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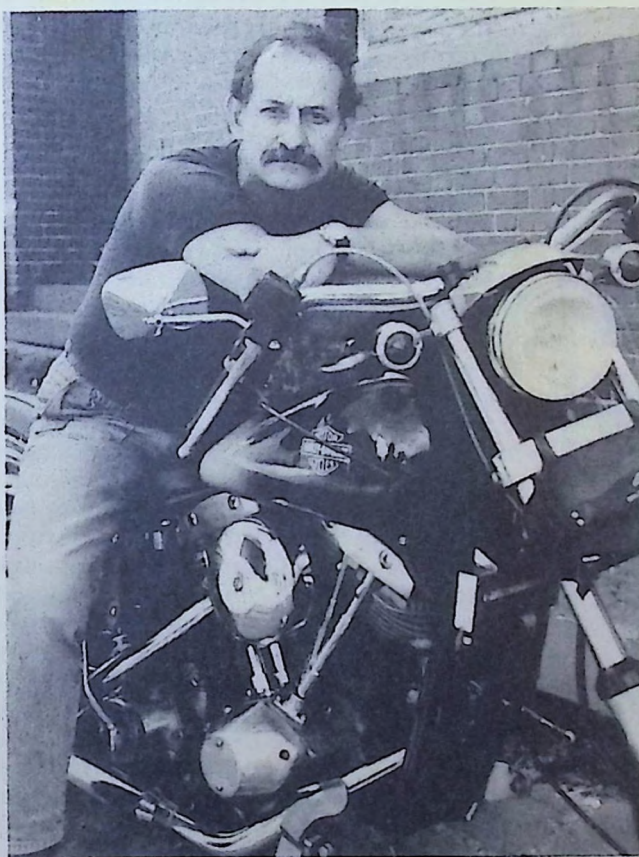
"Life Together" National Youth Convention 13, 1988

The prospect of another National Youth Convention will evoke many happy memories of past conventions amongst some reading this article. Those times when new friendships were formed, new songs were learned and sung in worship to God, challenges were presented about the Christian life and resolutions were made to make the world a different place because of N.Y.C.!

Recent conventions have given those attending, the chance to enjoy the attractions of South Australia, Queensland, New Zealand and Victoria. In 1988 the scene switches to New South Wales and National Youth Convention 13. All those things which have been enjoyed at past conventions will be a feature of N.Y.C. 13 — worship, learning, challenge and most of all the sense of community or fellowship that comes as a result of Christian young people from all over Australia and New Zealand coming together under the theme, "Life Together".

Stanwell Tops Christian Conference Centre, situated just south of Sydney and the Royal National Park and just north of the superb Illawarra Coastline and some of Australia's best beaches, will be the site of the Convention. It will run from January 3 - 9.

A number of things will set N.Y.C. 13 apart from past conventions. 1988 is Australia's



John Smith, Keynote Speaker N.Y.C. 13.

Bicentenary and part of the focus during Convention will be the Australia of 1988 and beyond and the kind of impact we have as Christians if we work together to bring about the maturing of our country under a Christian influence.

Speakers from a variety of backgrounds have been invited. These include keynote speaker,

John Smith from Care and Communication Concern in Melbourne, Garry Morris, manager of Midnight Oil and Spy vs Spy; Graham Hyman, Federal Board of Christian Education and Director of Youth Specialties Australia; and John Tigwell, Scripture Union Director in New South Wales. Musicians and elective

leaders from all around Australia will all be playing a key role in the N.Y.C. 13 program.

Part of one day will be spent at Australia's largest theme park, Australia's Wonderland in Sydney's West. Along with this, Conventioneers will have plenty of free time to enjoy the on-site facilities and nearby off-site facilities.

National Youth Convention 13 will be of great benefit to your local church as those who attend will return enthusiastic about their faith and ready to be involved in their church. Why not consider supporting your young people's attendance at Convention? Total cost is \$185 all inclusive for the week. You might like to sponsor or subsidize their involvement or support fund-raising activities designed to get your young people to the Convention. The N.Y.C. 13 Task Force's latest update newsletter provides some "Terrific Tips" for fund-raising. If your church doesn't have a copy, you should contact your State's Youth Department offices for a copy.

National Youth Convention 13 is open to all young people 16 and over in January 1988 and is sponsored by the Churches of Christ Federal Board of Christian Education. Further information can be obtained by contacting your State Office or Chris Hutton, N.Y.C. 13 Convention Organiser, P.O. Box 140, Carlingford, 2118.

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October 17	October 7
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GUEST EDITORIAL



WORTH THE RISK

Jeff May



Jeff May is a graduate of the College of the Bible. He has had three ministries in South Australia. With his wife Jeanette, and six children, four of whom have been adopted inter-country, he now lives in Adelaide. Jeff is the Executive Director of the Overseas Mission Board of Australian Churches of Christ.

I have always believed in taking risks! It could be because much of my life has been lived in the country. I have grown up and ministered in farming communities which have always had the attitude, "the seed won't grow in the barn!". Every decision has had an element of risk. Career, marriage, family, ministry, change of direction and being a Christian, have all involved risk. As a result of those risks I have benefited greatly! Everything has not "come up roses" but as a result of "having a go" much more has been gained than by doing nothing! When Jesus entrusted the good news to unemployed fishermen, ex-revolutionaries and ex-tax collectors, to hot-heads and power seekers, he took a risk! Who of us would have ever chosen them? Yet because of them and the risks they took, you and I have faith and assurance and forgiveness and . . . the opportunity now to take our own risks!

It's Time

I believe it is time for the Christian church to take some risks. Time to look at the ways in which we make contact with and communicate with people in Australia. It is time to look at the things that we have never done before. The cry "we've never done that before!" is second only to "we tried it once and it didn't work!" The gospel is entrusted to people who are so squeaky clean that those who need to hear it never get close.

The disciples were like us in this respect in that the majority of them were upright model citizens. However, because of their contact with Jesus they were prepared to risk their reputations and make contact with the highest and lowest of their social strata. They too became the friends of publicans and sinners or as once was paraphrased "pub-crawlers and swingers!"

Just Imagine

Just imagine what their friends and their parents and relatives thought of that! Just imagine what the prostitutes and thieves thought of this offer of friendship! Just imagine what it was like to defy a direct order from the Sanhedrin and go on with the gospel! It was risky!

Just imagine if your minister, elder or youth group leader were to accompany friends to the local? If your church property was made available for A.A., G.R.O.W., or a drop-in centre for street kids? What if your struggling Sunday School or club was abandoned to try something new? What if you were to convert your chapel to a less threatening, more intimate (risky word that!) place for worship. John H. Westerhoff speaking on the subject "Will our children have Faith?" said, "Where there is no risk there is no witness. Where there is no witness there is no gospel. Where there is no gospel there is no hope. Where there is no hope there is no vision. Without a vision the people perish!" I believe in taking risks because I believe in the witness of the Christian faith that gives hope and vision and life to people. I wonder how big a risk I took in writing this?

CP Summit — Peaks

A tenfold increase in growth of Christian Projects grants was foreshadowed at the second CP Summit in Melbourne on September 19. Chairman of the CP Promotions Committee, Robert Pfeifer, stated that the

Conference had endorsed the CP1000 program and its objective of achieving a grant of \$1,000 per week to our churches, by the end of the century.

All States were represented.

GROWING SPIRITUALLY

"Walking Prayers."

My thoughts centre around two commands from scripture from two different people. The first is the command of Jesus, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and love your neighbour as yourself" (Lk.11:27). The second command comes from Paul. It is simply, "Pray continually" (1 Thess.5:17).

Paul's command has often intrigued me with thoughts of people continually bumping into each other because they are praying continually with their eyes closed! Seriously though, it has raised, in my mind, **questions about the nature of prayer.**

As I see it the command of Jesus encompasses all of life. To carry out this command is to commit oneself totally to God. I believe that the marrying of the two commands, by Jesus and Paul, gives a context to commitment and prayer that is different from the one commonly held. That is that commitment means only the good things in a person's life and that prayer is verbally performed at specific times.

To "pray continually" means **with no interruptions.** It is something that occurs all the time. In this context then, prayer ought not to interrupt the flow of life. On the contrary, to "pray continually" implies a continuous relationship with God **that is not interrupted:** a relationship that involves heart, soul, strength, mind and neighbour.

Prayer ought not to interrupt life. Prayer is life. **We are "walking prayers."**

This means then that **I am a prayer to God.** My prayer does not consist only of words I say at a particular time, but consists of my thoughts, words, emotions, actions, desires, both good and bad, at every point in my life. **My life is my prayer.**

To follow this through means broadening the dimension of prayer. Jesus taught his disciples words to use when praying, but he showed them, through his ministry, how to pray with action, with compassion, with love. How to offer honour and glory to God with heart, soul, strength, mind and neighbour. It places prayer in the world where lives are lived.

— Jim Keatch

The CP Security Bond was launched and some initial subscriptions received. The Bond is high security, ethical investment product, offered in association with the Macquarie Bank and the Over 50's Friendly Society. It is a sound and attractive investment medium for church members and will provide the funds for CP grants to churches.

The Junior Projectors group was approved and Strategy

Committee objectives commended.

The experience expertise and vitality of the delegates was such as to raise high hopes for the future. A full report of the Conference and of the decisions taken, will be included in the next issue of "The Australian Christian". Enquiries from parties interested in CP are welcome. It is hoped that the next Summit will be in Sydney.

T.V. Evangelists lose popularity

A recent Gallup Poll in the U.S.A. reports wide dissatisfaction with formerly popular T.V. evangelists. The recent financial and sex scandals round the names of some of them would no doubt account for this. Jimmy Bakker certainly leads the list of the list of the unfavoured with 77% giving him a negative vote. Even Jerry Falwell who took over Bakker's "empire", and as Moral Majority leader has tried hard to "keep his nose clean" has only a 38% favourable vote.

38% of respondents think that T.V. evangelists do not care about people. 53% think that they are dishonest, 51% that they are insincere, 55% that they do not have a special relationship with God, and 53% that they are not trustworthy with money.

T.V. evangelists have scored very badly compared with polls taken just seven years ago. The

only noted Evangelist still in favour is Billy Graham.

The problem for ordinary churches is that many people judge the church by the electronic churches. All the more reason for ordinary Christians to be so Spirit-filled that they automatically show the fruits of the Spirit in their lives. A further problem of course is that the most seriously offending of the electronic evangelists claim special expertise as far as the Holy Spirit is concerned.

Dr John Williams will be speaking on "The Religious Right in North America and its effect on US Politics and Society" at a public meeting organised by the AFES Graduates Fellowship and the Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society on November 7 at 8 p.m. at the Toorak Uniting Church, Toorak Rd, Toorak, Melbourne.

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Will Clay remembered



Will Clay at work on a house built in a day.

Will Clay was one of the giants of Australian Churches of Christ for 40 years from the early twenties. But as usual, new generations come for whom such greats are a mere name, if known at all. That is why biographies of such men as J.E. Thomas (published recently) are of value to our people. They help us to get the feel of our heritage as we discover God's present purposes for us.

