Gap</i>	6
<i>Prophets in the next Millennium?</i>	7
<i>Conference Returns "Home"</i>	7
<i>Original Artwork Award</i>	9

No Apology for "Jesus Wear"

John Rees comments on a religious fashion statement.

Regulars

<i>Coffee Break</i>	16
<i>Editorial</i>	2
<i>Snippets from History</i>	20
<i>The Last Word</i>	20
<i>Update</i>	4

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.

Terrorising the Teletubbies

To the Editor,
Regarding the article criticising Dr Jerry Falwell. The linking of the Teletubbie with the gay movement did not originate with Falwell, but with the secular press.

Sections of the gay rights movement have acknowledged use of Tinky Winky as a symbol.

I have had the chance to know Dr Falwell and though the selective quotes in the article makes him sound a little strange, he is a brilliant and respected public figure, appearing nightly on national TV. I do not agree with everything he says, but I believe your article misrepresented Falwell and was guilty of the problem it sought to identify—failing to understand another's culture.

—Barry McMurtrie
(Corona, California, USA)

Terrorising the Teletubbies

To the Editor,
As Barry McMurtrie pointed out, yes, there was some comment in the secular press suggesting a link between the gay rights movement and Tinky Winky, but it was not made into a big issue or taken over seriously until Jerry Falwell took hold of it and made his pronouncements (some of which were and are still incorrect).

Yes, some gay rights people claimed Tinky Winky as their symbol, especially after Jerry

Falwell gave his public warnings. Barry, however, failed to comment on Jerry Falwell's statements regarding the Antichrist. Having checked Falwell's own statements, as well as comments by many others, I don't believe the article misrepresented Falwell or failed to understand another's (Jerry Falwell's) culture, especially in the light of criticism, some of it much, much stronger than mine, over the same issues, coming from the USA, both from Christians and non-Christians.

—Adrian van Leen
(Director, CCG Ministries)

Denominations


To the Editor,
I have recently completed a first reading of Gordon Stirling's new book on Churches of Christ. It is excellent and will, I hope, be read by many.
I hope especially that people will read chapter twelve, "Being relevant to contemporary needs", which I found most challenging, especially the page 72 reference to "indigenous brothers and sisters".

This nod towards issues of race and gender brings us face to face with the eternal question of human sexuality.

One thing which struck me was the repeated use of the word "denomination". I tend today to use "church" to avoid the ugliness of the other technical term.
Historically in the USA denominations arose over against national churches previously established in Europe, into which a person was born.

The separation of state and church in USA meant voluntary membership and voluntary financial support of new denominations. I suggest page 54 would read better as: "With much freer movement among churches an increasing number of people from

THE AUSTRALIAN



Christian

SUBSCRIPTION FORM PO BOX 101, NORTH ESSENDON 3041

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POSTCODE _____
AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____ CHURCH _____
PAYMENT CAN BE MADE BY AMEX, BANKCARD, VISA OR MASTERCARD
☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS ☐ BANKCARD ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD
NUMBER _____
EXPIRY DATE _____ SIGNATURE _____
☐ NEW ☐ \$12 REST OF YEAR ☐ \$40 TILL END OF NEXT YEAR
☐ RENEWAL ☐ \$32 FULL YEAR ☐ \$60 TWO YEARS
Your subscription continues until you cancel.

Letters to the Editor

other churches are finding life." Just a thought.

Once again, I hope your readers will enjoy, be challenged and inspired, by Gordon's new book, especially in this International Year of Older Persons.

—John Somerville
(Wembley Downs)

Denominations

To the Editor,

John Somerville is right in his comment on the use of the word "denomination" in my book *Churches of Christ: Reinterpreting Ourselves for the New Century*. Normally I abhor its use, especially when we refer to "other denominations", because we have always considered ourselves not to be a denomination, but a movement within the whole church of Jesus Christ.

Historically, we have referred to other Christian bodies as "the denominations", sometimes a little patronisingly. The facts are that while we have considered ourselves not to be a denomination, we have in effect unavoidably acted as one. Really, all Christian communities are Christian churches within the whole Body of Christ.

My use of the word "denomination" in my book was quite pragmatic, as the use of the phrase "other churches" could sometimes refer to other Churches of Christ and sometimes to "other denominations".

—Gordon Stirling
(Boronia, Vic)

Prophets

To the Editor,

Any attempt to explore the role of the prophet is going to be difficult. Those difficulties were only too evident in this latest attempt ("AC" 21.7.99).

The articles were thoughtful, well written, gentle and polite. A far

cry from the anger and agony of the prophet. Merryl Blair comes closest to what it's all about—"the announcement of judgement".

Given the precarious nature of how we employ ministers, appoint conference officers (and editors), and the way we "control" conferences, "announcements of judgement" are going to be in short supply.

It's impossible, for example, to ask "what is prophecy" and totally ignore any hint of judgement on the insidious racism of One Nation or the dangers of a genetically-modified lunch.

It's just not realistic to write of "prophecy and social commentators" without some indication of the systematic and brutal attacks on Native Title, the stolen generation, or the wedge politics of the Howard government.

I would've liked to hear a little more of the "people of God" and their victory over the "oppressive evils" of the privatisation of community services, the role of "Christian schools" in the defunding of the public school system, or the sustained attack on workers and their unions.

Or perhaps, just a glimpse that "living on the edge" for sports chaplains might mean exposing and condemning the complicity of sporting heroes in the brutal exploitation of child labour; the army chaplain who refuses to wear an officer's uniform; or the

industrial chaplain who stands in solidarity with workers as they strike for safer working conditions.

I must confess, however, I did

chuckle over the editor's suggestion that prophets might become politicians; best laugh I've had for years.

—Alan Matheson
(Hawthorn, Vic)

Update

Dear Readers,

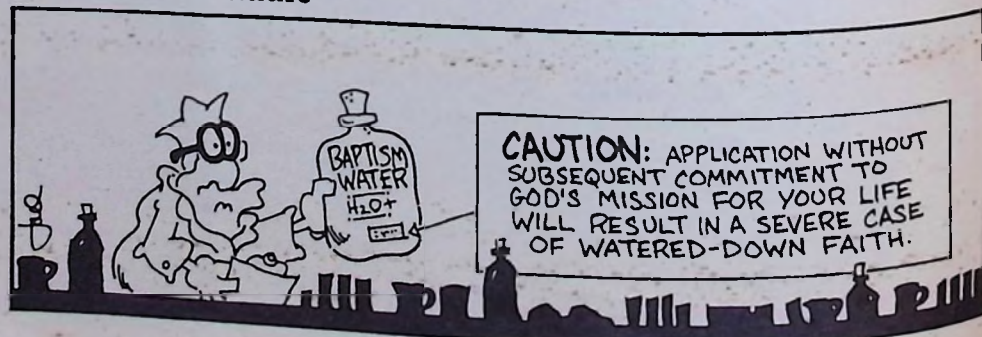
This issue has been prepared in the week immediately following my return from the United Kingdom, where I was involved in the International Mission Summit in Birmingham, along with a number of Australian representatives and others from New Zealand and the United Kingdom. All involved are very much aware of the importance of the meeting and the long-term implications. Reports on these matters will follow at a later date.

During my absence Nigel Pegram and Geoff Alves have been responsible for the production of the last issue. Thankyou Nigel and Geoff. The office has been awash with paper, which is only now being slowly worked through. The office is also packed out with some 9000 copies of the calendar published by the National Literature Department, which are awaiting dispatch to churches early in September.

Many readers completed survey forms sent with an issue some weeks ago. The response has been outstanding with some 20% of readers returning the survey form. We are now in the early stages of processing the data and hope to have some early results available for the Annual General Meeting of the Board of *The Australian Christian* on 21 August.

In this issue readers will find details of an award received by the paper from the Australasian Religious Press Association. We have also been encouraged by the flow of new subscriptions from Western Australia following the recent visit by Gordon Stirling.

