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"Psalty's Camping Adventure"

The children's musical "Psalty's Camping Adventure" is being presented at the Nunawading, Vic, church on 27 August at 3 pm and 7 pm at the Surrey Road chapel.

Psalty, the singing songbook, takes children on an overnight hike up a mountain.

As various difficulties and adventures occur, they learn how much they need God in their lives.

Producer Lorraine Steele says that the show has an entertaining message for children of all ages.

No charge is being made but an offering is being taken for Nunawading's Vanuatu Workparty (see page 7).



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Producer Lorraine Steele, at piano, rehearses children for the show

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Comment

Communion Communication

by Garry Harris

I have immense admiration for the committed people of God who, without benefit of training, struggle valiantly with the office of presiding at the Lord's Table. In many churches this task is left to the faithful few with willing hearts. It is to them that the following suggestions are dedicated.

- Eye contact: Before commencing your address invest a few seconds in establishing eye contact with the congregation. Continually survey your auditors throughout the presentation. Do not fix your gaze on a select few, or stare blankly at the back wall, the table or the floor.

- Be unhurried but brief; unhurried in presentation, brief in duration. Strive for conciseness. It is entirely possible to maintain a high standard of presentation for three minutes provided you have clearly thought through, written out and thoroughly rehearsed your address. Avoid rambling at all costs. Stick to your original game-plan. Save last-minute "brilliant ideas" for your next communion address.

- Sound the last letter of each word. It will be important to give particular attention to the letters "d", "t", "k" and "p". Clear enunciation is most important when speaking without the aid of a PA system. (Do not carry enunciation to extremes; your address should not sound like an elocution lesson. Clarity and naturalness is the desired goal.)

- Become aware of distracting habits that can detract from your presentation:

- Swaying from side to side or back and forth is usually due to uneven distribution of weight. Placing feet apart with one foot slightly forward of the other will help alleviate the problem.

- Keep hands out of pockets. It is far too casual for the occasion and may lead to the rattling of keys and change.

- Do not play with the communion cloth, cups or trays.

- Become aware of any idiosyncrasies you may have, e.g. a nervous grin, which is inappropriate while speaking of the suffering of Christ. Always attempt to have consonance between facial expression and the mood of the subject being discussed.

- Avoid being too casual in your approach. Note: It is very difficult to appear overly pious. It is far better to appear appropriately reverential than to destroy the atmosphere of the service with a flip-pant attitude.

You may be made aware of repetitious mannerisms by arranging with an observant and supportive member of the congregation to watch for habits that are peculiar to you.

As far as possible avoid:

- Monotone vocal pitch. Aim at vocal variety within the bounds of your normal range. Do not be overly dramatic.

- Monotonous rhythm with a pattern as predictable as a song.

- A frenetic rate of speech, or a laboriously slow rate.

- Being too casual in your choice of words. The mood set by word

choice should be appropriate to the occasion.

- The "um-ah syndrome". Invest time in preparation so that you know precisely what you want to say and how you want to say it.

- Recognise the power of the rhetoric of dress. Dress appropriately. The Lord's Table is not a barbecue. Ostentatious clothes will focus attention upon yourself rather than the crucified Christ we seek to remember.

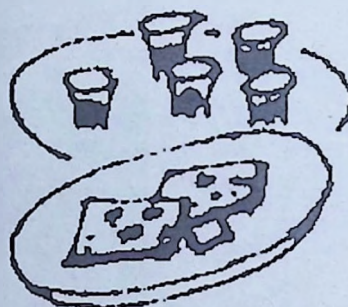
- Do not adjust your clothes at the Table. Check that everything is in order before you enter the chapel. Note: Seat belts frequently cause ties to become crooked.

- Posture. Stand confidently; you are about the business of the God of the Universe.

- Gestures. Intend your gestures to be slow and sweeping as you point to the bread and cup. Short, choppy actions are unnerving and distracting. Note: the larger the congregation, the larger the gestures.

- Movement. Always move in a slow and dignified manner. Flustered movement can destroy the solemnity of the moment.

- Structure. Before you prepare the meditation, try to clearly state the crux of your "remarks" in one simple sentence, e.g. "God's love has delivered us from peril." Think how you might introduce



this idea, e.g. "Love is the most powerful force in the world." Then develop the idea with two or three brief illustrations. Next, show how this relates to communion, e.g. "God's love for us is shown in Jesus' sacrifice." Give particular attention to the "transitional words", e.g. "furthermore", "in addition" etc. These will facilitate fluid movement from one thought to the next.

- Rehearse. This is the key to a good delivery. Write your meditation out in full, time it, then summarise it if you wish. Underline key words to jog your memory. Practise aloud, become used to the sound of your own voice in monologue. Be aware that you need to use pauses as rhetorical punctuation. A pause following the statement of a great truth will underscore its importance.

- Nervousness. Expect it, and accept it as normal. If you experience "dry-mouth", ensure that a glass of water is placed on the table prior to the commencement of the service.

- Remember whose you are and what you are about. You are an ambassador of God, calling God's people to remember the sacrifice of God's Son.

- Seek God's help. Never try to do God's work in your own strength. Pray before you prepare, pray as you prepare, pray before you present. Prayer is not a substitute however for thorough, painstaking, God-honouring preparation.

- View your time of presiding not as a laborious chore that you dutifully undertake, but as an exciting opportunity to present to God a gift of your love and labour. Such an approach will inspire you to bring nothing but your best as an offering to the Lord.

• *Garry Harris trained for ministry and worked in pastoral ministry in the USA and Australia. Currently he is a residential care worker at Wandin Springs, Vic. He has postgraduate degrees in Homiletics from Princeton Theological Seminary and Vanderbilt University, and lectured in Communication at the University of Pittsburgh.*

Semaphore Building Project



Completed hall

Members of the Semaphore, SA, church with help from Mobile Mission Maintenance, have made extensive alterations to their church hall.

The hall has been extended to double its original area. The old outside toilet block was demolished and modern male, female and disabled toilets are now incorporated in the building.

A store room has also been included.

New windows have replaced the old timber frame windows in the old section to match the new extension.

The hall is used for church and youth activities and local community groups.

The church is proud of its achievement, the cost of which has been fully met.



Obsolete toilet block

Bilateral Discussions

45 representatives of seven denominations gathered in Adelaide for the first of a series of official bilateral discussions on Christian unity. Hosted by the SA Council of Churches, official delegates from most of the mainline churches, including Roman Catholic and Romanian Orthodox, participated in worship.

Addresses were given on international and national union discussions. There are 29

active bilateral dialogue discussions currently taking place. The key issue appears to be the understanding of the church.

On 16 August the St Paul's Centre in City Cross was commissioned as an ecumenical mission project. Canon Ron Williams, an Anglican priest, is developing the project.

One meeting was held at Gartrell Church, Rose Park. The worship service was led by the united parish ministers. —JL

Open Door

It is now two and a half years since a group met expressing concern and with a desire to make the Tootgarook, Vic, church a much more active participant in the life of the community.

The Southern Mornington Peninsula area has been recognised for its efforts in catering for many retired residents. The Tootgarook church ministers to a quite large group in this category. We recognised that there were a number of Senior Citizens' clubs etc. in the area, but we were more concerned about the contribution the church could make in meeting other needs. Finally the concept of the "Open Door" was agreed upon, and the program initiated has proved to be an unparalleled success.

Throughout the period of operation the numbers attending have steadily increased to total just over 80 on the attendance record. On the fourth Wednesday of each month the average attendance is over 60. Because of a friendly, caring and vital atmosphere, many have expressed appreciation of its worthwhileness, and of the contribution to their lives. A number have attended morning services as a result, quite voluntarily.

The program varies and consists of community singing, several well known hymns, elocutional, vocal and musical items and an appropriate devotional. Contributions are made by a variety of guest artists.

The Peninsula has a wealth of musically talented people who are more than willing to make their services available. Fred Rees capably compares the session from 11 am to 12.30 pm which is followed by a substantial lunch provided by a number of the church ladies at a cost of \$2.

Co-operation and commitment has been outstanding, and the overwhelming response has been one of tremendous appreciation for the positive outgoing program.

—Reg Hillbrich

Claude Roediger's Community Service



Mollie and Claude Roediger

Claude Roediger, a member of the Northam, WA, church for many years, is calling it a day after serving with the Northam Town Council for about 25 years. He was first elected in May 1963 and served until May 1972. He decided then not to renominate but stood again the next year and was re-elected in May 1973 until May 1988, a total of 25 years of community service as a Town Councillor. For 10 of those years he also served as Deputy Mayor.

During his term with the Council his Christian witness and influence was evidenced on many occasions and often he would be the lone voice to stand up and oppose things that might be morally unacceptable or to make alternative suggestions on how things might be carried out. As he left he said that he did so with mixed feelings, but that it would give him time to get on with other things.

During those years of service he has also been very active within the Northam church. He has served as a respected elder since 1954, has been board chairman on several occasions, church secretary from 1948 to 1956 and then from 1971 to 1976, and for quite a number of years was Bible School Superintendent. He has been a very faith-

ful member and continues to preach from time to time.

Claude is not a man to glory in his own activities but would give God the glory for all he has been able to do as he has sought to serve his Lord both within the community and within the life of the local church.

The church thought it was appropriate to acknowledge the time Claude spent serving the community and presented him with a copy of the *Illustrated Bible Dictionary*.

Jay Adams at Kenmore Christian College

Author, professor and counsellor Dr Jay E. Adams is the main speaker of the *Biblical Counselling Seminar* at Kenmore Christian College on 12-14 September. The seminar has been designed to encourage church leaders and ministers to recognise their role in counselling. The church and her leaders are a vital, dynamic change-agent in the lives of troubled people.

Jay Adams is the Director of Advanced Studies and Professor of Practical Theology at Westminster Theological Seminary in California. He has written over 50 books on pastoral ministry, preaching, counselling, divorce, and Christian living. Dr Adams's emphasis on the Biblical word "nouthetic" as the primary approach to Christian counselling, has produced caustic criticism from his opponents and praise from his supporters.

KCC Principal Donald W. Spencer, a trained psychologist, refers to Jay Adams as "a pesky fly in the psychological ointment". Christian psychotherapists and pastors have often sold their birthright of Biblical counselling for the secularists' bowl of pottage.

Too often the church and her leaders have bought into the world's secular, psychological ointments to the neglect of the biblical, psychological treatments. Much of humanity goes wanting for the church to return to her leader's teaching and modelling. Jay Adams has been that "pesky fly" reminding the church of her Christ-centred approach to counselling and her competency to deal with humanity's condition.

Dr Adams will beat Kenmore each afternoon from 1-4 pm for six sessions built on the theme: "Competent to Counsel". A Brisbane rally with Dr Adams is scheduled for 14 September at the Kelvin Grove High School Auditorium. Dr Adams's address will be entitled: "Forgiveness". A teachers' session is planned at Christian Heritage College around the topic of Dr Adams's book *Back to the Blackboard*.