Will Clay has now been brought to us by the pen of Principal Emeritus A.W. Stephenson in a 95 page book, "The Moment to Decide".

It is quite a remarkable effort as his sources were limited by the destruction of many documents in the Lonsdale St Office fire of over a decade ago.

The book traces Will Clay's life from a background of childhood poverty in England,

through to his death at 90 in the Oakleigh Christian Guest Home on which he had once placed an on the spot deposit, hoping for endorsement from his Social Service Committee.

Will Clay's earlier career in Churches of Christ was in evangelistic missions. He had a talent as a tenor singer and a gift as a song leader and personal worker. He teamed with Thomas Hagger and Gilbert Chandler in missions where hundreds came into our churches and stayed there.

Arthur Stephenson is an anecdotal historian and records many good stories that enliven his accounts. A ministry in Subiaco, W.A. separated the two great phases of Will Clay's career, that of singing evangelist and that of Social Service Director.

His own background of poverty, his great heart and his gifts of imagination and administration made it inevitable that Will Clay should take the infant social service work of the Victorian Conference and make it into the monumental work that it is today.

The history of Will Clay in social service is the history of the slow but sure growth of a social conscience in Churches of Christ. A.W. Stephenson lets us into glimpses of the Great Depression, from first hand experience. That alone makes the book worth reading.

I could not put it down until I had finished it. But of course I knew Will Clay. So will many others who pay their \$7.50 (including postage) to R. Smith, P.O. Box 140, Carlingford, 2118.

— Gordon Stirling

Pics for People

The fourth Saturday of each month is a highlight for guests at the Murrumbidgee and Oakleigh Christian Guest Homes (Vic.). On these nights they watch 16mm films from the State Film Centre.

There is a team of eight projectionists who work on roster. The youngest helper is Damian Hillier, grandson of the organiser of the project, Jean Hillier.

Jean is calling for more volunteers to learn to operate the projectors and to join the team. Only a few Saturdays a year are required. She is also asking for spare 16mm spools that former 16mm buffs and churches might have hiding in their cupboards.

The Murrumbidgee Matron orders the films a year in advance and sees to the receipt and despatch of the films.

The State Film Centre provides a variety covering most of the world and frequently places and incidents remembered by some of the guests.

Prospective projectionists and spool hoarders, please drop a note to Jean Hillier through the Vic.-Tas. Department of Community Care, 52 La Trobe St, Melbourne 3000.

Correction

In the article on the Robinson's being honoured at Kum Ba Yah ("A.C." Sept. 19 Page 420) we reported that J.F.P. Pallot was the brother of Alice Robinson. In fact he was the father of Alice.

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Building for Happiness for others



Miss Ivy Gordon, Director of Nursing, Naida Johnson and Keith Jarvie (President of Residents' Association)

"May God bless this new building and may it bring the happiness to others that I have enjoyed at this Home over the last 20 years." They were fitting words spoken by the longest serving resident Miss Ivy

Gordon at a brief, opening ceremony, to commence the building of the new Activities Room at Emmaus Home, Murrumbidgee, Vic. The President of the Residents' Association, Keith Jarvie and the Director of Nursing Ms Naida Johnson also assisted during the ceremonial occasion.

The new Activities Room is the result of an initiative taken by the Department of Community Care to keep up with the changing needs of the residents in the Homes. Many of the residents are unable to become involved in outside community activities but nevertheless look forward to participating in programs conducted within the Home. The Department was successful in receiving a Special Programs Grant from the Commonwealth Department for \$19,500 to provide individualised activities to meet the specialised needs of residents suffering from Senile Dementia.

Comprehensive Christian Education Directory

Looking for one place to find out all about what is available for teaching and learning the faith in Australia? If you are, you will know how hard it is and how we often settle for what is easiest to obtain because there is so little time to run, or even phone, around to find something new. This problem (cataloguing Christian Education resources) was identified as a key issue at the recent National Education Workshop run by the Federal Board of Christian Education. All working groups felt that the compiling of a directory of some kind would provide a tremendous resource for our churches.

While looking at the enormity of providing such a resource, the staff of the Federal Board of Christian Education discovered that the monthly Christian magazine, "On Being", has done it for us! Their

October issue will contain an extensive guide called "Teaching And Learning The Faith". Judging by previous guides "On Being" has published, this one will be exhaustive, informative and easy to read. It will provide invaluable reference material for Sunday School superintendents, Bible study leaders, in fact anyone involved in Christian education.

Copies of the October issue (R.R.P. \$3) will be available from October 1 from "On Being", 2 Denham Street, Hawthorn 3122. Phone (03) 819.4755.

On a related issue, the Joint Board of Christian Education will shortly be releasing advance copies of the "New Living Faith" curriculum for 1988. The Churches of Christ Federal Board of Christian Education will be mailing promotional material to all churches.

The occasion commemorates, not only the beginning of redevelopment of Emmaus Home but also a steady program of upgrading the Churches of Christ Nursing Home, Christian Guest Home and Fred Combridge House. The Department has set about an ambitious program that focuses on the particular needs of the residents with a special

emphasis upon the quality of life and the quality of care for which it is highly regarded in Government and community circles.

If you wish to support the Department through bequests please contact the Executive Director, Department of Community Care, Churches of Christ, 52 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne 3000.

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Church Growth Seminars



The visit of Dr Roy Pointer to Australia has brought a new and refreshing emphasis to the principles of Church Growth. Dr Pointer, the Church Growth Consultant with the Bible Society in the United Kingdom, shared his wide experience of the British church with clear biblical insight and practical application.

Dr Pointer, seen here with Clive Ward, Vic.-Tas. Conference President, and Dr Cliff Warmbrunn, Department of Mission, Education and Development Chairman, believes that real church growth has four dimensions. There must be growing up to maturity within the church, we must be grow-

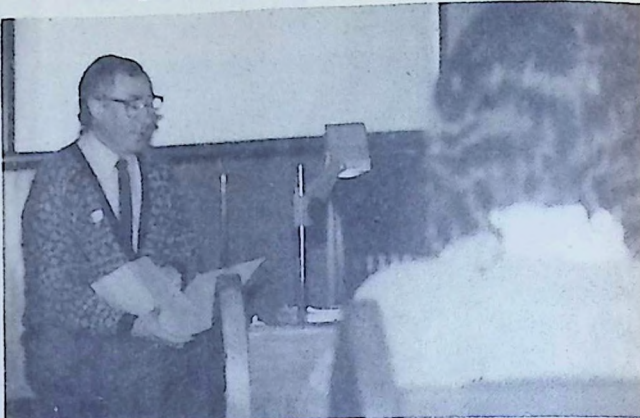
ing together in a sense of community and fellowship, the church must be growing out in service to others and evangelism, and we need to be growing in numbers. This understanding of growth was manifested in the churches of the New Testament.

Growth occurs through people dependent on the Holy Spirit. Opting out through normality, non-involvement and irrelevant programing decreases personal growth, slows outreach and inhibits the power of God to grow the church.

Being conscious of a clear strategy for growth is vital. Dr Pointer called on us as churches to know clearly the task before us and to set relevant and achievable goals within that task. Working with responsive, receptive people will bring greater effectiveness in every method of evangelism we may use. An awareness of the expectations we have of ministers, and the gifts they possess, will enable more effective use of their time and experience.

Dr Pointer's visit will remain effective within the life of the church for years to come. As people take up the principles, transfer them to their local congregations, we will see churches grow. As we as churches and as individuals commit ourselves to long term development, to effective church programing and evangelism, we will develop maturity and influence the lives of many for the Kingdom of God.

Marriage and Family Week



Brian White leading a session

The Hurstbridge, Vic., church had a great week in August with Brian White (Department of Mission, Education & Development) when he ran sessions for all age groups concerning relationships.

Brian's topics included "Keeping out of Mothballs", "It's O.K. to be Single", "As

Children Become Independent" and "Building Stronger Families".

A top musical night for youth was held at the Diamond Creek Uniting Church with Graham Hyman filling in as speaker after Brian injured his leg.

The week saw three people make commitments and one person make a re-dedication.



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Explorers Seek Past Members

The Explorer Movement Executive is currently seeking contact with past Explorer members. Letters have gone to Victorian churches inviting assistance in the history of past Explorers. With this information available it is planned to send past members particulars of special Jubilee events including a dinner, commemorative day and a Jubilee history.



gregate enrolment in excess of 25,000 over the 50 years.

Project

Explorer members who live outside Victoria would be welcome to contact the Department of Mission, Education and Development, 52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne 3000 and leave their name. Information will then be sent to them. Executive members estimate that there has been an ag-

As a part of the Jubilee recognition, a special area will be developed at Camp Waterman. This will include a paved area, seating and a wall to include plaques commemorating the fifty years of work. Local clubs are about to move into a program which will usher in the Jubilee year.

The Nicaraguan government said in August that it will allow a Roman Catholic bishop and two priests it expelled to return. However the bishop said in Miami he will not return because he does not want to give the impression that the situation in Nicaragua is improving.

Large areas of Bangladesh are underwater, following floods that have engulfed about two-thirds of the nation. Thousands have been rescued from flooded communities and packed into emergency camps. Others have moved into the capital Dhaka. This city is also swamped by flood waters. In areas where waters have started to recede, World Vision is having to cope with the outbreak of disease. Diarrhoea and dysentery are causing serious concern. However, this situation will continue as thousands of victims are forced to drink polluted water. World Vision is providing \$700,000 in emergency and long term aid.

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No such thing as Retirement



Graham Hall photographed here with Mrs Hall was an Insurance Executive for 40 years. He is now the manager of the Christian Retirement Centre sponsored by the Cheltenham, Vic., church. The Centre provides accommodation for more than 200 guests and is a monument to the work of dedicated members of the Cheltenham

church. Graham has been a member at Cheltenham since 1961, an Explorer Club leader for 20 years. He also served as a deacon.

Graham believes that one must be busy, even if retired. He has just agreed to act as advisor and consultant to the Christian Projects Insurance division.

From Darwin to China

Joy Irvine of the Darwin church is in China doing a term of service as a teacher with the Amity Foundation of China. She is being sponsored by the Australian Council of Churches.

Joy has written a full and lively report of her experience so far.

The Report, "Occasional Paper 4: In China with Amity", is available for \$1.20 (posted) from A.C.C., Box C199, Clarence St, Sydney 2000.

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The Saint and the Pharisee

In general there are two religious mind-sets — those of the "saint" and the "pharisee". We all have something of each in us, and the potential to be either. Both may be "orthodox" theologically, even "evangelical". Both pursue "goodness" but by different means, for different ends. (Someone said pharisees were "good" people in the worst sense of the word!). Saints (like Jesus) emphasise love and grace, pharisees law and (their interpretation of) "truth". Saints are comfortable with "doctrine", but for the pharisee doctrine becomes dogma, law becomes legalism, ritual becomes ritualism. The saint lives easily with questions, paradox, antinomy, mystery; pharisees try to be "wiser than God" and resolve all mysteries into neat formulas: they want answers, now. The saint *listens*, in solitude and silence; the pharisee fills the void with sound. For the saints it's "rising by dying", for the pharisees "rising by doing".

