

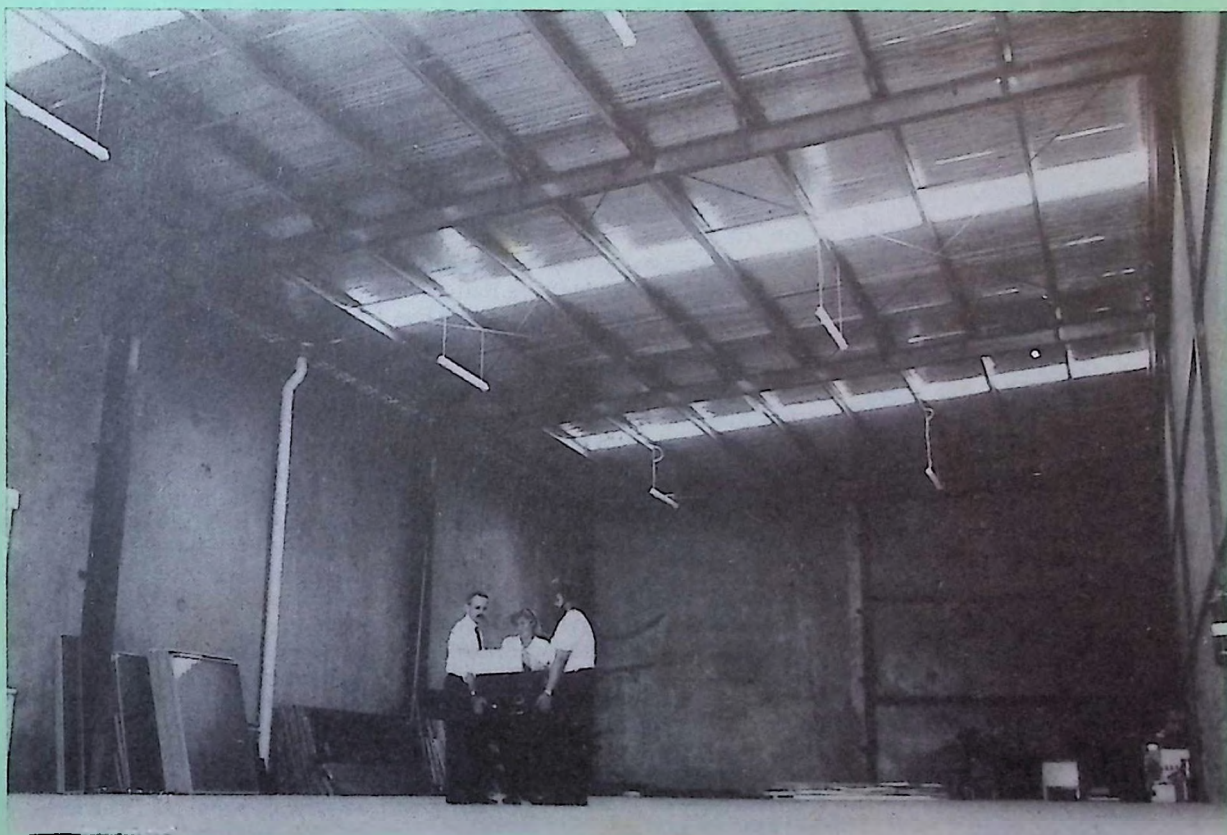
THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

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8 April 1988



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Emmy Dupuy and Peter Holt
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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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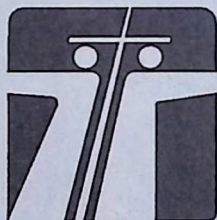
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Guest Editorial

"Gamon" Christianity

by Pamela Paddick

"It is not the things in the Bible which I do not understand that bother me, but the things I do understand." Our pastor used these words during a recent Sunday morning service. It set me to thinking. Am I really bothered by what I read in the Bible? What is it really saying to me? I put myself to the test. The first morning I read, "Don't just pretend that you love others, really love them." (Romans 12:9, Living Bible). I stopped for a while, thinking about what I had just read. The more I thought about it the more bothered I became. Yes, there were some people I had pretended to love, even in the last few days.

I found myself talking to the Lord. Certainly, Lord, I want to really love those around me, I want to love them with your love. I want them to know and experience your love too. I want my love to be real—not just a "pretend" love.

It was easy to love my family—that came naturally. I had no trouble there. But...what about the man I saw last week at the bus stop in town? He was dirty, smelly and not at all lovable. Like everyone else nearby, I moved right away from him and tried to pretend he didn't exist. And then I remembered that on the way home in the train a few days ago a backward young man had sat next to me and tried to hold a conversation. I was embarrassed and again pretended not to notice him.

What about my neighbour across the back? I had spent at least an hour with her during the week—what sort of real love had I shown to her? Did I really want her to go to an eternity without Christ? What about my son's friend from school who stayed overnight recently? He came from a broken home that knew nothing about God and his love. What sort of Godly love had I shown to him?

The person who had hurt me? By now, I was really "bothered". And as if that wasn't enough, I came across the following words in a book I was reading at the time, "...when we return with forgiveness and love to the person who hurt us most, we come face to face with the risen Christ". I began to wish I hadn't decided to put myself to this test.

When we worked with the Aboriginal people in Nareeba, we very quickly worked out that there was nothing worse in their minds than a "gamon" Christian, a person who "pretended". Very easily they worked



out the "real" from the "unreal". I am sure it is the same with our love.

The man at the bus stop, the lad next to me in the train, my son's friend, the person who hurt me, my non-Christian friends—I guess it doesn't take them too long either to determine whether I am "real". God's love for us was very real. There was no "gamon" there. I'm not at all sure how I might show my love to the man at the bus stop, but I know if I am willing God will show me—perhaps just a smile, a "hello". It may be the only one he'll get today, or even this week. Maybe I could quietly tell my son's friend that God loves him. And, maybe, I could even do something kind for the person who hurt me. In doing so, I expect I might indeed "come face to face with the risen Christ".

It is one thing to be "bothered" about what we read isn't it? It is another to do something about it. I challenge you to become "bothered" with me.

• Pamela Paddick is originally from Adelaide, and attended the Hawthorn and Noarlunga Centre churches. Nee Beck, she is married to Ern Paddick (Jnr.) and has three teenage children, Tony, Wendy-Lee and Wayne. She and her husband were workers with the Federal Aborigines Board for 13 years—in Norseman, Eidsvold, Mareeba and Brisbane. Now a member of the Springwood church in Brisbane, Pamela Paddick is secretary of the Qld CWF and president of the ACWF. She is employed as secretary at the Kenmore Christian College.

Church Swapped for Factory



Peter Holt, Emmy Dupuy and Geoff Rowcroft outside Berwick's factories

The thought of leading a church in a factory rests easily with Geoff Rowcroft. "It's not a factory," he laughs. "It's two factories."

Geoff is senior minister of the Berwick, Vic, regional church, which is on the move to the big roller doors of a factory at 32 Enterprise Ave, between the airport and the railway line.

One of the factories will be used as the main worship centre to provide adequate seating and allow for growth. Next door will be the administrative offices and education centre. Emmy Dupuy is employed full time as administrative secretary and a full-time education and pastoral care minister, Peter Holt, will be based in this factory.

The present chapel has been sold for a million dollars. "I never cease to be amazed at the timing of this," says Geoff Rowcroft.

"We've been thinking for years of relocating but something always held us up.

"Recently, however, it all changed. In the space of ten days we sold our chapel, re-

ceived a permit to use the two factories and received a permit to build a new chapel. The time could not have been better."

The church owns 5 ha in Centre Road, Berwick, and within 18 months or so expects to vacate the factories.

"The time in the factories is important," Geoff says. "It gives us time to plan and build an environmentally sensitive chapel of which the whole community will be proud.

"Using the factories will take the stress out of rebuilding and help us actually enjoy this time of transition and progress."

The bigger chapel is necessary to meet the needs of the 100,000 new residents who will move into the City of Berwick in the next ten years.

The Carols by Twilight won't be moving to the factories. Twelve thousand people attended last year, so they will remain at the Fountain Gate Shopping Centre.

The final service at the church on 2 April was followed by a procession to the factories. Services will then be held at Enterprise Avenue at 10 am and 7 pm.

Financial Planning Seminars

Financial planning seminars conducted recently for members of the Nunawading and Cheltenham, Vic, churches were a great success. Christian Projects has arranged for a financial planning group, RetireInvest, to provide an advisory service for interested congregations. The Christian Projects people are concerned that sound money management is becoming an increasingly complicated business these days. Changes in tax laws, superannuation, pensions and the huge range of investments make it hard to know just how people should arrange their financial affairs.

Christian Projects therefore has decided to conduct a series of financial planning lectures for interested congregations in Melbourne. Depending on the success of this pilot, the scheme could be expanded Australia wide in the future. As financial planners RetireInvest seek to help people to structure their investments in the most appropriate way. Things like creating the right balance of income and capital growth, minimising tax and, most importantly, giving their clients the security of knowing their money will last in retirement.

They aim to provide more than just a consultation and a plan. Rather they seek to establish an on going relationship with their clients to enable them to satisfy their long-term financial goals. RetireInvest has agreed to provide Christian Projects with a promotional services fee, which will be based on the success of the scheme.

The contact at RetireInvest in Melbourne is Stuart Jackson, a financial planning consultant. Stuart has had considerable experience in the world of finance. Prior to joining RetireInvest, Stuart spent two years as Marketing Manager for the IOOF Friendly Society, where he was closely involved with the development of superannuation and rollover investments. Before that he spent eight years with the National Australia Bank in a variety of

positions in head office and branches. As well as being licensed to deal in securities, Stuart holds an Arts degree from Monash University and a Graduate Diploma in Marketing.

For written financial planning advice or details of forthcoming lectures, Stuart can be contacted on (03) 629 3024. RetireInvest's Melbourne office is located at 459 Collins Street. There are also branches in each state capital city and many large regional centres.



Stuart Jackson

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Minister's Survival Kit



When Andrew George, the new minister of the Hurstbridge, Vic, church, preached his first sermon recently he had another job to do after the worship service that involved rolling his sleeves up and getting his hands dirty.

Andrew is pictured planting a Happy Wanderer along the fence line while some of the congregation look on.

On being welcomed to Hurstbridge Andrew was given a 'Minister's Survival Kit' which included a pair of ear plugs (Andrew will be accommodated initially by a couple who have a new-born baby) and a bottle of non-alcoholic

wine. There will be times when he will feel like a stiff drink but given the congregation has strong representation from the Woman's Christian Temperance Union that was the best that could be done.

Andrew, who will be working with the church two days per week while he completes his theological training, is keen to get to know the community of Hurstbridge. One thing that he already likes is the way that the Uniting, Anglican and Christian Missionary Alliance congregations, together with the Church of Christ, periodically meet together for combined worship.

SINGLES & SINGLES GROUP LEADERS SEMINARS—with Jay Bacik

Friday, 21 April	Divorce Recovery Workshop	
	7.30-9.30 pm	Cost \$10
Saturday, 22 April	Singles Leadership Seminar	
	10 am-4 pm	Cost \$10

at Nunawading Church of Christ
182 Surrey Rd, Blackburn

This seminar is not only for single people but for all people who have a vital interest in the healing ministry of people. For ministers, church leaders, this Seminar is a must if we believe the Kingdom of God is about restoring people.

For further information and registration forms contact:

Cheryl Johnson or Dept MED
(03) 397 5715 (03) 662 2377

Camp Hill's Cabinet Minister

Queensland's new Cabinet Minister Craig Sherrin found out that 24 hours is a long time in politics. He went to his electoral office for a routine day's work as a relatively unknown back-bencher. At 11.15 he received an unexpected call from the Premier, Mr Ahern, who said: "Stay there — we may need you." About noon he had another call telling him to be a Government House at 1 pm to be sworn in as the replacement for a sacked minister.