Financial sponsorship of local Brisbane groups have allowed the seminar registration to be limited to \$30. Meals and accommodations for additional fees can be arranged at the College.

For information call KCC on (07) 378 1988.

Maylands (SA) Church of Christ 80th Anniversary

Friday, 8 Sept., 6.15 pm
Church Dinner
Church History Book Launch
Tickets definitely required.

Sunday, 10 Sept.,
10.30 am Guest Speaker:
Maurice Coombs
Philadelphia, USA
12 noon Pooled Luncheon
7 pm James Symons
Tucson, Arizona

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Marion's Tenth Anniversary



The Marion building features unusual architecture and is set in a beautiful landscaped area with off-street parking for almost 200 cars

The Marion, SA, church celebrated its 10th anniversary with a day of inspiring worship and great fellowship.

The Marion story is an exciting one, which saw two active congregations (Clovelly Park and Ascot Park) sell their respective properties and pool their resources to form a brand new fellowship. Today, despite heavy losses in recent years through interstate transfers, the church is more than twice its original size, with combined Sunday attendances (there are three services) consistently running at more than 500.

The last 10 years have seen the church respond to many exciting challenges as its ministry program has gradually expanded. These have included the purchase of three adjacent houses and the large corner parking block; the establishment of a Community Centre; the acquisition of a church bus; the televising of a morning service for the ABC's "Divine Worship", and the gradual development of the ministry team from a point of having just one minister to the present set up which involves no less than seven on the paid staff

(three of them in full-time positions).

Graham Agnew, the church's senior minister, has just entered his ninth year of ministry and he reports that the past 12 months have been the most exciting so far: "During this time we have seen 40 people baptised into Christ and that's been fantastic for our people! The main challenge facing us at the moment relates to our future growth and expansion—and that's a subject that will continue to really stretch our faith in the foreseeable future."

Historic Initiatives at Mildura

Two historic events have happened at Mildura, Vic, recently:

- On 9 July at a special church meeting approval was given for the reorganisation of the board to create a functional committee structure.

Initially, five committees will be formed, with deacons being elected by the church to the leadership of each committee. The areas are pastoral care, worship, education, outreach, and property.

Each committee will be comprised of the elected deacon as Chairman, an elder appointed by the elders, and a number of members who have indicated a willingness in serving in that area of ministry.

The Board will be reduced in

number because the number of deacons has been reduced to five.

The church's annual meeting on 14 August will elect the first deacons to the new structure.

- On 16 July elder Doug Clark was inducted into the position of assistant minister to David Ratten.

Doug Clark is now engaged by the church as a lay minister, working on a three day per week ministry, with a major involvement in the pastoral care ministry.

In all of its 99 years the church has been served by only one minister. As it enters its Centenary year, the church sees great significance in this appointment.

The celebrations of the church's 100 years of ministry in Mildura will take place during 1990. A number of special events are being planned, with the focus on the Centenary being held on the Queen's Birthday weekend of 9, 10 and 11 June. A back to is being staged and past members and friends of the Mildura church are invited to return to Mildura for that weekend. Accommodation will need to be booked early. Home hosting with members is being arranged.

Indications of interest in attendance and accommodation needs are invited. Laurie Stafford, Centenary Committee, Mildura Church of Christ, PO Box 2797, Mildura 3502, will get your name on the list.

—Doug Beasy

Theory into Practice for Carlingford Students

Many vast and varied experiences confronted the students from the Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College (Carlingford) during the recent Week of Practical Experience, 19-25 June.

Apart from the regular church placements, the students are involved each year in a concentrated week of "hands on" church experience.

This year the specific emphasis was on evangelism and the week was planned to coincide with a week long mission being held at the Marrickville, NSW, church with John Bond.

Each weekday contained a training period in evangelism with John and then the students dispersed in three teams of about 20 students in each to the three suburban churches of Marrickville, Engadine and Greenacre.

The three ministers, Tony Sands, Kevin Simington and Peter De Wildt respectively had organised a variety of evangelistic opportunities for the students.

Activities such as coffee mornings, a men's dinner, children's after school programs, coffee shops, contact visitation, high school seminars, and many more gave the students many opportunities to personally share their faith.

We thank God in seeing over 40 first-time commitments to Christ during the week.

To witness lives being transformed, whether it be the teenagers at the high school programs at Engadine or the elderly man and his wife at Marrickville is a great joy to see.

Many more indicated a desire to discover more about Christianity and thus a busy time ahead is assured for the three churches.

—Tim Hanna.
(Director of
Field Education)

Further Award

In the 8 July issue of *The Australian Christian* we had an article on members of Churches of Christ who were honoured in the Queen's Birthday honour list. We missed one person.

Mrs Dorothy May Hill, of the Georgetown, NSW, church, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her services to animal welfare and to the elderly. Mrs Hill has been involved for many years with the RSPCA, with whom she was an inspector for 30 years. Her work with the elderly has involved a commitment to Meals on Wheels for many years and with the Friendship Centre that the Georgetown church operates.

Mrs Hill has been a member of the Georgetown church for 40 years (the church celebrates its 50th anniversary in 1990). Two daughters, Jean Moran and Edna Thompson, also attend the Georgetown church and three granddaughters, Dale, Wendy and Robyn, have been members.



Mrs Dorothy Hill, OAM, with her cat, Perdy

Richard and Shirley Pearce in NZ

Richard and Shirley Pearce, well known Gospel singers, have traded the good life in Australia for a three-year term of ministry at Bridge Valley Christian Ranch in Nelson, New Zealand.

Over past years this popular duo have sung their way into the hearts of thousands of people in Australia and the Pacific Islands. Ranch life still allows them to continue that same style of ministry in New Zealand, but gives the extra dimension of outreach through the camping program.

Their responsibilities at the ranch include management, public relations, organising and running Christian-based school holiday camps for junior, intermediate and senior young people, as well as leadership camps, ladies' and men's retreats and senior adults' camping programs.

Bridge Valley Christian Ranch is a modern camping facility that is capable of accommodating 100 in quality surroundings. It boasts a large recreation and dining hall as well as a smaller hall and a large well-appointed kitchen. All of this is set in 5.5 hectares of lush farm land and great outdoor recreation areas.

Life in New Zealand is definitely colder than their home state of Queensland and the cost of living is a little higher also but the people are warm and friendly. Both Mark and Jacqueline have jobs, which is something to be very thankful for as Nelson is a high unemployment area.

Richard and Shirley are due to release a new record album later this year under their continuing contract with Hadley Records in Tamworth, NSW, and are planning a concert tour in Australia early next year to promote the new album.

They can be contacted at Bridge Valley Christian Ranch, RD 1 Wakefield, Nelson, New Zealand.

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KENSINGTON NETWORK OPPORTUNITIES

New opportunities are challenging the Network. These include a worship service in a pizza shop, a second house group, new morning worship proposals and help for homeless men. Kim Thoday and his team need your gifts and prayer now.

DEPARTMENT OF MISSION, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT
52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000





Ararat's Kid's Club

Ararat, Vic, is only a small church and last year had no program for primary school age children. Then in February they started a children for Christ "Kid's Club" program with 45 children. Now there are 70-80 boys and girls attending for three hours after school each Wednesday. Activities include games, a story time, a sing-along, tea and craft work.

The leaders' ages range from mid-twenties to mid-seventies, with help from four or five local teenagers.

The program has been well received by the people of Ararat and has been honoured by the presence of the Mayor, Glenda Allwood.

Craft time in action

Team of Workers Bound for the South Seas

Feel like escaping the winter for the balmy, tropical climate of Vanuatu? A team of volunteers from Nunawading, Vic, is bound for Vanuatu on 9 September. They will help build living quarters for teachers at Londua Training Centre on Ambae Island. Away for a month, the team members are donating their annual leave.

All the men have trades or handyman skills. They plan to leave their new tools behind when the job is completed.

Andrea Keifer, a nurse, will be the team cook. Dora Gray, the other female member and also a nurse, will be on Santo with August and Maeline Ben.

The work party has generated fun and excitement at Nunawading with novel fundraising activities—fancy morning teas after church, the sale of woollen jumpers with the Churches of Christ logo, a children's musical and other off-beat activities.

The "Augustfest" dinner dance on 5 August was a spectacular fund raiser and a marvellous night out. Ted König, Matt Comrie and team formed "The King's Bavarian Band".



Vanuatu team (L to R): Ern Kelfer, John Sallows, Ian Roberts, Ted Gray, Matt Comrie and Don Atkinson

Graeme Funder impersonated Lilli Marlene and a yodelling contest was held. A team of waiters and waitresses, in German costumes, led by Eleanor Roberts, served a superb three-course dinner, all for a mere \$15 per head. The Sunday School hall was "transformed" into a German restaurant.

If your church wishes to consider a similar work party contact Ian Roberts on (03) 877 6077 for ideas. If you would like "The King's Bavarian Band" to perform at church or a private function contact Ted König on (03) 878 5506.

MIDLAND

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Letters from the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Chinese Church

To the Editor,

The article "Chinese Church Resurgent" ("AC" 22 July) is a reminder for all of us to think and pray for those who live in China and for the Christians who seek to live out life in that land.

At the time of the clampdown recently, I wrote to the Ambassador for China, pointing out that their killing and jailing of students was a matter to be deplored.

I believe that as Christians we have some responsibility to respond to the needs of others who have need of our thoughts and prayers.

—Bruce Burn
(Morwell, Vic)

Church Archives

To the Editor,

I refer to Malcolm Bird's letter ("AC" 22 July) in which he requests copies of old Conference Handbooks and histories of local churches. I hope he will be successful in this, but his letter raises a matter of concern, viz the preservation of the archival material of our communion.

Over the years I have been mindful that much interesting and historically relevant material relating to our churches has been destroyed. The same issue of *The Australian Christian* records the sad loss by fire of important historical records of the church at Mackay. Desirably, such material should not have been stored locally but in a centrally located and suitably designed facility where it could be preserved and made available to historians and interested church members.

L. C. F. Higgins

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& (08) 362 8619**

The absence of proper archival facilities has been a major reason why churches and members have been reluctant to hand over early records and thus has been a contributory factor in their destruction.

—Harold Hayward
(Berowra, NSW)

Penfriend Wanted

To the Editor,

Could you please help me with my request. I am very, very interested in Australia and Australians, so I would be grateful if you could publish my name in your newspaper to have some penpals from Australia.

My particulars are: Stephenson Dzegblor, PO Box 14125, Accra, Ghana, West Africa. I am a Christian who is 27 years of age. My hobbies are travelling, sports, music (gospel music), corresponding and culture.

Thank you for your assistance.

—Stephenson Dzegblor

Observations Regarding Churches of Christ

To the Editor,

These are a few observations my husband and I have made after visiting several of our churches in recent weeks.

What has happened to our "distinctive message"—the Restoration Movement? The Campbells and Barton Warren Stone and others would "turn in their graves" if they knew. When we were strong and growing was when we clung firmly to our distinctive message—immersion, the Lord's Supper often and regularly, studying the Word diligently, fellowship and prayer and using the gifts of the Holy Spirit given at baptism.

