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Chapel opening in Cairns

A great time of celebration was held in Cairns on July 23 and 24. The occasion was the church's anniversary weekend which was highlighted by the opening of their new chapel.

Colin Smith, Director of the Queensland Department of Church Development and Education, unveiled a plaque and declared the chapel open during the Sunday morning worship service. The chapel is the result of over six months of hard work by the local congregation. The bulk of the work was done by voluntary labour.

In the past two years the congregation has increased from about 40 adult attenders up to about 80. There are 20-30 children regularly attending Bible school. Because of this growth the church began looking for larger premises in 1987. Eventually, bearing in mind the resources available, the decision was made



Colin Smith speaking after opening of chapel



Presentation to Ray and Lucy Wearmouth

to attach a new chapel, able to cater for 150-180 people, onto the rear of the existing chapel. The new chapel will serve as the worship centre and the Bible school will use the old chapel.

The opening ceremony was a moving experience for those present, particularly those who had actively participated in the building program. Recognition was given to elder, Ray Wearmouth,

for his leadership and oversight of the building project.

The congregation express their thanks to all who have helped, especially the Department of Church Development and Education, who continue to subsidise the minister's salary, and the Property Committee, who provided the initial loan for the chapel until Inter-Church Aid can take it over.

You can make a difference

God's Squad Schools Mission

Two weeks of mission (July 11-22) were conducted in Melbourne schools by John Smith and associate evangelists David Fuller and Tony Kokonis, sponsored by the Eastern Suburbs Youth Network. The message that was presented at seminars, youth rallies and other meetings was positively received by the majority of secondary school students and teachers present.

John Smith and his team from Care & Communication Concern Ltd and God's Squad conducted 'Christian Option' seminars in 21 schools, speaking to over 4,400 students in a total of 33 sessions. The mission was supported by ten churches across the eastern suburbs of Melbourne who support paid youth staff with a particular ministry in local secondary schools.

462 Bibles were given out on request. 200 students indicated a desire to discuss Christianity further. Ten weekly discussion groups are being set up.

As well as the seminars, two youth rallies were held to attract the school populations. Over 200 who had heard God's Squad in their schools attended these rallies, as did large crowds from youth groups.

Other successful meetings during the two weeks of mission included a men's breakfast with 180 attending; and a parent's night which attracted over 100 parents to consider 'The Pain of Parenting'.

There have been many 'success stories' resulting from this mission, but there is still work to be done, including follow up with those involved. The 'presenters' packaged their message in a form that was relevant, interesting and acceptable to senior high school students. They continually pointed to Jesus Christ as the only person worth considering in the search for answers to the questions of life.

—Marshall Currie

Eastern Suburbs Youth Network

ISSUE	DEADLINE
September 3	August 24
September 17	September 7
October 1	September 21

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subscription payments)
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Christ in Australia

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COMMENT



The appeal of cults

Many individuals and families never give the cults a second thought. Cults are something to read about in the paper, or see on television. Occasionally they may affect friends or acquaintances, but somehow, most people assume that they or their family will not be affected by them. Such a naive attitude can be dangerous.

These days families are facing many pressures: urban living, materialism, the rejection of traditional moral values, an extreme emphasis on self in many spheres of life, are among them. These pressures can cause uncertainty, leaving family members quite vulnerable, at times, to the seductive appeals and pressures of cults and extreme Christian fringe groups.

The following increase family vulnerability to the cults:

Workaholics

More and more men, and some women, are becoming workaholics, addicted to their jobs outside the home. This often starts as an economic pressure to enable the family to enjoy 'the good life', emphasising the material benefits of our society. What is often rationalised as being for the good of the family can end up leading to the family's disintegration. Family life is neglected and, by contrast, the love, acceptance and companionship offered by the cults appear attractive.

Lack of communication and understanding

When family members lose interest in talking and sharing together they drift apart. Sometimes this is because they take each other for granted and are more likely to show a deep and genuine interest in those outside the family. Lack of understanding can result, which leads to a feeling of rejection. The cults are willing and ready to communicate with us, though ultimately it develops into a one-way situation. When family members feel the others don't understand them—the door is opened to the cults—who can get alongside and sympathise because outsiders don't understand the cults. That brings a common bond, leading the person into cultic involvement.

Loneliness

Loneliness, often caused partly by the above factors, probably causes the greatest vulnerability to cults. When children grow up and leave home, or when there is divorce or death in the family, loneliness is a very real pressure. People don't join the cults because of their teachings—the first point of involvement is generally that at a time of need they met nice, friendly people. From those caring people came the invitation to meet others and eventually to join the group.

Values uncertainty

The vagueness about values has crept into many families, leading to confusion about standards of conduct and behaviour. The cults are not confused about values. Their high moral standards appeal to many. Families need to teach strong standards and values.

Time competitors

When family time together diminishes, vulnerability to the cults increases. Family time now has to compete with television, sport, work, study, outside entertainment. Amongst some Christians family time is depleted by over-involvement with church activities.

Peer pressure

If family members have not been helped to maintain strong family bonds, and at the same time grow as individuals peer pressure from cult members can be stronger than family influence.

Hidden persuaders

Other persuaders range from cult propaganda to TV and other media influence. Relatives, teachers and community leaders can also provide a strong persuasion and motivation towards the cults, if they are involved themselves. Sometimes misinformation, passed on to dissuade people's interest in the cults, can work to the opposite end when cult members show the information to be inaccurate.

Family awareness can help bring families closer together and lessen some of these vulnerable situations. More importantly, a family that is united in a deep commitment to Jesus Christ will have the resources and power to grow together and share in a faith that can overcome the challenges of the cults today. (1 John 4:4)

—This was adapted from an article by W.A. van Leen, Director of Concerned Christian Growth Ministries.

Bright Spot's Birthday

The church at Hampstead Gardens, SA, was full when Graham Lawrie returned to preach at the birthday service of **The Bright Spot** on May 29. Ten years before, **The Bright Spot** had commenced with 65 adults and 11 children. Only once since that day have the numbers been less.

Attendance is usually 85-90, men and women, young and old,

who come to learn a craft, play bowls or pool, or just chat. The original teachers and executive members were invited to come and join the celebration.

Other invited guests were the Mayor and Mayoress of Enfield, Mr & Mrs Ray Norton; SA Conference President, Collin Dredge and his wife, Marj; CWF President, Barbara



Graham Lawrie preaching

Grear and husband Barry; and Graham and Judith Lawrie.

Some of the people from **The Bright Spot** took part in the service by telling what **The Bright**

Spot has done for them. Others helped in the choir. A birthday tea, attended by 200, followed the service.

—Mary Lundberg

GROWING SPIRITUALLY

Set Free to Fail

Have you observed the expectations we Christians have of one another? We refuse to accept anything less than perfection from others, living with the idea that, as Christians, they should be above the hurtful word, the thoughtless action or the wrong attitude. As a result we are often disappointed, frustrated or even angry with others in the Body of Christ.

And yet, I have also observed among some senior 'saints' a different attitude. They do not criticise the young, but actively encourage their participation, accept their failures and love them regardless. Maybe they have learnt that **the older you become the more you realise your own great need of the grace of God** and so are able to accept the struggles and failings of others.

Jesus was always honest with people. If we are to begin to know the joy of living in the family of God we must break down those brick walls that surround us and keep us isolated from each other. How long is it since we were honest with another about our faith, hopes, fears, doubts or unanswered questions? Yes, there is always the risk that we may get hurt, but Jesus didn't withdraw from people or stop loving his disciples when they were jealous, or critical or demanding. He calls on us to go on loving and accepting and helping each other to grow up in Christ.

David Watson wrote "the breakthrough to genuine fellowship comes when Christians stop relating to one another as righteous saints and start accepting one another as unrighteous sinners."

I'm so thankful that Jesus didn't say "well done good and successful servant"—he set me free to fail. He knows I will not always reach the expectations others have of me. Just as he entrusted the future of the Kingdom of God to his imperfect disciples, so he calls on us to be encouragers of others by loving and accepting those in the Body—in spite of what we are—forgiving, caring and praying for each other so that we all may go on growing in grace.

—Elwyn Green
(Launceston, Tas.)

New Living Faith—WA Writers

Churches of Christ continue to participate in writing lessons for the **New Living Faith** Sunday School curriculum. Already Victorian and New South Wales groups of writers, musicians and artists have been involved.

During August a Western Australian team has been working in a writers' workshop preparing les-

sons for 1989. Planned through our Federal Board of Christian Education, the writers work under the leadership of editors from the Joint Board of Christian Education.

New Living Faith is being widely accepted, with a 70% increase in children users over last year.

Study Grant 1989

The Council of the Australasian Christian Training Centre is offering a 1989 Crestonby Fellowship of a value up to \$13,000 to enable a Victorian minister or priest, ordained at least four years, to undertake in Australia, or overseas, special study, training, research or further experience in their calling.

Full information and application form from Rev. Keith Pearson, 73 Walpole St, Kew 3101, phone (03) 862 2000.

Applications close with Mr J.R. Ham, Australasian Christian Training Centre, 97 Broadway, Camberwell 3124 on August 31, 1988.

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At a plenary of the Lambeth Conference the bishops heard Gustavo Gutierrez, the Peruvian Roman Catholic priest and liberation theologian. "For us," he told the bishops, "the question is how to speak about God to those who suffer and who do not deserve their sufferings." He said that Christians are "not called to be committed to the poor because they [the poor] are good, but because God is good."

East African bishop to visit Melbourne

Donald Mtetemela is assistant bishop in the Anglican Diocese of Central Tanganyika, Tanzania. He is one of the notable young church leaders in East Africa today, a gifted preacher and teacher. He has oversight of many rapidly-growing churches.

Donald trained at St Philip's Theological College in Tanzania. After parish ministry he went to the United Kingdom for further study, then spent two years work-

ing in the Diocese of West Virginia, USA. Returning to Tanzania, Donald joined the staff at St Philip's.

His concern is to make the Christian faith relevant to today. He will be visiting Melbourne for speaking engagements commencing on September 10.

More information about his visit can be obtained from the Church Missionary Society office, phone (03) 328 4074.

The Preaching Kids

Duffey, Pepper and Matthew Strode of Marion, North Carolina, USA have been suspended from their elementary school for missing classes in order to preach in their schoolyard. Duffey, age 10, who spent 20 minutes outside Eastfield Elementary School calling faculty members "fornicators" and "adulterers," among other biblical epithets, was sus-

pended for a third time by Assistant Principal Shirley Ramsay.

Matthew and Pepper, ages five and six, also were suspended for the third time in a month when Matthew refused to stop yelling Bible passages from the front lawn of the school. Principal Jim Gorst said the children have refused to conform to a policy requiring all students to be inside

From Noble Park to Red Hill

Ken Clinton, deputy Principal of the College of the Bible, will commence an interim pulpit ministry at Red Hill Church of Christ on September 11. He will preach at both the 10am and 7pm services.

For over ten years Ken has ministered at the Noble Park Church of Christ in a part-time capacity. During this time the active membership has doubled and a vital and dynamic fellowship has come into being.

Ron White joined Ken over six years ago, full-time, and an effective team ministry resulted.

At present the Noble Park church meets in the Chandler



Community Centre for its 10am service under the banner of the Keysborough Christian Family. The evening service is held in the church's own building at Kelvinside Rd, Noble Park.

the school building by 7.30 am.

The Strode family moved to Marion from Pennsylvania, in 1987. Robin Strode said the family moved after her husband David and his colleague, were repeatedly arrested and charged with disorderly conduct while street preaching. The charges were dismissed later.