Craig Sherrin has been given the portfolio of Family Services. He only entered parlia-

ment at the last election which was held in November 1986. Craig's comment about his new responsibility was: "I think Family Services is a tremendous portfolio to come into as I have had a long association with church and community groups."

Craig Sherrin is a deacon of the Camp Hill, Qld, church and is a former secretary of the church for several years. During parliamentary sittings the Camp Hill board has met in Parliament House to allow Craig to take part and also fulfil his role in Parliament.



Camp Hill elder and secretary D.H. McLucas congratulating Queensland's new Cabinet Minister Craig Sherrin and his family Lyndelle, Cameron (3), Brendan (7) and Nerina (12 months)

1990 CENTENARY Churches of Christ in Western Australia

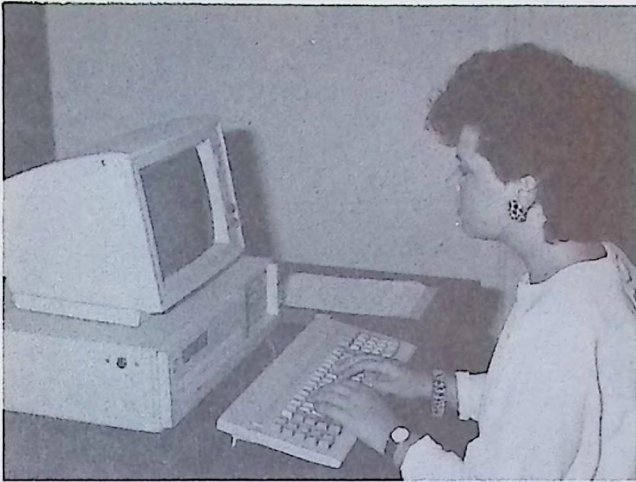


Special events are being planned from January to November 1990.

A booklet on the 100 years history is being prepared for sale to interested members of our churches.

Interstate visitors are asked to note that the main celebrations will take place
26 and 27 October
and 2, 3 and 4 November 1990.

Kenmore College's Computerised Catalogue



Kenmore's new computer in operation

It's finally up and running! After a year of preparation and hard work, Kenmore Christian College has computerised its library. For the students, gone are the time-consuming searches through hundreds of cards to look for the needed

books on a particular topic. Now at the push of a few buttons and the typing of a few words, students are quickly told where to find the resources they need. Now students can spend time studying the Word, not fossicking for books before

they start to study.

The computer system is not just another piece of equipment: it represents the loving service of a whole range of giving people. First, computer whiz Roy Eaton not only donated some of the equipment, but also gave his time and expertise free of charge to develop the program. A group of people headed by Muriel Hack and Pam Paddick typed information about thousands of the books into the system. The Queensland Centenary Development Foundation provided the money to hire Randy Edwards to devise a new subject index that the students are already putting to good use. Others also gave their time and talents.

Kenmore has always been concerned to offer students the resources they need to develop effective skills for ministry. Now it has a tool that will help access some of those resources.

When Dreams Come True

Two Sunday school "girls" of the thirties had a dream of a reunion of those in their class and as many of their teachers as possible.

But somehow other names were mentioned and the list grew until finally 24 met one Saturday afternoon at Lygon St, Carlton, Vic, where it all began. Everyone enjoyed themselves so much that it was decided to make it an annual event on the Saturday afternoon before Easter and, not being sexist, they decided to ask the "boys" too—anyone with past association with Lygon St.

So far more than 50 have been able to renew fellowship, some from interstate and a number from the country. Illness and age have precluded others.

Apart from the devotions led by one of the gathering, apologies and greetings, the afternoon is spent meeting old friends over a cup of tea.

The dream has grown far beyond expectations and we pray that it may become a reality for someone to renew fellowship with the great friend and teacher, Jesus Christ.

—Alma Yewdall

New Church for Rowville

A meeting to discuss a church planting program at Rowville, Vic, will be held in the area on 13 April at 8 pm. Representatives of area churches and local families are being invited to attend.

Details can be obtained from the Boronia church office,

phone (03) 762 1277, or from Don Smith of the Department of Mission, Education and Development, phone (03) 662 2377. Information about families or contacts in the area will be welcomed.

The meeting will hear a report on area development

prepared by Mike Folland, and discuss proposals for the development of a new church. The project will be a part of CROP, the joint Department of Mission, Education and Development-Properties Corporation program for church planting in Vic-Tas.

Recommend "The Australian Christian"



Kenmore Changes and Challenges...

Kenmore Christian College is concerned to give the theological student quick access to resources which will develop skills for ministry, through the modern search facilities of our computerised library system.

KENMORE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, PO BOX 55, KENMORE 4069. PHONE (07) 378 1988

Outback Christians

A letter received by Ian Henry, Convener of the Grants Committee of Christian Projects demonstrates in a practical manner what is being done in one section of our outback areas:

"Dear Mr Henry,

"May I express the appreciation of our committee for your generosity in granting us the sum of \$1,000 for our project of setting up the Outback Church of Christ.

"So far this year we have folk participating in services from Blackall, Coondoo Station, Aramac, Thargomindah, Clermont, Woorabinda and Kilcummin. There are others yet to respond to invitations to join us and others yet to be approached.

"The ministry is proving to be of great value to our isolated members as shown in the following extract from a letter from a lass on a station south of Cloncurry:

"I'm looking forward to this week's phone fellowship. It makes such a difference you wouldn't believe. Knowing I have that regular support in meeting with other Christians, helps me step out as a Christian—before, I got overwhelmed when I could only go to church once in three or four weeks...I am hoping to take up another governing position in the Cloncurry/Julia Creek area next year...one thing is for sure—I wouldn't think twice about being far out of town if it weren't for Outback Christians-in-Ministry and I will make the availability of a phone on the station one of the criteria in choosing a job."

"On behalf of all those lonely Christians I give you thanks for your support."

For information about Christian Projects write to the CP office, 99 James Street, Templestowe 3106, or PO Box 140, Carlingford 2118.

Carlingford/Wollongong Commencement

A mixture of excitement, nervousness, enthusiasm and anticipation is what accompanied the 22 new students who have recently begun their first year of theological studies and ministerial training at the Churches of Christ Theological College in Carlingford, NSW.

Hailing from New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia, as well as two overseas students from Korea, they also bring with them a variety of backgrounds.

There are those who have set aside professions such as accounting, teaching, banking and nursing in response to God's call to train for ministry.

The response of others has been to sell businesses and change courses of study in order to make it possible to study and train at the College.

The orientation program has concluded and now has begun the work of lectures and as-

signments in areas such as Biblical Studies, Theology, Spiritual Development and various areas of local church ministry.

As well as the studies there is the settling into the College community and life; that environment that will be so important in supporting them in their many adjustments now and indeed throughout their College course.

This group of students will be the first to participate in a new church placement program for first year students, where, rather than being placed individually in churches, they are formed together to minister in teams within the life of active local churches around Sydney and Wollongong.

Please pray for the new students as they join the continuing students to form the total full-time body of 67 students at Carlingford for 1989.

COCKE and Electives at Conference

The COCKE players (Churches of Christ Kids Everywhere) kept the younger people entertained and involved, and a number of electives gave the adults plenty of food for thought when the Owen, SA, Combined Congregation hosted the 96th annual Northern Districts Conference on 12 March.

Members of the Port Pirie, Kadina and Balaklava churches, and Dennis Lord, minister of Whyalla, travelled to Owen for the conference, which was presided over by Rev. Philip Gardner. Philip has the honour of being the first Uniting Church minister to be the Conference's President!

Jim Keatch spoke on the theme "Heirs of the Father" asking, "What are we heirs of?" at the communion service, at-

tended by about 120. During the luncheon, State Conference President Colin Dredge, and State Board member Peter McPharlin, spoke on the work of the Board.

Electives during the day included healing, the husband's responsibility in the family and ministering to the aged and there was a video of the last World Convention.

Over \$700 was received in offerings for the Student Aid Fund.

The Conference also officially ended the Women's Conference, which last year held its 69th and final meeting.

Brian Roberts, Kadina, was inducted as the new president and introduced his theme, "Watch Out for Wet Blankets".

—Kaye Wray



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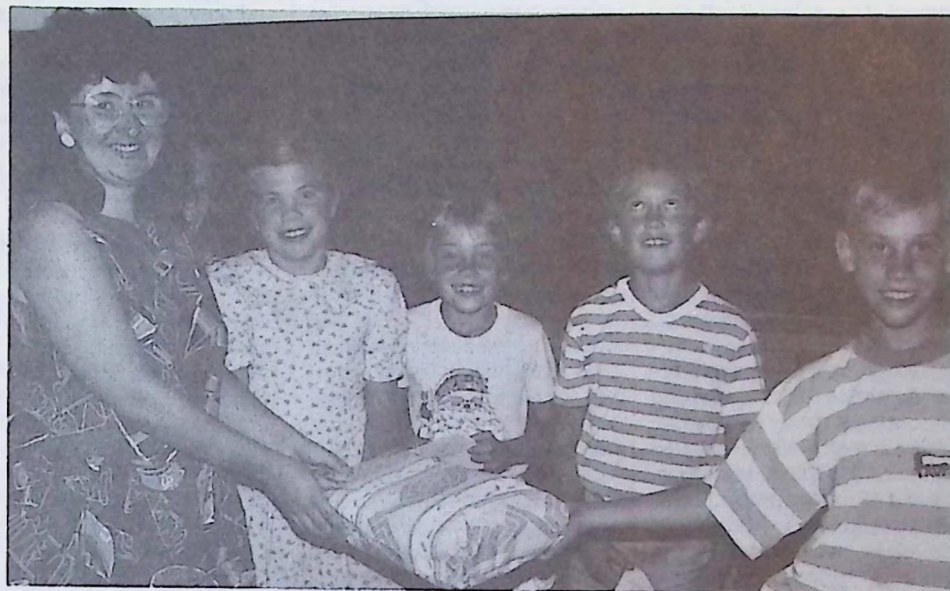
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People

Farewell Presentation



Maureen Martin receiving her farewell gift from some of her Sunday Kids children Catherine Dixon, Chantelle Vincent, Michael Olsen and Darren Scott

The Mt Druitt, NSW, church said farewell to Maureen Martin, an active member for nine years, at a special evening service on 12 March.

A graduate of the New Tribes Mission Bible and Missionary College in Sydney, Maureen will be sharing the Gospel message with New Tribes Mission in Papua New Guinea.

Maureen became a Christian whilst in the church's youth group. For five years she was a Sunday School teacher in the Primary section. She will be missed.

Total commitment means doing what God wants us to do no matter what the cost or sacrifice.

Maureen's life and witness is exactly that.

— Dave Vincent

New Youth Minister at Thornleigh

The church at Thornleigh, NSW, commenced 1989 on a high note with the induction of Stuart Wesley (a third-year student at the Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College) as youth minister.

Franklyn Elliot, senior minister, conducted the service.

Stuart's fiancée, Carolyn Thomas, who will share the ministry with him, was also welcomed. (They plan to get married in September.)

Greetings were brought by John West (elders chairman), Robert Garrett (youth deacon) and Carolyn Flett (a young people's leader). Stuart brought the message.

Stuart's parents (from WA) and Carolyn's (from Menai, NSW) were part of the well-attended service, and Carolyn's father, Steve Thomas, was guest speaker at the evening service.



Thornleigh's ministry team: Deanne Elliott, Franklyn Elliott, Carolyn Thomas, Stuart Wesley

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Centenary Services

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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words.