Pontius' Puddle



Jetty Baptism

Public declaration of faith in SA



Mike and Margaret Smith of Modbury Church of Christ were publicly baptised in the proximity of the Largs Bay jetty, by Pastor Phil Munro. Approximately 50 people, including passers-by and members of Modbury church witnessed the event.

International Christians

Joint UK-Australian editions discussed further



Dan Yarnell, Hazel Wilson, David Marsh, Paul Miller, Don Smith and Martin Robinson discuss joint UK-Australian editions of "The Australian Christian" at Hothorpe Hall (inset).

At the UK Churches of Christ Link Conference for church leaders held 21-22 July the Editor met with UK representatives to discuss a proposal from the British churches for six combined Australia-UK issues of *The Australian Christian* in 2000. The idea had been raised by the UK leaders earlier this year and was the subject of preliminary talks with our treasurer Lindsay Mott, Nigel Pegram and Don Smith, while Dr Martin Robinson was in Melbourne for the Vic-Tas Conference in May.

The meeting with the UK representatives was held at Hothorpe Hall, a Christian conference centre in Leicestershire. This was some 100 km south of Birmingham, where the International Summit on Mission with UK, New Zealand and Australian representatives took place. A report on the summit will appear in a later issue. The proposals for the cooperation will be considered by the Board of *The Australian Christian* at the Annual General Meeting to be held in Melbourne on 21 August.

URGENT NEED

for a

SHORT-TERM VOLUNTARY FIELD COORDINATOR

in

Papua New Guinea

We need an experienced administrator to work for six months with the Churches of Christ in PNG. The person would be based in MADANG and be responsible for the care of missionary personnel and liaison with the National Conference.

Further information can be obtained from:

**Australian Churches of Christ
Overseas Mission Board Inc.**

**180a Gray Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000**

Phone: (08) 8212 4446 Fax: (08) 8212 6388

Email: omb@netavantage.com.au

Strack Removals

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

David Strack
(Proprietor)

Office and Store
45 McIntosh Street
Airport West 3042

Telephone (03) 9330 2211

Fax (03) 9330 3039

Alt (03) 5427 0472

"Service since 1907"

L. C. F. Higgins

7 The Parade

Norwood SA 5067

Phone (08) 8362 1665

e-mail <lh@camtech.net.au>

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



Chartered Accountant

Global Discipleship Gap

Past evangelism success threatened

"The church must face the discipleship gap head on," says global Christian leader Ravi Zacharias, President of Ravi Zacharias International Ministries, "or face a lack of church leadership in the next generation." Zacharias is one of the plenary speakers at the inaugural "International Consultation on Discipleship" to be held in Eastbourne, UK, 21-24 September. The event is the first of its kind with church, ministry, business and government leaders from around the world gathering to focus on the urgent need for global discipleship.

Recent studies underscore the problem. For example at a Lausanne International Consultation on Nominalism held last December it was estimated that over 705 million, or 44 per cent, of the 1.6 billion people globally who identified themselves as "Chris-

tians" did not consider themselves members or frequent attenders of a church.

Other signs that the Christian church is at a crossroads include the following:

- Denominations now number over 23,000—proliferating at a rate of five a week—according to Barrett and Johnson (*Our Globe*, 1990).
- Widespread leadership crises—recent examples include the Rev. Henry Lyons, who embezzled four million dollars from the US's fourth largest denomination (*Chicago Tribune*, 9.2.99), and the charges of "genocide and crimes against humanity" levelled at Rwandan Bishop Augustin Misago (*Baltimore Sun*, 15.4.99).
- Personal behaviour that, according to US pollster George Barna, is impotent as a witness

because Christian behaviour "mirrors society too well" (Barna Report, Nov.-Dec. 1997).

Danut Manastireanu, a Romanian theologian, faults the "unwillingness of the modern Christians to pay the price of discipleship. Making disciples is a long, painful, costly process. You can't just 'count heads', and it takes years to assess in terms of results. This cuts across the pragmatic expectations of the missionary market." A recent study in Costa Rica showed 81 per cent of those joining one of the country's Protestant churches left it within five years.

Over 30 international church leaders are scheduled to address the topic, including John Stott (UK), Samuel Kamaleson (India), David

Wang (Hong Kong), Peter Kuzmic (Croatia), Tokunboh Adeyemo (Nigeria), Stuart and Jill Briscoe (US) and Juan Carlos Ortiz (Argentina).

Tied to the conference is a unique strategy for promoting global discipleship: an on-line global discipleship resource centre. The Internet website <www.global-discipleship.org> provides a centralised directory of global discipleship organisations and a library of statistics, resources and prayer links. The site will serve as a "think tank" host, providing a forum for debate and connecting leaders from around the world in ongoing conversations about discipleship methods and challenges. Registration information for the consultation is also available at the site.

Sydney
Adelaide
Local
Country

BEAR'S



- Free quotes • Packing
- Insurance • Storage

7 Swift Way,
Dandenong Vic 3175

Moving and Storage Pty Ltd.

Member of the VRTA

Twice weekly to Qld

(03) 9706 5616

Modbury Church of Christ

Back to Modbury Reunion

Sunday 17 October 1999

An invitation is extended to anyone who has been a part of building the church of today.

Celebration Service

Commencing at 9.50 am

Followed by a bring and share luncheon at the church.

RSVP by 24 September 1999, to Modbury Church of Christ,
955 North East Road, Modbury SA 5092.
Phone (08) 8396 4141. E-mail <church@modbury.org.au>.

Rural Ministry Opportunity

Bordertown Church of Christ

is seeking an enthusiastic minister with gifts and skills in preaching, teaching and pastoral care to lead the church in effective mission.

Bordertown is a rural community in the south-east of South Australia, and is the "hub" of a significant pastoral district. The Church of Christ is an integral part of this diverse community and the minister will have the opportunity to make a strong contribution to both church and community life.

The Church has an active membership of around 80 people and a large and vital youth programme. The minister will be supported by an active eldership and a team of enthusiastic key leaders. Administrative assistance is provided in the well-equipped office on church premises.

Interested people may obtain a copy of the church profile from: David Brooker, State Minister
263 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide SA 5006.
Phone (08) 8239 0233. E-mail: <cocsaine@senet.com.au>.

Applications should be sent to the above address by 15 September 1999.

Information may also be obtained from:
Peter Stewart, Chairman of Elders
Bordertown Church of Christ.
Phone (08) 8752 2480.

Prophets in the next Millennium?

Prophet's Pulpit reintroduced

As I finalise my dissertation towards a Doctorate here in Kentucky, USA, I know my research and study has helped me reflect on my own life and ministry. If only I could change history!

I'm delighted that St Martin's Community Church in Collingwood has taken the initiative to reintroduce Prophets Pulpit on the last Sunday evening of each month.

While Australian and US Governments boast stock exchange bonanzas, social critic Emmanuel Wallerstein warns of global disaster.

Never has a greater percentage of humanity been dying of starvation and malnutrition. We're saturated by bad news.

These and other obscenities and thefts of opportunity occur amid extraordinary growth of knowledge and technology—so-called progress and optimism in the Western world!

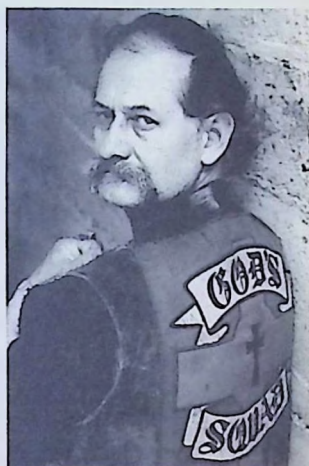
Did outraged prophets of the calibre of Amos speak up? Or did we in the West, busily acquiring and maintaining wealth, ignore issues of selfishness, apathy, injustice and greed?

