

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

Registered for Australia Post Publication No. VAR 0761

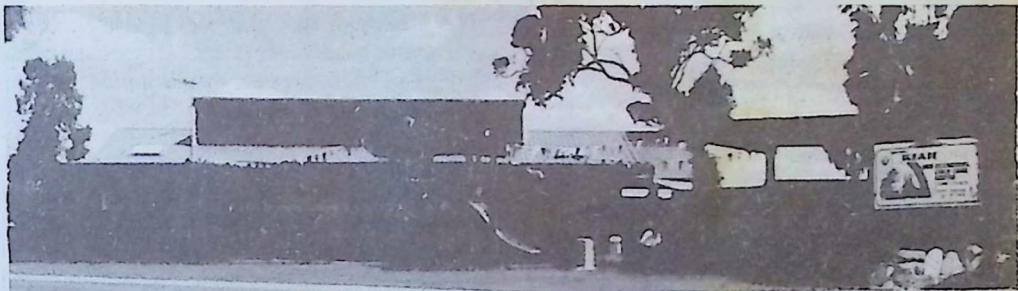
Volume 91, No. 22

December 17, 1988

Kiah Occasional Child Care Centre opened

On November 12 Mary Crawford, Federal Member for Forde, acting on behalf of Dr Neal Blewett, Minister for Community Services and Health, opened the first purpose built Occasional Child Care Centre in Brisbane at Jindalee.

The centre, sponsored by the Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department, is the fourth Child Day Care project operated by the Department. A Family Day Care scheme operates in the Hervey Bay-Maryborough areas and Day Care Centres are located at Kallangur and Redlands. The new centre is located on



Kiah Occasional Child Care Centre

the same property as the Centenary church and has been supported in its development by the church.

180 were present for the official opening including Commonwealth and State project officers who praised the quality of the development.

Malcolm Chandler, Deputy Executive Director of the Social Service Department and Senior Director of Child Care said, "Changes in our society such as the increased mobility of families, the number of wives who need to work and the breakdown of relationships has adversely affected the functioning of parents. Parents need additional support services and it is our aim to provide this support to parents.

chooses to stay at home with the children and it is pleasing to see services assisting her in this most important role."

The Director of the Kiah Occasional Child Care Centre is Mrs Carol Lawson who has extensive experience in child care work having previously been Director of "Play House" at the University of Queensland.

The centre is licensed for 25 children and has been built at a cost of \$242,000.

"Little value has been placed on the mother who



Mary Crawford, who represented Dr Neal Blewett, Minister for Community Services and Health talking to Beverley Grenfell, President of the Social Service Department Board in Queensland

The Staff of "The Australian Christian" wish that all their readers have a blessed and glorious Christmas and that they will experience God's blessings on their lives in the New Year.

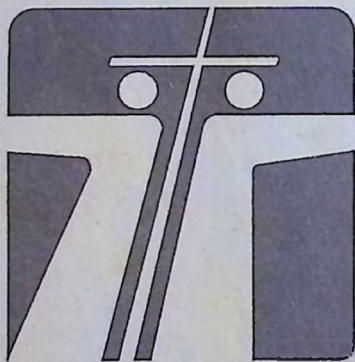
Managing Editor:
CHRIS AMBROSE

ISSUE	DEADLINE
February 4	January 25
February 18	February 8
March 4	February 22

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National Logo of Churches of Christ in Australia

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

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES DISPLAYED

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

GUEST EDITORIAL



Using the skills of women

— Barbara Grear

Barbara Grear grew up in the Croydon, S.A., church. She was baptised by W.N. Bartlett in 1953 and married Barry Grear in 1959. They have four adult sons. She has been actively involved in churches at Croydon, Elizabeth, Murray Bridge and Magill through tennis clubs, teaching Sunday School, playing piano and organ and CWF groups. She was treasurer of the Churches of Christ Women's Conference in South Australia for five years and is currently president. She is also a member of State Board, Deputy Chairman of the Churches of Christ Retirement Services and a board member and treasurer at Magill.



The history of our churches in Australia would reveal the great contribution women have made to the practical outreach of the church. Because of the nature and interests of many women this situation will continue. However, there are other women who wish to be involved in wider areas of the life of the church.

When I was growing up my mother's peer group was mainly involved in teaching at Sunday School, preparing meals at the church etc. I do not recall that they were board members, church secretaries or treasurers. Those who were very talented in such areas as public speaking were generally heard at "women only" meetings. This was simply a reflection of society at that time, and the expectations that these women had of their role in the church.

After my marriage I moved to a newly developing area and there I had the privilege of belonging to a fellowship which accepted people, men and women, and made use of their abilities. Women became board members, presided over communion, for some years we also had a woman minister. All men and women were treated as equals within the church. I chose at that particular time to fulfil a traditional role as a wife and mother (I had four young sons). However, the important thing was that I had the choice.

This background has influenced my present attitudes. In the late 1980s we must accept the fact that society has changed. In the work force women are being accepted as having an equal opportunity, thus women will look for a similar acceptance within the church. They have many skills and abilities, many of our younger women have the advantage of a tertiary education, and if the church does not encourage them to use these within its life, they will find other opportunities to use their talents. Positions of responsibility within the church should be held by those who are committed Christians and able to effectively do the job — be they men or women.

I believe that the change in society's attitude towards women is having an effect on the traditional structures of support and opportunity for women within the church. Many of our traditional groups, such as CWF, are having difficult times through lack of interest from the women. Does this mean that women have lost interest in the church, or have lost their faith? No! I believe it is simply that women are looking to serve in a different way, and the established church must be prepared to offer something which is relevant to the needs at a particular time.

The church must come to terms with the changes in society and accept the fact that women now have a choice in the lifestyle they will lead. If the church takes advantage of this we can receive great benefits from the skills and abilities of capable Christian women.

GROWING SPIRITUALLY

Bonsai Christians

Trees rate highly in the scriptures. Mentioned from Genesis to Revelation they have a story to tell. They also become a picture of God's ideal for his people.

'Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.' Jer. 17:7,8.

Sadly, many of God's people never seem to be like this. Rather they appear more like bonsai plantings — stunted caricatures of what God intended. To all intents and purposes bonsai trees are real but have been clipped in the root system or pruned and had new growth pinched to dwarf them. If such trees bear any fruit at all it is small and useless.

Spiritual bonsais are caused by such things as having biblical authority pruned in one's life, or prayerlessness and handling life on a humanistic and materialistic level. Resentment against God for life's tragedies or unforgiving attitudes to others, stunt the potential for growth, beauty and fulfilment.

How sad it is to try and help such people, for saved they are, but fruitful they are not, and often refuse to change.

God calls us to be people with a high calling and a strong sense of fulfilment. For that, among other concepts, is what being fruitful implies. To do this requires a good root system in order to handle the droughts that come.

In Jeremiah he says the 'tree sends' (or thrusts) its roots out to where the life flowing stream is found. For us that means a personal relationship with the one who is the water of life, Jesus, through obeying his word and through worship and ministry. When tough times come our witness (leaves) does not wilt, and in the season we discover the wonder of his fulfilling life being expressed in and through us (fruit).

Is it any wonder that it says in Proverbs 11:30, 'The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life.'? For where the fruit is shared and eaten it has the power to bring life and fulfilment to a desolate or doomed individual. Part of the tragedy of the Australian church lies right here. So many of God's planting are unfulfilled bonsais with unappealing and unappetising fruit to offer a hungry world.

Let's be the trees of the Lord planted by streams of water fruitful in season, witherproof leaves and prosperous in the things of God. (Psalm 1).

— Ray Hawkins
(Maitland, N.S.W.)

Branch-out program closer to full operation



Bob and Joy Walton

The Queensland Social Service Department's Branch-Out program for the rehabilitation of alcohol and drug dependent persons moved a step closer to becoming fully operational with the decision of the Noosa Shire Council to rezone the land purchased by the Department for this purpose.

The 47 acre property located at Tinbeerwah near Noosa on the Sunshine Coast will become the hub of the program which is being led by Bob and Joy Walton. They are joint holders of the Order of Australia Medal for their work among alcohol and drug dependent people.

The program consists of five stages. Stage one is referral to the program. For this purpose an office is being leased in Nambour. Other office space is being made available by Brisbane City Mission in Fortitude Valley for referral purposes.

Stage two is withdrawal, which will be conducted in appropriate

medical facilities and not by the program itself.

Stage three is assessment which is held in two houses located at both Nambour and Redcliffe which will seek to assess the intention of those seeking help to go on to change their lifestyle. The Redcliffe house is owned by the Brisbane City Mission who are cooperating with the program.

Stage four is the Re-education Centre, the hub of the program, which will be conducted at Tinbeerwah. This centre will seek to provide a variety of productive activities as part of the re-education program. The principal aim is to restore dignity, self esteem and healing through the principles espoused by Alcoholics Victorious.

Stage five is a re-employment centre which is a future project for this program.

The Department is seeking financial support for this large, difficult and far-sighted program.

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70 years of marriage



Percy and Vera Thomas (seated) at their 70th wedding anniversary celebrations with Mrs Thomas' only surviving sister Mrs N. Ravell

On October 5 Percy and Vera Thomas celebrated 70 years of marriage at the Churches of Christ Hostel, Shaw House, Pendle Hill, NSW. They were married at the Marrickville, NSW, church in 1918 after Mr Thomas returned from the USA where he had spent four years studying for the ministry.

Mr Thomas spent his working life of more than 50 years spreading the Word of God as a minister in our New South Wales churches, with ministries at Taree, Belmore, Hamilton, Marrickville, Lane Cove and North Auburn. He was also active in Brotherhood work serving on various committees and a term

as Conference President.

At a function to celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary, Laurie Thomas, speaking for his father, said that the couple wanted to acknowledge God's goodness to them down through the years and to give him the glory for anything that had been accomplished through their ministries.

Whilst Mr Thomas is a resident of Shaw House, Mrs Thomas resides in the adjacent Nursing Home, Cole House. They find this separation hard after so many years together but are thankful that the proximity of the two homes makes it possible for them to see each other for a couple of hours each day.

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Dean Walker Lecture

On November 5 in Auckland, New Zealand, in association with the World Convention of Churches of Christ, the first presentation of the Dean Walker Lecture at a World Convention was given by Dr Don E. Stewart for the European Evangelistic Society.

Don Stewart spoke of the work being done by the EES in Tübingen in West Germany where the church operates the Institute for the Study of Christian Origins and a local church fellowship. He outlined the strategic importance of the theological facilities in Tübingen for influencing theological thinking around the world, and the importance therefore of Churches of Christ being there to be both a local church fellowship and an academic institute.

He went on to advocate that this work needs our support and that the Institute should consider the preparation of audio and video tapes for use by our ministry training schools and by our ministers.



Don Stewart

The luncheon was chaired by the President of the European Evangelistic Society, Dr Robert Shaw, Coral Gables, Florida, USA. Senator Sir Garfield Todd, former New Zealand missionary and former Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, was present. He spoke to the meeting and led in the opening prayer.

New appointments at COB

At the College of the Bible Graduation service in November Dr Bill Tabbernee announced the appointment of GO Elsdon, B Theol, Th M, as the HG Harvard Lecturer in New Testament Studies (Elect). Greg Elsdon will be lecturing in a part-time capacity in 1989. He will take up his full-time position at the beginning of 1990.



Greg Elsdon

It was also announced that AA Niven, BA (Hons), BD, Dip Ed, currently minister at the Werribee, Vic, church and part-time lecturer at COB, has accepted the appointment of Lecturer in the Practice of Ministry and minister of a new church to be located on the new Mulgrave campus under the auspices of the College. Alan will take up this exciting new appointment in 1990.



Alan Niven

Mooroopna Work Party

Melbourne Cup day (November 1) became a work day at Mooroopna, Vic., for the Box Hill church and two helpers from the Ringwood church.

For its Missions Project 1988 the Box Hill church set as its goal to raise half the salary for Ertius Lisam, Principal of the Bible College at Momonup, Papua New Guinea, and to purchase the paint and supply the labour to paint the manse of the Aboriginal pastor, Denis Atkinson, at Mooroopna.

In May at Conference an approach was made to Denis and to the State Aborigines Department and the project was confirmed.

Details of what work was needed were given but Arthur Tilvendale, one of the Box Hill elders who was master mind of the project, made a trip to Mooroopna to work out a plan of attack.

On October 31 six men and two women set out as an advance team. A tradesman checked all the windows and removed all the fly-wire screens, and new wire was put in, the high gables and weathered walls were sanded down and primed and some painting done.

On Tuesday the early starters met in the Box Hill car park at 6.30 am and began painting at Mooroopna by 9 am. Altogether 18 were painting on the Tuesday



Cleaning up following the completion of painting



Will Wigney (retired minister) doing his share of painting the Mooroopna manse

with another 18, wives, family friends and children present. They kept up the supply of cups of tea to the workers.

Frank Jones supervised and each worker had a window, a wall, or a special area to paint. The weather was hot but comfortable,

the paint dried in the stated time and the second and final coats on the whole outside of the house were finished by 3 pm.

The Box Hill church is looking forward to an ongoing association with the Mooroopna church.

Kingswood Lodge commenced

Work has commenced on the building of Kingswood Lodge, a group home for children in need of care in the Logan City area south of Brisbane.

The Senior Director of Child Care Programs for the Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department, Malcolm Chandler, has announced that the project is being subsidised by the Queensland Department of Family Services.

Kingswood Lodge is located next to the Kingswood Park church in east Berrinba and has received support from the church in the development of the project. It is also adjacent to the Logan City Aboriginal Community Church.

This will be the seventh group

home operated by the Department for the care of children and youth. It will operate in close co-operation with the Department of Family Services.

Don Stewart, Executive Director of the Department, said, "the care of children with behavioural problems and in need of care is a difficult task and one which is often misunderstood. These children with all their problems need our understanding and practical love if they are to be helped to find a meaningful lifestyle in our complex society. The church has an important part to play in getting involved, in fact, in getting it's hands dirty, to give the love of Christ. The Social Service Department has no more courageous task than to be house-parents to these children and youth."

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South Australian Queen's Awards

The photograph on the right is of the Governor of South Australia, Lt-Gen Sir Donald Dunstan, with members of the Boys' and Girls' Brigades who were presented with their Queen's Awards at Government House on November 2.

The Queen's Award is the highest achievement that anyone can earn in the Girls' and Boys' Brigades. Each Queen's Award recipient has a commitment to all-round excellence, a record of service to the community and most importantly, knows the reality of the love of God in their life.



