

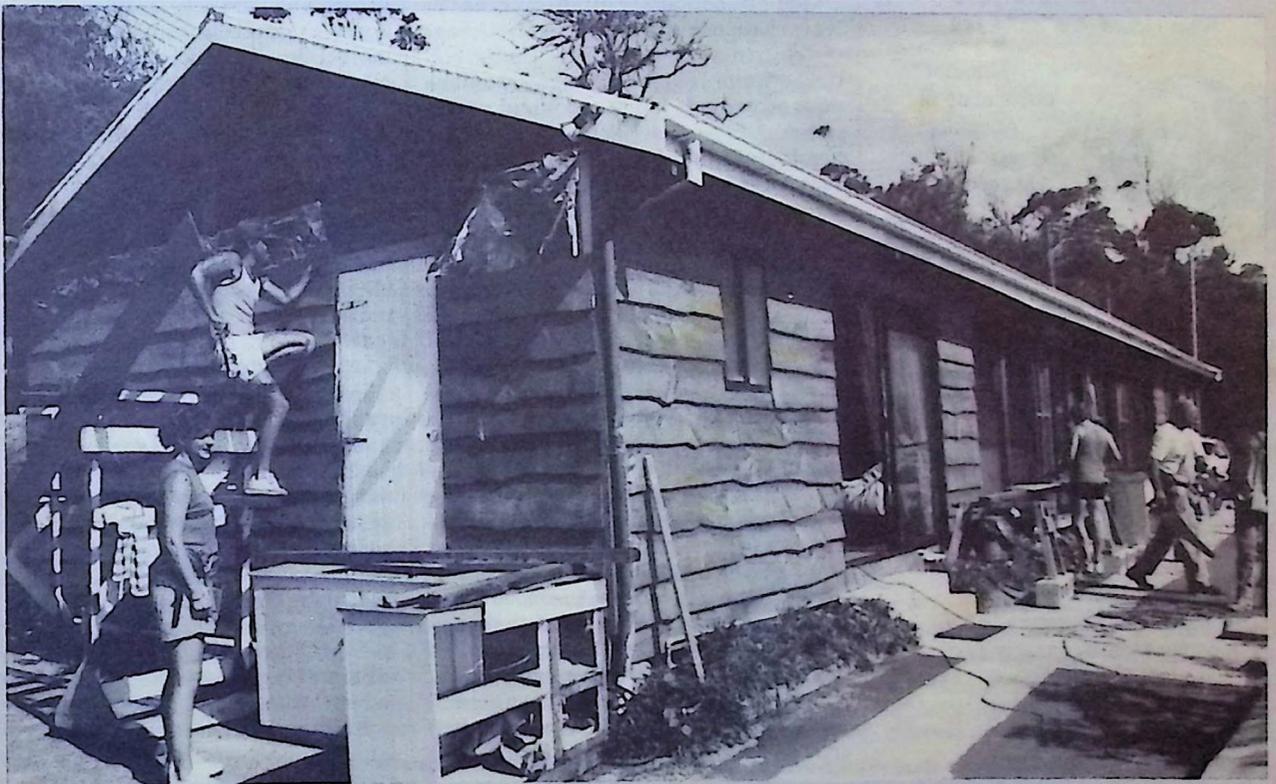
# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

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2 September 1989



*Volunteers at work on one of the cabin units at Camp Seaview, Bicheno, Tas*

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## **Bicheno See View**

*A major development program is now underway at Camp Seaview, Bicheno, following successful negotiations to buy the site from the Tasmanian government.*

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# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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## Guest Editorial

# Things Will Never Be the Same Again

by Ted Keating

In the 20 years since I was ordained, I have seen some amazing changes come over the face of the church. Some I have welcomed. Some have challenged me. Others have made me uneasy. Whatever your personal reaction is to some of the changes that I will outline, I think you will agree that things will never be the same again.

### Denominationalism

What the Lyle Schallers and Herb Millers tell us is happening in the United States is also happening in Australia. It is the age of "church switching". The "Under Forties" are more likely to change denominations according to their needs and wishes rather than express allegiance to the denomination in which they were raised. This phenomenon is evident at Nunawading, where 65% of our worshippers came from other Christian traditions. This is a characteristic of dynamic churches. The implications? The great names, families and traditions of Churches of Christ could become less relevant. Brotherhood leaders and their projects could become more remote. *The Australian Christian* circulation could decrease. Local churches will be challenged to think about their identity as a Church of Christ. Will they present themselves to the local community as a denomination with a distinctive message, or as a viable local congregation first and as a Church of Christ second?

In a recent letter to *The Australian Christian* I have already commented on the significant decline of mainline churches and the growth of conservative independent churches (some which didn't even exist 20 years ago). This has been a mammoth change with powerful implications.

### Ministry

Things will never be the same with regard to ministry either. The above trends will probably influence the recruitment and expression of ministry. There will be an increasing number of men and women entering the Church of Christ ministry who do not have the usual "pedigree" and may have only recently come into our denomination. Advisory Departments are increasingly being challenged with the question of potential ministers who have trained in institutions other than Churches of Christ colleges. Already some churches are appointing ministers from other traditions. Women? I am only aware of one Churches of Christ woman in ministry 20

years ago (Norma Hall, then at Warracknabeal, Vic). How things have changed!

The nature of the ministry itself has changed dramatically. An adequate preacher and pastor fulfilled all the requirements necessary for a successful ministry 20 or 30 years ago. However, today the expectations are far wider. Churches are seeking people who are visionaries, have distinct leadership qualities, can initiate change and generally administrate the church program. Worshipers now expect more of the church in terms of resources and this makes ministry more complex. On the other hand, we now encounter a new generation of ministers more concerned about their health, their time off and their salaries than their older colleagues. We are more aware of ministry "burn out" than ever before...

The discussion of "burn out" may have been a self-fulfilling prophecy, but the increased evidence of it may be due to the increased expectations of modern ministry.

### Larger Churches

In the past 20 years there have sprung up more than 20 Churches of Christ in Australia that have successfully "jumped" the 200-250 member barrier. Traditionally we managed to keep our churches small by making sure that we understaffed and undergrouped our churches that showed potential and we kept their ministers busy by making them Conference Presidents or giving them other Brotherhood responsibilities. Crowded services were seen as the ultimate instead of an indication of a need for new directions. However, the Southports, Berwicks, Marions, Thornlies, Wolongongs and other large churches have created a whole new set of issues for us. There have been misunderstandings of how large churches behave, as they seemed to attract more able ministers and have developed ministry teams (while smaller churches struggle to find a minister) and seem to have developed new processes of decision making. Their worship standards are usually high and the program of the churches challenging. Their future seems strong as young adults are disproportionately represented in these churches. There are many other churches that now know that if they anticipate some of the necessary changes, they will also develop into large churches... watch churches like Engadine, Mildura and Bendigo!

Large churches are here to stay. They are

different! Things will never be the same again.

## Worship

Worship has undergone a revolutionary change in the last 20 years with music being the most obvious area of this. Few of our churches exclusively use the Church of Christ hymnbook and common usage has shown that 70% of the hymns in this book have been declared redundant. Choruses and other resources that promote the glory of God, rather than the Cross of Christ, sometimes featuring syncopated rhythm or syrupy harmony are now more widely in use. There is increasing discernment as to what is of permanent value and a lot of residual "junk" is being discarded. (Thank God!) Organs and organists are ageing and synthesisers, drums, guitars and pianos are becoming more frequent. We are experiencing a struggle in finding a balance between an emotional and cerebral approach to worship with the pendulum currently swinging towards the experiential. While we may regret, or welcome, those changes, things will never quite be the same again.

These and many other changes in the short space of 20 years! As I enter my third decade of ministry, I need to continually pray that my mind may not be set in concrete, that I might retain a flexibility and discernment that will enable me to understand change and try and find new ways of sharing Christ through a vibrant, energetic and growing church.

• *Ted Keating is married to Marge. Senior minister at the Nunawading, Vic, church for 15 years, he was formerly a field officer with the Department of Home Missions and Evangelism. He trained at the College of the Bible. Originally a primary school teacher, Ted has degrees in arts and divinity. He is Chairman of the Vic-Tas Advisory Department. He enjoys the support of Dean Hamilton, Jim Wright and Lynda Smith in the ministry team at Nunawading.*

## Ministering Cross-Culturally



James Bracegirdle, Yah Hwee Gan, Helen Bracegirdle, Sellina Teo

One of the challenges that comes to the contemporary church is that of ministering to a multicultural society. The truth is, most churches will, at some stage, be faced with the challenge of ministering cross-culturally. Ministers and lay people alike often express frustration when trying to break down the barriers that can exist within a multicultural congregation.

Therefore, the church needs to be constantly seeking new and creative ways to reach out and minister effectively. At the Murdoch, WA, church we are faced with such a challenge. The church meets for worship in the grounds of Murdoch University. The university caters for a large percentage of overseas students, a significant number of whom choose to fellowship with the church. After

each morning service we would find Australians mixing with Australians, Asians mixing with Asians and Africans mixing with Africans. How were we to respond?

Answer: by dealing with the facts and accepting the challenge. Fact one is that most Australians have a deep desire to minister cross-culturally. This becomes evident during pastoral visitation. Australians would ask, "How can we minister to our students?" Students would ask, "How do we get to know Australians?"

The second fact is that the Bible has the answer. "A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34)

The challenge is to provide a program that will promote love, understanding and mutual

acceptance. The results from such a program should be that the church has greater harmony, acceptance and understanding, leading to effective ministry and the breaking down of barriers.

## The "Extended Family Program"

The "Extended Family Program" is the tool we are using to help us achieve our desired result. Each Australian family "adopts" two or more students. Their commitment is to pray on a regular basis for their new family members, invite their new family members home for the occasional meal and family outing and encourage their new family members through the occasional phone call, personal letter or card.

Each "adopting family" receives a card which contains their new family members photo and address details, along with a reminder of the commitment they have undertaken.

This one simple program has already significantly changed the atmosphere and level of interaction within the life of the church. The program is simple and effective and it also moves us closer to the challenge issued to the church in 1 John 3:18.

Cross-cultural ministry will not "just happen". If we are to survive in a multicultural Australia we need to be a movement reaching out to a multicultural society.

—James Bracegirdle

## Posters Tell the Message

The Keilor East, Vic, church is situated on a busy road. Recently the members of the church erected these colourful posters to tell the Christian message to people passing by.

Members of the Keilor East, Vic, church are shown erecting the posters, which are visible to traffic travelling both ways along Millieara Road



## Alice Lawrance Honoured



On 16 July 100 friends and family celebrated the 70th birthday of Alice Lawrance. Alice's life has touched so many people in these years it is a pleasure to honour this gracious Christian lady.

Alice was born on 5 July 1919, the youngest of six children. She worshipped at the Lenswood, SA, church and was baptised at the Croydon, SA, church in 1936 because there was no baptistry at Lenswood.

In 1938 Alice married Sid Lawrance and together they transferred their membership to Flinders Park in 1952. Alice became very involved in youth work at Flinders Park, was a tower of strength for the teen-

agers and involved in Christmas camps with the Youth Department.

She has been involved on all levels of the Girls' Brigade and was Federal Officer commanding cadets from 1962-65. She has also been involved with the Christian Education Department, with Women's Conference (Conference President 1963-64 and Conference Secretary 1965-68).

Following the loss of her husband, Alice's ministry took yet another turn when she spent nine years at the College of the Bible, Glen Iris. Alice was officially the housekeeper but she also became a friend and confidant to the students and faculty. During those years she worshipped at the Glen Waverley, Vic, church and made many friends there.

Since her return to Adelaide Alice is still serving as a leader of a weekly Bible study and as an elder of the Flinders Park church and her witness is encouraging all with whom she has contact.

Alice Lawrance is a loving mum to Gaynor and husband Brian and grandmother to two boys. —Debbie Short

## A Christian Reaches Out



Dorothy Heard with John and Fran Birrell (immediate past President) with Ted Heard at his induction

E.W. (Ted) Heard joined the Adelaide Rotary club during 1975-76 and transferred to St Marys, SA, Club in 1983-84 on his retirement. There he was appointed Secretary and now has been inducted as President for the year 1989-90. There are 20 members in the club, but at the induction 50 were present.

The major projects for his year are the Christmas Hamper appeal and their ongoing

Recycling Shop.

Ted expects to raise \$4-5,000 during his year for their charitable works, especially the international appeal for world literacy.

"Rotary is a community organisation where Christians are able to represent their vocation and keep the real qualities of life before the community," said Ted.

—John Baker

## Recognition of Douglas Hughes

In recognition of his outstanding service as honorary secretary of the Vic-Tas Overseas Mission Department a presentation was made to Douglas Hughes and flowers were presented to his wife Grace following the Department's August meeting. Douglas had been a member of the Department for 16 years

and served as secretary for 14 of those years. Phyl Davis, Conference President, expressed appreciation on behalf of Conference and Bruce Alcorn on behalf of the Department.

Douglas is currently resourcing and collating material for a centenary history of our Overseas Mission work.

## Filipino Evangelists Visiting Australia

Rev Paul and Josuena Mortiz, Filipino evangelists, are visiting Australia during September with International Needs.

Ray Harrison, from New Zealand, founder and President of International Needs, will also be visiting Australia.

Paul and Jo have been involved in planting and overseeing house church fellowships in the suburbs of Manila.

10 churches have been established in the barrios with over 400 members.

Crusades, weekly radio broadcasts and literature outreach programs are some of their evangelistic tools.

Josuena Mortiz has a Bachelor of Theology degree.

Paul and Jo have five children and the family is known throughout the Philippines as "The Singing Mortiz Family".

While in Australia Paul Mortiz and Ray Harrison have some engagements at Churches of Christ congregations.

These are on 17 September (Ray Harrison) at the Ringwood, Vic, church at 7 pm; 18 September at 8 pm at an International Needs Coffee and Desert evening at Nunawading church; and on 20 September at 2 pm at the Ocean Grove, Vic, church and at 7.30 pm at the Manifold Heights church.

Full details of the evangelists' itinerary are available from International Needs on (03) 873 2138.

## MAYLANDS

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The 80-year history of Maylands church is now available.

