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Too Much Publicity?

Elsie McNeill (front left) and Debbie Goodman (right) with children at the Fairfield, NSW, church playgroup that attracted much media attention
—story page 3

[Photo courtesy of Sydney Telegraph]

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Guest Editorial

Reflecting the Person of Jesus

by Trevor Lawrie

The more I learn about Jesus the more I am fascinated by his profound understanding of life, his total understanding of the Scriptures and the Law, yet his completely different application of his knowledge in revolutionary and new ways. It staggers me that so many people today still cannot understand what he was on about and what Paul described as the difference between Law and Grace. (I am not suggesting that I understand everything that Jesus taught but that I am trying to break out of the kind of thinking that Jesus encountered in traditionalists of his day.)

It requires a quantum leap of faith to bridge the enormous gap between accepted or traditional ideas and the kinds of things Jesus asks his hearers to accept. Or perhaps what is required is a bolt of light piercing the mind in a "Damascus road-like" experience.

What enormous changes are taking place in the world today. The jump from communism to democracy until recently was beyond imagining. These days I hold my breath as new revelations unfold in Russia and its satellite states, particularly in the light of the Tiananmen Square massacre in China. Mr Gorbachev has taken risks of enormous proportion, some would suggest uncalculated risks, for when forces of liberty, freedom or whatever are unleashed where does it end? Who can stop the insatiable desire of a suppressed people to reach for the stars, the ultimate in what seemed just a few years ago an impossible dream. But Mr Gorbachev has taken the risk, albeit for economic reasons, he has sought to steer a course far from that of the old guard.

Jesus went against the tradition and restrictions of his times. He saw how people could be liberated from their oppression. His message was clear and simple enough that the crowds heard him gladly. He was one who took "risks". His attitude was just the opposite of the religious leaders of his day. "When legalists of the stricter sort faced a disreputable sinner their instinctive reaction was to assume the function of judges. They established, as it were, a courtroom, announced the law and prescribed

its penalties, presented the charge and began a trial. Jesus' instinctive reaction was that of a physician: the sinner

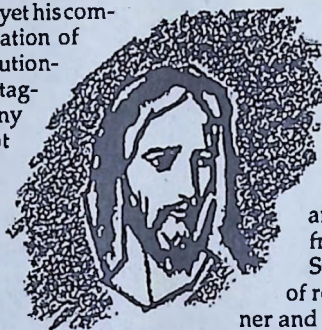
is sick, he needs not so much a Doctor of Laws as a Doctor of Medicine, cure is the one aim above all others to be sought." (H.E. Fosdick: *The Man from Nazareth*, p. 131)

There are numerous incidents one could cite as examples from the gospels. One from Luke 7:36-50 says it all. Simon offers a typical response of rejection to the woman as a sinner and an outcast but she is accepted by Jesus who even allows her to touch him.

"Reflecting the Person of Jesus" is the SA Conference theme I have chosen for this year. The world desperately needs to see the real Jesus, not someone we make him out to be. Too often we reflect our own prejudices, quote our biased sources and would prefer to die to maintain a "matter of principle" rather than admit we may not reflect the attitudes and actions of Jesus. Its when you deal with the broken-hearted face to face that everything seems so different.

It is imperative that we be like Jesus, that we reflect his person. That's not easy! The pressures and expectations to conform to act in particular ways, the insecurities that make us react instead of responding appropriately, too often distort the image of Jesus and leave a warped view. But its absolutely essential that we live like Jesus and that we seek to do all we can to reflect the kind of person he showed himself to be while here on earth.

- Trevor Lawrie is the third of five children born to Merv and Mercy Lawrie. After leaving school and farming for four years, Trevor entered COB at 20. He graduated in 1962 and ordained into full-time ministry. (In 1988 he was awarded the ICEM Graduate Diploma). Ministries have been with churches at Barmera, Victor Harbor, Mildura, and Dulwich-Rose Park United Parish (a joint work of Churches of Christ and the Uniting Church). Trevor was a board member of the Uniting Church Retirement Homes). Appointed to Magill in 1982, Trevor is married to Glenise. They have three sons: Greg (an electronics engineer), Craig (a Telecom technician) and Shane (a graphic reproducer).



Like most churches, the Fairfield, NSW, church tries to get publicity in the media. But following an item in the local paper they found themselves in a big city daily, on radio and on TV. Then the government stepped in. Ted Bjorem, minister at Fairfield, tells the story of...

Too Much Publicity?

At Fairfield we have tried on many occasions to get items into the local paper. Usually they fail to be printed or are reduced to a small paragraph in the "Community Happenings" section. But once in a while there is a response.

The local newspaper had begun a series on local people who had contributed much to their community as volunteers. While visiting their office I mentioned Elsie McNeill and said I thought she would be a good story. They took me up on it.

Two days later the Sydney *Telegraph* sent a team out and did a small feature story, although they used it to score some political points about welfare funding and put us in an unfortunate light, making those providing child care for pay look bad ("Toddlers locked up while mums go to work"). The next day one of the top Sydney radio stations phoned for an interview, although no one from the church heard them air it, so we don't know if it was broadcast. Then a team that produces a local TV program came.

While they were filming in stepped a lady from Youth and Community Services announcing that we were unregistered and in violation of the law. Well, that was not correct. We had made sure we were within the law two years ago. But a heavy from another TV network seeking to score some political points against the Government made some threats. The heat was up and they sent out their hounds. Well, it is all working out and with much benefit.

The sad thing is the problem of blind bureaucracy. The law specifies you must have a college education to care for more than two children without their parents. Or all the parents must be present as in a playgroup. More, there is a space require-

ment of so much perchild. Now I agree with all this, but here is a lady who can handle children better than most professionals, has taught unruly children social skills (a local infants head teacher said our kids were some of the best adjusted that come to her school). But due to the law, instead of the 50 we now cater for we'll have to drop it to 20. What do you do with the other 30 children whose mothers need some time-out, need to let their children play in some real dirt, to socialise? That is our pain.

Elsie McNeill is a woman who saw a need and set out to meet it. No-one in their right mind would do what she does—and sometimes she herself questions her sanity. I've met others like her. People for whom Christ is so central that time and finances are of no import. She is always available to whomever, drug addicts, the mentally disturbed and just plain troubled mums.

Debbie Goodman is Elsie's current helper. Debbie's mother brought her by a couple of years ago hoping to find something to keep her occupied. She is a person who needs "sheltered" situations. She has proved to be a valuable and dependable helper. She now comes to church regularly and is growing in her understanding of God.

Three people have made commitments to our Lord and several more currently attend our church because of this program. About six different nationalities attend currently, mostly from the Middle East.

Recently another woman, Mary Foster, began a craft time with interested mothers as a further outreach connected with the program. It is doing very well.

Several of the playtime mothers and grandmothers (mostly non-Christian) put in time helping Elsie.

The Story That Started It All

The original article in the Fairfield Advance went under the heading "Free Playgroup Cares for 50 Fairfield Children". Here are some extracts from that article by Gillian Button.

Elsie—A Mum Who Saw a Need

Elsie McNeill was serving on the second-hand stall at her church one day when she was struck by the number of children she could hear yelling in nearby flats.

Believing they were children cooped up inside with nowhere to play, she decided to open her own playgroup where they could come free of charge.

"When I started the playgroup in 1982, we just had two children come for about the first six weeks," Elsie laughed. "These days we have 50 on the roll."

Elsie is a volunteer worker who runs her playgroup for free. Held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the grounds of the Church of Christ, Fairfield, the group is open to anyone with preschool age children.

"Everyone qualifies to bring their children here—it doesn't matter whether or not they are members of the church," Elsie said.

"I originally began the group for mothers who needed a break from their children but didn't have the money to pay for it."

The group is supervised by

Elsie and a number of mothers who volunteer their services each week.

"We have a couple of grandmothers who are regulars, as well as many single mothers," Elsie said.

The children take part in activities including painting, arts and crafts, play dough, singing and dancing, educational lessons, face painting and sand modelling.

They are encouraged to wear their oldest clothes.

Elsie, who has a part-time job as a driver for disabled schoolchildren, denies she is particularly selfless.

"I was just a mum who saw a need. With three children of my own, I'd had a lot of experience with children, and I enjoyed it anyway."

"It is very fulfilling and rewarding to see the children developing—becoming able to socialise with other children."

"People say to me, 'What's the point in doing voluntary work?'"

"Or 'You do voluntary work? Aren't you good!'"

"But you're rewarded all the time, especially with children."

College Co-operation

A meeting was held by representatives of the three Churches of Christ Colleges and their Boards to discuss matters of common interest and closer co-operation.

It proved a cordial, constructive and worthwhile gathering. We will pursue many of the matters raised at a further meeting to be held early in 1990.

We look for further developments in our co-operation in the vital work of theological education. We urge the members of all of our churches to give their constructive support to the three colleges.

—Keith Farmer
(Principal, Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College)

Positive Steps at Dawson St

The Dawson St, Ballarat, Vic, church has over the past nine months been showing signs of growth. Jonathan James reported on the mood at Dawson St recently to a combined Ballarat Churches Board meeting. A precis of this report is included to show how an historic church can again be a lively congregation:

The last 6-9 months in the life of the church have been some of the most positive I can remember. Alex and Ruth Wilson concluded their ministry in late October, 1988, and because of their personal ministry to them, several young people were baptised by Alex in the last month of his ministry. This set a very positive tone in the church which has been enhanced since.

"Kid's Praise 2", performed by the Sunday School at the end of 1988, was a great success and completed a wonderful year in the life of the Sunday School. Over 250 attended, double the normal congregation.

The annual Christmas Eve service at 11 pm was a success and centred around a birthday party for Jesus.

1989 has continued in the same vein with attendances substantially up and with new people coming every week. Jim Cunningham was approached and accepted an interim minis-

try which will conclude in December 1989. Jim's contribution has been wonderful and his positive ministry and enthusiasm has been catchy. Jim has great creative talents. An example of this was on one Sunday evening when the theme was "Hands", Jim used a puppet theatre and a clever rhyme to illustrate his point.

Encouragement cards and friendship pads have been introduced to increase our awareness of others, especially visitors. These have made a great contribution to the life of the church.

Recently the church lost two beloved members. Their funerals were a great tribute to them and to the strength of God's love. It was also a great opportunity for the church to exercise its caring and healing of relationships ministry.

We have become very aware this year of the large number of people who contribute their time and talents to the ministry of the church. An example is the CWF which recently held a concert and raised over \$1,000. Half of the funds were given to the church and the other half was donated to Alan Hocking and Youth Guidance.

Stephen Templeton, currently completing his training at Carlingford College, has accepted a call to commence ministry with Dawson St commencing early in 1990."

Bidilionian Ball



Everybody in Victoria's youth scene loves "Hey, Hey, It's Saturday"

So a few adventurous youth leaders from Nunawading, Doncaster, Ormond and Glen Waverley, Vic, got together and planned an innovative "high tech" take off—A Bidilionian Ball.

Pictured is Kyall Sheppard (alias Darryl Somers).

The night was packed with

fun for all of the 200 plus crowd.

There was Jackie McDonald, a talking toilet to replace Ossie, Red Faces, What Cheeses Me Off segments and heaps more.

I wish to encourage and congratulate the organisers on this event. It took time, energy and courage in it's planning and we need more of this style of event to help reach our youth.

—Andrew Ball

(Youth Director, DMED)

Crossroads Commencing in Heathmont

The Heathmont, Vic, Baptist Church is to begin a Crossroads Club in August.

Crossroads Victoria is an inter-denominational fellowship seeking to cater for people over 16 years of age with disabilities and seeks to encourage individual growth, emotionally and spiritually.