The Evangelical Alliance Department of Evangelism will hold its 2nd annual Conference for Evangelists from 5-7 September at the ESA Conference Centre, Marysville, Vic. Speakers will be George Lazenby, Adrian van Leen and Philip Hughes. Anyone working in evangelism is welcome to attend. Cost is \$54.50. Contact the ESA office on (059) 63 3303.



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8.00 pm

Conference President, Gerald Rose and Christian Women's Fellowship President, Lois Smith, invite representation from all of our churches as we give thanks to God.

Talent unlimited

Can you imagine people demonstrating their talents by making delicious cakes, biscuits, sweets and slices, pizzas . . . greeting cards, pencil puppets, soup for the local school . . . not to mention washing cars?

No, these were not done by adults, but by the children of the Aldgate Valley, SA, church when minister, John Gilmore, challenged the church to multiply \$10 notes given out by using their talents for Centenary projects. The children accepted the project enthusiastically, setting up shop to sell their wares.

Several enterprising adults booked a suburban theatre for the screening of the thought-provoking film "Cry Freedom" to an appreciative audience.

The church has passed its Centenary project target of a gift of \$4,000 for Conference Departments (College of the Bible, Overseas Mission and Federal Aborigines Boards).

The Centenary of Aldgate Valley will be celebrated on September 11. See advertisement this issue.

Church Music '88

An ecumenical church music event will take place in Melbourne, September 3 and 4. Seven of the city's historic churches are the venues. From 1pm-5pm visitors will be able to hear a rich variety of church music from all traditions: organists, choirs, modern music groups, instrumental ensembles, orchestras, puppeteers and more.

The audience is free to move around the venues during the afternoons. Programs and performers will be different each day. A total of 61 events, with approximately 600 performers will be presented over the two days.

A detailed program is freely available at all city churches and music houses. Admission is by ticket, available on the day at any of the venues. The Royal School of Church Music is co-ordinating this event. For further details phone Bruce Macrae (03) 484 3080.

At the Victorian Arts Centre on August 23 at 8pm there will be a screening of the classic silent movie, *Ben Hur*, with a new sound track performed by the State Orchestra. Tickets \$30 and \$35 through Bass, ph. (03) 1 1500.

Move Out '88

The Evangelical Alliance (Vic.) is sponsoring Move Out '88 on the weekend of August 26-28 at Richmond High School, Melbourne. This will be an opportunity for young adults to learn and be challenged by becoming involved in activities and experiences common for those involved in overseas mission work.

The Overseas Mission Department of the Vic.-Tas.

Rupert Murdoch, owner of the Times and Sun newspapers in Britain, is reported to have paid over £33 million for the Christian publishing corporation, Zondervan. The American deal was carried out by Harper & Row, in which Murdoch has a controlling stake.

Church planting at Heywood



Heywood residents Arthur Butler (left), Graham and Anne Emerson (right) with the Portland-Heywood minister, Robert Hough (seated), after the service on July 17

Portland, Vic., church has sponsored the development of monthly worship services at Heywood as the first step in the development of an established congregation. Services are held in the local Salvation Army facilities.

Don Smith, the Executive Director of the Department of Mission, Education and Development, met with the Portland board on July 16 to discuss forward planning for Portland and Heywood. The Portland church is undergoing significant development and has the Heywood church planting as a major objective. With the accelerating growth

of Portland, Heywood is becoming a new dormitory area.

Portland church is also enthusiastically supporting a new youth outreach through a coffee shop ministry in Portland. The project is being backed by Portland municipal authorities. Such is the impact of the work that the church is experiencing a constant flow of young people making commitments to Christ. The response of a number of young men is particularly encouraging. Later this year two Carlingford students from Portland church will graduate. Portland members are planning to attend the graduation service in strength.

Churches of Christ is one of the more than 30 mission societies who are actively involved in making Move Out '88 happen. They will set up a display and members of the committee will be on hand to talk with interested young people about our overseas mission activities.

400 are expected to participate, being given opportunities to learn about various mission societies and find out the kinds of skills and attitudes that are needed for cross-cultural ministry.

To register for Move Out '88 call Jim on (03) 877 6922 (BH).

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U.S. Covenant Communion of Churches

The executive committee of the Consultation on Church Union (COCU), which met in St Louis in mid-May, has approved a proposal for an ecumenical program among its nine member denominations that will be known as a 'covenant communion' of churches.

These are the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Church, the International Council of Community Churches, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church.

The relationship would allow denominations to remain distinct in identity and government while fully recognising and sharing in one another's functions, including worship, communion, ordination and mission work; it would also allow ministers of any of the nine denominations to serve each other's ministries despite their different training.

The Consultation on Church Union has been working toward this proposal for church unity for 24 years. Paul A. Crow Jr, chief ecumenical officer of the Disciples and a member of COCU's executive committee, said he expected a difficult struggle before the proposal becomes official policy of the nine denominations.

GOD'S PEOPLE — GOD'S WORLD
42ND FEDERAL CONFERENCE
JANUARY 15 — 21, 1989

Alexander Campbell on War and Peace

A Christian Perspective

Speaker: Ken Patterson
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Monday, September 5th at 7.30 p.m.

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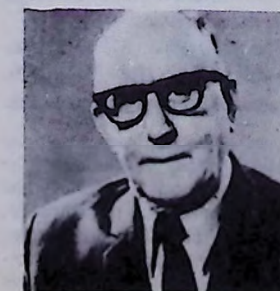
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High Court Judge delivers Bible Society lecture

The recently appointed President of the Assembly of the Uniting Church, Sir Ronald Wilson, is to lecture for the Bible Society in Australia. Sir Ronald, a Justice of the High Court in Australia, is the Society's 1988 Olivier Beguin lecturer and his subject will be "Searching for a Just Society".

The memorial lecture is delivered annually under the general title of *The Authority and Relevance of the Bible in the Modern World*. The lectures are a tribute to the late Dr Beguin who was the first General Secretary of the United Bible Societies, 1949 — 1972.

Sir Ronald's lecture is the 15th in the series.

The lecture will be delivered in Melbourne on August 30 at

7.45 pm at St John's Anglican Church, Burke Road, Camberwell; Launceston on August 31 at 8 pm at Pilgrim Uniting Church, 36 Paterson Street, Launceston; Canberra on September 6 at 7.30 pm at the Academy of Science, McCoy Circuit, Acton; Perth on October 17 at 7.30 pm at Murdoch University, Lecture Theatre 1.

In preparing for his lecture Sir Ronald has drawn on material presented by him in a lecture "Biblical Justice: Its Relevance Today", delivered in 1984 to the Queensland Synod of the Uniting Church.

Previous Beguin lecturers have included Professor M. Blaklock, Malcolm Muggeridge, Dr John Stott, Lord Coggan, Dr Gordon Moyes, Michael Cassidy and Dr Terry Fullam.

The estimated population of heaven as of 1986 was 5,473 million. This figure was calculated on the assumption that the world was populated by humans in 40,000 BC and that up to 1980 there had been nearly 60,000 million deaths. Then the estimated population from 8,000 BC onwards was taken, along with the estimated percentage who have been Christian. It would be unwise to take this figure, arrived at by the British Association for the Advancement of Science, too seriously. Apart from the assumptions listed above, it is also taken for granted that nobody born before the Christian era will have a place in heaven.

Christian Zionism is on the decline, according to Rev Donald Wagner, researcher and consultant for the Middle East Council of Churches. It is still capable, however, of doing much damage to the Middle Eastern churches. Present-day proponents of the creed, which gives unquestioning support to the Jewish state as part of what it sees as the Apocalyptic countdown, live mainly in America, as well as the Netherlands and South Africa. Christian Zionists tend to be anti-Muslim and anti-Palestinian, causing severe problems for the predominantly Palestinian Church in the Middle East, which strives to live in a Muslim context.

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FEDERAL CONFERENCE



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Canberra 1989



GODS PEOPLE GODS WORLD

A program of tours has been arranged for Federal Conference in Canberra from 15-22 January 1989. The 'Garden City' is a delight in summer, particularly in the company of Christian friends in the informal Conference atmosphere. A variety of tours is on offer: half-day, full-day, evening and two-day (post-Conference) tours. Final prices will depend on demand. They are expected to range from about \$15 to \$105 per person.

Here are just some of the possibilities. The Conference Registration Form has full details.

Half-day

- An introductory tour of all the main national buildings in the 'Parliamentary Triangle' including the magnificent new Parliament House.

- Tours of Canberra's gardens, including the embassies, botanic gardens, tree-lined suburbs and lakeside rambles.

- A visit to 'Old England' at the Cockington Green miniature village and Harcourt Inn, and a wander through Ginninderra

SPECIAL PUBLIC LECTURE

SUBJECT: "Cultic Confusion in the Enlightened 80s"

SPEAKER:

Adrian van Leen,
Director of
Concerned Christian
Growth Ministries,
Perth WA.

DATE: Wednesday 7
September, 8.00 pm

LOCATION:

The College of the Bible,
Elm Lane, Glen Iris
All welcome
Donation of \$3.00 to
cover costs

Village, part of Canberra's colonial heritage.

Evening

- See the city lights from Black Mountain and Mount Ainslie, including Anzac Parade and the new Parliament House.

- Dinner on the Lake, enjoying a great meal and pleasant music and sights aboard the "City of Canberra".

Longer tours

- Spend a full day enjoying Canberra's outlying scenes, including Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, Lanyon Homestead, a Deep Space Tracking Station and the Monaro countryside.

- The 'Summer Snowies' tour is two days, post-Conference, in the Snowy Mountains, visiting the hydro-electric scheme, enjoying mountain, lake and river, and the sights of Australia's high country and townships.

More news

There has been a really great response from the 116 randomly-selected churches to the questionnaire on the role of women in the church, with over 80 replies. If your church's reply hasn't been sent in, do it today to provide essential input to Federal Conference consideration of this issue.

Registrations are coming in



Tidbinbilla Space Tracking Station, near Canberra

slowly, with just over 50 from all States and the ACT to date. Do send yours in now! If you don't have a form, contact your church secretary, or get one from "The Australian Christian" or from Rob Gibson, Registration Officer, GPO Box 2732, Canberra ACT 2601.

The 'Theme Hymn' competition has closed, with 25 entries. Quite a job for the judging panel and a great response. Come to Conference and learn the winning hymn!

All the advertised workshops (Music, Drama, Banners and Movement) have attracted interest and all will be held. This is a new element of Conference.

We still need many more contributions of good ideas for the "Creative Programs for the Local Church" elective. Do send your ideas now to Neil Gilmore, Federal Conference President, 60 Limestone Ave, Ainslie ACT 2602. By sharing our experiences in this way we can contribute to the life and work of every church. No idea is too small!



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The Letters to the Editor limit is 200 words.

POLITICAL ALERTNESS

To the Editor,

I am concerned by your adverse comments about the League of Rights and the Logos Foundation in your editorial of June 11. By and large Christians are sitting in their cloistered pews singing hymns and offering prayers that reach no further than the ceiling whilst the last vestiges of our Christian freedom and heritage are being eroded.

Whether we agree in total or not, I suggest we must give credit to those who alert a sleeping church. All too few Christians seem to be aware of the consequences of a yes vote to freedom of religion in the coming referendum. Many evangelistic efforts could become discriminatory against other religions. No longer would we be free to claim that Jesus is Lord, or that his is the only name given whereby men must be saved.

Has the church so little respect or esteem left that it will stand idly by and allow an avowed atheist to represent our Queen, who has been enthroned on Christian principles in a Christian institution. If ever there was a par to the pork chop in a synagogue it would be this.