Pictured are (left to right) Stephen Garrett, Tea Tree Gully Baptist Church; David Powell, Tea Tree Gully Baptist Church; Allstair Reid, Salisbury Uniting Church; Paul Brindley, Noarlunga Centre Church of Christ; Nigel Watson, Salisbury Uniting Church; Adrian Terrace, Blackwood Church of Christ; Greg Walt, Noarlunga Centre Church of Christ; Governor Lt-Gen Sir Donald Dunstan; Christine Noel, Clovercrest Baptist Church; Karry Martin, Tea Tree Gully Baptist Church; Jodi Dodd, Henley Beach Church of Christ; Heather Steen, Henley Beach Church of Christ; Maryanne Lee, Clovercrest Baptist Church and Elizabeth Green, Warradale Uniting Church.

Marion's ministry team — Ready to shine in '89

The Marlon, SA, church is about to enter its tenth year of ministry in the southern suburbs of Adelaide. The stage is set for 1989 to be the church's best year so far!

"Our board has set a target of 100 new members for the year," says Graham Agnew, leader of the ministry team. "That's 10 for every year we have been in operation."

With almost 30 baptisms this year and another 42 having come in by transfer the church's target looks achievable.



The Marlon team (L to R) Brian Ricketts (associate minister Christian Education), Sally Greenhalgh (admin secretary), Phil Gannon (pm service music co-ordinator), Graham Agnew (senior minister), John Elliott (part-time pastoral worker), Jenni Anson (admin secretary), Keith Horne (associate minister pastoral care) and Yvonne Bentham (youth and children's worker)

"Naturally we'll be working and praying in the hope that our

expectations will be exceeded," comments Graham.

The Australian Christian Training Centre has awarded its annual Crestonby Fellowship grant of \$13,000 to Glynthea Finger for 1989. This will cover tuition and accommodation at

the Irish School of Ecumenics, Dublin. Glynthea will be undertaking study for her Master in Philosophy (Ecumenics) which is a one-year course commencing October 1989.



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Dean Sander

It's not all Cricket

Life in the West Indies isn't just cricket.

While the West Indies and Australia may be combatants on the cricket field, there is a strong bond between the two countries in helping the people of the West Indies.

The United Bible Societies recently issued a report on projects in the West Indies which are subsidised by Bible Society supporters in Australia.

One of the projects was the distribution of 500,000 Scripture leaflets to young people with the purpose of trying to combat problems of drugs, immorality and crime.

The Government of Jamaica declared this year as 'The Year of the Worker' and the Scripture leaflet distributed in this area was *Are You Ready for a Job?*

Another project which created a lot of interest was the distribution of 200,000 puzzle Scripture leaflets for new readers. Words in the puzzle had to be identified and the missing letters inserted, and this could only be done after the Scripture message had been read.

The Bible Society in the West Indies is in Jamaica and is responsible for work in the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands and Jamaica. There is also a Bible Society in Barbados.

Talks on Baptism

A special consultation on baptism held recently by the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom has highlighted, and intensified, the growing debate within the denomination. Local churches are being challenged to examine their baptismal practice and formulate a sensitive pastoral policy on baptism.

The URC administers both the baptism of infants and believers' baptism. This dual practice derives from the URC's ecumenical origins as a union of Congregational and Presbyterian churches (administering infant baptism) and the Churches of Christ (administering believers' baptism).

While permitting both kinds of baptism and not requiring any minister to baptise contrary to his/her conscience, the URC constitution, the Basis of Union, specifically rules out the practice of

'second baptism'. This 're-baptism' is the administration of believers' baptism to adults who, though baptised as children, do not regard their infant baptism as valid, either because they were not brought up in a Christian family or after a profound conversion experience.

The issue has increased in recent years as the URC has gained new members from non-church backgrounds, some influenced by new Pentecostal churches and charismatic house groups, who see believers' baptism as the only way for them to act in obedience to Scripture.

There are some ministers within the URC only willing to affirm believers' baptism. Some are leading their local churches to adopt that position and practise 'second baptism'.

Visit to Bunapas

—Doug O'Dea, PNG

Geoff, Amanda, Cameron, Matthew Bunda, plus field visitors Ros and Miriam (from Qld) and Val (from SA) were with me on the trip to Bunapas. The road was a little wet, but that was good because it meant less dust for those of us sitting in the back of the truck.

It only took us four hours to get to the turn-off to Bunapas which was still about an hour's drive away.

According to Air Niugini this is the 'Land of the Unexpected'. You had better believe it. Val was heard to say when it was all over, "No-one is going to believe me when I tell them about this."

Soon after turning off the main road we got stuck in a hole the truck just couldn't climb out of. We unloaded over a ton of cement, bags, cartons and cases. Still the truck wouldn't budge. Geoff knew the area best so he trudged back to a plantation. We waited until they brought a tractor to tow us out.

We were soon moving again. It was lightly raining by this time (after 7.30 pm). Many times Geoff and I had to get out and walk through muddy holes to see if the truck could get through. We passed the airstrip—only a few more miles to go—but it was raining, had been all afternoon, and this was the poorest section of the road. The last section was more like a boggy track. After a kilometre we were stuck fast again. It was about 9 pm when this hap-



pened. We tried to go backwards, forwards, but the road was just too slippery.

The people at Bunapas were wondering where we were. Judy Flood had rounded up Yemair to find us. It was a fine sight to see the little red ute filled up with cheery young people coming to help. Yemair pulled us out, took all the women back to Bunapas where they enjoyed food, dry clothes and warm beds at the Flood's. We followed, finding another bog hole to stop us. There we left the truck until the next day.

I don't think we could have ordered a better initiation for our visitor to see what the folk at Bunapas go through every wet season.

We praise the Lord for the strength to be able to endure the hardships. On our own we are not able.

That was the end of the day. It finished for Geoff and me at 12.30 am. The next day we had to get everything to the airstrip. That's another story.



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The Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department has taken delivery of \$100,000 worth of computers and printers to equip each of its major facilities with computers. They have chosen to operate a MS DOS system with basic care program software from Care Systems using NEC computers and Toshiba printers. The new equipment will have the ability to communicate via modems.

Two churches near Moscow are to be returned to believers by the Russian authorities. Both had been closed and designated as museums.

One of the French hostages held in Lebanon and released last year has told a French magazine that the Bible helped him during his 323 days in captivity. Before his kidnap Roger Auque was not a Christian but he said, "My guards were mostly Palestinians. Some of them were Christians, and one of them gave me an English Bible. He really did me a great service." He explained that he prayed every day and learnt the Psalms in English. "The fact that I could read the Bible kept me spiritually healthy. I am convinced that I owe my release to God" he said.

Dedicating a new government building, Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda said his government will always respect freedom for the church. He said he would never appoint himself 'chief priest' of the church in Zambia.

There are some thoughts at the moment about the possibility of building an ecumenical worship centre at Yulara, the tourist venue at Ayers Rock. Yulara has a permanent population of 500, most of whom are involved in the tourist industry.

600 leaders, academics, educators and political

figures from the major religious communities of the world will meet at Monash University, January 22-29, 1989 for the fifth assembly of the World Conference on Religion and Peace.

High expenditure for world missions have brought comparatively "meager" results, according to religious statistician David Barrett. He notes that, "One would have expected the total number of persons who have never heard the good news of Jesus Christ to fall dramatically each year, but this is not happening."

Relations between the Sudanese Government and the Protestant churches has taken a sharp turn for the worse with the revelation that there are plans to ban church activities in the Muslim north.

The Bible Society in Australia is involved in a rehabilitation program for those in gaol in Papua New Guinea. In the past 12 months the Bible Society of Papua New Guinea has printed 5,000 scripture calendars for corrective institutions, a project subsidised by supporters in Australia.

The National Youth Forum that is being held in conjunction with Federal Conference has at least 30 young people attending from all states apart from Western Australia.

Sir Geoffrey Foot will have the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) conferred upon him by the University of Tasmania on December 16. He served on the Senate of the University of Tasmania for many years. It is only the second time that this honorary degree has been awarded.

Alberto Mottesi, Argentinian evangelist believes that Mexico, which has been described as the most anti-

religious country in the Western Hemisphere, could be at the brink of a great revival. He recently held 9 days of meetings in Acapulco and Pueblo which saw attendances of 16,500 in Pueblo with 3,180 decisions for Christ and 25,440 attending in Acapulco with 6,000 decisions. 46% of these decisions were made by people not affiliated with any church.

One in three children in the USSR are christened according to the European Baptist Press Service.

The World Council of Churches has launched a \$US 1 million appeal to ensure the survival of 19 church related schools in the Israeli occupied West Bank.

Bangladesh is the latest country to make Islam the state religion. It has passed a constitutional amendment to this effect prompting thousands of opponents to take the streets in protest. The country's 105 million are 85% Muslim. There are an estimated 250,000 Christians as well as Hindu and Buddhist minorities.

On Christmas Day a religious program on radio will emanate from China, believed to be the first since World War II.

Disaster has struck the mission ship 'Logos II' as she prepares for a new era of global ministry. Storms, engine failure and generator breakdown have temporarily crippled the vessel in the Mediterranean.

For the first time in 25 years there are no prisoners in prison or labour camp in the USSR from churches belonging to the unregistered Baptists Council of Churches. Keston College notes however that 8 are still serving sentences of compulsory labour.

A group of Dutch tourists, members of a Protestant free church, visiting Albania recently began giving out copies of the New Testament in Albanian while on a visit to a textile factory. The authorities immediately sealed off the factory, collected all the copies of the New Testament and burnt them.

A special survey conducted for the Sydney City Mission indicates that adults think that Santa Claus is much more important to children than Jesus at Christmas. Only 14% thought that Jesus was the most important to children while 81% thought that Santa Claus was 'king' at Christmas.

A Christian university is being established in Tonga by Youth With A Mission. The university is an off-shoot of YWAM's Pacific and Asia Christian University in Hawaii. It will commence courses next January and by the end of 1992 it is anticipated that the campus will have 325 students and 50 permanent teaching and support staff.

Out of a total of 370 Indian languages with more than 5,000 speakers only 160 have either the Bible (39 languages) or New Testaments (31 languages) or gospel portions (90 languages).

Catholic congregations and more than 30 Protestant churches linked with the American Christian and Missionary Alliance in Laos have been told not to conduct religious services.

A survey of 1,500 Year 6 students from 34 State Primary Schools in South Australia showed that 61% of the children had a video recorder at home and 85% watched videos at the homes of friends. When asked to recall the names of video films they had seen 17% of the titles recalled were

either R or X rated, while half of the films remembered were M, R or X rated.

A survey by the Bible Society and Scripture Union has revealed that 1.1 million Australians read the Bible each day, including 87% of clergy and 39% of lay people. People who attend a church which puts a high value on the Bible are more likely to read it each day.

Detroit's Roman Catholic diocese says it may be forced to close up to one third of its churches due to a severe shortage of priests. A shortage which it says would be overcome if the Pope would allow priests to marry.

The NSW Churches Cricket Union is to host the Biennial Cricket Carnival of the Australian Churches Cricket Association at Macquarie University, from December 26 to January 1, 1989. Play will commence at 9.30 am each day. At the concluding presentation BBQ an Australian XI will be named. For further information contact the secretary, Jack Macdonald, PO Box 411, Baulkham Hills, NSW 2153; phone (02) 639 5384.

Churches and missions in Burma are finding difficulty funding existing programs because of the country's recent currency devaluation. Food costs are up as much as 400%. Printing has become more expensive and must come lower on the scale of priorities than feeding the hungry. Burma's population is 87% Buddhist. Devout Buddhists are interested in salvation because they can never have assurance of salvation in the Buddhist religion.

**RECOMMEND
THE
CHRISTIAN**

"SOUVENIR OF GLEN IRIS"

To the Editor,

Souvenir of Glen Iris makes exciting reading. All those gravely smiling, elderly gentlemen, many of whom I met by courtesy of my late husband, Dr W.A. Kemp. To read about some of their earlier experiences at the College was very revealing and refreshing!

Then there are the middle-aged ones, some of whom I realised I had known as boys in Boys' Clubs and Sunday School, before they ever gave a thought to the College of the Bible. The contrast between the little boys I remember and the mature, responsible ministers, capable of leading congregations, was inspiring.

Then there are the students. Some obviously under the impression that they are God's answer to the prayers of the congregations, but, thankfully, a growing number of family men, whose maturing process has already begun by the time they enter College. In some cases these are able to get straight into the business of counselling members of their congregations, some of whom are many years their senior.

For the ladies, not so easily classifiable as the men, the College means quite as much. Their achievements for their Lord are even more impressive than those of the men, and we can only say thank God for them!

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

KENNEDY Miss Florrie Kennedy of Nhill, Vic., wishes her many friends the compliments of the season and God's blessings for 1989.

Church of Christ
William St.,
PORT FAIRY
WELCOME TO
VISITORS
Christmas Day
9.30 am
Other Sundays
10.55 am

Forme, as I have read the book, the College has come alive. In closing I can only say with Neil Gilmore, "Jesus is Lord."

— Enid Viccars
 (Ringwood East, Vic.)

FORGIVE AND REMEMBER

To the Editor,

While glancing through "The Australian Christian" of November 26 my eye caught an article by Janet Thompson: "Forgive and Remember".

What she says sounds all very nice and has been said a thousand times before in religious articles, sermons and many prayer meetings.

However what she says is just the kind of syrup that has confused and contaminated the minds of countless followers.

Jesus asked his followers to forgive. This must be painfully obvious to all who have read the New Testament. But it is not as simple as this, and does not stop there. That is precisely the danger when we read articles of a similar vein.

In Matthew 18:15-17 the Master clearly tells us to first try to reconcile the differences between those we cannot agree with, but if they will not be reasonable, then we have no choice but to treat them as heathen men.

Now, while you may still argue that you still have to forgive, to me, it is far wiser to allow the catrasis (according to the *Dictionary of Psychology* means purging or a

• Continued on Page 27

RECOGNITION

The NSW Mission Committee is organising a Dinner on
11th February, 1989
 to honour

DIANA CATTS

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 Papua New Guinea.

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Images of Religion in Australian Art 1940-1988

One of the two special exhibitions being displayed at the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne over the Christmas period (December 1 — January 30) is one titled "Images of Religion in Australian Art 1940-1988".