Seduced by materialism and having departed in many places from foundational Kingdom values, the prophetic role of the Western conservative evangelical church has declined.

Secularism and the marriage of prosperity and spirituality is rising within the Church.

Never before, that I know of, have prominent preachers linked conspicuous consumption with spiritual success.

Far gone is Francis of Assisi. Who heeded the prophets when we



stole a generation of children from their parents? Well-meaning areas of the Church accommodated Caesar's policies.

Australia still finds it hard to say sorry!

May God empower thoughtful prophetic voices like Amos: outraged by the gods of consumerism and unrestrained capitalism at the expense of the poor, naming the principalities and powers; confronting the economic and political elites for their indulgence, hypocrisy and neglect of the poor; speaking for the victims and the voiceless, and calling us to repent, and tread the paths to reconciliation on pain of repeating our mistakes and treachery.

May prophets be born! In eager anticipation of coming home I pray for Australia from this distance and for the prophets of the next millennium who will faithfully "light the candles at midnight" with courage and say, "We beg to differ".

I pray these will be heard by the Church throughout our nation.

—John Smith
(God's Squad)

Conference Returns "Home"

Sunstate 99 in Toowoomba



Keynote speaker Rick Rusaw



Australian presenter Tim Foot

Queensland's fourth annual Sunstate Convention will be held in the Garden City of Toowoomba this year, providing participants an opportunity to be equipped, inspired, challenged and renewed for mission into the next millennium. In fact the Sunstate Convention, an extension of what was once known as State Conference, is making a welcome return to Toowoomba, where the first Conference of the colony of Queensland was held in August 1884, representing eight churches.

Equipping Churches

Guest speakers and presenters, all of whom have links with our movement, have been selected for their capacity to equip the church with concepts, ideas and practical ideas for effective mission in a changing world.

Keynote speaker Rick Rusaw, for instance, has seen First Christian Church, Longmont, Colorado, grow from 700 to its current 2200 weekly average attendance. Through a diversity of ministry teams, he has seen volunteer in-

volvement expand from 150 to 1300 people in identifiable ministries. Rick has a passion for the church to be relevant to its culture and at the same time maintains a high integrity for the message of the gospel.

Input will also be given by an excellent array of Australian speakers including Ted Keating (Wollongong, NSW), Chek Chia (International Christian Community, Vic), Tim Foot (Northside, NSW) and Keith Farmer (Principal, Australian College of Ministries).

Renewing Individuals

Sunstate 99 will also provide individuals an opportunity for personal and spiritual renewal. Worship will be a priority throughout the convention, and there will be ample time for reflection and relationship building. Sunstate 99 will be held from 7-9 October. Further details can be obtained from the Queensland Conference Office (07) 3378 4600 or on the web at <www.secc.org.au/sunstate>.

—Dale White

Templestowe Orchards Retirement Village
providing...

Care and Support

A resident-funded village with 44 independent units and 53 fully serviced apartments offering:

- 24 hour staffing and security
- personal care services and leisure programs
- a dining room serving freshly prepared meals
- a mini bus for shopping trips and outings
- the companionship of a caring environment

Tel: (03) 9842 8433 for further information or to arrange a visit

Templestowe Orchards Retirement Village
107 Andersons Creek Road
Doncaster East Vic 3109
(Melway Ref: Map 34 E7)

Fully serviced apartment available now



An accredited member of the Retirement Village Association of Australia
A Ministry of Templestowe Baptist Church

Looking for a Holiday with a Difference?

We're looking for people to help with the building of a new residence at Camp Acacia.

Free Meals.

Free Accommodation.

This could be for you!

If you can provide 4 hours' work in the morning to help with a building project at our Halls Gap, Vic, campsite, the afternoon's yours.

We are looking for jacks of all trades and masters of none, to help complete a new residence and the refurbishment of the old house into a new accommodation area.

Please ring today.

We need to know of your intentions, as your participation determines the outcome of this project.

Call Colin Winter on (03) 5356 4219 or Paul Fry on (03) 9756 6120.

Home Finance

Residential Home Loans

Investors — Owner Occupiers

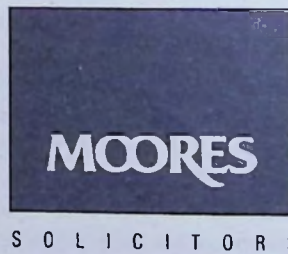
Competitive Rates

Contact Brian Wallis
Phone (03) 9642 0355
Fax (03) 9600 1723

*Victorian Group
Mortgage Management*

Level 4, 377 Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne.

*Housing Australians for
over fifty years*



**Moving house?
Purchasing property?**

People on the go choose Moores Solicitors for timely, practical and professional legal advice.

9 Prospect St
BOX HILL VIC
Ph: (03) 9898 0000

13 Pakington St
ST KILDA VIC
Ph: (03) 9525 3622

Original Artwork Award

Religious Press Association Award for the "AC"

At the recent annual conference of the Australasian Religious Press Association held in Adelaide, *The Australian Christian* entry of Ray Drayton's Christmas painting which appeared on the front cover of the issue of 9.12.98 received a highly commended award for original artwork. In the absence of Don Smith and Nigel Pegram, Geoff Alves received the award on behalf of the paper. Also present were Keith Aird, Board

chairman, and Margaret Aird. Ray's painting is reproduced here. Ray's painting was photographed by Ralph Petty and then reproduced in our cover design. The original painting was done by Ray at the request of the Editor. When Ray produced the painting he described himself as very much aware of the words of the hymn "Our God contracted to a span, Incomprehensibly made man".

Ray sees the painting as confronting us with the vastness of the universe and how, that in the fullness of time, God sent his son to dwell among us. He reflects on love so deep and unfathomable, beyond human understanding and concentrated in our experience on one small planet in God's immeasurable dwelling place.

Ray is a member of the Victorian Artist's Society and an exhibiting member. He is a member of the Blackburn, Vic, church. Also included in the awards was *Shoot the Messenger*, winning the inaugural "Golden Disk Award" for Best Web Site. This web site has been sponsored by Churches of Christ and funded by our national and state agencies. *Shoot the Messenger* is an on-line



(Internet) magazine providing a unique Christian perspective on popular culture, including film, TV, music, literature, and social trends and events. The National Library has also chosen *Shoot the Messenger* to be archived as part of a campaign to store on-line material of significant Australian cultural value. The site may be viewed at <www.shootthemessenger.com.au>.

Senior Pastor

Noarlunga Centre Church of Christ

situated in the hub of a large residential area 30 km south of Adelaide, invites expression of interest for the above full-time position, to commence early 2000.

The person we seek would have experience in leading a ministry team with a servant-leader attitude and have a conservative evangelical Bible-based theological stance.

A full profile of the position is available from:

Rob McElroy
c/o Noarlunga Centre Church of Christ
PO Box 486
Noarlunga Centre SA 5168.

All enquiries will be treated confidentially.

Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Board Inc

Requires a

Missionary—Nurse/Carer

for its Olive Laird Aged Care Facility,
Carnarvon WA

With the hostel operating to capacity,
the need is urgent.

The position is viewed as
an opportunity for missionary service.

For further details, please contact the
FAB Office
PO Box 1199, Wangara WA 6947.
Phone (08) 9309 3922.
Fax (08) 9309 4101.
E-mail <cofcfab@msn.com>.

Church of Christ

Gardiner, Vic

is celebrating its

85th Anniversary

with a

Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, 12 September
10.15 am

Speaker: Pieter Petrusma
Followed by morning tea
All past members and
friends welcome



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

Managed by
Church of Christ
Frankston

1- and 2-bedroom villas
Motel-type lodge suites

Waiting list open

LOOKING FOR A REAL EXPERIENCE OF MISSION?