The practice of "infant sprinkling" is still being preached by the Uniting, Presbyterian and Anglican churches. My granddaughters have not been able to be immersed in the four country towns where they have lived (no Churches of Christ or Baptists). The Anglican minister in each case said they would, but even though they and their wives had been immersed,

never mentioned it again. So one of the girls was baptised at Essendon, Vic, just a week ago. She has waited 11 years.

I believe we need more clear teaching on the "First Principles" and some good old time missions, i.e. Pollack-Jackson (five weeks in Melbourne in 1952), E.C. Hinrichsen (most churches established are still there) and Clay-Kellar (the baptistry in St Paul's Melbourne was put there because of so many requests for baptism).

What should we do?

—Margaret Goninon
(Fairfield, NSW)

Police Shootings

To the Editor,

It was of interest to read Joy Butler's personal view of police shootings ("AC" 22 July).

As an ex-police chaplain, let me hasten to add that we must not generalise when we refer to

such organisations.

It was my privilege to minister to many in quite a number of stations, and, like so many ITIM chaplains, found genuine receptions and people who were just like us. They had to contend with the idea of trying to contain crime in the face of many difficulties. They often faced death and had to tell others of those who would not be seen alive again. They had to face their own marital difficulties and try to sort out some of the problems. They were and are part of society—always wanted, but often times not wanted. Only wanted if trouble was about, never wanted at other times.

We all should abhor shootings. But the Council of Civil Liberties has often stood for those who would oppose anything for the sake of so doing, when they are not really in the position of the local law en-

Letters from Tertius

"The Ceaseless Round"

To the Editor,

Sometimes snatches of hymns go round and round in my mind. Usually they are single lines, and I have no idea what the rest of the hymn is.

One that kept coming to me all this morning was "Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round." I began thinking, "What is this ceaseless round?" So I borrowed my wife's hymn book and looked it up. It is "the ceaseless round of planets singing on their way".

First of all I wondered where J. Chadwick, the hymn writer, got the idea that planets sing. Our big astronomical dishes haven't picked up anything like that as far as I can discover.

I preferred my own understanding of "the ceaseless round" before I looked up the hymn. I imagined that the ceaseless round was the sort of merry-go-round that we are all on, of getting up and abluting and grabbing a bite and hurrying to work and home again and having dinner and taking in a bit of telly and going to bed and then repeating it all ad nauseam.

It was comforting for me to know that the Eternal Ruler is not aloof from that sort of "ceaseless round". It must all fit with his eternal plan somehow! And more importantly, he must be in there with us to save us from boredom or stress or breakdown, or whatever it does to us.

My mate from St Chad's gets out of bed every day and says, "Good morning, Lord!" It's his way of recognising that as he climbs onto "the ceaseless round" the Lord will be on there with him. It seems to help my mate. And J. Chadwick agrees with him. The last two lines of the verse are:

"Rule in our hearts that we may ever be
Guided, and strengthened, and upheld by Thee."

—Tertius

forcement officer.

Eradicate what makes the wrong, but help those who try to assist their communities, especially in Victoria.

—Bruce Burn
(Morwell, Vic)

[Since Joy Butler's view was printed the Victorian Government has initiated a coronial inquiry into seven deaths involving the police—Editor.]

Leadership 2000

To the Editor,

As invited participants of Leadership 2000 (Singapore, July–August 1989) we would like to share the following reflections.

Meeting with the senior ministers of some of Australia's largest Churches of Christ and Dr Medford Jones was invaluable. Their willingness to share their victories, successes, disappointments and failures is very much appreciated. We are inspired by their commitment to the centrality of God's word, prayer and evangelism as the foundation for growing churches.

We have learned of the pitfalls and problems as well as principles and strategies for effective ministry, and feel better equipped to lead our churches. Leadership 2000 has stimulated, encouraged and enthused us all.

Doubtless this conference will have a profound impact on our ministries. It has broadened our vision, enlivened our faith and reinforced our commitment to see Christ's church grow.

We thank God for the senior ministers' foresight, their interest in our ministries, their enthusiasm and vision.

We thank God also for Christian Projects in their generous support of Leadership 2000.

—Geoffrey Payne
(Prospect, SA)

(for Steve Fahey and Trevor Pedler, Qld, Rod Foster, Tas, John Gilmore and Geoff Payne, SA, Robert Hough, Lindsay Mayes, David Ratten and Roger Risson, Vic, and Richard Oakes and Darryl Seip, NSW)

Revival in the USSR

Through open air preaching and street evangelism, many people in the Soviet Union are hearing the gospel for the first time.

During the May Day public holidays many of the unregistered churches held youth rallies and street evangelistic meetings. In many cities hundreds were converted.

In Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine, Christians conducted evangelistic meetings in the streets. Victor Gomon, an active youth leader and speaker from Kiev, was arrested by police but after a public outcry was released.

In Leningrad believers also held a street meeting for 2,000 and a meeting in a Orthodox monastery. Following Russian tradition a choir sang Christian songs and many short sermons were preached.

Afterwards the church received many telephone calls. One girl wanted to know if she could bring five friends.

In Rostov a meeting was held on the place where government officials destroyed a church tent on 4 April. Out of 600 visitors, 10 became Christians.

In Odessa the Christians held their usual fasting day on the Friday before Passover Sunday.

They also distributed invitations to the Sunday service and 300 who do not attend church came for the first time. The service lasted four hours and was conducted by musician and singer Eugeni Pushkov, who had been sentenced to 11 years imprisonment for his Christian activities.

In Brest Christians have begun to visit the local tumour clinic. When they asked if they could read from the Bible they ended up having a small service and leaving a Gospel behind for the patients to read. Previously Christians would have been fined 50 roubles for visiting the sick.

—Mission USSR

Flotsam Brings Faith

Michael has been attending church for many years now, but has never felt that he need do anything more than just attend. Recently he found a New Guinea Pidgin New Testament floating in the Wagol River near the camp where he lives. He salvaged the New Testament from the muddy water and dried it out in the sun.

Having gone to this trouble, he thought he had better read the book he had rescued. By the time he had finished reading the New Testament he had, as he puts it, "strongpela tingting long kisim baptais". In English, a strong conviction, or firm idea, that he should be baptised.

Michael is presently attending

discipleship and pre-baptism classes with Pastor Pekene and we are eagerly awaiting his baptism.

What is more, I've noticed him smiling a lot more lately. I wonder why?

There are many unusual tes-

timonies of how men and women here in PNG have encountered the living Jesus, but each one of them has come about as a result of the Word of God being available to them. It just goes to show, that one person's flotsam is another person's path to faith.

—Wayne Kerrison

Oakleigh Church Anniversary Services

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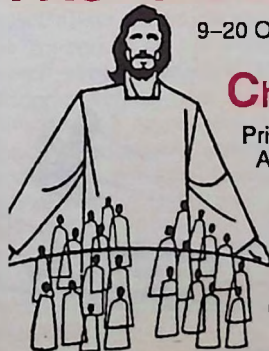
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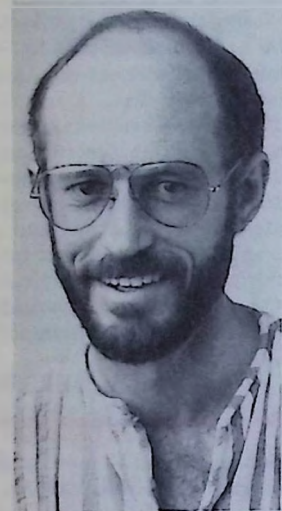
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Media Review

Radio

New Presenter for *Kronos*



Alan Austin

ABC Radio National's weekly current affairs program *Kronos* has been taken over by journalist, Alan Austin, in Melbourne.

The program, produced from Sydney until now, started eight years ago under the title *Forum*, and for the last five years was presented by John Cleary. The name was changed to *Kronos* eight months ago. It is the only radio program dealing with religious current affairs in Australia.

Alan joined the ABC Radio Religious Department just over 12 months ago. Many of his reports for *Kronos* have ended up leading newsbulletins and in newspapers.

Alan is probably best known for his recent controversial report for the Uniting Church, *I Was in Prison*.

The release of the report led to the banning of Uniting Church chap-

lains from Pentridge Prison. While that problem has since been resolved, Alan is still banned from the prison.

The format of *Kronos* will not change under Alan's leadership, but he does hope to introduce a greater range of interviews rather than rely on straight reporting and commentary.

Alan's background is in freelance journalism and he has written stories for *The Age*, *The National Times*, ABC Radio, *The Bulletin* and Radio Australia to name a few. In the religious press he has contributed to most major publications and was a controversial columnist for *The Australian Christian*, *The Baptist Witness*, *Central Times* and *See*.

Since 1975, Alan, a qualified pilot, has visited more than 30 Aboriginal communities in northern Australia researching articles and radio programs.

Kronos goes to air on Radio National each Friday at 5.30 pm and is repeated each Monday at 11.30 am.

Books

Which Seeds Shall Grow?

Men and Women in Religious Life

by Naomi Turner (Collins Dove) \$15.95

Those of us who have been brought up in the Protestant

tradition have often, understandably, little knowledge of the thinking and way of life of those men and women who have chosen to live what is known in the Roman Catholic Church as the "religious life". We have often, in our ignorance, accused such people of avoiding society and its problems. We have seen them as strange, different and have even at times viewed them with suspicion. *Which Seeds Shall Grow?* should dispel some of that suspicion. Here we find out what prompts people in 20th century Australia to consider the religious life, what difficulties they have with their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and how they cope with practical issues such as clothing and pocket money. The author makes every attempt to be objective but her desire for change within the Catholic Church is obvious. Positive responses to change are applauded; negative responses are regretted.

This book is the first of two that were the result of a project initiated by the National Assembly in May 1984. The style is biographical, not theological, and it is both interesting and easy to read. The challenge it contains is relevant not only for the Catholic religious but for every Australian Christian. —JWP

The Relevance of John's Apocalypse

by Donald Guthrie (Paternoster Press)

Donald Guthrie, former Vice-Principal of London Bible College, examined the Book of Revelation in the 1985 Didsbury Lectures in England. Each lecture comprises one of the four chapters of this book under the headings: Content and the Search for Meaning; Christology and its Modern Challenge; The Church—Past, Present and Future; and Conflict and its Consummation.

The material is presented at an "intermediate" level. It is relatively "scholarly"—presupposing a working knowledge of a fair bit of theological jargon and with a liberal sprinkling of footnotes and references. But the lectures were public and there is much of interest that is readily understandable by non-theologians.

I particularly appreciated Guthrie's sincere and successful attempt to give a balanced view of the whole spectrum of ideas about this much misunderstood book, especially his emphasis on the major themes of hope amidst persecution and the ultimate triumph of God and those who believe in him. For this part alone, the book is worth reading.

Unfortunately, however, Guthrie fails to deliver his prime message—the meaning of the Book of Revelation for today. In this area, his presentation becomes little more than a brief, moralistic deprecation of the evils of the modern age and a call for us to "detect the malicious antagonism of Satanic forces". He does not attempt to put such language into a modern context or to reinterpret the message of Revelation for us, now. This is a great pity.