HAND RAISING

To the Editor,

I have been interested to read several comments in the "AC", 17 Dec, 4 & 18 Feb.

I believe there are two important issues to be considered in hand raising in worship.

1. Is it scriptural? In my reading of the Bible I have come across 14 such passages, 1 only in the New Testament. Lifting up hands is a position of prayer, like kneeling.

I have visited churches where hand raising is encouraged and I can not work out how they choose when to do so, except it is done on a scripture chorus and not on a hymn? And appears to be always with singing and not with prayers?

2. Second issue, what is best for the whole family? I do not believe people are free to do their own thing in corporate worship, one raising hands, another dancing in the aisle. We need to consider one another. The leadership should give teaching and guidelines as to how we will worship.

1 Timothy 2:8-10 is interesting. The men are to lift up holy hands in prayer and the women to do something else. There is always a comedian in every group and one has said, "If you are having trouble with hand raising, lower the ceiling fans"

—Bruce Roberts
(East Ipswich, Qld)

MINISTERS WHO RESIGN

To the Editor,

May I ask a few questions about "Ministers Who Resign" by Charles Wilson ("AC" 4 March).

1. "Conflict with lay persons over conduct of church affairs." Is this a case of, "the strangers came and tried to teach us their ways, they blamed us just for being what we are?" Surely the minister's work is to bring people to maturity in the faith not argue over church affairs.

2. In view of Matt 23:8-12 why should emphasis on mutual ministry cause heartbreak or conflict? Ephesians 4:11-12

says that the work of pastors and teachers is for "the perfecting of the saints (ordinary Christians) for the work of ministry."

3. Why is "being seen as equal with the congregation" of high importance? Is it because ministers consider themselves to be "a cut above the rest of the crew" or is it that the congregation expect them to be superior saints when really they know themselves to be only sinners saved by grace the same as the rest of us?

Clergy ruling lay people are only mentioned in Rev 2:6 and 15. Perhaps those who resign early have not really been called of God but entered the ministry as a nice clean profession so are soon disillusioned.

—E.A. Barton
(Port Lincoln, SA)

SUCCESSFUL CO-OPERATION

To the Editor,

Following upon the Federal Conference in Canberra, the minister at prospect, SA, Geoff Payne wrote to the Department of Christian Union to tell us of the many joint activities happening among almost all the churches of that city. As he hoped we are encouraged to receive such a letter and we would be interested to receive more of the same or to read about the events from letters to The Australian Christian, which is read Australia wide.

Geoff writes about regular meetings for a meal, fellowship, discussion and a short business session with participation from Anglican, Assemblies of God, Uniting, Salvation Army, Catholic and Churches of Christ churches. A bimonthly meeting is held to organise programs for the district and Geoff lists several of these joint events. He adds, "Perhaps more importantly together we work in the local primary schools and endeavour to run Christian Option seminars there twice a year."

Christ told his mixed bunch of disciples to "love one another" and surely there is a sense of this happening in obedience to him, in the ecumenical work at Prospect.

menical work at Prospect.

We encourage other churches to write their success story of co-operation in the service of our Lord.

—David Allison
(Secretary, Department of Christian Union)

IMAGE OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST

To the Editor,

How refreshing to read the letter from Milton Oliver in the 4 February issue! I too am appalled by the petty bickering over trivia which is a continuous strand through this column.

I am a new Christian, having become a Christian just one year ago after two previous years' hard quest. One of the strengths of Christianity which brought me to accept our Lord was the way in which the people in our congregation (amongst others)

were such good models of what God's power and love can do, and they were real conduits of the Holy Spirit.

However, I find the image of Christianity set by these columnar bickerers to be extremely off-putting—where is the Christian love and kindness and forbearance and unity in all this?

Why so much demonstration of egotism, anger, pettiness, narrowness and intolerance? Surely one can be critical or disagree without having to forget the principles of Christ, which supposedly unite us?

If I had become acquainted with this column before meeting other Christians like the ones I referred to, I doubt whether I would have wanted to become a Christian.

—Maureen Stepanoff
(Dalkeith, WA)

Letters from Tertius

Wandering Mind

To the Editor,

I've always had trouble saying my prayers. My mind wanders. I pray for someone and sure enough I start thinking of someone else and then something else and then a whole stream of pictures run through my mind like a random video. It worries me, but I keep on trying to say my prayers anyway and to make them as intelligent and sincere as I can.

Well, our church had a couple in to lead us in a School of Prayer. It took some persuasion from you know who to get me there, but I'm glad I went.

The woman leader confessed that she had a wandering mind that persisted in going walkabout from every prayer item on her list. So I sat up and took notice. "Not to worry!" she said. "Use your wandering minds to make your prayer life interesting." I wondered what she meant. She went on to explain that whatever wandering pictures came into our heads were pictures to pray about. If when praying for someone else, another face came to mind, then pray for that person. If thoughts about delightful days under the sun crowded out what we were really praying for, then thank God for delightful days. She gave us a lot of illustrations and I could have added a few more from my nomadic prayers. She finished up with, "Whatever it is that comes into your mind, talk to God about it."

So I've been trying it and it works. I even find myself praying about people and things that I would otherwise have forgotten about.

I'll stick with this new method of praying, until like all of the other sure-fire methods I've tried in the past, it wears a bit thin. Then I'll look for something else. But I'll keep on saying my prayers anyway.

Hoping you are the same,

—Tertius

Letters to the Editor

LEAVING THE MINISTRY

To the Editor,

As someone involved in providing pastoral care to our ministers, I fully endorse Charles Wilson's comment on the need for our Conferences to consider establishing formal structures for the support of our ministers ("AC" 4 March).

While the reasons for ministers leaving local church ministry are varied and complex as Charles indicates, however, some of the reasons he identifies do provide us as a Conference of churches with an opportunity to respond in a positive way.

No organisation (including the church) can afford to invest large amounts of money in physical facilities (our Colleges) and the infrastructure required for training people, and then upon graduation, fail to provide some organised system of support for those who have been trained to provide leadership in our churches.

Perhaps we have arrived at the time in the development of our churches where we need some intentional approach to providing pastoral care for our ministers. The Vic-Tas Conference is involved in exploring an approach at the moment.

Perhaps it is also time to consider the concept of a Department of Ministry, who with appropriate membership, would have the responsibility for all issues relating to ministry in our churches, eg selection of candidates, training, post ordination development, assistance in ministry placement and pastoral care and support of ministers.

—Peter J. Burnham
(Minister to Ministers)

EASTER

To the Editor,

The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, known today as Easter, is celebrated this year 24-26 March, which is four weeks before the Jewish Passover, so I am told.

It seems to be a mistake. Not only has the main "event" become lost in eggs and bunnies but also the association with the Passover which meant so

much to our Lord Jesus.

Maybe we should try and restore the true time and meaning.

—Lorna Jenkins
(Melbourne, Vic)

This year it is true that Easter and the Jewish Passover do not coincide. This happens about once every seven years due to changes in the way that calendars have been calculated over the centuries. The Passover is related to the Jewish calendar.—Editor

THE FEDERAL CONFERENCE PROBLEM

To the Editor,

Some 10 years ago I submitted an article to our SA Brotherhood expressing thoughts on the Federal Conference problem as it was then. Nothing has changed.

In his timely article Donald Stewart ("AC" 18 March) very aptly echoes my thoughts and for that I thank him. I fancy he just stops short of questioning whether Federal Conference is relevant or desirable in our present situation.

Differences in values and theological thinking he refers to have certainly developed strains in the Federal system. The danger of discontent is real. Christians in Fellowship for example is a worthy concept, but open membership should not be contemplated.

Don is right in saying that in its present structure Conference falls into two categories, tourists and Conference leaders. Decisions in the main are purely academic and have little impact on State Conferences or the general membership, many of whom cannot afford time or money to join the tourists.

To me Conference seems to have become one more organisation on a grand scale and were it abandoned State Conferences would be at no disadvantage but rather we could get on with the business of evangelism at a local personal level. In some ways this applies to State Regional Conferences which I feel have outgrown their usefulness. Business and inspiration don't seem to mix.

—L.W. Marshman
(Victor Harbor, SA)

PAMPHLET COMMENDED

To the Editor,

I was pleased to see the letter from Trevor Banks ("AC" 4 March) referring to the address of Dr Bill Tabbernee "Turning the World Upside Down through a Contemporary Reformation" which was given at the World Convention in Auckland last November.

I wholeheartedly endorse his commendation of the pamphlet containing that address to the churches for study and action. I would hope that the readers of this journal will reread the pamphlet which they received several issues ago ("AC" 17 December 1988), and take it seriously.

At the beginning of another year of worship and witness it is important that we should take time to look at ourselves; at where we have been and to where we are going. I believe that we are in danger of losing the vision that made us a people with a distinctive contribution to the life of Christ's church. Our movement began by defining some great principles which were well ahead of their time in 1811, but which are just as valid today. Dr Tabbernee picked up these in his very fine address and looked ahead at what they could inspire us to in this day and the days ahead.

So often great statements and deeply moving sermons are heard, greatly appreciated, even discussed for a short time and then consigned to the limbo of past experiences and comfortable memories. Please let us not consign this challenge to a similar fate.

—Ken Dawson
(Brooklyn Park, SA)

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH TODAY

To the Editor,

Thank you to my critics ("AC" 18 March). We would like to know if our colleges teach specifically on the subject of women in the church. As it stands, or is perceived, women may speak to women and to heathen men, but not to men back home who are white and educated, not from a pul-

pit in a church.

What was Paul about in taking a vow of any kind (see Matt 5:33-37)? Was it not that he was caught up in a bridging situation between the Old and New Covenants? Surely the same might be said of the 1 Cor 14:34 dilemma he was in.

As for 1 Tim 2:8-15 maybe Paul himself had to struggle against preconceived ideas about women. Or is it blasphemy to view Paul as a human and thus subject to error, even as are the wisest of preachers?

The "Pandora Box" concept (Michael Hanna letter in "A.C." 18 March) does not help us one bit. Are you suggesting that the second Eve is as devious as the first was and that she should therefore remain dumb?

This morning, in my home church, I heard a wonderful resurrection sermon and noted that the women who came to the empty tomb were the first humans that Jesus commissioned to tell the Good News.

—Mrs Gladys Butler
(Bruce Rock, WA)

[This letter has been edited to comply with the 200 word limit on Letters to the Editor]

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Media Review

Papers

AUSTRALIAN MINISTRY

Australian Ministry is a new quarterly journal for ministers and church leaders. In the comment on editorial policy they make the comment: "Our intention is to produce a journal that will, through the provision of research, reflection and resources, contribute to the development of the quality and effectiveness of the practice of Christian ministry in Australia." The first issue contained articles on the various pictures of Jesus; stress in ministry; emotions in the minister; caring for the carers; the use of the telephone in ministry; trends in pastoral care and book reviews. The second issue is to have articles on the theme: "New Life for Small Churches".

Australian Ministry is available from MediaCom Associates Inc, PO Box 610, Unley 5061 for \$21 for one year's subscription or \$40 for two year's subscription.

Books

MARKETING THE CHURCH

What they Never Taught You About Church Growth
by George Barna (Albatross Books) \$11.95

This is a 1989 Australian and British edition of a 1988 American book. It contains Australian statistics and examples, which is a welcome change, although the author still has a limited knowledge of the Australian situation. It is also refreshing to find a list of resources at the end of the book which are not only readily available in Australia, but are in some cases published in Australia.

Don't let the title put you off. The author is entirely Biblical in his approach to this aspect of church growth or effectiveness. To quote from the introduction, "Any church growth strategy that is geared to increasing the number of people without emphasizing the necessity of commitment to Jesus Christ is working in opposition to scriptural command."