The Overseas Mission Board has a number of challenging mission opportunities available.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Field Coordinator

A person with previous cross-cultural and pastoral care experience is required. The position is based in the lovely tropical city of MADANG. There is an expectation that the successful applicant will travel extensively to remote locations. The principal role will be one of pastoral care and guidance to field and national staff.

Community Development Officer

Based at Bunapas on the Ramu River this person would work with local communities assisting them to develop sustainable community-based development projects. A practical person with some community development experience is required.

VANUATU

Lecturer Banmatmat Bible College

Located on beautiful Pentecost Island the college trains pastors for the Vanuatu Conference of Churches of Christ. This position would ideally suit a person with extensive ministry experience.

Maths/Science Teacher Ranwadi Secondary School

Located at central Pentecost Island the school offers very good family living conditions. The person required would teach Vanuatu curriculum years 11 & 12 maths and science. Required beginning February 2000.

Principal Londua Technical School

An experienced person with trade and or teaching qualifications is required. The school is located on Ambae Island. The principal would be required to teach a trade subject and oversee the development of further technical courses. Required beginning February 2000.

Field Coordinator

A person with previous cross-cultural and pastoral care experience is required. The position is to cover both the Vanuatu and Fiji fields. A suitable residence will be provided either in Fiji or Vanuatu, with an expectation that the successful applicant will travel extensively to both fields.

Australian Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board Inc.

180a Gray Street

Adelaide SA 5000

Phone: (08) 8212 4446 Fax: (08) 8212 6388

Email: omb@netadvantage.com.au



Oberammergau – Passion Play 2000

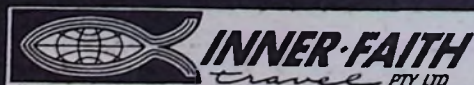
LIMITED
VACANCIES

Opportunity of a Christian Lifetime
Only Once Every 10 Years

LIMITED
VACANCIES

Rev. Ken Anderson <i>Depart:</i> 30 May 2000 22 Days <i>Featuring:</i> Italy, Austria, Germany, Switzerland + Passion Play	Rev. Cec Schloss <i>Depart:</i> 1 June 2000 51 Days (with options) <i>Featuring:</i> England, Israel, Scotland, Africa, Ireland, Europe, + Passion Play	Rev. Dr. Lew Born <i>Depart:</i> 3 July 2000 35 Days (with options) <i>Featuring:</i> England, Israel, Scotland, Ireland, Europe, + Passion Play	Pastor Graham Carslake <i>Depart:</i> 12 July 2000 17 Days <i>Featuring:</i> Israel, Europe + Passion Play	Rev. John Pearson <i>Depart:</i> 9 Aug. 2000 24 Days <i>Featuring:</i> Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Europe+ Passion Play	Rev. Tom Reuther <i>Depart:</i> 17 Sept. 2000 22 Days <i>Featuring:</i> Passion Play, Europe, Places of the Reformation + Musical Greats
---	---	--	---	--	--

Call Now Toll Free 1800 07 4426



Inner Faith Travel

Lic TAG 261

People

The Tie that Does not Bind

JULIE AND GRAHAM MORTIMER

When Russell Woolley rose up out of the water, no longer wearing the tie with the Tassie Devil motif which he had around his neck before being baptised, he was not performing a slick party trick. No indeed! Russell, a native of the island home of the cartoon character, was making a clear and definite symbolic statement that a radically new life had begun and he was no longer a "Tassie Devil". For the past eighteen months since his baptism, Russell has been in the fellowship of the

He wondered, "I'm sober now. Why am I still coming?"

Tuggeranong Church of Christ, ACT, a front-seat worshipper and a growing Christian. He has two of his children living with him, a steady job and an expanding circle of friends. But life was not always so for Russell and his children.

Born forty years ago in Tasmania, Russell was not blessed with a nurturing family.

His father was aloof, sarcastic and critical. Couple this with physical and sexual abuse by other family members, and young Russell's spirit was crushed. As a teenager, Russell turned to drink to ease the pain, erase the shame and calm the fears.

Lacking in self-confidence, Russell gravitated to labouring jobs, not believing he had the mental aptitude to do "head-work". He fell into marriage at nineteen and very soon had two children to support, and found himself wondering, "Here I am with little kids of my own, but where has my own child-

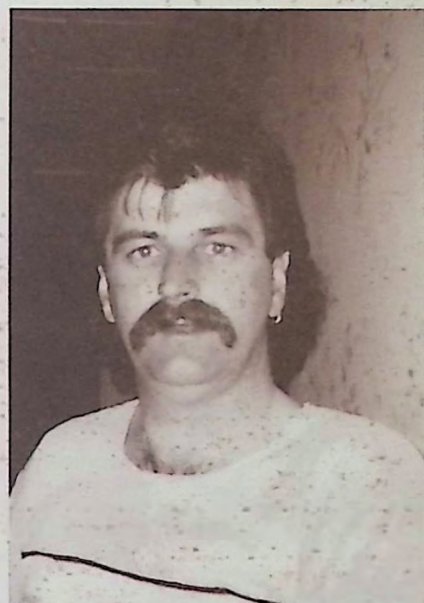
hood disappeared to?" Russell's children quickly had to learn to fend for themselves, their alcoholic father unable to provide the love and care he himself had not known.

As Russell now recognises, God has had a concerned eye on him for a long time and a major turning point came when after eight years of dysfunctional family life, Russell was invited to a twelve-step recovery group meeting. And then another and another and another.

Six alcohol-free months later he wondered, "I'm sober now. Why am I still coming?" It was the respect, genuine concern and love of his new friends in the group that continued to draw him back.

Through the twelve-step recovery program, an ability to turn to the unseen God was beginning to form in Russell's heart. But a visit to a local church service proved unsatisfying when leaving with his children after only fifteen minutes Russell thought to himself, "This is not what I am after."

Another major step in his journey came four years ago when Russell crossed to the mainland. Sailing across Bass Strait in the *Spirit of Tasmania*, not knowing what lay ahead; in tears Russell called out to the God whose name he did not know, "Well, God this is too big for me!" Russell and his children spent fifteen eventful months sojourning in Bendigo, before he was reluctantly made redundant and had to move on. Immediately finding work in Canberra, Russell soon linked himself to a local twelve-step recovery group. Several of the friends he began to make in the group reintroduced Russell to church and to the person of Jesus Christ. Russell felt the presence and warmth of God in church and discovered the name of the God



who had led him out of the bondage of alcoholism and fear. Russell willingly gave his life to Jesus and tears flowed once more as he felt "a load of rubbish lifted off his shoulders".

Baptism in the Murrumbidgee River on the 23 February 1997 by the friend who had led him to Jesus was the seal on the new relationship Russell had discovered with the living God. A new life did indeed begin on that day, a life characterised by a steady desire to grow in the knowledge of God and in the experience of his grace. Through Christian teaching and prayer, Russell is developing a deeper insight into relationships and attempting to be the father his children did not have for so many years. He also has an increasing sense of confidence and is developing an interest in computers and "headwork". Russell's new friends at the Tuggeranong church continue to be encouraged as they observe God reshaping a precious son.

Julie, Graham and family have been at the Tuggeranong church for seven years.

People

Joining a Family

ROB FURLONG

At Thornlie Church of Christ, WA, we have deliberately emphasised the fact that we are a family. Chase, Jaye and Rachel Clarke are new members who have discovered the reality of what it means to belong to a church family.

Chase grew up in a non-Christian home, but did, however, attend a private Christian school. His father states that he is an agnostic. During his school years, the Christian role model displayed was that of abusive and unkind people, which only pushed him away

*God began to heal her
and then brought
Chase into her life.*

from desiring a relationship with God. There was what he describes as a "hole" inside him, which he spent most of his life trying to "fill". He spent hours in front of the local churches trying to see what those attending had, which he did not have. He tried to fill the void in his life in a variety of ways, all of which were unsuccessful and left him with an even deeper emptiness. He spent years cycling to escape the loneliness and darkness that was within, until he met his wife, Jaye, who cautiously tried to introduce him to the possibility of having God in his life.

