

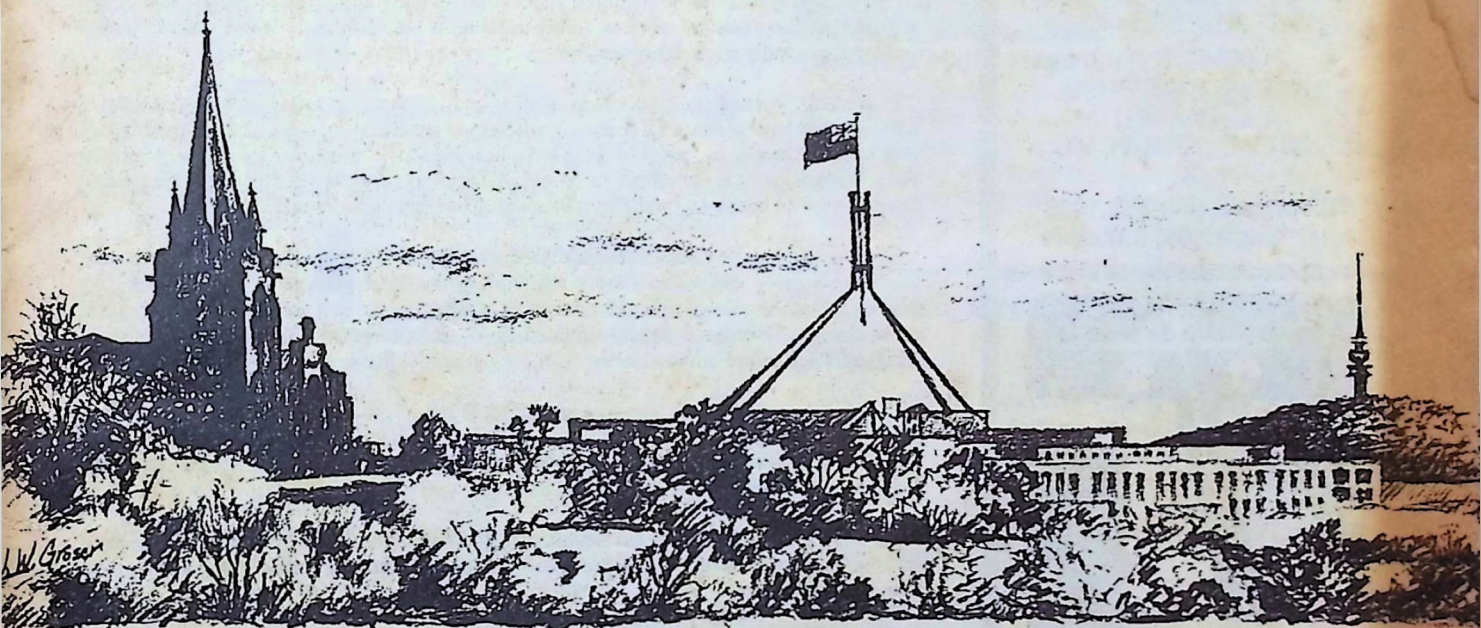
THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

Registered for Australia Post Publication No. VAR 0761

Volume 91, No. 12

July 23, 1988



GOD'S PEOPLE GOD'S WORLD

42nd Federal Conference

Canberra 15 - 21 January 1989

REGISTER NOW!

Registration Forms available from your Church Secretary or from
Rob Gibson,

Registration Officer, 42nd Federal Conference of Churches of Christ,
G.P.O. Box 2732, Canberra 2601.

Managing Editor:
CHRIS AMBROSE

ISSUE	DEADLINE
August 6	July 27
August 20	August 10
September 3	August 24

ADDRESS FOR ALL
CORRESPONDENCE
(Including all
subscription payments)
P.O. Box 101,
ESSENDON NORTH, VIC.,
3041
Telephone: (03) 379.1219
After hours: (03) 337.8349



National Logo of Churches of
Christ in Australia

"The Australian Christian" is published by the Board of Management of the Australian Christian, a Department of the Federal Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia.

Printing by New Lithographics (Vic.) Pty. Ltd, 63 Sunbury Cres, Surrey Hills, Vic. 3127.

Responsibility for electoral material is accepted by Chris Ambrose, 3 Hamlyn St, Essendon, Vic. 3040.

**ADVERTISING RATES
DISPLAYED**
\$4.20 per column centimetre
CLASSIFIEDS
25c each word
(Minimum charge \$8.00)

COMMENT



In praise of old ladies

—Muriel Porter

Statistics say that people over 60 are twice as likely to go to church as people under 25, and that women are twice as likely to be worshipping as men. Given the fact that ours is an ageing society, and that women traditionally outlive men, we can expect this trend to continue.

Although they are without doubt the church's most faithful supporters, we are disparaging about our old ladies. Their regular attendance is all too often seen as a sign of failure.

When a church is dying we say that the congregation is down to 'two old ladies'. But when we say a church is thriving, we usually mean it is full of the young and younger middle-aged, and that there are plenty of men.

Even in the 'thriving' churches, it is often the old ladies who remain the true backbone of the place. When it comes to a church's spiritual life they hardly miss a beat. They are the 'regulars' of the weekday services, rarely missing. If they are not in their usual place each Sunday it generally means they are sick.

In contrast, younger members tend to pick and choose, depending on what alternative activities they have planned. Of course, the oldies are generally not away in school holidays or over long weekends, and some of them have little else to do. However it is equally true that every attendance is a real effort for some of them. Waiting for a lift, negotiating steps, balancing hymn books and walking sticks—all these can be a struggle.

It is not just their persistence that is so praiseworthy. They have much to teach us as well. The church-going old ladies I know are among the most perceptive members of their congregations. Regular worshippers for most of their lives, they are quietly philosophical about change. They have usually summed up church personnel, privately, with stunning accuracy, long before other members of the congregation have got beyond introductions.

They are generally not the ones who fuss about liturgical innovation or alteration. Life is too short now, they leave that to the middle-aged! They remain loyal supporters in good times and bad. They remain even if half the church walks out in a rage, if the minister is less than inspiring, or the worship moribund. It seems the 'old ladies' will always be the last to leave.

For any minister who takes the trouble to get to know them properly, they can become a valuable barometer of how the rest of the congregation is feeling and reacting, of where the church's true priorities lie.

Their faith, and their faithfulness, is really a remarkable witness that the church has ignored for too long. The ladies I know have all borne sad and heavy crosses in their lives. They have witnessed world wars and depressions, and have buried parents, husbands, children, grandchildren. In the past they have known heartbreak, illness, hard times, marriage breakdown; now they endure loneliness, frailty and even neglect. But still they come, affirming a faith in the Risen Lord that has been tested in many fires.

Happy indeed is the church that cherishes them!

—This article was adapted from 'see', the journal of the Anglican Church in the Dioceses of Melbourne and Bendigo, No. 240 May 1988.

The Division of Men's Work for Churches of Christ in Queensland are running a men's camp at Camp Cal from 9-11 September. Study leader will be Alan Hermann. Contact Christopher Pohle, phone: (07) 205 7081.

The Vatican is in a financial crisis. It made a record loss of £32 million in 1986 and the 1987 shortfall is expected to exceed £40 million.

Of couples who are marrying for the first time in Australia, 26% are married in a civil ceremony, 30% in a Catholic church, 21% in an Anglican church and 9% in a Uniting Church. In relationships where one, or both, are divorced, 66% marry in a civil ceremony, 3% in a Catholic church, 7% in an Anglican church and 14% in a Uniting church.

The Ethiopian government has agreed to compensate the Lutheran World Federation for the loss of its radio station, Radio Voice of the Gospel, that was nationalised 11 years ago.

1987 saw the largest number of people baptised in the churches of the West German Baptist Union for 20 years. 2,120 were baptised.

Noarlunga Centre

The latest move at Noarlunga Centre, SA, has been the purchase and erection of a transportable building to house classes of the All Age Christian Education program. This has been made necessary because of the decision to change to two services on Sunday mornings. As the attendance approaches 300, taxing present

accommodation, the elders have decided to hold identical services at 9.15am and 11am, with a coffee break between.

The two-year Bethel course at teacher level has just concluded with about 30 completing the full program. Classes are being conducted by State Welfare Centre staff to train helpers in counsel-



New transportable classroom

ling for the local welfare program.

Basketball teams involve 65 people of all ages from 10 to adult and featured in an evening service. Work is nearly completed on car park facilities at a cost of \$45,000.

Retired ministers Ron Holmes and Claude Cunningham are assisting Associate Minister Ron Roberts in July during absence of Senior Minister Morrie Munyard on holiday.

—Ron Holmes

GROWING SPIRITUALLY

Growing Pains

Are you involved in your church's Christian education program and at the point of throwing your hands up in despair and muttering that there must be an easier way to go grey? Then read on!

My testimony—and it would be similar to that of many people—should be an encouragement to those working with children and young adults and, at times, feeling that the frustrations outnumber the joys. I praise God for every person (some names and faces by now forgotten) who crossed my path and left a little of themselves, their faith and their encouragement as I grew as a Christian.

Kalgoorlie was my 'home' church, and even that was because my mother's friend, Joan, as well as others, cared enough to take me to Sunday School.

How many times did those teachers and leaders wonder if they were wasting their time? From the kindergarten department to the youth class and then on to those unsung heroes, the youth leaders—how often were they discouraged as our attention wandered, we seemed disinterested and showed so little fruit from all their combined efforts and prayer?

Yet each one was instrumental in helping lay a solid foundation. Where would we be without those who share their love for God in practical situations within the church's life? How else would we grow towards spiritual maturity?

So if you are feeling a sense of frustration, wondering about the precious time you put into those programs where you seem to be seeing few results—take heart! My testimony is that the love of God was instilled in my heart through my church's program of nurture, through people who loved, cared, shared and so often went the second mile with young people who sometimes showed little appreciation.

"Don't despise your spiritual roots," a preacher said recently. Despise them? No, I praise God for them! And thank you, Kalgoorlie church, for helping me 'grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ'.

—K. Wray (Owen, SA)

Burnside Bicentennial Civic Service

Churches of Christ, in the major Adelaide eastern suburban Burnside City Council area, were among 30 congregations which joined in a Bicentennial Civic Service, on June 26, in the Chelsea Cinema at Marryatville.

It was a case of the church witnessing not only ecumenically, but in a place of secular entertainment—the church in the market place. The 90-minute service was sandwiched between screenings of "Crocodile Dundee II".

The Mayor of Burnside, Jean Wickham, traced the development of religious life in the district from its earliest days. She mentioned many of the churches individually and praised their contribution to community welfare. She made special reference to the Dulwich/Rose Park United Parish, saying it was a wonderful example of Christian unity. The Alexandra Homes, with which that parish has a close relationship, were also commended.

Roger Brown (Churches of Christ), who was chairman of the Burnside Inter-Church Council during the planning of the event, chose the subject 'Plan-

ning Our Future Together'. Peter Miller (Anglican), is the new chairman.

Service clubs of the district were represented, also councillors and MPs. Marryatville High School string orchestra and Seymour College madrigal choir gave fine musical support.

A group of young people led a contemporary song of unity. John Derrington, a teacher at Pembroke College and former league footballer, spoke on 'Hope for the Next Generation'. Other items included a sacred dance and a recessional movement of flags and banners.

A video link was provided to an overflow congregation in a neighbouring church. The \$1,000 cost was met by sponsorships from Eldercare Inc. and Friends Provident Life Office (\$300 each) and by donations.