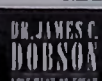

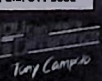
—Kevin Bray

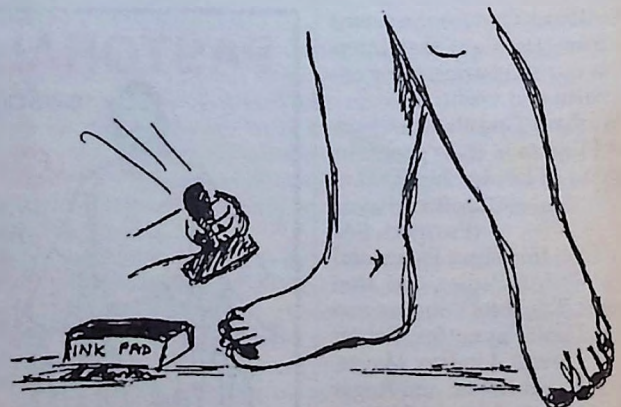
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Don't stamp your feet!

What about the Robbers?



Part of attending the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism Conference at San Antonio in Texas on behalf of the Australian Churches of Christ meant that I was part of a section under the heading "The Earth Is the Lord's". The subsection under this heading that I was part of was "Called To Be Peace-Makers". The topic of discussion in this subsection concerned refugees. Many people from many nations at this section shared their experiences and the experience of others who had been dispossessed of their homes and families because of social, economic and political catastrophes.

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We talked about having a "Samaritan" mission to refugees. By that we meant that we would learn to see the victims and then offer whatever material aid was needed for them. That we should provide protection for them and assume a ministry of advocacy for them to care for their ongoing needs. Many of the people as part of this group reported on what was being done along this model for refugees. There is however, another question that concerned Christian people must face. The question concerns the "robbers" in the story Jesus told. We agreed that it was the mission of the church to care for those who had become refugees. What is the role of mission of the church in doing something about the root causes of refugees?

I am conscious as I write these words for publication that in Geneva meetings are being held to consider what should be done about the refugees from Vietnam who are now in Hong Kong. Our searching of the scriptures told us that it is the nature of God to love and to protect the strangers and it is the nature of Jesus Christ, his son, to identify with them. This God has called us all to be a migrant people towards a city that is to come.

We produced a number of requests of the World Council of Churches that they act on some of these suggestions before the Seventh Assembly convenes in Canberra in January 1991. As at most conferences, it is easy to pass a resolution and pass it on to someone else. I'm left with questions myself about what to do about the robbers. I'm left asking myself about militarism, the struggle among the super powers, civil wars, multinational corporations, poverty, land issues, ecological destruction of nature, religious bigotry, racism, oppression, economic pressures and on and on the list goes. I'm also left asking myself, what am I doing for the refugees?

—Jeff May

New Denomination Formed

Earlier this year in America a new denomination that has close ties with the Restoration Movement in America was formed. Christ's Church Fellowship (CCF) held its first information meeting at Fellowship Christian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, on 20 and 21 January.

The new denomination has evolved largely out of the Conference of Spiritual Renewal, an informal network of ministers who have met in national conferences since 1980 to discuss spiritual renewal.

While upholding most of the fundamental beliefs and practices of Disciples of Christ, Christian churches and churches of Christ, CCF also makes some dramatic departures, especially from the so-called independent Christian churches and the non-instrumental churches of Christ. The differences are evident in two main areas: the doctrine of the Holy Spirit and church government.

In its doctrine of the Holy Spirit the CCF resembles many charismatic fellowships; it holds that all the gifts described in the New Testament are operative today, including the gift of tongues.

The role of the Holy Spirit also has a direct bearing on the leadership structure in the CCF. CCF's "doctrinal statement" states: "We affirm the offices of Ephesians 4:11 as the church's divinely established order and government."

The five offices in Ephesians 4:11 are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. CCF maintains that there are present-day apostles who can exercise authority over congregations within a given area or even worldwide.

CCF will be governed through a hierarchy of pastors and presbyteries to provide coordinated ministry and missions work, accountability structures for leaders and churches, and fellowship for Christians on local, regional and national levels.

Each congregation will be led

by a group of elders that will have a pastor as its "mantle leader."

Congregations within a given area will have a "regional pastor" to act as part overseer to congregations, part advisor to church leaders and part liaison between congregations and national CCF leadership groups. "Deacon teams" will manage such national ministries as missions and publishing.

General leadership of CCF is in the hands of the "leadership presbytery", a group of "proven pastors, apostles, prophets, and elders selected and confirmed by the General Presbytery". The General Presbytery will meet every other year, and is formed by congregational representatives: one pastor, one elder, and their spouses, from churches.

The founding leadership presbytery is Tom Smith, pastor of Fellowship Christian Church, Cincinnati, Ohio (President); Laverne Campbell, pastor-emeritus of Calvary Chapel, Atlanta, Georgia (Vice-President); Alton Tomlin, pastor of Vision Christian Church, Greeley, Colorado (Vice-President); Grant Edwards, pastor of Fellowship Christian Church in Springfield, Ohio (Secretary); and Jack Haun, pastor of Grace Community Fellowship in Indianapolis, Indiana (Treasurer).

About 250 pastors have expressed interest in joining Christ's Church Fellowship.

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Happenings

In Ghana the Accra metropolitan Authority has rejected the applications of 13 religious bodies because they failed to provide adequate information on their activities. The bodies are Right Hand of God Church, Church of Michael, Holy Siloam Church, Chorkor Prayer Group, Bible Believing Christian Church, Full Gospel Christian Church, Global Revival Ministries, Church of Jesus Christ, Centre for Spiritual Awareness, Kingdom Church of Jesus, Creator's Blessing Herbs/Bible Teaching Centre, United Apostolic Church and the Gospel Out-Reach Team. Some of the religious bodies did not state their sources of funds and had no letter heads.

A working party has begun exploring the possibility of Roman Catholic participation in an expanded ecumenical body for Australia. Five representatives of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Convention met with 5 from the ACC.

The Moral Majority organisation, founded in the USA by Jerry Falwell in 1979, will be disbanded on 31 August. "Our mission is finished," said Jerry. In its 10 years it raised \$69 million for conservative political causes.

Last year Australians gambled \$20,000 million and stole \$300 million worth of goods from shops.

A tree planted in the Cathedral Square in Basel, Switzerland, at the close of the European Ecumenical Assembly on Justice and Peace in May was seriously burned in an arson attack. A group seeking the establishment of an alternative cultural centre took responsibility for the attack.

The next Queensland CWF Rally is being held

at the Springwood church on 22 August with Mrs Nancy Spencer as speaker. The morning commences with morning tea at 10 am.

David Gill, General Secretary of the Australian Council of Churches, has written to the Prime Minister about reports that the Cabinet's razor gang plans to cut Australian foreign aid. "Any such reduction would be a matter of deep concern to people of the ACC's 13 member churches. We would be sad indeed to see cuts in an area that represents Australia's responsibility to the wider world community."

An Aboriginal and Islander Commission has been created by the Australian Council of Churches. The Commission has 14 members representing church related and other Aboriginal and Islander groups around Australia. The Chairperson is Bishop Arthur Malcolm of the Anglican Diocese of North Queensland. The Executive Secretary of the Commission is Anne Gray.

Clergy in California are not exempt from a state law requiring child care providers to report suspected child abuse, a municipal judge has ruled.

Tom Houston, former President of World Vision International will become International Director of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelisation on 1 September. Thomas Wang will retire from the position following the second International Congress on World Evangelisation held 11-20 July in the Philippines.

In SA the proportion of Christians in the population has fallen from 78.3% in 1976 to 69.6% in 1986.

South Australians spent more money on gambling during 1987-88 than in any other year. TAB and bookmaker's turnover increased by 58.1 million from 1986-87, while the Lotteries Commission netted 145.8 million, compared with 128.6 million in 1986-87.

There were 4,227 abortions performed in South Australia in 1987, compared with 4,323 in 1986. Women aged under 15, 35-39 and 45 and over reported fewer abortions than in the previous year, while other age groups recorded small increases.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has asked the head of the Roman Catholic Church in Nicaragua, Miguel Cardinal Obando y Bravo, to help arrange a US-Nicaragua dialogue.

Sjem (the Polish parliament) has approved a 47 article law on religion. The law guarantees the right of citizens to organise churches and religious associations, to belong to them and to leave them, to spread religious ideas or to remain silent, and to maintain contacts with other believers. It also guarantees the right to several church activities, including running schools, counselling services, hospitals, and newspapers, magazines and books. Before the law all religious organisations are equal and the state is to be neutral in religious affairs.

The 307th member church of the WCC is the Kiribati Protestant [Reformed] Church. Until 1968 a part of the London Missionary Society, the Kiribati Protestant Church has 124 congregations with 31,000 members (about half the population) on the 33 islands of the Independent South

Pacific republic of Kiribati.

Saudi Arabia is the world's leading development aid donor, relative to GNP. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development estimates Saudi aid in 1987 at \$2.9 billion, or 3.42% of GNP. The US provided aid worth \$8.9 billion, only 0.02% of GNP. Australia's foreign aid budget is more than \$1 billion and represents 0.36% of GNP.

The only Christian presence left in the Middle East soon will be monuments and relics, the Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem, Samir Kafity, has warned. He said the issue of the Christian exodus from the region was serious because the Holy Land would be pre-empted from its holiness if the Christian church became not just a small presence but a collection of monuments, stones and relics where once upon a time a living presence bore witness to the faith. Emigration had increased to alarming levels recently because of the Lebanese war and the Intifada on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Greek (Eastern) Orthodox patriarchate of Jerusalem says it will no longer engage in theological dialogue with Christians of other traditions. Patriarch Diodoros says "heterodox" (other Christians) had been using such dialogues to steal members of his flock. His complaint against other traditions was mainly directed at Roman Catholicism.

Asked by a journalist during his recent trip to France if he had been baptised, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said he had. "And," he added, "I think there is nothing strange about that." Mr Gorbachev's mother was a Christian.

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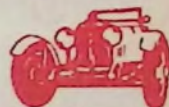
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Lecturer in Ministry Studies
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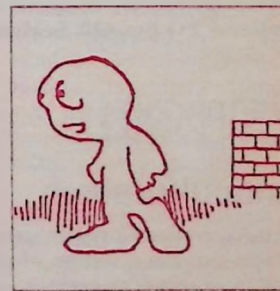
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Media Review

Recordings



Frontier

Frontier (Cassette C-001, \$14; CD, \$22)

Recently we received a press release titled "Why Should the Devil Have all the Good Music?" It was about a new Christian gospel group "Frontier" and a concert they are holding in Melbourne on 23 September. The concert is being held at the Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University, at 8 pm. The concert is being held to celebrate the release of their first album, "Frontier". The group claims to be the first Aus-

tralasian Gospel group to release their music on compact disc. The concert costs \$8 or \$6 for students, children and pensioners.