May we claim the freedom afforded in knowing truth.

—Tom Fraser
(Maitland, NSW)

REFERENDUM

To the Editor,

I believe the Government's Constitutional reforms may actually reduce our rights and freedom. Question 4 in the coming referendum will ask, in part, "Do you agree with an Act to alter the Constitution to extend the right to trial by jury, to extend freedom of religion..."

No-one is suggesting that we should not have these rights. But Australians have religious freedom. The proposal would amend

a clause of the constitution originally inserted not as a guarantee of religious freedom, but as a guarantee that there would not be an established church in Australia.

Under the literal terms of the proposed new clause, any act of government in Australia requiring any form of religious observance could be prohibited. This provision might prevent religious observance in certain schools, raise doubts about accepted religious ceremonies associated with public events and reopen the debate in Australia over State funding for church schools, opening the way for its opponents to mount another High Court challenge.

The best protection for human rights is to have a vigorous parliamentary system, a free press and an incorruptible judiciary. Formal constitutional guarantees will never prevail against an erosion of these democratic institutions.

I urge readers to look closely at the questions, particularly Question 4. Let us preserve our rights by voting 'No' on 3 September.

—Kay Patterson
Senator for Victoria

(This letter has been edited.)

LET THE WOMEN SPEAK

To the Editor,

H.E. Hayward ("AC" April 30) contends that in 1 Cor 14:34 Paul's forbidding women to "speak" in church is directed at their "chattering" during worship.

(1) He notes that in classical Greek *lalein* meant "to talk, chat, prattle," although by NT times it had come to mean "to speak"—it became a synonym for *legein*. "Talk, chat, prattle" is a description of decreasing frequency of meaning so the argument calls for Paul's making use of a less frequent meaning from classical rather than contemporary times.

(2) In 1 Cor Paul uses *legein* 22 times, but *lalein* 33 times, 24 of those occurring in chapter 14. There may be something unusual about *lalein* in ch. 14, though in view of Paul's regard for speaking in tongues—"I want you all to

speak in tongues" (v.5) and "I thank God that I speak in tongues" (v.18)—it is not likely that he uses *lalein* to mean "chatter".

(3) I agree that if *lalein* in v.34 means "to chatter" what is forbidden is not women preaching, but anything that denigrates "decency and order".

(4) Moreover, reading *lalein* in v.34 as "to chatter" does nothing to account for the *e* or the *monous* in v.36, nor does it justify "even as the law says" in v.34.

—Ronald W. Graham
(Johnston, USA)

APARTHEID IN AUSTRALIA?

To the Editor,

Reading through a petition being circulated, regarding Aborigines in Australia, I was encouraged by the obvious desire for reconciliation and the desire to redress any discrepancies in the treatment of these Australians.

However, I was dismayed to find that I was being asked to affirm self-management and self-determination for Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. To me it would seem that the proponents of this petition are advocating separate development for one group of Australians. In my, per-

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

Me!

To the Editor,

We were going through old boxes in a sort of 10 year clean up. Most of the boxes contained books our children used to read when they were small. I can't handle books without sneaking a bit of a read. Thumbing through one of them I found a nonsense jingle that said,

I gave a little tea party

This afternoon at three.

'Twas very small, three guests in all,
I, myself and me.

Myself ate up the sandwiches,

While I drank all the tea;

'Twas also I that ate the pie

And passed the cake to me.

I'm sorry I found it, because it hit home. I was helping with the clean-up job that my wife had wanted done for years, because I felt guilty about some particularly selfish attitudes that I had had to her, that she didn't deserve.

I don't mind God having a go at me in the minister's sermons on Sunday. I sort of expect it then. But when he does it in the middle of cleaning out kid's books! That's hitting below the belt.

I suppose my biggest problem is how to get me off my hands. Our minister says that the best way is to surrender our egos to the Lord. I think I do that every Sunday at communion, because the thought of the cross makes it easier for me to stop being sorry for myself. But by about Tuesday I've usually taken my ego back again, and me and my ego can do a lot of damage.

But fancy the Lord using a nonsense verse to remind me!

—TERTIUS

haps naive, fear this would appear very much like the apartheid now practised in South Africa and condemned by most Australians.

In this bicentennial year, in a multi-cultural Australia, surely the isolating of one group for special attention could be considered divisive and dangerous. Surely it would be better to promote reconciliation between all ethnic groups and encourage all Australians to contribute their special and particular cultural insights to the total fabric of our society. If, as a special act, we want to encourage today's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to take a greater place and part in our multi-cultural nation, then let us do so, not by separation, but by affirmation of equality.

—Bryan Mee
(Ringwood, Vic.)

REFERENDUM

To the Editor,

In the referendum to be held September 3 four questions will be put. The fourth one is to extend the right to trial by jury, to extend freedom of religion and to ensure four terms for people whose property is acquired by any government.

The voters are not told that there is a very real risk that this amendment will reopen the bitter and divisive dispute concerning state aid to church schools.

The voters are not told that this proposal could eliminate prayers in parliaments, at State funerals, and on other State occasions. They are not told that this proposal could abolish the religious associations of public holidays such as Easter and Christmas. They are not told that this proposal would allow the Commonwealth Parliament to make laws regulating religious observance in Australia in conjunction with the United Nations.

—Laurie Cusack
(San Remo, Vic.)

PUBLIC READING OF THE AV IS TESTING GOD

To The Editor,

Further to my letter in the July 23 issue of "The Australian Chris-

tian" may I make clear why I think public reading of the Authorised Version is testing God. This was not clear in the edited version of the letter. If we use less than the best available translation of God's Word and then ask God to give the hearers an understanding, we are testing God; we have put an unnecessary obstacle in the way of people's understanding and then asked God to remove it. Is that fundamentally any different from jumping off a tall building and expecting God to protect us?

Paternoster Press have published a very thorough book called "Bible Translations and How to Choose Between Them" by Alan Dulhie. He is a senior university lecturer in linguistics and has a detailed knowledge of translation. Translations are evaluated as to how well they convey the full meaning of the original to the widest audience of speakers of English today. The author has studied and compared 42 versions. The Good News Bible rates in the highest group whereas the King James version is in the third lowest group. (This book was reviewed in the first issue of "The Australian Christian" of 1987).

—Bruce Anderson
(Mt. Gambier, S.A.)

(This letter points out the need for writers of Letters to the Editor to adhere to the 200 word limit.)

DILEMMA OF MULTI-FAITH PRESENTATION

To the Editor,

I hope that by now David Althorpe has seen a copy of "Sharing Dreams and Visions in Australia". I'm sure this will remove the fears expressed in his letter ("A.C."

August 6).

Jesus commands us to: Love your neighbour as you love yourself. This requires that we seek to understand and appreciate those who share life with us in Australia. Meeting and sharing with people who belong to other faith traditions I find inspires me to follow my Lord with greater fervour. Do you remember the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well?

—J.W. Somerville
(Wembley Downs, W.A.)
VANUATU

To the Editor,

Yesterday we returned from a trip to Vanuatu where we met the staff working under the auspices of the Overseas Mission Board. It was a very exciting time. These people have talents and experi-

ence that fit each one to a specific task. They share in an overall ministry that spreads through many islands of the country.

We also met several of the Ni-Vanuatu pastors, teachers and workers and were impressed with their enthusiasm and their vision to spread the Gospel further.

Each area of the church work has successes and problems, but the Lord is surely working in Vanuatu. Baptisms are being conducted, new churches established, new buildings planned, young people are being educated, and pastors and workers are training to do God's work.

I urge readers to support our mission workers and their children. Pray for those whom you know and learn about those whom you don't know.

—Mary Ambrose

DIRECTOR/CO-ORDINATOR OF A DAY NURSERY

A Vacancy exists for a suitably qualified person with at least 3 years experience in a Day Care Centre. Must be able to get along with both adults and children and to provide leadership and direction to fellow staff. The following qualifications are acceptable: Kindergarten teacher (3 year course), Pre-School Mothercraft Nurse or Infant Welfare Sister.

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A Vacancy exists for a Pre-School Mothercraft Nurse to work among 2 and 3 year old children.

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Address applications to:

The Manager
Wesleyan Day Nursery/Play School
55 Leonard Ave.,
Glenroy 3046.

Please include a resume of qualifications and experience, at least 3 character references, and a photocopy of your current Practising Certificate (if required).

Interviews begin on 23rd August, 1988.

Late applications will be considered.

MORNINGTON CHURCH START

September 4 at 2.45 pm marks the inaugural service at Mornington Technical School. You will be welcome. Ian Cartmel will be commissioned as minister and members welcomed into the church fellowship. Churches are invited to use September 4 as a day of prayer for this C.R.O.P. initiative. Gifts are especially welcome.

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WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE QUEST FOR AN INDIGENOUS THEOLOGY?

Since the mid-1970s there has been a resurgence of interest in a distinctively Australian theology. How should Christians understand the Australian experience? Are there Australian images, traditions, patterns of thought, or ways of doing things, which affect—or should affect—our thinking as Christians?

In a paper just published by the Zadok Institute, **Robert Banks**, one of the theologians most deeply involved in the 'quest for an indigenous theology', examines what has emerged from this endeavour. "How high on the agenda has such a concern been?" he asks. "Which approaches have theologians favoured? What has come from their efforts?"

Paper S41 "Whatever happened to the Quest for an Indigenous Theology?" is available from the Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society, Blackall St, Barton, ACT 2600, for \$2 plus 78c postage.

BOOKS

EPHESIANS—WHOLENESS FOR A BROKEN WORLD 13 studies for individuals or groups

by A.T. & P.J. Le Peau (Lifebuilder Bible Studies—Scripture Union) \$4.85

This attractive workbook study is designed for both individual and/or group study. The approach is inductive rather than deductive, that is, the questions lead us to discover what the Bible says, rather than simply telling us what it says. The thought-provoking approach requires more than one-word answers, and readers are exposed to the promises, assurances, exhortations and challenges of God's word. All major themes within Ephesians are covered in this study.

There is a very good balance between 'approach' questions, personal reflection questions and biblical questions. Ample space is given under each question to record answers. An excellent guide to preparing to lead and leading the study is included in the book as well as suggestions for individual and group study.

Beginning group leaders would feel very secure using this material.
—Malcolm Orr

COPING WITH MORAL ISSUES A Biblical Perspective

by Ray Galvin (Belmont Publishers) \$7.95

It seems that we cannot avoid being confronted and confused by moral issues. Social and political issues inevitably have a moral dimension to them. How then do we, as Christians, make responsible decisions in these areas? Do we fire off salvos of Bible texts which seem to support our own position? Do we adopt the posture of an ostrich? Should a Christian stance on such issues be consistently conservative, or radical, or will we find ourselves on different sides on different issues?

Ray Galvin, the Maclaurin Chaplain at Auckland University, sets out not to provide glib answers to moral questions, but rather to provide readers with techniques for developing a thoughtful, Bible-based response of their own.

The church—pastor, elders and people—is seen as a community of moral decision-making, in which individuals must be able to hold differing points of views yet still feel that they belong to each other. Galvin recommends that the reader, patiently and prayerfully, seek the great moral themes, such as justice and forgiveness, which permeate the

whole Bible and relate them to the current knowledge of the issues under consideration.

Using the techniques he has developed earlier in the book, the author then goes on to explore in detail the issues of the road toll, ecology, homosexuality, the Christian and war, and abortion.