Anchorman Peter Miller asked at the conclusion that the 700 present make their exit promptly "unless they wished to be part of Crocodile Dundee". The crowd of Paul Hogan's fans were waiting to file into the theatre.

A retiring offering of \$538 was received for the Ethiopian Famine Appeal.

—J. Ludbrook

Volunteers for Scripture Union



Ted and Rosemary Konig with Paul, Julia and Sarah

Have you ever considered taking six months off to do voluntary work? Ted and Rosemary Konig, of the Nunawading, Vic., church, have signed on as short-term missionaries with Scripture Union, Queensland. They expect to be based in Cairns, working with children's and family minis-

tries, from July to January. They are both school teachers.

The Konigs will have a camper-trailer as home for six months. Paul, 10, Julia, 8, and Sarah, 4, will study by correspondence. The family hope to visit Churches of Christ missions in Queensland.

—L.J. Gollan

Birthday celebrated

Older readers who knew her may have lost touch with Mrs Victoria Florence Foote (nee Hawkins) who recently celebrated her 90th birthday. She is currently resident in Imala Village in Pambula, N.S.W. Currently she is confined to a wheelchair following a stroke she suffered last year.

Mrs Foote held membership in the Mile End, Maylands,

Glenelg and Semaphore churches in South Australia and also the Mt. Evelyn and Ringwood churches in Victoria.

**PLEASE ADVISE
US OF ANY
CHANGE OF
ADDRESS**

VISITING CANBERRA?

Stay with a Church Family

A number of Canberra church families offer accommodation in their homes at basic bed and breakfast rates to help raise funds for "Home Mission" extensions in the ACT.

If you would like to enjoy friendly "one of the family" hospitality in Canberra write for particulars to:

Pat & Warwick Wright Barbara Kennedy

18 Kidston Cres., 6 Sharp Place,

CURTIN 2605 MELBA 2615

Phone (062)81.3085 Phone (062)58.1360

Advance bookings appreciated

Radio show for Jay Bacik



Radio and TV presenter Jay Bacik has taken over 2CH's popular Sunday night religious program. This follows the retirement of Rev. Roger Bush, who has been running the open line and interview show for 14 years.

Jay Bacik, senior pastor of the Northside Community Church, Crows Nest, NSW, has had a long association with 2CH. His highly motivational commentaries on better living are heard regularly on the station. Listeners will be able to contact Jay Bacik on the talk-back line. He will also interview guests in the studio during the three-hour program.

Speaking of religious radio, Jay commented, "People can say anonymously on radio the things they can't say to their friends and family for fear of being judged.

The church should be a place where people can admit frailties, and religious radio takes that spirit of Christianity into people's homes."

Jay has hosted programs for Christian Television on all commercial stations. Married, with three children, he runs a progressive ministry from a refurbished factory in Crows Nest. By combining three city churches, an exciting and contemporary church complex has been established.

Jay's ministry concentrates on contemporary music in worship and positive preaching. Specialist areas of ministry are singles, young adults and business people.

Jay Bacik will broadcast every Sunday night on 2CH from 9pm to midnight.

A community centre run by the London City Mission has been told that it is to lose £50,000 of funding because it has refused to employ practising homosexuals. The decision by the London borough of Lambeth, which was made after a long period of deliberation, now threatens other Christian workers in inner city areas who also take a moral stand against homosexual practice.

The Soviet Council on Religious Affairs has threatened a crack-down on a growing spiritual renewal movement in Latvia. A council directive has warned against participating in the Rebirth and Renewal Movement which is seeking to re-invigorate the state regulated Latvian Lutheran Church.

The infant mortality rate in Mozambique is 375 per 1,000.

A Federal Department of Women's Ministry

New Directions in Ministry to Women

The whole question of Christian ministry to women, and the future of such a ministry, has been one of the major concerns of the current Federal CWF Executive. Generally speaking, recent years have seen women's lives assume a changing pattern from education and paid employment to child-rearing, re-entry into the paid work force, or strong involvement in voluntary service outside the home, followed usually by a period of survival beyond the life span of the husband.

Concern for the future of ministry to women has prompted the Executive to propose the creation of a Federal Department of Women's Ministry. Many of the women of our churches will, by now, have heard of the proposal. Here are answers to some of the questions that you may ask.

Why create a Federal Department of Women's Ministry or a similarly-named organisation?

1. Decline in interest in Christian Women's Fellowship has been marked, particularly among younger women.

2. There is a lack of continuity from one federal administration to another, necessitating hours of unnecessary discussion and business.

3. CWF is really a separate organisation from Federal Conference and is not listed as a Department as such. A Federal Department of Women's Ministry would become a federal agency similar to the other Departments (of Christian Education, Home Evangelism etc).

4. A Department of Women's Ministry would provide a flexible structure that is adaptable to the present-day needs of women in our church and community.

Would CWF still operate?

It most certainly would. CWF would become one of a number of different women's groups under the umbrella organisation of the Department. CWF will continue to play a vital role in the life of many churches. The Federal Department would co-ordinate the current federal activities of women, such as world CWF matters and many matters of finance. Local state arrangements committees would plan the Federal Conference Women's Day and compile the women's publication.

What would a Federal Department of Women's Ministry actually do?

In addition to the matters mentioned above, it could:

—provide a point of focus for a wide variety of women's activities in the states and territories

(e.g., CWF, playgroups, Bible study and craft groups), offering information, literature and advice on organising women's activities. A Federal Department of Women's Ministry would provide leadership and direction for the changing nature of women's activities in our churches;

—seek to encourage all women to find fulfilment at the local church level;

—streamline the time-consuming nature of business in a constantly changing administration.

How will it be set up?

A Notice of Motion will be brought to Women's Conference, January 1989, in Canberra. The current Federal CWF Executive recommends the formation of a task force, elected at Conference 1989, to discuss the administration of the Department, which would report to Conference in 1991. The Department of Women's Ministry would also need to be accepted by our Federal Conference of Churches of Christ.

Location and funding?

It is envisaged that both the task force and the Department of Women's Ministry would be located in a central place with representatives from each state and territory. Your state or territory CWF Executive has more comprehensive background information on these proposals.

Fewer CWF groups, and the decline in local CWF membership, have meant that it is increasingly difficult for federal and state CWF Executives to finance their numerous commitments. A major reappraisal of CWF funding is urgently required. One of the important jobs of the task force would be to look into the question of finance.

Is the proposed Department really an insidious form of feminism to be imposed on the women of our churches?

This Department has not been proposed with the intention to dictate to any woman the role she should play in church life. The Federal Executive believes that it is the right of every woman to determine for herself the nature of

—Federal CWF Executive

her own Christian service.

Ministry to Women—Where to now?

The role of women, both in society and our churches, has changed dramatically in the last two decades. At the moment we are concentrating almost exclusively on Christian Women's Fellowship matters at the federal and state levels. Are we overlooking other valuable forms of Christian outreach and fellowship, particularly to younger women? What have we to offer to women who, for example, may be single, separated or divorced?

We urge the women of our churches to give these new proposals their prayerful consideration. We would welcome your thoughts on this change in direction, and would suggest you write to your state CWF Executive if you wish to contribute.

A peace pact signed last month, by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and Ugandan People's Democratic Army head Lieutenant-Colonel John Okello, has brought peace to northern Uganda, opening up the area for relief work. World Vision had been seeking ways to become involved in the north because of its underdevelopment. Tens of thousands of people are displaced in the region, living in makeshift camps after having survived the war.

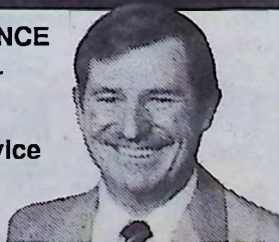
Larry Norman's 1972 release 'Only Visiting This Planet' was named the best contemporary Christian album of all time by a panel of writers, critics and others. Bob Dylan's 'Slow Train Coming' followed Norman's top-rated album, and was followed by Randy Stonehill's 'Welcome to Paradise', Michael Omatlan's 'White Horse' and Amy Grant's 'Age to Age'.

RECOMMEND THE CHRISTIAN

NEW HOPE
CAN BE YOURS
DIAL (03) 11610

FOR NEW HOLDEN & HONDA SEE MURRAY ECKERT

OVER 16 YEARS EXPERIENCE
as a master sales consultant.
Competitive Prices
in a competitive market.
**Guaranteeing Integrity, Service
and Sound Advice.**
Member of Blackwood
Church of Christ.



CALL IN OR PHONE MURRAY ON (08) 272 1600
FOR YOUR NEW OR QUALITY USED CAR

Claridge Holden & Honda
363 Unley Road, Malvern
Phone (08) 272 1600 A.H. (08) 278 4515

Dandenong's activities



The Bethel Bible Studies have been a highlight at Dandenong, Vic., this year. Over 15 people have gathered regularly and, under the leadership of our minister, Peter Pitts, are being led into a deeper understanding of the message of the Old Testament through these studies. Those involved have been blessed, challenged and encouraged by what they have learned.



The church has become involved in Operation Good

News, an interdenominational, bicentennial project that aims to train and motivate Christians to express love, and to witness, through the offering of a special New Testament to every Australian home.

The World Home Bible League and the Bible Society have made available special editions of the New Testament at a low price. Christians are encouraged to pass these on to their families, friends and neighbours.

Several members of our congregation have also completed training seminars and are now visiting homes in our immediate district. We are trusting the Lord for opportunities to share the gospel, knowing that we are to be his witnesses where we are.

With this in mind August has been set aside to present the missionary challenge in a specific way. We would like you to come and share with us in a special series of meetings at 10am and 6.30pm on Sundays. There will be special musical items, including our new church choir under the direction of Barbara Pitts.

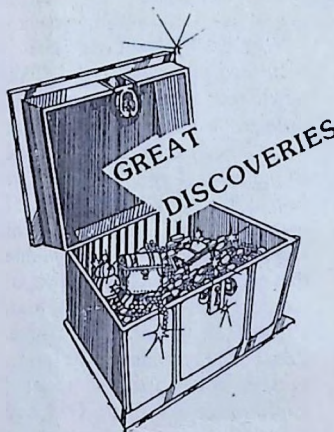
The missions represented will be the Slavic Gospel Association, Voice of the Gospel (Australia), our own Overseas Mission Board and Mobile Mission Maintenance. The final speaker will be Darryl Kernick, Australian Director of Wycliffe Bible Translators, who will present a challenge to service.

On September 11, at 10am, we will be holding our 96th anniversary service. This will be fol-



Church Logo

lowed by a luncheon meeting. There will be guest artists and a guest speaker.



Great Discoveries was the theme of the Upper Primary Children's Camp held at Camp Cal June 19-24. This camp was run by the Department of Church Development and Edu-

cation in Queensland. 85 children and 20 leaders shared in a most worthwhile camp. Jim Deutschmann was Camp Director and Sheryl Hoffman led the studies.

The emphasis each day was on discovering: each other; God in nature; Jesus; Jesus Way; and Life. Discovering God in nature proved to be the most exciting day as the campers spent seven hours in the bush. Each group made damper and cooked sausages over an open fire, as well as taking part in bushcraft, bushwalks and outdoor games.

On the last night of camp 23 children responded to the challenge to commit their lives to Christ. Most of these enrolled in our mail box club, giving us contact with them and their families.