With Jesus, acceptance preceded repentance, with the pharisees it was the other way around. The saint, like Jesus, says first "I do not condemn

you". Pharisees find that difficult: they'd prefer "go and sin no more". Jesus welcomes sinners; sinners get the impression they're not loved by pharisees. For the pharisee, sins of the flesh and "heresy" are worst, and they are experts on the sins of others. For the saint, sins of the spirit — one's own spirit — are worst. Saints are "Creation-centred"; pharisees "Fall-centred".

For the pharisee "my people" = "people like me"; for the saint "my people" = all God's people. Pharisees are insecure (needing "God-plus" other things); the saints are secure (needing "God only").

Pharisees hate prophets ("noisy saints") and their call to social justice; saints love justice.

Saints in their prayer mostly "listen", wait on the Lord; the pharisee needs words, words, words.

Pharisees are static, unteachable, believing they have monopoly on the truth; saints are committed to growing. Jesus was full of grace and truth; Peter says grow in grace and knowledge: pharisees aren't strong on grace, but for saints "grace is everywhere".

Rowland Croucher in "Grid" (World Vision, Australia)

The Son of the Rock

It's time for a change,
A time to re-arrange,
But man needs a strong, true leader,
As far as I'm concerned —
Only Christ Himself,
Is capable of sincerely re-arranging all on the shelf . . .
The shelf of course is Earth, and we are the stock,
Yes! only Jesus Himself . . .
The Light, the Love,
The Son of the Rock!

Jean Tooland
(Edwardstown, S.A.)

Recent newspaper reports that the new Amity Foundation Bible printing press in China is likely to export Bibles next year to Japan, Hong Kong and Western Europe have been refuted

by the Bible Society. The plant at present has more orders on hand by the China Christian Council for distribution within China than the press can handle.

"MISSIONARY NEWS" WANTED

To the Editor,

Could you, through the columns of "The Australian Christian", ask readers if they have, and would like to part with early copies of "Goodly Pearls" and "Missionary News". I am very interested in mission work and am keen to learn of the history of our mission work from the beginning. I would also like to do some projects and write articles on past missionaries and this material would be of great value in this work.

— Mrs Val Stevens
(Secretary Overseas Mission
Committee, P.O. Box 286,
Woodville 5011)

APPRECIATION

To the Editor,

I would like to express my appreciation of the Guest Editorial by Peter Nelson ("A.C." August 22) issue of "Australian Christian". His return to the basics of John 15 with emphasis on obeying the Word of Jesus — especially the Great Commission, to reach the lost and also expending our energies on total reliance on Christ, prayer, and love for one another, rather than on finding fault with each other is tremendous. I heartily endorse his thoughts and encourage us all as God's people to take them to heart.

— Beverley Goode
(Ingle Farm, Qld)

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

Bees

To the Editor,

The sun was shining. New flowers were blooming. I had mown the lawn. The weeds could wait. I could sit and do nothing and enjoy the Spring.

A bee buzzed busily by and crawled into a flower bell. Later she emerged heavy with nectar and set off back to the hive. And I got to thinking that here she was collecting honey for the next generation of bees, but at the same time, unwittingly, she was carrying pollen from flower to flower ensuring that they too would have another generation of life.

Then as one does in a day dream, my mind wandered. It settled on Polly who goes to our church. I wondered why on Polly. Then suddenly I knew.

Polly has five children and since Jim died she has brought them up on her own. They are a credit to her. And her faith is a credit to the church. One look at Polly and we stop grumbling. One doubt sneaks into our minds and we remember Polly's faith. One temptation to miss church because it's cold and we have the sniffles, and we think of Polly who will be there with her brood.

But Polly is all the time apologising that she is so busy with her family that she hasn't time, as she puts it, "to do more for the Lord."

Then I knew why the bees made me think of Polly. While she is busy doing what she must, unwittingly, she is spreading life and faith all round to all of us, just by being Polly.

Hoping you are the same,

TERTIUS

ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER PLACE

There are some things that cannot be recalled, others that cannot be forgotten.

I can't remember a thing about February 15, 1983, I can remember almost every incident of February 16. February 16 was Ash Wednesday and Anglesea was ringed with fire.

There are some people who touch our lives in such a way that time does not blur their features or rob them of their special place.

* There was one lad who always greeted his minister with a cheeky grin and often with a teasing word. His words and actions were never intended to offend, nor did they. Secure in an open relationship, he had the freedom to be himself. He was one of our youngest Sunday School workers.

* There was an outdoors, outgoing sportsgirl, already on her way to becoming something special in track and field athletics. She usually won, but without arrogance. She occasionally lost, but lost with graciousness.

* I have a mind picture of a slightly built girl standing by her bike. She asked for a reference for her first job. She was not a group leader, but was part of the support group that made leadership easy. She was young, reserved. I baptised her.

* There was another quiet girl who had a special talent for caring. Caring in the home, in the Sunday School, in the church, and in the youth group. She made friends with those on the fringe. She never sought to be in the forefront. Content to work in the background, she had the respect of young and old alike.

* There were two fun-loving brothers, always active, always noisy, always ready to have a go. One was an apprentice, the other still at school. There had been tragedy in their home, but they were doing well in their support for their mother. Theirs was a wonderful home to visit.

* I remember an especially talented young man. Slightly built but athletic. At night you might come across him, running at the edge of the

road, training for life. He was an excellent student and deeply committed to his Lord. He was engaged in a wide range of Christian activities, and I expected him to seek to serve in the ministry. His sister was much more reserved but equally devoted and active in the church. She was always among the first to volunteer when there was work to be done.

* There was one other girl. I met her only once. She was a visitor but she brought with her a spirit of friendliness. She was accepted at once and found a genuine place in this day for memories and tribute.

The memories are so strong, that it is hard to realise that it was 35 years ago that these nine young people died in a youth camp bus accident that stirred the nation and wrung our hearts in grief.

Ron Bishop, Betty Cantlay, Margaret Evans, Ruth Funston, Dick and Des Higham, Brian and Valerie Saunders, and Lynette Smith.

35 years!! We have grown so much older, but they are still young in our hearts. It takes no effort to remember them.

In life, they were close to us in Christ. In Christ they are still close.

A.E. White

Southport

On the front cover of our last issue (September 19) we ran the story of the movement of the Southport, Qld., church to a new site. Accompanying the story was a large photograph of Southport/Surfers Paradise which showed the present church site and the site for the new complex. Both we marked

clearly on the bromide which was made but in the printing process the bottom of the photograph has darkened considerably and readers are unable to see the location of the new site. This is in the dark area of trees on the bottom right hand portion of the photograph below the Showgrounds site.



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The Joint Board of Christian Education

— Bernard Long

New hope for our Children

Some years ago the gap between Sunday School and the rest of the church was often wider than that between rich man Dives and poor man Lazarus. Dives and Lazarus could never get together again. But in many places Sunday Schools and their sponsoring churches have been building solid bridges in recent years. The All Age Sunday School was one pioneering attempt.

Many deliberate attempts are being made to involve the younger brigade in the worship life of the church. The days are long past when the only time the rest of the church encountered the Sunday School was on Anniversary Sunday. Those days when awe-inspiring, death-defying platforms were erected on which hundreds of perched children sang "Hymns of Praise" with "Joyful Voices". They don't have Sunday Schools that size any more. The mouldering platforms still clutter up space under many churches.

The Joint Board of Christian Education has been wrestling for a number of years with the challenge of relating the education program of the church with worship, witness and service.

The "Living Faith" learning plan was a deliberate attempt to come to grips with the issue — and it hasn't been a bad effort. Enthusiasm for the program has held up during tough times for Sunday Schools.

Those who worked with "Living Faith" appreciated it, but knew there were some bugs in it — so did the Joint Board. When the time came for "Living Faith" to be revised a series of consultations was held

in Australia and New Zealand with workers in the field.

The story that came back — was that a totally new curriculum wasn't necessary, but new approaches and more effective resources were. The Board set to work on a new learning plan for "Living Faith". They believe the results will provide a breakthrough for 1988 — when the new program starts.

Hopes and Expectations

Recently I spent a morning with Joint Board Director, the Rev Dr David Merritt, and Associate Director, the Rev Colville Crowe. They outlined their hopes and expectations for the new plan.

They began by stressing the fact that it was no use having resources for faith if there weren't any people of faith to make sure the resources were used.

Now for some details.

Teachers of 6-14 year-olds will now share the one Planbook — there won't be the stack of resource books previously needed. The planbook covers three grades. Each Sunday the lesson will focus on the same Bible passage in each grade.

The new "Living Faith" will be cheaper!

The teachers Planbook will have a page for each group's lesson — and one for the minister to help him/her focus on the same Bible passage in worship if he/she wishes to.

New Ideas and Worship

To help build up the church Sunday School link a worship pack is being produced. It has

PLANBOOK

1988 PART ONE

Living Faith



prayers, songs and other features, all in response to pleas from ministers for resources to help this process.

For those worried by the dreaded Copyright laws — fear no more! The Joint Board holds copyright on every song in the pack. You can sing and play away to your hearts content with a clear conscience. The objective is lively worship linked with teaching.

The worship pack will come in two forms — one for printing and photocopying, the other with overhead transparencies.

Almost all the Planbook sessions are dated. Unlike the laws of the Medes and the Persians, these dates may be altered to suit local conditions.

Something Special

And what about the under sixes?

Colville Crowe said feedback from teachers showed that three to five year olds need something special. They don't read. Some teachers worked on this challenge. They drafted

material which has become the program "God and me". This is designed to help littlies discover how they can relate to God in their own situation.

There is considerable amount of repetition. This is not because the teachers ran out of ideas but because it was recognised that young ones like a considerable amount of repetition which reinforces learning.

Another more traditional plan has also been included for the three to fives. Called "The Bible and Me", its sessions begin with Bible stories and explore these in ways little children enjoy.

An audio-cassette will be available in September to help teachers at this level think through the new program.

This plan includes leaflets for the three to fives to take home to their parents — something for them to share with their parents. These will be available for 10 out of the 20 lessons. Every lesson provides opportunities for things to be taken

• Continued on page 20

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Indonesia — Tiny church works on behalf of the Poor

The Christian Church in South Sulawesi has but 6,000 members in a predominantly Moslem community of 6 million. Despite its small size, it has taken the initiative to help the local community break the poverty cycle.

One immediate need was for training and assistance community development and financial management for church leaders. Funding was provided for staff training programs. The Director of the M.B.M. Foundation, the development arm of the Christian Protestant Church of Bali, has been able to help and advise the Sulawesi Church. Training at village level has also begun.