Currently Crossroads Clubs operate at St Stephen's Anglican Church, North Balwyn, Burwood Heights Uniting Church, St Hilary's Anglican Church at Kew, Brighton Baptist Church, Mitcham Baptist Church, Glen Waverley Uniting Church and the Rokeby Baptist Church at Warragul.

Regular club programs cover a wide range of activities including active and quiet games,

crafts, music, cooking, gardening, theme nights, visiting speakers and entertainers, nights out and devotions.

Day trips, weekend trips, holidays and tours may be organised

Interaction between able and disabled persons is emphasised.

An information day is being held on 5 August, 10 am to 3 pm, at the Arrabri Community Centre, Allamban Drive, North Bayswater.

The first Heathmont Crossroads Club night will be held on 24 August at the Heathmont Baptist Church.

For further information on Crossroads contact Peter on (03) 725 0860, Gillian on (03) 870 4653 or Anne on (03) 728 1680.

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John Paver Returns to Take up New Appointment



Chaplain (Air Commodore) G.J. Crossman CBE, Chairman of the Chaplaincy Module Committee for the Repatriation General Hospital, Heidelberg, Vic, has announced the appointment of Dr John Paver as Director of Clinical and Pastoral Education at the RGH from January 1990.

Dr Paver's responsibility in

the setting up of the module will include an emphasis on palliative and oncology care. His task is to facilitate the setting of the module, to cover selection and training of selected hospital staff, clergy and non-ordained people as Care Facilitators.

It is hoped that this module may become the main education centre for Clinical Pastoral Education of the Department of Veterans Affairs Hospitals in the Eastern States.

John Paver brings to his appointment a depth of rich experiences in ministry since his training at the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, and ordination in 1965. He rendered outstanding service as Director of Pastoral Care and Education at the Cancer Institute in Melbourne from 1975-85. Currently he holds the appointment of Professor of Ministry, Director of Field Education and Acting Director of Doctoral Studies at Lexington Theological Seminary in Kentucky, USA.

Minister in Hospital

Laurie Steele, the minister of the Port Fairy, Vic, church, is currently in the Warrnambool Base Hospital. Laurie was badly injured in a fall while bike racing with the Port Fairy Cycling Club on 8 July and was admitted to the intensive care

ward with serious head injuries. He has since made a very good recovery and is now out of intensive care and is confident of a full recovery in several weeks time. On 12 July his wife, Annette, gave birth to their fourth child, a daughter.

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The "Cult Buster" Cometh

Concerned Christians Growth Ministries, a ministry dealing with the cults, the occult and extreme Christian fringe groups, is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

The Director is Adrian van Leen, a Churches of Christ minister, who has been called many things, but one name given by the media has stuck: "Cult Buster".

Adrian has been internationally recognised as an expert on the cults. Currently Adrian writes a column "The Cultic Connection" on a regular basis in *The Australian Christian*.

CCG Ministries is sending

Adrian on a speaking tour to South Australia and New South Wales during August and September. He still has some speaking vacancies in his schedule. His program co-ordinators in South Australia are John and Val Main at 154 Mount Barker Rd, Stirling 5152. Phone (08) 339 5950. Adrian will be in South Australia 28 August to 11 September.

Adrian will be in New South Wales 11-25 September and his program co-ordinators are Graham French and Gavin Williams of Campaigners for Christ, PO Box 1011, Parramatta 2150. Phone (02) 683 4400.

Birthday Celebration for "LW"

Former lay pastor at Owen, SA, and now a Victor Harbor member, Lance Marshman, celebrated his 80th birthday with 130 relatives and friends on 25 June.

"LW", as he is affectionately known in Owen, lived and farmed in the district until his second marriage, to Mrs Sis Roberts formerly of Balaklava, in 1978. The couple have resided in Victor Harbor since then.

Following the death of his first wife, Ruby, in 1970, LW became part-time pastor of the Owen-Long Plains circuit from 1971-77. This followed a life time of involvement in all areas of the church, including elder and lay preacher. He worked enthusiastically and untiringly



Lance Marshman

in his ministry which was appreciated by those within, and outside, the church.

LW was church secretary for 20 years, he is a Justice of the Peace and was heavily involved in community affairs all of his working life.

He has continued his active involvement, including preaching, in the Victor Harbor church.

During the celebration his three children John, Dorothy and Ray took part, at one stage giving away some family secrets in a ditty.

Others to speak included the local minister Adrian Clark, a bowling club representative and a former Owen identity.

—Kaye Wray

MILDURA

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advises past members and friends of its

Centenary Celebrations

to be held Queen's Birthday weekend
8-11 June 1990

For details and registration of interest forms please contact Auralie Munro or Laurie Stafford, c/o Mildura Church of Christ, PO Box 2797, Mildura 3502

Jew and Christian



The bride and groom stand beneath the chupa (canopy) in a garden to exchange their vows. The men in the wedding party have the neat-fitting, saucer-like yamulkas on their heads, and the bridegroom's yamulka is wedding white.

Not the kind of wedding most Church of Christ ministers have, but then Alan Hirsch's case was a bit different. Alan Hirsch, minister of South Melbourne, Vic, church, is a Jew.

The wedding was a Christian ceremony lovingly planned to blend Jewish tradition with Christian beliefs, and to express the value of long-standing customs and practices in the Jewish faith which were dear to Alan's family, and without which a wedding would not seem like a wedding. It was a symbol of caring and reconciliation.

It has been a long journey of faith for the boy who grew up in South Africa, the son of a Jewish hotelier, a prominent citizen in a small town; a young man who did his two bitter years of compulsory service in the army of South Africa, where drugs were dirt cheap. Cigarettes and alcohol had been easily available too, and Alan Hirsch had tried them all.

A friend from National Serv-

ice days became a Christian and gave up drugs, and Alan was challenged with Christ. He had to make a difficult choice. "My parents were not very religious," he recalls, "but I had to turn my back on a culture, a way of life. In the last war people died because they were Jews; how could I give it up—just like that? It seemed too easy!"

For the older members of his family, who had come mainly from Eastern Europe, the idea was unthinkable. His Latvian grandmother could remember the waves of anti-semitism after every Easter—against the "Christ-killers"—some Jews would be killed, a few Jewish girls raped, some buildings burned down, and life would settle down to normal again. How could a Jew abandon his heritage to join with Christians?

Alan was not comfortable with the traditional attitudes of the Jewish faith—an ancient religion in a modern culture. How could one live kosher in today's world? Christianity may not always have adapted well, but it had certainly done better than Judaism.

Alan Hirsch came to Australia with his family at the age of 24. Already he had been challenged by the Gospel; soon after his arrival, while a group of friends prayed for him, he says: "I was filled with the Spirit in the most marvellous way...an immersing...a feeling better than any drug could induce—so clean and pure and holy. It was a great conversion experience."

There had never been a time

when Alan had not believed there was a God. But this was a whole new phase of his life. "The wonder of what it means to be a Christian really captivates me," he says.

He began work with Scripture Union, then started to study for the ministry at the interdenominational Bible College of Victoria. In January this year he married Debra, and soon afterwards they began part-time ministry in South Melbourne.

What of Jewish traditions now? Alan still shares with his parents the special feasts and celebrations of the Jewish faith, such as Passover, which is like Christmas for many people—more of a family celebration than a religious occasion. And the Sabbath? "It is written into Creation itself. We need to ponder God. Keeping the Sabbath is a way to find time to do it."

It is still not easy for Alan's family. His brother became a Christian too. Relations can introduce him to their friends

by saying: "This is Lawrence—he's a photographer." With Alan, they could say once, "This is Alan—he's studying theology." Studying theology is a great thing for a Jewish young man to be doing. But now... what can they say now? Alan is philosophical about it all. "I feel a sense of privilege that I have made it to the Christian faith—not many Jews ever do."

South Melbourne is a challenge. It has a newly-arrived yuppie class, elderly and shut-in people, street kids on booze and the dole, and social disadvantaged people in Housing Commission accommodation. It is an inner-suburban area facing enormous change and redevelopment. Alan and Debbie talk of building a community—a supportive environment for discipleship and outreach.

And if qualities of caring, understanding and reconciling are going to do it. South Melbourne may have just the right team for the job.

—Bronwyn Hickman

VISITING CANBERRA?

Stay with a Church Family

A number of Canberra church families offer accommodation in their homes at basic bed and breakfast rates to help raise funds for "Home Mission" extensions in the ACT. If you would like to enjoy friendly "one of the family" hospitality in Canberra write for particulars to:

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"Restoration or Ruin?"

At the Ministers' Association Theological Conference at the new Churches of Christ Theological College at Mulgrave, Vic, held in May, Dr Keith Farmer spoke to 83 ministers on the need for renewal in Churches of Christ.

He explained that our churches are at the crossroads. "There is a great need for restoration, a recovery of spiritual and church health through renewal, leading to vitality and growth."

Dr Farmer pointed out that congregations that have lost the urgency and primacy of evangelism in a vital and contemporary way are gradually dying. He commented, "The effectiveness of a theological college in preparing people for ministry depends more on spiritual vitality and renewal of students and faculty than anything else or everything else put together." These impressions were backed up by statistics culled from conference handbooks and from his own observations.

The challenge to restoration was presented in terms of—

- A biblical challenge. We need to return to our first love (Revelation 2).

- A historical challenge. We were reminded that the Restoration Movement in the US began in the context of revival and renewal.

- A frontier movement. The key to our movement in early days was that it was strongly evangelistic.

- The need for personal spiritual growth was emphasised. In particular, ministers and those in training for ministry should be growing more like Jesus. They should have a strong quiet centre of prayer and peace and with that a strong compassion to save the lost. (It is significant now that the church growth movement is embracing a strong emphasis on spirituality.)

- Spiritual growth and outreach must be essential.

—Barry Jenkins

Fire Partially Destroys Mackay Church



Office secretary Chris Harrison in the remains of the church office

Police believe fire on 23 June which destroyed the office, library and foyer area of the Mackay, Qld, church was deliberately lit.

Acting Officer-in-charge of Mackay police criminal investigations branch Sergeant Ian Powell said the fire could have been the work of youths or children.

The church building which was opened two years has been a prime target for vandals.

Mackay Fire Brigade chief Mike Hall said about 10% of the building was gutted by fire and another 60% was damaged by heat and smoke.

Fire Brigade units from North Mackay and the headquarters were at the church just four minutes after the first call at 10.16 pm and the men had the blaze under control by 10.28 pm.

The mopping up operation began early the next morning although for insurance reasons much of the work could not be started until the damage had been professionally assessed.

Minister Norm Flett said the response from the community and local churches has been overwhelming. He said that

many churches had offered to help in practical ways and it was encouraging to see people pulling together in times like these.

Although the church office was completely gutted the loss of equipment is insured.

The permanent damage to the church historical records has been great.

Eric Nielson (deceased), one of the founding members, after whom the church library was named, kept meticulous records from the church's beginnings in 1937 and although summaries had been made of the minutes and notes for the church's 50th anniversary, many of the original minute books and other records were

lost.

Services were held in the Playgroup area the first Sunday after the fire and by 2 July half the auditorium was clean enough for services.

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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

LOVE HOMOSEXUALS?

To the Editor,

I suggest Huon Byard ("AC" 3 June) not consider showing love and compassion towards homosexuals just because God commands him to, but rather he show love and compassion because he himself wants to. Huon Byard's problem parallels that of Jonah and his attitude towards the people of Nineveh. Jonah was a poor example of obedience.