Johann Gutenberg, the man who first printed books using movable type, printed (at least in part) 185 Bibles, of which 48 are known to survive. The price for a good Gutenberg has rather

risen since 1455, though: last October a Japanese bookseller bought one from Christie's auction house in New York for \$US5.39 million.

College of
the Bible

OFFERS YOU:
New inspiration and effectiveness in your Christian life.

**AND TRAINS
YOU FOR:**

Ordained Ministry

Youth Work

Churches of Christ Lay Ministry

in Australia
7 Elm Road,
Glen Iris, Vic 3146
Ph (03) 25 6541

Mission Work



**SWANSTON STREET
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Melbourne**
(Cnr Swanston & Lt.
Lonsdale Sts.)

Sunday

9.00 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Worship & Communion
Services

7.00 p.m.

Wednesday

1.15 p.m. to 1.45 p.m.

Gospel Celebration

Lunchtime Service

For further enquiries, please ring (03) 663 3884

US leader for evangelism lecture

'Fire From the Altar' will be the theme taken by Herb Miller for the L.P. and D. Warmbrunn Memorial Lectureship. The lectureship was established from a gift by Doug and Cliff Warmbrunn in memory of their parents. Mike Yaconelli, the distinguished youth consultant, writer and lecturer, gave the first lecture in 1986.

Herb Miller will deliver his lecture at 8pm on August 19 at the Nunawadling, Vic., church. The lecture is open to all and will be especially appropriate for ministers, students and church leaders. Churches are invited to bring a representative group.

Herb Miller is the Executive Director of the Disciples of Christ National Evangelistic Association. He was previously a regional minister to a group of Disciples Churches in Texas. Herb travels widely throughout the United States lecturing and leading various programs with an evangelism theme. He has produced many resources for ministers and churches and has written a number of books.

Following the lectures Herb



Herb Miller

Miller will lead a seminar on August 20 from 10am to 4.30pm at Nunawadling. The theme will be 'How to Build a Magnetic Church'. Inquiries may be made to the Department of Mission, Education and Development, which is sponsoring the visit in Victoria. The seminar is designed for all church leaders and others interested in the program. Registration forms are available. The seminar will be repeated in Sydney on August 27 at the Northside Community Church. New South Wales inquiries should be made to the Department of Church Development and Education.

Leadership Training Camp

Camp Cal, Qld, was the venue for a Leadership Training Camp June 24-26. 35 attended, coming from Dalby, Southport, Nerang, Toowoomba, Kingaroy, Nambour, Caboolture and Brisbane churches.

The timetable was tight and participants were kept busy. There was a wide range of electives which allowed people to specialise in areas of interest. These included Understanding

Children, Publicity, Programming, Counselling, Games, Discipline and Leading Studies.

As well as staff of the Department of Church Development and Education there was input by Di Todd, Scott Leonard (Drug Arm) and Mike Yaconelli (via video).

This was the first such camp to be run by the present staff. We have learned from it and see this as an expanding area of ministry.

Women in the church

Why should this be an issue for Federal Conference in 1989? There are, perhaps, many answers. Certainly, there will be many women at Federal Conference. Many churches have specially designated 'Women's Work' and this, too, is an important Federal Conference consideration.

Equally, some churches—perhaps an increasing proportion—don't have special 'Women's Work' and they may want to say why.

Also, in today's society, women fare disproportionately badly in most areas of economic, social and pastoral need. If the church is to put into practice what it says it believes, its ministry of care must take particular account of women and their needs and aspirations—both sacred and secular.

Finally, and for some most importantly, the question of 'Women in the church' is a question of equal participation in the structures of power, authority and standing within the life and work of the church.

In a recent "Australian Christian" (June 11), Pat Kerr, Federal President of the Christian Women's Fellowship of Churches of Christ, outlined the program for Women's Day, during Federal Conference in Canberra, January 18, 1989. She said that the evening session would involve a panel discussing the role of women in the church.

As an important input for that session, a randomly-selected sample of one quarter, about 120,



of our churches, in all states and territories, will shortly receive a questionnaire on women in the church.

The Federal Conference Arrangements Committee urges every church receiving the questionnaire to complete it and return it as soon as possible. The results will then be collated and presented to Federal Conference. The questions can all be answered in a few minutes.

Only by receiving all of the questionnaires back will it be possible to present a representative 'snapshot' of the extent of women's participation in leadership, ministry, worship and service within our Australian churches.

So, do complete the questionnaire if you receive it and do come to Federal Conference to add your voice to the discussion of this and other important issues.

For further information contact Kevin Bray on (062) 72 3447 (B) or (062) 51 2087 (H).

GOD AND THE WORLD

Sometimes I am overwhelmed, for . . .

The news of the world gives me the 'blues',
the local paper makes me feel depressed.
The news agencies stir my carnality
and television violates my morality.

Always I am thankful to God for . . .

His Word that transmits eternal hope,
His Church that reveals His loving care,
His Spirit who restores, renews and refreshes
and prayer that lifts my heart high.

—R. Hawkins

**CREATIVE CHURCH PROGRAMS: TELL OTHERS
ABOUT YOURS AT FEDERAL CONFERENCE**

L.M.C.T.
6549

Ken Geyer

SELECT USED CARS

49 Bond Street, Ringwood 3134

Telephone: (03) 879 4004

A.H.: (03) 722 1780.

**CONTACT KEN IF YOU ARE LOOKING
FOR A SECONDHAND CAR**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The Letters to the Editor limit is 200 words.

GOSPEL CELEBRATION
To the Editor,

Referring back to the debate over the Vic-Tas Conference Rally in May, we thought it was the best one we have attended. The whole program was well presented, relevant and a credit to the organisers, participants and the speaker, Ian Corlett.

We must look at the concept as a whole, and the future of the Churches of Christ movement. If we do that we will see it is obvious that we must direct our efforts into the next generations. If we 'oldies' want the church to grow we must show more tolerance towards the youth of today.

The future is in our hands. How

we handle it is critical to all of us.

—G.&R. Clarke
(Ringwood, Vic.)

**PUBLIC READING OF THE AV
IS TESTING GOD**

To the Editor,

I am disturbed when I hear people reading the Authorised Version in public worship. I think how obscure and unintelligible it is to others. Why would people want to make it hard for others to understand God's word? By overlooking better translations they put an unnecessary barrier in the way of people's understanding.

The New Testament writers wrote in the common street dialect of Greek. On the day of Pentecost God performed a miracle so that all heard in their own language. Yet, today some will want

to use language from over 350 years ago.

There is a myth that the King James Version was a perfect translation. Dr John Thompson, one of Australia's outstanding scholars, wrote in Wycliffe Bible Translators' "Beyond Words":

"The translators of the King James Version in 1611 lacked a great deal of the information that is available to scholars today. As a result their translation of the Bible was sometimes only a shrewd guess which was not always accurate."

Languages change. When the AV was translated, 'let' could mean to prevent or hinder. Today it means the opposite! Thus the AV of Romans 1:13 today conveys the opposite meaning to that

intended.

Don't put a barrier in the way of people understanding God's word. Read from a modern version such as NIV or TEV.

—Bruce Anderson
(Mt Gambier)

(Letter edited to 200 word limit.—Editor)

CHRISTIANS AND ZIONISM

To the Editor,

In my letter in the July 9 issue the third sentence in the first paragraph should read: "Political Palestine, under the leadership of Yasser Arafat, has vowed to drive the Israelis into the sea." Thank you that you raised a query about its meaning by printing the question mark following this sentence.

—G.L. Butler
(Bruce Rock, W.A.)

Mutual Ministry

—W.A. Mortensen

**Hon. Administrator
Kenmore Christian College**

It is the perception of some Christians that there are a special few who receive a call from God to train for ministry. To these will be given the responsibilities and accolades associated with full-time service for the Lord; to those who sit facing the pulpit every Sunday, part-time service, seemingly, must suffice as their contribution to the work of the Kingdom of God. But such is not the case.

The New Testament does not recognise that ministerial functions rate higher on a spiritual scale than does the diligence of Christians who work in other occupations. Irrespective of whether our employment is with a congregation or church body, the home or the school, the public or private sector, our Christian vocation requires that God must be served faithfully and fully.

Daniel, an Old Testament hero, was a man "highly esteemed" both by God and his employer because of his faithfulness to both. As a result of circumstances beyond his control, he was forcibly transported to Babylon, where he continued to serve God in a hostile environment. Daniel's devotion to the Lord, and commitment to

his work as a senior public servant in a foreign country, resulted in the king acknowledging "God, whom you constantly serve". What a witness!

God works in mysterious ways to place the right person in the right place at the right time for His purpose to be achieved. For most of us our full-time service will be to participate in the mutual ministry of our congregation using our talents and skills to build up the 'Body of Christ' and to exemplify Him in our occupation at work. But it will be work of God's choosing.

For their part, those enrolled at Kenmore as students of the Word of God are being trained so that they in their turn may equip the ministers who sit in the pews... those who, through their different callings undertake a unique task for the Lord. May God bless us all in our vocations in Christ, that we will be as faithful as Daniel.

**IS YOUR
MINISTER GOING
TO THE FEDERAL
MINISTER'S
SEMINAR**

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

No-one wants war

To the Editor,

George and Cathy are just back from a round the world trip including the USA and the USSR. We saw their slides. They certainly got off the beaten tourist track and met the people. Their comment was that wherever they went the people wanted peace and nobody wanted war.

That stayed in my mind. If no-one wants war, why are the nations so energetically preparing for it?

I could only come to the conclusion that while no-one wants war, we all want the things that we can't have without war. For instance, we want security for ourselves and our families even if that puts at risk the security of other people and their families.

And we don't want our standard of living messed about with, even if our high standard automatically means lower standards for millions of others in the world.

And while we believe that Christ's way of peace is best and that the Lord will look after any nations that follow it, we would just as soon see our nation armed to the teeth, in case the Lord doesn't.

So we have the queer idea that to bring peace to the world we have to prepare for war. It's a bit like teaching a boy how to use a jemmy and crack a safe, to keep him honest.

I wonder if perhaps the best way to work for peace is to identify in ourselves the sort of thoughts and behaviour that cause wars and to want peace more than we want these things!

Yours hopefully,
—TERTIUS

Biblical Authority

As Gordon Stirling points out in the Pamphlet in this issue of "The Australian Christian" one of the pleas of our movement has been the reliance on the Bible as our only rule of faith and practice. An examination of our history shows that there were major debates about certain practices and methods of operation because these were not mentioned in the Bible. In the United States our sister movement eventually split over some of these issues.

I suspect that today we would not have these debates. Why not? This state of affairs has come about partly due to many of the battles having been fought. There is also the factor that we do not seem to have the passion for such disputes today. I also suspect that many in our churches are unaware of what the Bible does say.

If we are concerned about how we relate to each other and to the world then I would argue that we should go to the textbook that God has given to us. Paul's attitude is well expressed in the charge he made to Timothy: "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:14-17 NIV).

As Christians we argue that God has revealed himself in several ways. The most significant method of his revelation was the advent of his son, Jesus the Christ, here on earth. Unfortunately for us that event occurred almost 2,000 years ago and thus we are unable to personally hear and see him. However we do have the record of eye-witnesses and other who were concerned to share what they had experienced and heard about. They were concerned, as Luke states: "so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." (Luke 1:4).