In order to help local people raise their living standard a revolving credit program provides loans for cows, ducks,

chickens, home industries, fruit trees and farm equipment. This provides a much-needed alternative to money-lenders, who charge up to 240% interest a year.

The supply of drinking water wells and sanitation facilities is another priority of the Sulawesi Church. There is now an experimental farm alongside the Church's Training and Conference Centre. Plans are under way for an access road and for a mobile health clinic to visit isolated and scattered villages.

Through these, and other, initiatives, a small church is hoping to have a big impact in years to come. Force Ten will support this work in October. For more information contact Force Ten at Box C199 Clarence Street P.O., Sydney 2000. Phone (02) 29.2215.

OLD

PINE RIVERS (John Bassett). We are pleased to be sharing an interim ministry with John & Hazel Bassett . . . The family teas being held once a month have proved to be very successful . . . The church family cricket match held on August 29 was well attended . . . Youth service led by pupils of Grace College. Over 200 attended . . . Sunday School anniversary June 21 . . . Shared in Bill Newman Crusade.

CALOUNDRA (J. Welden). At quarterly meeting unanimous vote to build. Any tradesperson

willing to help December/January contact George Haigh (071) 93.1063 . . . CWF hosted Country Rally at Camp Cal . . . Southern visitors appreciated. Grief at loss of Jim Hartnett . . . Church supplying Christian Blind Mission three Talking Book mailers & four tubes trachoma eye ointment . . . Board attended Kenmore College seminar "Prevention & Resolution of Conflict".

BURLEIGH HEADS (A.C. Cunningham). Church raising \$16,000 this year to support 11 missionaries . . . Now 54 children in Bible School under Superintendent Jan Murfet . . . Recent successful picnic & Bi-

What does death say?

— Graeme Batley (Samban, P.N.G.)

In 2 Samuel 12 we find the story of the babe that died because of David's sin. What therefore were Tomi and Garpo to think when their little baby girl died on the fourth day? Were they guilty of some sin that God was punishing them for?

Tomi and Garpo couldn't find such a sin even though others helped them search their lives. Nevertheless, they and their family felt it appropriate to publicly say sorry to God and to the other village people for what they might have done.

Later in the month a young teenager went diving in a waterhole to catch fish, and drowned. Before the influence of Christ here, the people would have sought to contact the spirit of the dead lad to find an

explanation behind the physical events. Now however, they agreed by consensus that his death was intended as a warning. Previously the teenager had been baptised and had received an obvious spiritual gift. However over the previous nine months he had led a lifestyle that would have put the prodigal son to shame. Surely then God does take notice of how we Christians live and whether we are using faithfully the spiritual gifts he has entrusted to us.

We missionaries find that these people are very profound thinkers, but because their background is so different to ours, their logic often has other starting points and reaches other conclusions.

Worldwide there are an estimated 20,000 Roman Catholic priests who have married, with or without church permission, and who would like to be officially allowed to resume their ministries.

The Church Missionary Society reports an increase in missionaries on the field after a period of decline between 1965 and 1980. At the moment there are more missionary volunteers than the Society can support.

ble School tea & service with many non-member parents present . . . Several KYB groups now operating mid-week . . . Planning commenced extend church building at cost \$90,000 under Conference ICA finance scheme.

Deviants from French Polynesian charismatic sects have announced that the end of the world is near. 10 of them have been charged in Papeete for burning at the stake 6 others in an outburst of mass hysteria.

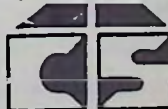
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Churches throughout China are waiting anxiously for an improved supply of Bibles when the Amity printing press will begin to deliver later this year. In addition to an order for 100,000 non-reference Chinese Union Version Bibles to be completed by the end of the year the Amity printing press has received another order for 100,000 copies of the Chinese Cross-Reference Bible.

Australian Catholics are being introduced to small groups with Renew, a group program for prayer growth, Bible study, daily witness, concern for justice, and mutual support.

As South American countries go, Uruguay is strongly secularised. Here Christmas is called "Family Week" and Easter "Tourist Week". Within the University, which has over 30,000 students, organised religious events are illegal.

South Australia's first ordained Aboriginal Anglican, Ken Hampton, died while awaiting a heart transplant. He is joint author of a forthcoming book, "Survival in our Own Land".

A Catholic priest who forgot his bathers and went "skinny dipping" on a secluded Queensland beach did not elude the

keen eye of the law. His Bishop decided to take no action and the people of his parish were supportive of him in his predicament with the law.

A leader in the Adelaide Advertiser commented that Catholics in S.A. outnumber Anglicans for the first time, and that this fact has not caused a sectarian outcry. The writer suggests the reason being internal pre-occupation of the churches with such things as authority, ordination of women, role of the clergy, liturgy and so on. Perhaps he has not heard that the Spirit of Christ is abroad and Christians are not fighting one another any more!

After the ordination of women debate a wag quipped, "It should be the C. of He. rather than the C. of E."

A joint mother-daughter ordination, thought to be a first in church history, took place in Fullerton, California, on June 28 when Elaine Schoepf, and her mother Gayle, were both ordained to the ministry during ceremonies at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The 1986 census in S.A. reveals that 29% of the population either put themselves down as no religion or did not answer the religious question.

19.87% are Catholics, 18% are Anglicans, 13% are Uniting Church and 5% are Lutherans.

Missionary Aviation Fellowship is celebrating its 40th anniversary. A Thanksgiving rally "MAF Flight Four Zero" is being held on October 23 at the Camberwell, Vic. Civic Centre at 8 p.m. The speaker will be Captain Gil Butler who has been for the past 4 years General Manager of MAF North Australia. Also a history of MAF written by former General Director Vic Ambrose is to be launched at this function.

Disciples of Christ in the US have been ordaining women to ministry since 1888 and now have about 720 women ministers. This is 12% of their clergy roll.

A speaker at a recent Full Gospel Business Men's luncheon asserted, "You can't have the abundant life God offers if you are sick!" How come he has not heard about people like Barry Farnsworth ("A.C." September 5).

The third "Psychiatry and Religion" Conference is being held at the Michael Chamberlin Lecture Theatre, St. Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne on October 23. Registration (including lunch) is \$30. Details from Dr Edmond

Chiu, Dept. of Psychiatry, St. Vincent's Hospital, Victoria Pde, Fitzroy 3065. Phone (03) 418 2830/33.

Speaking to the "Adelaide Advertiser" an Anglican priest said that the most painful experience of his ministry was seeing members of the church judge, condemn, and reject the church over what they saw as shortcomings in him their priest. Of course it couldn't happen in Churches of Christ where we accept the right of ministers to be as human as their flocks!!

The Demographic Year Book of the United Nations indicates that over 10 million Australians think of themselves as Christians. A good thing for ministers to keep in mind next time they preach to a sparse congregation!

Billy Graham's latest crusade was held in Finland. Attendances averaged 30,500 at each of the 6 crusade services. An average of 1,575 came forward at each service to make a commitment to Christ, a response that was totally unexpected by local crusade organisers.

The S.A. College of Advanced Education is offering a course for a Master of Education degree in Religious Education.

There is reported to be a serious rift in the Evangelical Church in Vietnam between the blind president Ong Van Huyen, who is said by some to have come under the control of authorities, and active pastors. It is feared that one of these, Dinh Thien Tu, may be excommunicated.

An inner city Derby Anglican parish is offering free wedding services to couples who have been living together for at least 6 months. In an attempt to reaffirm the value of marriage the parish is holding the wedding services on Oct. 10. The vicar said there was often a feeling, reinforced by royal weddings, that weddings cost a lot. This scheme was planned to remove obstacles to people who used cost as a reason for not getting married.

There are now over 500,000 Mozambicans who have fled across the borders to other countries in search of safety and the situation is deteriorating fast.

Vladimir Khailo, a leader of an unregistered Baptist congregation in the Soviet Union, has been allowed to emigrate from the Soviet Union with his wife and 11 members of his family. They arrived in the Netherlands on August 19.

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"Violence in the Family"

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"Violence in the Community"

Tuesday 27th October
7.30 - 9.30 p.m.

at the North Balwyn Church of
Christ

Arranged by Resource and Development Committee, C.W.F.

ANNUAL FETES

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TWO LOCATIONS, TWO DATES
TWO OPPORTUNITIES**

1. **Saturday, October 17th** — Nursing Home Wahgo Road, Murrumbidgee, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
2. **Saturday, November 7th** — Christian Guest Home and Emmaus to be held at Christian Guest Home, 139 Atherton Road, Oakleigh. 9.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. (Music by Salvation Army Band).

Locally organised under the auspices of the Women's Committee of Department of Community Care.

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SAUSAGE SIZZLE, JAMS, PICKLES, CLOTHING,
SUNDRY ITEMS, DEVONSHIRE TEAS**

THE WORSHIP CONFLICT

How sad that those who love God are often in conflict with one another about ways to worship him! So much so that different groups of Christians are questioning whether worship that is not according to their particular tastes, traditions or theologies, is worship at all.

Infinite Variety

There is an infinite variety of genuine worship. Quakers worship God in the silence, the Salvation Army with blare of brass and rhythm of drums. Some worship best with the pageantry and colour of high church liturgies. Some of us prefer quiet dignity and deep reverence in worship. Others of us prefer spontaneity, "praise", singing with a beat, clapping and stamping the feet and even dancing in the aisles. Others prefer something in between.

And who is to say that any one of these is not worship? Who is to say that any of these is either superior or inferior or worship? And who is to say that in a congregation where there is a variety of tastes that there cannot be Christian compromise? And who is to say that whatever our temperament and tastes that it is not possible to worship the living God in any of these ways or in any compromise between them?

What Worship Is

There would be no problem of conflict about worship if we really remembered what worship is. Conflict arises when we say such things as "I am not getting anything out of it," or "This sort of worship offends my tastes," or "It didn't move me," or "I didn't get fed," or "The music is wrong, or the president is no good, or the preacher is dry, or the service is dreary."

All of these common statements indicate a deep misunderstanding of what worship is. For worship has nothing to do with personal tastes and feelings, or our desires to be relaxed and quiet or to be stirred up to make spiritual "whoopie", or our particular tradition or theology of worship.

Worship is a corporate act in which a group of Christians offers to God in scripture, song, prayers and meditation, sacraments and exhortation, their whole selves, mind, feelings, will, life. Personal preferences, ego satisfaction, taste, desire to be entertained or uplifted or fed, have relatively little to do with it.

Voluntary and Involuntary Attention

Insistence on taste and preference, on desire for personal uplift and experience, or on desire to get something out of it, arise from a failure to understand the difference between voluntary and involuntary attention to worship.

Involuntary attention is where we respond automatically, without effort, to a stimulus. In worship an eloquent reader gets our response without effort, a dynamic sermon likewise. It is easy to pay attention in worship when we are being swept along through the stirring of emotions, either

of quietness or of fervour. The unusual, the spectacular, the eye-catching, the moving, all get from us involuntary or effortless attention. In involuntary worship we are not giving our attention to God, it is being drawn from us by what is happening. This is easy and often costless worship. It may even direct our attention to what is going on rather than to God.