Barna points out that the church needs to be clear about the product it is offering. He, correctly, I believe, sees this as relationships both with God through Christ and with others. He then explains in detail the five basic steps of the marketing process in a manner that is applicable to the local church. These steps are —research, or knowing your local community, vision for what your church can be based on your research, a plan to fulfil the vision, implementation of the plan and finally feedback from the church and community. It sounds simple and it is, but I have found very few churches which are attempting seriously to be effective in their local community.

Barna offers practical advice which is within the means of every church to implement. Admittedly he only discusses one aspect of church growth effectiveness, but he covers it very well. It was pleasing to note a greater awareness of and reliance on God than in many church growth writings. This is not a world shaking and dramatic new approach, but it is a good solid, useful book for those serious about having an impact on their local community.

—Alan Hermann

JAMES—FAITH THAT WORKS

by Andrew T. and Phyllis J. Le Peau (Scripture Union) \$4.95

A book that encourages the study of James' letter is most welcome, if only because of our neglect of it. No less an 'authority' than Martin Luther was highly suspicious of the letter of James. He was worried that it taught salvation by works.

Yet there is much in James to pay heed to. As the authors say, James' answer to the question "where do we find the faith that won't let us down, that can pull us through the worst—and best—times in our lives" is: "the faith that works is the faith that works."

This booklet contains 11 studies for individuals or groups. The first and last studies are an overview and review respectively of the whole of James. In between are nine studies which work through the letter, a dozen or so verses at a time. The book also contains a brief introduction and some leader's notes. Suggested study time is 45 minutes per session.

There are no pre-requisites for these studies. The approach is to ask about 10-12 questions, the answers to which require no more than a careful reading of the text. The authors' assumption is that Christians who are open to the Spirit of God, and able to listen to one another in a group, will profit from studying in this way. The 'degree of difficulty' is not high, and any group or individual, including a reasonably "serious" youth group, could tackle the studies.

Each study concludes with one or two questions aimed at encouraging a practical response.

The studies are based on the New International Version of the Bible. My only criticism is the authors' suggestion that the studies should be based only on the set verses of James and not also on other material such as commentaries, or even other biblical texts.

—Kevin Bray

FROM MIND TO HEART

Christian Meditation Today

by Peter Toon (Baker Book House)

As the title suggests, Toon's purpose is to demonstrate the relationship between rigorous Bible study (the exercise of the mind) and a loving, growing intimacy with God (the devotion of the heart). The discipline of meditation is Toon's key.

According to the author, "Meditation is a particular way of receiving the revealed and dynamic Word of God into the heart from the mind so as to direct the will in the way of God's guidance. It is related to, but not identical with, either intellectual study or prayer."

Distinguishing Christian meditation from Eastern methods, Toon answers the question "Why meditate?" in six ways—balancing our activism, using the written record of God's self-disclosure for the purpose it was intended, opening ourselves to the illumination, energisation and guidance of the Holy Spirit, preparing for prayer and worship, motivating our desires and will to be as God wants us to be, and growing in holiness and love by overcoming sin and evil.

In two parts, the author examines scriptural insights from the Psalms, the Gospels and Paul, then discusses methods used by the reformers, Catholics and Puritans. These discussions form the background to a presentation of some practical methods to encourage the reader to begin the practice of Christian meditation.

A very helpful book for the beginner or those who have regarded the revival of this "lost" Christian discipline with more than a little skepticism.

—Dennis Ryle



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The Easter Message



Do you remember the *Peace Child* story by Don Richardson? Maybe you were fortunate enough to see the film. Don was working among tribal peoples and wanted to find some way that he could teach these people the meaning of the Easter story. The answer came with the gift of the "peace child", a young baby, who was given as a means of effecting reconciliation between two warring factions.

Here at Samban they used to do something similar. If a Samban man murdered a man from another village, reconciliation was effected by the Samban people finding a suitable person to go to the other village and take the place of the murdered person. It may mean that the person going would take

his own wife and family, and in addition, upon arrival take the murdered man's wife and family and care for them in the same way as his natural family.

Of course the murderer himself would be unable to go. Should he do so it would be most probable that he would be murdered by the clan of the deceased. Such action would create a continuation of the pay back system and more lives would be lost. Only an acceptable innocent peacemaker would suffice.

This Easter I will be sharing with the big men here at Samban that God too has observed this custom. While in fact our sins made us enemies of God, he sent forth his Son as the innocent substitute to effect a reconciliation that nothing else could do. Yet what is startling in the Gospel story is that the peacemaker comes not as you would expect from the guilty side, but from the offended side. Only God would love us enough to do just that!

— Graeme Batley
(Samban, PNG)

New Hope in Fight against River Blindness

A new drug, Ivermectin, is offering hope to hundreds of thousands of people in West Africa infected by River Blindness.

John Jeffries, from Christian Blind Mission International, has just returned from visiting several projects in Africa working with blind and handicapped people supported by CBMI.

Whole villages in Sierra Leone and other West African countries are threatened with blindness as a result of onchocerciasis, a disease spread by black flies that breed near rivers. Initial testing indicates that Ivermectin, a drug recently developed by an American pharmaceutical company, can control the spread of this dis-

ease and prevent those already infected from going blind. CBMI is planning to use Ivermectin in programs in Sierra Leone.

One of the exciting aspects of the breakthrough is the simplicity of administering Ivermectin. Just one tablet once a year is sufficient to treat a person suffering with River Blindness.

CBMI is currently training nurses in Sierra Leone in the latest techniques for treating eye diseases. These nurses will then be stationed at strategically located hospitals where they can diagnose and treat people more easily. Patients requiring surgery can be referred to specialists in eye hospitals.

Increase Aid Call

The government had no excuse to ignore a unanimous parliamentary committee recommendation to increase overseas aid, according to the executive director of World Vision Australia, Philip Hunt. He has called on the Prime Minister to implement the rise in Australia's overseas aid funds as recommended by the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade in March.

The report, tabled by the committee in parliament, said that Australia should lift its overseas aid commitment to 0.5% of GDP by 1992. Australia currently allocates 0.34% of GDP to overseas aid, a dramatic drop from 0.5% four years ago.

Philip Hunt urged the Prime Minister to begin the increased aid level in the next budget. He said the decline in aid had damaged Australia's international reputation and eroded further the living standards of those who were the recipients of our aid. He said Australia should be supporting the poor alongside our domestic economic policies.

"Our aid will secure improvements in living standards

and ensure greater economic and political stability. Recent unrest experienced by our nearest neighbours in the South Pacific is at least partly the product of uncertain economic situations."

Philip Hunt also told the Prime Minister that public opinion supported an increase in aid giving and pledged to work for further support.

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Happenings

In December Egyptian police arrested 61 Muslim fundamentalists found in possession of plastic bombs and anti-government pamphlets in the suburbs of the capital Cairo. Christians in Egypt have been subjected to intimidation including burning of property.

140,000 West Germans are leaving the Protestant church every year according to recent statistics. In 25 years the percentage of Protestants in the country has sunk from 50% to 41% of the population.

Day care centres in Lagos, Nigeria, are renting children left under their care to street beggars to attract more sympathy for alms it has been recently discovered.

The Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, United and Anglican representatives attended a meeting in Belgium in February to discuss possibly forming a national ecumenical council. Most Belgians are Roman Catholics.

The US State Department, at a recent briefing, claimed that there are no more people in prison in the Soviet Union because of their religious convictions.

In a message to the Roman Catholic bishops of Nigeria, Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida assured them that Islam is not to become the state religion in Nigeria. Some Christians have worried that in the constitutional revision now being prepared, Islam will be given some sort of official status. The number of Christians and Muslims among the 100 million Nigerians is roughly equal.

Churches in Ghana whose doctrines will seek to alienate her congregation from the aspirations of the people will be banned, US Clarke, PNDC District Secretary for North Tongu has stated.

Overboard military spending and an ever rising interest rate on Africa's debts are major contributors to the continent's stunted economic growth a Malawian scholar has claimed.

Zambia's mission hospitals currently in financial crisis will introduce service charges to offset salary and supply expenses. The 82 mission health institutions in the country are at the verge of collapse after the government reduced their grants by 75%.

Half the population of the Asia Pacific region is illiterate and needs audio presentations of scriptures if they are to be reached with the Gospel. Audio scriptures are being developed by national Bible societies in the region using both cassette and computer diskette.

According to Senator Brian Harradine, more than 80,000 abortions were performed in Australia in 1987, which cost the Federal Government \$6.4 million in Medicare payments. The senator also claimed the Federal Government was supporting research into the development of two new abortion inducing drugs.

A physicist in Berkley Laboratories, California, tested 26 respected astrologers and discovered that their findings were accurate about 33% of the time, about the same level as random chance.

At the Asia Pacific Bible Societies Consultation in Singapore in February Rev Chan-Young Choi, the Regional Secretary reported a circulation of 380,051,000 volumes of scripture in the 8 years since the previous consultation. This was an increase of 1,429% since the previous consultation.

Five monasteries are to be returned to the Russian Orthodox Church this year. Keston College

reports that this will bring the total of monasteries released to 7.

Divisions between Christians are "obstacles in the way of evangelism" according to Pope John Paul II in comments to an American Lutheran delegation to the Vatican.

Personal reading of the Bible directly contributed to 31% of those reached for Christ in Japan in 1988.

The Rev. Peter Walker has been appointed the new director of the Council for Christian Education in Schools in Victoria. Peter was the chaplain at Colac High School in the late 70s and is presently the first chaplain at Kew High School.

The 1989 Olivier Beguin Lecture for the Bible Society will be delivered by the Reverend Dr R.A. Cole. Dr Cole has had a long association with the Anglican Church and has recently retired as a Church Missionary Society missionary to Singapore. He will speak on 7 June in Brisbane, 8 June in Sydney, 20 June in Canberra and 21 June in Melbourne.

A follow up meeting from a seminar "Accommodation for Disabled Persons under the Auspices of the Christian Church" is being held at the Burwood Heights Uniting Church, cnr Burwood Highway and Blackburn Rd, East Burwood, Vic, on 8 April 12 noon-4 pm. Inquiries to Barbara Liddle (03) 288 3677 or Leonie Robinson (03) 873 1829 (H).

A report from the US National Council of Churches says the percentage of women ordained to "full ministry" in US denominations which ordain women increased from 4 to 7.9% of the clergy total in the 1977-86 period.

The World Home Bible League has set new goals

following the successful delivery of a million Portuguese Testaments to Brazil. The League will concentrate on three nations: China with 20,000 study Bibles costing \$200,000; the Philippines, with scriptures and home study courses costing \$50,000; and a further 300,000 testaments for Brazil costing \$150,000.

Christian Education for Life: A Consultation to equip parents and teachers with effective curriculum resources and approaches to Christian Education is being held on 23 April, 8 am-5 pm at St Martin's Community Church at the Collingwood Education Centre in Melbourne. The day will include breakfast, worship with St Martin's Church and lunch. Cost is \$15 for the full day. Advanced bookings are essential and readers will need to write to St Martin's Church, PO Box 210, Clifton Hill 3068, or phone (03) 482 1961.

The number of men seeking to become priests in the US Roman Catholic Church has fallen to 7,500 from 48,000 in 1966. By the year 2000 it is estimated that only 15,000 active parish priests will be working, about the same number as in 1925 and half as many as in 1966, to serve 65 million faithful. At the turn of next century the average age of these priests is projected to be 65.

Churches in Hungary are taking advantage of recent legal changes towards a more pluralist society, to establish a wider range of Christian organisations and specialised ecumenical bodies. One group being set up is the Evangelical Healing Ministry. Its goal is to help alcoholics and to organise small scale alcoholism rehabilitation centres.