Given that today we see the fullest expression of God revealing himself in the Bible then how do we use this revelation to help us live our lives. The first step is to actually read it. Remember that

the Bible is a translation from some very old languages. We therefore need to use a translation that is understandable to the reader. Allied with this is the need to understand some of the cultural settings that the God inspired writers were familiar with. The type of government structures and social conditions of the various eras of the Bible are unfamiliar to us in Australia today. Remember the Bible itself covers a basic time period of over 1,500 years and even acknowledges itself that certain practices that occurred early on would not be tolerated later because of the new understanding God had given to his people over a period of time.

Another factor that must be acknowledged when we read the Bible is that it is a collection of various styles of literature. The way we use and understand different literary styles will affect the way we learn from the Bible. A bald historical statement is treated in a different way from a poetical description of the way that God protects his people.

In many areas the type of action and thought pattern that a follower of Jesus Christ should follow are very plain. The New Testament is the main area that we need to look to for our understanding of the Christian life. This is primarily because, with the coming of Jesus and his sacrifice on our behalf, we have come into a new relationship (covenant) with God and the conditions and expectations of this agreement are set out in the New Testament. The Old Testament contains the ways the old covenant worked and has been replaced by this new covenant. However the new covenant is based on the failings and the advantages of the old covenant. For many of the issues that face us today it is difficult to find them specifically mentioned in the Bible. However we are given a

Open letter to Churches of Christ in Australia

The bicentenary of white settlement in Australia poses us, as Christians, with a dilemma: to respond to the call to 'The Celebration of a Nation' or to heed the voice of Aboriginal Australians to observe a year of mourning.

To find the appropriate stance is not easy. However, the Lord's Supper does offer us a model. At the Table we celebrate, but our celebration of life is always tempered by the fact that life for us meant death for our Lord. Thus, if we are to heed Paul's warning regarding 'eating and drinking unworthily' and 'not discerning the Lord's body', we come to the Table with penitence as we recall that our sin was such as to extract that awesome sacrifice.

The parallels to the bicentennial observance are plain. Australia does have much to celebrate, but those very things that we do celebrate extracted awesome sacrifice from Aboriginal people. So much of our good life meant death to them; our wealth, their poverty.

If the parallels are helpful the divergence is, perhaps, more striking. Our Lord went willingly to the cross. No Aborigine willingly surrendered life and land for white occupation.

Both parallels and divergence suggest that the appropriate stance for us is that of penitence accompanied by a commitment and a determination to see that human rights abuses shall be eradicated from our society so that all people shall have equal opportunity in Australia.

Can I suggest that we in Churches of Christ in Australia live this year in a spirit of penitence and commitment; that we make National Aborigines Day (September 9) a day of special observance on which we commit ourselves to prayer and action to eliminate discrimination from our society?

The year 2001 will be the centenary of Federation in Australia. That is 13 years away—far too distant, but at least it offers a target date by which to see a just, humane and sustainable society for all Australians. To achieve such a society will require great energy, effort and will to overcome many entrenched attitudes. Let Churches of Christ be in the vanguard of the struggle—never let it be said that we were in the rearguard.

—Neil Gilmore

Federal Conference President

pattern of thinking and general rules that we should be applying to all situations we face.

Thus the Bible becomes the handbook for the way we, as Christians, live. The only danger we then face is that we read it with our own understanding and be-

come blinkered to all but one view. We face the danger of replacing obedience to God with obedience to the Bible. We need to be open to God using his Spirit to shake up our understanding of him that may just be a reflection of cultural values we unwittingly have absorbed.

Les Lawlor says ...

I stand behind every Lawlor Pest Control job personally — all types of buildings — anywhere. Everything unconditionally guaranteed! Weeds — birds on roofs — Argentine and all other ants — "White Ants" — Borers — Carpet Pests — Lawn Pests, in fact, any pest that grows, walks or flies.

LAWLORS PTY. LTD.

THE PEST CONTROL PEOPLE

6-10 Henley St., Torrensville

Phone (08) 43 9636



BOOKS

CELEBRATION New Testament

(World Home Bible League) \$1.50



This is a newsprint style paperback edition of the **New International Version of the New Testament**. It also includes some passages from **Genesis, Exodus (the Ten Commandments)** and **Psalms**, as well as photographs and scripture helps.

The introduction to each book and the division of chapters by the use of sub-headings is reminiscent of the style of the **Good News Bible**.

Celebration has been produced to provide an inexpensive, readable New Testament for mass distribution. The carton price is cheaper than that for individual copies. The various covers are lively and colourful.

WHBL can be contacted on (02) 673 3206 or (02) 673 3207.

—J.T.

THE LETTER OF JAMES

An Introduction and Commentary

by Douglas J. Moo (Inter-Varsity Press) \$10.95.

The Tyndale New Testament Commentary series is gradually being up-graded. The commentaries are designed for the average church member and not particularly for the academic theologian. They are slightly concentrated in their scholarship and are thus a little heavy for some Christians.

The style of the series is for each author to look concisely at such questions as authorship, dating, nature of the material and some of the theological emphases of each New Testament book. This is followed by a section by section examination of the biblical text which draws out the main themes of each section. As well problems of interpretation of each verse are dealt with.

The replacement volume was first published in 1985. It is an excellent addition to the series which is complete but with continual replacement of ageing volumes. Douglas Moo closely examines who James the author is and concludes that, "the epistle contains nothing that James, the Lord's brother, could not have written."

—C.R.A.

THE SECRET WAR OF CHARLES FRASER-SMITH

by Charles Fraser-Smith (The Paternoster Press)

What do a former farm manager for the Moroccan royal family, garlic impregnated chocolate, flea powder, hollowed-out shaving brushes and

Nestlé's condensed milk have to do with World War Two?

This book will tell you. For those interested in the little things of life, the behind-the-scenes activities and events, especially for those with some interest in WWII, this book will provide some interesting personal snippets. It is not a fast, action war/spy novel. It tells of some of the activities and gadgets that were part of the inspiration behind Fleming's James Bond series, but told in a more realistic and subdued way. These gadgets and requirements enabled some of the Allied spies and undercover agents, as well as some national underground agents, to function more effectively in bringing the war to a speedier end.

This is not a book about the big heroes or action of the war as reported in some books and movies. The author describes his own experiences in trying to secretly assist those whose wartime missions were secret. He shares the value, for the soldiers in the field, of combining toothpaste tubes and condensed milk, and many other little things that made a big difference for those facing the horrors and hardship of the front line action of the war.

The author, a Christian and member of the Brethren churches, briefly raises, but does not discuss or answer, the question of a Christian involved in deception. Charles Fraser-Smith sincerely believes that his wartime deceptions were necessary and justified, knowing that because of them some lives were spared.

—W.A. van Leen

WHEN WILL I STOP HURTING?

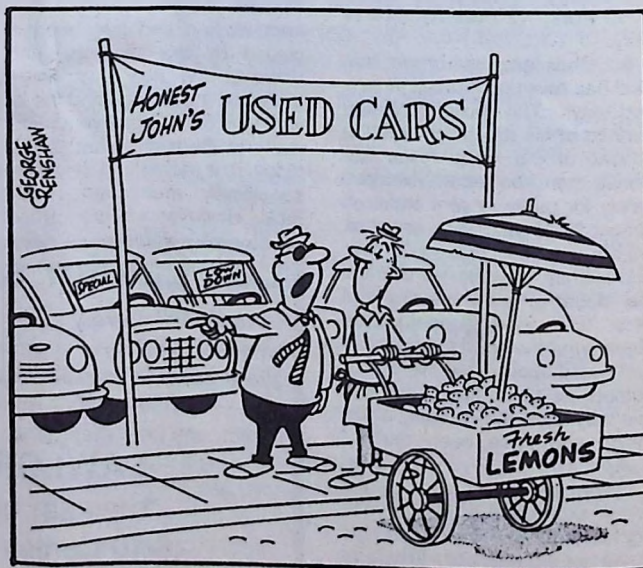
by June Cerza Kolf (Baker Book House)

Almost all of us, if not all, experience very serious loss and hurt during our lifetime. However, most losses and traumas can be coped with by patience and application of guidelines and advice, even counselling, concerning the problem. But the most serious loss, and the most difficult to deal with, is the loss of a loved one through death. Whether the death comes suddenly as in an accident, or after a protracted period of suffering, makes little difference to the end result for those who mourn, or to the effect that the death has upon them.

Most other losses result in disappointment, unhappiness, annoyance, even sadness, but the loss of a loved one, whilst causing some, or even all, of these emotions, also results in the experience of grief. Sometimes, those who are involved in grief tend to feel that such emotions are not normal, but of course nothing could be further from the truth. But at such times as these we need to be reassured as we travel the road back to purposeful and meaningful living.

This book is intended simply to provide helpful advice to those who are grieving, rather than to give instructions. It contains positive quotes, suggestions and testimonies, along with appropriate scriptural references. It would be an ideal gift of love for a friend or relative who has recently suffered loss. I can recommend it.

—Paul Payne



"NEVER MIND WHY. JUST GET THAT CART AWAY FROM HERE!"

WORD bookstore

Books • Bibles • Records • Cassettes • Music • Gifts
Discount Prices, Mail & Phone orders welcome, Credit cards accepted.

Christian Video Library
Movies for Youth, Children, General audiences. Studies by top speakers.

18-25 Canterbury Rd, Heathmont, Vic. 3721 3777
200 Huntingdale Road, East Oakleigh, Vic. 544 5844
65 Grenfell Street, Adelaide, S.A. 221 4249
2422 Logan Rd, Eight Mile Plains, Qld. 341 8500

Billy Graham in the Soviet Union

Billy Graham took part in the Soviet Union observance of the 1,000th anniversary of Christianity in that land from June 8-17.

He addressed audiences of top Russian Orthodox Church clergy, religious leaders from around the world, ranking government figures, and others at the main Orthodox jubilee observances at the Bolshoi theatre in Moscow and the Shevchenko theatre in Kiev. This was the first time in decades that major religious events were permitted to be held off church premises.

The evangelist also preached to overflow crowds at Baptist and Orthodox churches in both cities. At St Vladimir Cathedral in Kiev, a crowd estimated at between 12,000 and 15,000 heard him—his largest audience in the Soviet Union during three preaching

visits (the others were in 1982 and 1984). This was apparently the first time large loudspeakers were allowed outdoors for religious purposes since communists came to power.

Graham also met privately with key Soviet officials to discuss, among other topics, changes in church and state relationships under the new government policies of 'perestroika' (restructuring) and 'glasnost' (openness), and he heard for the first time candid acknowledgements that the state was "wrong" in some of its past dealings with the church.

The celebration, which brought together perhaps the largest group of heads of religious bodies ever, received heavy coverage by Soviet television and the press, another first for Soviet churches.

Filipino Christian fasts for justice

Noel Villalba is the co-ordinator of the Asian Committee for People's Organisation (ACPO), a joint project of the Federation of Asian Bishops and the Christian Conference of Asia. He was arrested, without a warrant, in the early morning on June 27. Subsequently, he claims, he was tor-

tured and "forced to falsely incriminate myself and others".

The military have alleged that Villalba is a member of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), and that he has 'confessed' that a National Council of Churches of the Philippines (NCCP) official is helping the CPP 'launder' funds it receives from foreign supporters.

Bishop Labayan and Bishop Longid of ACPO have issued a statement, giving details of Villalba's torture and calling for his release from detention.

On July 12 Noel Villalba wrote a letter declaring his intention to fast whilst in detention. If his demands are not met after three days he says he will observe a total fast—no food or water.