It is claimed that this exhibition, assembled by Sister Rosemary Crumlin from public and private collections, is the first Australian religious art show of its scale. The exhibition displays 78 works, many of which have been rarely exhibited before. Many of Australia's major artists of the period covered are represented including David Allen, Brett Whitely, Arthur Boyd, John Percival, Albert Tucker and Leonard French. There is also a selection of Aboriginal artists shown who are reflecting on the spirituality of their culture in the exhibited works. As in all

exhibitions of such a nature some artists are omitted and artists such as Pro Hart who has expressed a strong Christian faith in words as well as in his works is a surprise omission.

Part of the design of the presentation is to show the chronological development of spirituality expressed in Australian art. The publicity sheets we received talk about the impact of World War II, the influence of mass immigration in the post-war years, the spiritual euphoria of the 1960s, the haunting sense of loss and disillusionment that followed in the 1970s and the subsequent complexities of the 1980s.

As well the exhibition is presented so that there are three "islands of reflection" in this particular exhibition. One of these is a series of paintings based on the creation narrative of Genesis by Leonard French, another is the

group of Aboriginal paintings and the last is a representative collection of the works of Arthur Boyd.

Several of the paintings in the exhibition are very disturbing and some of our readers would not find them to be very spiritually based. One comment by a fellow editor of a Christian paper was that there was very little colour in many of the works. The overall tone of the exhibition appeared very sombre.

One quote from the accompanying wall panels may help place the exhibition in perspective: "Religious art is always a search for meaning which can look at traditional themes of particular narratives, of a religious concern itself, or with a great religious question — those of birth, suffering, death and afterlife. Sometimes artists celebrate their faith. Others create disturbing works which question the validity of

particular religious meaning while others explore the absence of God in this time and in their lives."

There is no extra charge to view this exhibition other than the normal entry fee to the National Gallery.

A book *Images of Religion in Australian Art* by Rosemary Crumlin (Bay Books) \$49.95 has been published to coincide with this exhibition. This contains a full colour print of all the paintings, an explanation of each work as well as an introduction and discussion of spirituality in Australian art.

There is also a seminar being held in Melbourne on the theme of the exhibition. This is being held on January 26 and 27 and details can be obtained from Images of Religion Seminar, PO Box 500, Elwood 3184.

Magnetic Island Women's Camp

A relaxed, sharing time, when family and home responsibilities were left behind for two glorious days, was had at the 1988 Magnetic Island Women's Camp. 39 ladies from Tasmania, Southport, Brisbane, Redcliffe, West Moreton, Charters Towers, Mackay, Toowoomba and of course Townsville, shared a great weekend as the comforts that Camp Irwin offers were enjoyed by all.

Special thanks to Barbara Bennett and Lyn Smith for challenging those present in the study times from the book of Joshua.

Saturday evening saw a lot of laughs as ladies displayed their acting abilities.

Overheard snippets included: "Wasn't that study good! I really like the discussion time afterwards. Isn't it lovely not to have to think about preparing meals. I haven't thought about my children all morning."

The first weekend in August 1989 the camp is on again. Maybe this time you will plan to come too.

— Ann Muller

Expo Chapel makes profit

The chapel at the recently concluded Brisbane Expo 88 has made a profit of a little over \$8,000. The profit is surprising when one takes into consideration that the chapel sold nothing and did not even have a plate at the door. Contributions came through the mails and anonymous donations from people who appreciated the opportunity of having someone to talk to at the chapel.

There were 110,000 visits made to the chapel over the six months of Expo. About 21,000 of these signed the visitor's book.

The chapel had two short acts of worship each day, one in the morning and one in the evening.

The average number at each service was 42.

The chapel was funded in part by the Queensland Government and partly by the eight participating churches (Anglican, Baptist, Church of Christ, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army and Uniting Churches).

The original cost outlay for the chapel was minimal because much of the materials were donated by the participating churches.

Bishop Adrian Charles, Anglican, said that one positive aspect that came out of the Expo chapel was the ecumenical rela-

tions forged by the meetings of the chapel committee over the past three years. Now the committee was reluctant to stop meeting because of the great deal of trust that was formed between members.

— Church Scene

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Trials of a missionary wife

—Hazel Bassett, PNG

As I sit watching the sun come up I feel tired and close to tears. Noises from the village indicate that people are beginning to arise and set about the tasks of this day oblivious to the struggle going on in me.

In the next room my 21-month-old baby sleeps, a restful sleep that is healing his body after illness. Miles away in another village my husband will be stirring. He has another day of teaching ahead of him. The teaching is needed and I thank God that he has given my husband that gift. But that does not remove for me the despair. I am lonely.

My child has been very sick and it has been me who has had to face agonising hours while he screamed, to nurse him to sleep, feeling his fevered head resting against my arm. It has been me who has worried as he has refused food day after day. It has been me who has had to organise the payment of some men and the return of a borrowed canoe. Yet who am I? I am a wife, a Christian and a person who feels totally inadequate for the job that lies before me.

I am not a super Christian. God knows that. Four years of Bible College training does not mean that I can breeze through any problem or crisis, emerging quoting appropriate Bible verses!

I was the one who, yesterday afternoon, cried out to God through my tears of frustration to do something because I couldn't take any more. Nothing hap-



pened. John didn't walk through the door. In fact nobody came to the door and Joshua continued screaming for another hour. God heard, but his answer wasn't to take me out of the situation. I remember my grandmother saying that not all lessons of life are easy or painless to learn, but what I wanted to know was, "Why does this always happen when John is away on God's work?"

I'm still looking for answers to my questions. I am still here alone with my child. But even as this day begins I know that God will be using it to teach me. He is moulding and shaping me into the person he needs.

Please pray for us, your missionaries on the field. All of us face frustrations and problems. None of us are super Christians and we all need your prayers. If you, who have played a role in sending us out, won't uphold us in prayer, who will?

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Recognition of faithful service

On November 23 the women of West Ambae held a service of recognition for the unequalled contribution of Isobel Toka to the development of Christian Women's Fellowship in their area, as well as her service in many other ways for Churches of Christ in Vanuatu.

Isobel was born to Christian parents—not unremarkable when we remember that it was only at the beginning of this century that the Churches of Christ commenced work on Ambae. Her father, however, had been one of the kanaks employed on the sugar cane fields in Queensland and had become a Christian during his time there. When he returned to the New Hebrides he married and maintained his Christian witness despite the widespread opposition to Christianity at that time.

When Isobel was quite young she went to live in the home of missionaries Mr & Mrs Waters. She was baptised when she was 13 years old. Mrs Waters, in a letter, wrote: "Isobel, our little house girl and my companion, is a rock of strength and comfort for me." ("A.C." April 13, 1922). When the Waters left, Isobel began to teach the women and children. At that time there were many disagreements among the people. Some were opposed to the women being given an education, causing Isobel to move to a village up in the hills where she stayed for over a year, continuing to teach.

Her father died in 1924 and Isobel was then asked by another missionary, Mr MacKie, to go to Baunmatat on Pentecost Island, to teach there. She stayed on Pentecost for over 12 months. In 1927, having returned to Ambae, Isobel was married.

The development of the women's work was encouraged by Mary Finger. Isobel mentions 1941 as the year the work began. The women would have meetings, doing weaving, sewing and cooking, studying the Bible, helping in the hospital work where they could and giving gifts such as dishes, pots and buckets for the hospital. Isobel became the leader of this work. It wasn't until 1966 that it became known as CWF, under the guidance of Shirley



Isobel Toka

Ludgater. As well as assisting on Ambae, Isobel visited the islands of Maewo and Pentecost, on the mission boat, the "Sunbeam", to help the women there.

In 1975 Isobel visited Australia for 10 weeks. She attended Conference in Canberra and spoke at a number of churches in Queensland and NSW.

Isobel is an 'olfala' now, 85 years of age, with six children and over 30 grandchildren. Early in 1988 her husband of 60 years, Eliakim, died. Since then she has had some health problems. The women felt it fitting that she be shown their appreciation in the form of a 'shake hands' service. During the service some women presented items. Jill Muller, a missionary also involved in the women's work, made a speech and Isobel was given the opportunity to address those gathered. Then she was given a seat outside and two more people spoke, giving a short history of her work and presenting her with gifts: a red mat, some lap lap and a cake.

Following this came the 'shake hands' when those present filed past Isobel, shaking her hand and giving her gifts. The evening concluded with a feast.

Isobel's message that day encouraged the younger women to always look to Jesus, rather than setting their eyes on the things of this world. Her own life provides a worthy example.

ADVERTISEMENTS

The 30th annual Riverina Christian Convention will be conducted in Tumut, NSW, over the Australia Day weekend, 27-29 January 1989. Speakers will be Rev J. Buckle and Peter Thomas. The Convention is held every year to

give Christians from all denominations teaching from the Bible, on subjects related to practical daily living. For further information contact the secretary, John Anderson, PO Box 232, Tumut, NSW 2720; phone (069) 47 3232.

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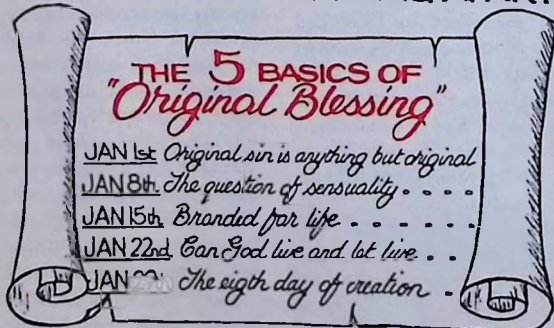
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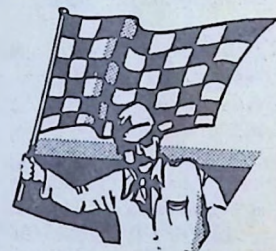
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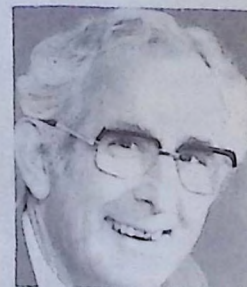
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Ministers:



Graham Agnew



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The End of an Era

The graduation service of the College of the Bible conducted at Blackman Hall on November 18 marked the end of an era. After 78 years at Glen Iris, COB is poised ready to move to the new multi-million dollar Mulgrave campus.

In a brief survey of the final year at Glen Iris Principal Dr Bill Tabbernee expressed his heartfelt thanks to the many individuals and churches who had caught the vision and given so generously to the Mulgrave Campus Building Appeal. He announced that with key gifts and promises already made the appeal had reached \$750,000 leaving only \$250,000 to achieve the target of \$1 million which would enable the College to commence at Mulgrave debt free.

Reference was also made to no less than five staff changes during the year and the appointment to the faculty of Greg Elsdon and Alan Niven.

Following the presentation of Certificates, Diplomas and Graduate Diplomas to 19 students, Graham Woodward, expressed the gratitude of his fellow graduating students to their respective families, their churches and the faculty and staff of the College, for their loving prayerful support and patience throughout their years of study.

Diplomas and Certificates were presented by R.A. Williams, chairman of the Board of Management, to the following graduates: Diploma in Ministry with Honours—Robert Corrie, Crisplan Jones, Graham Woodward; Diploma in Ministry—David Buesnel, Alan McMillan; Diploma in Theological Studies—Roslyn West; Certificate in Lay Ministry—Peter Eades; Certificate in Christian Studies—Cathrine Bradley, Shane Brooking, David Singh.

Geoff and Lynne Oliver, Berwick, Vic., lecturers in music, worship and mission set the tone for the service by their appropriate choice of musical items and by leading the congregation in praise and worship.

In his final address to the graduating students Dr Tabbernee challenged them to "not neglect the

gift", basing his remarks on 1 Timothy 4:6-16 he challenged all those in ministry. He made five major points:

Don't go native. He challenged ministers to stick to the essentials of the faith, to take the truth of the faith and the best of biblical scholarship seriously, to exercise the skills of biblical exegesis in preparation for teaching, preaching and pastoral care.

Keep yourself spiritually fit. Loving God with our minds through serious study can be a sterile activity. We also need to love God with our heart, souls and spirit. 1 Timothy calls us to 'ministerial piety' ie the deep spirituality needed for effective Christian ministry. Ministers dare not become so involved in the task of ministry that they forget to be ministers of the gospel.

Become a role model. Dr Tabbernee ventured the view that one of the major reasons for the decreasing number of candidates for ministry was the lack of sufficient proper role models amongst ministers today.

Never forget your calling. Ministers today are set apart to be representatives of Christ in the world.

Watch yourself. The final word of warning to the graduating students was to keep a critical eye both upon their lives and their teaching. They were challenged to maintain a rigorous program of self evaluation to ensure their lives and their teaching were consistent.

The 1988 graduation service was a fitting climax to 78 years of faithful service to the churches. It attracted over 800 who came from all parts of Australia and also from New Zealand.

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(02) 580 8165 (Home)



Reconciliation among the churches

To the churches of Australia from heads of churches

For too long in Australia Christians have been divided. There are divisions, too, in the wider community. The Australian community needs reconciliation at many levels and Christians can be catalysts for such reconciliation, on the basis of their faith.

Christians have a common faith in Christ. We Christians should not let our differences obscure this faith. There is only one God, in whom we all 'live and move and have our being'. There is but one Lord Jesus Christ whom we worship in the one Spirit. If we see the Christian community as one 'people of God', we must recognise that this people is larger than our own denomination. All Christian traditions can be enriched by the faith and prayer of others.

However, there are many differences between Christians as individuals and as churches. These spring from such things as:

- different national and cultural origins;
- different ways of worship;
- different doctrinal positions;
- different responses to moral questions;
- different patterns of church structure and government.

Some of these differences can be creative. All of us can learn from the religious practices of others. But some differences have become barriers, sometimes due to misunderstanding, prejudice and intolerance. Others are of a substantial doctrinal nature. In this regard, the recent development of inter-church dialogue is steadily expanding the areas of agreement. We call on Christians of all churches to seek a greater understanding and acceptance of each other in all their differences.

Some differences between groups are to be expected and appreciated, just as within one congregation there are different gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor 12:4-6). Among those differences are language, style of worship, cultural and traditional practices. The Christian unity which we seek does not involve uniformity in all things, but does involve oneness in faith and in commitment to

Jesus Christ.

Unity is, in one sense, already given. Jesus Christ, in his ministry on earth, and most of all in his cross, broke down the barriers which previously separated people (Eph 2:14-16). In his prayer to the Father in John 17, he prayed for a deep unity between his followers, a legacy of the gift of peace he left with the Church (Jn 14:27). The Kingdom which Jesus preached has already, in this sense, arrived. It comes in the presence of Jesus in human life, human society and the Church.