Tickets (and cassettes or CDs) are available from the Dandenong Keswick-Scripture Union Bookshop (phone (03) 791 2466); Word Bookstores, Oakleigh (phone 544 5844) and Heathmont (phone 729 3777), and the Robert Blackwood Hall (phone 565 3091).

The recording is the result of the formation in 1988 of a group of musicians from America, South Africa and Europe to present a balanced view of Gospel music in Australia. They claim to present an alternative Christian sound that presents soul, jazz, soft rock and calypso, topped off with dynamic harmonics. I found it pleasant listening. As they claim, their lyrics are readily understandable, and they present an encouraging message. The musical sound, to my ear, is smooth calypso with some African influence, but is very definitely not a heavy rock beat. The album is very well produced. The style of music would suit many of our readers but not those who are into a heavier, more raucous sound.

For interstate readers cassettes and CDs can be obtained from Frontier at PO Box 420, Seaford 3198.

—CRA

Papers

Multiculturalism

For Australian Christians, the question of multiculturalism is turning into the question of religious pluralism. 20 years ago when most recent migrants were European, religion was not so important an issue. Now with much more Asian migration, many Australians are members of non-Christian religions. Hindu, Muslim and other religions now seek not just freedom of worship but access to the same rights and privileges as Australian Christian churches.

In a new Zadok paper, Bruce Kaye analyses the legal debate, particularly with reference to what a "religion" is in the Australian Constitution. This raises serious questions for Australian Christians. He argues for a commitment to the truth which while acknowledging the uniqueness of Christ also acknowledges that others have discerned truth about God. With this in mind, Christians should seek to offer Christianity to others by invitation and respectful persuasion, not by aggressive techniques or legal compulsion.

Christianity and Multiculturalism in Australia is available from the Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society, Blackall St, Barton 2600, or phone (062) 73 1634, for \$2 plus 80c postage.

Books

Walls or Bridges

How to Build Relationships that Glorify God
by Jon Johnston (Baker Book House)

The "walls" we build to protect ourselves may, eventually, imprison us. As Christians we are in the business of demolishing walls, and building bridges. Good relationships depend on taking risks—of abandoning self protection, and reaching out, without reserve, to others. The author develops the theme of healthy relationships, holistic relationships and holy relationships in a simple anecdotal style.

Jon Johnston is Professor of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Psychology at Pepperdine University, and Adjunct Professor at Fuller Theological Seminary—however this is a book for the layman rather than the trained counsellor, who would probably find the approach rather simplistic and trite.

This book is easy to read, and augmented by extensive footnotes and several appendices for those readers who wish to further develop their understanding of the factors affecting personal wholeness.

—Graeme Addicott

My Place

by Nadia Wheatley and Donna Rawlins (Collins Dove) \$16.95

My Place was one of the 1988 Children's Book of the Year award winners. A beautifully illustrated book that traces Australia's history by the technique of the story of a child who lives on the same site near Sydney every decade. One page is devoted to each decade and it is interesting to read of the changes in society. The last child is Aboriginal and so is the first but they lived in entirely different ears. The illustrations include a local map of the immediate area every decade which gives a fascinating insight into the changes that have occurred in our society over the decades. It is a book that can be read by older children with enjoyment and which also has some very interesting illustrations that would enthrall a younger child while the book is being read to them. It is easy to see why this book won the award last year. —CRA



The Gospel from Outer Space

by Robert Short (Collins Fount paperbacks) \$4.95

Robert Short is best known as the author of the book *The Gospel According to Peanuts* which examined the Christian message of Charles Schulz Peanuts cartoons.

In this book Robert Short investigates the fascination with outer space and science fiction and with the films of the early 1980s that celebrate that fascination—2001: A Space Odyssey, Close Encounters of the Third Kind,

Superman, Star Wars and ET. This book was written in 1983 but the films examined are still very popular and are often re-run on television and certainly children still view them very seriously. Robert Short argues that these films provided us with a new way of looking at ourselves and they give fresh understanding to Christian belief. —CRA

On the Move with the President

June opened with a meeting of Residential College Principals at Emanuel College at the University of Queensland to discuss a way of assisting severely handicapped university students with suitable accommodation and support. This was followed by a meeting with the Hon Craig Sherrin, Minister for Family Services in Queensland, over finalisation of Eidsvold Children's Home matters. The Friday and Saturday, 2 and 3 June, involved a meeting of the Federal Aborigines Board in Perth in Western Australia. I returned home on Sunday.

Tuesday, 6 June, was taken up with a meeting of the Social Service Department's directors of nursing and hostel personal care providers and supervisors. At this meeting at Bribie Island Retirement Village I addressed these leaders on the subject of "Managing Change". That evening, at the invitation of the Queensland Premier, the Hon. Mike Ahern, I attended the

Queensland Day Concert in the Brisbane Cultural Centre.

On Wednesday and Thursday (7 and 8 June) I went with Rob Warwick out to St George, which is about 600 km west of Brisbane, to meet with the St George Social Service Department Regional Committee to discuss the commencement of building the aged care hostel there. I returned again to St George on Friday, 16 June, with Don Cranston and Rob Warwick for a public signing, on the Warrawee Retirement Villa land, of the contract to build the hostel.

The following week on Wednesday, 14 June, I attended the inaugural meeting of the Branch-Out Program Committee, which was held in Nambour. The Branch-out Program is a residential program for alcohol and drug rehabilitation. The following week I had meetings of the Social Service Department, the Queensland Aborigines and Islanders Board, the Austra-

lian Affiliation of Voluntary Care Associations Executive (by teleconference) and a meeting of the Community Services Superannuation Fund.

Sunday night, 18 June, was spent at the Leichhardt church, Ipswich, participating in the evening service answering questions about the Social Service Department and its work.

On Wednesday, 21 June, I attended an all-day seminar With Dr Gerard Egan (author of *The Skilled Helper*) on "Managing Change in Troubled Times". This was a very valuable seminar and I managed to obtain copies of his two recent books on "Change Agent Skills".

On Sunday, 25 June, I drove the car to Sydney to our NSW Theological College at Carlingford to teach the advanced BTh course, "The Pastor and Change". While there I stayed with Dennis and Pam Nutt. Dennis is acting Principal during the absence of Keith Farmer and is a lecturer at Carlingford. On Sunday night, 25 June, I was able to attend worship at the Greenacre church.

Besides students from Carlingford and Kenmore there were students from the Uniting Church and Seventh Day Adventist Theological Colleges. I am impressed with the obvious leadership that Carlingford is taking in dealing with ministry issues.

—Don Stewart

Adventure— The Next Step



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Recently Andrew Ball and Steve Smith (Deputy Chairman of the Victorian Adventure Committee) trekked with a small party of walkers across some of the most rugged yet beautiful terrain in the Grampians.

Thick fog and a 100 km/h wind on Major Mitchell's Plateau still didn't deter this pair.

The Adventure Committee is currently setting its sights on the next decade and is keen to promote its resources and services to churches. Each year a number of activities, including bushwalking, whitewater rafting, canoeing, bike riding, running, ski touring and other exciting action-packed events are organised.

Churches or individuals interested in the work of the committee should contact the committee's chairman through the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development on (03) 662 2377.

Of the 2,030 religious books published in Britain last year, a quarter had an occult title.



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Classifieds

BIRTHS

CROXFORD (WILKIE) Russell and Karen (Berwick) thank God for the gift of their second son, Jonathan Lindsay, born on 28 July. A little brother for Benjamin. Margaret and Lindsay (Glen Waverley) welcome with love their fourth dear grandchild.

DICKINSON (GORDON) A son, Tyson Richard (8lb), to Lance and Josie, on Tuesday, 8 August, at the Nhill Hospital. Another lovely grandchild for Joe and Marg Gordon, Kaniva.

ENGAGEMENTS

HANDASYDE—WILSON Don and Edith Handasyde of Chirnside park are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter Roslyn to Leon, son of Colin and Val Wilson of Mordialloc (formerly of Lower Templestowe) on the 12 August, 1989. God's blessings to you both.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

WINSTONE—SCAIFE Olive and Doug give thanks to God for the 50th anniversary of their marriage celebrated at the North Richmond Church of Christ by the late Mr H.G. Earle on 26 August 1939. Present address: 18 Stirling St, Ferntree Gully.

EMERALD WEDDINGS

PARKER—LAMBERT Eric and Marjorie of Gumbrae Ave, Beaumont, South Australia, announce, with much pleasure, the 55th anniversary of their marriage solemnised at the Norwood Church of Christ on 25 August 1934, by the late Pastor Andrew Rankine.

DEATHS

COLLINGS Edward Joseph Kidson (Ted), on 4 August. Very special father of Gwen and Howard. Much loved and Christian example to his grandchildren David and Liz, Peter, Berwyn and David, Derek. Thankyou Lord for the privilege of having him an integral part of our home for seventeen years. Dad you gave of yourself unsparring for all of us. Grandpa—To mourn too long for those we love is self indulgent. But to honour their memory with a promise to live a little better for having known them gives purpose to their life and some reason for their death.

IN MEMORIAM

ALLAN In loving memory of James Ernest, passed away 22 August 1957. Treasured memories. Doreen.
PARKER Gordon. 26 August 1983.

The gift in the world so precious and rare, is the love that a husband and wife can share. We shared that love, both you and I, from the day we met till the day you died. You cared for me more than words can say,

Your care and love I could never repay. A prayer, a tear, till the end of time, for a wonderful husband I'm proud was mine. Now that you've gone to rest I specially say, My love for you grows deeper every day. Death cannot part us, or distance divide, Each day of my life you walk by my side. Gwendolynne.

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Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

GILLESPIE, Frank

Frank was born in 1919. At the age of 12 he won a scholarship to Wesley College. Having excelled in mathematics he was accepted into the State Savings Bank where he served for 42 years, rising to the position of manager. In 1942 Frank and Betty were married in the Oakleigh Church where Frank was treasurer, Sunday School teacher and participated in the Explorers and Christian Men's Fellowship. He was devoted to his family, loved classical music, gardening and holidays in the country and by the sea. The last 10 years of his life were spent in membership with the Tootgarook church.

—Mal Giezendanner

HEMSLEY, James Cameron

(26.7.89) Jim Hemsley was a member at Essendon, Vic, before the present church was built in 1925. He and his wife Lucy were the third couple to be married there. Jim's service began as secretary to the Kindergarten and long-time Father Christmas. He acted as doorkeeper for over 40 years. On the Officer's Board he took over as secretary in 1956 and only relinquished that post in 1988. He was honoured as Elder Emeritus at the beginning of this year. A kind, gentle and retiring man, Jim preferred to play his part with a low profile. His guidance, wisdom, knowledge and encouragement will be greatly missed.