His demands, in part, are that his arresters admit that he was arrested without seeing a warrant and that he was tortured and forced to falsely incriminate himself and others.

The tragedy of the Middle East



The war in Lebanon has devastated Beirut

Harold Henderson, executive director of World Vision, recently visited the Middle East. He is concerned by how far the situation has deteriorated in just six months. In Lebanon, Henderson visited the Green Line district, the no-man's land that divides the Lebanese capital—the Christian sector from the Muslim sector. It was dangerous to walk around the area. The place was littered with bombed-out buildings and vehicles.

Father Paul Mattar, the principal of one of the oldest, largest schools in Lebanon, commented, "During the war we had problems because the Muslims tried to seize power. Christians tried to resist, not wanting to give up the freedom of belief. Now we all realise that we must live together again, as we have—although not without problems—since the seventh century."

Father Paul said that the Palestinian presence, the Syrian in-

tervention, the Iranian involvement and the Israeli/Arab conflict have hindered the achievement of a pluralist society with freedom and equality among all Lebanese citizens.

World Vision has about 70 projects in Lebanon. They focus on education, care of the handicapped, medical supplies, vocational training for income generation and small-scale agricultural development.

FRANKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST



GREENWAYS RETIREMENT VILLAGE
330-356 FRANKSTON-DANDENONG ROAD,
SEAFORD 3198

1 & 2 BR Villas
Motel type Hostel Suites
PHONE (03) 786.8679
Waiting List Now Open

BICHENO, TASMANIA Seaview Camp

Units for hire
Powered sites
Group camping
Tennis court
An area of great scenic attraction

Manager:

Phone: (003) 75 1247

Department of Mission,
Education and
Development — Vic.-Tas.

Zambia's Catholic bishops, members of the Zambia Christian Council and the Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia have urged the government to curb abortions among women suspected of having the AIDS virus because "the unborn child is as much a human being as it will be after birth."

A Romanian Baptist being detained in a psychiatric hospital has failed in his attempt to gain release from detention. According to Keston College, at a hearing held in June a petition for the release of believer Nestor Popescu was submitted. The hospital, and Popescu's lawyer, provided medical evidence in favour of release. The judge said she accepted the arguments put forward. The verdict, that he should not be released, came as a surprise to those who witnessed the proceedings.

Russian Orthodox Christian Vasilii Shipilov was released from a Moscow psychiatric hospital in June. Aged 66, Shipilov has spent decades in Soviet prisons, camps and psychiatric hospitals since his arrest in 1939. Shipilov has expressed his desire to spend the remainder of his life quietly in an Orthodox monastery in the West. He has now left the Soviet Union.

The Mozambican government announced in June that churches, pastors' residences and other religious properties seized after independence in 1975 are to be returned. Some overzealous local officials illegally seized churches and other religious buildings in the years following independence. The move to return the buildings is the latest in a series of moves, praised by church leaders, for greater religious freedom in this southern African nation.

2 Japanese church bodies have taken action on the ordination of women. At the 40th General Assembly of the Anglican Church (Japan Seikokai) the bishops again rejected a proposal to set up a committee to consider women's ordination. The 23rd General Assembly of the Evangelical Alliance Mission voted to accept the ordination of never-married or widowed women, though they are to serve only in posts where they are helpers to men. Ordained women who marry are to be taken off the clergy roster.

According to the General Secretary Yu Wai-hung of the Tsung Tsin (Lutheran) Mission in Hong Kong, 'the time is ripe for us to assign missionaries to such places as New York, San Francisco, Vancouver and Bangkok' to undertake mission work among the Hakka-speaking Chinese, a group numbering in the tens of millions.

General Secretary David Gill of the Uniting Church in Australia has welcomed a proposal for a treaty as the best available means to foster reconciliation between whites and descendants of the earlier inhabitants of Australia.

About 7 or 8 of the 105 million Bangladeshis are Muslims. Hindus are the largest religious minority; Christians number about 400,000.

Sri Lankan film director Sunil Ariyaratne is preparing a film about the life of Jesus Christ. Ariyaratne says his Buddhism helps him take an independent, detached look at the story. He says the film will have a 'Sri Lankan identity', and be ready by Christmas 'if everything goes well'.

6 Hungarian church leaders have issued an appeal against plans to demolish 7,000 villages in Romania and replace them with 'agro-indus-

trial complexes'. Those most affected would be members of various ethnic minority groups. The Hungarian appeal notes that there are already more than 10,000 ethnic Hungarian refugees from Romania in Hungary.

The only commercial television station in Papua New Guinea has agreed to air Christian television programs ranging from one-minute inspirational messages to one-hour Sunday worship services. All Christian television programs will have to obtain approval from the PNG Churches Council for Media before being accepted by EM-TV.

A marathon Bible reading was carried out by a group of 160 Swedes. They read the entire Bible in just 80 hours, beginning on a Thursday morning and ending in a worship service on Sunday evening, where the whole congregation read the last chapter of Revelation in chorus. The entire event was broadcast by a Stockholm radio station.

The Kenmore Christian College Open Day for 1988 will be held on August 13. It will include an open volleyball competition and fellowship for all ages.

At the Australian Council of Churches General Meeting held in Sydney, June 23-27, moves were made towards setting up a full Commission on Aboriginal and Islander Affairs, and to appoint an Aboriginal staff person to the Council.

Ancient Times House, 116 Little Bourke St, Melbourne is conducting its 1988 Open Day Lecture Program fortnightly throughout July, August and September. The lectures are held at 3pm on Sundays. On August 14 the topic of the lecture is 'Masada, Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls'. The

August 28 lecture is entitled 'The Search for the Authentic Tomb of Jesus'. Admission is \$3.

The US Federal Communications Commission is not planning to ban religious broadcasting. It lacks both the desire and the power to do so and has never planned to eliminate Christian broadcasting. But last year the FCC received more than 1.1 million letters begging it to reconsider just such a plan.

The rift between the church and the state has widened in Kenya following a sharp controversy between an Anglican clergyman (Bishop Alexander Muge) and the government over the cleric's revelation that 14 people had starved to death in his diocese. A local government leader said the bishop's revelation was "an irresponsible allegation aimed to discredit government agents". He agreed that poor harvests last year had caused food shortages in some parts of the affected area. The bishop and 3 local pastors called a press conference to authenticate their story.

What was expected to be an ordinary religious function in Kenya recently became memorable when a Presbyterian pastor announced the restoration of 6 church elders who were thrown out 15 years ago for contravening the church's regulations on sex and marriage. The church also decided to forgive girls with illegitimate children and Christians who had married outside the church. Moderator Rev. Muindi said, "One of the purposes of a jubilee is to forgive, and set free, members who have been cut off from the church, and those who have been placed under church discipline."

The Church of England's General Synod voted in

favour of legislation to bring in the ordination of women to the priesthood. 57% of bishops and clergy and 59% of the laity at the synod voted yes to the ordination of women priests. If it passes the revision stage next year the matter will then go on to the dioceses.

The 5 churches in the Barmera, SA, area (Lutheran, Anglican, Catholic, Uniting and Churches of Christ) held a successful inter-church progressive dinner on June 24. It was organised by the Barmera Churches of Christ CWF. The meal concluded at the Churches of Christ hall with some community singing and an epilogue by Ian Adams.

A 2nd report of a joint church census conducted in 1986 by the Uniting Church and the school of behavioral science at Macquarie University was released this month. Churches of Christ were mentioned as having the greatest increase in the numbers of young men joining the church. The Lutheran Church was found to attract more migrants than other denominations with Presbyterians coming second.

The amount of overseas aid provided by the Australian government currently rests at the lowest level for more than 25 years. Australia is amongst the least generous of the world's aid donors, according to a report by the Australian Council for Overseas Aid. Aid this year is predicted to be 0.36% of the GNP, compared with the highest-ever level of 0.59% 20 years ago.

Tell us about your creative church programs at Federal Conference, Canberra, 1989

CHURCH PAPER COMPETITION



It's on again! Our church paper competition to encourage the hundreds of quiet workers writing, editing, typing, printing, sorting, folding and distributing the local church's news.

THREE AWARDS

1. BEST CONTENT

For this award we will be looking at the creativity and interest of the material in your paper.

2. BEST APPEARANCE

This award will be presented to the best-looking church newsletter in Australia.

3. BEST PRODUCTION

This award will honour the editors and production staff of the church's paper.

CONDITIONS

1. Churches may enter papers in any, or all, of the categories above, but must clearly state the categories decided upon.

2. An entry into any category requires the submission of three issues of the paper since July 1, 1987.

3. The closing date for entries is September 30 at the office of "The Australian Christian", PO Box 101, Essendon North, Vic. 3041.

4. Copies of church papers submitted cannot be returned, unless they are irreplaceable file copies and this is stated when making the entries.

5. Correspondence concerning the competition cannot be entered into, apart from submission of entries.

Return of Dr Foster



NSW Theological College, Carlingford, is delighted to welcome Lewis and Betty Foster back. Until his recent retirement Dr Foster was Professor of New Testament at Cincinnati Bible Seminary, Ohio. He will be a part-time visiting lecturer in New Testament for the next two semesters. This is a return visit for the Fosters, who spent a semester at Woolwich Bible College in 1977.

Lewis Foster comes highly qualified for the task. He has a high reputation as a lecturer and preacher among our North Ameri-

can churches and his academic qualifications are impressive. He has taught New Testament and Greek at Cincinnati for many years and was one of the translation team for the New International Version.

While in Australia Dr Foster will also be writing a book—an introduction to the early Christian world—doing his research at the Macquarie University. In 1989 Standard Publishing will issue a commentary he has written on Revelation.

6. In each section there will be a 'Highest Award' of \$25 and a 'Highest Commended Award' of \$10.

7. The results of the competition will be announced in "The Australian Christian".

8. The judges reserve the right to make special awards if these are seen as appropriate.

28th Annual Australian Christian Touring Party

NEW ZEALAND (Both Islands)

March 3rd to March 18th (inclusive) 1989

16 days packed with interest

This 28th Annual Australian Christian Touring Party offers a comprehensive coverage of both Islands of New Zealand from Auckland to the Bluff.

Visit New Zealand at the height of the Tourist season, including Waitomo Caves, Rotorua's Thermal area, Maori Concert, Marlborough Sound, Franz and Fox Glaciers, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Invercargill, Mt Cook, Christchurch etc.

The world in a nutshell—South Pacific Paradise, high-class accommodation with private facilities, all dinners and breakfasts and some lunches included at an economy price.

From Sydney to Sydney in modern jets—travel in congenial Christian company.

All-inclusive price: \$2,775.00 (Aust.)

(Price from Brisbane, Melbourne, etc. on application)

Optional Bay of Islands supplement: \$650.00 (Aust.)

For complete details write to:

Mr R. Bowen, Johns Road, WYONG NORTH, NSW 2259

Jenkins Travel Services Ltd. No. 2TA 00025

Obituaries limited to 100 words.

DAGGER, William Henry

(30.6.88) Bill was born in Horsham, Vic., in 1905. In 1940, when Bill was a farmer in the Wangaratta district, he married Ruby Prest. After his baptism in 1944 Bill continued to serve his Lord. In 1966 he and Ruby moved to Shepparton where they continued faithful membership. Bill was loved and respected in the neighbourhood by the many children, always ready to lend a hand, and affectionately known as Pa. Many friends filled the chapel in evidence of esteem. Christian love is extended to Ruby, two sons, two daughters and their families.