But unity is, in another sense, still ahead of us. It beckons us towards the future. The unity Christ has given is not yet fully visible and realised. We are given a 'ministry of reconciliation' (2 Cor 5:18). This is our continuing task. There is an urgency in this because of our faithfulness to the commission of Christ and to the inner nature of the Church. As Christ is one, so must his Body, the Church, be one.

To fulfil our ministry of reconciliation we need, first, forgiveness from God and from each other for our lack of love. This involves repentance, on the part of all, for past and present mistakes, misjudgements and pride.

To repent is to change. We rejoice that many of the old prejudices and rivalries have already disappeared. But we need also to change our language about each other; to seek to learn from each other; to pray for each other. As we become more like Christ, so we shall grow together in unity.

For congregations in our cities, suburbs, towns and rural areas, the following are practical steps that we recommend:

1. Joint action to meet local community needs.
2. Regular prayer for other Christians at Sunday services.
3. Prayer meetings which comprise several denominations and which include prayer for the official dialogues taking place between churches.
4. Study groups to examine the things that divide; to explore what it means to be Christian in Australia;

to examine what mission in the local community means.

5. Development of a 'pattern of consultation' on major issues facing all churches. This involves a local structure, however simple, for working together on a continuing basis.

6. Common action on such things as:

(a) reaching out to people who are presently beyond the fellowship of the Church;

(b) witnessing to the need for justice and peace, and for the

overcoming of poverty and racial prejudice.

As well as local action, there is need for mutual acceptance at a national level. If Christians are to witness to the reconciling love of God in society, we must first be reconciled to each other. Since 1985 the national heads of most Christian churches have been meeting regularly for worship and discussion. This has been an important step forward. We hope such a pattern will extend to all levels of church life.

Representatives at Education Conference

Andrew Ball and Don Smith (representing Churches of Christ) recently participated in the biennial conference of the Joint Board of Christian Education. The conference was held at Manix College, Monash University, November 17-21. The Joint Board is a partnership of the United Church, Anglicans and Churches of Christ in Australia, and from New Zealand partner churches.

The conference enthusiastically received reports on the outstanding success of *New Living Faith*, the Sunday School curriculum resource launched this year. Churches of Christ writers have contributed to various parts of the curriculum. Judy Gordon and a team of NSW people have made a major contribution in the beginners area. These resources have been warmly received. In the youth areas there have been a number of Churches of Christ contributors by way of feature articles.

New Resources

The new adult Bible study series, *Kerygma*, has been well accepted and is being used in a number of churches. Inquiries should be directed to state departments.

Glen Smyth of Perth has written a useful book for youth leaders entitled *What Shall We Do On Friday Night*. The resource is sell-

ing well across all denominations.

The Joint Board is now producing a wide range of resources for churches. They are described in an attractive catalogue which may be obtained by writing to the office of the Joint Board of Christian Education, 10 Queen St., Melbourne 3000.

Special introductory offers for the Sunday School curriculum *New Living Faith* are also obtainable from this address.

Churches of Christ are linked to the Joint Board through our own **Federal Board of Christian Education** which is located at 52 LaTrobe St, Melbourne 3000.

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Focus on Manifold Heights

The Manifold Heights church, in Geelong, Victoria, was established in 1925. Since then the surrounding community has gone through many changes. In recent years areas which had older populations have gradually changed as younger families began to move in. In a survey, conducted by the church, of their members, they found that 40% were young families, a statistic exactly in line with the percentage in the surrounding community.

There are 148 active members and average attendance at Sunday morning services is 135-140 adults. Sunday School is held from 9.30-10.30 am, followed immediately by the morning service. For the older primary school children Yvonne and Malcolm Lowe run a Good News Club on Mondays.

Paul Downie has been minister of the church for three years, assisted in the last nine months by Max Ball. Paul is also working as a chaplain for a funeral parlour, which has given him many opportunities to minister to people outside the church.

The church has three tennis teams and a cricket team, evening and afternoon CWF groups, eight cell groups and a youth group. The youth group meets on Mondays for a praise and worship Bible study and on Saturdays for social activities. About 35 young people are involved. Cell groups take place at various times and include some mixed groups, as well as one for young women, one for older people and one for young Christians.

The monthly men's breakfast held by the church, using Christian Men's Network videos by Edwin Cole, has been so successful that it is planned to open it up to men from all over Geelong in the coming year.

The emphasis for 1988 has been on praise and worship. Weekly evening services, known as Praise and Worship Celebrations, have

been geared towards young people. Average attendance at these services is 70-80. A number of instruments are used to enhance the musical content of the services, talented singers from within the church, as well as guest artists, participate frequently and once a month there is a guest speaker.

Some very positive developments in the life of the church have taken place as a result of a number of factors. Earlier this year Doug Duncan, from the Baptist church, conducted three mid-week meetings, concentrating on the gifts of the Spirit and praying for specific people who had spent time themselves in fasting and prayer. He spoke words of truth in the life of the church, specifically that he saw the Manifold Heights church as a hospital ministering to broken, hurting people, restoring them and enabling them to move on, even to return to other churches from which they had come and to work to restore relationships in those places. This has been seen to be happening in a wonderful way in the church over the past eight months.

Another visitor who spoke firstly at an evening service, and more recently at a morning service, was Geoff Reynolds, from NSW, who works for 'Close to the Edge Ministries'. This ministry to socially disadvantaged people is now being started in Geelong. Rick Wright has been appointed Director and Errol Altken a full-time worker. Both are from the Manifold Heights church. These visits of Geoff Reynolds, which prompted a number of people to seek restoration in their lives, added to the vision of a hospital already described. The church has developed contacts with people who have had psychiatric problems and some members are involved in prison visitation.

These and other developments this year have prepared the way for the church's planned emphasis on evangelism in 1989.

SA

BROOKLYN PARK (G. Shaw)

Now four Serendipity Small Groups ... Five junior, three senior tennis teams in UC competition ... 60 God's Gang families visited with biscuits ... Board Retreat of Quietness held ... Elders led stewardship service ... Thank offering \$1,193 ... Church now in 64th year ... Successful family picnic held ... Minister received Graduate Diploma in Ministry from COB ... Church saddened at death of Robert Rutherford.

MATILDA ST, PORT LINCOLN (Jim Spliker)

COCKE Club children & four leaders enjoyed weekend camp at Redcliffs church property ... Church combined with People's Church to share in visit of Bill Bule from Vanuatu ... Three CWF members participated in Eyre Peninsula Women's Camp at Redcliffs ... Church saddened by death of Maurice White ... Mrs Yeates still on sick list ... George McCulloch recovering from operation.

NARACOOORTE (Grant Simpson)

A great time of fellowship & fun had by over 40 on church camp at Nelson, Vic. Studies on courage led by Jim Keatch ... Service of appreciation of senior members faith held recently followed by lunch & afternoon program ... Recent service featured Colin Dredge, Conf Pres ... Sunday evening home fellowship meetings being held fortnightly ... Young Adult Fellowship haycarting raised \$525.

BRIGHTON (N. Moore, K. Bowes) Board planning weekend set priorities for 1989 ... Several Christians in Fellowship welcomed ... Renovations by volunteers & subcontractors producing new kitchen, office & meeting rooms ... Temple Day offering for project \$7,730 plus \$3,000 in fundraising ... Chapel packed for senior adults service featuring "New Connexions" ... Successful Friendship Group camp ... Neville Moore's term extended until retirement during 1992.

HAPPY VALLEY (Russell Allson)

Recent CWF meetings have been coffee & dessert evening & preparing for Christmas ... Dean Meatheringham, Ron Holmes & Dean Hamilton guest speakers ... Norma Robinson resigned as SS Superintendent after five years of untiring enthusiasm & dedication to the children of our church. Janet Whitten appointed to take over from Norma ... Young Marrieds group formed ... Prayer workshop held.

BALAKLAVA (Graham Lawrie) Operation Talent thank offering raised \$8,282 to donate to new Bible College ... 12 attended World Convention, New Zealand ... Many families represented at Blackwood funeral service for beloved former pastor Jim Dow ... Bibles placed in pews to encourage reading of the Word ... Outreach group offering bicentennial Bibles to the community ... Graham Lawrie & Dennis Lord visited Roxby Downs re 1989 church visit.

UNGARRA (Ian Lockwood)

Members enjoyed door knocking district giving celebration New Testaments to each household. Many valuable contacts made ... Puppet ministry used to present gospel at Tallunda Flat Show in conjunction with successful Bible Society stall ... Family Day service held Provis Park. barbecue dinner, games for children ... Recent visiting speakers Ron Bassett, Graham Rehn ... Ladies study the life of Joseph.

BLACK FOREST (R. Bassett) 69th church anniversary Nov 27 took form of missionary weekend. Friday night Rex Chamberlain spoke for MAF showing slides. Saturday night Dean Woods, College of Ministries. Sunday am Max Wright, Aboriginal pastor from Peoples Church, Pt Lincoln. Church tea Sunday night followed by World Vision show slides of India ... AGM held, W. Lovell re-elected elder. R. Green, C. Wood, R. Teague re-elected deacons, L. May & F. Williams elected deacons.

BIRTHS

PIETZSCH (James) Elizabeth and Colyn are delighted to announce the birth of their first-born son, Jonathan James, on Monday, 28th November. Proud grandparents, Lorraine James and Hazel and Henri Pietzsch. God's gift of a son.

ENGAGEMENTS

HUTCHISON — JONES Anne and Brian Hutchison of Heathcote, N.S.W., and June and Frank Jones of Box Hill, Vic., have pleasure in announcing the engagement of Sharon and Brendan.

APPROACHING MARRIAGE

STEELE — ANDREWS Pam and Eric Steele are delighted to announce the approaching marriage of their daughter, Carolyn to Mark Andrews and wish them every happiness and God's blessing on their future together. The service will be conducted by Ron Elbourne at the Church of Christ, Glen Waverley on Saturday January 7, 1989, at 3.30 p.m.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

MANNING — JONES Don and Laura are grateful to God for 50 years of happy marriage. The wedding took place at Mile End and was conducted by H.P. Manning and G.T. Fitzgerald. Congratulations from daughters, sons-in-law and 20 grandchildren.

HOUSTON — BRADBROOK Cecil and Ruth married on December 21, 1938 by Russell Baker at Lygon St Church of Christ. Congratulations Mum and Dad on 50 years marriage. Love and gratitude from Marion and Rob Evans, Geoffrey and Dot Houston, Dawn and Ian Andrews, Lionel and Lee Houston and grandchildren Robyn, Jenni, Lyndel & Bronwyn Evans, Garry, John and Nicholas Houston, Stuart and Christine Andrews, Glen and Matthew Houston. Present address: Bendigo Village, Spring Gully 3550.

DEATHS

DOW, Jim, died suddenly at home, 5 Kelvin Ave, Clarence Park 5034 on November 17. Loved husband and companion of Kathleen, devoted and loving father and friend of Jamie, Calum and Alastair. Aged 55 years. Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

FINDLEY Jack. On November 19. Loving husband of Carmen and loving father of Barbara, Robert and Margaret, son-in-law Geoffrey, daughter-in-law Jennifer, loving "Jack" of Kuszanne, Caleb, Talia, Hayden and Rachel. In God's care.

GOOD, Aleck Raymond. Of 1/1 Charles Street, Balaklava, formerly of Long Plains. On November 16 at the Ira Parker Nursing Home, after six years of illness. My darling husband, and dear friend and stepfather and grandpa to my family. Dulcie, Phillip, Gregory, Susan and Alan, Nigel, Kylie, Amy, Gareth, Purdey and Tegan. "Precious are the memories of the magic moments you gave to me." The trumpet of the Lord has sounded for you.

HAYWARD, Wilfred Reginald (Reg) of Turramurra, N.S.W., on November 13, 1988. Dearly loved husband of Edna (deceased), loved father and father-in-law of Bruce and June, Harold and Jill, Lorraine and Cliff and grandfather and great-grandfather of their families. Aged 91 years. "He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God."

MOTT, Myrtle Emily. On November 16, 1988. Beloved wife of Colin, dearly loved mother of Andrea, Michael and Paul, loved mother-in-law of Greg, Lyn and Lyn, much loved Nana of their children. "I heard the voice of Jesus say, Come unto me and rest."

WHITE Maurice Randle. 13.11.88, at Port Lincoln. Much loved husband of Iola (Sis) and father of Sue and Linden, father-

in-law of Graham and Liz, grandfather of Catherine, JulieAnne, Lauren, Tanya and Heidi. "A fight well fought."

IN MEMORIAM

SMITH, Jack. 14.12.1986. Your love remains in my heart — Dorothy.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

AMBROSE Chris and Mary wish all their friends a joyous Christmas. We thank all "The Australian Christian" subscribers for their loyalty and support for another year.

CUDDY Praising God for his wonderful care, I would like to pass on my gratitude to Him and wish all of my friends that they too may experience His greatness at this wonderful season. May His peace and blessing be yours all through the coming year. Yours with Christian love Tom Cuddy. Numbers 6:24-26.

WILLIAMS. Mr and Mrs E. Lyall Williams wish to extend Season's Greetings to all friends. A gift to World Christian Action will be sent in place of the customary greetings.

EMPLOYMENT

ACCOUNTANT needed for Chartered practice. Not necessarily qualified but must have experience in taxation and work with minimum supervision. Direct contact with wide variety of small business clients. Minimum audit. Challenging opportunity with good conditions. Consideration given to part-time. Apply in writing to Murray Crabb & Co., 653 Riversdale Rd., Camberwell, Vic. 3124.

FOR SALE

REED ORGAN Mannberg Organ 21 stop. \$150 ONO or would be suitable as gift to needy church. Contact Betty Lowcock, Secretary, Norlane Church of Christ, 6 Moyston Gve., Corio 3214. Phone (052) 75 1338.

ORGAN Burge Chorister 261. Completely overhauled. Includes extension speaker. Suitable for church or hall. \$1,000 ONO. Contact Roy Barnett (03) 55 1675 or Cheltenham Church of Christ, Mrs Jean Rose (03) 584 8499.

TAPES Bendigo Church of Christ tape ministry, messages by J. Sweetman. Tapes available from church office, Short St., Bendigo 3550, or phone (054) 43 5245, Tuesday to Friday mornings between 9 and 12 noon. List of topics also available by request.

WANTED

6' X 3' FOLD UP BILLIARD TABLE for elderly residents at Fred Combridge House. Will negotiate price or as donation. Ring Trevor Giles on (03) 662 1411.