Those who are already committed on these issues probably won't see the need for this book, but would probably benefit from the application of its techniques to their preconceptions. For the thoughtful Christian seeker after Truth it will be an extremely valuable resource.

—Graeme Addicott

GOD FAN MY FIRE EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

by Don Herbert (Self published) \$3.20 each.

These two study booklets are designed to be used by an individual or by a group. Don Herbert, currently ministering at Goonellabah, N.S.W., examines two issues that relate to the Charismatic issue and our churches.

"God Fan My Fire", sub-titled "Re-discovering Spiritual Worship", examines the issues of worship and praise in six short chapters.

"Empowered by the Holy Spirit" is an examination of the gifts and baptism of the Holy Spirit. Don argues that there is a balanced position between traditional teaching of Churches of Christ that would deny any validity of these gifts today and the excesses of the modern Charismatic movement.

Both studies are available from Theos Print Shop, P.O. Box 212, Lismore 2480 for \$3.20 each which includes postage.

A QUIET REVOLUTION

by John Perkins (Marshall's) \$8.50.

This is the 1985 English edition of a book published in 1976 in the United States. The book is a little dated as it only describes the situation and ministry of John Perkins up to about 1975. John Perkins describes his life, his faith in God, and how this faith caused him to return to Mississippi and commence a ministry in his home town. His description of growing up as a Negro in the country areas of the deep South in America is chilling. The story of how God called him to ministry and to the different ministries that the Voice of Calvary has developed in Mendenhall and Jackson, Mississippi is very uplifting. The questions John Perkins raises about the ways that Christians should be helping to meet human need are very challenging.

The big development in the ministry of the Perkins family was that in coming from a very evangelical tradition they were intensely aware of the need of people to come to a real relationship with Christ. At the same time as they started to fully come alongside the people to whom they ministered they discovered that evangelism was also involved with the social and economic structures that oppress people. The new understanding of Christianity that they were developing in the community is a great example for us in the church today. The chilling news for me was the way that the faith of the whites in the area was so blinkered as to condone the sub-human treatment of blacks. I guess I reflect that probably we have done much the same with Aborigines in Australia in the past.

Highly recommended.

—C.R.A.


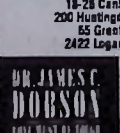




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National Refugee Week

September 18-24

National Refugee Week serves to draw attention to the plight of the 12 million refugees who share our world with us. Let us rid the world of this tragedy by both removing the causes of the problem and by attending to the people in need.

Who are refugees?

Refugees are people who, because they fear persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, flee their country of origin and are unable to avail themselves of the protection of that country.

Refugees fall under the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the moment they cross the border into a foreign country.

At least half of the world's refugees are children. Along with the many women, they are particularly vulnerable and often need assistance.

Against their choice

Refugees are not migrants. Migrants make a conscious choice

to leave home and migrate to another country. If they do not like the new country migrants may choose to return home. Refugees are forced by circumstances to leave home, usually against their will. They cannot return home unless the conditions which forced them to become refugees are changed.

Who helps refugees?

Apart from the enormous amount of humanitarian work done by UNHCR and many host countries (countries of asylum or resettlement), many governmental and non-governmental organisations help refugees. One example is Austcare, assisting through the provision of emergency relief and the support of long-term development projects.

It generally comes down to the compassion of people all over the world who can imagine what it must be like to flee one's country. Australians have always helped refugees.

Ending a global tragedy

There are five main solutions to the refugee problem:



Mozambican refugee children

1. Eliminate the causes.
2. Voluntary repatriation, the best solution where possible. This means that the refugee chooses to return to his/her country.
3. Local integration, or settling in the country which offers first asylum. This is only possible where that country has the land, the resources and the desire to settle refugees.
4. Resettlement—migrating and settling in a third country.

This is often difficult for refugees as it usually means that they must move from one culture to another.

5. Care of refugees in camps, in transit and as they settle in new homes.

For information about Refugee Week activities in your area phone (02) 212 2188. If you find that nothing is organised, why not see what you can do to promote refugee awareness?

Lambeth resolutions

The 12th Anglican Conference at Lambeth dealt with a number of resolutions concerning ecumenical relations.

The conference unanimously adopted a resolution praising the World Council of Churches "Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry" and urging its "reception" (the process of being 'owned' and recognised by the churches).

Resolutions were passed approving the progress which has been made in dialogue with the Lutheran, Eastern and Oriental Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches. Resolutions approved on Anglican relations with three traditions are brief. They propose dialogues with Methodists and Baptists, and encourage "where possible . . . personal contact and theological dialogue with Pentecostal churches".

Another resolution offers "full membership" in the Lambeth Conference to the 50-plus bishops of the Churches of North India,

South India, Pakistan and Bangladesh (in which Anglicans united with Christians of other traditions). These united churches already have relationships with world bodies of other traditions which are among their ancestors.

The resolution on councils of churches recognises the World Council of Churches as a "special instrument of God in bringing (churches) into fuller unity and mission". It also hopes that through the WCC and other ecumenical councils the churches will be helped to function according to the principle that they "do together all those things that deep differences of conviction do not compel them to do separately".

Later a resolution was passed encouraging conversations between Jews, Muslims and Christians, as well as two other resolutions on inter-faith dialogue.

—Adapted from "Church Scene", Australia's Anglican weekly, August 12

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According to a US report the 2 million member Assemblies of God opened 307 new churches in 1987, more than its goal of 300 which had been set for the year.

The American Bible Society reports that its US distribution of the Scriptures in 1987 rose by almost 16 million over the previous year. The total of 116,155,119 copies was a 15.6% increase above the 1986 tally.

A Kenyan bishop was recently barred from holding a church service and briefly held under arrest by the police as church-state relations in Kenya continue to deteriorate.

The church in Zambia has expressed strong opposition to the government's decision to import 3 million condoms for distribution to high risk groups to combat the spread of AIDS.

The "Network Media for Christ" has been established in Sydney. The aim of the network is to "encourage communication within the media industry as well as between the churches."

The Refugee and Migrant services of the Australian Council of Churches are conducting a National Churches Conference on Immigration from August 25-26 at Level 25, the American Express building, 388 George St, Sydney. Registration is \$20. For information contact Lyn Hussein, phone (02) 29 2215.

Children living in poverty throughout Australia number 750,000. The poverty line now stands at \$288.30 per week after tax for a two parent/two child family. During 1987-88 the Sydney City Mission gave material assistance and counselling to 28,000 families and individuals. \$400,000 was the cost of emergency food and fi-

nanacial assistance given during the year.

4FRB, a non-denominational organisation seeking to provide a Christian radio voice for Brisbane, has been refused a licence to operate an FM Christian radio station because, in the words of the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal, it is 'not a fit and proper person' to hold a licence as it was seen as 'not meeting the needs of the community'.

The Qld CWF night rally will be held at the Camp Hill Church of Christ on Tuesday 6 September at 7.30pm. The program will be provided by Richard and Shirley Pearce.

David Templeman, Information Officer for the Australia Tibet Council will lecture on the religious and secular architecture of Tibet on 4 September, 2pm at Queen's College, Parkville, Melbourne. The cost is \$10.

"24 Hours—A Day in the Life of the Sydney City Mission" is a 30-minute colour documentary recently released. It provides eye-witness accounts of the Mission's average day, revealing the tragic side of Sydney. The video also shows that hope is a compelling quality in every aspect of the Mission's work. The documentary is available on VHS, Beta and U-Matic video, for details contact Margaret Moore on (02) 212 6277.

The Director of Concerned Christian Growth Ministries, Adrian van Leen, will be involved in meetings in Melbourne (Aug. 29 to Sep. 11) and Brisbane (Sep 12 to 26). Anyone interested in having him speak at meetings should contact the organisers: David Morley (Melbourne), phone (03) 836 0777(BH) or (03) 404 3073(AH); Peter Willis (Brisbane) (07) 63 1242.

It is now estimated that there could be over 40,000 homeless adults and families, as well as 40,000 young people, without adequate shelter throughout Australia. During the 1987-88 year Sydney City Mission provided 615,275 meals to the homeless at a cost of \$434,968. Unfortunately they are turning away some 39 families monthly because they are unable to house them.

In the last 10 years in Australia over half-a-million divorces have been granted.

'Prophet's Pulpit', a series for today's disciples providing prophetic preaching and serious discussion, takes place in Melbourne on the last Sunday of each month. On August 28 Bel Magill, the Lausanne Asian Region Co-ordinator and pastor of a church in the Philippines, will speak on the topic: 'Authentic Evangelism in the Midst of Revolution and Injustice'. Supper is available before and after the session which begins at 9 pm at St Stephen's Anglican, Church St, Richmond.

West German missionary societies have announced that they have over 2,500 vacancies on their books. Among the vacancies, which include many for Bible translators, medical staff and administrators, are openings for dieticians and potters.

The President of the Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy has asked the government there to remove crucifixes from school classrooms. Because they represent one denomination, he claims, it amounts to religious discrimination.

A new council of Christian groups has been formed in Uganda. The National Council of Pentecostal

and Evangelical Churches includes some 35 denominations and churches. Now seeking government recognition, the formation of the NCPEC comes at a time of growing Christian interest in the country.

In a survey carried out in West Germany, it has been revealed that 23% of Roman Catholics, 21% of Protestants and 12% of atheists believe in reincarnation.

General Eva Burrows said during a recent visit here that the Salvation Army would only consider re-joining the World Council of Churches if it abolished its Programme to Combat Racism. The Salvation Army was one of the founding members of the WCC, but 10 years ago suspended its membership assuming 'fraternal' status.

The 300th anniversary of John Bunyan's death will be commemorated at a service in St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, at 7.30pm on 31 August. Rev. Mervyn Himbury will preach.

During 1987 membership in the churches belonging to the Baptist World Alliance reported an increase of 1,385,673 to a total of 35,418,044 members, a 4% increase.

Rev. James Payne, General Secretary of the Bible Society in Australia since 1968, is to retire. It is anticipated that an announcement about his successor will be made when the Bible Society National Council meet in October.

A half-million dollar Sydney City Mission family welfare centre and extensions to the Mission's employment training centre in Mt Druitt, NSW, were opened this month. The family welfare centre includes counselling offices and group activity areas. It will serve the community as an information, referral and resource

centre to meet the needs of local families with material aid and life education programs to help them move beyond welfare dependency. Donations are needed to assist the mission to continue its work in these areas. Phone (02) 212 6277.

During 1988 the Sydney City Mission will train over 700 unemployed people in trade, office, health and community care and computer skills. Between 85-90% will gain a job after graduation from the 22-week course.

Dr Tabbernee, Principal of the College of the Bible, is spending six weeks in research at Oxford and Cambridge to complete a book on Montanism.

The Bible does not condemn polygamy and so the church should be more tolerant in dealing with polygamists, a Kenyan bishop has said at the 12th Lambeth Conference. The Rt Rev. Dr David Gitari drew a line between the scriptural requirement and culture which, over the years, had intertwined to the point of being confused with each other. Bishop Gitari appealed to the church in Africa to approach polygamists with greater pastoral sensitivity.

For the first time in 33 years Christians in China associated with the post-denominational China Christian Council have two new bishops. Sun Yanli, 74, and Shen Yifan, 60, were unanimously elected by the standing committee of the Shanghai Christian Council. Their consecration service was attended by about 1,500 people, including ecumenical guests from Hong Kong, India and the US. There are 4 other bishops associated with the CCC.

**GOD'S PEOPLE
GOD'S WORLD**

The End of an Era

From August 1 the Federal Aborigines Board relinquished its licence to operate the childcare program at Eldsvold, Queensland. This brings to an end FAB involvement in childcare around Australia, almost 50 years after first becoming involved in Western Australia.