Jaye grew up in what was labelled a "Christian home" and attended church all her life. Unfortunately, hidden abuse in the family prompted a variety of emotional problems. It was during a vacation Bible school that she met and befriended a pastor who sensed her pain and led her to the Lord at the age of ten. However, the abuse and problems in the family escalated, her relationship

with the Lord was not strong enough and turmoil struck her life.

After a failed marriage, her life became one of pain and self destruction. It was following these years of despair, that God began to heal her and then brought Chase into her life. Due to her experience in previous churches, Jaye vowed never to become involved with any corporate body again. She decided to have her own relationship with God and to remain separate from any "church". Upon making the quote that it would take wild horses or God himself to get her to go back into any church building, God changed her mind set. Several events took place, but the most moving was an e-mail that appeared from the pastor that had led her to the Lord years ago. She had not been in contact with this pastor in close to twenty years, but miraculously was sent an e-mail quoting Scripture relating to the necessity of worshipping with other Christians. It was then that she asked Chase if they could find a church to attend together.

Chase and Jaye's daughter, Rachel, had always grown up hearing about Jesus, reading Bible stories and attending Sunday School. She was baptised as a baby and taught that Jesus loved her. She began to ride with Bike for Bibles and through this association really took her belief seriously. One evening after the camp devotions, she asked Jesus into her heart. It was because of her association with Bike for Bibles and a variety night that was held at Thornlie church, that the Clarkes discovered their new church family.

It was after several visits to other churches in the area that Chase recalled visiting Thornlie Church of Christ and made some inquiries. Following the first Sunday they attended,



Jaye, Chase and Rachel Clarke, with their minister, Rob Furlong

they knew they had found their church home. The presence of the Holy Spirit was so evident in the faces of the people and in their worship. In the months that followed, through the pastor's messages and "Christianity Explained", Chase accepted Jesus as his Saviour. Although both Jaye and Rachel were baptised as infants, the need for obedience to the Lord and a strong conviction brought all three of them to be baptised together and they became members shortly after.

The Clarkes will tell you that a major reason they joined Thornlie was because of the relationships they developed with people. Joining a church family is an antidote to the rampant "me first" philosophy of our society. We are far from perfect at Thornlie, but the Clarkes' story is wonderful proof of what God can do when a church begins to emphasise his purposes for it!

*There was what he
describes as a "hole"
inside him, which he
spent most of his life
trying to "fill".*

People

New Beginnings

WAYNE TIBBITS

There was one particular question from the speaker that had a significant impact upon me. The point leading up to the question had been: "Each of us here is going to devote our lives to something of significance from this point in time until we go to the grave. It may be career, family, service activities, hobbies, or Christian ministries." Then there came the question. "Will you devote your life to the most important thing: for Christ and the development and functioning of Biblical church community?" Those

We noticed the "small things", which to us were positive signals

are right from the notes that I took. It was February 1997, and I was in Sydney listening to Bill Hybels speak on "Building a Biblical Community".

Then it became so much clearer to me. The only thing that would really satisfy me was if the main focus in my life was directed towards aspects of clearly eternal value.

This became a significant turning point in my life.

Up until then I had been strongly committed to following Christ, but also very focused on achievement and career or secular success.

It was at this time that my wife, Sally, and I sensed with growing awareness that God had us on an interesting journey. Over the months that followed, we were challenged by what we read in three books, *Contagious Christianity* by Bill Hybels and Mark Mittelburg, *Half-Time* by Bob Buford and *Surprised by the voice of God* by Jack Deere. A passion was growing in our hearts for Aus-

tralian church communities to follow all of Christ's clear purpose. This passion seemed to intensify and at times our hearts ached as we opened ourselves up to God's Spirit, and discussed and prayed about these issues with Christian friends. I am a very task-oriented person, and what was happening was so unlike me, but very much like Jesus. In late 1998 we visited Devonport Church of Christ, Tas. We were directing a Scripture Union beach mission that summer, and a couple of the team leaders were members at that church. That first time we visited the church, we noticed the "small things", which to us were positive signals of it being focused and sensitive to reaching people in Australian society.

These included explanations of practices to visitors (like offering and communion), which would help them feel not so awkward. There was also a clear focus on purpose and direction, and we noticed the value placed on letting leaders lead and the use of spiritual gifts by all followers of Christ.

A little later we took the opportunity to discuss these points with the senior pastor, Peter Willis. This further encouraged us.

So, early this year, not long after beach mission, we decided to become part of this church community. It was not necessarily easy to leave where we had been worshipping and active in ministry for many years, but we believed that to step out in this direction was to follow God's leading.

My wife and I feel that we are very much a part of this church community. It is only six months since we arrived, and yet it seems that our relationships are more developed than one would expect for such a length of time. We attend a small group and value it



greatly. We have three children, Jonathan 15, Megan 11, and Philip 7. Initially, it was difficult for them to settle in, particularly for our boys, but now this is their church community.

I am a forest scientist with a PhD and extensive international experience. Until July of this year I had worked with the one company for nineteen years, before my position became redundant with major cuts to applied research. Hey, but God is the God of new beginnings, and I believe that this too is part of our total journey.

Out of this I see incredible opportunity as I set up a business as a consultant and also devote two days a week to ministry with the Willow Creek Association of Australia.

An invaluable help to me in writing this has been looking at my journals of life's experiences that I have kept for a number of years. My desire is to be like the prophet Daniel who "set his mind to gain understanding and to humble himself before God" (Dan 10:12).

People

An Absolute Farce

TONY CULLEN

To understand how I became a Christian it is important to realise I did not intend to walk into a church, and I certainly didn't intend to get something out of the service. I was living life as a sinner, and I was not ashamed of it. In fact, sin was enjoyable. I could get wrecked, was responsible to no one, and cared for nothing. I felt any day was a good day to die because it was easier than living. Hatred grew easier than love and fighting for any cause seemed natural. Deep down I felt that life was out of control and that all I really wanted to do was to stop the world turning so I could get off for a few seconds, take a breather and maybe get my life in order, but I did not expect to find this in church. I had seen Christianity and Christians

I realised that everything she had to say applied in some way to my life.

previously, and the impression that I took away was that most of them were hypocrites, more concerned about religious form than the substance they preached.

How does one find God? Divine intervention and accident. In my case it started on a Sunday afternoon, with a friend who was late. We were in Adelaide city having a great time when she realised it was too late to get back to her regular church in Elizabeth, so she asked to attend a service at a nearby Anglican church, and invited me along.

I was about to reply, "I'll be back later", when I decided, "Why not, it can't hurt that much?". So I entered this church as a sinner who had no intention of really changing, and certainly not of finding God. Imagine then my shock at seeing one of my cousins and one of my closest friends also at this service. Their shock was just as complete. The real surprise was that the service actu-

How does one find God?

ally touched me. It was about the persecution of Christians for their beliefs. I had recently got out of similar circumstances so I could relate well to this situation. The big change was that the service excited debate in my mind as to how I should be thinking and acting. So after coffee I was asked if I wished to attend church again. "OK," I thought, "It wasn't painful. Might even be enjoyable, in a kind of academic way." Sunday comes and I find myself in church again, this time at Elizabeth. The first thing that struck me was the welcome I received. It was overwhelming. I felt I had turned up to a party and, despite being a stranger I was being told, "Glad to see you finally got here". The service was great, but I wasn't ready to sign my life away just yet. A week went by and I found myself at Elizabeth again. There I was in the service looking at a woman getting baptised and listening to her testimony, when all of a sudden I realised that everything she had to say applied in some way to my life. I realised that my whole life to this point was just an absolute farce. I had been living as just a hollow



shell that didn't want life and was madly in love with death. Even better than this realisation was the opportunity to change that I was being given. That is when I decided to invite Jesus into the wreck that was my life.