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Mrs Cheryl Hutchinson will address the Ladies on Friday afternoon

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Meeting times are 10.45 am, (11.00 am Sunday), 3.00 pm and 7.30 pm

DAY VISITORS WELCOME

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Further details from Convention Office,
5 Court St, Box Hill 3128 Phone (03) 898 4318.

TAS

LAUNCESTON (Gordon Stirling) CWF Australian concert on Dec 2 raised over \$600 for COB New Campus Appeal ... Phillip Armstrong baptised on Dec 4 ... "This is Your Life" program presented by New Gene for Stuart Arnot prior to his marriage on Dec 10 ... Natalie Alderton has received her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award ... Peter & Sue Daniel with Craig & Joy Spaulding to lead New Gene group.

VIC

BORONIA (Kelth Milne, Mike Folland) AM elected new board members Anthea Parker, Russell Fyfe, June Whitney, Colin Henry ... Motion passed "That this meeting recognise that mission to the church & the community is a corporate responsibility, & encourages members to form & be involved in "Mission" groups to meet church & community need" ... Reports presented all positive ... Morning services Dec/Jan 10 am, 9 am Christmas Day.

STAWELL (Dick Hayman) Highlights of 1988: Alan Webb's visit, resulting gifts of \$1,000 each to missionary work, Kensington Christian Network, Halls Gap camp site & to COB for new piano; visit by Gerald Rose & Cheltenham members, plus bike riders from Nunawading; formation of house prayer groups ... With the departure of Dick & Pip Hayman in January 1989 to army

chaplaincy, we look forward to the arrival of Stephen & Jenny McElwee to continue a vital ministry.

RED HILL (Ken Clinton) Bill & Ria Keddies shared at both services on November 27. Evening service preceded by 5 pm tea for Keddies, prior to their departure to work in Zimbabwe. Keith Ludgater led a commissioning service for Bill & Ria at 7 pm. This was followed by a challenging message from John Sutton ... Vital worship & dynamic preaching continues as Ken leads us ... Sunday School part of special family Christmas service.

RINGWOOD (Barry Jenkins, Bryan Mee) Barry Jenkins is currently taking some long service leave, spending it in India ... The church has enjoyed visits recently from Prahran Pathfinders, Covenant Players & the Bible Society with the play "No More Mothballs" ... Looking forward to 1989 with an increased ministry team. Mike Grechko to be inducted on February 5 at 7 pm, speaker Clive Ward.

ESSENDON (K. Stothard) November 27, Temple Day, \$2,700 given ... Church joined with other churches in Bethlehem Market for Camp Challenge ... Church welcomed back Jack Ferguson of Sydney, celebrating his 90th birthday ... Conclusions from Bible Study Tuesday evening on Women's Leadership in Churches ... Church joined with Footscray for a picnic on Cup Day & also to hear August & Maeline Ben.

Kenmore Christian College Ambassadors' year

36 churches and thousands of kilometres later the Kenmore Christian College Ambassadors can look back upon an interesting year of getting acquainted with Queensland churches from north to south. Lecturer Jan Christensen, with students Denise Sheppard, Steve Smith, Graeme Scott and Trish Brunet were appointed at the beginning of the year to represent the College to the Queensland Brotherhood.

Denise Sheppard writes of one experience: "How excellent are the Lord's faithful people. My greatest joy is to be with them." (Psalm 16:3). How excellent are the Lord's people in North Queensland — in Mackay, Moranbah, Townsville, Cairns, Mareeba, Charters Towers and Rockhampton, and how faithful are the leaders of those churches.

"The Ambassadors spent two weeks in September travelling in North Queensland. During that

time we held midweek rallies and led worship and gospel services in many of our North Queensland churches. Our message was two-fold: consider how great is God's love for us; then consider how we can respond to such great love. Surely the only proper response is to serve him faithfully.

"The purpose of our trip was both to represent Kenmore Christian College and to encourage the churches. What a joy it was to discover that many of the churches were a source of encouragement to us. God is working in North Queensland, and many of the churches there are beginning to see results. The work is still hard and the leaders often struggle with a sense of isolation, but God is working and people's lives are being changed. Praise God for his faithful people, and then pray for continued strength and enthusiasm for these churches of the North."

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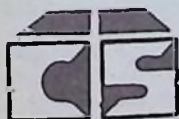
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Speaker: Rev GRAEME CARNELL
Camp Counsellor: Dr JAMES RIDGWAY

Applications: CAMP SOLO, Amanda Bridges, Flat 1, 40 Southey
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Obituaries are limited to 100 words in length.

CURTIS, Ella Ethel (Nell)

Nell was born at Mt Pleasant on March 23, 1904. her parents, Charles and Alice Harding, were farmers. One of a family of eight, they moved to Adelaide when she was 18 years old. Married to Lew in Mile End church by the late J.E. Webb (1928), they lived at a number of addresses and were involved in the foundation years of the churches at Whyalla and Brooklyn Park. Later they became deeply involved in the church at Park St, Unley. An active lady, who loved sports, she played tennis and bowls with distinction. For 28 years she worked with Meals on Wheels. After the death of Lew she has lived at Glen-gowrie until, following a fall and surgery, she gently passed away. A good lady, intensely practical and outgoing, she is fondly remembered by John (an only child) and grandchildren Leanne and Trevor.

—K.D.H.

DAVIE, Allan

(1.11.88) Allan Davie was born at Bothwell, Tas., in 1903, living in Melbourne and Dadswells Bridge before coming to Horsham in 1936 with his family. He worked as a carpenter, a building instructor, and a building contractor for 16 years. After being widowed in 1941 he married Edith Parsons in 1949. Allan was baptised in January 1947. He presided, read and helped in services and did carpentry around the church. He was appreciated for his friendliness, thoughtfulness, practical Christianity and loyalty to Christ and the church. Over 200 attended his funeral service.

—H.A.L. Clark

DUNN, Mrs Beryl

(15.11.88) Mrs Beryl Dunn began coming to the church at Horsham in 1972 and became a regular attendee at both the morning and evening services and CWF. Beryl was appreciated for her friendliness, her conversation, her thoughtfulness, her positive approach to life, the poems she wrote and loved to read in church, her independence, her love for people, her love and care for her elderly neighbours, her willingness to share, her ability to cope with trouble and to strengthen others in their troubles, her faith, her love of the Bible and prayer. She was loved within the fellowship and will be missed.

—H.A.L. Clark

GOOD, Aleck Raymond

(16.11.88) Aleck, farmer and grazier, was born at Long Plains, S.A., in 1902. He was a dedicated worker in the church there until its closure in 1981. Although a shy person he helped in the church whenever he could in practical ways. As a CE Vice-President he used his car to carry young people many miles to youth rallies. His first wife, Ellen (nee Duck) and his only daughter Muriel predeceased him, leaving two sons, Rex (Adelaide) and Doug (Fremantle). In later life he married Dulcie

Pope of Geelong. For a short while they enjoyed travelling to Conferences, but after a stroke Aleck was admitted to the local Nursing Home at Balaklava for his final six years.

HAYDON, Mrs Geva Esma

(16.11.88) Mrs Geva Haydon was born in Barrington, Tasmania, on July 6, 1901. At the age of 21 she married Bernard George Haydon. Of the marriage there are two daughters, Marjorie (Mrs Ken Smales) and Nancy (Mrs Gordon Curtis), 10 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. At an early age Geva confessed Christ and joined the Ulverstone, Tas., church. Moving to Victoria she linked up with the Oakleigh church. At the age of 83 Mrs Haydon entered the Christian Guest Home where she died. While unable to attend church in her later years she maintained an interest in Oakleigh. Her funeral service was conducted by the writer, who in 1971 also conducted the funeral of Mr Haydon.

—Tom Weir

HAYWARD, Wilfred Reginald

(13.11.88) Reg Hayward was born in Adelaide 1897. He was a foundation member of Mile End church. In 1911 his family moved to Melbourne linking with Swanston St. He married Edna Bagley in Melbourne 1928. Subsequently they lived in Sydney associating with City Temple and Chatswood churches. Reg's priorities were love of God, love for wife and family, interest in people and delight in music. His musical talents were used as soloist, duetist, choir master, song leader and musician. Other service included being a deacon, church secretary, member Board of Woolwich Bible College, Conference Executive and Vice President of Conference. Special tribute was paid at Chatswood church. A beautiful memorial service at Northern Suburbs Crematorium was conducted entirely by his family — his two sons Bruce and Harold and daughter Lorraine and her husband Cliff Hensby.

—I.A. and F.S.

HUGHES, Eva Grace

(21.11.88) Born June 12, 1896, at War-racknabeal, Vic., moving to Adelaide as a young teenager, Eva married C.O.B. exit student Clifford Penn Hughes at her home church, Prospect on December 14, 1921. Ministries in W.A., S.A., Victoria and Tasmania followed, returning to S.A. in 1947 to the leadership of the Temperance Alliance until retirement. Eva participated fully in all ministries and was twice Women's Conference President in South Australia. A homemaker with two children, Eileen and Lawrence, Eva was patient in disposition, and a regular giver of hospitality. Ill health in latter years confined her to bed at the Everard Park Home.

—L.C.H.

MARR, Victor Hartley

(4.11.88) A large number attended the funeral service for Vic Marr, giving thanks to God for a long life of Christian service and witness. Baptised as a young man at Williamstown, SA, Vic was active in

membership at Lygon St, Malvern/Caul-field, Essendon, Pascoe Vale, Portland, Red Cliffs and Mildura. The Pascoe vale church commenced meeting in the home of Vic and Val. Vic served in a leadership capacity in various churches, as well as giving great practical support in the construction and maintenance of various church buildings. Since 1972 Vic and Val have been in membership at Mildura, and the great sadness being experienced by this church is evidence of the high esteem in which Vic was held. Loving sympathy is extended to Val and all the family.

—D.R.

MITCHELL (Woodbridge), Esther Anno
(8.11.88) Born 1904. Attended New-market, Vic., church from birth. Baptised and active in church and Sunday School. Married Albert Mitchell 1926. Two children, Kevin and Esther. Lived most of their married life in Doncaster. Successful business. Active in church and community life. Home always open to young people. Became life member of Box Hill Hospital. Great support to her children and later a popular grandmother. Cared for by husband Albert during early stages of long illness. Over last six years both were together in Northcote Nursing Home. Mr Mitchell predeceased her in July. her family comments, "We were blessed with a wonderful mother and companion, a home of peace and love and it is with confidence that her departure is blessed following a good and fulfilling life."

—Don Thomas

MORFFEW, Elvie Victoria

(17.11.88) One of four girls and two boys born to the Oakley family at Warrnambool, Vic., on May 25, 1897, Elvie was nurtured in the life of faith. She was baptised at Warrnambool. She worked in the community but joined only two organisations — the Rechabites and the WCTU. She married Les Morflew at Warrnambool on April 4, 1923. They were involved in the North Fitzroy church after moving to Preston. During their 44 years there three daughters, Beryl (Webster), Sylvia (Lofts) and Linda (Searle), were born. They transferred to Preston in 1928 where they were all actively involved. Dedicated to doing her best, to hospitality and to caring for others Elvie Morflew leaves inspiring memories in the hearts of those who knew her.

—Jack McCormick

PARKER, Florence Isabel May

(15.11.88) Born at Brunswick, Vic., in 1905 May was baptised at the Brunswick church in 1918 and married Stan Parker there in 1923. Until 1969 they lived in Fern-tree Gully and Blackburn then moved to Redcliffe, Qld. her husband died in 1972. May was very active in the Redcliffe church, particularly in raising money by handcrafts for building the chapel and later for building the retirement village on Bribie Island. Very interested in Kennmore College she often entertained students. She later moved into the retirement village and eventually the nursing home. She

was always friendly and helpful to others. her life reflected her Christian faith. A thanksgiving service was held in the retirement village and the next day a burial service at Fern-tree Gully was conducted by her cousin Harold Steele. She is survived by two sons, two daughters, 10 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

—Harold Steele

SCAIFE, Vera Emily

(15.11.88) The only child of the Darnett family, Vera married Arthur Scaife and they set up home in Preston. Hospitality was important, and many neighbourhood children, interstate and intrastate service personnel found a "second home". Vera loved music and, for a time, taught piano. At 55 she opened a haberdashery/gift shop. She was always interested in what was happening in other people's lives. While at Christian Guest Home, Oakleigh, Vera and Arthur celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Her sons, Clyde and Roy, daughter-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchildren, Arthur's family, her "adopted" children, her many friends remember with thanksgiving one whose life enriched so many other lives, and now who rests with her Lord whom she served so well.

—Norma Hall

SMITH, Les

(26.10.88) Les Smith was born in Horsham in 1907 and worked as a wheat and sheep farmer at Kalkee. He was baptised in Horsham in 1925 in the Hinrichsen/Clay mission tent. He was married to Grace Lampard in 1934 and is survived by one son and four grandsons. He was highly respected both as a farmer and as a Christian. He was admired for his quietness, his matter of fact approach to life, his sense of humour, his humility, his skill as a farmer and his loyalty to Christ and the church. We commit this humble Christian gentleman into God's eternal care.

—H.A.L. Clark

TAYLOR, Edna Mary Kent

(30.9.88) Born in Echuca, Vic., in 1910, Edna came to Melbourne as a young person and was baptised at Prahran. In 1934 she married John Taylor and both were active in the Prahran church. Later, moving to Glen Iris, they were associated with the Ashburton church in its early days at East Malvern. In 1951 they transferred to Gardiner church. For a large part of her life Edna was plagued by a number of physical disabilities. In recent years she was not able to attend church services but always retained her interest in the church and her Lord. Her husband died in 1979. She is survived by her sons Tony and David and their children. A large number of friends and family attended the thanksgiving service at Gardiner church.

—Harold Steele

WHITE, Maurice Randall

Maurice Randall White was born in February 1918, third eldest in a family of 10 children. As a young lad of 13 he

• Continued on Page 28

Concerning Kids

"Our kids are our future" the TV commercial says, "build 'em up with Milo!"

Our children are our future, and our expectations of them are often so high. In proportion, the effort that we put into 'building up' our future, is so low.

In the world at large, in this 'Christian' country of Australia, and even in our own local community, many of our children are physically, spiritually, morally and emotionally poor.

Who will build them up and give them a sense of self-worth, of direction, of hope.

Who will show them integrity and good leadership, so that they can become good leaders?

Who will listen with undivided attention when they have something to say?