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## Ainslie Foundation Stone Anniversary



Audrey Bourke remembers

25 June 1989 marked the 30th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the Ainslie, ACT, church.

Peter Nelson pointed out that 30 years in the span of

Christianity was as a pin point and that the past was merely a stepping stone into the future. Greetings were sent from members who were present then, including the first

minister, Gordon Stirling. At the luncheon of celebration the newly renovated church kitchen was opened by the Chairman of the Ainslie board, Roy Smalley.

## Graham Chapman Visits Canberra

Graham Chapman, Lecturer at Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave, visited Canberra for a week of lectures.

The overall topic "A Faith for Today's Australians" was covered with many different emphases from one Sunday through to the next.

An inaugural lecture on the birth of Churches of Christ both in America and Britain as well as our origins in Australia showed how diverse are our beliefs and emphases from state to state.

During the week, Graham spoke on issues very real to the church and society today—women in society and the church, the environment and our Christian responsibility.

Also church members had a real and informative insight into how it is possible to examine ourselves from within and therefore to come to really know Christ at that point and in that way help others to grow and know themselves through Christ.

Finally, a very moving Conference combined service was held at Lyons church, where Graham issued a challenge to combat the decaying ills affecting our society by building a future based on the acceptance of Christ as the solution.

## Bicheno Campsite Purchase Approval

Negotiations with the Tasmanian Government for the outright purchase of Camp Seaview, Bicheno, were successfully completed in June. The 2.5 hectare site has been purchased for \$71,700 plus legal and other expenses.

The purchase marks several years of negotiations with the Government and has been welcomed by the Tasmanian Conference and the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development, which operates the camping centre.

The site, with its outstanding ocean view, has been leased since camping began in the early 1960s. The Department of Mission, Education and Development formally accepted responsibility for the administration of Camp Seaview in early 1988.

A major development program is now under way. Colin Orr has accepted the role of project manager. Construction will be carried out by subcon-

tracting the various jobs. Where possible, volunteer labour will be used. Negotiations have been in progress with the Tasmanian Government for some time concerning a grant towards assistance for the construction of the new activities hall and dining room. A loan from the Properties Corporation and the Government grant are expected to bring the project to lockup stage.

Loan repayments will be financed from income, which continues to rise with increasing use by schools, church groups and families. The cabins are particularly popular at holiday times. There are increasing numbers of short-term visitors throughout the year. Basil and Ida Marden recently commenced as managers.

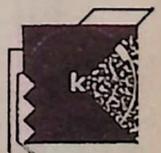
The purchase of the site is a major demand upon camping operations. It is hoped that between \$15,000 to \$20,000 can be raised in gifts from Tasmanian churches and individuals during 1989-90. This will be

necessary to assist with the additional borrowing commitments resulting from the agreement to purchase. Gifts would also be welcomed for special items of equipment.

Further information is available from the Bicheno Management Committee Secretary Malcolm Orr (Phone (002) 44 4238) or Don Smith of the Vic-Tas Department of MED on (03) 662 2377.

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## Ngaliwanyan Convention



Olive Biendurry (early missionary at Looma) and Limerick (Looma church elder)

I've just returned from two weeks of blessing at the Convention held by the Ngaliwanyan Church of Christ at Looma in the Kimberley region of WA. It took three long days to get there but it was a small price to pay for the privilege of sharing with tribal Aboriginal Christians from as far away as Nulagine, WA, and Lake Nash, near Camooweal, Qld.

Much of each meeting was conducted in the local language and some of the most wonderful singing was traditional and tribal, yet the presence of God's spirit was so evident, even though some couldn't understand the words.

A party of 13 young people from the South Perth church, led by associate minister David Stanford and deacon David Bell, contributed to each meet-

ing through song and drama. This proved to be an ideal way of communicating God's truth to illiterate people.

There were some powerful testimonies, some beautiful singing and an early morning prayer meeting each day. Significantly there was a full contribution from the men of each community represented. At each night meeting there were first decisions and rededications.

The Looma church is about 10 years old. This Convention coincided with the completion of further extensions to its building.

I've never been to a Convention quite like this one, nor will I ever forget it. The development of the church and its Aboriginal leadership vindicated the decision of the Federal Aborigines Board to place a missionary pastor there in the mid 1970s. God has blessed the church ever since.

—A.W. Moyle



Bob Boska, current pastor at Looma

## A Healthy Start with Jesus—Nurture of New Christians



Phil and Maureen Webber, Marion's follow-up conveners

Paul had been a Christian for six months. Over a cup of coffee I asked him, "What happened the night you made your decision?"

"I went out the front," he replied, "I said yes to the minister's questions and then returned to my seat. That was it until the minister saw me during the week."

From this conversation I began to contemplate the nurture of new Christians at Marion, SA. Like many churches, there were "a lot of holes" in our program.

After consultation with our ministry team, my wife Maureen and I became leaders of Marion's Follow Up program, which utilises a pack of literature and other helpful resources, "A Healthy Start with Jesus." Our aim is to encourage the spiritual growth of new Christians, from the time they first make their decision and during following weeks.

Each Sunday evening we now have trained counsellors who meet with anyone who makes a first-time commitment or recommitment to Christ. In a sensitive and understanding way they explain the steps by which we receive our Saviour and the candidate then prays to receive Jesus into their life. At the close of the counselling session the new Christians are given a "packet" containing literature to encourage them in

their faith, from that point onwards.

The packet contains:

- A booklet that explains seven spiritual truths new Christians can be sure of when they receive Christ.

- A daily devotional booklet that the new Christian can begin that night!

- Leaflets explaining baptism, the Lord's Supper and Churches of Christ.

- A Bible study booklet and covering letter from the ministry team, stating that another Christian from the church will be in touch shortly, to offer to help with the Bible study.

The program has now been in operation for six months, and during that time we have given away over 50 of these packets, largely due to the recent John Bond mission at Marion, when a large number of people became Christians. At the present time we have 25 members working on a one to one basis with new or re-committed Christians. However, the most exciting aspect of the program for me personally, has been my involvement with these new Christians, as this has "done wonders" for my own faith and enthusiasm for the Lord.

Our nurture program at Marion is by no means "fool proof", but we have discovered some principles which are working.

—Phil Webber

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## MS Diagnosed for Russell Ritchie

The reason I am writing for *The Australian Christian* is to set at ease some concerns a number of people have expressed regarding my condition after recently being diagnosed as having multiple sclerosis.

When told by the neurologist that I did in fact have MS, there was an enormous sense of peace at finally knowing what was wrong and an overwhelming awareness of God's presence in the whole situation.

It has been over a month since I was told of the onset of MS and I assure all who know me that I have accepted the news well, that my faith in the Lord is stronger than ever and that I am looking forward to continuing in ministry.

My wife Margaret has been marvellous in support of me particularly over the past three years as we have faced concerns regarding my health. Both Margaret and our four children have been a vital part of our "team" ministry here at Annerley, Qld.

The elders, board and members of the church have been supportive both in prayer and practical ministries.

I am currently undergoing physiotherapy to help build my strength and control of my legs etc, and am improving steadily.

One final comment to all those who made the remark that "life begins at 40" when I turned 40 last October. So far, I am not impressed. If this is what I am like at 40 I am not sure about turning 50, 60 and 70. I have always wanted to be like Gordon Stirling—always young, never aging, and always energetic.

The future is not dark, but filled with opportunities to serve the Lord further.

I know he will never leave me nor forsake me or my family.

—Russell Ritchie

## Ken Bond Appointed AIS Chaplain

Ken Bond has been appointed the Australian Institute of Sport chaplain.

Ken has been serving as sport chaplain with the Western Suburbs Rugby League Club for three years and was one of the Australian delegates to the World Congress on Sport Ministry in Korea during last year's Olympics.

The Australian Sports Commission approved the chaplaincy proposal last month, after negotiations with the Sports and Leisure Ministry.

56 chaplains currently serve with this ministry, including chaplains in cricket, golf, football, basketball, and motor racing. In addition, the SLM (Specialised Life Orientated Ministries) has Christians in Sport fellowship groups, with the ACT group meeting with Ken Bond at the AIS.

Ken was initially approached by Dr Mark Tronson, SLM's National Ministry Co-ordinator, due to Ken's significant ministry to administrators, coaching staff and players at Western Suburbs.

His international experience in Seoul was vital to the decision. Ken was inducted to this ministry on 9 August.

Ken Bond has ministered at the Campbelltown, NSW, Church of Christ for the past 13 years.

## Dr Phillips to Lecture at Carlingford

The Churches of Christ in New South Wales Theological College has welcomed Dr Richard Phillips as a visiting lecturer, from the United States, to its teaching faculty for the second semester of the 1989 academic year.

Dr Phillips and his wife Becky come from Johnson City, Tennessee, where Dick is on the faculty of Milligan College. He also lectures occasionally at the Emmanuel School of Religion. Dick is a chaplain with the rank of Colonel in the US Air Force Reserve.

Dr and Mrs Phillips are not newcomers to either Australia or the College. This is the third



time they have visited the College in this capacity, having visited in 1979 (Woolwich) and 1986.

The main areas in which Dr Phillips will be lecturing are New Testament and Theology.

## ...and at Kenmore

"If God: Why Evil" will be the central theme of Dr Richard Phillips' lectures at Kenmore Christian College in September. The course will give the participants the opportunity to explore the question in great detail.

Dr Phillips is a faculty member at Milligan College in Johnson City, Tennessee.

Dr and Mrs Phillips will join the annual ICEM Seminar on 11-15 September.

Registrants will discuss the problems of pain and suffering in relationship to spiritual growth and ministry. Dr Phillips will also deal with the is-

ssues related to the nature of God and evil as revealed in the scriptures.

"If God Why Evil" will be taught through 12-15 September. ICEM courses also include an all-day course on 11 September titled "Dealing with Depression". Dr Jay Adams, from Westminster Theological Seminary in California, will lead a seminar in Biblical counselling with the theme "Competent to Counsel".

KCC student body president, Cheryl Hoskins, reports that more than 100 have registered for the ICEM week at the College.

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# Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

## "Art Thou Weary"

To the Editor,

The recent article "I Will Lift up Mine Eyes unto the Hills" by John Harrison ("AC" 22 July) reminded me of the story I was told of a previous climb up the Great Western Tiers some 55 years ago by the late A. J. Fisher, who was conducting a mission at Caveside, Tas. Having expressed a wish to climb the mountain he took a day off to do so, and was taken to the top.

At the meeting that night, either by accident or design, a very obviously tired and weary minister raised a chuckle at the meeting when he announced the opening hymn: "Art thou weary, art thou languid, art thou sore distressed". He certainly was.

—Allan Orr  
(Tasmanian Historian)

## "Just"

To the Editor,

I thoroughly endorse Ed Roffey's letter ("AC" 5 August), especially with regard to the use of the word "just" in public prayer and speech. I would add a further criticism. All too many speakers and pray-ers mispronounce the word as "jist". This belittles the speaker in the eyes, and grates on the ears, of hearers who like to hear the "Queen's English" properly spoken.

Further, the term "kids" used for children and youth is likewise belittling and objectionable. "Kids" are the offspring of goats, not people. How many parents would appreciate the corollary of that use of the term "kids" (for their children) that they are goats?

The higher standards of speech and the correct use of words should be every speaker's aim.

—W.W. Saunders  
(Frankston North, Vic)

## Congratulations

To the Editor,

Congratulations to Bronwyn Hickman on the article about Alan Hirsch ("AC" 22 July).

May Alan know the value of his ministry as he moves amongst the people of South Melbourne. With his background, belief and support and ministry of his wife Debbie, may much be done to the greater glory of God as he serves in the years to come.

—Bruce Burn  
(Morwell, Vic)

## Political Involvement for Christians

To the Editor,

The importance of the separation of church and state seems to me to be a lie of Satan that has bound Christians for centuries. Disastrous results are glaringly evident as governments motivated by humanistic philosophies have in the last 20 years legislated 55,000 new laws and regulations, which have subtly restricted God appointed individual citizen rights and freedoms.

God surely planned that his will be done on earth as in heaven through such institutions as the family unit, the body of Christ (church) and righteous civil government. (See Romans 13, 1 Timothy 2:1-2, 1 Samuel 12) The church and Christians need to be involved in civil government to ensure that we are the "salt of the earth"!

In spite of what Gerald Rose says ("AC" 5 August), some of us do evaluate movements of today with Scripture and common sense before allowing them to lead out thinking. I think it is very poor of him to blacken the Logos Foundation by association with the League of Rights when there is not any. I also took exception to Gerald using his Presidential address to assassinate the character of those leaders and supporters of Logos, who consider that such a voice is desperately needed in our day.

For Christians to withdraw from the political arena is like extinguishing the light of God in that area.

Christians need to select candidates for Parliament not by political party but by the one who is spiritual and at-

tuned to God's will. I believe that in such present times with the tremendous spiritual decline of Australia that God has raised up Fred Nile and Al Watson of Call to Australia, Cedric Jacobs of One Australia Movement, and Howard Carter of Logos Foundation. We should be giving them every support instead of smearing them and seeking to detract from their effort.

—Peter Pitts  
(Hampton St, Vic)

## Church and State

To the Editor,

Irrespective of Alexander Campbell's theology on church and state (Gerald Rose, "AC" 5 August), Jesus demonstrated a reactionary involvement in politics, breaking the law and being crucified because he proclaimed himself the authority over all politics.

History records shortcomings in the Church-State system, but need we throw the

baby out with the bath water, for this system laid the foundation for the English speaking people, of an order of law and justice (British common law) that promoted a social structure supreme in world politics.

Can we contemplate alternatives, or trust the affairs of men to the human heart if we understand Jeremiah 17:9.

In the British Hall of Justice, Jesus represents the Spirit of Law. In the foyer of the United Nations headquarters Jesus is substituted for the pagan god Zeus. This is significant, particularly as we see our political representatives flouting our Constitution to form alliances with the UN.

Let's be alert. To quote Sir Raphael Cilento, "Our heritage today is the fragments gleaned from past ages; the heritage of tomorrow—good or bad—will be determined by our actions today."

—T.A. Fraser  
(Maitland, NSW)

# Letters from Tertius

## Circumferences

To the Editor,

We all know about Katie's diets. After Bible study she refuses supper with a little recital about her latest. Most dieters talk about calories and kilograms and girth. Not Katie. She is always worried about what she calls her "circumference". Not that she has any cause for worry. She never looks like losing it!