I have been the wife of a minister for 10 years. In that time I have opened our home to sexual deviates, homosexuals, criminals, alcoholics and their "caretakers", mentally and emotionally ill persons, and juvenile offenders. Some of these people have lived with us. I also have two young children of my own.

The boy with us at present is a juvenile offender. We do not always agree with their thoughts, words or actions but we accept and love them unconditionally.

We see no need to impose our beliefs upon them. We do however, offer them a mutual contract of trust, unconditional love and a healthy approach to discipline which is authoritative not authoritarian. They live under our roof and witness Christian living in thought, word and action. Many have abandoned their previous life

style and accepted Christ as Saviour. Love and compassion that works must be unconditional, based on trust, and positive.

—Debby Wyllie
(Maylands, WA)

LEAVING THE MINISTRY

To the Editor,

I am sure that Malcolm Gray ("AC" 20 May) meant well in his article on "Leaving the Ministry" as he has had a positive attitude towards those who have sought to be ministers over the years.

But, like your correspondent Ben Croydon ("AC" 17 June), I would have to ask some of the same questions.

Always there have been those who have looked negatively either at churches or ministry, and not without reason. We should be quite angry about these matters, but beyond that we stand thankful for the many loyal and faithful people who are called to serve their fellows, despite the very human things that have so often appeared. One only needs to read the New Testament for examples of churches and of people who found it difficult to see beyond their own needs when greater opportunities awaited them.

I am personally grateful for all that my own congregation did when I was young, and that later I was able to be of some use in Australia and New Zealand and recognised that beyond all else it was and is God's gift of grace in accepting me that makes all the difference as I continue to be one with his people.

—Bruce Burn
(Morwell, Vic)

APPRECIATION FROM GISBORNE

To the Editor,

I write to express my appreciation to the many individuals and churches who generously supported me in my recent 50 km walk from Melbourne to Gisborne. To date \$3,300 has been received in sponsorship for the building of the Gisborne church and gifts are still being received towards the goal of

\$5,000.

Paul wrote to the Philippian church when he received support from them: "My God shall supply all your need, according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19) May each individual and church who has supported us know the truth of that promise.

Your article on my walk ("AC" 3 June) mentioned that our proposed new facility has seating for 22! Even though we are into small groups at Gisborne, that figure should have an 0 added to it!

There is much anticipation in our church as the first sod for our building will be "turned" in a matter of days.

—Ray Smith
(Gisborne, Vic)

THE NATURE OF SCRIPTURE

To the Editor,

Recent letters on the role of women in the church have opened up a different, though

related issue. The discussion has gone beyond interpretation of Scripture to one's beliefs about the nature of Scripture. Ron Graham ("AC" 17 June) argues that we are free to decide that in the NT "some things are nearer the centre than others". Thus we can ignore the statements about women in 1 Timothy 2 because it is presumably a peripheral work, not written by Paul. But how does one decide what the "centre" is and how far from this centre an author's teaching must be before we can ignore it? This looks like a slide into subjectivism.

Ron argues that there is no "Christian doctrine of Scripture". By this I meant in my letter ("AC" 18 March) the belief that Scripture is wholly trustworthy in all that it says. This belief has been held by the majority of Christians from the earliest days of the church. This doctrine of Scripture arises from Scripture's own self-attestation and the conviction that

Letters from Tertius

Church Going

To the Editor,

The speaker at a recent seminar rather startled me. He said that most people don't go to church to worship God or to hear the truth, but to have their needs met.

I didn't believe him until he began to list those needs. The need for friendship and comfort and support. The need for a spiritual "shot in the arm". The need for satisfaction in one's duty being well and truly done. The need to avoid guilt arising from staying away. The need to keep one's eternal life insurance from lapsing.

Apart from my wife keeping me on "the straight and narrow", I wondered what need kept me at church. I think it is the need I feel for my wife and myself and our family to be part of something solid and real and dependable and "fair dinkum" in our sort of phoney world. Of course I've always thought that I go to church to worship God!

So I am left wondering why so many of us apparently don't go to church primarily to worship God. Has living in a consumer society sent us automatically to church as consumers rather than givers, customers rather than worshippers?

And if people's primary reason for going to church is to have their needs met, either the church isn't offering what the mass of absentees think they need, or the absentees haven't found out yet that the church can meet their needs. And whose fault is it anyhow?

Perhaps you can trap some passing theologian into answering these questions.

Yours hopefully,

—Tertius

MALVERN/CAULFIELD CENTENARY

20 August

10.30 am Worship & Communion

Guest speaker:

Graeme Chapman

12.30 pm Fellowship Dinner

Speaker: Conference

President Miss Phyl Davis

A warm welcome to all former members and friends

RSVP 9 August to

Alan Gray

Flat 6

16 Sutherland Rd

Armadale 3143

Phone (03) 509 6140

Letters to the Editor

God is the ultimate source of Scripture, that God so guided the biblical authors that their words were his Word, infallible and entirely to be believed and trusted.

If this belief is jettisoned one is free to pick and choose which parts of the NT one will believe and obey. If we hold fast to this doctrine of Scripture we will believe that God inspired both 1 Timothy 2:11-15 and 1 Corinthians 11:5-13. We then return to responsible exegesis of all relevant passages, interpreting them in their literary and historical contexts and against a wider Biblical theology.

One could hope that the result will be a coherent, integrated view of God's will for women and men in his church.

—Michael Hannah
(Cranebrook, NSW)

[This letter is longer than the normal 200 word limit to Letters to the Editor. It has been allowed because of the importance of the discussion and the impossibility of retaining the argument if cut.—Editor]

HANDBOOKS, HISTORIES WANTED

To the Editor,

I am writing to ask if any readers have old Conference Handbooks or histories of local churches that they would be willing to give to me. I enjoy reading them and looking at what happened in the past. Any back copies of this type of material, including magazines I would very much appreciate.

I am living in Melbourne and

am working however I do have some disabilities and I am unable to spend a lot on buying copies. Due to several moves in where I live I have lost some of the past copies that I possessed.

Could any copies that readers are able to spare be sent to me, c/o *The Australian Christian*, PO Box 101, Essendon North 3041?

—Malcolm Bird
(Melbourne, Vic)

ACTIONS NEEDED

To the Editor,

Alan Matheson hopes "some good sermons" are waiting to be liberated from three current reports ("Comment", "AC" 8 July).

I would hope that not only sermons will be created but that some action will result, showing the world that the church (and therefore God) cares about the problems of society. Too many ministers fail to lead their congregations out of the self-indulgent introspection that sometimes passes today as true religion. In this way they are no better than the secular society which demands instant gratification and an endless supply of good feelings.

The church grows and flour-

ishes when it is communicating the good news outward as well inward, when there is more emphasis on others than on self and when its programs are designed to show a practical caring gospel which can challenge and change people. If ministers cannot see this then God help us all.

—Beverley White
(Anglesea, Vic)

AMERICAN AND AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES

To the Editor,

I appreciate Don Stewart's "Comment" ("AC" 20 May) on relationships between Churches of Christ and the Disciples. His article has also to do with the independent Christian Churches and the non-instrumental Churches of Christ.

I would read the American scene a little differently from Don at two points, whilst recognising the difficulty of gen-

eralising when there is so much variety within each of these.

One, re the Disciples: I would give less weight to the General (National) Assembly (which meets two-yearly) and more to the regional (state) structures of the church than he does (though the General Assembly and the General Board are probably more powerful than the Australian Federal Conference and Federal Executive).

Two, re the Churches of Christ: Of the four main emphases that the Campbell/Stone/Scott movement made, namely restoration, unity, liberty and evangelism, liberty or the independence of the local congregation is a marked feature of all three churches. The lack of cohesion in the movement at large, to which Don refers, is seen to some extent in all three divisions, I think especially in the Churches of Christ.

—Ronald Graham
(Johnston, Iowa, USA)

CHURCHES OF CHRIST THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

invites YOU and your FRIENDS
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This highly relevant and popular course is being offered at the Mulgrave Campus over six Monday evenings beginning on Monday, 7 August 1989, by Graeme Chapman, our College Lecturer in Christian Thought and History.



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Church of Christ
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70th Anniversary

All past members and
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Guest speaker: Peter de Wildt

Saturday, 12 August, at 7 pm
"Welcome Back to Nailsworth"

Sunday, 13 August
10.30 am Thanksgiving Service
followed by
Fellowship Luncheon

6.30 pm Evening Worship
Service

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Phone (08) 344 3793

For catering purposes
RSVP by 31 July

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CHURCH OF CHRIST
60TH ANNIVERSARY

Sat 28 Oct 7 pm

Dinner

Sun 29 Oct 10.30 am
Worship Service and

Luncheon

* Midland Town Hall *

Enquiries:

Rodney
Raymond
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PO Box 1290
Midland 6056

Media Review

Books



THE TABLE OF LOVE by Andrew Augustine (Vital Publications) \$6

Andrew Augustine, of the Chelsea, Vic, church, is concerned that those who are called to preside at the communion table do so in a orderly and thought out way. This book is a series of communion talks that could be used by presidents that are based on the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the cross. There are 41 communion address that are all suitable to be used either in full or as the basis for reflections by a president. Two of the

communion addresses are related specifically to Easter, however the remainder are suitable for any occasion.

Andrew Augustine, in his introduction, is concerned that presidents are aware of the privilege and responsibility that they have. It would pay everyone presiding in our churches to read his short introduction and reflect on the way they prepare themselves for the task of leading communion. In the introduction there are also some helpful sample prayers for various segments of a worship service.

An excellent series of communion addresses.

The Table of Love is obtainable for \$6 plus postage from Mrs E.M. Rankine, Secretary, Federal Literature Department, 5 Atkins Ave, Glen Iris 3146. Phone (03) 889 2881.

ADONIRAM JUDSON by Faith Coxe Bailey (Moody Press) \$6.50

One of a series of books on heroes of the faith. Written for a juvenile audience, they can also be informative for the adult without time for more in depth biographies. The book is well paced and informative. More exciting than any Saturday morning heroes. Adoniram Judson's life was illustrative of the demands that come with Christian witness on the leading edge of missions.

Four years without a convert, several more before a church was begun. He faced opposition at every turn. Even before he began his mission he was imprisoned while on his way to England to raise funds. The French "took" the British ship he was on and because all English sound alike, placed him in irons and sent him to France. Nor was that the end of his prison experiences.

Adoniram Judson made the first, and considered by all the best, translation of the Bible into Burmese. He also developed a grammar that is the standard in Burma to this day.


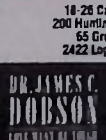


Read a chapter a day with your family or for yourself (if you can). There are a few big words for young readers (e.g. adroitness, querulously). Additionally the book could use a map or two and for young people there is an absence of pictures.

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Papers

IT'S YOUR MOVE

Ten Questions Older People Should Ask Before Leaving Home
This 36 page booklet has been prepared and published by the Wesley Central Mission in Melbourne (148 Lonsdale St, Melbourne 3000 Phone (03) 662 2355). It is written for older people pondering whether or not they should move from their homes into retirement units, hostels, nursing homes or special accommodation houses. A thoroughly researched booklet, it starts with the question, "Is staying in my own home the best for me?" Some of the other issues raised are one's friends, one's reaction to visits to such places, one's personal independence, one's health and financial situation. The document also lists types of accommodation available.
—GRS

Video

GROWING TOGETHER by Graeme and Julia Cann

Graeme and Julia Cann from the El Kanah Christian Community have produced an excellent marriage enrichment seminar on video. The video has six sessions covering the basic marriage enrichment themes of communication, conflict resolution, anger and forgiveness, intimacy, sexuality and priorities in marriage. Graeme and Julia are very natural in their presentation, comfortable with their subjects and their experience in conducting these seminars is obvious. The content of the input is excellent.