—D.E.E.

FOWLER, Jean

(4.7.88) Born 1914. Foundation scholar of Balwyn, Vic., Sunday School. Active in Sunday School, CE and club work. Leader of Balwyn Good Companions, served on state executive with Rita Roberts, Dot Reynolds and others. 17 years ago Jean moved to North Melbourne, maintaining brotherhood connections, but active in work and fellowship with the local Uniting Church. She also served on committee of Hotham Senior Citizens. She died in Royal Melbourne Hospital after brief illness. Hers was a life full of rich and fruitful Christian service. A service of thanksgiving was celebrated in the Curzon St (North Melbourne) Uniting Church.

—Don Thomas

HODGES, Frank

Born in 1904, Frank came to the Oakleigh, Vic., district in 1913. He was baptised in 1924 and married to Alice in 1932. At Oakleigh church Frank was an usher, deacon and choirmaster, training children for Sunday School anniversaries. He was a member of a well-known quartet with Horrie Walpole, Steve Corlett and Frank Mathieson. He greatly assisted Alice in her presidency of local and state CWF. He and Alice were involved in the Meals-on-wheels service. We rejoice in Frank's Christian life, faith and service. Our love and prayers surround Alice, Pam, Marlene, Geoff, Peter and Linda in their sad loss.

—Les Dewberry

LOADER, Norman Frederick

(14.6.88) Born 24.3.20. Norman's association with Warrnambool, Vic., church began with youth club. As an engineer he served in RAAF. He married Pat in 1943. Norm worked in the motor trade, and later in Fletcher Jones. He was able to convey genuine warmth in relating to all ages. Despite struggles, Norm was always committed to his Christian faith, particularly to practical action. It was in the struggle of his illness that the strength of his faith was proven: 2 Cor 4:16; 5. A very special man is sadly missed. Our love reaches out to the needs of his family: Pat, Gayle, Terry, Adam and Edan. MITCHELL, Albert Edward

(3.7.88) Born 1902, youngest of 10 children. Baptised Newmarket, Vic., active in church and Sunday School. Married Esther Woodbridge, 1926—two children, Kevin and Esther. He ran general store in Doncaster for 36 years. Widely respected in community and generous to an extreme, especially during Depression. Albert cared for his wife in her illness but a severe stroke restricted his activities. Albert and Esther have been at Fred Cambridge House for past six years. His family celebrate his life because of the blessings he brought them. In every way he was a gracious, kind man of strong faith. Family and friends joined in a service of thanksgiving at Fawkner.

—Don Thomas

NATION, Donald Bruce

(28.6.88) A large congregation gathered in the Northcote, Vic., church to give thanks for Don who died a fortnight before his 82nd birthday. He was a member at Grote St, SA. The Depression forced him to come to Melbourne with his first wife, Edna, to obtain work. They joined the church at Northcote and over the years Don served as Sunday School teacher, organiser of the service plan, agent for "The Australian Christian", choir leader and deacon. Everything he did was done well. His example of faithfulness will be missed. Edna died 33 years ago. Don later married Lil (Brownrigg). To Lil we extend our sympathy.

—F.B. Alcorn

WYLLIE, Irene Lillian Declma

(27.6.88) Born 1894, throughout her life Irene manifested complete dependence on her Lord. She and husband, Ian, became active members at Boondall, Qld, church. Widowed in 1936, Irene served as church secretary, SS superintendent and Women's Guild leader. In addition she took full time employment. Later she was in active fellowship at Albion and Ann St,

Qld, churches. In 'tenting days' of early Camp Cal she was camp mother for many years. From 1960 she attended Bowral, NSW, church and served as CWF president. Daughters Joyce (Joy) and Dulcie, sons-in-law John Wiltshire and David Wood, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren fondly recall her love and witness.

VIC

WARRNAMBOOL (P. Broadbent)

Fellowship shared blessed witness of baptism of three people at morning worship, church family luncheon followed ... Mid-week home fellowship increasing ministry opportunities ... Fellowship committed to area distribution in Operation Good News ... Explorers Family Olympics night a great 'exercise' ... Pulpit exchange with Port Fairy, Portland and Hamilton ... As a fellowship we feel the loss of Norm Loader.

SANDRINGHAM Conference President, Gerald Rose, visiting speaker on July 10 ... CWF provided enjoyable afternoon program at Atherton Road home on June 28; also held morning tea

Three immutable church laws have been formulated by the Canadian magazine "Rumours": (1) If the weather is extremely bad, church attendance will be down. (2) If the weather is extremely good, church attendance will be down. (3) If church bulletins are in short supply, church attendance will exceed all expectations.

Scientology is making substantial new inroads into Asia, with the translation into Chinese of the late L. Ron Hubbard's study techniques and gains in Malaysia, Pakistan, India, the Philippines, Guam and Hong Kong.

farewell to Jean Preston ... Pen-a-Prayer letter box installed outside church door inviting prayer requests from members & general public ... Brenda Morris raised \$260 for World Vision in 40-hour famine ... Church rejoicing in arrival of new member of Henry family, Nicholas.

NORTH ESSENDON (Robyn & Hannes Schaefer). Trivia quiz night attended by over 100 raised funds for Indian children ... Dedication service for baby son of Daryl & Sandy Roberts ... Book presentations made at morning tea for Beth Holdroyd & Myrtle Sedgman, who are leaving district ... CWF had as recent guest speakers ladies from Travellers' Aid & Market Research ... Church grateful for prayers answered for John Hately.

The 60th birthday of Thailand's King Bhumipol, who is required by law to be a Buddhist and uphold Buddhism, was the occasion of increased persecution of Christians by Buddhist fundamentalists. All schools, including Christian schools, were required by law to erect statues of the Buddha.

The University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne is appointing a Professor of Applied Christian Theology to look at the Christian faith in the context of modern Britain, particularly in the inner cities. It is hoped that research results will be of practical value to the whole Christian Church in Britain.

IAN F. KNIGHT, LL.B., B.COM.

BARRISTER & SOLICITOR

REGISTERED TAX AGENT

Conveyancing, Common Law, Estates & Wills, Taxation, Personal Injuries, Business & Company Law.

10 BEST STREET, 48 MADIGAN DRIVE,
NORTH FITZROY, 3068 GLEN WAVERLEY, 3150
PHONE: (03) 481.0854 PHONE: (03) 561.5879

JACKMAN & TRELOAR

PTY. LTD.

LICENSED AGENTS & AUCTIONEERS M.R.E.I.

66 GREENHILL RD., WAYVILLE 5034

Established 1901

SERVING SOUTH AUSTRALIA

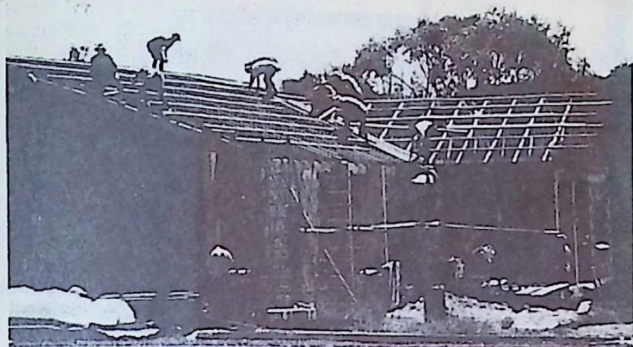
ADELAIDE — METROPOLITAN — HILLS — NEAR COUNTRY
FOR ALL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Selling, Buying, Auctions, Valuations, Transfers,
Renting & Letting. Finance Arranged.

Make use of our long years of experience through

NEIL McLEAN — Phone (08) 272.6900.

Come to Caloundra



On August 13-14 the new multi-purpose hall will be opened.

This photo shows the working bee of February 20. Roof trusses,

battens, roofing iron, facias and guttering were affixed on that day by a team of volunteers (Horrie Christensen's band of 14 from the Toowoomba, Qld, churches).

VBS at Rockingham



The Vacation Bible School held recently at the Rockingham, WA, church was granted a Bicentennial endorsement. The Bicentennial Authority congratulated the church on its contribution to Australia's Bicentennial celebrations.

A marquee was placed on the green and 120 primary school

aged children attended and learnt scripture stories, songs and memory verses, as well as crafts. Lorraine McDowell was co-ordinator, with Karen Pulley in charge of the juniors. The week's activities ended with a parents' night. Crafts were displayed, the children sang to parents, and all viewed the film "Bennie".

"Explore, Expand and Explode" was the theme of the second European Conference on Church Growth held in Stuttgart, West Germany, recently. 85 participants were present from 16 European countries. There were also representatives from Egypt, India, South Africa and the USA.

Freedom in Christ is sponsoring a Cult Awareness Convention at Holland Park Baptist Church, Brisbane, from 5-7 August. The organiser is Jan Groenveld, phone: (07) 343 8116.

Bible studies and prayer meetings have begun among Iranian refugees in Pakistan who have become Christians. Many are former Muslims.

Focus on Beverly Hills

A music hall concert, guest magician and vocalist were some of the highlights of the weekend of activities held in May to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Beverly Hills, NSW, church. This was an encouraging time for the Sydney suburban church with a membership of over 70.

Beverly Hills is an older area—over 45% of the general community are aged over 60, a similar percentage of older people is found in the Church of Christ. The congregation also includes a number of younger married people and teenagers.

Auxiliaries of the church aim to cater for the different age and interest groups, providing opportunities for outreach and developing community contacts.

A Creative Leisure Centre has just been commenced on Friday mornings, offering electives such as tapestry, oil painting and typing. About 30 attend. The co-ordinator is Elaine Lees.

There are two Christian Women's groups. The CWDF meets fortnightly. The CWF holds monthly meetings with musicians and keynote speakers. One well-known member at Beverly Hills is Edna Lincoln, OAM, who worked for more than 30 years with the Australian Churches of Christ Aborigines Mission.

Sunday School is conducted during the morning service which begins at 9.30am. Gary Jackal runs the boys' club on Friday evenings. Joan Broadbent is in charge of the girls' club and is also involved with the netball teams. The church's sport teams (netball and soccer) take part in a local competition organised by the Baptists.

Ron Kennedy has been minister at Beverly Hills for eight months. He was previously working at the Northside Community Church. This year Dale White, a student at Carlingford Theological College, is also working at the church as youth pastor. He runs a youth group on Friday evenings. The youth also have a Sunday morning Breakfast Club.

The evening service, Sunday at Seven, takes a contemporary approach and is aimed at younger people. Dale White assists Lyn Gayford in her role as musical director and a band has recently been formed. The church plans to distribute brochures in the community advertising the evening service. Their aim is to make every Sunday at Seven special, using guest artists, interviews and contemporary messages.

PEDIGREE MOTORS GUARANTEED USED CARS

658 CANTERBURY RD., SURREY HILLS 3127
AUTOMOTIVE SPECIALISTS

Whether it be your first car or you wish to "TRADE IN" let TED GRAY and STEVE GRUNDY give you the benefit of long experience in the trade.

ADVICE FREELY GIVEN

Phone (03) 898.9391 or A.H. 878.4807

Great Range of Cars — medium priced range
PHONE NOW

"TELL YOUR FRIENDS" L.M.C.T. 4376

ENGAGEMENTS

CORLETT—McCREDDEN Ian and Curly, with Stan and Loma, announce with joy the engagement of Nina and Phil.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

PRESTON, Jim and Jean wish to give thanks and praise to God for 50 years of loving, caring and sharing in their married life. Celebrated at St John's Church of England, Cairns, Qld, on August 4, 1938. Love and congratulations from all the family.