I was idly thinking of her most recent rundown on her circumference when my mind slipped away from Katie's avoirdupois to my own circumference...but not the one round my middle. It was the one that I seem to draw round myself and my immediate interests.

I had heard of people who draw circles round themselves that include their address, their family, their job, and the footy, and not much more. I wondered if my circumference was a bit too tightly drawn.

It dawned on me that as a professing Christian it should take in all the people in the world and all the problems in the world, as well as all the beauty and wonder in the world and all of the marvels of modern achievement, and lots of other things out there.

That's some circumference and I suppose that's the one I should be drawing round myself, because after all God so loved the world that he gave his Son. And you can't get a bigger circumference than that.

Suddenly I realised that looking out on that sort of circumference is much better than navel gazing at the compass point.

Yours inclusively,

—Tertius

# Letters to the Editor

## Thank You

To the Editor,

Thank you all the various people who have sent me copies of past Conference Handbooks and church histories following my letter ("AC" 22 July). I very much appreciate receiving them and enjoy researching material from them.

If any retiring ministers have old handbooks they no longer want I would very much appreciate them being sent to me. Larger parcels should be sent to Malcolm Bird, c/o Melbourne Pathology, 32 Smith St, Collingwood 3066, or smaller letters could be sent to my home address Flat 4, 17 Dunoon St, Murrumbeena 3163.

I would very much appreciate any church sending me their weekly pew leaflets. These could be sent on a two-monthly basis to save postage.

Any local church histories would be very much appreciated.

—Malcolm Bird  
(Murrumbeena, Vic)

## Stance on Abortion

To the Editor,

In Appendix II of the book *Abortion in Australia—Answers and Alternatives* by A. Fisher and J. Cunningham, the views on abortion held by churches and religious groups in Australia are recorded. As no view from Churches of Christ was mentioned, I made enquiries from Federal and State Executives concerning whether the issue has been discussed at Conference level and a policy formulated.

The Queensland Conference has a statement on abortion from the Christian perspective, and a motion concerning abortion was brought to Federal Conference in 1979. Federal Conference recognised that there is much confusion concerning abortion in relation to Christian principles, to the law, and to the welfare of society and recommended that material be prepared, presenting all points of view and that this be made available for use in Church study groups. A paper "A Christian View on Abortion" was prepared by Dr

Trevor Banks.

The material on abortion presented to Federal Conference in 1979 stated that there were over 100,000 abortions performed in Australia each year. Ten years later, the number would be no less. More abortions are carried out in Australia each year than the number of people killed by the atomic bomb at Hiroshima. On average, one unborn Australian child dies by abortion every seven minutes.

As Christians, we need to recognise our responsibility to protect the unborn and counsel and care for any person who is contemplating or has gone through with an abortion. A serious study of valuable resource material should motivate us to positive action and enable us to formulate a policy which would be accepted as the stance taken by Churches of Christ in Australia.

—Ron McLean  
(Cowandilla, SA)

## American News

To the Editor,

I think it was W.C. Fields who said about the press, "It doesn't matter what they say about you as long as they spell your name right."

Well, a funny thing happened to me when I was leaving the United States a few weeks ago. I bought a copy of *The Los Angeles Times* and found that our denomination had made the front page. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was holding its Assembly in Indianapolis. The report which made the front page of the "LA. Times" was headed, "Vote on Who Enters Heaven

Put Off". It appears that our American cousins have referred to a theological commission the issue of "what makes a Christian" rather than take a vote on that issue by the assembly delegates.

I can only assume that there is some relationship between

the declining numbers of our church in America and their inability, after 200 years (or 2,000) to determine what it means to be a Christian today. Article below.

—Jay Bacik  
(Northside, NSW)

## Vote on Who Enters Heaven Put Off

Indianapolis—A controversy over whether ministers should preach that only Christians can enter heaven was referred to a committee today at the convention of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The 700 delegates postponed a vote to accept or reject a report on the so-called "Jesus Resolution" drafted with an eye toward healing the rift between the church's theological conservatives and liberals but which may only have deepened them. The proposed resolution asks that the Disciples affirm that salvation is possible only through Jesus and that only Christians will have eternal life after death.

The report on the proposed resolution was prepared by the church's Commission on Theology and suggests it might be inappropriate and self-righteous to say salvation is possible only through Jesus. It says only God, not Christians, can determine who should enter heaven.

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# Media Review

## Papers

### Aboriginal Issues

Aboriginal issues are complex. In the 10 years since the Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society produced a reading guide on Aborigines and Australian Christianity, much more has been published. The Australian community has become more aware of the issues involved, and if anything, the complexity of these issues has increased.

In this new reading guide John Harris discusses many recent and some older books. A basic reading list provides what John considers essential reading for any Australian Christian who genuinely wants to understand. A second list discusses other particularly important books which those who want to study deeply should read. A third list comments on a wide range of other books.

*Aboriginal Issues* is available from the Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society, Blackall Street, Barton 2600, or phone (062) 73 1634, for \$2 plus 80c postage.

## Books

### Prisons and Prisoners

by Constance Lytton (Virago Press)

Constance Lytton was the third child of the First Earl of Lytton. She was a genteel spinster whose childhood friends were members of the Royal family. She was a chronic invalid since infancy, and she lived quietly in the country. In 1909, at the age of 42, Constance joined the ranks of the militant suffragettes and engaged in controversial and dangerous acts of political activism. Constance Lytton had long been an advocate for prison reform, and her incarceration, which resulted from her new militant stand served only to confirm the need for major social reform when she was sentenced to one month in Holloway Prison for her part in taking a deputation to the House of Commons.

Her exposure to the pain and suffering of the poorest and most abject of women imprisoned for petty theft, concealment of birth, vagrancy or prostitution increased the motivation and commitment of Constance and her fellow suffragettes to continue militant action in the battle for women's rights.

Constance's description of the prisons and prison conditions in the early 1900s depicts prison life in the minutest detail, an historical document within the stirring account of the suffragettes heroic and sacrificial struggle to gain voting rights and better conditions for women.

Constance was convinced that she had been given preferential treatment because of her aristocratic rank, and later posed as Jane Warton, a working class woman. As Jane she was forcibly fed in goal when she went on a hunger strike.

*Prisons and Prisoners* is a moving account of Constance Lytton's

involvement with the suffragette movement and her experiences in prison, an absorbing reminder of the spirit of sacrifice which modern women have to thank for their emancipation.

—Margaret Burrage-Coburn



### New Dictionary of Theology

edited by Sinclair B. Ferguson and David F. Wright (Inter-Varsity Press)

Published in the middle of 1988, this book has been greeted as a major publication. It is difficult to know how to start to review such a massive tome (738 pages) that covers such a wide range of material (630 articles, fully cross-referenced). Looking at other reviews of this work I have seen the great majority have welcomed its appearance, though with some small criticisms about areas not well covered or not well cross-referenced in the opinion of the reviewer.

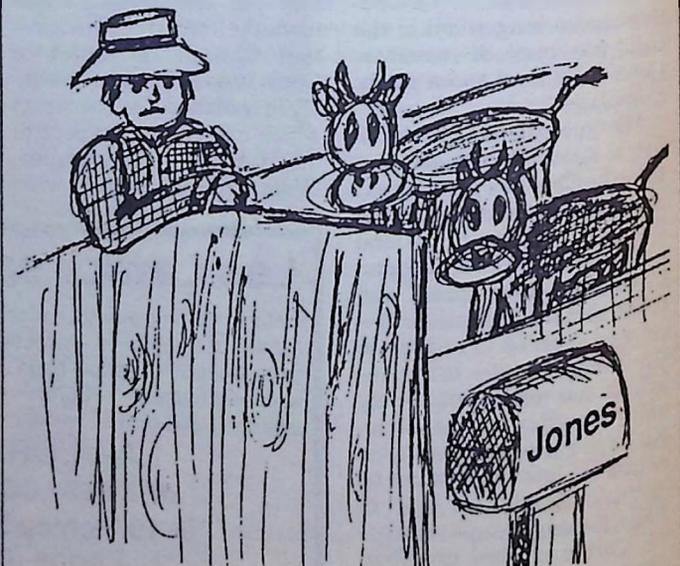
Anyone who buys this volume or picks it up to study will no doubt find some area of disagreement. After all 210 contributors covering the range of biblical, systematic and historical theology will never fully agree with each other or the reader. While it may appear that this volume has been published with the minister and theological student in mind, it is not too technical and contains material on many issues that are very topical (abortion, theology of African independent churches, Southern Baptist theology etc.).

It is interesting to look at some of the theologians whose views are summarised. These range from the early church fathers (Clement of Alexandria, Origen, early heretical movement leaders such as Marcion), through the Middle Ages (Peter Abelard, Joachimism), touching on the major Reformation figures (Martin Luther, John Calvin), right up to current theological thinking (John Macquarrie, Jacques Ellul, Jürgen Moltmann, Gerrit Cornelis Berkouwer and others).

The range of topics that are considered in articles also covers a broad range. A quick flip of the pages turned up the following headings: Fellowship, Feminist Theology, Holocaust, Holiness Movement, Laity, Montanism, Moral Theology, Pantheism, Papacy, Poverty and Wealth and Sacrifice.

The volume claims to cover the whole spectrum of evangelical theology and, as the publisher notes, contains material on Roman Catholicism, liberal theology and current modern secular trends.

A quick glance at the article on baptism sees that the article was



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primarily written from an adult baptism position, however a justification for infant baptism is given.

Highly recommended for any church library, this volume should also be on ministers' shelves and would be invaluable for students at college. This is not the work for someone undertaking detailed research, but should suit everybody else.

—CRA

## Prayer Triplets

by Brian Mills (Anzea Publishers) \$7.50

Another secret to success? Yes. All over the world Christians are meeting in small groups and realising the growth that generates from a deepening relationship with their God. Brian Mills initiated prayer triplets in preparation for the Billy Graham Mission in England a few years ago. So outstanding were the results that the concept has been picked up by many other evangelists and by local churches.

Brian's book relates the history of the movement, some prayer principles, problems and how to start a group. He states that we will have our requests when prayer is in his will (therefore must know it), there is no blockage and we have a firm faith in God. While this is largely true, it fails to take into account all that Scripture reveals and thus can lead to disappointment. Brian does try to cover this possibility in a couple of the chapters. Such treatment is typical of a popular theology that states too much and then must be corrected.

In addition, personal experience plays a big part in developing some of the principles he presents. Sloppy theology comes when one bases practice upon personal experience backed by any text that will fit. This compromises the good of the book. I believe the author also draws upon wrong conclusions concerning the work of the Holy Spirit, e.g. "Praying in the Spirit is going beyond mere knowledge" (page 83) is a position that cannot be supported from Scripture. There are good books and there are books with good in them, I believe this to be one of the latter.

If one wants a good book on prayer I would recommend Michael Baughen's *The Prayer Principle*, a book the author himself recommends. If one wishes to learn about prayer triplets then read chapters 3, 15, 16 (26 pages) and the first two appendices.

—T. Bjorem

## The Mustard Seed Conspiracy

You Can Make a Difference in Tomorrow's Troubled World by Tom Sine (Word Books)

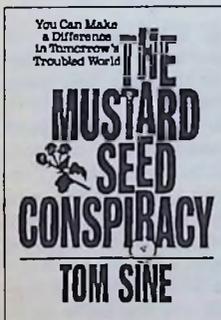
According to Tom Sine there is a Mustard Seed Conspiracy operating in the world today. He argues that there are a growing number of Christians who are rediscovering the truth that the most satisfying life is not the life of greed and acquisitiveness—but the life that is given away. Tom Sine argues that God has

chosen to change the world through the lowly, the unassuming and the imperceptible.

The early part of the book examines many of the problems facing the world today, particularly the Western world. He examines the trends and looks at the needs of humans during the coming decades but then he goes on to show that the Christian faith can help humans cope with this new world.

This is one of a series of books that are arguing for a new style of Christian understanding and of sharing faith. Tom Sine is especially concerned about righteousness and the place of the Christian in sharing this righteousness in the world.

—CRA



## Homes Visitation

The Vic-Tas CWF Homes Visitation Committee each year arranges about 40 visits to the residents of the Christian Guest Home, Oakleigh, Emmaus, the Nursing Home at Murrumbena and Fred Cambridge House at Northcote. Each year over 500 women, and often their husbands, from CWF groups in Melbourne and Warragul bring happiness through their entertainment, afternoon teas and fellowship with their guests.

Three committee members from the Carnegie church assist with the afternoon tea at Emmaus, four from the Oakleigh church at the Chris-

tian Guest Home and one with rostered members from Ormond at the Nursing Home. Over the years faithful and dedicated service in this capacity has been given by many women. During my time as Superintendent a wonderful record was made on the retirement of Mrs Vera Goddard after 30 years at the Christian Guest Home.

These visits are a Christian service which provides a link of fellowship between CWF groups and the elderly residents.

—Fay Lawn  
(Superintendent CWF Homes Visitation)

## KCC Diploma Receives SCD Approval

The Sydney College of Divinity (SCD) now recognises the Kenmore Christian College diploma as adequate for admission to the Bachelor of Theology (BTh) conversion courses.

After investigations by Gabriel Babare, lecturer with KCC, the Board applied for recognition of its diploma as an acceptable prerequisite to the Churches of Christ NSW Theological College (Carlingford) BTh Conversion Course. This application was successful and will benefit all KCC students who have graduated with a diploma in the last 10 years.

Principal Donald W Spencer reports, "This decision opens the doors of opportunity.

"Those students who have graduated from KCC with a diploma since 1979 can now apply for admission to the Carlingford BTh Conversion Course. With the completion of eight subjects, KCC graduates can upgrade their diploma to a recognised degree. The SCD BTh degree can provide open doors to further tertiary education in Australia or abroad."

Presently three graduates have enrolled in the BTh Con-

version Course.

Gabriel Babare continues in his lecturing responsibilities at Kenmore and the course work towards the SCD BTh.

Cheryl Hoskins is ministering part-time at the Bundamba, Qld, church, takes courses at Kenmore, and is upgrading her KCC diploma. Paul Scully ministers full-time to the Caboolture, Qld, church, but has enrolled in courses to complete the BTh through the conversion course.

Through two-week module courses at Kenmore or Carlingford and independent studies in the field, students can complete the requirements. Students can choose courses in four fields of study: social sciences, biblical studies, church history and biblical theology, or practical ministries.