The seminar has a Christian thrust and is based on a style of marriage enrichment developed by David and Vera Mace which involves "dialoguing". Following some input by the leaders, couples are encouraged to talk with one another (dialogue) about aspects of their own relationship. This is modelled by the Canns and other couples attending the seminar at El Kanah, and those using the video are encouraged at various points to stop the video and do their own dialoguing. The course provides an excellent resource for those churches who can not get enough couples together for a major weekend seminar but are prepared to use a lounge room to take three to eight couples through a marriage enrichment event using the video. Some churches could well run a small group of couples through the video series every year as part of their ongoing family life education program.

The double video pack costs \$95 to buy or \$35 to hire and is available from New Hope Ministries, PO Box 160, Burwood 3125.

—Brian and Joan White



Bi-sentinel

World News

Nigerian Wedding in Vanuatu



Peter Schulz and Yinka

An unusual thing happened on our little island of Ambae in Vanuatu. Yinka, our local doctor, who is from Nigeria, decided to marry his girlfriend Yemi, who was back in Nigeria.

Yemi arrived on 21 March and the wedding was planned for the same day. Yinka had become very good friends of everyone in the area and we felt privileged to be asked to be his attendants.

We all wore traditional Nigerian dress and there are not many weddings where the bride and the groom have to dress their attendants. Lyall Muller took part in the service and Jill Muller put on a beautiful reception after.

The service was held at Lo-



Yemi and Kerry Schulz

vanualikoutu Church of Christ. 1,000 came to witness the event and they weren't disappointed. The service was a great time of rejoicing and praising God.

It was the most talked about event of the year.

The sad part is that Yinka and Yemi were transferred to Santo six weeks after they were married due to drastic cuts in the health budget. They are both enjoying life in Santo and often fellowship with Roger and Jill Bawden.

—Kerry Schulz

Chinese Church Resurgent

A month after the Beijing massacre the campaign to punish the leaders of the pro-democracy movement has left the Chinese church relatively unscathed. Instead there are reports of a buoyant mood among local believers. Students are turning to Christianity in considerable numbers and demand for evangelistic tracts has increased.

One house church leader in the coastal city of Xiamen said, "It has never been easier to witness for Christ in China than during this past month." He added, "We are the only group in this society that still has hope for the future. Everyone else lost hope on 4 June and they want to know why we are not depressed."

It is among students that initial evangelistic successes have been reported. Many attribute the resurgence to ag-

gressive evangelism conducted among students at the height of the demonstrations. House church Christians assiduously gave out tracts in Tiananmen Square in May. One leader even held open-air meetings. Christian literature distribution agencies report urgent demands for literature and Bibles and have few restrictions placed on delivery.

There are however indications that tougher times may be coming. The government has forbidden the monitoring of foreign radio broadcasts, including gospel broadcasts. The official church leadership could soon be pressed into affirming the government version of recent events. This could put the Three-Self Church in a difficult dilemma. In a 23 May statement they supported the students as "patriotic" and "reasonable".

Poland Grants Official Status to C of C Church

On 12 February 1988 the Polish Government officially registered the Churches of Christ/Christian Churches as an independent church under the name "Kosciol Zborow Chrystusowych" (The Church of the Congregations of Christ).

As a fully independent church they will be able to carry their mission to the Polish people. The US Department of Missions/Polish Ministry, under the leadership of Paul Bajko, has been supporting the Polish churches for the last 35 years.

In order to register the church and to have rights to purchase properties, lead different activities like a Bible Seminary, Christian Service Camp, establish new congregations, have homes for senior citizens and to take care of legal matters the churches selected an executive committee of five ministers. Those selected were Henryk Sacewicz, Ryszard Tomaszewski, Paul Wrobel,

Kostek Jakoniuk and Peter Karel. In addition to their ministries in their own local congregations, they will co-ordinate work such as training preachers, Sunday School teachers, sending out evangelists and start new mission places etc.

Each local congregation is fully independent.

Their greatest initial need is a building that will house a Mission centre for publishing Christian magazines, literature and books, preparing Sunday School materials and training teachers, space for cassettes and videocassettes, which will serve all the churches, and for a correspondence Bible Seminary anticipating 50 students in September.

The Polish churches will need to build or buy new facilities which will cost about \$US95,000.

Most of this will be raised by American churches because of the current economic situation in Poland.

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10.30 am

Sunday, 3 September
(note change of
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Speaker: Brian White

For more details and to
register for catered meal
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(03) 870 4414

Happenings

Each year more than 45,000 different Christian book and magazine titles come off printing presses.

Continuing fighting in both Sudan and Ethiopia will jeopardise crop harvests in both countries according to the London-based Christian Aid. The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation Sudan would have harvested 4.3 million tonnes of coarse grains, 1 million more than the bumper harvest of 1986-87. In Ethiopia, the predicted harvest was 7.46 million tonnes, 14% higher than that 1987-88 season. This is still below normal requirements and therefore substantial food aid will still be required.

The Protestant Church in Senegal has appealed for relief aid to assist over 40,000 Senegalese who have been repatriated from Mauritania in the aftermath of the ethnic conflict between the two countries.

MARC Europe has fixed 15 October as the date for the first-ever census of every churchgoer in England. As well as giving numbership the census will identify regional trends in church-going and the kinds of people that go to church.

In England more than 30 different events were planned for the 500th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Cranmer on 2 July.

Leningrad is to have a second major Baptist church building. This has been made possible by the city authorities' handover of a former Old Believers church, not used for public worship since the 1920s. The new church will be called "The Temple of the Gospel" to serve a congregation of 500-700.

The Hungarian Politburo has approved the re-establishment of religious orders, and announced that the new law on religious free-

dom cancels all previous government decrees regarding religious affairs. Regular religious services have started up in a leading Budapest mental hospital and prison sentences for 73 conscientious objectors have been suspended.

The United Evangelical Church in Poland has divided into 4 parts—the Church of Congregations of Christ, Church of Christians of Evangelical Faith, the Pentecostal Church and Church of Evangelical Christians. According to a report from the Polish Ecumenical Council, the reasons for the dissolution had to do with "problems connected with growing difficulties within individual groups".

A "Prayer Mountain" modelled after that in South Korea is being built in Antipolo, in the Philippines. Complete with prayer cubicles, huts and chapels, the 2 ha site will provide a haven for Christians to retreat for prayer, fasting, worship, meditation and counselling.

A recently converted Kurdish leader, among 100,000 refugees from Iraq now in Turkey, has become a Christian and is helping to translate the New Testament. He is reported to have said, "The Koran says nothing, but says it beautifully; the New Testament says deep things, but says it simply."

The Bible is to be the subject of a 13 part TV series in the Indian state of Kerala in what its Christian sponsors see as "a great effort to bring to light the cultural heritage of various religious groups in India".

A large group of Danish Pentecostal Christians, who had been travelling with Danish evangelist Johnny Noer on a missionary tour of the Balkans, are being held in a campsite near the Bulgarian capital of Sofia, where they have been

restricted by Bulgarian authorities since early June.

Controversy is disrupting the church in Vietnam over the issue of whether a house church organisation should have the right to establish itself in a proper church building.

In reaction to volatile political, economic and religious conditions, Operation Mobilization has pulled the last of its workers out of Nepal. Over 25 foreign workers will leave Katmandu. They will not be returning until at least the end of the year.

The Greek Orthodox Church has taken the unusual step of setting up its own blood bank on Crete because of an acute shortage of donor blood. The bank has been set up because of the fear among many Greeks of contracting AIDS by donating blood.

The number of Christians in Jerusalem has dropped by 16% since the end of World War II. There are now only 14,000 Christians in a total population of about 500,000. Many Christians have emigrated to Europe and the US.

The Worldwatch Institute estimates that there are at least 12 million environmental refugees, equalling the number of officially recognised refugees. Environmental refugees have been made homeless because of environmental decline.

Attendances averaged more than 20,500 at each of the first three nights of the Mission 89 crusade with Billy Graham in London. A total of 6,404 responded publicly to the invitation to make a commitment to Christ over these nights.

Americans believe that it is important to read the Bible, yet only one out of four Americans reads the Bible more than once a week,

and half do not read it at all, according to a recent survey. Only 12% read the Bible every day.

Michael Chang (17), who beat Stefan Edberg in the French Open final to become the youngest ever winner of a tennis Grand Slam tournament, publicly spoke of his Christian faith several times during his amazing tournament in Paris.

Evangelical churches in the US and Canada are preparing for an influx of Christians fleeing Hong Kong to countries where they can be assured of freedom to practise and express their religious beliefs.

A record amount of Scriptures were distributed to Muslims in North India this spring through project RUN (Reaching Unreached Neighbours). More than 95,500 New Testaments, 330,800 Gospels, 9,826 Gospel recordings and 2.5 million Gospel leaflets were distributed. The film *The Life of Jesus* was screened 201 times with close to 60,000 viewers. 240 have written to OM India to request a special Bible correspondence course written for Muslims.

The US Supreme Court has rejected an appeal from a member of the Christian Science faith. The action clears the way for criminal prosecution of a mother who relied on prayer, rather than modern medicine, to treat her sick child.

The World Home Bible League is teaming up with three evangelical ministries to produce a hymnal for the house church movement of China that will revive a dying custom—that of learning scripture through song. This is the first hymnal in a decade solely for distribution in Chinese home churches.

The World Home Bible League's New Testament project Brazil New Life is

seeing 1,300,000 responses of people making a decision for Christ following the 13 million New Testaments that have been supplied. Churches are reporting that 60% of their new converts are brought into the local church directly through the Brazil New Life project.

Thousands of African children, particularly from West Africa, face uncertain futures in Britain due to wide breakings of the private foster law. Save the Children Fund knows of 2,300 West African children placed with foster families in Britain through magazine advertisements. It believes there are many more.

10 tonnes of high protein biscuits were airlifted from Australia to Mozambique on 6 July. The emergency food is desperately needed in the northern part of Tete Province where malnutrition is high in remote villages accessible only by air. The flight has been made possible by a grant of \$250,000 from the Australian International Aid and Development Bureau.

The world's population is again experiencing rapid growth. According to the Population Reference Bureau the world's population will be 5.2 billion by mid-1989, in little more than 2 years the earth's population has grown by almost 250 million.

Foreign aid from rich countries to third world countries went up in 1988. Aid from the industrialised countries to third world nations rose by 6.7% last year according to the OECD. The OECD estimated that last year developing countries paid 15.1% more in interest and dividends to the industrialised world than in 1987.

The average English cat costs about \$250 a year to feed—more than the average income of the 1 billion people in the 15 poorest nations.

"A Good Conference..."

Those who attended the **South Australian Conference** said that it was "the best for years". What made it a "good Conference"?

A committed group of people had been meeting and planning carefully and prayerfully since last Conference. Attention to detail, timing of programs, choice of artists, involvement of churches and good advertising provided a solid framework.

The President's reception featured highlights from "Churches in Action", including a dramatic re-enactment of the past 100 years from Aldgate Valley with an emphasis on their future plans. John Curtis, Broken Hill, spoke about their commitment to adventurous involvement and outreach, including life "in a monastery", the radio station and other enterprises.

The "Future Plans and Dreams" document, introduced by Keith Horne, interim State Minister, contained the dreams and visions of Conference Committees. State Board's plans for the next year include pastoral contact with churches and ministers, effective use of State Minister's time and the Centre's resources, an evaluation of present procedures and specific programs designed to inspire, encourage and help churches be effective in the local setting. These specific programs include building an effective program in the local church; a conference for elders, ministers and board members; regional meetings for elders and boards and meetings for ministers; creative programming for "Life's Best Half" and "Christianity Explained".