What is my life like now that Jesus is with me? Incredibly different. I have this amazing sense of joy, and satisfaction, and I feel that every single cell in my body has come alive. The world that surrounds me is part of God's creation that I look at. Each new day I face is filled with hope, because I know that this day was given to me by God. It is a gift that I did not deserve and yet it has been given. God is also a stabilising factor in my life. I now know that I don't have to live according to other people's expectations and standards. Rather, I

*What is my life like now that Jesus is with me?
Incredibly different.*

now live according to God's standards and should I fail then he will always forgive and continue to love.

Tony Cullen was baptised at the Elizabeth, SA church in May.

People

From Eastern Religions to Eastgate

SIMON WILLIAMS

Dora Porcaro was involved in a discussion group designed specifically for business men and women, who were interested in discovering more about Christianity. This is her story.

Coming from an Italian family, the expectation was that Dora would be a committed Catholic. As a teenager, she walked away from her traditional Catholic upbringing, but not from the thought of there being a God.

God has a sense of humour regarding my spiritual growth.

"I was always open on a spiritual level, willing to look at different religions—Hinduism, dabbling in the New Age and meditation."

This journey of spiritual seeking found Dora living in ashrams in India (small Hindu communities).

"To me, there was always a God there—It was never a challenge knowing there was a God and knowing there was God that I could pray to."

While overseas, Dora learned of her father being diagnosed with cancer. She came home as quickly as she could. It was one of the most difficult times in her life.

"The night before Dad died, I remember going to bed knowing that Dad was going to die the following day. I prayed, 'If you are going to take him, then please take him fast.' Dad was scared

of death. I felt I needed to lead him to the after life, to let him know that it's OK to leave. At the point when he died, I felt the presence of God and felt at peace."

After that experience, Dora was invited to a church service with a friend.

"Someone shared about how his father had died of cancer and it rang real bells for me. I responded to a call to ask Jesus to be the leader of my life. It was a real struggle to respond. Up to that point, I had believed in a universal God who looked after me, but why did it have to be a Christian god? The way to God through Jesus was my challenge." Being involved in the New Christians' group helped Dora process a lot of her questions, and to be in an environment where her questions were respected, and were allowed to be asked. As a cynical new Christian with a background of spiritual seeking, it was Dora's personal experiences with the Holy Spirit that revolutionised her life.

"God has a sense of humour regarding my spiritual growth. Through the process of learning more about Jesus and

I was always open on a spiritual level, willing to look at different religions

the Holy Spirit, and how God works through you using various spiritual gifts, I found myself to be lavished with

those gifts from God. I found it to be such an amazing thing of what God has done for me. It's like God has given me a smorgasbord. With all of that, spir-

Being involved in the New Christians' group helped Dora process a lot of her questions

itually I just know that God has an important role for me to play in his Body. I find it very humbling.

"Coming to Eastgate has certainly been a journey in my life. I have felt torn, in even getting there and Eastgate even becoming home. A lot of that has come from a sense of strong calling on my life. Satan had been dissuading me from actually reaching what is to be my home. I find Eastgate to be a group of people who have been very supportive and allowed me to grow through the process I needed to go through. It's home!

"I would encourage Christians to find their niche and to search for the calling that God has in their lives and be willing to go through the whatever growth process that is necessary to reach their full potential in God. Christianity is an exciting and liberating experience - it's a LIVE sentence!"

Dora Porcaro is a member of our Eastgate, Vic, church.

CAROL PRESTON

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

CARTMEL Joan and Noel are soon to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Friends are invited to join them for afternoon tea on Sunday 29 August between 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm at Boronia Church of Christ, Vic, to mark the occasion. Their current address is Salford Park Hostel, 100 Harold Street, Wantirna, Vic.

CARS

PEDIGREE MOTORS Specialising in quality used cars, general repairs and servicing. Let us help you when buy-

ing your next car. 658 Canterbury Rd, Surrey Hills Vic 3127. Phone (03) 9898 9391. LMCT 4376.

HOLIDAYS

HOUSEBOAT "White Heron" 8-berth. Moored at Blanchetown, SA. Phone (08) 8365 1153 or (08) 8540 5250 or write 7 Gameau Rd, Paradise 5075.

SUNSHINE COAST, CALOUNDRA, QUEENSLAND Two bedroom holiday unit for rent. Ground floor, lockup garage, pool, short walk to shops and beaches. Phone Trevor or Gayle on (08) 8298 7733.

ESA Country Ministries
Seeks a
Full-time Manager
for their
Camping and Conference Centre,
Marysville, Vic.



The successful applicant will need:

- A Christian commitment.
- Strong management, organisational and administrative skills.
- The ability to encourage and supervise staff serving together in a ministry team.

Please obtain a full job description before applying.

Inquiries to Steve and Jenny. Phone (03) 5963 3303. Fax (03) 5963 3696. E-mail <esa@mytel.net.au>.

Applications close 24 September 1999.

Horsham Church of Christ Ministry Team Leader

The church is seeking a mature, experienced person to fill this role, which is a full-time position. The person we are seeking must have a commitment to working in a team environment.

Duties will include leadership and coordination of the ministry team, program convenors and leaders, as well as general pastoral duties.

Horsham Church of Christ is in north-western Victoria. The church ministers effectively in the community and, at the same time, recognises the potential for further expansion and development, with the aim of contributing to the growth of God's Kingdom.

Expressions of interest to: Mr G. Kitchen, Horsham Church of Christ, 1/18 Urquhart St, Horsham Vic 3400. Phone inquiries to (03) 5382 3645.

I'm sure you all have people in your lives who are truly a gift to you, maybe just for a particular occasion, or perhaps in a continuing way. I've been reminded recently that people really can be beautiful gifts to each other and sometimes we fail to recognise them as such.

We often think of Christ as the beautiful gift of God to us. He is



But the wrapping is not the person.

the embodiment of God's love. He gave himself for us. He became a gift to us because he understood how precious we were to God. I wonder how many of us really acknowledge that God sees us as precious. King David knew that he was loved in this way. He expressed in his psalms and in the book of Samuel we see his understanding that God rescued him because he delighted in him.

Do you believe that God delights in you? It's an amazing thought, and it ought to change the way we think of ourselves. In response to that love we can be willing to give ourselves to God. He does not force us into relationship. He waits till we receive the gift of his love and respond by giving ourselves freely to him.

We are also a gift to others when we give ourselves to them and for them. Furthermore, others are a gift to us when they give of themselves and we are open to receive their "giftness". Ideally, when we encounter other people in relationship it will be an exchange of gifts, each willing to give and open to receiving from the other. For this to

happen both have to recognise their own worth and respect the worth of the other. This is the basis of what is given and received, so that the value and gifts of each is protected and appreciated in the exchange.

Thinking of ourselves and other people as gifts is a beautiful basis for relationship. It keeps a right perspective on how we offer ourselves to others, what we expect of ourselves and of others.

It also opens us up to the wonderful diversity in people. "People gifts" come in different wrappings. They are different shapes, sizes and colours. Some come in what seem to be very ordinary wrapping, some seem spectacular to us. Some wrapping appeals to us more than others. Some seem to be wrapped very tightly, so it's hard to know what is on the inside. Other people are wrapped very loosely and what is inside shows easily, and is offered freely.

But whatever the wrapping is like, the wrapping is not the person. Inside each of us there is a unique person, with God-given beauty and gifts. Over the next few months I would like to explore with you some of the differences in gifts among people, and I hope we might all find some new gifts in those around us.

No Apology for "Jesus Wear"

JOHN REES

You've seen them. I've seen them. Some of us wear them on t-shirts or stick them on cars. What are they? Christian messages set in the style of a commercial logo. You know the ones: instead of Reebok's "Play Hard", we've got God's "Pray Hard"; instead of "Thermonuclear Protection" from "Oakley" sunglasses, we've got the same thing from "Jesus" written in the Oakley style.