Religious freedom is illusory in most parts of the world according to a United Nations report. In Europe

Romania is singled out for its refusal to allow the Catholic Church to work amongst the Hungarian minority. Albania is also mentioned for its strict measures against all believers. The author, Angelo Ribeiro of Portugal, lists 216 prisoners known by his research to be held for their belief.

Lord Macleod of Fulnary, founder and, until 1967, leader of the Iona Community has received a half share of the Templeton Award for Progress in Religion. The other half share goes to Carl Friedrich von Weizsacker, a German physicist. Lord Macleod will give his award to promote prayer and peacemaking.

A Roman Catholic conference on angels was held in March to study their influence on the lives of humans, and why only 8% of Italians believe in them.

Christianity with 1,721,665,700 is the world's largest religion. The figures come from church researcher David Barrett in his annual Statistical table on Global Mission. He says 33.1% of the world's population claims adherence to Christianity, followed by Islam 17.5%, non-religious people make up 16.4%, Hindus 13.3% and Buddhists 6.1%.

The Protestant church in Japan is growing by 100-150 new churches every year. At this rate there will be some 8,000 churches in Japan by the end of the century. The present number of Christians represents only about 2% of the population.

The Hungarian Minister of Justice, Kálmán Kulcsár, has stated to Keston College that he sees no further need for the continuation of supervising the church by the State Secretariat for Religion. Kulcsár believes that the dissolution of the Secretariat is imminent.

Letter

OPPORTUNITY TO MINISTER TO CULTS

To the Editor,

May I congratulate you for the fine article on Mormonism ("A.C." 18 March) and the prospect of similar to follow.

In recent months I have exchanged correspondence with several ex-JWs and ex-Mormons who have found Christ and are now very active in reaching out to those with cultic connections. All have expressed dismay at the apathy of so many Christians to the whole subject of cults, apparently preferring to dismiss the whole subject as if it doesn't exist, meanwhile the cultist continues to knock on doors and win converts, very often from within the churches.

So may we hear more on cults and how to meet them and witness to them for they can be won for Christ. There is no need to go into a state of panic when a cultist knocks on your door, instead rejoice that you have a couple right on your doorstep that you can witness Christ to. Have your Bible always near the door and be prepared to use it. This in itself throws the cultist off balance as they love to laugh that we Christians never use our Bibles and certainly never take them to church. Reach out to them with the love of Jesus, this leaves the cultist astounded for they are taught we hate them and they expect hostility which only confirms to them that they are "correct."

—Les O. Harper
(Mirrool, NSW)

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News

Love of Another Kind



Part of the music team put together specially for the camp

Christmas has come and gone. So, too, have the summer camping experiences offered by the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development.

Christmas camp at Banksia peninsula was certainly the highlight of the year for a large number of the campers.

The traditional activities such as sailing, canoeing and water-skiing were offered, as well as an action-packed program that culminated in a New Year's Eve party sponsored by a Health Department "Rage Without Alcohol" grant.

Studies led by Andrew Ball, field director with the department, inspired those present to fully discover God's love—"Love of Another Kind".

Thanks be to God for these life-changing camps.

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— Terry McCredon, Treasurer

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Futuristic Fantasies

The view of the future suggested by Vic-Tas CWF President Lois Smith's theme "Towards 2000—Our Responsibility", was extended even further when 350 attended Project '89 "Futuristic Fantasies" on 15 March.

Each year the Vic-Tas CWF hold an event to raise money for a non-church organisation. This year's effort went to support radio for the print handicapped.

The futuristic theme was supported by displays and art work. Lois Baldwin of Montrose designed a striking backdrop of futuristic modes of transport.

Compere Glenys Reaby introduced a night of entertainment that included a comedy/drama written by Sheila Wood-

ward and performed by Balwyn CWF, a sketch written and performed by Lyn Ashlin and Noel Allsop, a musical revue covering the history of the church and the CWF set to tunes from well-known films and stage shows, performed by Ringwood, Richard Cutler with Magical Ecstasy, and a play by Werribee CWF written by Bronwen Hickman.

A highlight of the evening was the parade of fantastic fashions of the future created and modelled by CWF members and two tiny three-year-olds.

At the conclusion of the evening Lois Smith presented a cheque to Marjorie West of 3RPH and then brought the evening to a close with a brief devotional message.

New Minister at Doncaster



Glen Wagner, Lew Born, Lisa Sloan, Scott Sloan

Scott Sloan, a student from the Institute for Contemporary Church Leadership at Wollongong, was commissioned into ministry at Doncaster, Vic, on 5 February. Scott, a former radio announcer from NSW, is responsible for youth ministry at Doncaster. Scott is married to Lisa, an occupational therapist from Sydney.

1990 AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP
Christian Projects, through The Australian Christian is providing a scholarship available for overseas study during 1990. The scholarship is for a short-term period of study for up to one year.

The scholarship is open to any member of Churches of Christ in Australia for any area of study that will assist the scholar in a sphere of service within Churches of Christ. The scholarship is designed to assist applicants who otherwise would be unable to travel overseas.

Applications close 31 July.

Application forms and conditions are available from The Australian Christian, PO Box 101, North Essendon 3041. Phone (03) 379 1219.

(Note: The Scholarship Committee reserve the right not to award a scholarship.)

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A Church ABC

Roma is a town of 7000 situated in western Queensland some six hours drive from Brisbane. A grazing area, it is also famous for its oil and natural gas reserves and natural gas is piped east and north. It has a transient population—the 1986 census found that 60% of residents moved within two years. There is a high proportion of government workers and those in service industries, both in the town and the church.

The Roma church celebrated its centenary last year. The chapel has been occupied by the Church of Christ for a hundred years, but the actual timber building is older than that. There is also a hall and connecting kitchen. The membership, supplemented by Christians in fellowship and others that swell the average attendance to about 50, is drawn mainly from the town, although there are a few from surrounding farms.

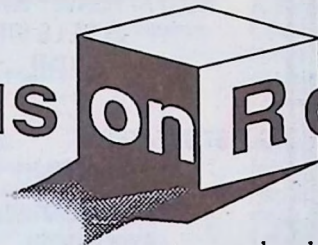
Trevor Pedler shares the ministry with his wife Susan, who was formerly with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Trevor is in his second year of ministry, having graduated from Kenmore College in 1987. He has a farming background and came from Bongee—being the first person to be baptised there...and Trevor and Susan were the first people to be married there too. The Pedlers have one daughter, who was born since they came to Roma. Trevor has become well known in the town.

There are now ten Christian churches in Roma. In the last census only 20% did not nominate a denomination. Trevor shares in the ministers' outreach on local media: spots on the radio station, a 300-word viewpoint in the newspaper and a two-

hour program on the community FM station.

Services are at 10 am. Last year care groups for Bible study were established and these are going well. Thirty people are involved in one of the two groups—for adults and youth. There is a Sunday school and

Focus on Roma



once a month a family fellowship activity is organised.

On Fridays there are three youth groups: 18 attend the younger groups for Grades 1-5 and 6-7 and 26, mainly from outside the church, are involved in Teen Scene. On Saturday there is a young adults group. With many young families, there is no shortage of leadership in the church. The involvement of the membership is most impressive.

Six Cornerstone Bible College students work with the church. Roma is a host church for a team of students, who work part time and serve the church part time in country towns. At present there are ten Bible college trained people in the church. Trevor is also a "Leadership 2000" person.

In one sense Roma is a missionary church, the constant turnover growing Christians who return to the coast for future service. New residents in the town shopping for a church find the Church of Christ has a spirit of worship and love for one another and peace and possibility in the services that attracts them. There is in this situation much potential for outreach to non-Christians.

Following the first 100 years God has laid a foundation in 1988 and the church is looking forward to 1989.

The President of the US movement Lutherans for Life claims that 23 million abortions have been performed since the legalisation of abortion in the USA 15 years ago.

The London Missionary Research Institute (LMRI) has published a report on church attendance in Europe. The Republic of Ireland has the highest church attendance with 80% of the population. It is followed by Italy, Spain and Northern Ireland with up to 40%. Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg are next with 20-30% of the population attending church on Sunday. Comparative figures for Britain, France and Germany are 11-15%. The Scandinavian countries Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland are at the bottom with only 3-5% attending church.

Alberto Mottes, an evangelist from Argentina, known throughout the Hispanic world for his daily radio program transmitted in 19 countries on over 700 broadcasts per day, led a recent crusade in Honduras which was transmitted to 9 countries. Held 1-12 March in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, the crusade saw cumulative attendance of 175,000 with 30,500 public decisions for Christ being recorded.

Every minute someone, somewhere in the world, contracts the AIDS virus. Australia is 26th on the per capita list. Although the US has the highest single number, the highest per capita rate, based on cases per 100,000 people, is in Bermuda, followed by French Guiana, the Bahamas, the Congo and Uganda. The rankings come from the World Health Organization, which compared the 33 countries which had 5 or more reported AIDS cases. 70% of AIDS sufferers live in the Americas, another 15% in Africa and 13.5% in Europe. Asia and Oceania have less than 1% of the world's cases.



Pontius' Puddle



Classifieds

BIRTHS

WATERHOUSE (MARCHANT) Julie, Mike and Elise proudly welcome Monique Joan to their family. She is a very special gift from God, born on 8 March.

GOLDEN WEDDING

GILMOUR—WILTSHIRE Stan and Ingrid were married by Pastor Jabez Wiltshire on April 15th 1939 at Dawson Street Church of Christ, Ballarat. Congratulations from Helen and Englebert, John and Julie and grandchildren Ingrid, Paul, Lukas and Anna Michel; Samuel, Joseph and David Gilmour.

DIAMOND WEDDING

BARNETT Millie and Fred are happy to celebrate the 60th anniversary of their wedding conducted by Will H. Clay at Burnley Church of Christ on 20th April 1929. Love and congratulations to Mum and Dad from Pat and Ed, Fred and Rosemary, Michael, Tania, David, Elizabeth and Stephanie. Present address 66 Argyle St, Chadstone 3148.

DEATHS

CHATLEY Arthur Frank Halstead (Frank), suddenly at home (Reservoir) on 6th March, 1989 aged 77 years. Dearly loved and loving husband of Norma (dec). Loving father of Joy, Dawn, Faye and Wendy and father-in-law of Kurt, Ron, Tony and Ken. Dearly loved Grandad of his 10 grandchildren. Happy memories.

IN MEMORIAM

ATTWELL George, memories of April 11th 1983. Though absent you are always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear. Resting in God's care, until we meet again. Loving wife Gert and all your children and grandchildren.

FORDHAM Stanley Montague passed into God's care 20.4.88. Precious memories by your wife Ruby, daughters Joy and Glenys, son-in-law Bob, grandchildren Bovain, Julie, Deanna and Digby. We thank God for every remembrance of our loved one.

SHARE HOUSE

ROWVILLE, near Knox City. Girl to share 5-bedroom house in quiet street. Telephone Rachel (03) 29 5082 or (03) 836 0340.

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Each winter CYTA Lodge at Cooma has vacancies for up to nine young people for a period of 3-4 months. These positions are suitable for single young guys and girls between 18-30 years interested in learning more about the operation of a large Christian Youth Camp and Accommodation Centre. Interviews will be held in Sydney in late May with a mid June commencement. Duties include catering, general house-keeping, maintenance, assisting in conducting the evening program and other activities at the Lodge. Each must be prepared to be part of the work team that makes our exciting and busy Ski Season happen. For further information write or telephone:

Mr Bruce Bolton,
CYTA Lodge
Cooma 2630
Phone (064) 52 1375

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Communion
6.30 p.m.
Gospel Celebration
Minister: Noel Newton
(075) 32 5660 or
31 4353 (Home)

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29 APRIL-1 MAY 1989

GUEST SPEAKER:

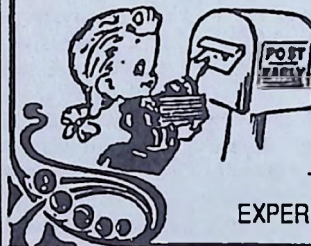
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A Service for Christian Unity

The Department of Christian Union is recommending that churches conduct a special service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 4-14 May. The original concept for this service came from a motion passed at the 1988 Vic-Tas Conference, which asked churches to recommit themselves to our plea for response to Christ's prayer in John 17.