Voluntary Attention

Voluntary attention in worship is willed attention. The type of service is unimportant to the attention process, because the worshipper is deliberately paying attention to God and all that the service is saying about God and offering to God.

Voluntary attention means that worshippers are aware of the words of hymns and their meaning, rather than the catchy or classical or jazzy tunes. They pay voluntary attention to God as they listen carefully to readings and prayers and are involved in communion meditation on the full meaning of bread and wine, rather than drifting and dreaming. Involuntary attention processes may be used to stimulate voluntary attention, but without voluntary attention that is deliberately directed towards God, true worship may not take place.

Priorities in Worship

As long as we give priority to personal tastes in worship, and getting something out of it, or having a particular sort of experience, there will be conflict about it. When we give priority to finding ways of encouraging the voluntary and willed attention of worshippers to God, we will be able to find a variety of ways of doing it that honour God and build up his church.

The New Testament gives no specific guidance concerning forms of worship. We only know that first century worship consisted of the celebration of the Lord's Supper, singing, prayers, the reading and exposition of the scriptures, and offerings. And there is an infinite variety of ways in which these elements can be imaginatively combined.

The New Testament principles of worship are "that everything be done decently and in order" and that "all be done to the Glory of God."

NORTHCOTE CHURCH OF CHRIST 84TH ANNIVERSARY

25th October 1987

11 a.m. service

Speaker: Clive L. Ward
Soloiste: Miss Sally Prince

All Welcome
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Phone (03) 489 8746

Obituaries limited to 100 words.

JONES, Arthur Stanley.

(7.9.87) Arthur Stanley Jones, husband of Jessie (dec.), father of Neil (dec.) and loved and respected member of the LaTrobe Terrace, Vic. church, passed away aged 88. During a lifetime of service for Christ and the Terrace church, he served as a deacon, elder, doorkeeper and in other capacities. In recent years he was best known for his regular visiting of sick and isolated church members, and continued this service till just a few days before his death. Even while holidaying in Southport on several occasions, he helped in visitation there. Arthur Jones was a Christian example to us all and will be missed by all who knew him.

— Ruth Carr

MACDONALD, Ann

On September 1 a large congregation assembled to express their thanks to God for the life and achievements of Ann MacDonald. Ann was baptised in the Ascot Vale, Vic. church at age 14 and thus began a life of splendid witness and service to Christ. This was expressed in her devotion both to her family and the church. The Hartwell church was fortunate to be the recipient of much of this service. A Sunday School teacher and superintendent, a "Lamp Mother", hospitality

— particularly to young people and student ministers, catering, hospital visiting, supplying goods for church fetes... these are some of the memories of Hartwell members of Ann. In summary she will be remembered as one who followed the example of Jesus when he took a basin and a towel. With her husband Lindsay, her children Jan and Ian, and sister Alma we join in thanking God for Ann.

— Graeme Rogerson

TREGLOAN, Arthur Richard

(21.8.87). Hamilton, N.S.W., church overflowed as family, friends and former workmates gathered in a moving tribute to a man who was loved and respected by all who knew him. Arthur became a Christian in his late teens; married Jean at Hamilton in 1941; served with the A.I.F. in New Guinea as a cooking instructor to the 27th Pacific Islands Regiment; became catering manager at a large Newcastle firm; retired in 1983 and became increasingly active in church life, as a thoughtful and caring elder. Arthur's love for the Lord was expressed in practical ways — he supported the ministry, worked at keeping the place of worship just that, led services with sincerity and prayed with simplicity and earnestness. His wife Jean, brother Bill (Adelaide), children Ken, Pam (Hallett) and Lindy (Whiteford) with their families are assured of our prayers.

— Bill Fleit

NSW

SALT ASH (Max Hall). Exciting growth under pastor Max Hall's leadership from February '87, now full-time... Praise expressed to the Lord & thanks to Warren McCullen donation & transport larger building... Fourth anniversary speaker Steve Downie... Ordination service Elders Cyril Threadgate, Bob Vautier; deacons Rex Gray, Michael Furey, Craig Leggett; deaconesses Ruth Baker, Rhonda Threadgate... Outreach '88 Bible Society Operation Good News. **MANNING VALLEY** (B. Rice). As a church meeting in a school auditorium the Manning Valley church took opportunity to celebrate Education Sunday with special services. Sunday morning saw almost 200 in attendance when David Burns, Principal, Johns River Public School, challenged members in their commitment to Christ, then in responsibilities towards children & involvement & support to the schools their children attend. Students from seven different local schools took responsibilities within the service.

WAGGA WAGGA (R. Whan, N. Williams). Max & Meryl Horton of Ambassadors for Christ conducted mission September 4-6. Attendances good with 180 present final Sunday evening... Special task force has been considering ways of meeting challenge with growing numbers of youth attending youth group Friday nights & Sunday evening services... Pastoral care team has commenced & youth advisory team has been reformed.

TWEED HEADS — COOLANGATTA Richard Oakes). New minister Richard Oakes with wife Janet & baby daughter Natalie settling in well after first six months of ministry... New Family Church format working well with several Sunday School families attending... Numbers in morning service greatly boosted by our 20-30 southern winter visitors... Highlights of last few months: Successful Friendship centre service with several contacts attending; Concert with gospel group "Endless Praise".

THORNLEIGH (Paul Burnham). PM service on August 30 was combined with Asquith at Thornleigh. Paul Sanders the

preacher... Group of 10 from Thornleigh were guests of Port Macquarie church Sept. 5 — 7 with some taking part in morning service on Sept. 7... at pm service on Sept. 7 three rededications & one decision... Over 70 shared in church camp at Galston Sept. 11 - 13. Lionel Berthelsen, Carlingford College, study group leader. Camp leaders were Rob Reeve & Ian Walker.

ALBURY (Rod Foster). Second morning service commenced July 26... Land suitable for future aged care projects vested with Churches of Christ Homes Dept... Church Growth seminar in Sydney well attended by members... Pastoral minister Allan Blyth achieves Moore College Preliminary Theological Certificate... Recent manse extensions now paid for... 70 attended church family camp. An enriching experience... Visit by "Cornerstone" singing group much appreciated.

EPPIING (Ron Hewitt). A Christian musical play, recently performed for the Sunday School anniversary, involved over 50 children (4 - 16 years) & a few adults. Entitled "Spindles and the Lamb", it compared the story of a lamb, shorn to provide a warm pullover, to the sacrifice of the Lamb of God... Both church soccer teams won through to their final matches; the first grade team won the grand final.

LISMORE Church saddened by death of our minister, Ed Morrison, after six years ministry... Ian Phillips has accepted invitation to minister at the

Lismore church in 1988... A very successful "Spring Fair" was held in the church grounds raising nearly \$2,000... All day prayer chain each Wednesday is continuing.

VIC

NUNAWADING (E. Keating, J. Wright, G. Harris, S. Ludgater, C. Bentley). Playgroup outreach dinners followed by discussions for parents... 240 attended six fellowship dinners held weekly... Surrey Rd. car park extended... Roy Pointer guest speaker... 80 attended HSC seminar & special evening service... Prayer groups held regularly... CWA average attendance this year over 50... Springfield Rd SS raised \$80 for homeless... Marge & Ted Keating on study tour in USA.

YORK ST., BALLARAT (R.A. Risson). Offering from gospel services supporting various missionary outreach projects... SS averaging attendance in mid 40s with about 65 regular attenders... La'el Music Company special guests at gospel service... Church anniversary held at School of Mines Old Gaol. Guest speaker Barry Jenkins, Ringwood. Friendship meals in homes after 5 pm service... Shekinah youth group held family bush dance... Church saddened by tragic death of Evan Murray.

Fr Peter Cross has been elected as the new President of the Victorian Council of Churches. Fr Cross is the first Roman Catholic to chair the VCC. The Catholic Church has been a member since 1979.

BARRIER REEF 20 DAYS

Come and spend some time along the Coast of Queensland. Motel accommodated, coach travel, includes all dinners, breakfasts, and most lunches. Departs Gold Coast 27th July - 24th August and 5th October 1988. No travelling on Sundays. Group bookings also available. Coach transfer from Sydney and Melbourne included. For further details contact Golden Travel — P.O. Box 6595, Gold Coast Mail Centre 4215. Phone (075) 32 8325.

A Dream Come True

Be assured, dreams do come true!

For several years now the Carlingford College, N.S.W. has dreamt of the time when it would have a full-time Field Education Director. That time has now come and the dream has been realised. It is with thanks to God that they announce the appointment of Tim Hanna to the faculty as from the beginning of 1989.



Tim Hanna

Tim's appointment will bring the number of full-time faculty to five. They will provide excellent Biblical and practical training for the 60 full-time students training for pastoral ministry (plus around 25 part-time students).

With his wife Chris and their six children (Joshua, 11; Tobin, 9; Jordan, 7; Bethany, 5; Asher, 4 and Eden, 1), Tim will come from eight years of successful pastoral ministry at Kalamunda, W.A. The church has seen substantial growth during their ministry.

Tim arrived in Adelaide from Belfast, Northern Ireland, with his family in 1962 at the age of nine. He matriculated from the Elizabeth High School and studied for an Economics Degree at Adelaide University until he entered College. He and Chris were married in 1972 and came to know the Lord in 1974. They became members of the Elizabeth church.

1977 saw Tim entering the College of the Bible, Glen Iris,

International Award to Girls' Brigaders

Recently at the South Australian 60th Jubilee church parade of Girls' Brigade held at Victor Harbor two girls from the 7th Adelaide — Aldgate Valley Brigade Company received the Queens Award — the highest honour possible in Girls' Brigade. The two were Caroline Norton and April Williams.

The awards were presented by the International President

where he was Student President in 1979. He graduated and was ordained in 1980. Tim showed his academic ability by graduating with an Honours Diploma in Ministry and subsequently completing a Bachelor of Theology degree through the Melbourne College of Divinity.

The position of Field Education Director is a responsible one. It will require Tim to lecture in practical church work; lead the Field Education classes; be responsible for the supervision program of all students; relate to ministers and church boards in matters concerning student ministries; take an active role in the Brotherhood through visitation and preaching; be involved in the regular assessment of students and student ministries.



Caroline Norton and April Williams

Elizabeth Nicoll, who is currently visiting Australia for the anniversary celebrations.

Both girls have been members of the 7th Adelaide — Aldgate Valley Brigade Company for 12 years and over a period of time have completed a comprehensive course of volunteer community service, specific tasks and examinations and undergone an in-depth interview by State Commissioners.

The Aldgate Valley church at

present has a Brigade Company of 45 girls ably led by Captain Hoyle. This brings to three the number of members who have been awarded the Queens Award with the first being Marjorie Oinn in 1980.

The Australian Bicentennial Authority is looking for Australians who will celebrate their 100th birthday during 1988 as they will be looking to make special presentations.