Who will teach them the truth?

Who will show love to them so that they learn to love, and forgiveness, so that they learn to forgive?

Christian families have a great responsibility in 'building up' their children, in establishing sound Christian principles in the home, in teaching by example, in disciplining in love.

But the church also shares some of that responsibility. Every church member can help to 'build up' our children. We can learn their names, stop and say hello to them, look at their work from Sunday School and ask them about it. We can let them know that they are an important part of

— *Liz Smith*
(Berwick, Vic.)



our church family, that we appreciate having them around. We can love them.

When we catch the vision of our children as being today's church and tomorrow's church leaders, Christian Education takes on a whole new meaning and importance.

The gospel message is for children. They are unique in God's eyes, and very special to him. They sin, but they can know forgiveness. They can choose to be in God's family, to live by God's standards, to be committed to him.

Sunday School is not just about teaching a Bible story each week. Sunday School is the vehicle through which church members who have caught the vision, invest their time, their love, their energy, themselves, in building up the most precious gift we have — our kids.

What a priceless investment.

The Gifts of Three Women — a meditation for Advent '88

The first woman was his natural mother.
She gave him life.
She adopted him out soon after his birth.
She never went to church again.
She felt the church was unforgiving.

The second woman was his adoptive mother.
She gave him love.
She sent him to Sunday School.
She attended church only occasionally.
She felt the church was uncaring.

The third woman was his Sunday School teacher.
She gave him a lasting faith.
She wept at his baptism and at his ordination.
She believed the church was her family.

The first woman gave him life.
The second woman gave him love.
The third woman gave him a lasting faith.

All three were his magi.

— *Bruce McIntosh*
(Boronia, Vic.)

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A Model for Community Evangelism

The need

Tony Campolo has quoted statistics which show that the most effective form of evangelism is that in which individual Christians commit themselves to the task of witnessing personally or inviting unsaved people to a Christian function at which an invitation is given. Even with the recent renewal there is still a tendency on the part of evangelising congregations to focus their hopes for winning new believers solely on the efforts of evangelists.

While God undoubtedly blesses these types of ministries, they are still a limiting factor in church growth within our Western culture. It is a well-known principle in the business world that an enterprise which relies for its success on the enthusiastic efforts of one person is limited in its growth potential.

So, also, in the Kingdom of God growth potential is limited where reliance is placed on an individual leader. Far more would be achieved if 'average' Christians were mobilised into the multitude of ministries available under the Holy Spirit. The reliance on the local pastor for all the work of evangelism in the church is a practice which hinders the fulfilment of the Great Commission to make disciples of all people.

Because of this it seems desirable to produce a model providing a structure within which lay people, who feel that their personal evangelism has not been as productive as they would like, could find a renewed hope in their activities. Also, believers who have not yet been able to carry their testimony into the world will have a structure within which they will find the support and encouragement to take those first steps of faith in disciple-making.

As in the world success breeds success, so in the church faith breeds faith and hope breeds hope. Usually the first few steps of any journey of faith are the hardest and it can be in the first few steps that hope is lost. So it is with evangelism. The model adopted by most churches has not provided the encouragement necessary for those first few steps to be taken by people of a less bold nature.

The model

Within the context of this article the term 'evangelism' includes all ministry activities in which the "works that the Father is doing" are made manifest in the world. It can include a multitude of activities, but the confession that they are undertaken in the name of Jesus must always be present.

The model which I propose is based on an extension of the role played by pre-existing cell groups or home churches. If these do not already exist they would need to be created because it is a central presumption of this article that only small groups within which individual participation is possible will effectively prepare people for evangelism. In line with this proposed role extension (in which they become centres for reaching out into the surrounding neighbourhood) the selected homes would become more like a neighbourhood church.

The home churches have, to date, concentrated mostly on pastoral, teaching, prayer and fellowship activities and, in doing so, have (to varying degrees) mirrored the less satisfactory model of larger leader-centred gatherings (though clearly with some important differences). The suggestion is that these small groups also become the points of focus for evangelism.

Encouragement

Christians frequently do not expect that their efforts will result in a positive response from someone to whom they may be witnessing. A spirit of defeat dominates their thinking. However, this is contrary to Scripture which says, "I will make you fishers of men".

Put simply: if we do not have the conviction that the efforts will be fruitful and subsequently results do not appear, it is not because the promise of God has been found to be false, but rather the individual has believed the enemy's suggestion that God has lied (as in Gen. 3:4). When we decide to pin our hopes on the one who made the promise and decide

to reject the lying suggestion in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ then God will bless our faith and efforts—though clearly not all will believe.

Unity of purpose

Unity of purpose grows out of a mutual commitment between Christian friends. This commitment is one that can only be fostered where people know each other well, accept each other's weaknesses and difficulties and determine together to pray for each other believing that victory, healing, renewal or whatever will be the eventual outcome. For some this will mean exercising faith in areas where they have previously had no confidence or even unbelief. Out of this mutual commitment will grow the support mechanisms for less confident believers to express their faith boldly.

The unity of purpose also comes from the small group (where all can have an input) agreeing together to evangelise their neighbourhood. Such an agreement of the Body together means that during periods when individuals are lacking in faith the others can carry them through by enacting the cycle of confession, repentance, forgiveness, restoration and renewal.

The methods

There are various ideas about methods. One principle is important: the participants must be sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This requires a determination on the part of all to "put to death the works of the flesh", that is, don't try to override others and make your ideas prevail (as the world teaches us to do). The following five principles must prevail in the selection of a methodology.

•Consistency

This means that the evangelism program must be ongoing and the group must maintain a high profile in as many homes as possible. So, if the group chooses at a particular time to use pamphlet drops it must expect to complete a minimum of about 12 drops per year.

•Integrity

This means that the group must operate in such a way that their activities are of 'good report'. This must certainly be so if, for example, children are being ministered to in some way. No attempt must be made to operate without the parents' knowledge.

•Relevance

The ministries must respond with the clear statement of the promises of God for deliverance, salvation, restoration of marriages, healing, etc. There is no room for double standards here as far as the achievement of these things in our own life is concerned.

•Love

Techniques similar to those of door-to-door religious salesmen are to be avoided. People must be given the opportunity of being left alone—they can however be fought for in prayer. In fact, if the group gains integrity and is seen to be relevant, hostility will diminish.

•Service

The thrust of the evangelism should be on a wide ministry base. It must include involvement in caring service to the lost and lonely as well as proclamation. This may mean that time we held for our pleasures may need to be sacrificed.

If groups pray for wisdom, believing, the Holy Spirit will soon reveal a formula designed particularly for them. It will be a formula consistent with the gifts present in the group and it will be a formula which allows people to not be involved in activities which they earnestly feel are not consistent with these gifts. Great discernment will be required here as we are experts at fooling ourselves. Be aware that no victory comes to the nation with Achan's sin hidden under the floor of the tent (Joshua 7). There are people who will believe your message—only deliver it as if you believe it, deliver it with compassion, deliver it with the partnership and power of the Holy Spirit and results will appear.

—L.K. Taffs (Portland, Vic.)

Women's Conference Motions

We have received a notice from the Australian Christian Women's Fellowship Executive that the following motions are to be presented at the 23rd ACWF Conference to be held at Canberra on January 18, 1989.

1: That the ACWF invite nominations for WCWF representative from the States, on a rotational basis, to coincide with at least one Federal Conference.

2: That a Task Force be appointed to look at Women's Fellowship and Ministry in our churches with a view to considering an alternative administration to the existing ACWF.

3: That for the next two years the WCWF affiliation fee be set at \$A3 per group and the Travel Fund at \$A2 per group. This to be

reviewed at next Federal Conference.

4: That the registration fees and accommodation costs only be paid by ACWF for its President, or a member of its Executive, to attend the biennial National Conference and seminar of the Australian Church Women as the voting delegate. Should this not be possible, the privilege of representation then passes to the host State President or a member of her committee.

5: That the practice of sending an indigenous person, as well as the WCWF representative, to attend WCWF Convention, be discontinued and the WCWF Retreat Travel Fund be closed.

6: That the ACWF provide funding to cover travel, registra-

SA

HENLEY BEACH (Brian Hill)

A big welcome home to Hazel Skuce, on furlough from India ... Four young people from WEC College at Launceston working with the church & among the community for three weeks ... The CYF assisting with plane fare for Julie Bea, daughter of missionaries in Ghana, to fly back to Australia to do her Matriculation ... On Dec 3 87 sat down together for Christmas dinner ... On Dec 4 a Temple Day offering, giving towards purchasing new amplification equipment.

HAPPY VALLEY (Russell Allison) Recent fundraisers including Bicentennial Quiz Night & Chocolate Drive very successful ... Kathy Riessen designed & organised Advent Angels Calendar as alternative to bought ones ... SS had a party to celebrate Jesus' birthday for their break up; books presented to Norma ... Ladies enjoyed their annual Christmas dinner ... Jill Richardson received into membership.

tion and accommodation costs for the WCWF representative to attend each Federal Conference.

The first motion was moved

from Victoria and the rest of the motions have been moved by the ACWF Federal Executive.

MINISTERS' WORKSHOP

Doing it well

The main lights dim and spotlights focus on an attractive young lady as she moves to centre stage to sing her opening number. Her backing tape comes through the powerful speakers with outstanding clarity as a technician carefully monitors the levels on the multiple-channel sound board. It's an exciting and professional start—not to a television program, not to a cabaret or some other secular concert, but to an evening service in a large suburban church. It's not part of a plot to sacrifice worship and celebration for pure entertainment, but rather an honest attempt to communicate the Gospel in a form that's appealing and "with it"; it's an attempt to consider not only the content of the message, but the medium through which the message is being delivered.

Today there is a growing number of ministers and churches who have learned the secret of doing it well—not only in their worship setting, but in the standard of their printed material, the quality of their office equipment and the efficiency of their organisational structure. They have refused to cave in to the criticism that such moves are 'worldly' and 'secular'. They, like all successful business people, believe that there is a link between the quality of a product's packaging and the response that product evokes from potential customers.

Prior to training for the ministry I worked in the Marketing Division of BHP Australia Ltd. In the early days of my ministry it was both puzzling and frustrating to find a strong resistance among some church people (including ministers) to the idea of doing things with flair and professionalism—in the way that I'd been shown during those years in the world of commerce. However, I am thankful to God that I had the courage to 'hang in' and over the years the boards and church leaders with whom I have worked have come to accept many of the principles that I have tried to promote. As with most things, no-one ever really 'makes it' in this field because, after all, success is a journey, not a destination! In fact, doing it well means that we should be constantly looking for ways to improve our effectiveness. Whether we like to accept it or not, that is the way the business world

operates and that is what people in our modern society have come to accept.

Doing It well in the work of ministry means being a leader. It means helping a church to carefully evaluate its image among the unchurched. In practical terms, this will necessitate looking at things like:

- (a) the condition of our church property (How long since your church sign has been painted and updated?)
- (b) the standard of our stationery (Still crossing out the name of the former church secretary?)
- (c) the effectiveness of our P.A. equipment (How often does it go snap, crackle and pop?)
- (d) the attractiveness of our church bulletin and other publicity (There are type styles other than Old English you know!)
- (e) the competence of those who render public ministry in church services—readers, presidents etc. (How long since your church has run a training program? What is the basis of selection for the plan?)

Doing It well involves an attitude: we must, as ministers, have a strong desire to make a positive impact on those whom we are seeking to reach for Christ. At the personal level, this means adopting a thoroughly professional approach to the making of appointments, punctuality, remembering names, dress and grooming, phone manner and public communication skills.

Let's remember that in the Lord's business we are in the greatest business of all! Let's always do it well—with pride, with enthusiasm, and above all with an attitude that says to people "What we are presenting is the most important message you will ever hear! The One whom we are introducing you to is the most important person you will ever meet!"

—Graham Agnew

Graham Agnew is minister of Marion Church of Christ in South Australia.

Edited by Brian White, Field Director of the Vic-Tas. Department of Mission, Education and Development and the Federal Board of Christian Education



A Faithful Servant of a Historic Vision

—E.L. Williams

The title of this address emerges from a recognition of historic emphases of Churches of Christ and of the College of the Bible, Glen Iris.

A Final Textbook

Some years ago a friend told me of a young lady in his office who talked about a college which, she said, used only one textbook, the Bible. He said to her that he thought the position of the College of the Bible was better in that it used a number of textbooks in various subjects, but the final textbook is the Bible. It is true that the New Testament in particular has been recognised as the primary and authoritative witness to the life, teaching and revelation of Jesus Christ. In a remarkable way the Old Testament anticipated the Messiah in terms of the Suffering Servant and the NT bears witness to him who fulfilled that concept.

He is brought to us by the witness of the Scriptures and he becomes the measure of the Bible. Whatever coheres with the teaching and spirit of Christ speaks to us with authority. The authority of the Bible is derived from him. There has been unity among students and teachers in the College in acceptance of this final authority even though there be diversity in views of the Bible, in theories of inspiration, in interpretations and applications of Biblical teachings in relation to life. The College has laid emphasis on a maturity that allows for a balance between unity and diversity, and between authority and liberty.

An historic emphasis on "No Creed but Christ" has been reflected in an emphasis upon

A Divine Saviour and Lord

Our faith, worship and life are centred in a person. We are one in him. Again, among students and teachers there has been diversity in theories of the atonement, in theories related to his final coming and triumph, and even diversities in the application of his lordship to the complexities of life, but maturity makes room for the same balance between unity and diver-

sity and between authority and liberty among those who are one in their experience of him as Saviour and Lord.

Theories and opinions provide a field for diversity and liberty but there is an area of basic emphasis which was summed up by Walter Scott, a pioneer preacher in the days of the beginnings of our movement in the USA, that there are facts to be believed, commandments to be obeyed and promises to be enjoyed. We would emphasise that these facts, commandments and promises are rooted in the person who is the chief cornerstone of our faith, hope and love.

Training for Service

Churches of Christ have always stressed the doctrine of the priesthood of all believers and have interpreted it as meaning that, according to capacity, every Christian is responsible for the mission and ministry of the Church. There is not an elite class of priests or clerics whose status endows them with special privileges and powers. However, practicality makes evident the necessity for trained servant-leaders. Education, however necessary, is never an end in itself but always a means to the end of service.

Another prominent emphasis has been upon

New Testament Christianity

We must recognise that this means NT Christianity as we understand it.