The Board recommended that the licence be transferred to the Queensland Conference Executive. The QCE, in turn, asked its Social Service Department to manage the home and the eight children currently being cared for. Robert and Jocelyn Clancy will continue as houseparents under the new administration.

An era of successful missionary enterprise, which brought together hundreds of missionaries and thousands of children, has closed. Inevitably some will ask, "Was it worth all the hard work,

the frustrations, the commitment of so many?"

The answer, both in physical and spiritual terms, is yes.

Childcare involved the churches, particularly the ladies' groups, who provided clothing parcels each year. It involved work parties, building drives, the contribution of countless voluntary workers and sacrificial giving on the part of many.

Does the latest step mean that the FAB doesn't need church support any more? No. Childcare has laid the foundation upon which the developing Aboriginal church is growing—it has been the springboard into so many opportunities to minister to Aboriginal communities. Your continued prayer and financial support will help Churches of Christ to play a strategic part in the continuing development of this work.

—A.W.M.

There will be a Referendum Prayer Service at the Canterbury Presbyterian Church, Canterbury Rd, Vic., on 2 September. Before the service there will be a time of prayer and fasting, the service will commence at 7.30pm. Contact Rev Robert Betts on (03) 836 4601 for more details.

Over 116,000 inmates in US federal and state prisons have participated in Prison Fellowship Ministries (PFM) In-Prison Seminars since 1977, according to the ministry's 1987 annual report. PFM founder is Charles Colson. The report also shows the organisation raised \$11.1 million in 1987 from about 80,000 contributors nationwide.

10th anniversary of Craft Shop



Margaret Hill and Nellie Finlayson

Workers at the Adelphian Craft Shop in Horsham, Vic., recently celebrated the tenth anniversary of the shop's opening. The shop is run by a group of women from Horsham Church of Christ.

About 250 people sell their work through the shop. One member lives in Perth, others are from Melbourne, Ballarat, Geelong and country areas of the Wimmera. Many are happy to sell

their work to cover costs to buy more materials.

In the ten years \$20,000 has been given to church and charities, local community groups, (including Wimmera Community Care, Rotary's Polio Plus) and missionary support. The major gifts this year have been \$1,000 to the College of the Bible and \$700 for manse renovations.

—Courtesy of "Wimmera Mail-Times"

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.

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

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The Pastoral Care Unit is offering 3 grants for 9 months (39 weeks, 35 hours per week): 1 of \$5,400.00, 1 of \$2,385.00, 1 of \$1,950.00, plus special duties allowance for night and weekend duty.

Training commences in February 1989. The training programme is an education experience, and the aim is to promote professional growth and greater effectiveness in ministry to people.

Applicants are expected to have a reasonable amount of experience in pastoral care.

Applications close on 16th September, 1988. Enquiries and requests for application forms should be directed to:

The Reverend David C. Stark,
Head, Pastoral Care Unit.

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Obituaries limited to 100 words.

DEOBERITZ, William Godfrey

(12.6.88) For almost 50 years William Deoberitz (born 14.4.07) served the Bundaberg, Qld, church with loving and selfless service for which they conferred upon him the title 'Elder Emeritus'. At the age of 79 Bill, and his wife Gladys, became active members of the Wynnum church. Bill endeared himself to all who knew him and is sadly missed. To Gladys, daughters Aileen, June and Val (since dec.), his sons-in-law Allen, John and George, and families, we offer our love and sympathy as we endeavour to share with them their sadness over this temporary parting. We thank God that Bill Deoberitz lived amongst us.

—Charles Cole

GARROD, Henry Batchelor

(7.7.88) Batch had a long association with the Ivanhoe, Vic., church. Prior to that he was a member of the Collins St Baptist choir. After his public music ministry ceased his voice was still strong in community singing. For some, their first impression of the church was being met by Batch at the door with a handshake and a profuse welcome. He served for some years as an elder. His final two years were spent at the Northcote Home where he continued praising the Lord in song and reading his Bible. Lovingly remembered by his wife, Esther, and the people of the Ivanhoe church.

—J. Capom

GREEN, Arthur

(25.7.88) The Berwick church was saddened by Arthur's death. Born an epileptic, he was ill most of his life. His family moved into Berwick in 1921. Arthur was baptised in the late 1950s. He loved to sing and performed various other functions within the church. He was an inspiration because of the way he battled illness and never complained. Arthur was able to live in a fulfilled way because of his relationship with God. About two years ago Arthur was moved into the Hallam Nursing Home. He became very tired and longed for the time when he would be at home with his Lord.

—G. Rowcroft

ROBOTTOM, Stuart Royden (Joe)

Born at Warragul, Vic., Joe built up a fleet of trucks, becoming an interstate haulier. Aged 23 he married Helen Muriel Bramstedt. They settled in North Ess-

endon and were significant members of the church there. Joe served in the Army, later the RAAF. There were four children: Jan, Karen, Ian and Helen. In 'retirement' at Anglesea Joe and Muriel started a taxi service, Joe drove a school bus. He enjoyed sport, particularly cricket and, later, yachting. His later months were times of great pain and greater courage. Amazing all who knew him he completed this year's Anzac Day march with his comrades. A thanksgiving service was held at North Essendon after a service at the Grovedale Crematorium.

—A.E. White

STRACK, George Edmund

(2.8.1988) Born in Essendon (1907), married Jessie Flood in 1934 and baptised at the Essendon, Vic., church. He served on the board for many years and as Explorer leader at Essendon. After Jessie's death, 15 years ago, George (still working with F. Strack & Sons) found fellowship with Christian Touring Party and Essendon Baptist Bethany Group. Everywhere his genial nature was appreciated. He was proud of his 10 children and 33 grandchildren who are all involved in churches. A thanksgiving service was held at Essendon where family and friends paid tribute to George, whose life has been a happiness directive to many.

—Ken Stothard

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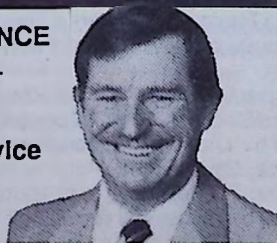
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Yes or No?

On September 3 Australian voters will be faced with deciding on four proposed changes to the Constitution.

The first proposal is to allow for a maximum of four years for both Houses of the Commonwealth Parliament. This change will also mean that the Senate and House of Representatives will always be elected simultaneously which may not necessarily happen at present. This proposal will not necessarily mean less elections and it changes the rotation of Senators and lessens their term from six years to a maximum of four.

The second proposal is to provide for fair and democratic parliamentary elections throughout Australia. This change is meant to apply to all state and federal parliaments except the Senate. However the wording of the bill is ambiguous and could be interpreted to include the Senate. The other objection that many have is that it means that decisions regarding the sizes of seats are decided by the Federal Government rather than in the States.

Question 3 will allow for the recognition of local governments in the Constitution. The main concern by those proposing a no vote on this question is that it will mean centralisation of power in Canberra.

Question 4 is the main one that has implications for Christians. This question proposes that an Act of Parliament will alter the Constitution to extend the right of trial by jury, to extend freedom of religion, and to ensure fair trial for persons

whose property is acquired by government. I will only comment on the section regarding freedom of religion.

The reasons put forward by those supporting a yes vote are that there is no common law protection of the right to religious freedom. This also applies to State and Territorial governments. They also argue that the proposal will not prevent government aid to religious schools or hospitals, etc. or that prayers will be prohibited at Government schools or at public ceremonies.

Opponents of this change to the Constitution argue that a yes vote would put at risk all government assistance to religion in such areas as special and religious education in government schools; financial grants to church related schools; taxation exemptions for religious bodies; State legislation incorporating churches as bodies corporate; and free time for religious programs on radio and television. It has been argued that there will be an immediate challenge in the High Court to State Aid to religious schools. It has also been argued that this would open the way for extremist sects and practices and that alternatively it would prevent Christians from witnessing to people who are not believers.

It is necessary to read very carefully the yes and no cases sent to all electors. There are also many articles and letters in the daily newspapers. However these come from a variety of viewpoints, often unstated, having a particular political leaning. If you are unaware of the basic assumptions underlying their views you may be misled. Think carefully about the questions and exercise your right to vote on September 3.

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Chartered Accountant

7 The Parade

Norwood, S.A. 5067

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Australian arms race

The Chairman of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA), Rev Neville Ross, has urged directors of ACFOA's 85 member agencies and national church leaders to oppose publicly the proposal by Defence Minister Mr Beazley that Australia join the international arms race by promoting the export of arms and military equipment. The proposal from Mr Beazley involves changes to the Customs Act to relax export guidelines relating to military equipment.

"Every minute over \$2 million is spent on military expenditure and 25 children die in our world. Yet the Australian Government has cut aid to the lowest level for 25 years and now proposes to join the senseless arms race as a way of earning export income," said Mr Ross.

"Instead of expanding the Australian weapons industry, ACFOA urges the Government to strengthen its initiatives for resolving conflicts and conflict situations in the region into promoting non-military approaches to security.

"In today's world it is non-military threats that have moved to the forefront of global concern. Mass poverty, illiteracy, disease, squalor, and malnutrition affecting a majority of the world's population often become the cause of social strain, tension and strife. The degradation of the environment endangers life on our planet.

"It is these problems that constitute a major threat to global security and it is to these problems that the Australian Government must give priority. The resources—capital, human and time—that will be ploughed into the expansion of weapons manufacture should be invested in addressing the problems of the majority of the world's people.

"Australia has the resources, skills and ability to overcome the current balance of payments crisis. It does not need to abandon its traditional and internationally respected stance against the arms race for the sake of a few easy dollars from the merchants of death," Mr Ross concluded.

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Focus on Dalkeith Road

In 1962 the Claremont and Nedlands churches in Perth, WA, amalgamated and took a new name, that of the road in which the church building was situated. So, in one sense the Dalkeith Road church is only 26 years old, but the origins of the church can be traced back much further. The current minister is Barry Ryall.

The area in which the church is situated has an older population, in fact, three times the national average of people over 70 years of age. Nevertheless, the church has good representation from all age groups. For example, the mid-week Church School, which runs each Wednesday from 4pm-5.30pm has had an average attendance lately of around 90 children from pre-school up to grade six.

As well a playgroup has commenced this year, co-ordinated by Jan Rowe. Ladies from the church run it and there's now a waiting list. There are two youth groups and five netball teams. The boys basketball team has won every game so far this year.

The CWF is active in the community, every two months they hold a jumble sale to aid local and overseas mission projects. They are also involved in the mental health area, providing afternoon teas every couple of months.

On Thursday mornings the church runs an Open House program for older socially disadvantaged or physically disabled people. Some of those who attend are hospital referrals who may have suffered a stroke, for example, and would benefit from being involved. At the Open House they can pursue such activities as carpet bowls, table games, cards and various group games.

The congregation is very active, both the older and younger members. It's nothing unusual for an 80 year-old to do weekly mental health driving. At the other end of the scale, the church treasurer is a 19 year-old (until recently an octogenarian was doing that work also!)

A missionary family connected with the church have recently returned. Coral and Geoff Wager and their three sons spent over 17 years with APCM in Indonesia.

The current state handbook lists the membership at Dalkeith Road as 98. The morning service is at 10am. Before communion there's a visual presentation for the children. After communion they leave for Junior Church. Sometimes they'll return at the end of the service to share their activities with the rest of the congregation.