Put yourself in this programme.

Equip yourself to continue Christ's ministry to a changing world. The college offers YOU a programme that is based on God's Word, is relevant to contemporary society and human behaviour and fosters development of practical ministry skills.

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Telephone 630 7533



BIRTHS

BUTLER (SMITH) To Nicola and Mark (Belconnen, A.C.T.), a son, Daniel Glen, on September 16. Grandson for Beth and Graeme Butler, and Pam and Murray Smith. Great Grandson for Lesley and Gordon Stirling and Dot Butler. All delighted!

JONES (WARMBRUNN) Jenny and Ray are delighted to announce the arrival of a son, Daniel Mark, on Sept. 21. Both very well. Frances and Doug are the proud grandparents.

SILVER WEDDINGS

GOLDSWORTHY - KEMLO Jack and Dorothy Goldsworthy of Manning Village, Baxter announce with gratitude to God the 25th anniversary of their marriage performed by Rev. Gordon Kemlo at Methodist Church, South Melbourne on Sept. 29, 1962.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

RITCHIE (STEWART). Denzil and Dora give thanks to God for 50 wonderful years shared together in His love on the occasion of the anniversary of their wedding, celebrated on the 23rd October, 1937 in the Ivanhoe, Vic., Church of Christ, by the late T.H. Scambler. Present address — 5 Albert Street, Goodwood, S.A. 5034.

THOMAS — JUDD Rowland and Holley celebrate the 50th anniversary of their marriage on November 3rd, 1937. The ceremony was conducted in the Swan Hill Church of Christ by Harold C. Bischoff. To celebrate our Golden Wedding we give an open invitation to all friends to share a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon of music and song by Melbourne artists to be held at the Bendigo Church of Christ, Short St, at 2.45 p.m. on November 8. Please reply by Oct. 20 for afternoon tea catering to 6 Wallaby Ave, Kangaroo Flat 3555 or phone (054) 47 8980 (after 4 p.m.).

DEATHS

WRIGHT (Cockerell). (Late Greenways Village and Frankston church, formerly North Melbourne, Coburg and Cheltenham churches). Mavis, on Sept. 14, 1987. Loved wife of Roy (dec.), loving mother of Fay and Russell, Ron and Natalie. Grandma of Meryl, Glenda, Rodney and Nada, Sandra and Ron, Debbie, Jenni and Stephen, Great Grandma of Jodie, Toni, Donna, Miranda, Karah, Jason, Bronwyn and Nathan. Loving friend of Phil. "See you in the morning".

GEYER, Robert F. With deep affection and appreciation we will always remember "Bob" for sharing his love of the Lord with us. Prahran Youth Group of 1937. Keith & June Humphries, Tom & Wilma Small, Cath Maydon, Jean Hulme, Roy & Val Clarke, Bob Geake, Marg & Reg Braid.

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BALWYN

65th Church Anniversary

Sunday 11th October

Worship Service - 10 a.m.

Speaker

Alex Kenworthy

Followed by fellowship time with light refreshments

ABORIGINAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

The Federal Aborigines Board is seeking **pastors/ministers** for placement in churches around Australia and invite applications for commencement as soon as possible.

Experience and acceptance among aboriginal people is essential and the call and challenge to work in isolated areas is to be considered.

For further information please phone or write to:

The Executive Director,
Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Board,
P.O. Box 267, Mt. Lawley WA 6050.

PLEASE ADVISE CHANGES OF ADDRESS TO ENSURE CONTINUAL SUPPLY

OCTOBER — HAPPENING/TALENT QUEST

16 - 18th October, 1987

Speakers:

Bryan Greenwood: Director Walk Through The Bible Ministries

Peter Holley: Staff worker OAC Ministries in Victoria.

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433 Camberwell Rd, Camberwell, 3124.
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VISITORS CROWD SERVICES

Many holiday visitors support Bright church's witness by their presence and gifts. Department financial help undergirds Steve Mackie's new ministry. You can share too by sending a gift for this small church now.

DEPARTMENT OF MISSION,
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52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne, Vic. 3000.



"Tell It Like It Was"

— A Christmas Cantata

— David Kennedy and Noel Williams

Wagga Wagga, N.S.W. Civic Theatre will be the venue for a locally written and published Christmas Cantata. "Tell It Like It Was" — Christmas Cantata. The musical, written by local identities, David Kennedy and Noel Williams will be presented on December 20 in the form of an afternoon matinee and an evening program.

"Tell It Like It Was" — A Christmas Cantata is not the traditional Christmas musical. It has been the desire of both David and Noel through the musical composition and the narrative sections to capture the context of the world into which Jesus was born presenting it in a relevant and meaningful way. The words and music sections (except for an interlude of three well-known carols) have been written by the Chief Pharmacist of Wagga Base Hospital, and are totally original in composition and unique to the Cantata in setting atmosphere and context for the Christmas story. The narrative sections, written by the Church of Christ associate minister, sets the scene and communicates the Christmas story from a very different aspect to any known Christmas musical.

The thread that runs throughout the duration of the Cantata is a theme of a worldly war and invasion which is particularly pertinent in the light of recent international events and hostilities. This time it is God waging war on the world and the invasion begins in the birth of his son Jesus Christ. This divine invasion is not a war of force and hostility but of a love that is just "out of this world". See the cantata climax as Herod in a desperate attempt to block the invasion, endeavours to have the Christ-Child murdered.

The 11 original musical compositions have been written in a variety of rhythms and musical arrangements so as to appeal to a younger age level than the "traditional" Christ-

mas stories. For example, the electronic synthesiser will take a major part some sections; an 80 voice (hopefully) choir will provide the strength of the presentation; as well as a young people's mime and drama group to assist in the "visual, non verbal" display of the Cantata. Other instrumental backing will include piano, organ, violin, percussion, base, and synthesisers plus a variety of other instruments to form a small orchestra. The finale, "Praise To Your Name" will be distributed to all churches in the Wagga region so that the audience may participate fully in the fitting and unique climactic ending.

For further information contact David Kennedy on (069) 25.1652 or Noel Williams on (069) 25.2012.

State School Class in Church

Jane Dare is the teacher of grades 3 and 4 of the Rose Park Primary School. As part of the social studies program she decided to take the children for a half hour visit to the Gartrell Memorial Church, S.A., where Churches of Christ and Uniting Churches are in partnership.

Ted Bray, one of the ministry team, conducted them on their tour of the buildings. The children had been carefully trained to greet their host with "Good Morning, Mr Gray". But it came out mostly as "Good Morning, Uncle Ted", the name by which he is known at the church's Thursday Club, which many of the children attend.

The school party listened to the organ and inspected the furnishings, including the lectern, pulpit, communion table, choir stalls, font and baptistry (Gartrell has both). There was no shortage of questions.

Later in the week a letter of appreciation arrived at the church signed by 28 of the children.

Reach Out Now

Mrs Ruth Messer, one of the Christian Womens Conventions International panel of speakers, led the C.W.F. camp at Camp Waterman, September 11-13, at three studies on "God Reaching Out; Reach Out How; and Reach Out Now". This is the theme of the current Vic.-Tas. C.W.F. President Phyl Davis.

On the Friday evening many campers took part in a role play emphasising the plight of the homeless in the International year of the Homeless. We saw an "Estate Agent" (Joan Pye) at work, "squatters" (Warragul ladies), "homeless men" (Joan Pye and Margaret Hone) to name just a few. Lynette Leach led a panel on the statistics of homelessness.

On the Saturday morning many and varied questions were ably answered by a discussion panel led by Phyl Davis. The panel involved Dorothy Quantrelle, Lynette Leach, Ruth Messer and Francis Pitt. This was an enlightening time as each were honest in their answers.

A "Limber with Lois" session saw Lois Smith take us through many and various gentle movements to music. The concert on Saturday evening as always brought out the worst in us, or is that the best, as we relaxed and performed.

Maureen Jenkins, shared about her God, compared with some of the gods in the Indian religions, that she had heard about whilst a missionary in India.

President Phyl Davis led the communion service early on the Sunday morning. The Living Link offering raised \$284. Glenys Reaby and Sandra Gibson put the final touch to the theme and the weekend with a challenging duet.

85 women representing 23 churches were present for the camp.

— Jan Hutton

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"It's O.K. to say No"

The Pregnancy Action Centre in Ringwood, Vic., has been inundated with inquiries since launching its pro-chastity publicity campaign for teens.

The focus of the campaign is their 45-minute video, "It's O.K. to say No", designed for use in schools, church or community groups. "We took 40 inquiries on the first day after the publicity and sold 150 videos in 10 days", said Barry Kearney.

This three-part video was filmed by professional producer, David Jacobs. The sound track was put down at radio H.C.J.B.'s studios in Park Orchards. It includes discussion segments with teenagers followed by advice and information delivered uncritically by six medical experts. The third section presents positive alternatives for teenage relationships with further student participation. Continuity is provided by a commentary from Jenni Howell and contemporary rock music.

A feature of this production is a contribution from Professor David Penington, founding Chairman of the National AIDS

Taskforce, who discusses the AIDS threat and "safe-sex" controversy.

Further up to date information is presented by other medical specialists, on sexually transmitted diseases (S.T.D.'s) and the physical and emotional problems encountered by sexually active teenagers.

Already, P.A.C. has handled inquiries from five states and plans to market the video in New Zealand later this year, followed by U.S.A. and Great Britain in 1988.

The Pregnancy Action Centre began in 1984 as an independent, ecumenical, Christian organisation. Its full time social worker, medical advisors and 35 trained counsellors reach over 3,000 clients each year. They provide pregnancy counselling; pro-chastity relationship counselling for schools, youth groups and individuals, along with support for single mothers.

For further information contact the Pregnancy Action Centre, 16 Warrandyte Rd, Ringwood 3134. Phone (03) 870.7044.

Bible Words

David Lewis from South Australia has supplied us with a list of Bible words he has compiled. He had found a copy of a Teachers Edition Bible with an 1877 appendix which included a glossary of Bible words which gave the current meaning of many words in the King James Version which were either obsolete or had changed their

meaning over the centuries. This prompted him to compare these words with later versions. He found it interesting that some of the meanings given in 1877 have only now been used in the 1978 New International Version. Photocopies of the lists are available from our office on request. Write to "The Australian Christian", P.O. Box 101, Essendon North 3041 or phone on (03) 379.1219.

In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, a municipal council has told Christian, Buddhist and other religious groups meeting for worship in 46 houses and shops to leave them. The expulsion orders were suspended temporarily after the groups objected. The religious representatives said they would like to have separate buildings for worship, but the state has not allocated enough land for that purpose.

Investigations against Romanian Baptist pastor

News has reached Keston College from Romania that police have begun investigations against Dr Nicolae Gheorghita, senior pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Oradea. With congregations regularly between 2,500 and 3,000, and still growing, the church is one of the most active and successful in the country, and is reckoned to be the largest Baptist Church in Europe.