MARCH, Alice

(18.7.89) Alice was born in Bristol in 1904. Orphaned, she came to Australia in 1921. In 1929 she married Charles March. They enjoyed a happy active life until Charles' health failed. Alice gave him great support during his long years of ill-health. Alice was baptised at the Swanston St church and always loved the church. The family home was characterised by a happy and loving spirit and hospitality. She was an active member of Boronia, Vic, and an early participant in their Day Care. In recent years ill-health severely limited her involvement. Gordon Stirling and the writer shared a service of thanksgiving for a lovely and influential life with her family Graham and Lorraine and partners Pat and Ken and their families.—Keith Milne

McLARTY (COOPER), Dianne Lee

(4.7.89) Di was the eldest of four children born to Lorna and Os

Cooper of Hampton, Vic. She was baptised when 14 and married her childhood sweetheart Jeff McLarty when 18. Di sang and laughed her way through her 38 years of life, giving generously with support and encouragement to all around her. Her active participation at Knoxfield, Vic, church included Good Companions leadership, Sunday School teaching, choir, musicals, worship leading, Church Life Committee and eldership. Di's giving and loving, modelled from the God she knew well, will be missed most by Jeff, Melissa (18) and Justin (17). She "graduated" from this life after a six month battle with cancer. An overflowing congregation at Hampton paid tribute to a really special lady who lived life and was ready for death.

—Mark Dunn

TREGILGAS, Allan

(11.7.89) Allan was a man of faith, who valued the traditions of the church and appreciated a simple and ordered lifestyle. He contributed to the life at Albert Park, SA, as a board member, a Boys' Brigade leader and Sunday School teacher. Above all else he was a family man, who loved home life. He married Glad in 1944. Together they shared a lot of great times with their daughters Valma and Joan, son-in-laws Allan and Rob, and his precious grandchildren.—S. Ogden

YOUNG, Angus

Mornington, Vic, was saddened by its first death. Angus was a whole-hearted and appreciated member in the early months of existence. Born in Norwood, SA, in 1911 he attended Hindmarsh with his parents Sidney and Olive Young, before transferring to Yorke where Angus was baptised. He attended Flinders Park in its early days. He was a Sunday School teacher and helped build the chapel in one day. He married Phyllis Brunt of Semaphore in 1934. Angus served in the Middle East in WWII and afterwards linked with Cheltenham, SA, where he continued as a Sunday School teacher and lay preacher. When work took him to Balcombe, Vic, he attended Red Hill and Frankston and finally Mornington (foundation member). Our love is extended to Phyl and children Peter (USA), Barbara, Bronwen, Marged and families.

—Ian Cartmel

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Student Profile

Stephen Smith



Let me introduce ourselves. I am Stephen Smith, a fifth year student at Kenmore Christian College. My addictions in life are meeting new people, working with and being a kid and playing sport. My wife, Vicki, is a school teacher at Camira State School in the western suburbs of Brisbane where she teaches Grade One. We were married seven months ago. Vicki loves reading, bushwalking and camping. Vicki and I were brought together initially through leading a youth group. We share the vision of working together in Inala with the economically disadvantaged. At the moment we share in a "student ministry" at Inala.

Vicki and I share a deep concern that comes in the form of the question: "Is the gulf too deep? Is the separation between the Churches of Christ and the urban working class in Australia a gulf too wide to be bridged?" Vicki worked with people in the inner city area of Sydney at the Glebe Community Centre during her late years in high school. I have worked with people from a housing commission area in NSW when my home church, the Charlestown Church of Christ, conducted a "bus ministry" in Windale/Gateshead. I was heavily involved with this ministry for our years during my late high school and early university days. We are con-

vinced that the answer is no!

As a result of our convictions we have accepted a call by the Inala church to share in the ministry there. Inala is a housing commission area. Our congregation numbers 12, our members are mostly over the age of 60 and we meet in our own building. Vicki and I will largely support ourselves in ministry. Vicki will continue to teach while I shall need to find part-time employment. We also hope that some churches and individuals will support our "at home" missionary work.

Our biggest financial problem may occur when Vicki and I decide to have a family, as Vicki will most probably be the main income provider. Hopefully by then the Lord will have grown his church to such a level that it is able to make up a significant proportion of the lost income.

Our vision for the future is to establish a team ministry of tent makers. This would give the work in Inala the expertise and experience necessary to be effective for Christ. We take as our manifesto of ministry Jesus' own manifesto: "The spirit of the Lord is upon us, because he has anointed us to preach good news to the poor. He has sent us to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those that are oppressed, and to proclaim the acceptable day of the Lord." (Lk 4: 16-21)

memo:

Dear Christians,

I have been authorised to give you this message. You are to go to all people everywhere and call them to become my disciples. You are to baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You are to teach them to obey all that I have commanded you.

Don't forget that I will be with you always, to help you, even to the end of the world. I'll never forsake you, because I love you. Please don't forsake me.

With all my love,
Jesus.

Dear Jesus,

We acknowledge receipt of your memo. Your project is both interesting and challenging. However, due to a shortage of personnel, as well as several other financial and personal obligations, we do not feel we can give proper emphasis to your challenge at this time.

A committee has been appointed to study your plan and its feasibility, and we should have a report to bring before the congregation some time in the future. You may rest assured we will give it our careful consideration and that all our boards will think about it for some future action.

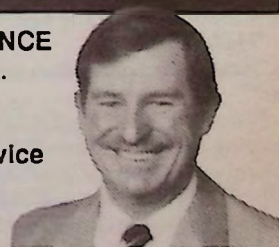
We appreciate your offer to serve as a resource person, should we care to undertake this project later.

Cordially,
The Christians.

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A Church ABC

Focus on Balaklava

Balaklava is an important country centre, 100 km due north of Adelaide in SA. With a population of 1,300 it is a centre for agriculture, local government, education, education and church administration for a number of denominations. Politically the area is strongly blue ribbon.

The Church of Christ commenced in the home of John Fisher of Dalkey in 1877. The first chapel was erected in the following year. This building is now used by the Balaklava Branch of the National Trust. The building of the present chapel was commenced in 1908 and has seating for 200. Later a hall and kindergarten were built; eleven years ago a Christian education centre was built joining the chapel and the hall, which became a kitchen. The large complex was completed a couple of years ago with classrooms, toilets and kindergarten.

The church has 125 members plus regular visitors. Attendances average 120 adults and 30 children.

The main worship service at 10 am is the focus of the church's life. Many members come from farming areas for miles around and tend to stay at church a while. The

service is followed by tea and coffee and at 11.30 am by Sunday School and an intermittent adult Christian education program. There is also a monthly evening service.

Youth work is a co-operative venture with the Uniting Church. About 50 young people meet weekly, and they have a strong evangelistic outreach and are "missionaries" to other areas. There is an annual youth camp at the Uniting Church's camp, "Emmaus" at Halbury.

The minister at Balaklava is Graham Lawrie, who is from a family famous for their involvement in our churches in South Australia. Graham came from a farming background on the Eyre Peninsula, trained at the College of the Bible and had ministries at Keith-Wampoon-Mundulla and Hampstead Gardens. He has been at Balaklava for eight and a half years. He and his wife, Judith (a farmer's daughter) have four children, Stephen, manager of a local business, Roxanne, a nurse, and now married and living elsewhere, Carolyn, a teacher-trainee, and Bronwyn, who is job hunting.

The Balaklava church embodies both

the Christian community and public life. The members are a vital part of local business, the council, farming and sporting bodies.

Recently a group from the Balaklava churches undertook a mission outreach program to Roxby Downs in the far north of South Australia (see the 8 July issue, page 7). A similar venture is planned for next year, although the destination is not yet known. The church is also working towards a discipleship training program for mission that will go beyond the basics.

Other activities of the church include the Sunshine Centre, a weekly craft group, prayer groups (which undergird all the activities of the church), house groups, Dorcas and several cell groups.

The Balaklava church is seen and sees itself as open, friendly and family orientated, community minded, with a genuine faith, that attracts membership by its loving, caring attitude, with freedom in worship and biblically based teaching, with a leadership sensitive to God's guidance and with members who express confidence and enthusiasm in the church by bringing their friends and relatives.

Growing Spiritually: Developing Nutritious Self-Esteem

by Noel Mitaxa

Sleep was an attractive but shredded memory as I picked up the telephone receiver...

"Is that you, George?" came a voice
"No, you've got the wrong number, I'm sorry."

I was sorry, too. After all, it was three-thirty in the morning.

I wasn't quite back into bed when my new found friend rang again!

"Hello, George?"

"No, it's me again. Who are you looking for?"

"George Phelan from Atlanta!" he said, quoting our phone number.

"Atlanta, Georgia? You've got Geelong, Australia. Where are you calling from?"

"Holland—I'm sorry to disturb you. There must be something wrong with the system...Good bye!"

By now I was well awake—and curious...Two international calls and both wrong numbers? I checked the e phonebook's international dialling instructions and discovered my night-caller's problem.

It was not the system.

He was 180° and thousands of kilometres off course because he had missed dialling a one!

Ministry has taken me into the lives of many people who are just like my caller—way off-course and heading further away. They withdraw or become aggressive; they fester with guilt or resentment; they flit from one fad or relationship to another; or they make impossible demands on themselves, their families, their friends or on their employees

And some of these people are Christians.

They all make one basic mistake. They either overvalue or undervalue the importance of a one. One person. It may be a friend, a relative or it may be themselves.

Overvaluing ourselves can make us arrogant, aloof, shy, competitive or defensive. Undervaluing ourselves can make us spineless, grovelling doormats who confuse self-denial with self-destruction.

Neither of these approaches honours Jesus Christ, and they offer no warmth or credibility to our Christian testimony.

Self-esteem is the key to solid Christian growth, because it is based on accepting

our value from Jesus' viewpoint. As we accept our value to him we realise that he places the same value on other people.

He wants to live through us to help others to realise that they are worth the price-tag he has already paid for them. It is fun to let this love flow out of our lives to touch others, because nutritious self-esteem opens us to his creative energy—even when things go wrong.

It is fun but it can also be risky to discover God's solutions to problems because some folks oppose change. Their opposition may be openly hostile, hypocritically respectable or plain apathetic.

Only nutritious self-esteem that is fed by the grace of the Holy Spirit within us will keep us focused on God's invitation to keep going. He will even help us to respect our critics as people, even if they cannot yet offer anything constructive.

By the way, one day I will phone George Phelan to find out if he got his phone call, and to thank him for providing the idea for this article.

• Noel Mitaxa is the minister of the Geelong East, Vic, church.

The Clumsy Hen

The other day, on my travels, I passed the egg farm, and I was requested to buy a dozen eggs.

At the farm, there was a man in front of me. "A dozen cracked eggs," he ordered.

Cracked eggs! I could hardly believe my ears. I glanced at him. He was casually dressed but appeared normal. I looked down at his shoes. From my patient and careful observation of the human scene I have developed a theory that poverty is first evident at the extremities. His shoes were strong and, moreover, polished! It wasn't poverty.

"Did you say cracked eggs?" I asked.

"Certainly," he replied. His voice, like his shoes, was strong and polished. Gee-long Grammar, maybe. At least Melbourne High.