As a correlative of this emphasis there emerged the concept of

The Restoration Principle

It has been a mistake to see the principle of restoration as having the end of establishing a pristine, pure denomination in isolation from all other Christians. Rather has it been recognised as a principle of reformation and renewal of the Church and as a means to an expression of the unity which is Christ's gift to all Christians, and expression of a unity of such a nature as will confirm the gospel

of reconciliation and convince the world of the possibility of reconciliation in Christ.

Elements in NT Christianity

In thinking about elements in NT Christianity five important elements come to the fore: the faith once delivered to the saints; the gospel of God's grace expressed in Christ; the teachings of Christ to be applied in all areas of life; obedience in the two ordinances instituted by our Lord—baptism and the Lord's Supper; and the worship and fellowship of the Church. We would underline these most important elements as means to an end and emphasise that if the end be not realised the means profit us nothing.

If it be asked what is the end, our answer is that it is

The Ultimate in NT Christianity

If it now be asked what is the ultimate in NT Christianity, our answer is that it is found in 2 Cor 5:17 where Paul says that if anyone be in Christ that person is a new creation. The ultimate is a new quality of life. Someone once wrote that Christ reversed the common valuations of man and wrote down as secondary anything except in so far as it contributes to character.

Paul gives us quite a list of the gifts (charismata) of the Spirit and in 1 Cor 12-14 he gives some space to the subject. Towards the close of chapter 12 he suggests to his readers that they should covet the best gifts but he would show them a more excellent way and he then launched into that inspired classic of 1 Cor 13 in which he gives us the wellspring and motivation of all virtue. The late J.H. Oldham once wrote that for him to believe in Christ was identical with believing that love is the ultimate meaning of life.

The fact that we are creatures of nature, having much in common with dogs and cats, and also children of God, made in his image, means inevitable conflict in our lives. Paul pictured this conflict as

one between the flesh and the spirit and in Galatians 5 he presented the possibility of a divine partnership between our spirit and the Holy Spirit which results in the fruit of the Spirit in which we have a rich cluster of virtue and character: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control.

The foregoing are but outstanding examples of the emphasis that runs right through the New Testament. J.B. Phillips puts it strikingly in his translation of Rom 13:14 which we quote with variation in one word: "Be Christ's persons from head to foot."

With recognition of all these emphases in the life and teaching of the College we join with many in saying, "Thanks be to God for a faithful servant of an historic vision."

—This is the text of the message given at the final worship service in the chapel at the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, November 18, 1988.

Biblical perspectives

In a recent column in *The Washington Post* Bob Levey quoted the following observations offered by confirmation classes at the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, Maryland.

- Noah's wife was Joan of Ark.
- The Fifth Commandment is humour thy father and mother.
- When Mary heard she was to be the mother of Jesus, she went off and sang the Magna Carta.
- Another name for marriage is holy acrimony.
- Christians have only one wife. That is called monotony.
- The patron saint of travellers is St Francis of Seasick.
- The natives of Macedonia did not believe, so Paul got stoned.
- The First Commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
- It is sometimes difficult to hear in church because the agnostics are so terrible.

Canberra

January 15-21, 1989

We'll be ready!

"Everything will be ready; all we need are the people!" So says Neil Gilmore, Federal Conference President. "We have a unique opportunity to proclaim God's sovereignty over all the world and affirm we are his people. By doing this at Federal Conference we express our commitment to proclaim the Lordship of Christ and our united concern for the whole of humankind."

"It's definitely not too late to register for Conference," added Neil. "The whole program is coming together really well. I give God thanks for the vitality and quality of the Conference, and I urge everyone who wants to take the Great Commission seriously—in every facet of their lives—to come to Canberra in January."

Conference Highlights

January 15:

•Dr Bill Tabbernee speaks at the Opening Celebration, which will include the Conference Choir and Singers, a colourful processional, orchestra, brass fanfare and communion.

•The Alexander Campbell Bicentenary Celebration—a real party!

January 16:

•"Report on the Future", a dramatic presentation in Scripture, words, music and choreography, in which we will be challenged to focus on God's world and how we might respond to its needs—locally, nationally and overseas.

•Electives.

•Focus on the Future, with Mal Garvin.

•Black Stump, with Alf White.

January 17:

•National Youth Forum—over 50 young people commence a three-day forum, contributing to the decisions and future directions of our church.

•Federal reports, when our church agencies give an account

of their stewardship in areas of mission, education and training, and challenge us with their vision of the future.

•Electives, workshops and deliberative groups.

•Focus on Mission, featuring a panel of Aboriginal Christians (Frank Johnson, Ivan Williams and others) sharing their vision for their people.

January 18—Women's Day:

•National Youth Forum.

•Women's Conference and lunch.

•Ranjini Rebera speaking on "Women in the Church", followed by an open forum.

January 19:

•National Youth Forum.

•Federal Reports.

•Electives, workshops and deliberative groups.

•Focus on Youth, with young people telling their story of the challenge for the future and indicating, both orally and through music and drama, the priorities they have developed in the National Youth Forum.

January 20:

•Final business assembly.

•Commissioning for Future Directions, with Neil Gilmore speaking, when we will commit ourselves, in Christ's name, to work for a future which brings hope, peace, justice and salvation to God's people in God's world.

January 21:

•Final breakfast fellowship.

•Depart for tours or home.

Electives

You can more effectively be one of God's people in God's world. The Conference electives offer a choice from four major areas:

•Creative programs for the local church, led by Alan Avery;

•Strategy on National Issues, led by Charles Wilson;

•Family in Australian Society, led by Rosslyn Reed;

•Church Members—Customers or Staff, led by Ron Brooker.



"GODS PEOPLE GODS WORLD"

Worship

Worship will be an important element of each major evening rally, commencing with a communion celebration on Sunday and ending with an act of commitment on Friday. In addition, from Monday, each day will commence with worship in Melville Hall and will involve appropriate music, movement and drama as we commit the day to God.

Workshops

The workshops and their presenters include Music (Jean Rose), Drama (Heather

Jauncey), Movement (Carol Caulton), Banners (Judy Fergle) and Computers (Bruce Riddel).

Theme Hymn

The final decision on the choice of the Conference Theme Hymn was no easy task, as the judges worked (and sang!) their way through 30 entries. Finally, with the help of Bishop Chynoweth, an acknowledged expert in church music, the winner was selected. It is *God's People—God's World*, with words and music by Geoffrey Higgins and Carole-Anne Fooks of Modbury, SA.

•From Page 13 working off as it were, of natural impulses) to work its course, otherwise, as in so many cases involving those who attend churches, they only add to their already growing list of spiritual 'hang-ups'.

— Don Jeffries
(Moorooka, Qld.)

P.S. In the case of believers this is done with the help of the Holy Spirit.

FAREWELL

To the Editor,

About a year ago I left the order of Churches of Christ ministry when I was recognised as a minister of the Word of the Uniting Church in Australia.

As part of my personal process of saying farewell to Churches of

Christ, I wrote an open letter to friends, colleagues and partners in the ministry of the church. Unfortunately that letter was not published by the Vic/Tas Ministers' Association.

Goodbye Churches of Christ. Thanks for the eight years of joy and pain in ministry which add to my journey.

May the richness of God's grace and peace be your experience through ministry in his service.

— Mark Dunn
(Ferntree Gully, Vic)

[This letter has been edited. The Vic/Tas Ministers' Association were not able to publish the letter through an unfortunate set of circumstances that occurred during the year.]

NSW

PADSTOW (Ed Holt) Church has said farewell to theological students Mac Watson & Paul Guest. Appreciation was expressed for their respective ministries ... Videos currently being shown in several homes on Christ's return ... Youth group attracting "street kids", some of whom are attending worship ... We are looking forward to Jim Tilson (third year student) taking over youth work next year ... Minister Ed Holt assisted in recent "Walk to Emmaus", a tool for spiritual renewal.

GEORGETOWN On Nov 4 over 100 gathered to celebrate the beginning of the Sunday School 50 years ago at Georgetown by the late Will and Gladys Fraser. Scholars over the years paid tribute to the deep friendship & love shown to all by "Uncle Will & Aunt Gladys". Three generations of Marjoribanks & Wright families entertained with skit "Memories". Future get-togethers will be April 8, August 5 (a barbecue) & Nov 4 (dinner).

WAGGA WAGGA (R. Whan, N. Williams) AGM adopted new structure of five functional departments: worship & music; pastoral care; education; evangelism & missions; management & assets ... James Henri added to eldership & 11 deacons appointed under the umbrella of board of deacons & elders ... Church office to continue after trial period ... Members distributed 800 copies of New Testament in bicentennial distribution ... Successful creative children's program to continue into 1989.

MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins) During minister's absence Paul Aldrich, USA, musician, soloist,

OBITUARIES

•From Page 22

started a lifetime career as a fisherman at Port Lincoln. Maurice married Sis 41 years ago and they have two children, Linden and Sue, who have many fond memories of their father and his tales of the sea. He was a faithful worker in the church for many years, serving as treasurer and secretary as well as teaching Sunday School. A skillful navigator by the stars, his advice was, "to make Christ the guiding light in your life."

— Jim Spiker

comedian special guest; J. Rus-sack, David House Fellowship ... Dr Kath Donovan conducted excellent Sunday Seminar on 'Making Stress your Friend' ... Monthly Friday evening family variety evening featured HCJB. very positive response ... Friendship Group enjoyed three day bus trip to & around Coffs Harbour.

THORNLEIGH (F. Elliott) Theme of Annual Business Meeting on Nov 15 was "Forward with the Lord". Reports reveal church in good heart. Budget of \$2,050 accepted for the coming year. Following deacons elected: N. Barnes, J. Flannery (secretary), R. Garrett, B. Moffat (treasurer), G. Moore, J. Stanford & A. Stewart ... Fred Hay guest preacher whilst F. Elliott on holidays ... Large number attended Carlingford College annual graduation at which Paul Sanders (past student) graduated.

ALBURY (Rod Foster) One year goals endorsed at board & elders retreat ... Neil & Lyn Dickinson visited from Carlingford.

Ian Jones to start there next year ... Max Winch recent guest speaker ... \$2,000 donated to St Vincent de Paul's Christmas Appeal ... Minister Rod Foster & family farewelled, presented with albums of church activity photographs & beautiful painting of typical Albury/Wodonga landscape.

QLD

BONGEEN (B.M. Nowitzke) Annual meeting elected Keith Daff chairman, Greg Pedler treasurer, Margaret Nowitzke secretary ... Baills family farewelled on moving to Toowoomba ... CWF visited Oakley Home ... Pie drive successful ... CWF annual meeting elected Margaret Nowitzke president, Shirley Sires secretary, Marce McIntyre treasurer ... Sunday School & church picnic held at Environmental Park.

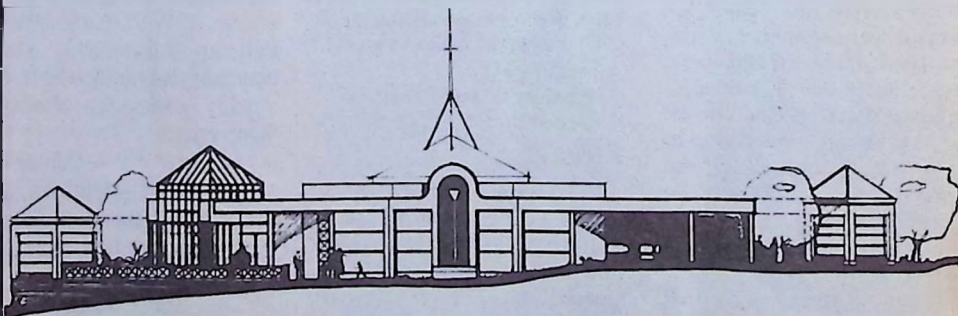
WYNNUM (Charles Cole) Cathy Van Dillewijn baptised on her 86th birthday—celebratory Dutch traditional luncheon fol-

lowed service ... Open Door bus trip to Alma Park Zoo a great day of Christian fellowship enjoying the wonders of God's creation ... Bible School Christmas celebration, nativity play, Santa visited. 'Empty Christmas tree' for underprivileged children—our children learning giving to others ... Open Door celebrates Christmas December 6 ... Carol Service December 18.

DALBY (Nell Melville) Eric Vogler & Rod Brooks new deacons for 1989 ... Successful auction & BBQ held to fund 1989 family camp ... Sunday School presented items & received prizes during morning service on Nov 27 ... At CWF breakup grocery items received for Christmas hamper ... After many years Stewart Ammenhauser has relinquished his position in looking after PA system to Trevor Meares.

**GIVE THE
CHRISTIAN
AS A GIFT**

THE COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE
invites
church members and interested friends
to the
OPENING OF MULGRAVE CAMPUS
by His Excellency Dr D McCaughey
Governor of Victoria
Saturday 11th February, 1989



4.30 — 6.30 pm
Garden Party and
Tour of new campus

6.30 — 7.30 pm
Official Programme
and
Opening Ceremony

40-60 Jacksons Road, Mulgrave (Melways Directory map 80 K3)

DISCIPLESHIP

•Darren Tudball, Julia Moore, Cameron Tudball, Katherine Staley, Ashley Barlow, Dianne Greenwood, Adam Tudball, Rachael Starbuck, Nicole Johnston, Anne Mathes, Brenda Schmidt, Sheryl Schmidt, Dawson St., Ballarat, Vic. •Michael Campbell, Nunawading, Vic. •Mrs Sandra Brock, York St., Ballarat, Vic. •Greg Sando, Brighton, S.A. •Jodie Bunn, Glen Waverley, Vic. •David & Tanya Knapstein, Happy Valley, S.A. •Kerrie Watson, Kathleen Chapman, Balaklava, S.A. •Peter & Pam Midgley, Mildura, Vic. •Jean Brooks, Alicia Briggs, Anne Trewenack, Alison Sproule, Stephen Shreeve, Nikki Powell, Warwick, W.A. •Rod Newton, Croydon, Vic. •Michael Farrah, Megan Nugent, Albury, NSW. •Phillip Armstrong, Launceston, Tas. •Sue Cormick, George Mallaby, Berwick, Vic. •Karen Thompson, South Yarra, Vic.

MARRIAGES

•Janine Graham to Graeme Mills, Lien Nguyen to Roger Walker, Jenny Gluyas to David Cobb, Nunawading, Vic. •Carmel McMannis to Michael Geaves, Matilda St., Port Lincoln, S.A. •Russell Curacha to Bruce Wear, Brighton, S.A. •Deborah Burkhardt to Jim Stevenson, Joy Beard to Kim Jensen, Glen Waverley, Vic. •Bridget Springer to Brent Annear, Launceston, Tas. •Robyn McKelvie to Michael Winkle, Wynnum, Qld. •Fiona Cross to Greg Young, Liz Herrech to Craig Plail, Jenny McCraw to Colin Campbell, Berwick, Vic.