Action began during the week beginning August 17 with a surprise search of the Gheorghita's home, when police took away documents relating to the purchase of the house. Dr Gheorghita's wife, Cornelia, was then called in for questioning. Police were apparently looking for evidence of financial irregularity in the purchase.

Dr Gheorghita himself is currently on a visit abroad, and it is believed that this move by the authorities is intended to deter him from returning to the country. Other sources in Romania suggest that this may be an attempt to discredit him in advance of the delayed Baptist Union Congress, when Dr Gheorghita, a popular and widely respected pastor, is expected to be nominated for national office.

Oradea's Second Baptist Church and its two pastors have experienced difficulties with the Romanian authorities for several years. Dr Gheorghita and his co-pastor, Paul Negrut, were both ordained into the ministry at Oradea in

1982 without having been through the normal seminary training. It was three years before they were granted official recognition as pastors, and during this period they received numerous threats, including that of prosecution for "parasitism" (since they did not have recognised employment); for a time Dr Gheorghita was confined to his home town of Deva, more than 100 miles away, and not permitted to travel to Oradea to fulfil his pastoral duties. The church building is far too small for the congregation's present needs (it seats about 1,000), and the members have purchased land on which to erect a replacement building; local authorities have not, despite the official agreement under which the church purchased the new building plot, allowed them to proceed with rebuilding.

Are School Holidays that bad?

One of our readers has sent us his local church advertisement in the district free newspaper. The advertisement reports the suspension of Sunday School during the school holidays and follows it with the minister's Sunday sermon title. So the whole thing reads:

9.15 a.m.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL DURING HOLIDAYS

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Marriage and Fidelity

— Lewis Born

(A follow-up article from Dr Born's Guest Editorial, A.C. Sept. 19).

Adultery — Let's bring it back!

Not the practice — the concept. The term is almost gone. It's now "having an affair"; "went to bed"; "a fling"; "little bit on the side"; etc. The Bible calls it "adultery". (Ex. 20:14; Lev. 20:10ff). The Bible is still the basis for Christian vocabulary and behaviour. Legally it has well nigh disappeared — it is no longer a basis for divorce. Yet again the Bible and certainly Jesus regarded it as a most serious breach of the marriage bond. (Matt. 5:27-32).

The Melbourne woman

And so does the Melbourne woman. A "surprised" journalist ("Herald" 4.8.87) reports that Melbourne women regard fidelity as paramount in marriage, that 82% have never had an affair themselves and 84% have never or rarely even thought of having an affair. A little different image from that reflected by the T.V. soapies where every married woman seems sexually available. (A male chauvenist fantasy?). The media is the main contributor to the reduction of the status of "adultery". Mike

Yaconelli commenting on the Sexual Revolution quotes that "the average child by the time he or she is 15 has seen 9,000 scenes of people having sex, 94% of which are with someone other than their marriage partner.

A Teenage view

If some object to dealing with the subject in the church paper, don't be naive enough to think our children will be shocked. Their exposure is comprehensive and sophisticated. Many appear to have come to their own better conclusions. A surprising 98% of girls (14-19) interviewed in a Morgan Gallup Poll this year indicated their second highest value in marriage was fidelity (communication — 100%). A small minority of foolish women still make excuses for male "privilege" in being allowed to have "an occasional fling". Women's lib are right in most cases in claiming equality of opportunity and values; if it's O.K. for men, it's O.K. for women — no double standard. It was good to see 82% of modern Melbourne women agree.

On the point of fidelity one person recently commented "If a business executive cannot be trusted to keep the most significant relational contract in his life, how can he expect me to trust him in any business contract".

The Bible seems to agree. Marriage fidelity is the trust basis upon which a healthy society survives. Anything else is adultery.

As India struggles against its worst drought in 100 years, World Vision is appealing for emergency funds to instal water rigs. One of the major problems facing India in this drought is the lack of clean drinking water. World Vision India needs \$78,000 to instal the rigs which will provide drinking water on a permanent basis.

Is your Church Growing?



Dr Pointer, centre, talking about Church Growth

This was the thrust of the three-evenings seminar led by Dr Roy Pointer, Director, Church Growth Department, Bible Society, and author of the book "How Do Churches Grow". Around 60 from various denominations attended the lectures at the Belconnen, A.C.T. church.

The church was defined by Dr Pointer as "a community of people uniting together to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord".

He dealt with the mechanisms by which all aspects of church growth can be achieved, and the symptoms within the church and the community which impede church growth. The lectures were geared towards examining one's own situation in terms of the pluses and minuses in potential for growth, and how each individual can contribute to the spiritual growth of the church.

Even in Canberra's environment of the affluent and highly-

educated, says Dr Pointer, people move through "periods of receptivity".

The seminar was very worthwhile as a basis for working at church growth in Canberra.

Victorian Aboriginal news

Denis Atkinson was present at the Vic.-Tas. Aboriginal Committee's August meeting. His report told of some of the happenings at Moorooopna.

Two youth groups are operating and a camp is planned for early October. Also in October an evangelistic team with Terry Manton will be visiting the church.

A local District Co-operative has graciously been making its 25 seater bus available for church work.

If you and your church would like to know more on Aboriginal work in Australia, contact members of your state committee. Audio visuals and speakers are available.

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• From page 10.
home.

And how will the Sunday School and the rest of the church physically get together more?

In the past, combined worship services have been generally held on great days of the Christian year. These hopefully will still take place, but it will be left to local initiatives to draw up combined worship programs for these days. Four combined days are planned in to the new set up. These combined days are designed to be slotted in when most appropriate in the local church calendar.

Today's Issues

And what's happening with youth?

In one of its most radical moves, the Board has decided to scrap its present youth curriculum and "Youthleader" magazine. These will be replaced by a bi-monthly Christian youth magazine aimed at the 15+ market. Its theme is "being young and being Chris-

tian in Australia and New Zealand". It is being designed to deal with today's issues in today's language, not traditional churchy language. Each issue will have a leaders supplement with three main objectives:

- to help leaders use the magazine for study groups and fellowship programs;
- to guide leaders to resources;
- to help leaders in all aspects of youth ministry — camps, counselling, evangelism, community outreach . . .

A regional advisory board will be set up in each Australian state and New Zealand to help plan the new magazine. Members will be drawn from the partner churches.

Study of the Bible

The last area of Christian education we spoke about was the adult education area. The idea of a set curriculum has been abandoned in this sphere also. More and more churches are taking the ideas of Adult study and growth in spiritual-

ity more seriously. Conversion of the ideas into practice is not proving easy.

The "Kerygma" program started in the U.S.A. some years ago, was developed by the Canadian United church, and has been available through the Joint Board since 1979. It will be available in a new, revised form. Main aim of the course is to equip people with the biblical understanding basic for Christian living and sharing in the mission of Christ in today's world.

Local church people will be asked to make a solid commitment to study when taking up one of the "Kerygma" pro-

grams. Many new resources are being developed in the "Kerygma Program". They won't all be ready by the beginning of next year.

The resources for all the other board programs should be available by September.

While visiting America Constantin Khartchev, Soviet government minister responsible for religious affairs, said that in the past Soviet officials may have "set aside" Leninist principles in dealing with religion and not sufficiently understood "the necessary role of religion in society".

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MARRIAGE

• Maree Ljubenov to Stephen Francis, Salt Ash, N.S.W. • Kath Tipping to Keith Forster, Tootgarook, Vic. • Janice Pike to John Addicott, Nunawading, Vic. • Carol Symons to Greg McKenzie, York St, Ballarat, Vic. • Sheridan Cooke to John Thompson, Linda York to Ian Quinn, Epping, N.S.W.

DEATHS

• Gladwin Bird, Perth, W.A. • Bill Saunders, York St, Ballarat, Vic. • Frank Howard, Mrs Lottie Cross, Ormond, Vic. • Arthur S. Jones, LaTrobe Terr., Geelong, Vic. • Mrs Edna Greenway, Wagga Wagga, N.S.W. • Margaret Leach, Swan Hill, Vic. • Walter William Belot, Hurstbridge, Vic. • Dave Cressie, Fremantle, W.A. • Gordon Crisp, Launceston, Tas. • Evan Murray, York St, Ballarat, Vic. • Ed Morrison, Lismore.

Changes of Address

TWEED HEADS — COOLANGATTA: Secretary — Mrs Joan Thompson, 8 Dobby's Crescent, Terranora, N.S.W. 2486.

BELMONT: Minister — Bob Clymer, 123 Roslyn Rd, Belmont, Vic. 3216.

NORTHAM: Minister — Graham Butler, 94 Duke St, Northam, W.A. 6401. Phone (096) 22 1447.

KALAMUNDA: Minister — Tim Hanna Telecom Australia advise that a new phone number applies (09) 291 9121.

84th Church Anniversary NORTHCOTE, Vic.

Church of Christ
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11 a.m. Worship
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COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

invite you to the

1987

GRADUATION SERVICE

Friday 20th November, 1987 — 7.30 p.m.



Also graduating is Raoul Wittick
Blackman Hall, Hawthorn Institute of Education
442 Auburn Road, Hawthorn

Guest Speaker: Neil Gilmore, President
Federal Conference of Churches of
Christ in Australia

*Federal Conference Executive of Churches of Christ in
Australia will conduct the Ordination Service following
the Graduation Ceremony.*

WA

MANDURAH (R. Ryall). Fay Christensen (PNG) spoke August 9... Brian Ahearn welcomed by transfer... Church misses Belle Fenwick & Lillian Wasley, recently moved to C of C Homes... CWF donated further \$1,000 to church building fund... On August 16 four people told stories of OT characters, everybody helped fill up OT "library"... Local churches shared in OT Walk August 22... Celebration of church anniversary included worship, musical program & tea. Guest preacher G. Carslake.

PERTH (J. Sewell). Adrian Povey member of winning team in statewide chemistry competition... "Trusting Jesus" a Growing Together service proved helpful... Audiovisual of Walladge family's work at Banmatmat Bible College, Vanuatu, shown at tea meeting... On August 16 members gathered for morning tea to express appreciation of interim ministry of Keith & Robin Bowes... Jack Sewell commenced interim ministry September 6.

DIANELLA (Theo & Alison Mackaay). Elders seminar held at Dianella was well attended by members from all over the state... John Spencer was guest speaker on August 30. John & Heather were introduced to the members of Dianella at a morning tea after the service... Christian Welfare food parcel list was made up for the ensuing year & each family chose the items they would donate... Many attended Dr Roy Pointer seminar on Church Growth.

FREMANTLE (D. Good). We thank God for life of Dave Cressie, who for 40 years was a deacon of this church... COB student, Mike Esbensen, visited to preach & give information about new campus campaign... John Ingham (Christian Police Assoc.) & Barry Ryall (State Cricket chaplain) brought us news of their services in those avenues... 7 p.m. service times from October 4... 95th anniversary

November 1.