He went on, "Cracked eggs can do anything that other eggs can do. You can poach them, boil them, fry them, bake with them, even meringue them. And they cost less than half the price. Why pay more for the same?"

Maybe this information about eggs is common knowledge, but it was new to me. But, on reflection, why not cracked eggs? If they are just as useful as the uncracked ones, why not use them?

I don't know how long it takes a hen to produce an egg, or what mysterious chemical things go on under her feathers during the process but gradually she does what is necessary to produce the yellow bit, surrounding it with the white, and then skillfully insert her creation into the shell.

Is all of this time, effort, and skill to be wasted just because, at the last minute, the hen is a bit clumsy and steps on her work of art. Surely not!

The cracked egg man would agree. There

is nothing wrong with it. The egg can still be used for whatever it is that eggs are used for.

On reflection, what is true for the cracked egg, is true for the flawed person. Why should someone be written off because of being a bit flawed or a little bit cracked?

You could take any popular hero and turn him or her over to the media and I'd wager a dollar to a Murdoch that reporters will turn up some cracks and the reporters themselves are flawed.



This is true not only for the world out there. It is true for the church in here. Even in the New Testament there is not one follower of our Lord who is without a flaw. Not only the little people like Demas and Archippus, but the best of them: Paul, Peter, James, John. They are all imperfect.

Imperfect they may be, but they are not rejected. They are redeemed and used.

In the same way, murderers have become ministers of the gospel. Thieves have become theologians. No-one is so flawed that he is beyond God's love or refused a place in our Lord's team.

Vachel Lindsay said something like this in his poem, "Gen. Wm. Booth Enters Heaven".

*Booth led boldly with his big bass drum...
Saints smiled gravely and they said, "He's*

come."

*Walking lepers followed, rank on rank,
Lurching bravos from the ditches dank,
Drabs from the alleyways and drug fiends
pale—*

*Minds still passion-ridden, soul-powers
frail—*

*Vermin eaten saints with mouldy breath,
Unwashed legions with the ways of death.*

These were the people with whom Booth worked and these were the flawed ones he brought to Christ. There they were, in the Great Reception being greeted by Christ.

*Then, in an instant all that blear review
Marched on spotless, clad in raiment new.
The lame were straightened, withered limbs
uncurled*

*And blind eyes opened on a new, sweet
world.*

There is a big contrast hidden in my little parable. It is this: there is no half price for flawed people. Our Lord paid the same price for all. Arch-sinner or arch-bishop, there is no difference.

"Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence, but by the free gift of God's grace all are put right with him through Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:23-24, GNV)

You can't uncrack cracked eggs, but you can use them. You can't unflaw flawed persons, but you can redeem them. Or, rather, Christ can.

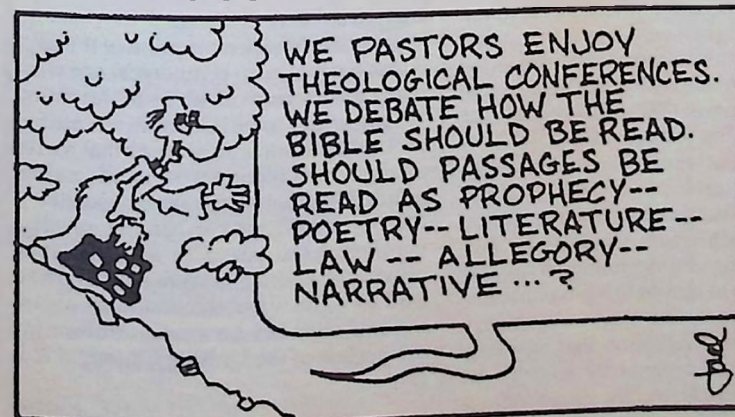
No-one is rejected, or written off. No-one. Everyone can be used in the building of new lives.

I am sure that this is true for the church and for the world, but I am not sure we are ready for it in our kitchen.

At the egg farm I bought a dozen straight 55s.

—A.E. White

Pontius' Puddle



Critique

Australia Grow—A Comment

by Bruce McIntosh



Australia Grow—The Report of the Nationwide Evangelism Consultation (Vital Publications, \$4, available from home mission offices in each state) sets out future strategies for evangelism (church growth) in Australian Churches of Christ. The Report contains several articles by an American Disciples of Christ consultant, Herb Miller, and one Australian consultant, Peter Kaldor, of the Uniting Church. Two participants, Barrie McMurtrie and Ted Keating, have given responses.

Peter Kaldor contributes a sociological survey which says some important things about expressing a faith that is true to our culture, and which does not assume a sameness in presenting the Gospel. However we must remember we are now multicultural, and there is a danger that the Aboriginal culture will be over looked when it has so much to contribute to us from its spirituality.

Herb Miller insists that evangelism be lay led and congregationally based. He also supports the idea of maintaining churches of various sizes to meet localised sociological requirements, and contributes a helpful section on the value of planting new churches. This is one model of church growth most of us will be able to support. With one reservation: evangelism that subordinates the other functions of the church such as worship, teaching, ministry, community service and social justice programs to a singular goal of increasing numbers distorts the gospel. This can occur when a pragmatic marketing strategy is adopted rather a value driven, principled approach which must be the hall mark of any religious/ethical activity.

Barrie McMurtrie's response to Peter Kaldor is to provide a church climate that is open, non-judgemental, understands people and "offers a positive image of God's love for them, rather than the success the world seeks to promote." This is a liberating response that seeks to offer a faith that can meet people's needs and contrasts with Ted Keating's rather calculated response which says that seeing conservative people are responding in large numbers to charismatic unilateral decision makers whose authority is immediate and frequently unquestioned, we should consider adopting a similar successful path, ie, go further "right".

I'm not sure Ted has taken into consideration Miller's advocacy of participatory democracy (p. 28) or the second half of humanity that is not right wing conservative and those of us who would consider that to adopt this approach would require

us to compromise our personal integrity.

Also to adopt this strategy would endanger the true universality of the church, which according to its founder is for "whomsoever will come." Ted, in a rather off-hand comment about "feminism", seems to ignore the whole issue of the changing role of women in society raised by both Kaldor and Miller. I would have thought our greatest challenge is to win into the church the modern-day reformers (greenies etc.) who believe the church either opposes or ignores social reform programs, such as equal opportunity. I am not talking here about extremists.

The danger in adopting right-wing conservatism is that it is not likely to provide the people of vision, flexibility, and innovativeness that Ted and others rightly claim we need to lead us into the 21st Century.

There is a real need to open up discussions on these strategies to a widely representative cross section of our diverse communion to allow a consensus strategy to develop. Miller's approach would support this. Ultimately we need to develop a clear idea of our identity and the legitimate reason for our separate existence; confidence in our right to exist as a separate identity in the wider church; a balanced approach to all the functions of the church; and a well equipped, appropriately trained ministry which will equip the rest of us to live out our Christian faith in a manner that is fulfilling and which convinces others to share our objective of reconciling our world with its creator.

• Bruce McIntosh is a consultant in human resource management.

Ted Keating Replies

Bruce McIntosh kindly sent me a copy of his review of *Australia Grow* before it was published in *The Australian Christian*. His review included some criticisms of my paper "Which Way Should We Swing?", which was delivered at the Stanwell Tops Conference on Evangelism.

He concludes that I approved of the unquestioned authority of the Pentecostal type pastor and that we as a denomination should swing to the "right" as far as theology and stance are concerned.

I hope most other readers will come to a different conclusion, that while I do not generally approve of Pentecostalism I would believe that we can learn from this

growing world-wide phenomena. Even Lesslie Newbigin, some 35 years ago, acknowledged the Pentecostal stream as the valid third stream within the church that we cannot ignore. (*The Household of God*, SCM, 1953) This was, of course, well before the current rapid expansion of the charismatic church.

The paper also points to the reality that the liberal mainstream churches of Australia are ageing and declining. We would also be foolish to ignore this phenomenon. While numbers do not mean everything, it is a reasonable conclusion that currently there is something seriously wrong with the liberal mainstream. The paper seeks to

analyse some of the factors.

An underlying assumption of the paper is that we live in an ecumenical age where we can learn from all areas of the church. We can afford to be eclectic in our attitude to other traditions, an attitude that narrow minded fundamentalists and narrow minded liberals often cannot tolerate.

I would be happy to send an unedited version of the paper to anybody interested, as the edited version may, at points, lead to some misunderstandings regarding my attitudes to Pentecostalism and the decline of the Uniting Church of Australia.

—E.C. Keating

Discipleship

•Karen Lewis, Naracoorte, SA
•Carmel Stupak, Luke McGing,
Grote St, Adelaide, SA •David &
Coral Ling, Sarah Hall, Mildura,
Vic •Cameron Peddie, Sally Wood-
ward, Allouise Dock, Lisa Smith,
Annerley, Qld •Luke and Angela
Sala Tenna, Dianella, WA •Kylie
Scott, Goolwa, SA •Mark Noble,
Flinders Park, SA •Jita Bockel,
Robyn Gravalin, Manifold
Heights, Vic •Dale Fowler, Jamie
Telfer, Rodney Holden, Bendigo,
Vic •Briallen Jessop, Paul Hansen,

Emma Morton, York St, Ballarat,
Vic

Marriages

•Kerrie Dinnis to Peter Carter,
Mornington, Vic •Robyn Merron
to Wayne Newton, Annerley, Qld
•Pam Lewis to James McKee, York
St, Ballarat, Vic

Deaths

•Mrs Gladys Andrews, Bendigo,
Vic •Roy McLeod, York St, Balla-
rat, Vic

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President
Compassion
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Broadmeadow, NSW 2292

Southport Church of Christ

* Assistant Pastor

* Youth Minister

* Church Administrator

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* Assistant Pastor

To assist the Senior Minister majoring in pastoral care,
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Responsible for youth activities within the church
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* Church Administrator

A ministerial position, responsible for the functional
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It is envisaged the personnel appointed will commence
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Job descriptions are available on application to:

The Secretary
Southport Church of Christ
PO Box 974, Southport, Qld 4215

Telephone enquiries could be directed to the Church
Office on (075) 94 6633

Church News

Vic

MORNINGTON (Ian Cartmel) Joy at further 10 adults & seven children welcomed into fellowship 18 June ... Congratulations to Kerrie & Peter Carter on their marriage ... Music group commenced ... Walking group currently out each week ... Dedication of Shaun & Shane Martin ... Margaret Martin recognised as Scripture Union rep ... Visit from Don Smith & Terry

McCredden ... Joe Shaw visiting speaker while minister on holiday.

WERRIBEE (Alan Niven) Congregation recently went en masse to have Sunday morning service in the lecture theatre of the new College at Mulgrave ... Church is preparing for its first change of ministry as Alan & Chris Niven leave at end of year to work at the new College (CCTC) & to begin the Mulgrave church ... Werribee looking forward to ministry of Roger

Rissoon from York St, Ballarat, in 1990.