DEATHS

DAGGER, Bill—at Shepparton on June 30. Dearly loved husband of Ruby. Loved father and father-in-law of Ross, John and Margo, Joy and Nick (Cheng), Beth and Robert (Kirby). Loved Pa of seven grandchildren. In God's hands.

MITCHELL, Albert Edward. Husband of Esther and brother-in-law of Lucy. Father of Kevin and Esther, father-in-law of Betty, grandfather of Geoff and Ruth, Faye and Bruce, Rowan and Lorene, Jan and Chip, and great grandpa of Jarrad, David, Michael and Cameron. Dearly loved by all. 'The fight is o'er, the battle won.'

IN MEMORIAM

DEAN, Adrian John Ewart, July 26, 1987. We miss you deeply, your loving wife Janine and children, Elissa, Andrea and Christopher. 'A well-spent life is eternal.'

Church of Christ SOUTHPORT

now meets in
Parkland Drive
9.00 a.m. Worship &
Communion
6.30 p.m.
Gospel Celebration
Minister: Noel Newton
(075) 32 5660 or
31 4353 (Home)

INTERESTED in
touring the Holy Land?
USA?

Thailand & Hong Kong?
For further details and ALL
your travel needs at specially
DISCOUNTED prices
call Helen on (03) 752 5016 or
754 4536

TOURMAKERS

TO LET

**CALOONDRA — SUNSHINE
COAST** Queensland. 2 BR units,
3 minutes walk from Kings Beach.
Rates from \$130 per week Off
Season, \$390 per week Holiday
Season. Phone (03) 707.1675 or
(071) 91.7454.

HOUSEBOAT "White Heron" 10
berth. Moored at Blanchetown,
S.A. Phone (08) 380.5009 or (085)
40.5100 or write P.O. Box 65, St
Agnes 5097.

BUILDERS

IAN & L.A. McDONALD Carpen-
ters and builders. Renovations -
kitchens and bathrooms. All jobs
large and small. For free quotes
please ring (03) 557.1257. 41
Somers St., Bentleigh.

Changes of Address

PRESTON, Jim and Jean, 858
Nepean Highway, Mornington
3931.

**GOD'S PEOPLE —
GOD'S WORLD
FEDERAL CON-
FERENCE 1989:
SEE YOU AT THE
BLACK STUMP**

L.C.F. Higgins

*Chartered
Accountant*

7 The Parade
Norwood, S.A. 5067
Phones: (08) 42 1665
& 362 8619

Judy Gordon
1988 Australian
Christian Foundation
Scholar

will be speaking about her
studies on Worship and
Christian Education in Mel-
bourne on Sunday July 31 at:

Footscray 11am
(morning tea at 10.30am)
and **Doncaster** 7pm.
All welcome.

ATTENTION

Anyone considering attending
FEDERAL CONFERENCE

Canberra, 15 — 21 January, 1989

If you require Registration Forms contact::

Registration Office,
42nd Federal Conference
G.P.O. Box 2732,
Canberra 2601.

OR Federal Conference Secretary
C/- 52 LaTrobe St.,
Melbourne 3000.

BUSINESS FOR SALE NORTH QUEENSLAND

A progressive sign manufacturing business situated in
Mackay. Currently employing 4 staff and operating from
Freehold premises.

Annual turnover in excess of \$200,000. This company
enjoys a high market share of the district's sign require-
ments and with present staff it would continue to prosper
under sound management.

For further information contact the owners: A & J Cann
phone (079) 55 1462 (A/H) or Peterson Realty, Brisbane,
phone (07) 351 5155.

An invitation to the
120th ANNIVERSARY
of the
**COLLINGWOOD
CHURCH OF CHRIST**
On October 23rd, 1988

2.30 p.m. P.S.A.

Basket Tea to follow

Meeting at the

Collingwood Christian Chapel

Cnr. Mater & Emma Sts., Collingwood

Inquiries: (03) 484 6872; 419 8852 or 49 1971

**KALGOORLIE
CHURCH OF CHRIST**
90th Anniversary Services
6 & 7 August 1988
6th—Thanksgiving Dinner
7th—10.45am; 3.00pm; 7.00pm

CONTACTS:

• Laurel Henderson
• 101 Lyall St
• Kalgoorlie 6430
• Phone:
• (090) 21 4302

Ben Turner
41 Redwood Crescent
Melville 6156

(09) 330 1031

DISCIPLES

•Geoffrey & Jason Freiberg, Maldstone, Vic. •Michelle Riley, Nicole Riley, Alison McKenzie, Brett Morante, Murwillumbah, NSW •Allison Evers, Marc Le Bas, Cathrine Scott, Johnathan Bertram, Jane Thompson, Phillip Plumridge, Frankston, Vic. •Joanne Onans, Nunawading, Vic. •Mathew Wardle, Manifold Heights, Vic. •Adam King, Albury, NSW •Alice Thistlethwaite, Ian Rochester, Werribee, Vic. •Graeme Hattwell, Duane Turner, Glen Waverley, Vic. •Andrew Hunt, Malcolm & Debbie Firth, Paul Robinson, Kalgoorlie, W.A.

MARRIAGE

•Cherie Annear to Geoff Hobart, Elizabeth Gilmore to Peter Shevill, Belconnen, ACT. •Gaylene Bolwell to Brett Lawrence, Frankston, Vic.

DEATHS

•Irene Wyllie, Bowral, NSW. •Jasmine Wisbey, Belconnen, ACT. •Frank Hodges, Oakleigh, Vic. •Jean Large, Nunawading, Vic. •George Black, Graham

Back to PNG

On June 6 Wayne and Janet Kerrison flew to Brisbane from Madang in Papua New Guinea so Wayne could have medical tests for unexplained stomach pains. Many tests were carried out, but a conclusive answer was not forthcoming. As a result investigative surgery was performed and, hopefully, the problems have now been righted.

Wayne and Janet returned to PNG on July 13 to be reunited with their three sons, Jonathan, Matthew and Timothy. It is not easy for families to be parted in different countries like that, but the three boys made the best of it.

While mum and dad were away



The Kerrison family

they travelled by truck to Bunapas (five and a half hours). They then flew to Momonup (about a half-hour flight in a Cessna), and went by canoe to Yamen (which could have taken up to four hours). After that they walked from Yamen to Samban in four and a half hours

(this walk entails negotiating several swamps and also has a stretch through very high, steamy grass).

I am not sure just what happened next, but as I understand it, the boys ended up back at Bunapas and went back to Madang on the truck. I am sure there are some stories to be shared among the Kerrison family as they are reunited in Madang.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Thousands of people from all over Australia will be going to Oberammergau in 1990 to witness the world renowned passion play.

A number of tour leaders – both clergy and laity – are needed to assist in conducting special Oberammergau tour groups.

If you feel that you are qualified to be an Oberammergau tour leader, would you please contact the Director of Religious Tour Groups, Professional Conferences International, giving appropriate personal details and stating the month of 1990 in which you would be available to take a tour group to Europe.

**PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES
INTERNATIONAL PTY. LTD.
G.P.O. Box 249, Adelaide, S.A. 5001**

MNC 115/12

The Gospel Film Ministry Ltd

CHRISTIAN FILMS & VIDEO

Use the world's best Christian Films and Videos in your –

- Church
- Youth Group
- Sunday School
- Outreach Program
- Home Group

Film and Video Catalogs containing hundreds of titles are available free on request. Please send me

- ☐ 16mm Film Catalog
☐ Video Catalog

Name _____

Address _____

Code _____ Phone _____

THE GOSPEL FILM MINISTRY LTD
VIC 18-26 Canterbury Rd. Heathmont
3135 (03) 729 3777 NSW 8th Floor, 309
Pitt St. Sydney 2000 (02) 267 3911 QLD
2422 Logan Rd. Eight Mile Plains 4123
(07) 341 8500 SA 55 Grenfell St. Adelaide
5000 (08) 223 4249 WA 251 Adelaide
Tce. Perth 6000 (09) 325 7854

NSW

MAITLAND (R. Hawkins) Church 'Dinner Date' with J. Reynolds, 'Close to the Edge' ministry excellent. A former drug addict for 16 years, he now seeks to help those in addiction. He spoke at the Sunday service ... Pulpit exchange with Max Hall of Salt Ash ... Tahlee student Dianne MacPherson gave message at family service ... Good support for Friday night Family Film Festival.

MURWILLUMBAH (Darryl Seip) Three baptisms one Sunday night recently ... Our music group played at Southport church twice in the last month ... Adult and youth group Bible studies commenced this year; mid-week Bible study continues ... YFC music group 'Travellers' played at our evening service, 132 attended ... Darryl Seip has begun chaplaincy in the high school & is leader of an interdenominational team of Scripture teachers.

THORNLEIGH (F. Elliot) Carolyn Flett attended National Youth Workers Convention, Melbourne & Stuart Wesley in Perth whilst home on vacation ... Five of our young people were leaders at annual DCD Junior High camp at Fitzroy Falls in July; about 10 from our church attended as campers ... Church taking part in Operation Good News, distributing New Testaments in the local area.

ALBURY (Rod Foster) May 31 Borella House celebrated first anniversary of opening ... Recently church members attended 'Walk Through Old Testament' seminar, Wangaratta ... Compre-

hensive report on Vic-Tas Conference given by delegates Allan & Julie Blyth ... Prayer chain continues to operate within church ... King's Kids youth group very active spiritually & physically ... Children enthusiastic participants in Sunday School anniversary, June 26, guest speaker John Tudor.

QLD

BUNDABERG Ken Trudgian farewelled in January ... Elders sharing work load ... Men's Dinner, Mother's Day Luncheon, Sunday School Picnic enjoyed ... Devin McNeish welcomed into fellowship ... Karen Anderson & Devin McNeish engaged ... Sod-turning ceremony by C. Knights held on June 19 ... CWF busy fund-raising ... Church saddened by passing of Bill Deoberitz & Dulcie Voss ... Building of church/hall progressing.

SA

SALISBURY EAST (Ron Saunders) Our number of regular attendances at Sunday School have increased ... Brian Phelps held a 'how to evangelise' program—interesting and helpful ... The Boys' Brigade company is growing; visit to Planetarium enjoyed by all; enrolment service well attended ... The senior Girls' Brigade put on a Mothers and Daughters night, everyone had a wonderful time ... Craft mornings held fortnightly.

GOOLWA (Graeme Ritchie) Our minister home from hospital after surgery ... Local and Victor Harbor members helped out as speakers at services ... Day seminar held on Worship, led by Dr Bill Tabbermee (COB) ... Visit from Keith & Ruth Skillicorn of the Leprosy Mission ... Ladies fellowship held Sewing Day, making patchwork quilts to go to New Guinea ... Numbers well up in Friday youth groups.

MT GAMBIER (Bruce Anderson) Church members participating in Cell Group leadership training class led by Pastor. This is a series of studies to enthuse & equip Christians for working in small study, prayer & caring groups ... Marion Church of

Christ Solo group visited Mt Gambier Solo group for a time of fellowship & sharing. A great time was had by all.