SA

BERRI (A. Chapple). August 25 annual meeting. W. Campbell retired as Elder after 12 years of faithful service. Cleve Brisbane elected as Elder... Allan Chapple accepted invitation to a further two years ministry... Church rejoiced with three baptisms. Rosalie & Trevor Chapple & Sharon Webber... Church camp to be held on October long-weekend at Mildura, the highlight being a trip on Mr Mansell's boat the "Impulse".

KENSINGTON PARK (Bert Coleman). Church responding well to new ministry... Friendship, voice production & walking groups are proving effective as means of outreach... New venture of providing monthly luncheons & fellowship for frail & elderly of the district has been very well received... Ladies Fellowship made many contacts with their fashion parade... Informal worship & children's program continues at 9.45 a.m. Sundays.

ALDGATE VALLEY/MT. BARKER (John Gilmore). The church continues to show spiritual growth with confessions of faith & commitments as the Spirit challenges through John's direct & thought-provoking messages... A highlight is the consolidation of the youth group & their participation in monthly evening youth services... Elders, deacons & members regard possibilities for the future, exciting — including Hostel for the Elderly opening nearby shortly.

HAPPY VALLEY (Russell Allison). Barry Pryor from Victor Harbor church guest speaker Aug. 30... 29 adults & children attended church camp at Longwood. Theme "Seeds & Storms — Time & Troubles"... Recent CWF meetings included Chinese cooking, fun & fitness night, speaker from ETSA talking about home safety... 200 enjoyed square dance raising \$620... Weekly craft nights to make goods for Rotary Fair.

BROOKLYN PARK (G. Shaw). Visitation team in training with minister... Elder G. Lampshire recovering after stroke... 80 attended small groups workshop led by minister & R. Peacock... Elders meeting weekly for prayer & pastoral concerns... Part-time office assistant to be appointed... Church camp held at Victor Harbor... John Hannaford, author of "Under a Southern Cross" challenged pm service.

VICTOR HARBOR (A. Clark). Evening services to commence at 5 pm during winter... Colin Stock from David House Fellowship spoke at CWF... Children & youth camp held at Pt Sturt campsite. Studies explored Lord's Prayer. Sat. night featured "formal" dinner with campers dressing in cardboard bow ties & bonnets, being served at tables by leaders. Musical items & poems were presented between courses... 120 shared lunch in homes of five members.

TAS

NUBEENA (Gordon Henderson). Visit from Lance Fisher who showed slides & spoke on Aborigines Mission. Russell

Clinton flew his plane over & landed on local Port Arthur airstrip... Mrs Maureen Priest welcomed home after spending holiday in South Africa with sons & families... Combined farewell held in Anglican Church, Koonya, for Dr & Mrs Phillip Thomson who have left district to take up private practice in Hobart.

LAUNCESTON (Gordon Stirling). Bronwyn Madder on furlough from the Philippines spoke at men's breakfast on Sept. 19 & presented audio-visual at 7 pm on Sept. 20... Seminar for small group leaders held on Sept. 19... Sympathy extended to Gwen Crisp & daughter Bronwyn Rogerson on death of Gordon Crisp... A great deal of serious sickness among members... Two decisions on Sept. 20... CWF participated in St John's Floral Festival over Sept. 18 - 20.

Hobart on Television

Sunday Worship, ABC TV, on October 18, commencing at 9 a.m. will feature the Collins Street, Hobart, Tas., church in a service of dedication for the contemporary Christian musical, "Somebody Please Make me Laugh" including excerpts from one of the performances.

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VIC

YORK ST, BALLARAT (R.A. Risson). Annual meeting held recently . . . Membership of church 215 . . . During past 12 months 12 additions by faith & baptism, 13 additions by transfer . . . Unanimous decision to appoint Robert Mason associate pastor from 1988 . . . Ian Creek appointed third Elder . . . 13 members of "Senders" leadership group attended a training & sharing camp at Hepburn Springs . . . Some Bible study groups have a pastoral carer attached.

ORMOND (G. Stibbe, P. Cannon). House groups proving helpful . . . Ladies joined men in continuous prayer chain . . . Ladies Fellowship visited Emmaus, provided entertainment, afternoon tea . . . Church camp Monbulk early October . . . Annual meeting July 12. John Kay elected Elder . . . Church saddened by the death of Frank Howard . . . Peter Cannon completed series "Sermons on the Mount" . . . Coffee & dessert evening most enjoyable . . . Good Companions participated in morning service.

SWAN HILL (L.J. Mayes). Church family saddened by passing of another loved mem-

ber, Margaret Leach, during August . . . Several referred to church following commitment at recent Bill Newman Echo Crusade . . . David Holt leading study on "Challenge of Christian Manhood" . . . Average communicants 110 for August . . . Six of our men attended Small Group Leadership Seminar in Melbourne during September.

TOOTGAROOK (M. Giezen-danner). Church celebrated wedding of Kath Tipping to Keith Forster at an afternoon tea & 60th anniversary of Thelma & Ivan Dickason with a dinner at church . . . Les & Flo Baker celebrated 50 years marriage . . . Reps from Dept. MED visited re commencing new work at Mornington . . . CWF held street stall for College. Successful birthday with speaker Phyl Davis . . . Ian Cartmel visiting speaker.

HURSTBRIDGE (Keith Lud-gater). Praise & sharing time held at the funeral of Walter Belot, foundation member & church Elder . . . Graham Cross elected President of Melbourne University Christian Union . . . Garage sale in church hall boosts finances . . . Sunday morning prayer time for church being held before

worship . . . Great week with Brian White (Dept. MED) as he ran sessions concerning relationships.

CHADSTONE (Peter Bradley). Family lunches with all members invited much appreciated . . . Informal fellowship Sunday evening meetings in church homes . . . Quiet time of prayer held in manse each Friday afternoon . . . Monthly bus trips proving successful . . . Recent speaker at Friendship Club was Mrs C. Shrimpton, officer for the aging from Waverley Council . . . Church expresses caring concern to Marg & Norm Pritchard on state of Norm's health.

YORK ST, BALLARAT (R.A. Risson). Working bee & "Driving of the peg" ceremony held to commemorate start of work on new chapel & integration of existing buildings . . . Youth leaders meet regularly with ministers to discuss planning, training & particular needs . . . Musical ministry extended: special musical & singing contributions mornings; brass, woodwind & string instruments playing increasing role in worship . . . Art 'N' Craft company have 40 members.

WEST PRESTON (Chris Field). Three teenage girls

baptised . . . Outings to Hanging Rock (youth), Tatra Hut (craft), Cuckoo Restaurant (church) enjoyed by all who attended . . . Sunday school sausage sizzle & fun afternoon . . . 22 attended combined service with North Fitzroy. Theme "Unity of all Christians" . . . Betty & Bill Nash while up north visited Leeanne & George Radford, missionary contacts . . . Church office & foyer refurbished.

SOUTH YARRA (A.B. Clark). Church enjoyed talk by Ern Sherman after holidaying in West . . . Prahran conducted evening service Sept. 13. Mr Clark preached . . . Ian Bunnett, Prahran, guest speaker Gospel Singers concert. Soloist Mrs Celia Whittle . . . Bible study happy under leadership of Warren Deitrich. At Sept. meeting of CWF officers elected. Next meeting Oct. 6 . . . Box in church for Christmas hamper . . . Prayer continues for Mrs Hilda Barbour.

A series of armed robberies and robbery attempts has plagued Baptist missionaries in Guatemala this year, apparently as a result of a local missionary directory falling into criminal hands.

42nd FEDERAL CONFERENCE

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA
JANUARY 16-22, 1989 — CANBERRA
THEME: GOD'S PEOPLE — GOD'S WORLD



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CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS SECRETARY: Bruce Kennedy, C/- 82 Limestone Ave., Ainslie, A.C.T., 2602. Phone (062) 48 6987

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THE LAST WORD

Entry Points for the Gospel

Last week I was among 120 who attended a Conference at Gilbulla, N.S.W., on "Entry Points for the Gospel". Those involved were representatives of the main-line churches, itinerant evangelists, parachurch ministries, theologians and mission strategists and the task they were called together for was to see if a strategy could be devised together to offer the Christian churches of Australia for thinking and action during the Bicentennial celebrations.

Some very interesting input material on a sociological examination of Australian society was provided by various experts. As well background reading of the stories of ministry groups that are seeking to share the gospel in a variety of situations around Australia was provided.

It was interesting to see the areas of growth in churches today. Some of these which were mentioned included new housing areas, ethnic congregations, charismatic churches and ministries to isolated and broken people. The development of bridges from the Christian community to various sub-groups in Australian society was also noted. In many of these cases these people are outside mainstream church life.

One sobering impression I gained was that for many involved in these ministries they found that local traditional churches were not the place where new converts could be nourished in their faith. Too often there was conflict of people who were just not accepted because they were different. It has generally meant that new churches have had to be formed to nurture these Christians. The damning comment made is that "The local church, more committed ap-

parently to maintenance than mission, is ageing, resistant to change and increasingly unattractive to a younger generation."

While it is obvious in some churches that this sort of comment is not true and they are in fact thriving and attracting a younger generation and those on the margins of our society, it does apply in many cases. A quick look at the statistics of many Churches of Christ will show that the majority are either stagnant or falling in membership. A quick examination of the social group within these churches will soon show that they are in many cases just not representative of the communities which they are trying to reach.

What are we going to do? There are going to be a variety of answers to this question. However unless local congregations start to look at their community and the ways that they can be involved in mission they are doomed for extinction eventually.

Being involved in an inner suburban church in Melbourne we are aware that unless we start to develop new ministries that relate to our community we will not survive. The Brunswick and Coburg churches are conducting through a task force a thorough examination of the community and the current local church and its strengths and weaknesses. We are hoping that the task force will come up with some options for mission for the future. If we are truly committed to sharing the Good News in this area of Melbourne it may mean that we have to radically change the way we operate and the style of our worship. If we do not face reality then there will be no Churches of Christ witness in this area.

Many have just enough faith to make them miserable, but not enough to make them hopeful.

A bishop was invited to the church fete, and the vicar talked to him about preaching. "Next Sunday I want to preach on humility. Can you recommend a good book on the subject?" The bishop pulled himself up to his full height. "There is only one," he replied, "and I wrote it".

★ EXECUTIVE — a man who has three hours for lunch without being missed.

From a Parish Magazine (so it must be true!): The best man ran into problems when he came to sign the marriage register in the vestry at Cawthorne, Yorkshire.

The pen wouldn't write, so the vicar offered some advice. "Put your weight on it," he said.

When he read the entry he was surprised to see: John Smith (10 stone 4lb).

★ OPTIMIST — a man who marries his secretary under the impression he can go on dictating to her.

"When you die, God takes care of you like your mother did when you were alive — only God doesn't yell at you all the time" (Steve K, age 8).

COMPROMISE — The art of dividing the cake so that everyone think's he's getting the biggest piece.



★ "WE'RE very firm with him, y'know — when he's naughty we take his paint brush away."



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