Principal Spencer explains, "The beauty of this conversion method is its flexibility, allowing the diploma graduates to remain in their ministries, but continue their educational pursuits.

"Students can be far from the college campus and yet endeavour to improve their academic standings."

KCC is co-operating with Carlingford in this effort.

# Happenings

France has twice as many Muslims as Protestant Christians, and Paris has more spiritist healers than all doctors, priests and pastors combined.

Vaccines are now saving the lives of about 1.5 million children each year in the developing world, according to UNICEF. At the beginning of the 1980s less than 5% of the poor world's children were being immunised and diseases like whooping cough, measles and tetanus were killing 4-5 million young children each year. Today well over 50% of children are reached by vaccination services.

The Overseas Mission Board has commenced a recorded news service giving the latest news of the various mission fields. This is only available at weekends and can be heard by phoning (08) 271 3620.

Throughout Africa and Latin America average family incomes have fallen by 10-25% since 1980. Indebted countries have also cut expenditures on social services. The 40 least developed countries have slashed spending on health by 50% per head and on education by 25% per head over the past few years.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada are to begin a relationship of "interim sharing of the eucharist". Besides eucharistic sharing, the relationship is to include joint programs in evangelism, social action, and Bible study; shared facilities; and regular intercessions for the other.

UNICEF estimates that the total additional investment required to meet basic human needs would be in the region of \$30-50 billion a year throughout the 1990s. Devoted to food and nutrition, primary health

care and education, and safe water and sanitation, such a sum could eradicate the worst aspects of poverty in little more than a decade from now.

The executive council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia has expressed "full support" for the "aim of national independence for Latvia" as proclaimed by the Latvian Popular Front.

According to South Australian police statistics for 1987-88, offenders aged under 18 committed more crimes than any other age group. 4,646 offences, including murder, rape, assault, robbery and fraud were listed. The number of crimes attributed to the 18-24 age group was 2,395.

The Report "Young Australians and Drugs" states that 81% of people in goal had drunk alcohol before committing the offence for which they were charged.

At the time of their offence 10% of rape offenders were drunk, 10% had been drinking heavily and 67% moderately. Research has also revealed that 37% of rape victims had been drinking before the offence.

While in America on study leave from the NSW Theological College (Carlingford) Keith and Peter Farmer attended the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) held 28 July-2 August.

Vic-Tas CWF Council meeting on 13 October will be held at Latrobe Terrace, Geelong. Sessions will be at 11 am and 1.30 pm. Morning tea will be at 10.30 am and it is BYO lunch. Further information from Eleanor Roberts on (03) 874 5110.

Recently the Association of Australasian and South-East Asian Evangelists was formed. It is holding a Conference 12-14 Decem-

ber at Collaroy, NSW. The keynote speaker will be Frances Anuso, an American evangelist. Details and application forms are available from the Association at PO Box 42, Lyneham 2602. Phone (062) 573367.

The Leprosy Mission is holding its annual Leprosy Awareness Week 10-17 September. There will be public rallies in all states.

In April a group of people met together to establish The Australian Network of Spiritual Direction. Their first national conference of lectures, workshops and sharing is planned for 4-7 May 1990, in Adelaide. Membership is \$25 per year. For details contact Rev George Trippe, The Centre for Christian Spirituality, Wollaston Rd, Mt Claremont 6010. Phone (09) 384 5023.

Tony Cupt, general superintendent of the Baptist Union of Victoria, has been appointed to the executive staff of the Baptist World Alliance. He will assume responsibility for two of the BWA's four directorates, as director of Evangelism and Education, and director of Study and Research.

The Christian Broadcasting Network of Australia is committed to presenting the Gospel through the media in prime time. Their first television "commercial" will feature the cartoon strip "Pearly Gates" as an animation and could be screened in September.

Chinese church leaders "resolutely endorsed" their Governments massacre of protesting students in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, in a statement dated 27 June. This contradicts a May statement issued by the Christian Council which gave strong support to the students' demands.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, two former aids to PTL founder Jim Bakker have

been convicted of evading \$US525,000 in income taxes on money they took from the PTL ministry. The Taggart brothers reportedly spent nearly \$US1.2 million in PTL money on personal luxuries with Bakker's approval.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, has criticised religious fundamentalism and linked it to much of the world's strife. "Where there is strife in our world, you do not have to look hard to see the hand of various brands of fundamentalism—Islamic fundamentalism in the Middle East, Christian fundamentalism in Ulster or Jewish fundamentalism in Israel."

The biennial National Christian Conference of the Blind is being held in Perth 29 September to 2 October. The conference is open to any blind or print-handicapped person, or any sighted person who would like to attend as a volunteer enabler willing to assist with guiding etc. Details from CBMI, 1245 Burke Rd, Kew 3101.

The Anglican Church in Australia is facing a new split over a proposal to take a more compassionate stand on the remarriage of divorced people. Some clergy and lay members are vehemently opposed to remarriage saying the Bible clearly forbids it and it is a sin.

Swindlers, claiming God is their co-investor, bilked thousands of Americans out of more than \$US450 million in the past 5 years, according to a study by securities regulators.

At the moment, one new case of leprosy is being diagnosed every six weeks among non-Aboriginal Australians.

In Indianapolis the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will build a \$US15 million international office complex. The new offices will enable Disciples to

bring together at one location units in three separate facilities.

In a recent poll it was discovered that 93% of all Americans owned a Bible. However, half of them say they never read it, including 23% of all born again Christians. Only 18% of all born again Christians said they read the Bible every day.

The governor of Mexico's southernmost state, Chiapas, has pledged to introduce legislation lifting immunity from prosecution for elected officials who engage in illegal activities, particularly targeting town mayors who have used their position to persecute and expel Christians from tribal lands.

In Hong Kong Chinese Christians report a new wave of fines, arrests, and the confiscation of radios as punishment for monitoring broadcasts aired by the Far East Broadcasting Company.

Vietnam is prepared to welcome foreign Christians to live and teach English and other subjects on short-term contracts, according to Anglican priest Duc Nguyen, who visited the country in late June.

The Bible Society will have a stand at the Melbourne Show this year, located in the Hall of Manufacturers. A "Good News Services" caravan, run by the Christian Brethren Assemblies will also help to provide a Christian presence at the show. Both stands have available Christian literature with the Bible Society selling a show bag.

A meeting to consider the Christian "presence" in next year's Melbourne Moomba procession will be held at 12.15 pm on 15 September at St John's Anglican Church, Toorak.

New Danish legislation allows physicians and nurses the right to refuse to assist with abortions.

## Tired Legs Buy Bibles



A few of the riders after the Bike-a-thon

There were some leg weary people around Owen, SA, when children and adults took part in a bike-a-ton to raise funds for the Bible Society's Bikes for Bibles project for Africa.

58 took part in the event on 13 August organised by the Sunday School of the Owen Combined Congregation

An Aboriginal chaplain is to be appointed for Aboriginal young offenders in NSW. The first such appointment Australia is in response to the disproportionate number of Aboriginal youths in custody. About 25% of people in NSW detention centres are Aboriginal.

*The Church Messenger*, the first church run newspaper for public sale rather than restricted distribution since the 1917 Soviet revolution, has been launched by the Russian Orthodox Church. The initial print run is 50,000.

In Manila 20,000 are living on the Smokey Mountain tip. People urinate wherever they feel the need, ladies wash their clothes in slimy green water. There are no showers, no toilets and no running water. Most people are desperately poor and hungry.

(Uniting Church and Churches of Christ) as its annual project. People from neighbouring towns and children from Kids Club also took part.

Ranging from youngsters on tricycles (who rode a mini-course) to one grandfather the riders circled Owen township up to 10 times to raise money through sponsorship.

Among the participants was one entire family (although Mum was towed for a couple of laps by Dad) and preschooler Bradley Nicolai covered eight laps on a bike complete with trainer wheels.

Former minister, Linc Rayner, who works with Scripture Union, was guest speaker at the service prior to the luncheon and bike-a-thon, with the Sunday School students taking part in the service.

—Kaye Wray

## Stars and Stripes

Golden Age Retirement Village Residents, Gold Coast, Qld, turned up in large numbers on the evening of 12 July in the Community Hall for a special "Stars and Stripes" presentation by the Kennedy family.

Fresh from a year's exchange program with Oklahoma Christian Home in Edmond U.S.A., they were treated to a time of song, scenic views, and a display of souvenirs. This was followed by supper, American style, of iced tea, pumpkin pie and brownies.

Phil, Lynn, Michelle and Lisa entertained with words and music, telling of their experiences as they travelled around the USA before settling into the life at the Oklahoma Christian Home and new schools for the girls.

Wearing an Indian head-dress, Phil imbued us with the excitement and drama of the early days of the opening up of the State of Oklahoma. This was Indian territory. Davy Crockett and others came to life before us as Phil showed slides of areas throughout the U.S.A. including New York, Washing-

ton D.C. and Disneyland. The huge Space Station at Cape Canaveral, Dodge City and the famous Boot Hill flashed before us and all present enjoyed every moment with the Kennedys.

Lynn showed the beautiful craftwork created by the ladies of Oklahoma. The outstanding exhibit was a magnificent quilted bedspread made up of 46 squares, each square individually made by either one person or a group and then sewn together. This quilt was a farewell gift from the residents and staff of the Home.

Phil then explained how proud Americans are of their flag, displaying it on all occasions.

A Proclamation and a Citation from the City of Edmond and the State of Oklahoma were shown by Phil, who, along with his family now hold the Keys of the City of Edmond. On Australia Day the Mayor and City Council proclaimed that the Australian flag be flown over City Hall.

A number of residents had dressed in the US colours.

The Girls' Brigade office in Victoria has had many inquiries from parents and girls wanting to join a Girls' Brigade company in recent weeks following television advertising on Channel 10. Inquiries have come particularly from the Western suburbs in Melbourne where there are no companies. Three new companies have been established at Sebastopol, Rosebud and Mountain Gate.

The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has elected a Roman Catholic parish priest, Philip Morris of South Orange, New Jersey, as a member of its governing General Board.

Philip Morris was involved in Disciples-Roman Catholic theological dialogues in the US and internationally from 1967 to 1982.

### SUNSHINE BASE STRENGTHENED

Sunshine church under Ian Corlett's leadership is strengthening its base with new groups formed for youth and adults. The project is part of the CROP initiative for church planting in the Western Suburbs. Gifts are invited.

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## Rockingham's New Complex



It was just over a year ago (5 July 1988) when the first trench was dug, signifying the commencement of a new complex for Rockingham, WA.

The Home Missions Department of WA had put forward a \$50,000 low-interest loan and the Centenary Revolving Fund granted an additional \$50,000 interest-free loan to support the project. The church congregation had accumulated \$18,000 over a two-year period of fund-raising and direct giving. Just prior to the commencement date the 58 members were challenged to make up the \$62,000 shortfall necessary of the estimated cost of \$180,000. Over a six-week period gifts

covering that amount were promised.

28 weeks later on 5 February the complex was opened by Des Croot, Mission and Extension Officer, in the presence of the Rockingham Mayor, Councillor Richard Smith, and over 400 people.

The plaque affixed to the entrance wall reads, "Built by the congregation that you may come to know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord." This plaque summarises the great effort of a small band of men and women who, under the leadership of the builder (one of their members), built a complex by self-help, valued at more than \$300,000, for \$180,054, which

includes carpet, painting, fittings and car park, all for the sole purpose of winning people to Christ.

The complex consists of a chapel, seating 300 comfortably, a large hall, general office, two pastor's offices, fellowship rooms, storage rooms and a well-equipped children's playground.

Just over seven months from opening, the congregation has swelled to an average of 130 per week and continues to grow.

All the auxiliaries and programs have grown through enthusiastic leadership and the availability of functional facilities. Play groups, craft, oil paint,

junior church, kids clubs and youth work all have seen growth and spiritual development.

Baptisms, commitments and rededications are common and continual experiences in the life of the church, under the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the sincere and enthusiastic biblical teaching of Keith Ware, supported by many faithful people.

On the 9 July 1989, a thank offering of \$20,292 was received from the congregation to pay off outstanding local debts and to reduce the interest-bearing loan to \$40,000. The challenge before the church is to be debt free (\$90,000 still owed) on our first anniversary.

The Rockingham church commenced in July 1979 in a private home. The church was supported by Home Missions until late in 1987. The site that the new complex was built on was originally six house lots and was bought by Home Missions in 1983.

—Keith Ware

## Paraguay Wins in Sydney Fun Run

The sixth Race for Bibles fun run was held at Penrith on 29 July. Organised by the Bible Society in Australia (NSW)

through the Youthforce Department, the event attracted 300 competitors, who could choose whether to run, ride or

row.

The concept of Race for Bibles is to raise funds for a literacy development project of the Bible Society. This year the funds raised, through sponsorships, will be used in Paraguay. The target is \$30,000.

The courses meant that runners and rowers covered 10 km, while the cyclists followed a 25 km course. The overall winner was Dick Reddel, who also took out first place in the rowing section in his canoe. He covered his 10 km course, on the Nepean River, in 27 minutes 1 second.

Runner David Ellis ran his 10 km in 37 minutes 4 seconds, which included a wrong turn at the finishing lap! "After all," commented the compere Dave Kendall, Director of Youthforce, "this was a 'fun run'!" Cyclist Stuart Tyler arrived close behind, covering his 25 km route in 40 mins 36 secs.

While the competitors were out running, rowing and riding, the Youthforce puppets entertained those waiting at the park and refreshments were made available through the efforts of the Penrith Uniting Church.

Everyone present heard Jim Humphreys of the Bible Society, explain what the project was all about. Dave Kendall, in his humorous, inimitable style, presented the winners with their awards.

—Worldwide Photos Ltd



Dick Reddel (left), overall winner and winner of the rowing section, with Dave Kendall and David Ellis (right), winner of the running section

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# Classifieds

## DEATHS

**VICCARS, Mrs Enid S.** 10 August. Suddenly at Jasmine Lodge, Ringwood. Much loved mother of Dorothy (Quantrelle), Brenda (Becker), Stella (Tharie). Grandmother of Beth, Wendy, Robert, Mandy, Gavin, Sharon, Susan, Ian, David, Michelle. Great-grandmother of Matthew, Katherine, Rebecca, Heidi, Robyn, Michelle, Kimberley. In God's care.