In a world of high-tech mass-marketing, there is an endless number of images to exploit on

"Jesus Wear" only succeeds in mocking ordinary people

behalf of the Gospel. If this is all new to you, welcome to the world of "Jesus Wear", where Christo-fashion is a sign that the Gospel is reaching millions

throughout the marketplace of the global village. Amen. And something tells you that I don't believe a word of it, right? Right. I know that we live in a consumer society, but does "Jesus wear" make our witness to the world clearer or more confusing?

Tertullian's Apology

An impressive work on the issue of Christian witness is *The Apology* by Tertullian, a Church Father from the second century. Tertullian was responding to accusations made against the church in the Roman city of Carthage.

For example, the elites of Carthage received great wealth from pagan temple tithes, but the minority Christians withdrew themselves from pagan worship because Jesus was their Lord. Some pagans complained, accusing Christians of disloyalty toward society. Tertullian's defence is an interesting comment on Christian witness. He writes, "We bestow more in the streets than you with all your religion do in your

temples." Tertullian observed that Christians were committed to the welfare of the many beggars on the streets of Carthage—and this contrasted with the actions of the pagan elites. With a jibe reminiscent of Elijah's mockery of the prophet's of Baal on Mount Carmel, Tertullian then adds, "We think it very well if we can give to those that ask; and I will pass my word that if Jupiter [the supreme Roman god] will but hold out his hand, he shall fare as well as any other beggar."

Tertullian claimed that Christians were not disloyal, but had much in common with wider society. He argued that to meet a Christian on the streets of Carthage was no different to meeting anybody else. When it came to outward appearances, "spot the Christian" was a hard game to play, because in his opinion the witness of the Church was not dependent on how they looked, but was dependent on their actions. According to Tertullian, believers were known in Carthage for their commitment to common life, responsible citizenship, congregational worship and their commitment to the poor. Tertullian's "Apology" points out that the power of Christian witness in the world is motivated by compassionate relationships.

Compassion verses Judgement

So what has this ancient reflection got to do with the Christo-fashion of today? Quite simply, Tertullian would give no apology, or defence, for "Jesus Wear" as a tool for Christian witness. If the ultimate power of our witness is through relationships of compassion, then "Jesus Wear" is a negative in the witnessing process. Why? Be-



cause these Christian messages confront the world—like advertising is supposed to do—with a judgmental, "in your face" kind of attitude.

This might make Christians feel good, but we fool ourselves into thinking that somehow this is a witness for Christ. Imagine how an exhausted unbeliever might feel, sitting in a city traffic jam after a hard day's work, only to be confronted by a "Fear God!" sticker on the car in front. The messages of "Jesus Wear" are a negative witness for the Christ of compassion, because they come in the **form** and **spirit** of the fallen world around us.

Whereas Tertullian effectively challenged the pagan elites, "Jesus Wear" only succeeds in mocking ordinary people, undermining our ability to greet them in everyday life. The quality of Christian witness is not fashion-dependent, nor should Christo-fashion be a substitute for the personal witness of compassion. Tertullian might suggest that, regardless how well it sells across the counter, "Jesus Wear" is better left on the shelf. No apologies.

John Rees is a lecturer at ACOM. This is an adapted version of an article published in "New Day" magazine.

How to Prepare a Sermon

Used in colleges in Australia, the USA and Canada.

HOW TO PREPARE
A SERMON
AN EXPOSITORY
SERMON

HAROLD E. KNOTT

Written by the late Dr Harold E. Knott, president and professor of homiletics, Bible history, philosophy and Greek exegesis at Eugene Bible University, and previous lecturer at College of the Bible, Melbourne. This classic volume has been used in many colleges in teaching the fundamentals of sermon preparation.

Cost: \$10.00 (including postage.)
Now available from Vital Publications,
PO Box 101, Essendon North Vic 3041.
Phone (03) 9379 1219. Fax (03) 9379 0015.
E-mail: <vitalpubs@churchesofchrist.org.au>.

OBITUARIES

Obituaries are limited to 100 words
CANT, Alan Fletcher

(30.6.99) Alan died suddenly while playing his regular Friday morning round of golf with friends. A packed memorial service testified to the impact he made on many lives. Graduating from the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, Vic, Alan ministered at Brighton, SA, and Mildura and Blackburn, Vic. Moving back to WA, he worked for the Education Department as a counsellor, and was head of counselling departments at several TAFE locations. He worked tirelessly for the church at local and state levels, within Churches of Christ and ecumenically. A strong social justice advocate, he gave compassionate help to many individuals and families. Wembley Downs is missing a friend, elder and church secretary. We uphold Dot and her family in our prayers.

—Dennis Ryle

KURZMAN, Edyth MacGowan (nee Swenser)

(8.5.99) Edyth (Mackie) was born at Ballarat on 5.3.17 and grew up at Caulfield, Vic. Edyth was baptised at a mission at Bamba Road Church of Christ where she was an active member until she moved to Chelsea in 1962, when she married Bill Kurzman. She was a loyal member of Chelsea church and CWF for many years. She had a talent for sewing and knitting, and spent countless hours making knee rugs, bed socks, feeders and jumpers for Nursing Homes, Dorcas Committee and the Brotherhood of St Laurence. She will be sadly missed.

PAGE, Iris

(14.7.99) Iris was born in Pyramid Hill, Vic, on 3.10.25, one of the nine children of John and Sarah Rowland. She was a very active, sports-loving person, who, with Alan Page her late husband, developed an electrical business, which became an asset for the church. Alan and Iris donated money through their business to Churches of Christ, Community Care and World Christian Action, and many other causes. Iris was a Girls' Club leader, a netball player, umpire and founding member and life member of the Mountain District Netball Association, and member of Doncaster Bowling Club. Together Iris and Alan ministered in churches at Hurstbridge, Hamilton, East Preston, Dandenong, The Patch and Mitcham.

—George Warren

THOMAS, Jessie Elizabeth

(15.7.99) Jessie was born 19.3.14 the third of six children of Frank and Elizabeth Rhodes. Jessie grew up in the Wantirna and Ringwood areas of Victoria. She came into Churches of Christ at Blackburn when the family moved to that area. Husband Don was a student minister at Mitcham when they first met. Soon after Don's war service they married. Jessie, a seamstress by trade, formed a wonderful ministry partnership with Don, ministering in churches at Bayswater, Balwyn, Mildura, Shepparton, Frankston, Maidstone, Belmont and Morwell. Jessie was a warm and accepting person who welcomed almost anyone, with a kiss and a hug. Her smile was embracing and her love for people unconquerable.

—George Warren

CHANGES

VIC-TAS CONFERENCE—Executive Officer Lynette and Athol Leach, 1 Braw Street, Williamstown Vic 3016. Phone (03) 9397 4220.

BAPTISMS

•Kate Heier, Andrew Swift, Danielle de Rossignol, Paul Zoom, David Venter, Nathan Dean, Launceston, Tas •Erin Miskelly, Vicki Hayes, Wollongong, NSW •Leon Tymko, Bordertown, SA

NSW

WOLLONGONG (E.C. Keating, B. Bruce) "Saturday at Six" tea & worship begins ... AM & PM series "Real Happiness" & "Ten Signs of Christian Maturity" ... Psychologist Cliff Powell at men's breakfast ... "Understanding Personality" & "Search for Significance" courses ... EWF & singles celebrated Christmas in July ... 30 home groups ... Kids Club revitalised ... 2-day ministry team retreat ... Ted & Marge Keating visited Thailand re project for third-world appeal.