Generally the evening service commences at 7pm. About twice a year a cottage meeting program is undertaken. This involves three weeks of preparation on a particular theme such as Hope. Everyone selects a group according to their interests. They may choose to join the art group—music, teaching, drama and poetry are other possibilities. The groups meet for three Sundays of planning, sharing a meal and devotional time. On the fourth Sunday all the groups meet together to make their presentations on the theme in the form which they have chosen. This is seen as providing an opportunity for everyone to participate and to use their abilities.

A recent Thanksgiving Day also focused on people's abilities. \$5,000 was set as a fund-raising target for the day and people were encouraged to give thanks to God for their talents. They were asked to bring symbols of their talents to the evening service. These were displayed on the platform and explained during the service. Quite a range of talents was displayed by means of such symbols as cakes, art, a surf board, basketball, engineering equipment and leotards. People were affirmed for their particular talents, recognised as gifts from God.

At Dalkeith Road members of the congregation are willing and able to use the gifts that God has given them.

BIRTHS

GIBSON (SIMS) Lyn and Scott welcome with love God's gift of a precious daughter, Erin Alison. First great-grandchild for Hazel Shaw, first grandchild for John and Sandra Gibson.

ENGAGEMENTS

BENZ—HARRIS Mr & Mrs B. Benz are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Ingrid to Troy, eldest son of Mr & Mrs K. Harris.

DEATHS

PADEY, Ernest Percival, on July 22nd, aged 84, at Fred Combridge House, formerly of Caulfield. Loved husband of Verna (dec.), loving father of Reg and Colin, father-in-law of Loris (dec.), Norrene and Thea (dec.). Grandfather to seven and great-grandfather to four children. Rest peacefully in God's care.

STRACK, George Edmund, 2.8.1988. Loved husband of Jessie (dec.). Father & father-in-law of Margaret & Ken Lisk, George & Kathy, Judith & Brian Langley, Kathryn & Robert (dec.), David & Sandra, Gwenda & Ray Cheal, Alan & Leonie, Heather & Wayne De Mack, Fred & Julie, Colin & Dianne. 'Pa' to 33 grandchildren. Brother & brother-in-law to Marian & Charlie Wilson (both dec.), Jim & Doreen, Fred (dec.) & Lois, Stewart & Iris, Audrey & Keith Roberts. "He loved and cared for others."

IN MEMORIAM

ALLAN, James Ernest, passed away August 22nd 1957. Treasured memories, Doreen.

An invitation to the

DANDENONG

**Church of Christ's
96th Anniversary
on September 11th**

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Mr Greg Deuble

Guest singers

King Jesus V

Followed by lunch

RSVP if requiring lunch by
September 3 to

Vicki Foster

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Past members welcome

PARKER, Gordon, 26th August, 1983. There's not a day I don't think of you and shed many a tear, the love we had between us cannot be taken away. Thanks, my darling, for all you did for me, I know you walk beside me now I'm alone. Walk slowly darling, I'll be with you soon. If only you could have stayed, I'd not be alone today. 'Till we meet again.'—Gwendolyn.

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Executive Director

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Minister: Mr Harold Steele

Luncheon in the hall at 12.15 pm

Past members and friends cordially invited

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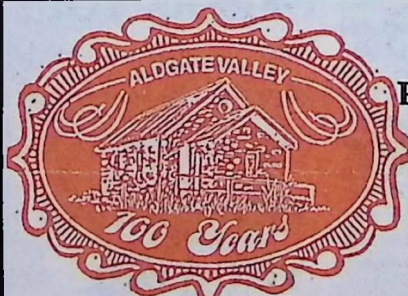
11th September, 1988

Worship: 10.00am Lunch: 12.30pm

Evening service: 7.00pm

Preacher at both services: **Dr Keith Farmer**

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on Sunday September 11th 1988

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- Followed by lunch, fellowship Longwood camp
- 3.30 pm afternoon service in the Aldgate chapel
- Presentation of Centenary project cheques
- Next Sunday, **September 18th:** Re-enactment of 'old time' Gospel service in lamp light, 7 pm

The speaker at both services on September 11th will be
Dr W. Tabbernee.

The church is looking forward to renewing contact with
past members, CE and Sunday School scholars and friends.

An apostle of liberty

A 21 year-old immigrant from Scotland stood on American soil and read Thomas Campbell's "Declaration and Address". He said, "Father, I accept that plea for Christian union. I believe it implicitly and now I devote all that I am or hope to be to that cause."

A teenager is prepared and called to minister

Alexander Campbell was 18 when his father acted on medical advice and set off to American frontier country to prepare a new life for his family. The eldest son was left with the care of the family and of the school in Rich-Hill, Ahorey, Ireland founded by his father.

Having established himself in ministry, Thomas Campbell sent word for his family to join him, less than six months after his departure. Setting out from Scotland their ship was wrecked off the Island of Islay. The family safely survived the experience, but the occasion was significant to Alexander. Sitting on the stump of a broken mast, watching the frightened passengers, he thought of his father's noble life, devoted to God and to the salvation of his fellow beings, and felt that such a consecrated calling was the highest and most worthy sphere of action in which any human being could engage. In that solemn hour he gave himself wholly to God and resolved that, if saved from his present peril, he would spend his life in the ministry of the gospel.

In the remaining period before the family set out again they moved to Glasgow, where Alexander gave himself diligently to university studies as well as providing some support by coaching in Latin and mathematics. Campbell's biographers all write of the influences a number of independent, religious thinkers had upon him, both in Ireland and in Glasgow, in those formative years.

When the family set out, nearly two years after their first attempt to join Thomas Campbell in West Virginia, Alexander, at just 21 years of age, was a disciplined student with an inquiring mind and an unquestioned calling to minister.

A visionary family united in a cause

Finally the family were reunited after two and a half years of separation. Thomas had ridden to meet the wagon en route. Father and son had some matters of deepest concern to share about their spiritual pilgrimages.

Thomas Campbell had arrived in Philadelphia to find his church in session and he received appointment to minister on the frontier at Washington, Pennsylvania to the Old Light, Antiburgher, Seceder Presbyterian Church. His catholicity and concern for other Presbyterians, for whom there was no-one to administer communion, prompted him to minister to them.

For this he was censured. Subsequently he separated from that ministry. In that beautiful, undulating mountainous country Campbell pursued his studies and shared his ideal of Christian union with others. In his "Declaration and Address", presented to the Christian Association of Washington, he declared that the church was one—with the New Testament as its basis. The 13 Propositions are charged with a passionate and studied desire to see in practical terms the restoration of a tragically divided church.

Thus, when father and son met and journeyed westward, each had, perhaps rather sheepishly, and yet with some quiet conviction, to confess their idealism. To their joy they discovered the affinity of their diverse experiences to arrive at a common sacred calling.

An energetic leader emerges—a vigorous fighter for truth

By the time a congregation was established at Brush Run in 1811, Alexander had married Margaret Brown and their daughter Jane was born. In this context the question of baptism, previously raised by some others who were convinced that an application of NT teaching called for the baptism of believers, now became significant for the Campbells.

Bicentenary of his birth
12 September 1988

Intense study resulted in the decision not to baptise Jane, but to be baptised themselves in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, on confession of their faith in Jesus and no other creed.

Tacitly Alexander Campbell was assuming a leadership role that became evident without any loss of respect for the role Thomas Campbell played within the fellowship. Given the day and the setting in which these events took place it was inevitable that the word spread. For the next 20 years Alexander lectured, preached, wrote and debated. He travelled great distances by horseback and became widely known. Opposition was strong.

Debating in those days was a common method of communication. In the 1820s Campbell debated against two Presbyterian ministers, Walker and Maccalla, and in 1843 he had a 17-day debate against Dr Rice in Lexington, Kentucky.

A wider interest emerged when he took up a challenge to debate with Bishop Purcell of the Roman Catholic Church, and more so when he debated with the rationalist Robert Owen. Although the debates against the Presbyterians were divisive by the limited nature of the issues, the debates with Purcell and Owen resulted in respect and friendship between the debaters.

The mature man in mission—an apostle of liberty

Other writers in the series on Alexander Campbell will have so much to draw on. But in this introduction I draw attention to the stages in Campbell's life and the rich development in his emphases around the period from 1830.

At 42 years of age Campbell was entering the mature years of his ministry with so much behind him, but a broadening wealth of Christian experience, activity and witness before him.

The titles of his publications change from "The Christian Baptist" to "The Millennial Harbinger". This later journal discussed political and economic issues as well as religious. In 1828 he was a delegate from Virginia to a Constitutional Convention and President Madison paid a tribute to his contribution. Twice, in later years, he was invited to address Congress.

Having criticised missionary societies as being unscriptural in his early years, he later became president of a missionary society and made the statement: "I was once so straight that, like the Indian's tree, I leaned a little the other way." A lover of truth and liberty is not tied to his preconceived ideas.

In pleading for unity based on truth, Campbell recognised the interplay between authority and liberty. There is a balance to be preserved between these apparent opposites. Taken to their logical conclusions either authority or freedom are self-destructive. Truth lies only in the balance between the two.

Said Campbell, "Unity can never be restored until men find that freedom is an essential part of the desired end."

—Ed W. Roffey

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Evangelicals in Portugal are protesting a new law giving the Roman Catholic Church exclusive rights to supervise religious instruction in public schools, according to Rev Jaime Vieira, president of Portugal's Evangelical Alliance.

Nearly 30% of doctors have helped terminally ill patients die and 62% believe the practice of active voluntary euthanasia is right, a recent study has revealed. The religion of a doctor was a major factor in his attitude to euthanasia, as 81% of atheist or agnostic doctors believed the practice was right compared with 31% of their Roman Catholic colleagues.

Roman Catholic Archbishop Paul Marcinkus, president of the Vatican bank, has been granted immunity by Italy's Constitutional Court with the guarantee that he will not face prosecution on charges of complicity in the fraudulent 1982 bankruptcy of the country's biggest private bank, Banco Ambrosiano, in which the Vatican bank holds shares. In 1984 the Vatican paid out \$240 million to Ambrosiano's foreign creditors as a "gesture of good will," but declared that this act was not indicative of guilt.

Christian refugees from Iran have revealed that 200 Christians have been executed in Iran since 1979 as "enemies of Allah". 800 are serving long prison sentences. The highest Muslim authorities in Teheran

According to a report from the Soviet Government news agency TASS of 28 July, Fyodor Burlatsky, Chairman of the Public Commission for International Co-operation in Humanitarian Affairs and Human Rights, stated that the commission intends to address an appeal for a pardon for all prisoners convicted specifically for religious activity to the USSR Supreme Soviet. Some 200 political prisoners were freed last year by the Supreme Soviet and others benefited due to the amnesty proclaimed marking the 70th anniversary of the 1917 revolution.

Jose Cameado, government director of religious affairs of the Cuban Central Committee, has said the aims of Christianity and Cuba's new society are compatible and that the strict separation of church and state did not rule out government assistance for churches, even financially. The Cuban bishops' secretariat says church-state relations have improved, although there is no full religious liberty.

A week of torrential rains in Brazil caused flooding in the north eastern region which left 66 dead and 50,000 homeless, while mudslides in the state of Alagoas killed at least 22.

A group of Holy Spirit movement rebels has attacked a northern Ugandan town in which World Vision has just begun to work. About 1,500 rebels marched through Gulu Town to attack the army barracks. In the battle, 75 rebels and 9 soldiers were killed. Manager of the World Vision relief project, Ubima Pudongi, said staff took cover under their hotel beds as loud bursts of gunfire spread through the town.