## IN MEMORIAM

**LAUNDER** Fond memories of our dear son and brother Graham (6 August 1957)... "til that day dawns"... Arthur, Dorothy, Malcolm, Joy.

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## BURWOOD

**Church of Christ  
New Prayer  
Sanctuary and  
Building Extension**  
will be officially  
opened by

Conference President  
Miss Phyl Davis  
on Sunday  
8 October 1989  
at 2.30 pm

All past members and  
friends are invited to  
share with us at this  
time of celebration.

## SURREY HILLS/ WATTLE PARK

**Church of Christ  
SPECIAL PROJECTS DAY**  
and offering for CROP  
Sunday, 10 September 1989  
10.30 am Worship and  
Communion

Speaker: Miss Phyl Davis  
12.30 pm Lunch  
2.30 pm PSA and Launching  
of the History of Wattle Park  
Church of Christ, edited by  
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Special invitation to past  
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**Saturday, 28 October**  
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(Vietnamese Church)  
Moderator: Don Smith (DMED)  
5 pm: Fellowship tea

**Sunday, 29 October**  
11am: Worship Service  
President: Alan Niven  
Speaker: Reg E. Hilbrich  
3 pm: "The Future of the Church in  
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## Health Education Office



Elias Sabbagh, Rev Alan Hardie, Coralle Grant (office secretary) and Julie Nelson at new Inter-Church Health Education Office  
—Photo courtesy of the Melbourne Age

In Melbourne on 8 June the Inter-Faith Health Education Office at 215 Wellington St, Collingwood, was opened. In premises supplied by the Uniting Church three separate agencies that are concerned about health matters, especially education on AIDS, have co-operated to offer this new service. The participating groups are the Uniting Church AIDS Education Project, the Inter Faith Health Education Project of the VCC and the Churches AIDS Pastoral Care and Education Program.

The idea of the office is that churches and community groups can be supplied with information and services to allow them to deal with health matters. The primary health focus will be AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases.

The various project officers and staff are endeavouring to show that AIDS is more than a medical problem and that there are areas of pastoral care and concern and issues that have arisen that the church needs to comment upon. The office is

designed to be a resource centre, to provide training for those in the wider church, to be an educational and pastoral care program centre and to alert the church at large to the issues in the whole debate.

Louis van Laar, Vic-Tas Department of Community Care, and Chairman of the VCC Social Questions Commission, formally opened the centre.

Louis commented: "Realism demands that we recognise everyone as potentially HIV infected. Realism demands that we remember that you do not get AIDS from who you are, but from what you do.

"The HIV virus has changed the rules for how we deal with other people in a variety of situations. Whether we like it or not things will never be the same again.

"There is the need for the Christian churches to tackle the issue of sexuality. The post-sexual revolution church must act as a positive voice and force to proclaim the biblical affirmation of our bodies, our senses and sexuality as God-given to

enrich life. Pastoral teaching on sexuality can draw on a rich tradition of spirituality and secular social sciences insight to: help people discover and appreciate their sexuality; guide people in to expressing their sexuality in non-genital ways; and open people to integrate their sexuality within their whole being.

"Another good I see arising out of the changes due to AIDS is the care surging up in our congregations. They are discovering that sexual orientation is a testing ground not merely for ethical discussion, but for the very ability to live out the gospel. Christian groups are beginning to face their hostility towards homosexuals that really stems from self righteousness or fear. They recognise that such is not the message of the Christian gospel which commends care, hope and above all the love of Christ."

Julie Nelson is co-ordinating a program for training people who wish to offer appropriate care for people with AIDS. Elias Sabbagh has as his primary focus contact with ethnic communities, taking into account the religious sensitivities, both Christian and Muslim, of these people, to provide information about sexual health in general and AIDS in particular. Alan Hardie is the Uniting Church Project Officer for AIDS education.

The office can be contacted on (03) 419 1902 or 416 0060.

## Discipleship Training

28 from 13 different churches participated in a Colossians 2:7 Leaders Training Seminar on 7 and 8 July.

The seminar was held at the Burwood, Vic, church by request of minister Peter Wing Tang, and led by Navigators staff, Dr Doug Utley and David Spencer.

The 2:7 Discipleship series is designed to establish believers in their walk with God and to equip them for service in the church and witness in society. The course consists of six 12-unit sessions and is being widely used overseas.

While the seminar had a lot of informational material on forming groups, teaching the devotional life and communicating Christian assurance, there was also inspiration for leaders being equipped, who would then disciple others.

A highlight for Dan Lundgren, minister of the Footscray church, was the Bible study and fellowship: "I'm convinced we will be using the program at Footscray," he said.

"The 2:7 Series is excellent for lay people in the church because it's a progressive program where both leader and participants grow together," said Peter Wing Tang.

For further information about the 2:7 Series contact David Spencer on (03) 889 2589.

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## Sri Lankan Churches Assist with Rehabilitation

In Sri Lanka, years of civil strife have resulted in the death of 15,000 civilians and have left 300,000 homeless.

The Indo-Sri Lankan agreement of July 1987 was meant to return the country to "peace and normalcy". While there is evidence that some human rights abuses continue, thousands of people detained under emergency laws have been freed. They are now faced with the task of rebuilding their lives.

The National Council of Churches (NCC) in Sri Lanka, in conjunction with local churches and community groups, is providing relief and assisting in rehabilitation. Force Ten will support this vital work of the Sri Lankan churches.

In January the NCC held a training course in rehabilitation. This provided practical information on setting up and managing local programs. Local churches are responsible for interviewing and screening all applicants who request assistance.

Many families have lost their breadwinners and have no means of support. Some of the

former detainees are disabled as a result of the conditions under which they were imprisoned. Many cannot return to their former employment.

The churches provide emergency grants of cash (up to \$70) as well as emergency food rations to those in need. Whenever possible, the program attempts to help families become self-reliant.

The churches have provided cows, goats and chickens to help hundreds of families develop a source of food and income. Loans and small grants have helped hundreds of others to set up their own small businesses. Churches provide advice, capital and equipment such as sewing machines, carpentry tools and fishing nets.

Day care centres and pre-schools provide good care for children who have lost a parent, or whose parents both work outside the home. Other local programs help families to repair or rebuild their homes.

Force Ten is a joint program of the Australian Council of Churches and Australian Catholic Relief.

## World Congress on Evangelism

"Proclaim Christ until He Comes" was the theme of the recent World Congress on Evangelism (Lausanne II) in Manila.

Dr Lionel Berthelsen of the NSW Theological College at Carlingford attended the congress.

This was a follow up to the first congress held in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1974. There were about 4,000 delegates from 190 nations meeting together with the purpose of evangelising the world.

This would make it the most comprehensive meeting of nations in the history of the world.

Many significant things came out of the congress including:

- The need for co-operation in evangelism:

When all the groups working in a country co-operate in the task, the results are far better than when groups work individually.



Dr Lionel Berthelsen

- The need to meet human need while proclaiming the gospel:

The importance of keeping the balance in this area, as many who are trying to reach have enormous needs that have to be met.

- The cost involved in following Jesus:

Many people from other countries shared their own testimonies of how their lives are endangered because they stand up and proclaim their faith in Jesus.

- The urgency of the task:

The need to view the task of reaching the world for Jesus with aggression and not indifference.

## Hope for Bangladesh

Despite its grim outlook there is plenty of hope for Bangladesh, according to Jerome D'Costa, a World Vision journalist visiting Australia.

Environmental experts predict that Bangladesh will have disappeared under rising waters within 50 years, leaving 200 million homeless. Despite such gloomy predictions Jerome D'Costa believes God has other plans for his country and with prayer and hard work Bangladesh will continue to survive.

Unfortunately for Bangladesh to prosper, massive problems must be overcome. Only 10% of the people are literate and unemployment is high with 8 million currently out of work. Corruption within the government and poverty are

other major problems facing the country.

Although foreign aid is helping Bangladesh much of the money provided is eaten up by administration, resulting in very little money reaching those in need.

A joint Australia-US work camp is being held at Kusip, PNG, 27 December-13 January. The main purpose is house construction, however there will be free time, bushwalking etc. For further information contact Lisa Verploegh or Ted Swisher at Habitat for Humanity, 4/40 Carrington Rd, Castle Hill 2154. Phone (02) 899 4409.

363 million have become Christians during the 1980s.

## Fight over Dead Sea Scrolls

Nearly 400 pieces of the Dead Sea Scrolls, uncovered in a cave in 1947, have yet to be released.

Scholars are demanding that they be released as soon as possible. "There is a real danger that some of the scroll fragments are deteriorating so rapidly that if the outside world cannot see them soon, it may never be able to see them," says Hershel Shanks, editor of the *Biblical Archaeology Review*.

Research on the scrolls, which are kept at the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem, has been slow, a member of the scroll publication team admits.

He explains that team members, lecturers at various schools including Harvard Divinity School, must teach nine months out of the year and can usually only devote summer to deciphering and preparing the texts for publication.

Hershel Shanks accuses the scrolls' editors of excluding others from access to the unpublished texts, possibly to suppress some potentially controversial revelations. He also charges that the editors are trying to control the interpretations of the scrolls.

Another problem that has kept the scroll team from moving more quickly has been the condition of the scrolls, a spokesman says.

The first scrolls were mostly in one piece and intact, while the scrolls currently being worked on are not in as good condition, and many of them must be pieced together.

A date for publishing the remaining documents (1997) has been negotiated by Israel's Department of Antiquities and the editors in charge of the scrolls. Critics do not see these deadlines being met.

## New Church at Kingsley



The first service at the new church at Kingsley, WA, was held on 30 July with 182 in attendance.

The story of the Kingsley church began in April 1985 when a meeting was held at the home of Ian and Jenny Arthur of those interested in forming a church in the Kingsley area.

After further meetings held in the home of Don and Vicki Green it was decided to commence communion services at the Creaney Primary School. Assistance was received from Graham Carslake from Warwick church and Alan and Ivy Morris. The first musician, Dorothy Robartson, played a slightly undersized keyboard that she held on her lap.

The church was officially founded when 32 signed the "Statement of Foundation Members" dedicating themselves to God's work in the area. The first baptismal service was

held in November 1986 when four people followed their Lord's command.

By March 1986 the church had outgrown the small classroom at Creaney and moved to Halidon Primary School, also in Kingsley, but where a larger room was available.

Don and Val Butler commenced a full time ministry in October 1986, subsequently extended to December 1991. Don's ministry is assisted by two elders, Bruce Clapp and Brian Smyth.

In November 1988 a dedicatory prayer service was held after the morning service at the church block on the corner of Barrisdale Drive and New Cross Road.

An open day is planned and there is interest in playgroups to commence next year. An official Brotherhood open day is being planned for Sunday, 3 September.

## Wiradjuri Work Weekend

The Wiradjuri Christian Development Ministries centre near Wagga Wagga, NSW, was a hive of activity over the long weekend in June. This substantial two-storey building set in spacious ground serves as a training centre for Aboriginal pastors and leaders. Repairs and maintenance on the house and grounds were urgently needed, particularly as one section of the roof was leaking badly. After much prayer and preparation a team of over 20, drawn from each of the four ACT churches, travelled to Wagga Wagga for a weekend of fellowship and practical service.

Following a short time of worship in which we recalled

the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem, the team set to work, thankful that threatened rain held off for much of the day. By the end of the afternoon a new roof covered a portion of the building, the septic drain had been extended, walls glistened with new paint and electrical repairs had been done, with the workers well fed from time to time by an able group of ladies in the kitchen.

The weekend also gave opportunity to share with Ivan Williams, Aboriginal pastor at Wagga Wagga and worship with the Wagga Wagga church. All in all it was most worthwhile and more work weekends are planned.

—Beth Butler



Ron Fergie and helper working on the roof

## Domestic Violence

The Christian Welfare Centre in WA recently conducted a seminar for ministers on Domestic Violence. Presenter Lois Gately facilitated the discussion and presented valuable information on the problem.

A video entitled "No Myths" was shown, and Peter Wing Tang (Burwood, Vic) had some significant comments on it.

Those who attended felt it

was important for the church to have a clear understanding of this problem and a more compassionate response.

The Christian Welfare Centre has identified this as an area in which a ministry must be developed because there are virtually no services directed at this issue. The issue is being researched and they hope to have a service up and running by the middle of next year.

A Tennessee girl was born with a bullet in her chest after her mother was shot with a hand gun. The baby was delivered by caesarian section and is in a satisfactory condition following surgery to remove the bullet.

A Cessna 206 operated by Australian Missionary Aviation Fellowship was involved in a crash landing near Wabag, PNG, on 16 August. The aircraft was under the command

of Andrew Whittam with Lowell Deering on board as second pilot. Also on board were five adult passengers and one infant. Fortunately no one was injured in the incident.

The Hungarian Fellowship of Evangelical Students has been established. Work is emerging among high schools and graduates, and literature work, leadership training and evangelistic programs are also underway.

## Ron White Ministers at Balaklava

"Falling in Love with Jesus" was the title of a teaching mission held at the Balaklava, SA, church in late July. For some the name described the experience as they were touched in a variety of ways. Ron White was missionary and Glen Mason was worship leader for the mission 22-30 July. Both are from the Noble Park, Vic, church.

The depth of personal ministry, solid teaching, encouragement and challenge was greatly appreciated by the congregation. Ron's gentle, sensitive style of teaching and Glen's singing touched many.

"I knew Ron was a man of great gentleness and that was borne out during the mission," said Graham Lawrie, minister at Balaklava. He believes the mission (which about two thirds of the congregation supported) bonded the church together in a deeper way.

Ron was enthusiastic about the response. He said there had been a unique work of the Spirit. The main emphases had been on people's reaction to the teaching on family life and the healing of emotional hurts through ministry.

The pair spoke to the combined youth group and the church board.

The Wednesday evening meeting was hailed as the highlight by most.

It was spent in prayer and meditation, which was a different experience for those attending. Lives were changed as some experienced in a gentle, yet dynamic, way a fresh touch from the Lord.

Other meetings included teaching on the family, the Holy Spirit and who we are as Christians. Ron encouraged the church and individuals to "go for what God meant you to be".

One comment summed up the mission's effect for most who attended: "It was like I had my windows cleaned. I have a greater clarity now."