TWEED HEADS-COOLANGATTA (Bruce Warwick) Junior Band played for first time in morning service. Cheryl Warwick in charge. Peter Stacey, saxophonist, visited & brought music & message ... Bush dance a success ... Church delighted Bruce & Cheryl continuing ministry for 3 years from 2000 ... Alan Bailey presented "one man show" with outstanding drama & music ... \$2777 raised for

World Vision, Trash & Treasure. \$3640 for others.

ROCKDALE (Ian Alves, Valerie Baker) Young people meeting with Hurstville youth group Friday nights ... Chapel undergoing extensive soundproofing by Aircraft Noise Project Authority due to position under flight path. Meetings held in hall during alterations ... Korean SDA uses facilities Friday evenings & Saturday. Slavic Fellowship meets Sunday afternoons ... Church looking at opportunities for ministry to Olympic visitors in view of proximity to airport.

SA

BORDERTOWN Several youth attended teens camp April. 25 youth attended State Youth Games 11-14 June ... Many excellent visiting speakers ... Sunday school celebration 27 June. Peter Marr & Alister brought message ... Halls Gap youth camp 11-16 July. Tim Clark led studies. 28 attended. 9 commitments ... Considerable improvement church buildings & surrounds recently completed ... Congregation awaiting appointment of minister ... AGM 12 September.

GOOLWA (Chris Ambrose) Church along with other denominations has suffered 4 break-ins over past few months. Video & sound equipment stolen ... Large increase in Sunday youth numbers this year ... Ambrose family safely home from holiday in Thailand ... Church & friendship club numbers down due to holidays & winter ills.

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

GARDEN CITY CARAVAN PARK

Elser St, Toowoomba

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



Bethel Funerals

The Caring Australian Alternative



A unique Christian funeral company supporting the work of missions

24-hour, 7-day service

Pre-arranged and pre-paid funerals

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

Servicing all areas

Church News

TAS

ULVERSTONE (Arthur Symes) AGM held 25 July reappointed Mavis Vickers, elder, Kelvin Maxwell, Dawn Newman, deacons, Colin Orr, treasurer. Jan Issac new deacon. Ordination service for elders & deacons 5 August ... Soup & sandwich luncheon. Proceeds to family camp held 3-5 September at Bicheno ... Ruth & Tom Edge managing Camp Seaview, Bicheno.

LAUNCESTON (C. Spaulding, W. Kerrison, T. Gray, S. Fitzallen, A. Fair) 6 baptisms recently ... Principal of WEC College, NZ, speaker 4 July ... Chris Peart appointed church administrator ... Dedication of the Martin twins & of Bonnie & Jane ... \$690 given for World Vision Kosovo Appeal ... Plans well in hand for commencement of new "Time Out" services on 19 September ... 115th anniversary celebrated. Gordon Stirling speaker ... Wendy Partridge leaves for 2 months in East Java.

VIC

BORONIA (B. Ricketts, B. Moore) Liam O'Sullivan's dedication celebrated ... Brian & Jenny Rickets returned from 2 weeks away ... Cindy Waters conducted worship leaders' seminar ... Stan McCredden, Conference President, preached 1 August ... Alpha & Youth Alpha continuing ... Rest & Relaxation day for old & young held at Basin SDA camp ... Greg Elsdon will speak with members about "Christians in Fellowship" 31 August.

CASTLEMAINE (Ross Bourdon) Church members participated in night of Prayer for Reconciliation on 14 July ... Recent guest speaker Marcus Grey from MAF ... Personal profiles of members being placed in church newsletter each week ... Church mourning the passing of Geoff Barnett, past minister at Castlemaine ... Jessica Amy continues to do well in junior cycling events.

BLACKBURN (David Ratten, John Rowe, Russell Croxford, Anne Spoelder) Interesting & exciting "Cafe Church" held. Stunt rider David Russell special guest ... Beautiful floral tribute to Nita Graham was placed in chapel from her family on her 96th birthday ... Seminars entitled "Living Beyond Separation & Divorce", presenter Anne Spoelder & "Faith & the Future", presenter Charles Bayer, are in progress.

FRANKSTON (Tom Ede, Glen Mason) Allan Fletcher, interim minister at Coburg, also representing "Pencare" as chaplain to RSL ... Hospitalised—Lis Whiting, Phillip Plumridge, Linda Opolion, Liane Carson, Betty Gooch ... Our tithe of profit in sale of McClelland Drive land used for needy ... Mason family entertained at Greenways PSA. "Hey Hey" children presented activities to church ... Church bought acre adjoining property for future use.

BENDIGO (Ross Barnes) Special church meeting extended pastor's term to 2006. Meeting also accepted vision & mission statements ... 3 people welcomed into membership ... Stuart Robinson from Crossway Baptist launched mission month ... Church represented in one of the youth choirs that sang at the International Choral festival at the Sydney Opera House. Contribution well received.

COCOA brings HOPE



To the isolated people of Orissa State in INDIA, COCOA brings HOPE via medical treatment.

Dr Iris Paul and her assistants travel for many days to reach these people. She brings much-needed medical treatment and supplies. Without our support many of these people would die.

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

Name:

Address:

..... **Postcode**

Amount: \$

Please charge my: ☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ **Expiry Date:**

Signature

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

Ecumenism in 1927

GORDON STIRLING

When I was a lad D.M. Wilson, a Perth monumental mason, was a leader in our churches. Incidentally, his wife taught me piano. With Reg Ennis and Lin Gordon he represented Australian Churches of Christ at the first World Faith and Order Convention in Lausanne (August 1927). I have before me a copy of his report.

There were daily sessions for 18 days. There was no amplification and no simultaneous translation earphones. Each address, either in English, French or German, was translated when finished into the other two languages in succession. Subjects discussed included "The Faith of the Church", "The Gospel", "The Churches and Unity", and "Ministry and Sacraments". Final reports avoided controversial issues as they were to go to the sending churches as the considered views of the convention. D.M. Wilson's comment was, "The convention has been a wonderful experience and well worth attending, but I do not see any prospect of unity among the various parties represented."

Some of Mr Wilson's comments are interesting.

On some speakers, "They were not good enough to be engaged by our Home Missions Committee." There was a manifest desire for unity, "but while sharing an excellent spirit their views were so diverse as to be irreconcilable". (He had real problems with Anglo-Catholics who denied the validity of any ministry outside the Apostolic



Succession.) "There is too much theology and far too few intelligent laymen." "A few more practical businessmen would be more likely to arrive at a basis for union than the crowd of theologians we have here."

Principal William Robinson of Overdale College represented British Churches of Christ. Mr Wilson was disappointed that Churches of Christ delegates from across the world did not meet prior to and during the convention, except for an informal lunch late in the program. He was not over impressed by some American delegates. His comment, "They would, I think, give way on many points for the sake of unity."

But he had a good word for Dr Peter Ainslie who spoke on Christian Unity. Mr Wilson's report: "He gave a very good address but went rather far in admitting that the Disciples of Christ were a denomination and as such would have to disappear with the rest."

Introduce Your Friends to an Australian Christian



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

Name

Address

Postcode

The Last Word

Avoid looking at yourself and you successfully avoid reality.

Letters to Social Security Department

Husbands

I am glad to say my husband, who was reported missing, is now dead.

Please find out for certain if my husband is dead, as the man I live with will not eat or do anything until he knows.

Unless I get my husband's money, I will be forced to lead an immortal life.

Children

In answer to your letter, I have given birth to a boy weighing 10lbs. You changed my little boy into a little girl. Will it make any difference?

I am writing to tell you my baby was born two years old. When do I get my money?

I am going to have a bambino next month and want to know what to expect.

I have had a child illegally adopted. You say endowment is paid in arrears. Is arrears in front or behind?

I am sending my marriage certificate and six children. I have seven and one died, which was baptised on half a sheet of paper by the Rev.

Sir, I am sending my marriage certificate and my two children, one of which is a mistake as you will see.

I cannot get sick pay. I have six children. Tell me why this is so. (Courtesy, "Shop Talk")