President We welcome each one to this special service where we will share communion together with Christ our Lord

People Give thanks to the Lord, proclaim his greatness, tell all the nations what he has done.
Sing praise to the Lord, tell of the wonderful things he has done.

President Be glad that we belong to him, let all who worship him rejoice.

People The Lord is our God; his commands are for all the world.

President How wonderful it is, how pleasant...

All ...for all God's people to live together in harmony.

Private Meditation [One minute of complete silence suggested.]

Minister This day we especially respond to the prayer of Christ for the unity of his people. Each of us who has received Christ and has believed in his name has the power and the right given by him to be a child of God, truly born of God. As such—we are told by Paul—we are all equal heirs with Christ, suffering together with him in order that we may be glorified with him. Come let us now affirm our oneness with Christ and our oneness with each other in him.

[For the following statement of belief in Christ, some may wish to hold hands with those nearby. Congregation to stand.]

All I believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God, he has the words of eternal life and there is no other to whom I may turn.

Minister Truly, by the authority of his word, I proclaim that we are each a child of God and as such equal heirs with Christ to the full glory of God's kingdom.

Reader 1 A meditation—
The petal alone is pretty enough—
Subtle hue, velvet touch,
Delicate and fragile,
But when joined with the others,
With brightness at the centre,
Its beauty and symmetry are

Unspeakable.

It finds, when so joined with others

Wholeness,
And in that wholeness,
It is deserving of attention,
Drawing eyes to its loveliness,
It is—
A flower.

Minister Of even greater beauty surely, is the vision of wholeness, of oneness, that Jesus has for his followers—his equal heirs—when they are joined as John records in the prayer of Jesus: John 17:20-23

Reader 2 Matthew 28:18-20
Reader 3 Please be seated.

President Let us pray: Our Father, we thank you for our church, for the warm strength that comes from fellowship, for the inspiration that comes from united prayer, for the support that comes from the care that we give each other. We are glad that we belong to you.

Thank you that you challenge us to make your church a meaningful messenger to a divided and cynical world. We realise that, to most effectively tell the nations of your goodness, your promise and your peace, we need to be one. As we bow today fill us with humility so that we become ready to walk together on the road to unity, listening to each other and to all Christians, along the way. In Christ's unifying name we pray. Amen.

Reader 4 John 10:27-30 and John 14:8-11

Hymn No. 221 'The Church's One Foundation'

Minister Sermon [based on John 17 and Matthew 28 readings]

Act of Commitment [all stand]

President As God has called us into the unity of his church and as we acknowledge the present brokenness of the Body of Christ, will you join with me in a commitment to seek the fullness of the unity that Christ intends for his disciples?

People We will, by the power of God's Spirit.

All As members of the Body of Christ, and in the fellowship of this congregation, we commit ourselves to strive for the unity of the whole church in Christ, and for the evangelisation of our community. We commit ourselves to an understanding and acceptance of our fellow Christians whose ways of worship differ from our own.

We commit ourselves to live

Minister

All
Hymn

No. 185 [Songs of Praise, 5th edition, 1976] "Bind Us Together"
[Congregation sits.]

[It is suggested that, with quiet music preparing the people for communion, the table be prepared and the emblems placed thereon by the helpers.]

Communion
President

Now, in an atmosphere of loving acceptance let us share communion and claim the presence of Jesus who promised, "Lo, I am with you always."

Reader 1 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
President

Let us pray. O God we are filled with expectations as we approach communion this day. Just as that first communion bound together the hearts and minds of the disciples, we too look forward to abandoning ourselves to focus on that one central sacrifice, Jesus on the cross. In that abandonment of self, our Father, we can become bound to each other. Thank you that in the strength of that bond that comes from sharing the bread and wine we can go forward to embrace all who follow you while never forgetting that our focus in life must be the cross.

All Amen.
Hymn No. 255 "O, Thou Who in the Upper Room Didst Pray"

Communion [President to repeat the appropriate words of 1 Corinthians 11 before distributing the emblems.]

Minister Prayers of the church.
Offering

Hymn No. 311 "In Christ There Is No East or West"

All Benediction c, Hymn Book page 455.

Notes: The four readers should be in position at the four corners of the congregation and should be a mix of male/female/younger/older.

The Good News Bible is recommended.

The Department especially thanks Kerrie Henry, Bruce McIntosh and David Allison.

Ministers' Workshop

Building an Effective Pastoral Care Team

by Louis van Laar

Informal pastoral care between church people already takes place through casual contact as well as task and friendship networks. Organised care must not undermine this informal care. It ensures that pastoral care is accessible to each person within the fellowship. An organised pastoral care approach also improves the quality of care and supports the carers through training and supervision.

Getting Started

Approach confident, yet gentle, persons to be carers. Avoid people who wish to dominate each encounter; also avoid the ineffectual person who believes Christian service means being a doormat. Clarify to the carers and to the congregation exactly what the pastoral care team will offer. This depends on the quality of the carers, the training they will receive and the resources the church is prepared to invest in pastoral care. The People Care Course (available through negotiation with Brian White, Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development, phone (03) 662 2377) provides the basic skills and practical experience on which to build an effective team. Participants learn the value of listening. They also gain insights into the emotional and practical needs of sick, hospitalised, lonely, grieving, bereaved and dying people. Demand of those selected for pastoral care work a definite commitment: to

visit, for example, one person a week as well as attendance at the monthly team meeting and further workshops/training sessions.

Keeping Going

Pastoral carers receive from the team leader (who need not be the minister) the names of the people to be visited. As much information as is relevant and known about the visitee is shared with the visitor. The carers assess any needs and devise a pastoral plan to meet these needs, e.g. Shirley, mother of two primary school aged children is sick in bed. What is needed are meals and transport to and from school for the children. Pastoral care remains the responsibility of the whole church (not just the care team) so the carer organises people to provide meals and transport while the carer continues to visit Shirley.

Ways to nurture and grow your pastoral care team include:

1. Define the work. Replace the professional model with the collective model. Insist that the Christian approach to care demands we carry each other's burdens, for this is the law of Christ. No one person must carry the struggles of another alone. Confidentiality exists within the pastoral care team, not any one member of the team. Team members need to share their stories and affirm each other and their visitees in prayer.

2. Protect the team. Insist that anonymous complaints about what has been, or,

more often, what has not been done are refused the dignity of reply. Deal with complaints promptly and involve the carers concerned in the process. Remind yourselves that it is impossible to please all the people all the time. Pass on immediately any praise to the carer concerned. Keep before the church the good work done by the carers.

3. Nurture the team. Meet regularly for mutual support. Share insights and experiences together. Pray for the people visited. Arrange access to further training. Include the pastoral care team within the prayers offered during worship.

Conclusion

One person cannot fulfil the pastoral care demands of a local congregation. The Lord of the church did not intend this. Competent leadership can ensure, however, that Christians carry each other's burdens. This lightens the load, yet strengthens the church.

• Louis van Laar is Director for Field Development for the Department of Community Care, Vic, and author of the training course, "People Care", used by the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development.

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

Growing Spiritually In the Seasons of Life

by Hennie DeWildt

Once we have experienced that transformation from "cocoon to butterfly", and tap into that eternal life giving energy by which our creator has renewed us, we are on the path of spiritual growth.

Growing is often a painful process, with its changes, unexpected upheavals, joys and sorrows, but this is the path we are to tread, and I believe in the statement, "bloom where you're planted".

When we are firmly rooted in Christ and allow those roots to go deep in meditation, forbearance and long suffering, the foliage of our life, which is our outward appearance and actions, will witness and mirror Christ.

Outward storms will buffet and try to destroy, but real spiritual growth is the re-

sult of that great root work that has taken place because we have "dwelt deep" with Christ and thus we stand strong as a witness of him.

Also, I am a great believer that we experience "seasons" in our soul. Having lived in Darwin almost three years, I particularly enjoyed the seasons when we "came south". They took on a whole new meaning for me.

I am glad God changes the times and seasons, just think how dull things would be if he didn't paint nature's scenes in different colours several times each year.

So, I feel, with our souls. Winter might be a time of "quiet reverence"—when outwardly there doesn't seem to be much life, but those roots are very much alive and a stronghold when storms threaten. Then comes spring, a time of "renewal", a time when we are "on top", "sparking on

all cylinders"! Life couldn't be greater! This is followed by summer, a season of enjoyable and much needed "rest" in this mad rush world without feeling "guilty". It's like floating and there are definite times where we need to float! Then comes autumn, a season of nostalgic "reflection" and giving thanks to God for his greatness!

My hope is to grow taller and stronger as my roots dig deeper in the soil of life, enjoying the seasons and not fearing the winds of adversity, feeling God's presence as I consider the days and weeks and years given to me and asking him to bring new strength to my soul.

Hope you are the same.

• Hennie DeWildt is a member of the Green-acre, NSW, church.

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FAS18-FPM-19 NAT

Obituaries

Obituary notices are limited to 100 words.

CHRISTIAN, Frank Willis

(17.2.89) After several fruitful years of Christian living Willis went to be with his Lord at age 79. Early in his youth he made a commitment to Christ then later in his 30s he made a recommitment which was shown in his devotion and service. After the death of his first wife he later married Grace. In the 1970s they moved to Nubeena, Tas. Here Willis and Grace were a tremendous help to the church. Willis was a very gracious, quiet and yet decided man who had a great understanding of scripture and could impart this at regular Bible studies. It became necessary to move closer to Hobart recently because of failing health. The service was taken at the Kingston Lawn Cemetery by the Rosney Baptist minister and a Brethren Assembly pastor.

—Gordon Henderson

KIESEKER, Ronald William

(26.2.89) Born in Roma, Qld, on 27 March 1919, Ron lived there with the exception of military service until nine years ago when he moved to Brisbane. Ron was baptised at the Roma church at the age of 11 and was very active in Christian Endeavour. He served on the board at Roma and Pine Rivers and was a well respected handy man at both places. His first marriage of 15 years to Annie (nee Muller) ended tragically through a farming accident. God blessed this marriage with two daughters (Carolyn and Lois). Ron remarried around two and a half years later to Dell (nee Holt). Ron and Dell spent almost 28 years of happy marriage together. God blessed their marriage with a son (Graham). We thank God for Ron's life, for his example and faithful service to the Lord's work. He will be sadly missed by all those who knew him.

—Wayne Kirk

SMITH, Phil

(5.2.89) Phil Smith was born on 5 June 1913. At the age of seven he was placed in an orphanage which eventuated in his move to Geelong, Vic. Shortly after this Phil started to attend the Drumcondra church. Phil was soon converted, and on 3 June 1928 was baptised. He married Daisey on 20 June 1942 and together they bore four children, Wendy, Judith (deceased), Patrisha and Peter. As a family they brought a lot of love, stability in marriage, joy and life to the Manifold Heights, Vic, church. Both Phil and Daisey commenced a fellowship afternoon for retired people, which continues under

Daisey's direction. Phil loved the Lord's table, Bible study, plus he was a great encourager. He will be missed by many, but welcomed home by Jesus whom he loved.