—Kaye Wray

## News from Kenmore Christian College

### • Student Units

Mobile Mission Maintenance supervisor, Graeme Knott, and his crew of Norm Fooks, Stephen Burrows, Keith Perrin, Alan Shinkfeld, Frank Thompson and Murray Fenner (a KCC graduate) have led in the construction of eight units for student families. Two buildings contain two units; a third is a four-unit building. The hillsides of the KCC campus have allowed the buildings to have ample parking and storage under each unit.

David Lowe, KCC property chairman, and Allan Wilson, board chairman, have recruited and organised volunteers from local churches to assist. To date the Harlaxton church in Toowoomba has invested the most man-hours. Saturday working bees have seen as many as 40 plus volunteers at work.

### Financial Administrator

Pam Paddick, KCC part-time office secretary, has also been hired by the Board to be Financial Administrator. Em and Pam have had successful ministries with Aborigines in various Australian locations. As Financial Administrator Pam will be supervised by the treasurer Bruno Klos, and will be assisted by Allan Mortensen.

### • Concert

The Kenmore Christian College Concert was organised by students under the leadership of third year student Patricia Brunet from Redcliffe. Brisbane's own "White Knights" provided a two-hour Friday evening concert of music and

drama for a crowd of 220 young people packed into the chapel.

### • Contact Day

A Saturday Contact Day organised by the faculty brought potential students to the campus for a day of previewing the opportunities provided at Kenmore. Students and faculty oriented the guests to campus life, finances, curriculum, lectures, facilities and library.

### • Lecturer

Rodney W. Tippett joined the full-time faculty this semester. Rod graduated from the College of the Bible and ministered with two SA churches (Whyalla and Kadina) before his 1966 appointment as a Chaplain in the Australian Army. As a chaplain Rod and his wife, Jennifer, and children, Vivienne and Andrew, have been posted in various Australian and foreign locations. Chaplain Tippett has taught at the Royal Military College as well as various other teaching posts.

The University of NSW has awarded Rod a Masters of Arts (Honours) for his research thesis entitled Australian Army Chaplains: 1942-1945: The Pacific Campaign. As a lecturer he will teach primarily history courses. Rod's major assignment is as supervisor of field education. He will train church leaders to improve the "on the job training" of students.

### • Master of Arts

After years of researching and writing, Graham Warne was rewarded with his Masters of Arts degree from the University of Queensland on

17 August. His thesis was titled "The Soul in Philo and Paul".

### • Seminars

Principal Donald W. Spencer led a seminar titled "Balancing Your Life" at Dalby emphasising balanced budgets, balanced prayer and balanced touch in our homes. "Elijah: the Man of Prayer" was his message at Camp Hill and Harlaxton. Nambour hosted a men's fellowship tea that drew a capacity crowd. Principal Spencer challenged the men to follow Jesus not the macho man of contemporary Australian society.

Nancy Spencer continues to be a sought-after speaker for Queensland's women's groups. She also lectures on Tuesday evenings to a large class of students on the subject "The Biblical Perspective of Women". Nancy travelled to Magnetic Island to be the speaker at the North Queensland CWF camp in August.

### • Student President

The student body recently elected new officers for the 1989-90 semesters. Cheryl Hoskins is student body president.

Cheryl is a BTh student who graduated from KCC with a diploma in 1983. Cheryl has had ministries in Dalby and Toowoomba. She presently serves with the Bundamba church.

### HOLIDAYS

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celebrates 97 years of witness  
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at 10 am

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# Growing Spiritually

## Spiritual Journey

by Lyla Beckingham

I believe in God the Father Almighty maker of Heaven and Earth and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord.

These words are the beginning of the Apostles Creed, which I was taught in the Church of England where I first went to Sunday School. I had to learn the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Catechism and other portions of Scripture in preparation for my confirmation. I did and can remember them to this day. I believe this was when the seed was sown for my spiritual journey.

At high school I was invited by friends to go along to the Church of Christ at Kingsford, NSW, where I attended Bible class, church and Christian Endeavour. Here I was experiencing something different. I heard and read from God's word that I could claim Jesus as my "personal" saviour.

At the church I met my future husband. During an E.C. Hinrichsen Mission we confessed our faith in Christ as our Saviour and were later baptised. Dan Wakeley was the minister of the church and he taught me two little prayers to memorise, one as a benediction and one to be used as a meditation when I first came into church. The first, "Jesus I believe in you, accept me

and preserve me for your service," and second, "Thank you for bringing me to church this day, give me I pray the spirit of truth, keep me from wandering thoughts and help me to love and serve you all my days."

I have had the privilege of serving ever since, teaching, using my music, as President of CWF and as Secretary of CWF. Also for 27 years I have been in the Social Service Department, where I have been Secretary to the Director. I believe that here was a real help to me in my spiritual growth—developing in love and compassion for those in need.

My husband died in 1977 and, like us all, when sorrow such as this comes we wonder why, and feel as if we have been left alone. The words in John 14 stood out to me very clearly: "I will never leave you or forsake you." "I will never let you be lonely."

These promises have kept me at peace knowing that my God is always with me, loving me and guiding me. I have found fulfilment in Christ and am at peace as I continue with him daily.

When I was President of the CWF my theme was "Climb Every Mountain". In

Psalms 121 we have the song of the traveller who looks up to the hills and remembers their dangers but also recalls that his guide and guard is "The Lord who made Heaven and Earth".

There are mountain tops of Christian privileges—of fellowship with the Father and his Son. Mountains of loneliness and many others all can be overcome if we travel with Jesus as our guide and let our requests be made known to God so his peace will be with us. The last verse of my theme song was "Climb every mountain, Hold fast the prize, Christ gives life victorious, Come lift up your eyes".

Yes, I do believe that Jesus is God's son, our Lord and my Saviour and my friend and look forward to continuing with him on my spiritual journey day by day knowing that his word is a lamp unto my feet and as light unto my path.

Jesus becomes a living reality to us when we listen for his voice and when we learn to understand his words and appropriate their message to our lives.

Yes, I did learn about Jesus when very young but I can now joyfully say that I know and love him. He is mine and I am his!

## On the Move with the President in July

July opened for me in Sydney with the opportunity to call on Eric Hart, former President of Federal Conference and Director of the Queensland Social Service Department. We had a great time of fellowship at Shaw House, Pendle Hill.

2 July gave me the opportunity to preach at Greenacre (minister Peter DeWildt) at the morning service and at Epping (minister Steve Curkpatrick) in the evening.

Monday through to Thursday was spent continuing teaching the advanced BTh subject "The Pastor and Change" at the NSW Theological College, Carlingford. I was pleased with the response of the 18 students to the intensive two week on-campus part of the course. The students have further reading and assignment work to do.

Unfortunately as the first

week progressed so did a virus and by Thursday lunchtime when my teaching was completed I was not very well for the long drive home. I drove as far as Tamworth, stayed the night and completed the rest of the journey home on Friday via my doctor. He placed me on antibiotics, Panadol and rest. It meant that I had to get holidaying Arthur Pigdon to stand in for me at the induction of Bryan Mee at Nerang church on 9 July.

The next week I was only able to fulfil a few engagements, which included design conferences for Marana Gardens and the Clive Burdeu Centre.

The third week of July began with a meeting of the Social Service Department on consultations on the Commonwealth Government Hostel Outcome Standards. Being a member of the Commonwealth Minister's

Steering Committee I made the presentations in the consultation process in Queensland. These were held in Maryborough and Brisbane in Aged Care Hostels, where it was possible to talk to staff and residents.

23 July was an opportunity to preach at Annerley where Russell Ritchie is the minister.

The fourth week of the month was a continuation of the consultations, two of which were held in the Brisbane area, in Ipswich and in Toowoomba. On 28 July I flew to Gladstone where I was met by the minister Murray Thomson and the next day inspected a property at Gladstone before flying on to Mackay, which presented an opportunity to join the Mackay men on a fishing weekend. I helped them eat the fish. It was good to spend time with Norm Flett, the minister, who will

shortly be moving to my home church at East Ipswich.

I was the preacher at Mackay before flying on to Cairns, where I was met by the minister Bruce Warwick and joined the church in the evening Bible study program.

Monday was a further consultation with aged care provider organisations and with residents and staff. I went up to Mareeba to talk with the Jalbu Women's Group, a group of Aboriginal women who are making application to build an Aboriginal aged care hostel in Mareeba.

On Tuesday after an early start from Mareeba I flew from Cairns to Townsville and conducted the last of the series of consultations and managed to fit in a brief discussion with Greg Muller the minister of the Townsville church before flying back home.

## Focus on Chatswood

**C**hatswood, NSW, is a suburb on Sydney's north shore, and is characterised by high-rise office blocks and a very extensive retail area. The church is in the middle of all this. It is known as "The Church by the Chase", the Chase being one of the large shopping complexes. After meeting for a while in homes, in 1914 40 met in the Chatswood School of Arts. Land was acquired in Victoria Avenue and in 1923 a brick chapel was built. By the 1980s however, the face of Chatswood had changed. To make way for the Chase, the old church building was demolished and a new church was constructed as part of the redevelopment of the area. The new facilities consist of a fine chapel (with a pipe organ), foyer and offices on an upper storey, with a hall, kitchen and other facilities below.

Services are held on Sundays at 9.30 am and 7 pm and there is also a Thursday lunchtime service. The average attendance is 85 and this is growing. Like the shops

surrounding it, the church is open daily from 9 to 5 for private prayer or for those who want a chat.

The minister at Chatswood is Ian Alves. Originally from Victoria, Ian trained at Woolwich and served in ministry at Margaret Street, Toowoomba, Qld, for seven years before coming to Chatswood in 1988. Ian is married to Jeannine, and they have three children, Thomas, Elizabeth and Christopher.

A feature of the church's program is the "365 Friendship Centre", held weekly, when over 100 men and women meet at the church for art and craft activities. There are also electives, from lectures, music and games, even making suggestions to a visitor from the local council.

Last year youth work was recommenced, this year a young disciples group for people 20-40 began and next year a children's ministry and a discipleship training program are planned. There are a number of young families joining the church.

There are also evening and day women's fellowship groups. This month a men's breakfast will be held.

A number of outside organisations also use the church's facilities, including the WEA, and a Chinese evangelical fellowship uses the premises for its services.

Being a church in a marketplace has enabled Chatswood to take advantage of its situation. Marketing is about commodities; the church's emphasis is about relationships. The two must co-exist.

With thousands of people coming every day to work and shop in the area, in addition to the residents of the area, Chatswood has a unique opportunity to make an impact on a large number of people. Hence the open door policy, the lunchtime services and the Friendship Club, among other initiatives. Jesus was not known for programs, strategies or buildings—but by the love he encouraged us to have for each other. The Chatswood church is working on this.

## Ministers' Workshop: Movement in Worship

by Carol Caulton

**E**veryone has the ability to move. We are born with movement, even physically impaired people. We develop, nurture and extend our movements as we grow older. Therefore, why not use these God-given movements for the worship of our God?

Movement for worship or liturgical dancing is not merely a transfer of secular dance, ballet or folk dancing into religious surroundings—it is much more. We can take the symbolic language of non-verbal communication and express a depth and sensitivity of human experience that we just don't have words for. How often when words fail us do we literally jump for joy, or perhaps shrug, or express our feelings through touch. There is a whole range of communication that stems from the body, which we can use to facilitate love and understanding and express the richness of God's power and activity in the world. As long ago as the second century, Lucian of Samosata wrote, "Dance is the moment's attempt to express the harmony between the body and the soul...the interpretation of what is hidden in the soul."

Introducing or using movement for our worship services should be done with great sensitivity. It should not be seen as entertainment, the latest gimmick or even as a

performance, but as a valid form of prayer. For those involved it should be a celebration of God's love with their whole being—for those watching, a visual dialogue with God. Movement should not be seen as an interruption or barrier to worship but should deepen, enrich and focus the worship event. It should be more than simply professional—it should be prayerful and faith-filled, arising from the natural God-given language of human movement. It is difficult to do in that we must be in touch with our emotions and faith to prepare and present a dance and yet it is easy because what we are presenting is the basis of our being—it is simply us. When the movement we present doesn't feel comfortable or doesn't represent our feelings then it becomes a performance and not a prayer. When the body and the mind and the spirit are involved then a total worship experience is presented.

There are so many ways movement can be used to enrich our worship services:

- To create a reflective, joyful or meditative atmosphere.
- To focus on a particular part of the service such as communion, offering or baptism, as a welcoming celebration for new members.
- To introduce or end the service in the

form of a processional.

- As communal worship with congregational participation.
- To involve children within the worship service.
- To interpret the words of a hymn, poem or scripture.

The possibilities are as endless as our enthusiasm to use movement to worship God.

Humans throughout the ages have always been natural dancers. There are no barriers (except perhaps those of attitude) for creative movement in worship. I have worked with both males and females from 5-50. When what we do is wholehearted and authentic for us, when we involve ourselves meaningfully in the thoughts, songs, words, prayers and gestures of worship, then we are truly celebrating our faith.

• Carol Caulton is married to Kevin, minister at Lyons, ACT, and is personally involved in creative movement and dance.

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

# Student Profile

## Neither Young Nor Rich—But Called!

Seven years ago John Sharpe explored the possibility of entering the Christian ministry but he had no real sense of call. As a Christian high school teacher in the state system, John shared the leadership of an Inter-School Christian Fellowship group; he regularly attended a staff prayer meeting and as the Student Welfare Co-ordinator of the school he had a significant pastoral role that involved him in serious dialogue with students, parents and staff. John was also an elder at the Werribee, Vic, church and was actively involved in ministry in the church. John and Chris felt challenged to ask the question, "Is this where God wants us?" but had no clear answer. They were prepared to accept that their call may be to be faithful servants in their ministry in Werribee.

John and his wife Chris prayed about this over an extended period and finally, in response to the challenge of their minister, they attended a Prospective Students' Seminar conducted by the Churches of Christ Theological College. They listened intently but made no response.

Then in a quiet time God spoke to John from Mark 10: 17-31. God followed this with the question, "What is really stopping you from learning more about me?" John's answer to this gave a clear choice. "I was neither young nor rich but deep down I knew that the security of regular employment, accumulated sick leave, a good salary, a lovely home, frequent holidays and a generous superannuation scheme were the things that were really keeping me from wholly following the Lord. God gave me the choice: go back to Werribee and be faithless or go forward in faith." John realised how false it would be to return to eldership and encourage others in faith



John, Matthew, Chris and Joel Sharpe

when he had drawn a boundary around his life and said in effect, "Lord this is mine, you cannot have it!" The decision was not just John's. John and Chris as

husband and wife are also friends and partners in ministry. Chris also was being prepared for this drastic change in life. The seven years of prayer and God's apparent silence were in fact seven years of God's loving preparation. God shared with them during several crises and revealed more of himself, more of themselves and more of what it is to minister. In ways relevant to Chris, she too was prepared for the call.