Inspiring messages were brought to each session by Ian Allsop, Academic Dean of CCTC, Mulgrave, who explored and examined the theme "Called to be a Movement" under the two year Conference theme of "Discovering the Victorious Christ". Ian challenged everyone to move forward with vision. The final Conference Celebration was held on the

Sunday afternoon at Maughan Church.

The announcement by effective visual presentation of the new premises for the Conference Centre at 263 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, brought a feeling of excitement to Conference. The announcement that the Community Care Centre was to operate from the top floor of the Grote Street complex in the future was received with acclamation.

After many years deliberative groups were discontinued, bringing back more debate to the floor of Conference. Delegates debated on notices of motions that included: seeking forgiveness and reconciliation with Aboriginal people, the AIDS epidemic—a role for the churches, church life in our Conference and church life review.

In his second and final year as Conference President, Colin Dredge sensitively but firmly presided over the business sessions.

The pioneers came to their Reunion Day.

The women came to their day of business and celebration with Barbara Grear as President.

The young people came to a Saturday night session "Down on Grote Street".

The ministers and their wives came to share lunch and then to join in the post-Conference Magarey Lectureship.

The delegates came to represent the views of their particular church on the issues before Conference.

Church members came and joined in the final meeting where Trevor Lawrie was inducted as Conference President for two years and Barbara Robb (Hampstead Gardens) was inducted as Women's Conference President.

**NEW HOPE
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Buy-A-Brick Scheme

Each day now one hears the sound of hammers and other building related noises as the men from Mobile Mission Maintenance work on the first of three blocks of accommodation being constructed to house the families of married students who are attending Kenmore Christian College.

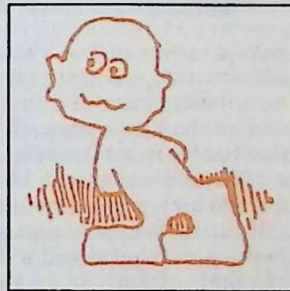
As part of their contribution towards the overall project, the Kenmore Christian College Students' Association has introduced a "Buy-A-Brick" scheme. The students are hopeful that many people from around Australia will join with

them and offer their practical support.

When one considers that the average rent currently being paid by student families in the Kenmore area is \$150 per week and the extra pressure that this places on them, the sooner the new eight three-bedroom units can be built the better.

Support for the "Buy-A-Brick" scheme is a worthwhile investment in the training of future ministers.

—Grant Spangenberg
(President, Kenmore Christian College Students' Association)



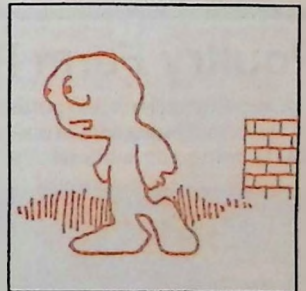
Have you heard about the New Family Housing Project at Kenmore Christian College?



Have you stopped to think how you may be able to help?



Short of Ideas?



Why not buy some bricks?

Become a member of the Kenmore Christian College Student Association's Buy-a-Brick scheme. For every dollar that is donated one brick out of a total 30,000 can be bought.

This is a practical way in which children right through to grandparents can be involved. For as little as \$1 you will receive a token and have the pleasure of knowing that in an important way you have helped in this special project.

Please fill out and return to "Buy-a-Brick", PO Box 55, Kenmore 4069.

Name

Address

Church

Number of bricks purchasing

(Any donation towards the Family Housing Project is tax deductible.)

In Texas: Death on the Rio Grande and Two New Suits



Part of the program of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism I attended in San Antonio, Texas, was a weekend visit to various churches in the state. On the Saturday afternoon some 300 set off in various directions to visit churches and to share in the life and the mission of people working in different cultures and serving Christ in the varying mission situations. Many Australians would

have a picture of Texas as an affluent and powerful part of an affluent powerful country. One of the things most of us don't realise is that Texas shares a 2,000 mile border with Mexico. It's been pointed out that this is the "longest border between a developed and a developing nation" or another way of saying it is that it is "an imaginary political boundary dividing a region that is not divided in any other sense".

Texas has become the place of refuge for people fleeing the wars and economic situations of Mexico and South America. Part of the mission of the churches has been to provide a place of refuge for those who have left everything behind and come seeking safety for their family. In many cases the US Government would just like to send them back again.

I went to visit a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Houston. It was a well to do suburb and by their admission, an affluent church. They did however, have some involvement in the 170 food kitchens that attempt to look after the 30,000 homeless people in the city of Houston. They were able to take me to a place where South American refugees are housed while there is an attempt to gain them legitimate papers or enable them to join fellow family members in North America. It was for me an interesting and inspirational time of Christian fellowship.

On Monday morning, the members of our Bible study group gathered to share their experiences. There were 12 of

us from 12 different countries. One man, from Korea, had not been allocated a church to visit, so he had gone to the local Southern Baptist congregation. It was the Memorial Day weekend in the US, similar to Anzac Day in Australia. There, as M16s were carried into worship by soldiers and there were oaths of allegiance to the US & Christian flags and each part of the program received a standing ovation, my friend from Korea was quite confused. His comment on the Monday was that he didn't know where he'd been but he certainly hadn't worshipped!

My friend from Samoa had been down the Rio Grande. As he stood and looked at the banks of this river he heard gunshots and a body floated past in the water. Here was one refugee who was not going to make it into the United States. My Nigerian friend visited with an Episcopalian congregation and on the way home his millionaire host took him to a department store and told him to take whatever he wanted. He came back with a new shirt and two new suits and informed us he was going to keep in touch with his new friend.

All this points up the variety of mission situations that the churches in Texas face. It also brings me back the memories of studying the Scriptures with people from 11 other countries. I remember the times I'd heard people say that there is only one interpretation of Scripture. Maybe that is true, but here there were 12 different starting points and 12 ways in which the Scriptures spoke to the people of this unique Bible study.

—Jeff May

Poultry Farm Run by Handicapped Children

A recently established poultry farm in Rionegro, Columbia, is being run successfully

by a group of 51 handicapped children, under the supervision of Christian Blind Mission and

some parents.

Christian Blind Mission, supported by people in Australia, is enabling these children to learn skills that they will be able to use to earn their own livelihood.

The farm has two large hen houses and 500 laying hens. Currently the hens are producing 420 eggs a day.

The town of Rionegro consumes 17,000 eggs every day, thus there is excellent potential for expansion.

Other activities being taught the children include baking, ceramics and the production of floor mops.

CBM regional representative Ian Dalley comments, "A pleasing result is that the children are much happier, contented, and are acquiring a greater sense of self-worth."



L. C. F. Higgins

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President on the Move

Queensland Social Service Department administrators gathered on 2 May for a workshop on the installation of new computer programs and the commencement of the Department's new resident agreements for Nursing Homes and Aged Care Hostels.

On 3 May I had the privilege of addressing the Toowoomba Minister's Fraternal about the work of the Voluntary Care Association in Queensland followed by a meeting with the Minister for Family Service and Logan City Council over some outstanding issues concerning Kingswood Lodge.

The Queensland Aborigines and Islanders Board met on that evening. On 5 May, the Premier of Queensland, the Hon Mike Ahern, having arrived by helicopter, launched the Branch-out Program at Nambour. This is a Queensland Churches of Christ program to assist the recovery of alcohol and drug dependent persons led by former Director of "Mancare" in Canberra, Bob Walton, OAM, who is assisted by his wife Joy Walton, OAM.

11 May I travelled to Maryborough, Qld, to review the work at Fairhaven and inspect the building program. An additional 13 hostel rooms are being constructed and 27 rooms are being gutted and rebuilt.

The Social Service Department Board met on 15 May and approved construction of Marana Gardens Hostel (50 beds) on the Gold Coast, Warrawee Hostel (25 beds) and Day Respite Centre at St George, Bribie Island Retirement Village Nursing Home Activities Therapy Centre, and upgrading of Hillcrest Nursing Home. The constitution of the Branch-out Committee was approved and first committee appointed.

On 16 May I attended meetings of the Community Services Superannuation Fund (Board Chairman) and the Voluntary Care Association (President). The Queensland Conference Task Force to consider the report on theological education and ministry training

met on Wednesday and formulated recommendations to the Conference Executive Council. That afternoon I flew to Canberra for the second meeting of the Commonwealth-State Hostel Standards Steering Committee which finalised a draft of standards for consultation with the care providers and the community.

I returned home on Thursday evening late due to air controllers difficulties in Sydney and left the next day, flying to Cairns, where I was met by George Radford, who took me to the Mareeba Aboriginal Church. I spent the evening with George and Leanne Radford and met with the Aboriginal Church people and the Aboriginal Health team worker to discuss the possibilities of developing an Aboriginal Aged Care Hostel and also the FAB budget and the budget for the Centre. George returned me to Cairns where I spent time with Bruce and Cheryl Warwick. Bruce is the minister of the Cairns church. I was the preacher on Sunday morning and following church met with the board to discuss progress at Cairns. Cairns is a recipient of a Federal Home Evangelism subsidy.

With Lyle Morris, Queensland Aborigines and Islanders Board co-ordinator, I flew to Normanton and spent two days in discussions with various people about the development of Aboriginal Aged Care in Normanton.

—Don Stewart

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CWF Hospital Visitation

In 1886, at the first "Sisters Conference" the South Melbourne, Vic, church reported that they visited hospitals regularly on behalf of the church.

In 1887 they listed the institutions visited—Melbourne, Alfred, Childrens, Homeopathic (now Prince Henry's) and Incurable Hospitals and Benevolent Asylum. Tracts and papers were distributed, letters written for the sick and lonely, boys and dolls clothing for the little folk. That same year the new Ballarat East Church Aid Society reported visiting the Benevolent Asylum and Hospital.

The first hospital visitors were appointed by Conference in 1892, a committee of four ladies, which appears to have been for one hospital.

Hospital visitation has been a continuing, expanding work since that time, there are now a total of 48 visitors looking after

34 hospitals in Victoria. A few of our visitors are over 80 years of age and the youngest is 28. Twice a year they meet and enjoy sharing their experiences as CWF Hospital Visitors.

Gifts are provided by all CWF groups throughout Victoria and for almost 50 years the Good Companions clubs have contributed to this work as their yearly project of gifts for the Childrens Hospital. City groups send their parcels and monetary donations to the monthly Council meetings while country fellowship gifts are sent to Bell Station where they are picked up and delivered to the committee by Ron Mill. If any churches are interested in hearing more about the CWF Hospital Visitation contact June Andrews on (03) 878 5860.

—June Andrews
(Superintendent CWF
Hospital Visitation)

TENT MAKER MINISTRY

The DCDE in Queensland are asking for "expressions of interest" for ministry in Charters Towers, North Queensland.

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Classifieds

BIRTHS

BUBNER (WOOD) Elizabeth and Ray are proud to announce the safe arrival of a daughter, Amy Elizabeth Margaret, on 30 June at Ashford (Adelaide) weighing a healthy 7lb 12 oz.

JONES (WARMBRUNN) Jenny and Ray are delighted to announce the arrival on 25 June of Evan Douglas. A brother for Daniel. Second darling grandson of Doug and Frances Warmbrunn and Jack and Florie Jones.