—Paul Downie

WEIDENBACH, Gwendoline

(4.3.89) A large gathering honoured Gwen when Bert Coleman conducted services in the chapel and at the graveside. They represented church and Gwen's many community interests. She had been our oldest serving member, faithful in attendance at Murray Bridge, SA, the Bible study and CWF, where she is missed. Gwen Page married Eric Weidenbach in 1948 and they had one son, Peter. Three weeks after Eric died in 1978, Gwen had the extra loss of her only brother, Harold. She had cared for her mother, step-father and later Harold until their deaths. Gwen loved to sing and was a member of the Senior Citizens Choir. Though she had her share of sorrows Gwen had a cheerful nature. The sympathy of the church goes to Peter, Dianne and her granddaughters Donna and Peta.

—B. Watts

WILLIAMS, John Thomas

(18.2.89) Aged 78, John had not had good health for some months, but nevertheless was, with his wife Elvie, a regular attender of both services. John was born here on the Tasman Peninsula, Tas. Throughout his life he had been well versed in scripture. In his early teens he made his commitment to Christ at West Hobart. He eventually came to live at Nubeena and here was a tremendous help. At the time of John's first wife's death they had five children and to these we express our Christian feeling and hope. Later John married a widow, Elvie Noye. John had been on the church board for many years as well as being active in scripture teaching and general progress of the witness. The church was filled to capacity, and more, as folk came to pay respect to a Christian man they loved.

—Gordon Henderson

Tas

LAUNCESTON (Rod Foster) "Life through a Leadlight Window" service conducted by young people very well attended with one confession ... Portfolios for deacons have been allocated ... Colin Cripps home after heart surgery in Adelaide ... Feb morning average attendance 195 & evening 105 ... Sir Geoffrey Foot reported at pm service on 19 Feb on the opening of new College campus at Mulgrave.

Church News

Qld

PINE RIVERS (W. Kirk, I. Todd) Christmas '88 saw the church present second year of Bethlehem Markets. Despite rain many people attended. Many contacts made for church, youth groups & Sunday School ... On 5 Feb Wayne, Liz & Michael Kirk began their first ministry after graduating from Kenmore Christian College ... Tony Baird elected as new Sunday School Superintendent ... Both senior & junior Sunday Schools began the year with good attendances. An exciting year is planned with the children taking part ... Youth work under leadership of Ian Todd has also begun well with great attendances and enthusiasm.

REDCLIFFE (A. Risson) Coffee shop held featuring Larry Com-

mins & drama from Ambassadors ... Missionary Convention with Wycliffe Bible Translators, Dick Austin & John Bassett ... World Day of Prayer held at our church, speaker Muriel Taylor ... John Ademann appointed student minister third year running ... Trish Brunet third year College, Tony Gibson second year Kenmore also. **SOUTHPORT (Noel Newton, David Murray, David Capuano)** Boys & girls clubs changed into Monday & Tuesday after school groups, buses pick up students from nearby schools & parents come to church at end of program ... Bill Newman & team visited on 5 March. Many first time commitments & renewals ... David Eaglings term extended till end of year ... First of four "Highroad" programs completed with 11 participants.

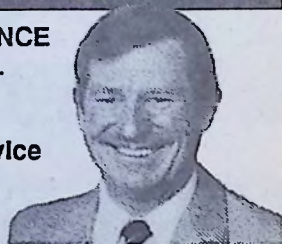
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Discipleship

•Eric Ossebaar, Stephen Turner, Pat Sikes, Agnes Davies, Wembley, WA •Lorena Gilmour, Hurstbridge, Vic •Jason Jeffers, Stawell, Vic •Tim Yang, Perth City, WA •Michael Cartmel, Mornington, Vic •Shirley Landers, Chris Rowan, Russell Phillips, Portland, Vic •Sally Hays, Launceston, Tas •Timothy McDowell, Boronia, Vic •Anastarcia Kopeikin, Elaine Williams, Colin Palmer, Alan & Kay Banks, Linda Chanoff, Bill & Vera Vassilief, Steven & Michael Vassilief, Peter Brice, Jennifer Hoppe, Ronald Walters, Southport, Qld •Robert Stephenson, Croydon, SA •Ross McPhee, Greensborough, Vic

Marriages

•Raelene Batty to Rex Matthews, Lyn Sara to Lynn Baxter, Warwick, WA •Michelle Jones to Derek Carter, Magill, SA •Fiona Watkins to Greg Rogers, Dalkelth Rd, WA •Terrienne McEwan to Barry Nickless, Portland, Vic •Sharon Hutchinson to Brendan Jones, Thornleigh, NSW •Jenny Sim to Ian Pope, Ivanhoe, Vic •Heather Hill to Ted Davis, Carolynne Cavanah to Bruce Dean, Carolyn Hair to Greg Gayson, Ararat, Vic

Deaths

•Mrs Gwen Weidenbach, Murray Bridge, SA •Isobel Owens, Warwick, WA •Don Bain, Dick Renfrey, Mandurah, WA •Daph Chesson, Magill, SA •Ron Kieseker, Pine Rivers, Qld •Joy Masters, Perth City, WA •Mrs Ella Jeffrey, Swan Hill, Vic •Mrs Dora Wade, Albert Park, SA •Stan Bosworth, Croydon, SA

Changes

GROTE ST: Minister: Ian Adams, 26 Caulfield Ave., Cumberland Park, SA 5041. Phone (08) 272 0574.

MORNINGTON: Minister—Ian Cartmel, 15 Tanyalee Court, Mt Martha, Vic 3934. Phone (059) 75 9502.

LYONS: Minister—Kevin Caulton, 58 Somerset St, Duffy, ACT 2611. Phone (062) 88 8408.

DANDENONG: Minister—Graeme Foon, 41 Wilma Ave, Dandenong, Vic 3175. Phone (03) 791 2854.

Associate Minister—Greg Elsdon, 5 Salisbury Crt, Glen Waverley, Vic 3150. Phone (03) 560 2131.

OAKLEIGH

Church of Christ

1960s YP Reunion

Saturday, 22 April, 7.45 pm
Social Evening at Church
Sunday, 23 April, 10.45 am
Communion Service
Speaker: Dr K. Farmer
Sunday 12.45 pm
Picnic/BBQ
Jells Park, Glen Waverley
Details from Glenys Reaby
(03) 560 6797

BOX HILL

Church of Christ

invites past members
and friends to our
78th Church
Anniversary

Speaker: Milton Oliver
10 am

7 May 1989

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Christ

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Senior Minister Glen Waverley Church of Christ
at the

Mulgrave Campus on Wednesday evenings
10, 17, 24, 31 May, 7, 14 June
7.30–9.30 pm

Course Content:

On the Way—Or in the Way?

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Without a Vision the People Perish

How To Implement Change for Effective Evangelism

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Vic

HURSTBRIDGE (Andrew George) Garage sale boosted funds by \$700 ... Former Sunday School student Lorena Gilmour baptised ... Church farewells Maloney family to Qld & another Wycliffe student Jan Mountney to her new ministry ... Support group established for new minister from a cross-section of the congregation.

STRATHMORE (J. Pearce) Church pleased to welcome James, Eva, Patricia & Talitha Pearce. James (top College student) inducted by Don Russell ... A get to know you barbecue held at the manse ... Clubs going well. God's Gang Mondays & Hey Hey It's Tuesday (for grades 5 & 6) ... Leisure Time & Friendship Day for mature age both continue to be well attended ... Looking forward to a good year under James' leadership.

THE PATCH (Glynthea Finger) Anniversary service held on 5 March. Miss Phyl Davis guest speaker. Church choir led by Vic Berry rendered two items. Luncheon followed the service ... Church pleased to renew fellowship with Glynthea's parents from Queensland & Roy Beard from Western Australia ... Lenten study series continue ... World Day of Prayer was held in Uniting Church Monbulk. Our minister was guest speaker.

STAWELL (S. McElwee) Outgoing minister Dick Hayman, who leaves for SA to become chaplain to armed services, inducted incoming minister Stephen McElwee who along with wife Jenny & son Samuel come to us from Salvation Army. Much rejoicing & anticipation of a growth ministry ... Church has purchased adjoining property for future expansion ... All age learning program popular at all levels.

ASCOT VALE (R. Bourdon) Barry Hamond resigned as secretary after 16 years. Steve Rowse our new secretary ... Minister & Geoff Ismail attended John Wimber Conf ... Church constantly seeing new people coming ... KYB group commenced led by Carolyn Hamond. Leanne Boulas looking after the children ... Beth Fuhrmeister now helping Mrs Ryan as Mt Royal visitor ... Prayer continuing each morning.

CROYDON (W. Glibney, M. Burgess) Martin Burgess inducted as second full-time minister on 19 March. This was a significant milestone in the life of the church ... Church had 12 delegates at John Wimber Conference. Other mem-

bers were also involved & congregation has been blessed as a result ... Group of young people enjoyed weekend at Belgrave Heights organised by Youth For Christ.

MORNINGTON (Ian Cartmel) Fellowship Sunday 12 March 10 welcomed into fellowship ... great joy at baptism of Michael Cartmel ... Interest groups commenced — walk to Bushrangers Bay, Easter cooking & customs, thanks to Beth McManus ... Practical care being provided in areas of need ... Series of prayer hours in homes ... Roger & Jan Buckley moved to Caboolture ... Welcome to baby Shaun, son of Vic & Margaret Martin.

SWAN HILL (L.J. Mayes) 40 young people & leaders shared with others from Mildura, Echuca & Robinvale in camp led by Andrew Ball at Lake Benenee over Labour Day weekend ... Joan & Brian White visited church during March to conduct Marriage Growth Seminar ... Young adults & youth group featured regularly in evening services.

PORTLAND (R. Hough) CSSM took part during holiday period ... Leadership training weekend at Narrawong with Portland, Hamilton, Port Fairy & Warrambol churches involved. Leader Ron Elbourne ... K. McKenzie inducted as youth minister for Portland church. Andrew Ball conducted induction, also spoke at both am services ... Kids Club numbers continue to grow under leadership of John Purtil & helpers ... Successful combined concert with Hamilton held at Hamilton church hall ... Looking forward to Proclaimers visit 27-29 March.

BORONIA (Kelth Milne, Gordon Strirling, Mike Folland) Gordon Strirling joined ministry team on part-time basis ... 68th anniversary celebrated. Conf Pres Gerald Rose guest speaker, anniversary offering \$770 shared between Christian Blind Mission International & Knox Centre of Spastic Society. Attendances at all services up on 1988 ... John Masterton new editor of church weekly *The Messenger* ... Pre-Easter meditations continued this year. Good Friday service with Uniting Church in our chapel.

IVANHOE (John Caporn) Singing group provided items combined service Good Friday ... Walking group formed, church picnic held Banksia Park ... Guest speakers Dave Reynolds (student CCTC), Louis van Laar (Dept Community Care) ... CWF new shared load format successful ... YP attended Youth Happening (Belgrave Heights) ... Kids Klub held swimming night, concert, games night

... Several church members hospitalised ... Sunday School going well ... Tennis courts resurfaced.

TOOTGAROOK (M. Glezen-danner) Phillip & Merrilyn White received into fellowship & baby Megan dedicated ... Attendances good at Easter services with many visitors ... 40 present at barbecue at Bryants ... Quarterly ecumenical meeting & World Day of Prayer well attended ... CWF Easter meeting had minister as speaker. 32 present ... Lowanna Singers presented a lovely PSA, \$380 being raised for their project ... CWF held successful chicken luncheon for Indian boy support.

NORTH BALWYN (Paul Burnham) Church blessed with three confessions of faith, four rededications & two transfers of membership: Dorothy Geyer & Lindsay Onans ... Number attending new intermediate youth group encouraging ... Choir presented cantata "Easter Story" ... At supper Alan & Merle Kingshott were farewelled as they move to Mt Martha. They will be missed ... Members saddened at passing of Gwenda Duff ... KYB study recommenced, number increased by three.