With the full support of Chris, they moved to Melbourne and John is now part-way through the first year of the Diploma of Ministry and Bachelor of Theology Course at CCTC (Mulgrave), while ministering at the Richmond church. Chris is also doing some part-time studies.

According to John the study of theology has opened his eyes to new perspectives. "I have been enriched by a more intensive study of the Scriptures. I value the interaction between faculty and students. Despite the many demands and challenges for my family and me, we are excited by the fresh vision of the 'Living God' and see his hand at work in so many ways."

## Centenary Hymn

Written for the Kaniva, Vic, church centenary by Bess Crouch, a member of the Kaniva church. To be sung to the tune, "The Call of God Resounding".

We praise Thee, God our Father,  
For years of loving care,  
For every blessing given  
That we may free share;  
Thy hand, O Lord, has guided  
Through all the passing days,  
And now, O gracious Father,  
We bring to Thee our praise.

We thank Thee for the vision  
Of those who've gone before,  
Who, with undaunted Spirit  
A loyal witness bore;

Through days of toil and hardship  
They ever looked to Thee  
For wisdom, strength and guidance  
That they would faithful be.

We pray Thee, God our Father,  
Guide us in all our ways,  
That those who follow after  
May give to Thee their praise,  
And, may Thy church, still faithful  
Through years, that are to be,  
Thy purposes fulfilling,  
Bring honour unto Thee.

## Pontius' Puddle

PARDON ME, BUT THE MEMBERS OF MY BELIEF SYSTEM ARE OUT PROMOTING OUR UNIQUE VALUES TO INDIVIDUALS IN OUR SOCIETY WHOM RECENT SURVEYS HAVE INDICATED ARE BELIEVING IMPAIRED. WOULD YOU LIKE A TRACTER, UM-- A DATA SHEET?



WITNESSING WAS A LOT SIMPLER WHEN WE JUST WON SINNERS TO CHRIST!



# Testimony

## In the Midst of a Miracle

by Russell Wesley

**O**n many occasions as a minister and school chaplain, I have been asked, "Do you believe in miracles?" My response was, "Yes," but little did I know that one day I would be in the midst of a miracle that was happening to me.

After five months of deteriorating health due to acute viral myocarditis, caused by a virus that was attacking the heart muscle and reducing its efficiency to less than 20%, I knew that only a miracle could heal me.

I was told by the medical team looking after me my condition could improve a little, stay the same or deteriorate further. They erred on the pessimistic side and set in motion a full heart transplant work-up just in case this became necessary.

I now had to expand my faith to accept the possibility that healing might mean a heart transplant. That took some time to think and pray through and talk over before I reached a point of acceptance of this possibility.

A date was set (24 May) to go across to the Alfred Hospital for assessment as to whether I would be a suitable recipient for a heart transplant and, if so, to be placed on the waiting list.

But I never made the waiting list. Before I left the Royal Melbourne Hospital to go across to the Alfred, one of my doctors called out, "Wait a minute," as he answered a phone call. He then approached me and said, "You won't be coming back to the Royal Melbourne to night." I was delighted, this was an answer to prayer, as I wanted a change of environment but he went on to say, "We have a donor's heart that is a match for you and things may go ahead tonight."

My wife and I were speechless and the tears flowed. I knew that God was in control and I could do nothing but trust and flow with what was happening.

After several hours at the Alfred, it was confirmed that the donor's heart was a perfect match for me. It was mine if I wanted it. How could I say no? By 5.30 pm I was in the operating theatre and five hours later in recovery with no complications and a new strong and healthy heart.

Yes, I knew only a miracle could heal me, but I too was surprised to find that the miracle of healing was to be a heart transplant.

To be in the midst of a miracle is not all harmony and peaceful resignation. There were times of anxiety—regarding my



Russell and Eugenie with Leigh at the Alfred Hospital four weeks after his heart transplant

family and as to whether I would make it back home to be with Eugenie for the birth of our third child. I had been concerned about whether I would be an acceptable recipient for a heart transplant and if so, what priority on the waiting list would I be.

There were times of strong faith and what I call non-faith, when I didn't want people to be praying any specific prayers as many of these were not being answered at the time. I felt as though I was in a dark tunnel and there I wanted to stay. I also felt at one time as though I was at the bottom of a well and had no desire to move. But slowly by the grace of God and the prayers and support of God's people my faith was renewed.

As a family it was a complex and difficult time. Leigh was born on 9 May, two weeks prior to my heart transplant operation. Eugenie was in the Geelong Hospital and I was in the RMH.

I didn't make it back for the birth. Eugenie came out of hospital five days after Leigh was born and then lived in Melbourne for the next six weeks with a new baby and our two other children, Ben and Dayna, to be organised to stay with friends in Geelong.

This was not an easy time and very demanding on us all. The support of friends and the care and love in action of God's people made all the difference to coping or not coping during this crisis period.

You see, the miracle we found ourselves in the midst of was more than a successful

heart transplant operation. All the events that led up to, surrounded and continue to be part of what God is doing in our lives and the lives of those who have shared in this experience with us in some way. We have experienced God as the giver and preserver of life.

Not only have we been privileged to experience God's presence, grace, blessing and healing in a special way, but we have also learnt a great deal about faith, prayer, God's will, life and death, eternal life, healing and the reality of the Christian church and God's people.

We as a family have been upheld through prayer, and supported and cared for in many practical ways that have touched us deeply, bearing witness to a living and powerful God in our midst today.

*• Russell Wesley is a graduate of the College of the Bible. After a ministry at Hamilton, Vic, Russell has been involved in school chaplaincy ministry and is currently the chaplain at Geelong High School. He will be returning to that ministry on 9 October. It is now three months since the transplant and he has had no complications and only mild low rejection, which is normal and required no treatment. He has no restriction on diet, exercise or life style apart from no contact sport for 12 months. Leigh, Russell and Eugenie's third child, born during the crisis, is healthy and contented.*

## Discipleship

•Gavin Gent, Samantha Gent, Leonie Payne, Hampton St, Vic  
 •Janelle Hoffmann, Amos Hill, Reid Stiles, Krys Biadacz, Portland, Vic  
 •Burnadette McGilvery, Rachel McGilvery, Jane McGilvery, Laurel Larkin, Cristy Hartshorn, Leanne Morse, Pine Rivers, Qld  
 •Jason Ogden, Camp Hill, Qld  
 •Angela Rice, Melissa Rice, Penny Lewis, Peter Reed, Manning Valley, NSW  
 •Renee Kiefer, Nunawading, Vic  
 •Vanessa Lowe, Brent Clarke, Aaron Tonge, Carolyn Keating, Adrian Crouch, Scott Tilson, Andrew Mahony, Padstow, NSW  
 •Lucinda Baulch, Sara Bradley, Sophie Saunders, Paul Ward, Angel Miao Tzu Hsu, Winnie Ya Shu Hsu, Rula Mentepoulos, Prahran, Vic  
 •Jeremy Clayton, Jenni Sharpe, Warwick, WA  
 •Mark Urquhart, Footscray, Vic

## Marriages

•Mandy Crouch to Peter Malseed, Portland, Vic  
 •Robyn Cutts to Mark Finlay, Hawthorn, SA  
 •Glenva Wilson to Kenneth Trotter, Nunawading, Vic  
 •Lisa Goodman to Paul Deane, Footscray, Vic

## Deaths

•Isabella Barnett, Pine Rivers, Qld  
 •Kelvin Walker, Balaklava, SA  
 •Glad Bolton, Janet Goodier, Vic Cousins, John (Vernon) Ferguson, Charles Banks, George Graham, Doreen Gemmell, Cottesloe, WA  
 •Dorothy Gaunson, Cath Hosking, Nunawading, Vic

## Changes

KEILOR EAST: Secretary—Barbara Ackerman, PO Box 70, Niddrie, Vic 3042.

**The Gardiner Church of Christ** invites former members and friends to attend the **75th Anniversary Celebration** on Sunday, **10 September 1989** at 10.30 am

**BARNETT, Isabella** (7.6.89) Born at Pinkenba, Qld, on 10.11.1904 Jean (as she was affectionately known) lived there until her late teens. After leaving school Jean began a career in dressmaking. In 1951 Jean accepted Christ as Lord of her life at a service held in the Old Cremorne Theatre, West End. Jean married Eric Noel Barnett on 5.7.1941. From this union Raymond and Valerie were born. Jean resided at Albion and Gordon Park after marrying. We thank God for Jean's life, for her Christian example and for her faithfulness to God.

**COUSINS, Vic** (5.4.89) Vic Cousins came to Cottesloe, WA, in 1924 and faithfully served as Treasurer, Elder and as Secretary for 22 years. Innumerable people can vouch for the hospitality he and his wife Nell provided at their home and many a handyman's job was performed with Vic's tools and his good advice. He was a foundation member whose wise counsel, ready wit and reliability is sadly missed.

—Ken Robinson

**GRAY, May Pearl** (30.6.89) May Pearl Barnacle was born in Windsor, Vic, on 15 May 1891. Her family moved frequently about Melbourne in her early years. She committed her life to the Lord and was baptised in 1905 in the Swanston St church. On 20 September 1919 she married Charles Edmund Gray, a widower from Port Fairy who had recently purchased a property near Chinchilla, Qld. Along with others Mr & Mrs Gray were responsible for the foundation of the Port Fairy, Vic, church and subsequently the Chinchilla-Hopeland, Qld, church. Mrs Gray taught her daughters Lois and Una by correspondence and also taught them Sunday School lessons. In 1939 the family moved to Toowoomba. For 20 years Mrs Gray played the organ at services at Margaret St. She sang in the choir and served with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, of which she was a life member. Ill health necessitated residence at Mylo and later Nubeena Nursing Home. She is survived by two daughters, 10 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. She was respected for her dignity and warmth, her honesty, determination and sense of humour.

—Garry Hills

**PARKER, Aileen Barbara** (19.7.89) Aileen had a unique ability to give her time and talent for the

benefit of those around her. Born 1930, worked as grocer and dressmaker, then married Allan Parker of Long Plains, SA, in 1954. They have seven children and 10 grandchildren. Aileen served her Lord at Hawthorn (formerly Cottonville), Long Plains and Balaklava. 30 years as Sunday School teacher. Tireless support of husband, family and community. Nearly 300 attended the burial at "Shannon" and service at Long Plains where the text "Be ye steadfast unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord", proved a fitting summary for Aileen's life.

—GTL

**VICCARS, Enid** (10.8.89) Enid came from England in the 1920s, becoming a Christian on the trip out. She was married, and widowed, three times. She met her second husband, Dr Kemp, at

the Wattle Park church. Later she became an active member at Surrey Hills, in CWF and editing the newsletter. A diabetic, she had one leg amputated in 1979 at the age of 75 but was soon mobile again on an electric scooter. In 1987 her other leg was amputated, but she was soon walking on artificial legs. An independent, resilient and courageous woman with a living faith and a radiant dignity.

—Milton Oliver

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## Southport Church of Christ

\* Assistant Pastor

\* Youth Minister

\* Church Administrator

Applications are invited and will be received up to the 30th September, 1989, for three key personnel to add to the staff of the Southport Church of Christ in a vibrant ministry centred in a rapidly expanding area on the northern end of Queensland's Gold Coast.

The Southport Church has a strong evangelical, conservative and fundamental approach to the word of God.

The current membership of 650, with enormous potential for growth, is housed in modern premises which were opened in 1988.

The positions available are:

\* Assistant Pastor

To assist the Senior Minister majoring in pastoral care, counselling, teaching and evangelism.

\* Youth Minister

Responsible for youth activities within the church program for high schoolers and young adults up to 25 years.

\* Church Administrator

A ministerial position, responsible for the functional administration of all Departments of the Church.

It is envisaged the personnel appointed will commence duties during January 1990

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

## NSW

**MANNING VALLEY** (Barry Rice, Ross Norling) Team conducted combined service of Newcastle churches at Mayfield ... Outdoor baptisms continued through winter ... 22 first decisions at night service with evangelist Case Schrage ... Sermons on spiritual gifts well received ... Training of young men in leadership commenced ... Prayer seminar with Gavin Williams (Campaigners for Christ) ... Further commitments at services conducted by Gavin Williams & ex-druggie Steve Clarke.

**PADSTOW** (Ed Holt) Seven baptisms encouraged church recently ... Outreach group led by Ann Stocks called "Christian Weight Control Workshop" meets practical needs ... Senior member Mrs Rochester entered Lidcombe Hospital ... To Colin & Rhonda Field a baby boy (Luke) ... Five fellowship groups study tapes by Ian Thomas ... Youth Bible Study average attendance 14 ... "Go Group" Primary School children presented a programme at local Nursing Home.

**THORNLEIGH** (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) At a special church family meeting on 14 August it was decided, because of church growth, to transfer our morning hour of worship to the Pennant Hills Community Hall as from 8 October. Venues of all other programs remain as are ... Number of our people have been sharing in recent Emmaus Walk programs.

## WA

**EASTERN HILLS** (M.B. Ashworth) Three areas, membership, youth dept, Bible School, increasing ... Ladies craft additional

activities & outings ... Church building extensions being considered ... Jan & Maurie recently celebrated silver wedding anniversary.

**ARMADALE-KELMSCOTT** (D.Nelson, W. Addison) Des Nelson recently completed two weeks Naval chaplaincy for ongoing training at Stirling Is ... Men's camp at Woodman's Pt was great success. Theme, "Mens Responsibility in Home & Church" ... Ladies Fellowship functioning as ministry team to church fellowships in metro area ... Good News Holiday Club ministered to 60 children with many non-church adults attending on family night.

**COTESLOE** (Ian Walker) The church has in recent months suffered the loss of a number of members who have passed away—Glad Bolton (mother of John Bolton), Janet Goodier, Vic Cousins, John (Vernon) Ferguson, Charles Banks, George Graham & Doreen Gemmell (foundation member) ... Although other older members have moved to retirement villages & there are fewer young people attending the church is still witnessing to the district.