WA

BRIDGETOWN Church shared in Leighton Ford Outreach; hosted Bike for Bibles team in June ... Attendances range from 20-45 ... Active youth group conducted evening gospel meeting recently ... Church is seeking a tentmaker minister ... Jim Holliday helped as part-time interim; Phil Leitherby, Richard Creek & others are helping with preaching ... Fellowship tea, gospel meetings & prayer breakfasts held monthly ... Ladies hold Bible studies, prayer meetings & CWF. **CARNARVON (D. Bone)** There were approximately 75 visitors from all parts of WA to attend the Aboriginal Convention in July ... Two meetings per day were held over the five-day period. Guest speakers were pastors Sonny Graham from South Hedland and Selan Garlett from Perth ... The Convention, held in the Carnarvon Civic Centre, was capably organised by Rex & Judy Ugle & the Cumbardigoo Fellowship.

WEMBLEY DOWNS (John Somerville) Special morning tea following service held to celebrate Ray & Jean Vincent's golden wedding anniversary ... Visiting from Poland, Konstanty Sacewicz from Churches of Christ there preached of faith of members despite persecution & imprisonment ... After long illness loved member Min Seaby has died & will be greatly missed by many throughout WA churches.

KALGOORLIE (Gene Howell, Larry Gibb) Men's Fellowship dinners numbers growing ... Men's & women's groups blessed by Pastor Richard Roy's visit ... 40 hour famine raised \$1,000 so far ... Gene Howell preached at Norseman one Sunday ... Gene & Larry both at Norseman ... Car park & lighting paid by donations ... To Perth Chris & Mary Bleach & children, Trish & Gerard Meyer ... 90th anniversary celebrations August 6 & 7. Book on history of church being produced.

VIC

OAKLEIGH (L.S. Dewberry) Church feels sorrow at death of Frank Hodges & concern over continuing hospitalisation of his wife Alice ... CWF birthday celebration great success under leadership of Cath Maydom, speaker was Betty Dewberry ... Speakers during minister's holiday were Harry Sunderland & Gordon Bannon ... Pre-service evening musical sessions are enjoyed by congregation ... Dorothy Nash attended daughter's wedding in NSW.

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (Paul Downie, Max Ball) Royce & Lola Wardle farewelled at family dinner ... Church secretary, Rachel Hawker ... Good News club (prep to Grade 6) meets Monday ... CWF President Anne Downie, secretary Nancy Gregory ... Church hosted Geelong churches' combined BYO tea & service, Dr Bill Tabbermee spoke on progress of new College of the Bible ... Peter Daniels inspiring visiting speaker ... Clinton Wardle, visiting home from Carlingford, baptised son Mathew.

LA TROBE TCE (C.J. Mackenzie) Substantial amount raised during 40-Hour Famine by Top Kids and youth group ... Ladies team won tennis grand final ... Bible afternoon shared by CWF & Baptist ladies, oldest Bible displayed dated 1814 ... Speakers during minister's absence included G. Van Cooten, Appeal Convenor—Council of Christian Education in schools; A. White, J. Smail ... Tuesday prayer meetings continuing ... Ross family farewelled & presented with Bible & children's books.

PRESTON (J. McCormick) Neighbourhood house was officially opened on June 20 by the Federal Minister for Social Security, Brian Howe ... Speakers through July while minister on holidays have been: Myrta Iten, Interchange Northern Region; Bruce Littlejohn, Overseas Mission & Federal Aborigines Boards; Trevor Giles, Department of Community Care; Reg Worthy, Prison Fellowship; Carolyn & Peter Murray, Mobile Mission Maintenance.

Enjoy God's creation
in the peaceful surroundings
of

FERN VALLEY GUEST HOUSE

Balook

Comfortable accommodation,
home cooking, open log fires.

Your hosts: Des, Prue
and Aileen Davidson
Phone (051) 96 6141
Grand Ridge Road,
Balook 3971.

VIC

MAIDSTONE (Wes Rodgers) Church growth improving ... 5pm winter services well attended ... Youth hall (opened 1958) demolished & land leased to Ministry of Housing for eight units for elderly to be erected ... Church encouraged by baptisms of Geoffrey (12) & Jason (9) Freiberg, service followed by family fellowship tea ... Small group CWF raised \$165 at street stall & packed 175 gifts for hospital ... Church holds three prayer & BS plus home groups weekly.

GISBORNE (Ray Smith) "Focus on the Family" film series screened & new contacts made ... Plans for church building submitted to the Gisborne Shire Council ... Development of church orchestra has enabled greater praise & worship in services ... 10 new families/couples have commenced attending church since the beginning of the year ... Graham Pope was an Australian delegate to the Fellowship of Christian Airline Personnel convention, USA.

ECHUCA (A. Symes) Pastor Symes & family on holidays ... Visiting speaker third year student from College of the Bible, also pianist. Visiting president's wife sang "I'll Walk With God" ... Men's tea at 5pm, speaker spoke about new College of the Bible ... Speaker at night service, Julie Trinnick, told of four years in Vanuatu & how we should allow ourselves to be used by God—1 Peter 2:4,5.

FRANKSTON (Allen Avery, P. Bowers, D. Wesley, H. Bischoff, L. Pilton) Leaders' planning weekend held at Red Hill. Bruce & Beryl Graham, Nunawading, & Geoff Rowcroft, Berwick, led sessions ... Sympathy extended to Black family in sudden passing of George, a board member ... Shalini Waghmode & two others welcomed whilst visiting from India ... 'Christ in Society' series held ... Film series 'Making Things Right When Things Go Wrong' being held ... Successful Planned Giving Program conducted by Ian Tippet.

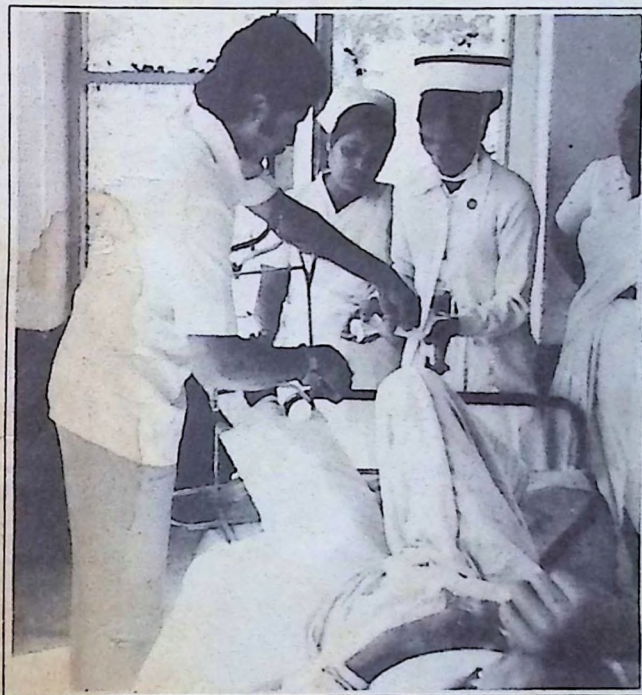
NUNAWADING (E. Keating, J. Wright, S. Ludgater, C. Bentley) Guest speakers Rhea

Zakich, USA, Dr Shirin David, India ... Successful SS anniversary sessions, 3pm & 7pm ... Holiday Happening catered for over 130 primary-aged children ...

Konig family spending long service leave serving with Scripture Union in North Queensland ... Roslyn & Chris White in Philippines for International Needs ...

HSC Student & Parent seminar speaker Dr Geoff Whiting ... Dora Grey & Peter Wright elected elders.

C.O.C.O.A. is involved in MEDICAL WORK



in countries overseas.

Be a caring partner!

Send your cheque to:

**Churches of Christ Overseas Aid,
P.O. Box 320,**

UNLEY, S.A., 5061.

(Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible)

NAME

ADDRESS

.....POSTCODE

Amount for C.O.C.O.A. \$.....

In honour of a great man

Elder Abel Bani left us to be with his Lord on June 7. A description of the funeral will help you to know a little of this man. As is the custom, speech-making began at the meeting house as the body, wrapped in mats, was being put into the coffin.

Speeches started before 10am and went on till after 2pm. There was little repetition, as everybody had their own story to tell of how this man had encouraged them. Over 30 people spoke—sometimes two were going at once. People kept arriving from different places as special flights brought in mourners and those wishing to pay respects from Vila, Santo, Pentecost, North and East Ambae and Tuba.

Speakers represented all denominations, all areas where Churches of Christ work in Vanuatu, myself on behalf of the Australian Churches of Christ, and politicians. The actual number present was hard to gauge, but it was over 1,000 and may have been as high as 2,000. Schools in the area were given the day off, stores shut and flags flew at half mast.

After 2pm we moved to a memorial stone at Nanako, nearby. The stone recognises 84 years of Churches of Christ work on Ambae. Here we held the equivalent of an Australian church funeral service, with many more speeches. Then there was a graveside service, with three more church leaders taking part. It had all finished by 5.15pm.

Well, not quite finished. On Sunday there was a memorial service at the Nduindul chapel. Here again several hundred met for four hours to give their last respects.

Abel Bani had 15 children, 37 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren and lived for between 93 and 103 years (it's hard to

confirm ages). Spiritually speaking he has contributed more to the growth of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu than any other individual. He was a church planter, a great encourager of all.

Unfortunately, during Independence he was greatly humiliated and would not take much of an active role thereafter. However his heart was still for God's work. His final words to almost everyone concerned keeping on in God's work, and a blessing that the power of God might be with the church leaders today.

Amos Tangwale, Andrew Aru and I, of the Department of Church Development, were the last to speak with him and receive his blessing. This was especially meaningful to us as, in many ways, we are carrying on the work he used to do. I had opportunity to express to him thanks for the help he had given the many missionaries who worked by his side. Also, I thanked him on behalf of all Churches of Christ members in Australia for his desire to work alongside Australians in partnership in mission.

I believe the life of Abel Bani stands as a challenge to us all to use the gifts we have been given by our Lord and Saviour for the extension of his Kingdom wherever we may go.

A Church of England working group in the UK says that the law of blasphemy should be replaced with one which protects all religions and not just Christianity.

The ringleader of a massacre of evangelists in Irian Jaya 14 years ago has become a Christian. He was one of 64 baptised in a recent ceremony.

RECOMMEND THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

P.O. BOX 101, ESSENDON NORTH, VIC. 3041

NAME:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE:

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ CHURCH:

☐ RENEWAL ☐ NEW SUBSCRIPTION ☐ DONATION \$

☐ \$20 FULL YEAR ☐ \$10 REST OF YEAR

☐ \$7 REST OF YEAR IF RECOMMENDED BY A CHRISTIAN SUBSCRIBER

SUBSCRIBER:

THE LAST WORD

The unrest of this weary world is its unvoiced cry after God.

—T.T. Munger

Overheard: 'He's such a hypochondriac he wouldn't visit the Dead Sea without finding out what it died of.'

Headline during a heat wave: 'Fryday, again'.

The latest thing for the man who has everything is a calendar that reminds him when the payments are due.

Teenage girl to mother: 'Dad is at an awkward age. He's too round for his old clothes and too square for the new styles.'

Did you hear about the egg in the monastery? out of the frying pan, into the friar.

Office manager to employee: 'Don't think of me as a boss but as your friend who is always right.'

'Did the movie have a happy ending?' 'Yes, everyone was glad that it was over.'

Overheard in a doctor's waiting room: 'I did some very heavy reading last night—the bathroom scales.'

Remember this before you burden other people with your troubles. Half of them aren't the least bit interested, and the rest are delighted that you're getting what they think is coming to you.



Just about the time you think you have everything in the bag ... the bag bursts!