CHELSEA (T. Frazier) 65th anniversary guest speaker was W.W. Saunders ... Good Friday service held combined with Chelsea Baptists ... "Adonai" music group gave items for Chelsea Youth Week Protestant service in C of C chapel ... Fellowship, barbecue & worship held under gum trees at farm property of J. & M. Bentley, combined with Parkdale & Morimington ... Raelene, Eric Callaway & family have moved to Beauty Point, Tas.

LA TROBE TERRACE, GEE-LONG (Dr C.J. Mackenzie) Youth group continuing to grow ... Mr Lahey & Mr Brown recovering from major surgery ... Allan Carr gave an enlightening message on behalf of the Federal & State Aborigines Boards ... Special services held over Easter ... CWF guest Mrs Jean Yule from Trading Partners who displayed & sold handmade & woven goods from third world countries.

ARARAT (S.K. Bannon) Dorothy Geyer spoke at Ladies Fellowship then travelled to Stawell for combined evening missionary rally ... Kids Club started, church members working very hard together ... Some members attended opening of new college at Mulgrave ... May & Wilf Owen celebrated 60 years of marriage ... We had great pleasure in welcoming into membership Robert & Paula Toet & family, Mrs Carolyn Gayson & Mrs Edith Smith as a Christian in Fellowship.

GREENSBOROUGH (George Warren) Play Group continuing to grow in outreach ... Section 3 tennis team premiers, Section 4 runners up in summer season ... Small Groups seminar led by Bill Brown held 18 March ... Ross McPhee baptised & welcomed into membership 19 March ... New format for Bible School; now held Wednesdays 5.30-7.30 pm for Preps to year 8 includes games, singing, tea & Bible teaching ... Planned giving program to be held 9-19 April.

ECHUCA (A. Symes) Bob Akister is new elder ... A special meeting approved of laying on of hands ... Young people joined with other Murray church camp at Boundary Bend ... Digger Hill passed on after long illness ... One lady sufferer is about again. Another is on the mend. Prayers are appreciated ... Minister Arthur Symes is on leave. Others helping out.

RED CLIFFS (G.R. Sharrad) Special play reading held at Sunday Easter service ... G.R. Sharrad has commenced second year of ministry with the church ... FOCAS group from Mildura conducted entire service on 19 March. S. Hall speaker ... Kids' Club going happily forward. Auxiliaries starting again after being in recess over busy harvest period ... Air-conditioning has been installed in the church.

NSW

BELMORE (W. Shepherd) On 22 Jan Wayne & Kay Shepherd were welcomed into the ministry of the church. They have three children, Petrina (7), Nathan (4) & Jessica (1). Terry Young travelled from Ungarra, SA, Wayne & Kay's home church, to assist in the service. Colin Bowser brought a challenging message ... Migrant outreach is continuing especially among Koreans. Church is endeavouring to get David Kim & family from Korea to assist in this ministry.

THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) Bob & Dawn Goodfellow & family conducted pm service on 12 March. In music, song & in word ... Over 20 of our young people attended DCD Young People's Camp at Stanwell Tops over Easter ... John West shared with Franklyn Elliott in leading the well attended Good Friday service. Franklyn Elliott brought the message.

**Recommend
"The Australian
Christian" to a friend.**

Church News

WA

GERALDTON (Rohan Burcham) 1989 began farewelling our pastor & family, Robert Drown, who moved to Perth as chaplain of C of C Aged Persons Homes ... Exciting times ahead with the arrival in Feb of Rohan, Rona & baby Jodie Burcham from Carlingford College, Sydney. Induction service was officiated by WA President Elect John Bolton with many local dignitaries & representatives from other Geraldton churches attending ... Rohan keen to nurture & help fellowship mature. Small group mixed Bible studies introduced to help achieve aim.

BALGA (R. Frazer) Former student pastor Geoff Maxwell shared with church of his work in New Guinea ... Worship workshop proved beneficial & encouraging ... 12 hours of praise time brought joy & blessings to all participants ... Church excited about minister's forth coming marriage.

WARWICK (G.B. Carslake, B.A. Englos, R.L. Mason) Year has begun strongly with record communicants for Jan & Feb ... 20 new members welcomed in ... Graham Carslake attended opening of College at Mulgrave & ministered to students ... New format for Home Fellowship Groups strongly supported ... Sermons & studies are being based for 12 weeks on the church ... Some members attended Wimber meetings ... Young people

are raising \$5,000 to provide computers towards mission work in Thailand & NSW ... Boys' & Girls' Brigades commenced with 80 members already ... Four young people attending Bible Colleges ... Waveriders (surfing) group established.

MANDURAH (Roger Ryall) Church has been greatly encouraged by the dedicated contribution of some youth groups in our summer outreach program. Thomlie, Whitford, Nollamara, Harvey & Kalamunda youth brought special music & challenging drama in their presentation of the gospel ... Some Christian YP are fellowshiping with us as new residents of Mandurah ... Roger is sharing in regular visiting at the new district hospital ... Don Bain & Dick Renfrey died in recent weeks. We are prayerfully supporting their loved ones.

DALKEITH ROAD (Barry Ryall, Nigel Pegram) Successful children's holiday session (Club 4) 170-200 each day ... Nigel Pegram associate for 1989. Nigel finishes at the Baptist College & Murdoch University this year. Mulgrave in 1990 ... Budget offerings achieved ... Sacrificial breakfast target offering doubled (\$4,000) ... Mid week Church School averaging 90 ... Recent guests Betty Cuthbert & Richard Pongelley (Olympic water polo) ... Mrs Mercer turned 100 in March ... Barry Ryall appointed Sheffield Shield chaplain for third season.

PERTH CITY (G. Powell) Avon

Moyle, Executive Director of FAB, inspired us with message of God's blessing on the work of Aboriginal pastors ... Having completed his Chemistry diploma, David Sikabbubba, with wife Rhoda & daughter Nada, returned to Zambia ... Jim Collingwood, church treasurer & newly elected elder, visiting daughters in Hobart & Canberra ... Ian Nicholas elected deacon ... Much prayer being offered for healing of Hong Ser Kong. **FREMANTLE (D. Good)** News of developing Aboriginal churches brought to us by Avon Moyle (FAB Exec Director) on 12 March at Bible study & CWF meetings ... Diana Catts spoke particularly about the PNG Christian's eagerness for BS training ... The cantata "Worthy is the Lamb" sung to us on 19 March by a UC choir ... Resumption of stewed fruit project which benefits Christian Welfare Centre & missions ... AGM held on 2 April.

SA

MAGILL (Trevor Lawrie) 120 attended Celebrating Our Faith annual church dinner on 25 Feb. Ron Hewitt enlightening guest speaker with Songsters Trio as surprise guest artists ... Special Sunday night service with Ron at which Natalie Phillips gave her decision for Christ ... Elders retreat at Victor Harbor held on 4-5 March ... New vacuum cleaner purchased. **ALBERT PARK (Steve Ogden)**

AGM on 14 March elected chairman Bob Jeffreys, sec Marj Ryle, treas Margaret Clarke, administrator Wilf Stevens & board member Ron Mudge ... Church's 36th anniversary on Palm Sunday enhanced by Modbury Choir visit ... Val Stevens travelling with Diana Catts in WA & Diana visiting AP on 9 April ... Linda & Allan Baird to run Caring for People course on three Sunday afternoons in April ... many members suffered illness recently ... Dora Wade passed away 14 March. **CROYDON (Phillip Stevens)** New minister Philip Stevens conducts his first baptism at Croydon following decision by Robert Stephenson ... Choir under direction of Doris Simpson assisted at combined Good Friday service ... CWF meeting focused on work of Overseas Mission Board at the last meeting & offering taken in support of the OMB.

PROSPECT (G. Payne) Palm Sunday evening service guest speaker Lori Robertson, employee of Blind Welfare Assoc ... New look Sunday evening service has proved popular. Ken Jacobs has gone to great trouble to decorate the hall ... Youth group holding a "Banana Split" the week after Easter ... Camera Club opened year with successful BBQ & members slides ... Christian Ladies Fellowship held garage sale at home of Mrs Blaskett on 8 April ... George Bonney still on sick list. Ken Banks recovered from surgery.

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Comment

Courteous Protest against the Commonwealth Bank

A report has been received of a group organising a protest against the Commonwealth Bank for its introduction of a \$1.50 charge per month for accounts with less than \$250.

The form of the protest is to courteously go through the motions of opening a new account and at the last minute, after the account number has been issued and the various documents signed, to comment on the \$1.50 and to decline to actually open the account.

The organisers are stressing the importance of being well dressed and courteous at all times.

People should queue for the teller and endeavour to waste as much time as possible and seek to open a new account then be reluctant to be redirected to the new account section but try to insist that the

teller handle the opening of the account.

Protesters should target the busiest Commonwealth Bank agencies at times when the bank is at its busiest and should move from agency to agency to repeat the process, a spokesman for the protest group said.

The courteous protest is being organised because it is felt that it is immoral for the Commonwealth Bank, which was originally begun for the small people, to be targetting the poor and those least able to pay for additional charges at a time when the bank is expecting huge profits.

Others who wish to join the protest at this injustice simply have to courteously follow the process.

The protest group hopes to get thousands to protest courteously.

Loss

Many farmers are in a desperate financial crisis—especially on the West Coast of South Australia, but what happens when a Christian farmer goes bankrupt? He's a man of faith, a man who sees himself as a co-creator with God. He works hard. He believes in the soil and in God. He has done his best but still the day comes when he must hold an auction, sell the livestock, lock the doors and leave. He has done all he could but even so he feels like a failure.

He may wonder if the outcome could have been different if he had worked a little bit harder or had tried a different method.

Even though you may not have lost a farm, you probably know what it is to suffer great loss and disappointment and to feel like a failure. You mourn. You look back, you wonder why.

In the pain perhaps you go to the Bible you've believed in all these years. And the pages lift your eyes from the floor past the field or city streets, to the throne of heaven. God is still there. He has not changed. He's there to give you strength and carry you through. He's the God who upholds the ones who are falling.

Surely as we meditate upon the cross of Christ, no-one can understand better than Jesus, who lost everything when he died on the cross, so that we might gain everything in a heavenly home. Just to believe in his resurrection!

God has never promised to shield us from life's storms, but he has promised to shelter us in life's storms.

"The Lord upholds all who fall and raise up all those who are bowed down." (Psalm 145:14) —Barossa and Light Herald

The Last Word

He that loses his conscience has nothing left that is worth keeping.

—Nicolas Caussin

A man taking his grandson to church for the first time was surprised when the plate came around to hear a whisper, "You don't have to pay for me, Grandpa. I'm not five yet."

★★★★★

The minister asked a small girl what she thought of her first church service. "The music was nice," she replied, "but the commercial was too long."

★★★★★

I asked her if I could see her home and she said she would send me a photo of it.

★★★★★

Tom: Dad, why do rats leave a sinking ship? Dad: So they won't get drowned.

Tom: But Dad, where do they escape to?

★★★★★

"One of our experiments didn't work," wrote a science student in his report. "But we enjoyed waiting for nothing to happen—just like real scientists."

★★★★★

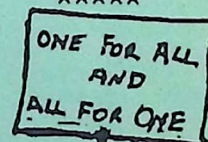
Exhausted kindergarten child to mother: "All day long sharing, sharing, sharing!"

★★★★★

Most editors of religious journals are eager for increased circulation and would welcome new readers from any source. Still, there are limits.

A British newspaper reports that smugglers have been using religious periodicals—including *Catholic Herald*, *Methodist Recorder* and *Jewish Chronicle*—to wrap illegal drugs to be brought into prisons.

★★★★★



Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
(Exodus 20:3)



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