ENGAGEMENTS

BIRKETT—FILIPPONE Marj and Ian, East Burwood, are happy to announce the engagement of their only daughter Heather to Leo, elder son of Tommaso and Guisipana. God bless you both.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

EASTON (SELF) Pam and Toni wish to announce their parents' Golden Wedding (50 years). Celebrated at Footscray Church of Christ, 12 August 1939. Officiating ministers W. Wakefield and W. Evans. Open House, Saturday 12 August, 2 pm to 8 pm, at 60 Phyllis

St, Bayswater. (No presents please.) For inquiries phone (03) 729 6606.

DEATH

NETTLEBECK Margaret Lily. Died 18 June 1989, peacefully at home in the loving care of her family. Loved wife of Carlie (dec.), loving mother of Carlyn and Colin Mathews, Trevor and Roselene, Jenny and Richard Trezise, Sue and David Lee. She is survived by 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."

STOKIE George Henry. On 2 July 1989. Beloved and devoted husband of Muriel. Much loved father and father-in-law of Dorothy and Keith (Greatbatch), Don and Julie, Jeanne and Bill (VanderSluys). Special Pa of his eight grandchildren and great granddaughter Amanda. Resting in the everlasting arms.

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Sponsored by Resource and Development Committee, CWF

A Church ABC

Zillmere is an outer northern suburb of Brisbane, Qld. It was originally called Zillmans Waterholes, when it was a German rural settlement in colonial times. The gospel also came to the area with Moravian missionaries from Germany. The Zillmere church was established in 1882 and was the first Church of Christ to be founded in Queensland following an invitation to Stephen Cheek from Tasmania to come to preach in the area. The church began with 21 foundation members and numbers have fluctuated over the years with a maximum of over 80 achieved in the 1970s. There are now about 40 members. Through the years Zillmere has been instrumental in establishing other churches such as Boondall and Redcliffe.

Zillmere has changed from a rural community to an urban one and now Housing Commission houses and units crowd the area and more suburbs are being developed on its borders.

The original building, erected in 1894 on a corner block in Zillmere Road, was turned sideways in the 1960s and now serves as the kitchen, the stage area of the hall and other rooms in the middle of the present complex. A new chapel and facade was added to the front and a large activities hall at the rear.

The present minister is Darryl Telfer, who concludes his ministry this year after seven years at Zillmere. Darryl came from the Ungarra, SA, church and trained at

very active, led by Carla and Wayne Rees, respectively. Carla is the sister of Louis van Laar, now with the Vic-Tas Department of Community Care.

Missions are well supported. The ladies support the Leprosy Mission, and with a blind member, there is also much interest in the Christian Blind Mission International.

Zillmere celebrated its centenary in 1982 and we are informed that copies of the church history are still

available from the secretary.

Regardless of its past Zillmere still encourages its members to have a living faith and looks forward to the future directions where God would have them go. They are open and sensitive to wherever that may be.

• Having arrived at the letter Z, this concludes our present series focusing on churches around Australia from A to Z. We have visited everywhere from Acacia Ridge to Zillmere (both in Brisbane), as far west as Fremantle, via such diverse places as Ivanhoe, Vic, Naracoorte, SA, Port Macquarie, NSW, and Ulverstone, Tas, through big churches (Warwick, WA) and small (Queenstown, SA).

Next issue we begin with the letter A again.

Focus on Zillmere

Kenmore in the early 1970s. He has ministered in Queensland ever since. He is married to Ruth (formerly Ruth Curtis from the Torrensville, SA, church) and they have two children, Rosemary, 12, and James, 10.

Services are held at 8.45 am, with Sundays school following at 10.15 am, and there is an evening service at 6.30 pm. The evening services are combined on a monthly basis with other northern suburbs churches, Boondall, Kedron and Albion.

Regular activities include a youth group that meets fortnightly on Saturdays, a midweek Bible study on Wednesdays, KYB on Tuesday mornings, CWF and a monthly craft meeting. Girls and Boys Brigades are

Growing Spiritually

Discount Faith

by Jeff Weston

Tax cuts have been on our minds of late. Like most Australians, I'm looking forward to not having to give as much of my money to the government each week. However, is my thinking right, or is it selfishness?

A person I have great respect for tells me he is proud of the amount of taxation he pays. He views taxation as an investment in Australia, both for the now and the future. He points out for a country of only 16 million people we have a very high standard of living.

Our country has steadily developed, we have excellent roads, sewerage (except Sydney!), water and power. Our children receive quality education, and we have good law and order, all of which are paid for by our tax dollar. He points out that if we view taxation as something to be avoided then we are really only short-

changing ourselves and our future generations.

I'd not looked at tax this way before. In fact I have always viewed the Taxation Office as "fiscal fiends", rather than as our "commission agents". How we view our commitments is a concern of mine. It seems to me that most of us try to get as much as possible for as little, or at no cost. The tragedy is that I see this spilling over even into our relationship with Christ.

Like all ministers, I am often asked to counsel people in crises of various sorts. One thing that I have noticed is that those people who have made a deep commitment of their lives to Christ, and maintained that commitment, find they have more than enough God-given resources to overcome their situations, while those who have only a superficial or no commitment at all are without any resources.

It is little wonder Jesus points out to the teacher of the law (Matthew 22:37), that the greatest and most important commandment (or commitment) is to love God with all your heart, soul and mind. It is only as we are prepared to make this sacrifice of love that we are fully open to receive God's power.

Disappointingly many Christians are making the same mistake in their relationship with God as some do with their marriages. They fail to continually work at building and nurturing the relationship. Prayer life drops and communication with God becomes "need basis" only. Reading and study of the word almost ceases to exist, with worship becoming ritual, rather than a positive expression of faith.

I still might not totally agree with my friend about taxation, but I can see that if we are after a relationship with God at no cost, then we are only short-changing ourselves.

• Jeff Weston is the minister of the Collins St, Hobart, Tas, church.

White Papers

A.E. White has some advice for the Prime Minister

The Return of Joe Purple

Joe Purple dropped in the other day. It's been a long time. He thought I was still editor of this journal, which says a lot about Joe.

Joe was a farmer. He is retired now, but the country is in such a mess that he had to take a job to stay retired.

He turned up for a free meal and to give some free advice he wants me to pass on to the Prime Minister.

Joe thinks that Bob Hawke and I are mates because Mr Hawke once waved a friendly greeting to me at Tullamarine Airport. I explained to Joe that it was an election year and Bob was waving to everyone, but Joe still thinks I have influence.

Joe is no economist, but he reckons he has a few clues about finance ever since he was acting-treasurer for three months at our church at Crooked River. He says that the only difference between running a church and running a country, when it comes to finance, is that the country's bigger. If you are in the red at the end of the year, everyone gets snaky.

Joe started on the national deficit. "Our country owes so much money overseas that we have to borrow money to pay the interest on the interest. Even a drover's dog could see there's no future in that!

"It reminds of Dave Fisher. Dave had a money problem so he sold next year's wheat at least year's prices. But there was no next year's crop. It was drowned in the flood. Dave thinks it will take three good seasons to get on his feet again. At the rate Australia is going it will take a millennium to get out of its troubles."

Interest rates came next. "They've gone through the roof! The idea is that if we slug ordinary blokes with high interest on

homes, it will somehow reduce our overseas debt. But the first-home buyers aren't buying in Tokyo, New York, or Bonn! They are house-hunting in Sydney, Perth and Crooked River. Of course, the big money men have to pay high interest, too. But they can pass it on. And where do they pass it? To the blokes who can't even afford a roof for the interest to go through!

"The only difference between running a church and running a country, when it comes to finances, is that the country's bigger"

"They tell us that a lot of the money we owe overseas has been borrowed by big businessmen who already have too much. Our national debt is about \$110 billion! \$100 billion! My calculator, the one I used for counting the church offering at Crooked River, is not into billions, so I got my 12 year old grandson to work it out. He reckons that everyone of us, including the kids, owes about \$6,875! There's no way in the world I could pay this! Someone will have to pay my share. My grandson might have to add my bit to his. At present he's on \$4.00 a week pocket money!

"Your friend Bob could fix this. When I had some money trouble a few years back, my bank manager stopped my overdraft. 'You want it,' he says, 'you pay cash!' It worked! It's uncanny the things you can do without if you have to pay cash.

"Let Mr Bond and Mr Elliott and the rest start paying cash. They want it, they pay cash for it! It's not fair for me to owe so

much when I don't buy anything overseas. Well, maybe just a few Japanese gadgets."

Joe paused for breath, then he was off again. "It gets worse! Remember how sorry we were because so many were out of work. The Government gleefully told us how many new jobs were being found. Now, they want to increase the number of jobless. You see, if they work, they spend, and if they spend the overseas debt goes up! Did any of the gurus consider the possibility that we might have to borrow from the Japanese to pay the extra Social Welfare benefits? Unbelievable!

"Here's something else! To reduce our overseas debt we have to export more than we import. As a farmer I knew that. I had to sell more than I bought. But almost every country in the world is in the same boat with us. They are all trying to sell more and buy less. We even had special offerings at Crooked River to help the bottom countries get up a bit. What would happen if all the debt-ridden countries balanced their budgets? We'd still be up the creek without a paddle, and up to our necks in debt!

"What are we going to do? There's a clue in the Book of Leviticus, Chapter 25, where the Hebrews were given a few hints. They were to let things roll along for a time. The rich would get richer and the poor would become slaves, like us. Then they would have a Year of Back to Square One! All debts would be off, and all slaves would be freed, and they would start all over.

"You might think that was a bit tough on those who had climbed to the top. Not to worry! They got there because they were smart, and they were still smart! They would soon be back on top, but in the ►►



Pontius' Puddle



Testimony

\$38 and Bored!

by Bob Brown

On Sunday afternoon during September 1988 I was looking forward to my usual Sunday afternoon relaxation time. The meal prepared by my loving wife was much appreciated, everybody dived in and the dishes were washed and stored away. I stretched out on the lounge to enjoy a good sleep.

My plans were short lived. "Darl," called a familiar voice from the kitchen, "I'm bored. Let's go for a drive and have a look at some houses." Somewhat put out because my planned sleep was about to be disturbed I replied, "Don't be silly dear, we have only \$38 in the bank and you want to look at houses." I thought that such a reply would discourage any such plans. However my wife was not to be put off and 20 minutes later a disgruntled driver was backing out of the drive with a happy wife and excited daughters.

Ten minutes later my ears were shattered as if I had passed through the sound barrier. "Look!" they cried in unison, "That house is back on the market." It was five months ago that we looked at this same house. Then we had had \$5,000 in the bank. Today we had \$38. There was no way I could pass this place by. With three strong-willed ladies in the family the safest thing to do was to stop.

The house was all we needed, two storeys, five bedrooms (allowing me room for an office), an old country kitchen, a good sized yard and perfect position. "What a waste of time," I thought as we walked through the door. Lorna and the girls went into the kitchen and lounge while I headed upstairs...no doubt it was all we needed, but such a waste of time. "Who said that?" I was sure I heard a voice say, "You ought to buy this house." I turned



Lorna and Bob Brown

to see who had made such a comment. Yet again I heard the same words loud and clear. I decided to head for my family.

I found Lorna in the lounge room and she turned and said, "We ought to buy this house, darl." I took her by the arm and led her into the garden where I explained that you can't buy a house with \$38. Lorna in turn challenged my faith by replying, "I believe God wants us to have this house. Can't you take up a contract subject to finance?"

Over the years I have come to recognise the gift of discernment the Holy Spirit has given my wife. There has never been a time when she has been wrong.

With family in tow we walked up to the salesman. "Sir, I want to put a contract on this house subject to finance." We again succeeded in making someone happy. With all the papers signed we turned to walk out the door. The salesman wanted one other thing signed. A cheque for \$5,800 as

a deposit. "Give me until Friday," I replied, "as I need that time to realise such funds."