MOOROPNA (Dennis Atkinson) Morning services now attract around 30 ... Sunday School attendances increasing with over 50 scholars on roll ... Youth group growing making two groups necessary ... Cottage meetings at Cumeragunja are going well ... Tony & Francine Richie led a series of meetings at Mooropna & Cumeragunja ... Maureen Atkinson took six ladies to Women's Convention at "Meemar", Cootamundra.

THE PATCH (Glynthea Finger) Glynthea farewelled by church ladies at a coffee morning prior to conclusion of ministry on 30 July ... Church luncheon on last Sunday well attended. Several presentations reflected esteem in which Glynthea is held. Representatives of Crestonby Fellowship also presented cheque at worship service ... Local members sharing preaching during interim.

MILDURA (David Ratten, Doug Clark) Elder, Doug Clark, inducted to three day/week lay ministry on 16 July, majoring in pastoral care ... Church changing to a functional committee organisational structure as from the Annual Meeting in August ... Three baptisms in recent weeks ... David & Julie Ratten attending "Ministry 2000" seminar in Singapore ... "Kaleidoscope" musical group presented "First Love" at Brighton, SA, on 22 July ... Chris & Debbie Clugston moving to Donald. **GARDINER** (Harold Steele) All members taking part in preparations for the 75th anniversary on 10 September ... Harold Steele appreciates assistance given by other ministers in pulpit during his recent hospitalisation ... Friendship Club continues with regular attendance & bright programs ... CWF visited Nursing Home. Next meeting will receive visit from Ashburton ... It is a great joy to have Grace Waterman in occasional attendance with daughter & son-in-law ... Paul Creasey has accepted call to minister in 1990.

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (Paul Downie, Max Ball) Two baptisms ... men's breakfasts are now inter-church related ... Good News staff & pupils led family service for morning worship ... Four members from crew of *Doulos* participated in an evening service ... Enjoyable family dinner & our puppet team on parade afterwards ... From Carlingford Clinton & Trish Wardle & boys home for a visit. Shared with us their work at Pendle Hill ... Welcome home to Anne Downie from family overseas visit.

LATROBETERRACE, GEELONG (C.J. Mackenzie) Young people enjoyed Sunday lunch at Ruth & Allen Carr's ... Sunday School to cover poster with money for Bibles for Africa ... Bright Spot, ladies prayer meeting, Top Kids all continue to meet regularly ... CWF mystery afternoon enjoyed by ladies. Mrs Joy Williams "mystery" speaker.

BENDIGO (J. Sweetman) Goldminers Gang held end of Term 2 church service ... Three young men made confessions of faith & were baptised. Also two rededications ... Recent guest artists have been L'ael, J. Jenkins, V. Skinner & K. Wright ... Both morning services well attended, evening services averaging 60 ... Recent morning service led by deputation from CCTC ... Guest speaker G. Furlong from Mobile Maintenance Mission recently at evening service ... Bendigo played host to C & ND Conf half yearly rally on 5 August.

YORK ST, BALLARAT (Roger Rissoon) Muriel Grills ran series of audio visuals during gospel services in May ... Roger Rissoon accepted ministry at Werribee for 1990 ... 'The Hideaway Coffee Lounge' commenced offering supper after gospel service ... Jim Cunningham invited & accepted ministry for next three years beginning 1990 ... Member of *MV Doulos* team participated in evening service ... Louis van Laar, Director of Field Services, Community Care) recent speaker.

Qld

ANNERLEY (Russell Ritchie) Church saddened by news that our minister has multiple sclerosis. We love him very much & prayer for Russell, Margaret & the family are requested. His attitude is very positive & church has been very blessed in his ministry ... As part of outreach Under Five's Playgroup commenced helped by donation from CWF ... Matthew Hendricks from Elizabeth, SA, received into fellowship & has taken over as choir master ... Leslie Hobbs & son also received into fellowship ... Bob & Laurel Dewar welcomed back after voluntary service in PNG.

LOGAN CITY (Geoff Hannah) Church is encouraged by increase in attendances at youth groups. Averaging 20 but sometimes 60 are present ... Recently 50-60 attended second anniversary of new building ... Young people attended combined camp at Bundaberg over June long weekend ... Geoff Han-

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I/We wish to enrol in the Prospective Students' Seminar to be held on 6-7 October 1989.

Name
Title Christian Name Surname

Address

Postcode

Phone No.

Church News

nah interviewed on FM radio station concerning the church & its activities.

MAREEBA (George Radford) Visit of Trevor Ginn, country & western singer, much appreciated. Some church men accompanied him to Cape York ... George Radford is able to visit the newly opened prison every second Sunday ... George & Leanne are involved in crisis care.

WA

MARBLE BAR (Len Wallam) Bus load attended Looma Convention where our pastor was a speaker. Five young people made rededications ... Church blocks at Goodabinya community recently graded & ploughed ready for vegetable growing ... Members looking to conducting outreach visitation to nearby Nullagine, Worralong & Jigalong Aboriginal communities. **DIANELLA** (John Spencer) 25th anniversary celebrations saw some 220 at dinner followed by two capacity services next day. Great time of fellowship & worship ... Eric & Joel Tinetti (grandfather & grandson) both making excellent progress after major heart surgery. We praise God for these blessings ... Luke & Angela Sala Tenna baptised & baby Blake dedicated ... Rex & Jessie Hardy in USA & others off seeing more of Australia. **CARNARVON** (Donald Bone) Committee led by Alan Day organising men's outreach activities ... CWF held cancer awareness program. Speakers Aileen Bone & Maryann Ruby ... Baby shower for son of Winston & Patricia Hubert ... WA Conf Pres John Bolton, Avon Moyle, John Wehr & Herb Parker shared fellowship tea & meeting on their way to Looma Convention.

SA

GROTE ST ADELAIDE (Ian Adams) Sunday School shared in am service on Bible Sunday & received Bible each ... CWF hosted overseas missionary Dorothy Geyer & Rae Thompson ... Dorcas Society busy preparing gifts for missionaries ... Two received into fellowship & two baptisms during month ... Visiting speakers Claud Cunningham, MV Doulos team, New Tribes Missions Marv Sconce ... Thanksgiving service held for Christian Blind Fellowship. **NARACORTE** (Grant Simpson) Mission weekend held with Jeff May Executive Director, Overseas Mission Board ... Theme for men's

breakfast "Being a Real Man in a Real World"—18 attended ... 15 attended youth night featuring hypothetical situations ... Sunday services well attended, tea & slides in evening ... Recent services featured Bruce Anderson, Minister, Mount Gambier ... Film "Under Arrest" ... ROCK families enjoyed Gingerbrook Fare Film "Truthfulness".

GOOLWA (Graeme Ritchie) Dorothy Geyer spoke on mission work in India ... "Cyclo-thon" held on local oval to raise funds for Bible Society ... Visitor from Victoria, Noel

Mitaxa, spoke at a morning worship ... We joined in an evening Sunday service at Victor Harbor church ... Film on "The Cult Explosion" screened as community project ... Teenager Kylie Scott baptised & welcomed into fellowship. **FLINDERS PARK** (K. Miller) Mark Noble baptised & welcomed into fellowship ... Young people's Bible study commenced with prayerful support for one another ... Jim Derrington was powerful witness at Boys' Brigade parade ... Training for small group leaders has begun ... First singles dinner held

at church ... Boys' Brigade camp held with great enthusiasm. **DULWICH/ROSE PARK** (R. Williams, R. Brown) Parish camp attracted 34 to UC campsite at Macclesfield ... Parish fellowship led by Deane Radbone held entertaining meeting at Alexandra Lodge for aged residents ... Dr Philip Ludbrook, son of Hilda & Jack Ludbrook, with grandson Christopher, visitors from USA, with Dr Jan Carey (sister) of Sydney ... Church sympathised with Roger & Judy Brown in sudden death of Roger's father.

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You Were Asking?

How Much Should I Put in the Offering Bag?

by Graham Agnew

Sometimes I almost envy those churches and sects that adopt a very legalistic approach to giving—those that insist on a certain percentage of their adherence resources. It certainly makes things a lot simpler.

As it is, within a "free" church like the Churches of Christ, it is left up to the individual member to work out what is an appropriate level of giving. Those of us who have been around the place for a long while know all the Old Testament references to tithing; we know that quote from 2 Samuel 24:24 (David speaking): "I will not bring an offering to the Lord my God which costs me nothing"; we have seen many stewardship texts appear on the offering envelopes over the years; and we have heard numerous sermons on the theme of stewardship. And yet, the fact is that most of our churches are always running behind the eight ball when it comes to meeting the weekly budget. Why? Because a high percentage of people in our churches are yet to discover some of the practical principles involved in systematic and sacrificial giving to the Lord.

How much should we put in the bag? Naturally, the actual amount will vary greatly from person to person, but the following questions I believe are valid in virtually all cases:

1. Where does the item "local church

giving" rank on my list of weekly expenses?

2. How does the amount I give compare to other items of expenditure, like the weekly bills for milk, petrol and entertainment?

3. Is the amount I give a realistic expression of the depth of my gratitude to God for what he has done for me through Jesus Christ?

4. How does the amount I give compare to the amount I have left over?

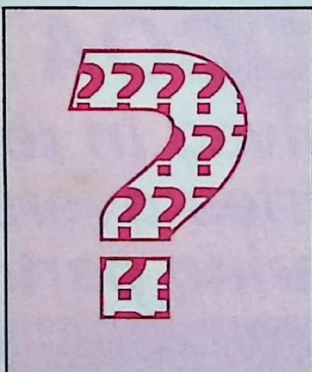
In most of our churches around Australia, the top 20% of givers provide more than 80% of the weekly offering. Many of these are tithers and others are people who go way beyond

a tithe—but all of them are people who at some stage or other have faced the questions listed above and their positive answers have been translated into hard, cold cash.

As someone has said, you can give without loving—but you can't love without giving.

• Graham Agnew is minister of the Marion, SA, church.

Questions for this column should be sent to "You Were Asking?", c/o The Australian Christian, PO Box 101, North Essendon 3041.



The Last Word

Dear Lord, give bread to those who have hunger, and to those who have bread, give a hunger for justice.

—Theodore Hesburgh

"How did you come to join the police?"
"I've always wanted to be in a business where it's the customer who's always wrong."

★★★★★

Child: "You wouldn't spank me for something I didn't do, would you?"

Parent: "Why, of course not."

Child: "Good! I didn't do my homework."

★★★★★

"It was a terrible day at the office, dear. The computer stopped and we all had to think."

★★★★★

"What would be a good way to raise revenue and to benefit the people?"

"Tax every political speech."

★★★★★

Teacher (to new pupil): What is your name?
Pupil: Akubra.

Teacher: That's an unusual name.

Pupil: Yes. My parents didn't know what to call me so they put a lot of names in a hat and pulled out the name of the hat by mistake.

★★★★★

Doctor: The trouble is in this ear.

Patient: This 'ere what?

★★★★★

Police: Well, we've got the man who stole your car.

Motorist: Don't let him go. I want to know how he started it!

★★★★★



Welcome to this year's seminar for volunteer church leaders. Our discussion this time will centre on "apathy in the modern church and how to deal with it".

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