DEATHS

•Mrs Vera Scaife, Mrs Geva Haydon, Oakleigh, Vic. •Robert Rutherford, Brooklyn Park, S.A. •Maurice White, Matilda St., Port Lincoln, S.A. •Dorothy Rawes, Brighton, S.A. •Neville Olsen, Launceston, Tas. •Aleck Good, Balaklava, S.A. •Vic Marr,

Changes of Address

PADSTOW: Secretary — Colin Field, 111 Sandakan Ave., Resvesby Heights, N.S.W. 2212.

NORLANE: Secretary — Mrs B. Lowcock, 6 Moyston Grove, Corio, Vic. 3214. Phone (052) 75 1338.

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS: Secretary — Rachel Hawker, 2/4 The Fairway, North Geelong, Vic. 3215.

TRARALGON: Secretary — Jill Martin, P.O. Box 440, Traralgon, Vic. 3844. Phone (051) 74 4757.

SANDRINGHAM: Secretary — Bryan Quinn, 4 Parkside St., Beaumaris, Vic. 3193. Phone (03) 583 6546.

TO LET

CALOUNDRA, SUNSHINE COAST, Queensland 2 bedroom units. 2 minutes' walk from Kings Beach. Rates from \$170 p.w. off season to \$390 p.w. holiday season. Phone (071) 91 7454.

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

BUILDERS

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

HOLIDAYS

GRAMPIANS Beautiful Halls Gap holiday house. All summer activities available without beach rates. Accommodates 6. Phone (055) 62 4869.

RECOMMEND THE CHRISTIAN

Mildura, Vic. •Mrs A. Payne, Warwick, W.A. •Arthur Green, Berwick, Vic.

BUNDABERG: Minister — Alan Leane, 32 Avokahville Ave, Avoca, Bundaberg, Qld 4670.

BUNDABERG CHURCH: (relocation) Twylford Street, Avoca.

An opportunity exists for a CHALLENGING MINISTRY with the Church of Christ, Norseman, W.A.

We are looking for a mature person who is committed to preaching and teaching God's word. We need someone who can relate to both Aboriginal and European folk. We would like to find someone who would be interested in a tent-making ministry but would also like to hear from anyone who has an interest in this type of ministry on a full-time basis.

We invite inquiries to the secretary.

Mr Gordon Williams

50 Angove St.,

Norseman, W.A. 6443

Phone (090) 39 1654

Churches of Christ in Queensland

Social Service Department

Applications are called for the position of

DIRECTOR OF NURSING

(Nursing Superintendent)

for the Nubeena Nursing Home

Responsibilities involve being Director of Nursing of the 42 bed Nubeena Nursing Home at Nubeena Retirement Village, 885 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba. The applicant we are seeking must be a Registered Nurse and it will be desirable also to have Geriatric Nursing experience and/or qualifications and to be able to work within a Christian context.

The successful applicant will be required to work within the administration framework of the Toowoomba Regional Committee of the Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department and will receive the salary and allowances as provided under the Hospital Nurses Award (Queensland) which is currently \$38,006.80 per annum, plus allowances.

Commencement: Monday 27 February, 1989

Persons interested in the above position must obtain and complete an application form and return to:-

Mr Ken Stewart

Administrator,

Toowoomba Regional Committee,

885 Ruthven Street,

Toowoomba, Qld. 4350.

Phone (076) 36 1955

Application forms are available for the position from Nubeena Nursing Home.

Applications close: Monday 16 January, 1989

POSITION AVAILABLE 1989 VANUATU

Secondary 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:

**Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Board,
PO Box 320, Unley 5061.**

VIC

OAKLEIGH (L.S. Dewberry) Speakers during minister's holidays were Bill Keddie & Ben Vladysuik of Polish church ... Church members conducted evening services ... Church regrets deaths of Mrs Vera Scaife & Mrs Geva Haydon ... Mrs June Andrews (CWF Hospital Committee) was delighted to receive several cartons of soft toys & books from local CWF ladies for the Children's Hospital.

DAWSON ST, BALLARAT (Jim Cunningham) Oct 15 church met to farewell Alex & Ruth Wilson. Many expressed appreciation for their ministry. Alex Wilson entertained the gathering with an organ recital & singing ... 12 baptisms over the past few months ... Nov 6 Jim Cunningham warmly welcomed for an interim ministry. Induction by Don Smith (DMED).

NORLANE (A.E. Stevens) Oct 23 Sunday School anniversary. Mrs Rene Turner speaker. Children sang ... Garage sale raised \$250 for COB ... Jim & Millie Samways, Language Recordings, demonstrated equipment & spoke of their work Nov 6 ... That afternoon we joined with LaTrobe Terrace church for seminar on worship, fellowship tea & evening service ... At AGM Nov 13 Neil Haywood resigned as secretary. New secretary Betty Lowcock ... Neil, Betty & Ruth Haywood moving to Whittington.

NUNAWADING (E. Keating, J. Wright, S. Ludgater, L. Smlth) Guest speakers Rod Scott, Lew Born, Brian White, Cheryl Johnson ... Weekly smorgasbord series during November with family teas, elective studies, children's programs ... Bangladeshi flood relief \$3,555 ... Surrey Rd fete \$4,200, Springfield Rd fete \$4,400 ... Resignation of Shirley Ludgater received with regret ... Commitment Sunday 17 responded ... Five Cell groups ages 12-17 11 am Sunday ... Weekly 18+ Bible study group.

YORK ST, BALLARAT (Roger Risson) SS children participated in gospel service performing David & Goliath, singing, puppetry, Bible reading ... Pastoral care team of 10 & eight

adult cell group leaders have contact with 174 families ... \$1,400 donated to Christian Fellowship Assoc ... Mark Westaway to sing with 'The Travellers' next year ... \$3,500 raised at fete & fun day for building fund ... Government provided \$30,000 for relocation of Day Kindergarten.

ECHUCA (A. Symes) Colin & Heather Hipwell & two young children recently dedicated their lives to the Lord ... Eight day mission by visiting US evangelist Ralph Sproles ended Nov 13. Great blessings for all. 13 came forward for rededications or commitments. Great effort by all church members & helpers ... Ian Holloway enjoyed a Pacific Island cruise ... members generously donated items for Old People's Home Christmas presents.

TRARALGON Cell groups a vital component of church growth ... Over \$1,000 tithed in 1988 to organisations outside local church body ... Outreach/Drop-In Centre in vacant manse a venue for health services & community programs ... Family camp in Dec to celebrate Christmas & to praise God for growth ... Civic service in Oct to commence municipal year attended by over 50.

THE PATCH (Glynthea Finger, David Rees) Church congratulates Glynthea Finger on receiving her Graduate Diploma of Ministry ... Nov 6 a special family service was held, many young people took part ... Church also congratulates David Rees who has been accepted to undertake the Clinical Pastoral Education Chaplaincy at the Austin Hospital during Christmas College vacation ... \$145 collected for Leprosy Mission ... Special services are being prepared for the Christmas season ... David Rees recent speaker.

GLEN WAVERLEY (Ron Elbourne, Lindsay Croxford, Doug Fitzpatrick) We thank God for 54% increase in giving following stewardship program ... Pastoral minister (Lindsay Croxford) accepted further term of ministry to March 1993 ... Twice weekly "Backdoor Drop-in Centre" meeting needs of young people in Waverley after school ... New Horizons Bookroom celebrated four years of Christian service ...

Another Newcomers Dinner appreciated by all present ... Casse-rolle bank commenced for families needing a meal.

MOUNT CLEAR (Phillip Stevens) Philip Stevens completes five year ministry in December. Commencing ministry at Croydon, SA, in Feb. Philip, Val & family will be missed by this congregation ... Sympathy expressed to Philip Stevens & family on the death of his father on Oct 13 ... David & Linda Sheedy commencing theological training in Perth 1989 ... YFC & CWCI held Relationship Seminar with Graeme & Julie Cann ... 125th church anniversary held Nov 6. Gerald Rose speaker.

CROYDON (W. Glibney) At the AGM our minister outlined plans for 1989. Many exciting possibilities being presented including all age Christian education ... Church has welcomed Alan & Kath Dodgshun into fellowship together with their family ... A number of families rejoicing over the birth of babies ... At Opportunity Shop Committee's annual meeting \$13,000 was disbursed. **MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (Paul Downie, Max Ball)** 63rd SS anniversary. Thanks expressed for dedication of teachers ... men's breakfast series "Maximized

Manhood" ... Dr Edwin Cole seminar leader Geoff Reynolds ... Temple Day offering received ... Gold Logie Award Variety Concert special effort by CWF raised \$500 ... CWF entertained elders, board members & partners at a thank you dinner ... Monthly fellowship afternoon for community. Generally carpet bowls & cuppa ... Rae Morris & Madge Bennett enjoyed NZ tour & World Convention.

NORTH ESSENDON (Robyn & Hannes Schaefer) CWF raised \$377 at annual street stall; Christmas luncheon at Monbulk ... \$50 raised for Indian children at crazy whist evening. A second one on Dec 3 raised \$65 ... Presentation & farewell to Anne & George Fyfield, moving to Macedon ... Members assisted at Strathmore's "Bethlehem Market" ... Ministers announced resignation as Hannes Schaefer to take up chaplaincy position in West Gippsland in 1989.

In a sharp reaction to the Muslim persistent efforts to ontrench Sharia (the Islamic Code of Law) in the proposed Nigerian Constitution, Christians have come up with Canon (Ecclesiastical) Law for consideration in the new constitution alongside that of Sharia.

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WA

MANDURAH (Roger Ryall) Seven men & women elected to board prior to recent AGM. Lyn Williams thanked for two years faithful work as secretary ... Ladies held excellent effort raising \$580 at street stall for church building fund ... Baptisms planned at Mandurah foreshore on Nov 20 ... C of C youth groups assisting with summer outreach for Christ on Sunday evenings Jan & Feb ... Dennis Hughes & Roger Ryall shared in recent exchange ... Janet & Martin Jones transferred to Southern Hills.

WEMBLEY DOWNS (John Somerville) At the end of 1989 the long ministry of John Somerville, ably supported by his wife Margaret, will conclude. Their loving service has been greatly appreciated by the Wembley Downs congregation ... John & Eira Clapp (Brighton, Vic) have accepted an invitation to minister jointly at Wembley Downs, commencing January 1990.

WARWICK (G.B. Carslake, B.E. Eagles, R.L. Mason, L. Devlin) Highlights have included interviews with Christian sports people George Kaylan (auto sports), Betty Cuthbert, Duncan Martindale (cricket), Richard Pengelly (water polo) ... Graham & Freda Carslake attended World Convention ... Lyn Sara has resigned as Administrator ... Jan Davis now office secretary three days/week ... Denis & June Lane guest speakers at Missionary Convention ... Bill Bule, Vanuatu, preached ... \$3,918 given to World Vision 40 hour famine ... Graham Carslake awarded Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary.

DIANELLA (John Spencer) Great weekend family camp held in October ... Sympathy & love expressed to Heather & John Spencer on passing of Heather's father John Steele, also to Joan Redmond & family on loss of husband & father, Stan ... Highly successful progressive dinner to raise money for mission project of water tanks for PNG.

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TAS

ULVERSTONE (Tom & Ruth Edge) Family camp at Rocky Cape Nov 5-7 attended by 30 adults & children. Theme "Our Spirituality" ... Hair care demonstration & afternoon tea for ladies a pleasant time ... Kerygma studies involving half the membership are underway ... Some of board met with Don Smith ... Maeline Ben interviewed during morning

service on Nov 20 ... Minister now secretary of local minister's fraternal.

LAUNCESTON (Gordon Stirling) Church annual meeting held on Nov 15 ... Newly elected deacons S. Arnot, L. Cripps, C. Preece, L. Birtwistle, C. Spaulding ... Elders elected P. Smith & Powell ... Bicentennial March & service in the Mall well attended ... Tony & Lynnette Armstrong accepted for COB next year ... Dr

Robert Shaw, Florida, USA, speaker on Nov 27 ... Manse extensions will be completed by Dec 9 ... Several members have been hospitalised lately ... Church shocked at sudden death of Neville Olsen.

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PEOPLE



A tribute to Jim Dow



The Telcelink team of the Kedron, Qld, church were saddened at the sudden death of Jim Dow, the founder of their caring ministry.

In 1977 Jim was so concerned about the elderly, sick and lonely people in the community that he accepted the challenge of commencing a Telcelink ministry. At that time Jim was the minister at Kedron and so he set about filling this need in the community by means of contacting people on a regular basis through the telephone, speaking with them and praying with them. As was typical of Jim he gave so much of himself as he cared for others and this work has continued to grow. Many Telcelinks have been commenced in various churches to

minister to the needs of people. The Kedron Telcelink team will be for ever grateful for the dedication of Jim and the way he encouraged and inspired them to carry on in this work.

On the 10th anniversary of Kedron's Telcelink ministry Jim wrote in a celebration booklet: "I like to remember the good experiences of the early years of Telcelink. These were good years not only because they call up again warm feelings and a sense of pride at being a part of a worthwhile venture in ministry to people, but more so, they taught us the importance of understanding the real needs of the ageing and isolated people in our community."

Jim Dow was a very special person.

THE LAST WORD

Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

— Philippians 2:5-7 (NIV)

"The thing about bachelors that impresses me most," says a wife in our neighbourhood, "is their ability to dress themselves."

★★★★★

So many of those 'all expense tours' turn out to be just that.

★★★★★

When a small boy at an amusement park became frightened and began to cry, I heard one lady indignantly remark, "Why do people bring children to a place like this?"

★★★★★

"There's nothing more exasperating than an alarm clock that doesn't go off," says a writer. Unless it's one that does.

★★★★★

A businessman, discussing a recession, sighed, "What *really* worries me is all the unemployed people on my payroll!"

★★★★★

A shipment of tropical fish for an aquarium supply shop arrived from Hong Kong in a crate marked: "Delay or cold will die. To put in a fit place." The proprietor thought the sign was amusing enough to tack up in the store.

Then an Oriental customer came in. "I'll bet that sign is from Hong Kong," he remarked.

"How so?" asked the aquarist.

"Ah, so," the man replied. "Those British write everything funny."



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