On Tuesday night I asked the church to pray that God would meet our needs. Six were at the prayer meeting that night. Lin Andrews, a real estate agent, rang to say he had just the house for us. It turned out to be the same house! In May 1988 this house had sold for \$118,000. After talking to Lin we made an offer of \$108,000, down from the \$120,000 asking price. A saving of \$12,000. We had until noon Friday.

Friday morning arrived. At 10 am there was a knock on the front door. Two of the people who were at the prayer meeting were there. "About the deposit, pastor, God told us we have to give you the money." After tears and joy in the Lord we agreed

we would accept it on the basis that they would let us pay it back. When they left we opened the envelope and there was \$10,000 there. We had only asked God for \$5,800.

At 11 am I arrived at Lin Andrew's office and gave him the money. "Praise the Lord," he said, "I was worried about legal and transfer costs. But I see you have taken care of that." We didn't even know it was needed, but God did.

The REI Building Society, who promised there would be no problems with a loan, rang the following Monday to tell us we would be \$6,000 short. I then rang the seller to cancel the sale as we had no chance of raising this further sum. "Don't worry about that, I will lend you the money," was his prompt reply.

Today we have paid back all the monies loaned, over \$16,000. God in his own wonderful way enables us to meet the one mortgage outstanding. We can only say—To God be the glory.

meantime the others would have a few years of dignity.

"Maybe it wouldn't work here, but you can tell your friend Bob Hawke that if he doesn't come up with something he'll be in a wilderness that will make the Hebrew version look like a holiday on the Gold Coast!"

Joe drove off in his Mitsubishi and took his silly ideas with him. His schemes won't work. Our creditors will keep squeezing

us even if it bankrupts them!

Our newspapers are full of recipes from the real experts, so I worked my way through them. To my surprise they don't make any more sense than Joe.

The recipe for recovery, say the businessmen, economists and politicians, is to work harder, increase production, and improve efficiency. "To get off our economic knees what we need is single minded dedication to take advantage of our oppor-

tunities." "The greedy ones in our community should start thinking of others."

There was a lot more like that in their economic sermons, but what good is a sermon without some following action? And who is going to start caring for others in this me-first generation?

Mr Hawke, if you do read this, you can take Joe's message as the word from the comrades of Crooked River.

And I'm returning your friendly wave!

Viewpoints

"I Will Lift up Mine Eyes unto the Hills"

by John Harrison

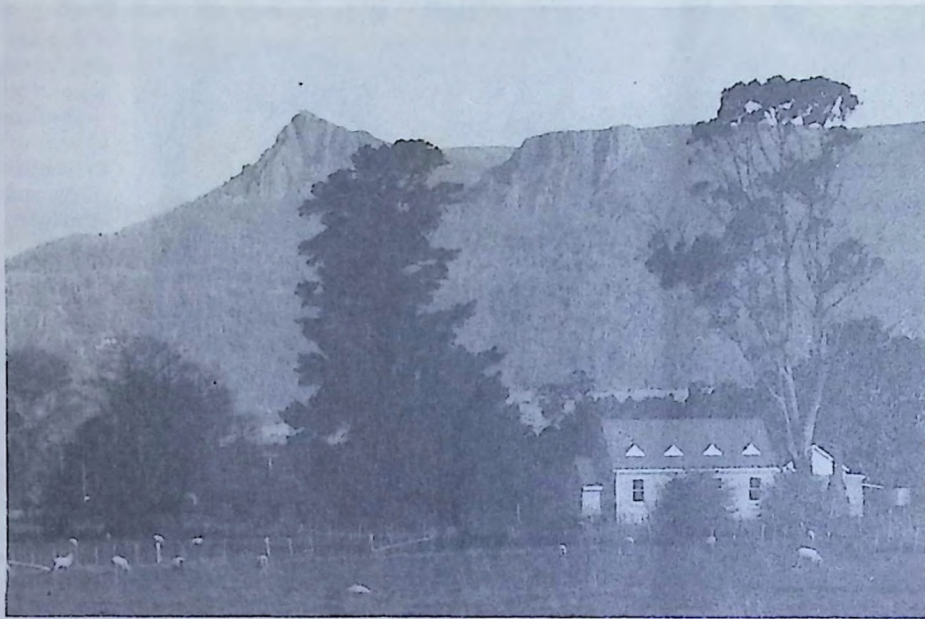
If you happen to live at Caveside, Tas, or visit the area, you can't avoid doing just that, for the fertile farming district is surrounded by the craggy, forested range of the Great Western Tiers. As you gaze upon their majestic beauty there is a growing urge to conquer their peaks.

Thus, the Monday of the June long weekend was set aside by the church as "mountain climbing day". Six adults and nine young people assembled

at the church at 9.30 am. The blanket of white frost, still visible an hour before, had melted from the paddocks, and the air was crisp and clear.

We journeyed by car to the foothills through the rain forest area, then donned coats, hats and backpacks and looked for the trail to Mother Cummins Peak. Coats soon became sign posts that would later show us we were near the end of our return journey, as we soon warmed up with the steepness of the climb.

After a long, hard climb we crossed a tussocky, grassed plateau, before com-



Mother Cummins Peak with Caveside church in the foreground

mencing the final assault on the peak. This involved careful climbing over a boulder strewn mountain peak. One member called out, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help," and the answering call came, "My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth."

Standing in the clear mountain air above the world and its cares, we realised the greatness of our God and sang together a verse of "How Great Thou Art" before eating lunch. It was a truly beautiful setting with a 360° view.

There were many lessons learned together during our day conquering the mountain. Those who found climbing a struggle were helped and encouraged by others, so that all who set out reached the top. Those who were fearful of heights and cliffs were able to conquer their fears and look back on an enjoyable day. As we sat on the mountain top we were able to worship our God free from distraction.

Isn't this like our journey through life? We all find many tough struggles as we journey onward, but how much easier it becomes when others take time to help and encourage us. How helpful it is to take time to worship God and see something of his view of the world.

At the church lunch on the following Sunday CCCC Certificates (Caveside Church of Christ Climbing Certificates) were presented to all participants in the climb.

• John Harrison is the minister of the Caveside, Tas, church.

Police Shootings: A Personal View by Joy Butler

On 27 June a public meeting was held at the Kensington, Vic, Town Hall. This was part of a widespread call for a full public inquiry into fatal shootings by the Victorian Police. In the past two years police have fatally shot 11 compared with 10 fatalities in the previous 13 years. Seven young people from the Kensington/Flemington area have been killed in incidents involving police in the last nine years.

The Kensington community is concerned and supports the call for an inquiry. Others supporting the call for an inquiry include a member of the State Parliament, the Victorian Bar Council, the Federation of Community Legal Centres, families of the victims and Pentridge Prison Chaplain Father Peter Norden.

Media reports on the shootings have not always been accurate. It was horrifying to listen to the details of issues surrounding various shootings.

As a spokesperson for the Council of Civil Liberties said: "It was of great concern that there is a question mark over the police use of deadly force... if the police are misusing their power in this area they were acting as judge, jury and executioner in a society which did not condone the killing of its members even when they are convicted of serious crimes. Why is it so difficult for the community to be reassured that police are held accountable for their actions?"

What can we as Christians do? We can pursue truth and justice for all. The ques-

tions regarding the shootings must be answered through public examination. We are entitled to a properly trained police force which behaves in a controlled, disciplined and professional manner.

• Joy Butler is a community worker in Kensington with the Vic-Tas Department of Community Care. Further information on this subject can be obtained by contacting her on (03) 376 4351.

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Personal

Discipleship

•Barbara Waters, Pauline Liebich, Maylands, SA •Helen Moon, Tweed Heads, NSW •Tiffany Pohle, Evan Trebbin, Bundaberg, Qld •Alan Stratford, Gisborne, Vic •Alice Berry, Natalie Fernandez, Peter Forder jnr, Lindsay Marr, Jesse Mulholland, Emmanuel Osafo, Irene Osafo, Noble Park, Vic

Marriages

•Karen Peden to Darren Davis, Lismore, NSW •Linda Graham to Craig Moore, Knoxfield, Vic

•Judith Pennington to Malcolm Rundle, Boronia, Vic

Deaths

•Mrs Jean Jameson, Mrs Jessie Branford, Tumby Bay, SA •Ralph Brann, Tweed Heads, NSW •Arthur Hamann, Bundaberg, Qld •Mrs Claire Young, Prospect, SA •Di McLarty, Knoxfield, Vic

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14 & 15 October 1989

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I would like tickets for the Saturday dinner
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Name & Address

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Australian Christian Encouragement Awards

are designed to encourage leadership qualities in members of Churches of Christ in Australia. Preference will be given to lay persons under 35 years of age and will have a value not exceeding \$500. Selected candidates will be required to state the purpose for which they wish assistance and will be required to commence their assignment within 12 months of the notification of the award. A limited number of these scholarships will be made each year.

The selection committee may require evidence of practical involvement and achievements and where practicable will arrange interviews.

Applications for these awards close on 31 August 1989 and should be addressed to

Mr Ian Henry

Chairman—Selection Committee

Christian Projects Office

99 James Street

Templestowe 3107

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

AMES (BROOKER) Mildred Vera (28.6.89) A daughter of William and Annie Brooker, Vera gave a lifetime of service to Christ. At Collingwood, Vic, she met Jack Ames. They married in 1925. She was a woman of considerable abilities. A top stenographer, she became secretary to Prime Minister Billy Hughes. She loved literature and was a competent musician. Concerned that she might lose her sight she learnt Braille, and later Italian to converse with her new neighbours. After Jack died in 1981 she transferred from Fairfield, Vic, to Fred Combridge House. We commend Shirley, Nancye and Merle, their husbands, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren to the compassion of our Lord.

—Ran Tippett

LEWIS, Myrtle

Myrtle Lewis was a great little lady with a big heart, a strong mind and an ardent faith. She was born into a Christian family and went on to nurture a Christian family. While in membership at the Mile End, SA, church she became involved in the foundation of Brooklyn Park and was active in services and Sunday school then held in the Arthur's home. With her passing we lose our last foundation member. Her loved husband Charles was a trustee who guaranteed the existence of the young church. Mrs Lewis was faithful over many years. She taught in Sunday school for many years, was president of Dorcas for some years and was active in

WCTU including Little White Ribbons. She was instrumental in forming a Senior Women's Fellowship to meet the needs of elderly ladies unable to go out at night. Mrs Lewis was one of our first deaconesses. She was always out and about with her caring ministry. She spent her last years in the home at Joslin.

—Kath Kain

NSW

THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) Extraordinary Living for Ordinary People was the theme of weekend of 1 & 2 July with Leroy Eims, international author & speaker & leader of Navigators internationally & USA, as guest speaker. Weekend commenced with Friendship Dinner. Guest soloist was Wendy Dalton. At Sunday am service chapel was full. A fellowship lunch followed. At 1 pm there was an afternoon session. Over 140 shared in the pm service. On the Monday there was a ladies coffee morning, guest soloist Marion Powell, a testimony by Carol Wattles of USA & speaker Virginia Eims, wife of Leroy.

TWEED HEADS (Richard Oakes, Guy Cooper) Trivia evening arranged by Girls-Nite-Out raised over \$500 for equipment for Play Group ... Weekly Drop-In Friendship Centre caters for over 50 ... SPLATZ group for 6-14 year olds growing fast ... CWF viewed video "Revival in Russia"; gave over \$100 for Bibles ... Polynesian dinner raised over \$300 for mission support ... Helen Moon baptised at Greenmount Beach ... Church

greatly blessed by ministry of Richard & Guy.