Flash floods which have affected more than 8 million in north-eastern Bangladesh are beginning to recede, leaving 136 dead and a massive clean-up operation. 3 World Vision projects

were affected by the flooding, including 7 villages in one district. Most of the houses were submerged and many families were cut off from safety. The agency provided relief needs such as food, clothing and medical supplies. Marooned families were rescued using two motor launches.

The Australian Olympic Team for Seoul is being hosted to a "Service of Blessing" by the Sports & Leisure Ministry (SLM) on September 4, 7pm, at Wesley Central Mission, 600 George St, Sydney. The preacher will be Gordon Moyes.

have recently issued an order to Christian churches whereby Jesus Christ can no longer be described as "the Son of God". He must be presented as only "one of the 124,000 prophets who lived before the birth of Mohammed".

The Villa Real Evangelical Christian Church in Buenos Aires, Argentina has a pastor and 9 elders. Next to the church is a school for 2,000 pupils with 180 evangelicals teaching and lecturing. The church also supports a teacher-training college, an evening Bible college and medical consulting facilities for the poor. The most recent venture is the setting-up of 6 rural evangelical community centres, each for 70 abandoned children in country areas.

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Letter concerning changes to Christian broadcasting times

The General Manager
ATV10 Melbourne
PO Box 42
NUNAWADING 3131

Dear Sir,

Churches of Christ Department of Community Care is an aged care and welfare organisation directly involved with elderly people, shut-ins and people suffering intellectual and physical disabilities. We are very aware, as an organisation, of the constant deprivation such minority groups suffer at the hands of our Australian society. We are further aware of the need of organisations such as yours to develop the profitability of your company. However, we would urge you to be benevolent and generous in respect to the current proposed changes to the religious broadcasts on Sunday mornings.

I am sure you are fully aware that the earlier time slots for programs such as "Hour of Power" and "Mass for you at home" will be totally inappropriate for those people who benefit greatly from such programs and are unable, due to their disability, to attend worship services in their community.

We seek your compassion, on behalf of these people, to reconsider your Sunday program format to ensure appropriate religious programs, particularly services of worship, are slotted at times suitable to the above people.

Yours faithfully
Trevor Giles
Executive Director

The Vic-Tas Department of Community Care encourages all church members to write to ATV10 on behalf of the elderly and others who will be severely disadvantaged by this move.

'A Pilgrim ministry for a Pilgrim People'
theme for the National Ministers' Seminar,
Canberra, January 12-15

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Enquiries in confidence should be directed to Marilyn Hill
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A Prayer for '88

Dear Lord, grant to us all
This coming year
A mind that is sound,
A compassion awake
To the needs of all we meet
On the yearly round;

A vision of faith to see again
Our Saviour's outstretched hand
In healing mercy
O'er our sad, sick land.

For guidance dear Father
We humbly pray,
In all that we do
From day to day.

—Nina Simpson
(an active member of the
South Yarra, Vic., church,
despite her age of over 80)



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RSVP 26th August, 1988

Shirley Alderton, 104 Grote St, Adelaide.

United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Disarmament

—Keith Suter

Foundation Director, Trinity Peace Research Institute

At the first Special Session in 1978 the Final Document adopted included a Declaration on Disarmament and a Program of Action for Disarmament, one of the most remarkable documents in the UN's history.

The second Session, in 1982, was held in a different political environment. There was a renewed peace movement, particularly motivated by the NATO decision to deploy cruise missiles and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Nevertheless, the value of the 1978 Final Document was reaffirmed.

At the third Session, in June 1988, it was soon clear that the improved political atmosphere in bilateral US-Soviet relations did not necessarily imply an improved opportunity for multilat-

eral involvement in ending the arms race.

The problem occurred over what should be the future work of the UN in multilateral disarmament negotiations. The US took the view that disarmament was already under way bilaterally with the USSR and so the UN's role was minimal. India led the campaign on behalf of Third World countries in claiming that the UN should take a more prominent role. The Soviet Union had to reconcile its support both for its traditional Third World allies and the US, and so kept a low profile at the Special Session.

It turned out to be impossible to find a formula of words which would bring together the US and Third World points of view. Thus there is no Final Document from the 1988 Special Session.

Social justice promotes law and order

The Victorian State Premier, John Cain, was congratulated on the initiative of the Government for being the first State to develop a Social Justice Strategy. A small delegation representing church, community and union leaders met with the Premier to encourage and ensure that the initiative would go beyond mere lip service.

The Vic.-Tas. Conference President, Gerald Rose, and Executive Director of Community Care, Trevor Giles, were among the group of delegates which also included Robert Hudson, Executive Director of the Vic. Council of Social Service and John Halfpenny, Secretary of Vic. Trades Hall Council.

Premier Cain received the delegation favourably. The delegates believe strongly that the way to reduce crime is to tackle the underlying causes of social problems rather than just controlling them by law and order responses, as suggested by some minority groups.

The priorities considered essential to be reviewed in this year's State budget should be families in poverty, long-term unemployment, the homeless and the aged. The total new expenditure on social justice initiatives would cost the Government \$193.25 million, representing less than 1.7% of State budget expenditure. The delegation put forward a strong case to express the social justice strategy in practical terms so people in greatest need will benefit.

It was most encouraging that such a diverse group gathered together to urge the Government to take seriously the needs of those people who suffer most within the current economic climate. Churches are urged to pray for those in positions of power that they may be bold enough to seriously address the issues that affect those people with greatest need in our community. Letters urging the Government to continue social justice initiatives are also encouraged.

—Trevor Giles

This failure is further evidence of the new era into which the arms race is moving, one of vastly increased complexity. The five-year military expenditure binge is over. The new US President will find himself confronted by a US Congress determined to reduce, in relative terms, military expenditure.

There are new developments under way which offer some grounds for hope. The Intermediate Nuclear Forces Agreement is obviously a cause for optimism. However the total number of missiles destroyed as a result of the Agreement will be about 4% of the world's supply.

Even if 50% of the world's supply of nuclear weapons are destroyed this would still leave a massive over-kill held by the US and USSR.

The arms race is only one of many problems for national governments. Virtually no publicity was given in the American media to the 1988 Special Session. The greenhouse effect, economic status and many other issues occupy much attention.

The nuclear issue is increasingly overshadowed by such environmental, economic and social concerns. The peace movement will therefore need to broaden its agenda to absorb these issues.

God Bless Australia

(sung to the tune of Waltzing Matilda)

Once there came a sailor, seeking for a new land,
Looking afar way over the sea.

"Hi, there's some land, sir," said the Captain's trusty mate,
"Right" said the Captain, and what did he see?

CHORUS: He saw Australia, he saw Australia
Wonderful land, that is boundless and free.
For our natural surroundings,
Our products are so plentiful
We think Australia the best country.

There are many islands, all along the coast line,
A tropical paradise, there for you,
Beautiful fauna, birds of different species too -
Come see Australia, we'd love to meet you.

CHORUS: Come see Australia, come see Australia,
Wonderful land, that is boundless and free.
For our natural surroundings,
Our products are so plentiful,
Come see Australia, we'd love to meet you.

See our lovely mountains, visit too our ski fields,
The runners, the swimmers, the cricketers too,
Tennis champs, and wheelies, all those who sailed the mighty seas
We're proud of what each of them can do.

We salute our pioneers, the men who made our country great,
We salute the women, who laboured hard and long.
They had no comforts, they worked in field and home as well.
These are the folk we congratulate.

CHORUS: God bless Australia, God bless Australia,
Wonderful land that is boundless and free
From the tip of Cape York to the Apple Isle Tasmania
From Darwin to Perth it's a great country.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AUSTRALIA

—Eunice Cane

(a former missionary nurse in Vanuatu, then Matron of Golden Age Retirement Village, who died in June 1988)

DISCIPLESHP

•Christinatay Sioe Hoa, Epping, NSW. •Fiona Edwards, Kylie Trowbridge, Happy Valley, SA. •Kelly Williams, Manifold Heights, Vic. •Mark Ainsworth, Michelle Ainsworth, Shane Riches, Heather Riches, Horsham, Vic. •Noeline Rowsell, Kay Mitchell, Albany, WA. •Sarah Meiers, Natalie & Tony Buckley, York, WA. •Colin Ede, Carol Turnbull, Springvale, Vic.

DEATHS

•Win Maskery, Prospect, SA.
•Les Wiles, Pt Lincoln, SA.

•Frank Halleday, Horsham, Vic.
•Don Nation, Northcote, Vic.
•Tom Flanders, Ormond, Vic.
•Olga Millard, Springvale, Vic.
•Cedric Baron, Jacob Mingo, Carnarvon, WA. •Jim Williams, Lismore, NSW.

IF YOU ARE
ABOUT TO MOVE
PLEASE ADVISE
US AT "THE
AUSTRALIAN
CHRISTIAN"

The US Internal Revenue Service claims that the Church of Scientology owes more than \$1.4 million in taxes and penalties for 1970-1972. It has been ruled that the church owed back taxes because

large amounts of monies that the church had considered tax-exempt had resulted in the private enrichment of the group's founder, L. Ron Hubbard and his wife, Mary Sue Hubbard.

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In partnership with the Associated Churches of Christ in New Zealand we are seeking to appoint a teacher of Divinity to Dadaya High School in Zimbabwe. The school is co-educational, with around 800 students. All subjects are examined under English O levels standard.

A degree in theology is a necessary prerequisite.

The position also involves Chaplaincy duties in the school. There are also opportunities to be involved in leadership training in local churches.

VANUATU

French/English teacher

Ranwadi Junior Secondary School on Pentecost island in Vanuatu is also a co-educational boarding school. Ranwadi has around 150 students. Formal teaching qualifications are essential. A key part of this task is to exercise a Christian witness among the student body.

For further information please write to:

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NSW

EPPING (S. Curkpatrick, M. York) Epping church's 65th anniversary was celebrated recently with special services & a Devonshire tea after the Sunday morning service. One speaker, Kevin Crawford, pursued the theme that, for a church, 65 years was not the time to retire ... Sunday School attendance has increased as a result of the recent Vacation Bible School.

WAGGA (Bob Whan, Noel Williams) David Wortley baptised; welcomed into membership were David & Dianne Wortley, Jud & June Hopson & Andris Vigners ... Good News Bible distribution successfully completed ... 'No' vote registered for Robert Mason's call for youth pastor ... Group led by Janet Doombos ministering regularly at Baptist Home, Caloola Court ... Bush Dance on August 5 ... 'Resource' OHP songs purchased.

LISMORE (Ian Phillips) Sunday School mid-year presentation great event with children singing & puppet performance ... Recent speakers: David Frew (Prison Fellowship), Dorothy Cox (Asia Pacific Christian Mission), George Deane (Outback Aerial Mission), Marg & Ken Pitcher (New Tribes Mission), Peter Sheldon from Carlingford & Chris Hutton from DCD ... Chapel open each Wednesday for prayer ... Church saddened by death of Jim Williams.

TAS

HOWRAH (J. Morrow) Senator Brian Harradine spoke against new video classification at men's breakfast ... Rev. David Best from Far East Broadcasting Company spoke at recent morning service ... To celebrate their first anniversary, youth group conducted morning service ... Several members attended Missions Awareness Weekend ... Links (8-13 years) enjoyed night ice skating ... Several men attended working bee at Seaview Camp, Bicheno.

LAUNCESTON (Gordon Stirling) Brigades paraded July 31, Karen Peart, Danielle Larsen & Anne-Maree Harrison received

their Pioneer pins, highest national award of Girls Brigade ... Rob & Jeannie Wakeling & family transferred to Adelaide ... 104th church anniversary August 7, guest soloist Helen Jones ... Jean & John Piper's ruby wedding anniversary celebrated ... Joan & Roy Madder have moved to Prospect Court Retirement Village ... Six travelled to Bicheno working bee.