**WARWICK** (G. Carslake, B. Eagles, R. Mason) Excellent support was given to David Scott (162 km & seventh) & John Arthur (131 km & 10th) in the 24 hour State Marathon run. Sponsors for the runners completed the raising of \$5,000 by the young people for missions projects ... The craft group have 120 enrolled in the 12 different courses offered ... A volleyball team has now commenced ... The young people visited Busselton church & are preparing for the musical "Surrender" in September ... Graeme Carslake attended Leadership 2000 in Singapore.

## Qld

**PINE RIVERS** (W. Kirk, I. Todd) Ian & Dianne Todd appointed to ministry team commencing Feb 1990 ... Increased attendances in junior/junior high youth groups ... A mystery bus tour for surrounding youth groups enjoyed by all ... Capacity crowd attended this year's Sunday School anniversary. The children presented the musical "Sam" & other musical items. Living Links dinner "Christmas in the Snow" held by ladies auxiliary ... Film night, visit from Combined Churches Choir, WEK, Leprosy Mission & Bible Society recent highlights.

**CAMP HILL** (D.F. Smith) Church family continues to grow as eight welcomed into membership re-

cently & six child thanksgiving & parent dedications, including minister's twin grandchildren ... Drama group commenced & kept well booked. Choir has restarted ... Hon. Craig Sherrin, MLA, speaker at Boys' Brigade church parade. 130 present ... Sunday School has new name "Club Sunday" & is relocated under the manse, which has been suitably adapted ... Ron & Joy Sansome showed slides of their trip to Holy Land.

**MARYBOROUGH** (Ray Patter-son) David Woodward to minister from 1990 ... Films screened at family, youth services ... Deaconesses, Althea Brooks, Joanne Buchanan, Mavis Goodwin, Pauline Reinertsen ... Joel Parry baptised, several new families worshipping ... Boys' Brigade won battalion athletics carnival ... Girls' Brigade camp ... Kylie Sims achieved Pioneer Pin ... Dot McDowell, Vicki Wills recuperating ... Morning tea for Barbara Bennett, Gloria Flett (QCWF) ... Elder Stuart Parry transferred.

## Tas

**LAUNCESTON** (Rod Foster) Over 100 attended "Crossroads Restaurant" 13 August at 7 pm, when young people, assisted by musical group "Cover Story", presented a dialogue on pressures facing young people today ... Girls' Brigade sold 3600 lamingtons in fundraising drive to enable two pioneers to attend Fonomarae. Brigades paraded 20 August ... Puppet presentation by Hearps & Foster families ... Jane & Wendy Partridge, musical items.

## SA

**VICTOR HARBOR** (Adrian Clark) Marlene Hitchcox welcomed into membership ... Sunday night after church coffee hour for youth, with light program of entertainment & supper, well supported ... After Church Fellowship hosted weekly by different members also appreciated ... Annual Kids Camp, for primary school children, held at Mt Sturt, explored theme "God Rescues His People", with the story of Moses & the exodus from Egypt presented in plays by leaders.

**BALAKLAVA** (Graham Lawrie) Church contributing to support of Otto & Jenny Wiechert, missionaries to the Philippines ... Inter Church Council social held in our hall ... Ron White & Glen Mason, Vic, held a week's teaching mission entitled "Falling in Love with Je-

sus" ... Bev Bourke, Bible Society rep, presented short segment on Bible Sunday & showed films to children in Lutheran Hall.

**HAWTHORN** (Ron Hewitt) Jim Stallard, CBMI, spoke to over 55 group. \$105 collected ... Church anniversary 31 July speaker am David Cummings, Wycliffe, pm Marv Sconce, New Tribes Mission. Ladies provided excellent luncheon ... Otto & Jenny Wichert commissioned for work in Philippines ... Three recommitments at recent service ... Beryl & Ron Brand celebrated 50th wedding anniversary. Beryl, member at Hawthorn 72 years ... A number of members lost loved ones.

**HENLEY BEACH** (Brian Hill) On 23 July a thanksgiving service held, followed by a luncheon ... On 30 July Henley combined with Flinders Park for evening service ... Girls' Brigade church parade held 6 August. Two new officers, Jodie Dodd & Alicia Sheppard welcomed in. Ron Holmes was guest speaker ... Jan & Evita Ratcliffe, missionaries with WEC in Ghana, guest speakers on 13 August.

**OWEN COMBINED CONGREGATION** (Philip Gardner) Members took part in a parish amateur hour, with over \$700 raised for the Adelaide Plains parish ... The work of churches in the Asian & Pacific areas, Chile & Australia were presented by UCA Synod missions officer, Brian Ball & his Tasmanian counterpart, Rob Kirwood. They took part in the service on 20 August, showed slides on Indonesia, overview of mission work.

**VICTOR HARBOR** (Adrian Clark) Brooklyn Park Players presented melodrama to capacity house, followed by dinner catered for by choir ... Local youth groups invited to attend rally featuring film *Without Reservation*, with Rob Cambridge speaker, organised by CYF leaders ... 100 adults & children enjoyed Friendship Centre's fourth birthday luncheon & cake ... Choir conducted service at Somerton Baptist. Merv Lawrie spoke.

## Vic

**HAMPTON ST** (Peter Pitts) Morning service attendances encouraging ... Bi-weekly evening services begun ... Morning mid-week Bible studies appreciated ... Bill Hoggett & Margaret Sampson resume fellowship after hospitalisation ... Cell group meetings well attended ... Gavin & Samantha Gent & Leonie Payne recently baptised & welcomed into fellowship ... Church sharing grief of Os

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I give and bequeath \$ ..... (or a percentage of the total estate) to "The Australian Christian", the national journal of Churches of Christ in Australia, absolutely for the use and benefit of the organisation free from all debts, funeral and testamentary expenses.

# Church News

& Lorna Cooper following loss of daughter, Deanne McLarty ... Recent jumble sale very successful.

**SHEPPARTON (John Inman)** CWF Christmas dinner 9 August. 27 attended, great time of fun & fellowship. Arranged by secretary Rae Lane, president Nora Inman ... Minister elected as President/Chairman of Ministers' Fraternal, also on Pastoral Care Committee of newly incorporated Goulburn Valley Hospice Care Service ... Special spring program coming with speakers Alan Avery, Graeme Chapman, Ken Clinton.

**PORTLAND (R. Hough)** Church purchased another manse. Minister moved in during July. Old manse used for meeting rooms & Sunday School ... Local speakers used while minister on sick leave. Other speakers Barry Jenkins, Louis van Laar, student from College, Peter Broadbent ... Minister attended seminar in Singapore ... L. Steele speaker at Portland during pulpit exchange ... Youth rally to be held first weekend September involving all churches from Western District Conference.

**CHELSEA (T. Frazer)** Explorer Club has been increasing in numbers ... Dorothy Geyer spoke on Christian missions in India at special meeting of CWF ... Slides of native life, flora, fauna of Zimbabwe, Malawi & Botswana screened by Brian & Joy Fielder ... Albie Turnham is having treatment at Peter McCallum ... Sunday af-

ternoon Devonshire tea held at home of Colin & Norrene Padey as part of church friendship program ... Cakes & jams street stall raised \$300.

**SURREY HILLS/WATTLE PARK (Milton Oliver, Wayne Allen, Arthur Withers)** Centenary celebration on 16 July was a happy conclusion to weeks of planning & preparation. There were 200 communicants at the morning service. About 300 gathered in the afternoon to recall old times & old friends ... During winter months study groups have been held in homes ... Membership has endorsed decision of elders to invite David Brooker as full-time minister commencing early 1990.

**YORK ST, BALLARAT (Roger Risson)** Building program has passed half way mark & work has commenced on the new foyer area ... Harold Howlett led an evening of prayer ... \$635 given to Overseas Missions ... Guests: the "Travelers" took part in evening service as well as after service concert; Andrew Ball (youth work field officer) ... Roger Risson attended "Leadership 2000" Conference in Singapore.

**OAKLEIGH (L.S. Dewberry)** "Bibles for Russia" appeal being supported by Church Board, CWF, Bible School & individual members ... Church welcomes members returning from Northern holidays ... Jenni Ashton, CCTC, presided & preached on 13 August ... Freda Fraser & Dorothy Nash doing

good work in visitation of church sick folk ... Dr Greg Ayres spoke on "The Greenhouse Effect" at the morning service on 20 August.

**KEILOR EAST (Ian Smith)** Said farewell to our friend Harry McWaters who passed away 5 July. Hundreds paid tribute to his life ... 20 attended annual meeting. Church now has two elders, Lynette Leach, John Cheal ... "Pastoral Care" in full swing ... Children's ministry team making worship relevant to "Littlies" ... Poster sign erected, visible to traffic going both ways along Milleara Rd ... Board dedication service held.

**BURWOOD (Peter Wing Tang)** Church praises God for his healing power in speedy recovery of Pastor following heart attack ... Visiting speakers included Louis Van Laar (Department of Community Care), Phillip Dingjan and Sharon Bichler converted Jewess ... Church deacon Jim Tipping elected to Nunawading Council ... Several couples attended marriage enrichment weekend at Gembrook ... New church extensions to be officially opened by conference president early October

**NUNAWADING (E. Keating, D. Hamilton, J. Wright, L. Smith)** Musical "Friends Forever" presented by young people, attracted large crowds on three consecutive nights ... Parenting seminar with Roy Knudson ... \$7000 raised for Vanuatu Work Party ... Welcome dinner for new worshippers. Guest dinner for Singles ... At Sunday

School Anniversary children presented musical "Psalys's Camping Adventure" ... Home visitation feature of Church program ... Peg & Bill Carnaby farewelled on removal to Ocean Grove.

**NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn)** Successful annual meeting, three elders & two deacons added to board ... Church anniversary planned for October. Memorial for W.T. Atkin planned ... Daisy Dix in PANCH with a broken hip, others sick, disabled & unable to attend services ... Third Sunday at five Alex Packer, Leprosy Mission, special speaker ... Heather Carbis conducted lunch time organ recital, attracted local residents to church building.

**SWAN HILL (L.J. Mayes)** Erma & Lindsay Mayes attended Leadership 2000 in Singapore during July ... Guest service & tea in August saw many visitors from the community. Youth group provided music for the service ... Maren Chandler elected to City Council.

**FOOTSCRAY (Dan Lundgren)** AGM held 13 August Frail Elderly fund money to be contributed to "Gwenap" existing Uniting Church home in Footscray with resulting benefits ... Men's teas reintroduced. Speakers Graham Boake (CACA), B. White ... Wayne & Janet Kerrison from PNG visited ... TRYFC youth group, Good Companions, Explorers all continuing ... Six young people responding to God's call. One Explorer into discipleship ... Williams & Bradborn families farewelled to other fellowships.

## 43rd FEDERAL CONFERENCE

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

8-14 October 1990

THEME: NOW IS THE TIME TO SERVE THE LORD

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# You Were Asking?

## When Should a Church Appoint Another Paid Staff Member?

by Graham Agnew

Multiple ministries have been a reality in the Australian Churches of Christ for the last couple of decades and (not surprisingly) it's been during that period that we have seen the development of some of the largest churches in our history. The fact is that one minister, no matter how talented he or she may be, can only take a church to a certain level of growth and expansion. To aspire to its full potential, a church must have a team of ministers who work in partnership to inspire and motivate the laity in the exercise of their ministry gifts.

The big question that many churches have to tackle is when do you appoint additional staff and to which areas of the work do you assign them? I wouldn't want to be hard and fast on the size aspect, but I do believe that any minister worth his or her salt should be able to cope on his or her own with a church of around 180 to 200 active members—provided that he or she has a full time secretary! There you go, I've given away my thoughts on the type of appointment that should be made when a church is looking for a second worker. That person should be skilled in administration and clerical work.

In my case, I pushed hard for this to be so because I knew that if the right kind of secretary was appointed, I would be increasingly freed up to do the work of equipping, shepherding, leading etc. without the hassle of routine phone calls and

endless paper work! The plan worked, and within two years of the appointment of a secretary, we had grown to a point where we needed (and obtained) the services of a second minister, in the person of Keith Horne, who was assigned to the areas of pastoral care, community service and small groups.

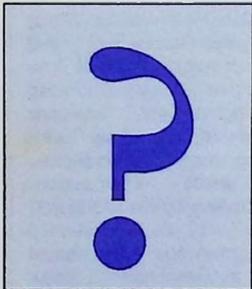
If you are in a growing church and things are getting beyond the reach of your solo minister, take urgent steps to get him or her a paid office secretary (even if it's only for 25 hours or so per week to begin with). If your minister does not have a business back-

ground and is unskilled in the efficient use of a secretary, arrange for him or her to be trained in this area. Perhaps some contact with one of the business people from the church would be a big help in this.

And by the way, stand by for the third staff member in the not too distant future, because if your present minister is a self-starter and the secretary proves to be a highly effective operator, you will quickly hit the next level of growth (around 220-250) where another ministry appointment will be needed.

• *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

I wish that was winders to my Sole, sed I, so that you could see some of my feelins.

—Artemus Ward

Well, if I called the wrong number, why did you answer the phone?

★★★★★

"Did you know there was a terrible storm last night?"

"Why didn't you wake me up? You know I can't sleep through storms."

★★★★★

A man stood on a weighing machine in the light of the lingering day. A counterfeit coin he dropped in the slot And silently stole a weigh.

★★★★★

"I just saw a green snake."

"Well, leave it alone. It's probably just as dangerous as a ripe one."

★★★★★

I'm wearing my golf socks. What do you mean, golf socks? You know, 18 holes.

★★★★★

The aeroplane had just taken off from Athens when one of the passengers asked the flight attendant, "Excuse me, but is that snow down there?"

"It certainly is," said the flight attendant. "That's funny," said the passenger, "one of the other passengers said it was grease."

★★★★★

### Daffynitions

**Tact:** The ability to shut your mouth before somebody else does it for you.

**Blotting Paper:** What you look for while the ink dries.

**Bore:** One who insists on talking about him or herself when you want to talk about yourself.

★★★★★

**First Salesperson:** I have to really push my product.

**Second Salesperson:** So do I.

**First Salesperson:** What do you sell?

**Second Salesperson:** Used cars.



You know you're getting old when you bend down to tie your shoe-laces and think, "What else can I do while I'm down here?"



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