LISMORE (I. Phillips) Goonellabah church members attending evening services ... Early morning prayer cell commenced ... Sunday School mid year presentation followed by morning tea & communion service ... Michelle Pagotto welcomed into fellowship ... New babies for John & Jenny Arthur; Pam & Aaron Hoang; Pam & Bill Batson ... Church saddened by death of Will Atkin, who left Lismore church for College in 1927.

THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) During school holidays Maria Neville & Fiona Hill were leaders at DCD Years 7-8 camp ... Stuart Wesley & David Elliott & five young men shared in camp at Sandbar Beach Caravan Park ... Franklyn Elliott baptised John & Billie Wilson (retired couple) ... Visit of team of 4 from ship *Doulos*. Guest speaker Bernd Gulker, *Doulos* Director.

Vic

NUNAWADING (E. Keating, D. Hamilton, J. Wright, L. Smith) Bethel & Care Groups, young adults & youth study groups meet regularly ... Playgroup mothers morning coffee speaker Diane Smith, audiologist ... CWF outreach morning coffee speaker Paul Burnham ... Trading Partners exhibition & sale realised \$5,616 ... School holidays Holiday Happening attracted over 100 children ... Guest service & luncheon for senior citizens ... Monthly evening service at Springfield Road.

KNOXFIELD (Rod Brown) The church is thankful that Rod Brown has fully recovered from his illness & is back into ministry. Special thanks to Geoff Whiting, Arthur Knight & Pieter Petrusma, with other guest speakers, who ministered during his absence ... We have been saddened by the tragic loss of one of our long serving members & elders, Di McLarty, through cancer.

GISBORNE (Ray Smith) Half night of prayer for the church building project & the church's outreach ministry ... Don Langley appointed as project manager for church building ... Team from Operation Mobilisation's ship *MV Doulos* spent eight days in Gisborne working with the church ... Seven new members received in the past few weeks ... Music group ministered at Surrey Hills gospel service.

BORONIA (Keith Milne, Mike Folland, Gordon Stirling) Ministers & elders attended seminar at

Church News

CCTC, Mulgrave. Ministers also attended Minister's Seminar at Monbulk ... Church members participated in 40 Hour Famine appeal ... Local Inter-Church Council reformed on urging of Keith Milne ... Members involved in CCTC Arbor Day ... "Features at Five" proving successful, singing, music & topics such as happy families, the church in the world, meet the Mayor, etc.

PARKDALE (Keith Pitt, Linda Pilton) Church family camp Queen's Birthday weekend shared with Chelsea ... Team from *Doulos* visited recently ... Andrew Hargreaves and Gary Scott have reformed Boys Explorers club ... Dick Saunders and Ben Crowden recent guest speakers in the ministers' absence on holidays ... Church family social featured fancy dress theme ... Pastoral care program is being supervised by minister and elders.

KANIVA (M. Goldup) Doug Wallis welcomed back after recent illness ... Bible Society morning service on 9 July with pleasant Sunday afternoon at Sen. Cit. Club rooms ... Bible classes and boys and girls clubs continue to flourish ... Some retired congregation members head north to escape wintry weather ... This winter a cuppa after Sunday morning service seems popular.

Qld

BUNDABERG (A.G. Leane) Mother's Day tea well attended ... Youth group filmed "Sports Odyssey", attended "Travellers", camp at Tranquility Farm, bike ride to beach ... Flower roster commenced ... CWF entertained Pioneer Home folk, successful street stall ... Time capsule buried. To be opened in 2023 ... Passing of Arthur Hamann saddened church ... FEBC meeting & music seminar well attended ... Two baptisms, two re-dedications recently ... Conference President visited ... Thanksgiving service for baby Joshua Phillips.

Tas

LAUNCESTON (Rod Foster) On 2 July Graeme Hush from Task Force Ministries spoke at both morning services and he & his team conducted the evening service. During the following week they travelled the state conducting concerts in many high schools ... In the evening service 9 July Julie Horder spoke about the organisation for brain impaired children that she is involved with.

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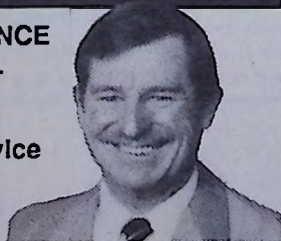
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Church News

WA

CARNARVON (Donald Bone) Olive Laird Hostel & residents of Ingada Village stocked up supplies when Gascoyne River flowed a "banker" & the bridge was closed. Mr & Mrs Bone, returning from Karratha, got over the bridge only minutes before closure ... Phil & Lorraine Sheedy shared something of their work & involvement in Mobile Mission Maintenance ... Church members opposing cabaret licences being given to local hotels.

NORTHAM (G. Butler) Church experiencing much blessing over recent months ... Seating space in chapel increased by removing part of platform ... Minister spoke at Bassendean's Men's Camp ... Ladies craft group attracting many women each week ... Young people's group growing & a cell group proving an encouragement & blessing for some ... Michelle Smith returned from YWAM course in Sydney ... Annual missions weekend to be held early August with Peter Moyle as speaker.

FREMANTLE (D. Good) Information with praise & prayer points given on OM work by Jenny Marshall (State OM Ctte), Jeff May (OMB) and Maureen Yeates (Red Sea Mission) ... CCTC student, Jim Longbottom (member over 20 years ago) spoke about college and also preached ... 1,102 litres cooked fruit to Welfare Centre, \$840 to FAB result of fruit project ... Kathryn (Rees) & Ross Sargent visitors from Vic.

SA

MAYLANDS (James Symons) Two baptisms—Barbara Waters, Pauline Liebich ... Three received by transfer—Ellen Bainbridge, Margaret Blackett, Eve Bennett ... Richard & Dawn Lawton left for ministry exchange to USA. Dr Jim & Marilyn Symons from Tucson, Arizona, welcomed at Aussie buffet tea ... Preparations for church 80th celebrations 10 Sept well in hand ... Church history book in final stages of publication.

TUMBY BAY Church AGM held 21 May ... Elders—L. Burrow, M. Teller & M. Westphal ... Women's Fellowships combined for tea when Lyn Teller, President of EP Women's Conf, was guest speaker ... Evening & day fellowships meet each month ... Dynamite Kid's Club continuing with 40-50 children attending ... Eyre Peninsula Conf planned for 22 July at Ungarra ...

Church extends sympathy to Ken & family of Jean Jameson, to Jean Eylward & Nancy Brougham on the death of their sister & to Wilf Branford & family in the passing of their wife & mother, Jessie.

DULWICH/ROSE PARK (Rob Williams, Roger Brown) Visiting as student ministers, Graham & Bev Burgan are on a three week assignment with us. They are in training at the Churches of Christ Theological College at Mulgrave, Vic. Their four children are in Adelaide sharing visits to grandparents. Graham formerly was

company secretary for Prests Stores in Port Pirie. They are serving with the East Benteigh, Vic, church.

PROSPECT (G. Payne) Bob Combridge will share his experience at the Coffee Pot evening ... Notice of motion, reports are being received in preparation for AGM ... Koala Kapers, The Koala Kids made models from fleece obtained from the shearing of two sheep ... Brenda & Alan Roberts celebrated Golden Wedding anniversary ... Next weekend Dr Keith Bowes will hold a study weekend. His theme

is "The Book of Revelation for us Today".

HAMPSTEAD GARDENS (Keith Ridge) Combined youth camp at Robe over the June long weekend with Mundulla/Bordertown youth groups ... Winter gospel services are off to a great start with Modbury Choral Group and Magill Youth involved in recent services ... "Bright Spot" celebrated 11th birthday ... Barbara Robb inducted as leader of State Women's Ministry Committee and Wendy Ridge elected to State Board at State Conference.

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Outback Christians

When I heard about **Outback Christians In Ministry** being linked together by telephone each Sunday for a 30 minute worship service I thought what a great idea.

It was Sunday morning 3 June at 7.57 am when the phone rang. The exchange asked if Jim Deutschmann was available for a conference call. I answered, "Yes" and was asked to wait until the other numbers were connected.

Trevor Meares from Dalby, Qld, the pastor to outback Christians, came on the phone and called the roll. Mark and Coralie Lowe, Woorabinda; Jenny O'Hare, Blackall; Doug and Anna Wood, Koondoo; Denise Bloxsean, Clermont; Brenden and Leanne Burke, Kilcummin (silence for this call, they must not be available); Kay Eaton, Aramac; Wayne and Deanne Lowien, Thargomindah; and Jim Deutschmann, Brisbane.

"Hello Jim it's a beaut to hear your voice, this is Denise here. Please say hello to Ann and the family." "Hi Jenny here, good you could be with us."

The service started with prayer requests, different people sharing and others praying for them. Mark gave the Bible reading. Doug led the communion thoughts, Jenny and Denise gave thanks for the emblems. Trevor prayed and then I was asked to share the message from God's word.

I felt a real warmth of fellowship. Strange as it may seem to preach to a group of people all scattered in outback Queensland. I knew they were listening and God was there to bless them through fellowship.

Words of encouragement were shared after the message. Arrangements for next week's service were made and then the final farewell greetings.

Good on you Trevor. This is a great ministry and I was privileged to share.

—Jim Deutschmann

Community Contact Week at Elizabeth

From 28 May to 4 June Alan Bailey and Rob George from OAC Ministries led the Elizabeth, SA, church in an adventure. The church had been building bridges of friendship for many weeks between their friends and neighbours. Prayerfully they invited them to the various activities that were to take place.

The program throughout the week included:

Coffee Mornings and Evenings

These were held in different homes strategically placed to cater for the different parts of the city where the people lived. Five morning and four evening groups met together sharing in face-to-face encounters, yet in non-threatening presentation of the gospel.

Men's Dinner

On the Friday evening 43 men sat down together, with Christians bringing non-Christians with them. They listened very intently as the good news was brought to them.

Children's "Adventure Time"

The Elizabeth East Primary School was the venue for this series each afternoon 3.30-4.30 pm. The highest single attendance was 76 with an average attendance of 60-65. The family night on the Friday night was crowded, despite the cold night.

Drama

The week concluded with the presentation "Julian Centurion", a drama which Alan and Rob have used in a number of places, holding hearts and minds, centred upon the cross. The church was packed.

The week of activities was not the end but a beginning; the beginning of a new phase of ministry and challenge for the church.

—Ralph Oke

The Last Word

To take God seriously means to take him at his word and to give him the opportunity to respond in the way he has promised to do in his Word. We can never receive anything with clenched fists or drooping arms.

—Helmut Thielicke

A tourist was doing Scotland in a hurry. "Say," drawled the tourist, "is this a healthy village?"

"It is that," one of the inhabitants replied promptly and proudly, "Why there's only been one death in the last ten years, and that was the doctor."

★★★★★

To prove that the worth of a piece of writing doesn't necessarily depend upon its length—

- the Lord's Prayer has only 66 words;
- the 23rd Psalm has only 118 words;
- the Ten Commandments has 297 words;
- and a government order on cabbage prices had 26,911 words.

★★★★★

Shopper examining product in a supermarket: "There's a lot more food mixed with the additives in this one."

★★★★★

Couple, returning from trip overseas, to custom's official: "All we have to declare is, 'Thank God, we're home!'"

★★★★★

Patient to doctor: "Well, which is it this time? Something I have to live with, or something I have to live without?"



With Monday morning prayer group, Tuesday night family dinners, Wednesday night Bible study, Thursday night visitation, Friday night youth activities, and young adults on Saturdays, the minister felt the need to take Sundays off.



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