VIC

CHELSEA (T. Frazer) Andrew Augustine & Howard Barnden gave addresses while minister on holidays ... Monthly evening service commenced especially for youth ... Slide night of wild west wilderness of Tasmania screened by Lindsay Smith in aid of College of the Bible ... Tom Frazer did a five-day study course at Carlingford College ... CWF organised cakes & jams stall held in shopping area ... Colin Padey's father died at Northcote home.

OAKLEIGH (L.S. Dewberry) 'Relatives and Friends' service held July 31 ... Graham Condon presided, Ngairie Walhout preached, Family dinner held after service ... Mr & Mrs Dewberry & Lang family welcomed home after holidays ... Noni McLean spoke at CWF on her experiences at Halls Gap CWF camp ... Alice Hodges now in Denbies private hospital Glenhuntingly ... Bible School increasing in numbers.

RED CLIFFS (G.R. Sharrad) Mr Sharrad has accepted a further term of 12 months ministry ... Sunday School had Open Day when parents, grandparents & friends joined them ... Recent annual meeting—church officers re-elected, Helen West resigned after some years as treasurer ... CWF President Mrs Sprigg, VP Mrs Sharrad, Sec. Treas. Mrs M. Milne, Mrs Chislett ... CWF Pres. Mrs Griffen, VP Mrs J. Milne, Sec. Mrs French, Treas. Mrs Dunkley.

HORSHAM (H.A.L. Clark, I.N. Hunt) Successful prayer seminar held using video tapes by Don Millar ... Care 'n Share group formed ... Sunday School conducted Action Stations program in July holidays & plan further

program for September ... June 19 5pm service held around tea table ... Kollmorgen family farewelled prior to leaving for 12 months in Germany ... Adelphian Craft Shop celebrated 10th birthday—over \$20,000 raised.

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (Paul Downie, Max Ball) Special speakers over recent weeks: Doug Stringer, Doug Duncan & Jeff Reynolds (youth worker) ... Youth workers & leaders at Evangelism Street Witnessing Seminar ... Secondhand Bibles being collected for Philippines ... Leadership training weekend, Halls Gap, "Youth work and the 4 Es" ... Baptism of Kelly Williams ... Several members unwell, Mrs Grazules & Ted Barnett in hospital ... Congratulations on engagement of Brendon Cole & Grace Barry.

NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn) Don Nation passed away after a short illness. He served the Lord faithfully for over 50 years in Northcote ... Third Sunday at Five speaker was Keith Whitford of Macedonian Evangelical Uniting Church ... Many members sick over last few weeks including minister's wife (Pearl).

ORMOND (G.D. Stibbe) Afternoon & Evening Women's Fellowship entertained at Emmaus ... President Gerald Rose guest speaker at church anniversary ... Brian Jacques, Michael Dunn & La'El Singers conducted evening services ... High percentage of congregation were involved with the Spirit of Love program ... Second phase commencing with series of three Sunday afternoon sessions, Herb Miller leader ... Annual meeting held—church looking to future as it establishes specific objectives.

SWAN HILL (L.J. Mayes) Chapel filled for special guest service & presentation by visiting La'El Music Company on July 31 ... Youth group, complete with seven-piece band, led evening service in August ... Series of morning addresses on 'The Nature of God' concluded with special family service ... Church shared with nine other congregations in Good News 88 Bible distribution.

SPRINGVALE (T. Ede) 1987/88 Faith Promise Missionary

Offering of \$12,000 achieved ... Pledges for 1988/89 total \$10,600 to date ... Distribution of 1,000 NTs through Operation Good News almost completed with \$680 raised to purchase a further 1,000 ... Church is to be challenged by Brian White to 'Come Alive' (Spiritual Spring in Springvale), Sep. 4-11 ... Death of Olga Milland, just 14 months after husband Harry, a great loss.

MOOROOPNA (Dennis Atkinson) Church enjoyed visits to Springvale and Ringwood churches, sharing in missionary programs ... Youth group growing, 30 now meet each Thursday & more now attending Prayer & Bible study nights ... Pastor spent many hours with Sir Douglas Nicholls prior to his passing & participated in State funeral that followed ... Atkinson family participated in District Conference at Bordertown.

QLD

TOOWOOMBA—CROWN STREET (Ron Green) Church looking forward to Ray Hawkins, from Maitland church, NSW Conference President, as guest speaker for anniversary weekend in November ... Monthly family services preceded by fellowship tea proving popular ... 'Mr Balke & his strings' from Tent Hill entertained recently ... Ron Green has accepted invitation to minister full-time at Crown St from February 1989 (with Warwick '87 & '88).

LOGAN CITY (Geoff Hannah) Church organised very successful vacation care program attended by 70 children & 15 adults ... Sunday School numbers continue to grow ... John Lawton has conducted a visitation program that is resulting in increased church attendances ... Geoff Hannah guest speaker at youth camp at Bundaberg & was involved in seminar on evangelism recently, conducted by Brisbane Aboriginal Christian fellowships.

**NEW HOPE
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WA

ALBANY (Mark Randall) New minister, Mark, & wife, Kerry, with their new baby son have settled into the work in Albany ... Social committee formed to bring church closer through informal events (Ps 133) ... Games night enjoyed ... Well attended family camp over long weekend in June ... Noeline Rowsell & Kay Mitchell baptised & received into membership ... Church attendance very good despite wet weather.

YORK (J. Tocknell) Three people baptised in July: Sarah Meiers, who had journeyed from NZ, & a week later Natalie & Terry Buckley ... Church currently restoring upholstery on all church's chairs—a major & costly project ... Numbers continue to increase ... Recent visits from Ghanaian missionaries Don & Marianne Cameron; Gideons International were represented by church members Kevin West & John Elsegood ... Rob Nawalowo announced his engagement to Sarah Meiers, January wedding planned.

CARNARVON (D. Bone) Vic & Nan Colyer are managing Olive Laird Hostel while Vawzers are in Perth ... CWF held Bicentennial meeting & Mrs Bone was speaker ... CWC speakers Jean Raddon & Mary Miller visited Carnarvon on tour & addressed a luncheon & evening meeting ... Amy Disting, SIM missionary in Nigeria, shared at a Bible study.

SA

PROSPECT (G. Payne) Successful board retreat held at Blackwood church ... Feature services June & July on Poverty & Plenty and Australian Apathy; speakers Marg Battersby & Alister Cranney ... Six new members transferred from Marion ... Youth group & Koala Club going well ... Ann Griffin & Fred Schmaal, Kids' Club leaders, attended COCKE camp ... Camera Club's next meeting in Old Parliament House, where founders sat, to view slide show ... Annual General Meeting August 7.

MAGILL (T. Lawrie) Trevor Lawrie on long service leave for 10 weeks ... Elders & guest preachers helping out during Trevor's absence ... Successful fund-raising dinner held ... Contract let for erection of new toilets & extra rooms. Church is looking at plans for long-range development of whole church property ... Church saddened by recent death of Beverley Robinson.

HAPPY VALLEY (Russell Allison) 500 attended official opening of building, many original

members present. A time of reminiscing & rejoicing. Praise kids presentation highlight of service ... Church appointed Russell Allison to be minister for further five years ... Many new families attending ... Hospitality Sunday well supported ... Fiona Edwards & Kylie Trowbridge baptised ... Bryant family, Fran & Rex Hudson welcomed into membership.

PT LINCOLN (Jim Spiker) Church was host for annual Eyre Peninsula conference at which

Colin Dredge was speaker & Ted Bain president elect ... 50 shared with Ruth & Keith Skillicorn in their experiences in India ... House church proving successful once a month ... Leisure time attendance averaging 85 ... Millie Barton & Ted Bain recovering from illness ... Church saddened by death of Ida Wiles' husband, Les.

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YOU WERE ASKING...???

by Graham Agnew

This column is new in "The Australian Christian". Graham Agnew of the Marlon, S.A., church will answer readers questions on the Christian faith and on an understanding of the Bible.

The first question, which prompted this column, was asked in a letter to the office, and is from Mrs D.A. Broad of Pyramid Hill, Vic.

If you have a question or an issue that you would like to raise please send these to "The Australian Christian", P.O. Box 101, Essendon North 3041.

Question: "What is the Churches of Christ position on serving communion to children who have not made a public commitment to Christ?"

Answer: Like so many issues within the life of our churches there is no official position on the idea of serving communion to children who are yet to join the church through confession and baptism. In fact, there would be quite a range of view points not only between various congregations across Australia, but among the individual members of those congregations.

For instance, I made my public confession of faith one Sunday night in the old Wiley Park church (Sydney) at the age of 15, but I knew that I would not be eligible to take communion the following Sunday morning because I was not being baptised until that Sunday evening! That was the way I had been brought up and that was the clear understanding on the part of most church members in that fellowship.

Today many parents do not see a problem in allowing their young children to have the bread and the cup as they are passed around. For them it's a simple matter of the children showing their love for Jesus and their belief in him as their friend. Other parents (I suspect the vast majority) would still see great value in encouraging their children to wait until they are baptised.

As far as I am concerned the New Testament doesn't throw any clear light on the matter. Paul's references to letting people examine themselves do not contribute much to the discussion because the fact is that everyone of us should have a more "child-like" approach to things like communion and worship in general.

Some denominations do have a definite policy on children and communion. In fact quite a



thing is made of a child's first communion, you can even buy special greeting cards for the occasion from your local newsagents. In these cases children are prepared thoroughly for the experience through a series of special teaching sessions which are designed to help them understand what it means to make a commitment to Christ.

In a Churches of Christ setting I personally believe that there is great value in encouraging primary aged children not to take communion until they have made a decision for Christ. However I would certainly not be as hard-line on having them wait until the actual point of baptism, as was the case in my early days. The reason for my stance is that, to my mind, it serves to heighten a child's awareness of the importance and significance of communion. The basic message coming through is: "Here is something that is worth waiting for ... it's special ... and it's a big part of deciding to have Jesus as your Lord and Saviour."

In churches where they have a variety of approaches and children are pestering parents on why they can't "have it" when they see other children taking the emblems, I would suggest that the elders and minister convene an informal get-together for parents to talk through the issues and to, hopefully, increase people's understanding of the topic.

THE LAST WORD

The love of our neighbour is the only door out of the dungeon of self.

—George MacDonald

Card pinned to the coat of a violin-playing London busker: "To avoid unpleasantness, please do not ask me to play tunes you like."

★★★★★

One of the patients at the military hospital had been given specially good attention by a pretty young nurse. One morning he burst out, "I'm in love with you. I don't want to get well!"

"Don't worry, you won't," consoled the nurse. "The doctor's in love with me, too, and he saw you kissing me this morning!"

★★★★★

Notice in an undertaker's window: "Funerals arranged. Self-drive service."

★★★★★

Our forefathers did without sugar until the 13th century, without coal fires until the 14th, without buttered bread until the 16th, tea or soap until the 17th, without gas matches or electricity until the 19th, without cars, canned or frozen foods until the 20th. Now, what was it that you were complaining about?

★★★★★

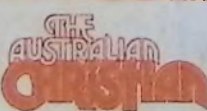
Celebrity (pulled up for speeding): "Don't you know who I am?"

Constable: No, and I'll want your address as well.

★★★★★



★ "THAT shockproof, waterproof, unbreakable watch you gave me — I've lost it."



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