

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

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23 September 1989



Photo courtesy of the Brisbane Courier-Mail

*Trevor Meares, of Outback Christians-in-Ministry, provides pastoral care by light aircraft to isolated Christians. On page 24 Trevor interviews John Runham, who has experienced first hand the trials and tribulations of being a Christian in the outback*

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# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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## Guest Editorial

### "You Never Really Know Someone until You Live with Them"

by Jim Keatch

This statement has been made numerous times in the pre-marriage education sessions that I do with couples who are about to be married. The couple may think that they know each other, but it is only when they live in close proximity, under the same roof, that they learn of those things that are a little more difficult to accept and a little harder to love.

The same is true of the church, within community. When it comes together, people realise that all is not rosy. They realise that the church has its faults and failings and warts. In reality, because the church is people, then it is the people of God who have faults and failings and warts. Then the church becomes a little more difficult to accept and a little harder to love.

Why does it happen like this? Why are there divisions (of varying types and degrees) in our churches? Why do some people openly hate other people in the same church? An enormous number of good things happen in our churches, I am not denying that for one moment. However a lot of not so good things happen as well and I would like to highlight two reasons why this is the case: a misunderstanding of community and a misunderstanding of acceptance and agreement.

Nobody would deny that we live in community. That on different occasions, during the week, we come together as community, e.g. small groups, Bible study, worship services etc. Sometimes, however, I believe we overemphasise our dependence on community. Sometimes the all-consuming thing is to develop community, make sure we have a strong community; if our church is not growing it is because we don't have a strong community. The assumption is that we develop community. We don't. God does.

God places a call on our lives. As we respond to that call we become his children and a part of his Kingdom. The form of that call is different for each individual person, but the nature of the call is the same for everyone. It is the call to be a part of the people of God, to be a part of a community: God's community.



God calls his community into being. As we answer that call we become a part of his community. We are together before we come together.

We ought not to meet to develop community but to celebrate community. To celebrate a common call placed on us by God, through his son, Jesus Christ.

"Community is not a common ideology, but a response to a common call." (Henri Nouwen *The Wounded Healer*)

This leads to the second point. Too many people in our churches, today, equate acceptance with agreement. "If you want to be accepted then you have to agree with what I believe, say and do. You have to say I am right, then I will accept you."

Whether it is verbalised or communicated through non-verbal language, the message is still the same. Agree with me and this particular line of thought and you will be accepted.

This equating of acceptance and agreement is wrong. Nowhere can I find any evidence that suggests this is how God acts towards us. If the two are parallel then acceptance becomes conditional and love will not exist because love, in its proper form, is unconditional. If God waited for us to agree with him before he did anything for us, or accepted us, he would still be waiting.

Acceptance has nothing to do with agreement.

But how many times does agreement over whether a particular interpretation of scripture is valid or not, preclude any acceptance and community being expressed in the church.

The bottom line, and only line, for our relationships, is how God relates to us. If we cannot celebrate community with someone, or accept them for who they are, then maybe it's not their problem.

• Jim Keatch is currently Associate State Minister in South Australia. Previous to that he was ministering at Murray Bridge and also worked with the Department of Mission, Education and Development in Victoria. Jim, his wife Gayle and three children live at Brooklyn Park.



## Final Worship Service at Hindmarsh after 134 Years

The final worship service at the Hindmarsh, SA, church, the second oldest Church of Christ in Australia, was held on 25 June. Over 300 were present at the service led by Pat Durham, a present member. Keith Aird, past member, read the first recorded minute and gave a brief history of the 134 years of the church. Keith Horne brought a greeting from the South Australian Conference. Robert Allan, the present elder, presided at the Lord's Table and the only living past full-time minister of the church, W.W. (Dick) Saunders, preached the final sermon.



The large congregation at the historic final service at Hindmarsh

The Hindmarsh Church of Christ was established at a meeting on 10 June 1855. The minute of the meeting states:

*"We, the undermentioned disciples of Christ, now meet in accordance with previous resolutions, as recorded in minute book, as a Church, to worship God and his Son Jesus the Christ, to hold forth the truth in its purity, and attend to the institution of His Houses as follows: On every Lord's Day the members to assemble themselves together and partake of the Loaf and Cup, which commemorates the sacrifice of the Body of Christ for us; to teach, exhort, and admonish each other on those subjects which pertain to our eternal welfare, the welfare of the world at large, the glory of our God and of His Christ; to contribute of our worldly goods to the support of the needy, and towards the advancement of His Kingdom on earth; and to receive into our communion by immersion all who believe in Jesus the Christ as the Son of God, the only Saviour of mankind." Magarey, Thomas; Magarey, Elizabeth; Oliver, Joseph; Warren, Mary Ann; Warren, Henry; Warren Anne; Ireland, Joseph; Mann, Ellen; Thompson, Jane; Thompson, George; Thompson, Janet; Tompson, Jemmima; Magarey, Elizabeth Mary.*

The first meetings were held in the home of Thomas Magarey. New members were received into communion by immersion. Baptisms were performed in the River Torrens and also in a large, lead-lined bath specially built for the

purpose and situated on the verandah of Mr Magarey's residence.

In 1865 the membership was recorded as 25. By 1868 membership had risen rapidly to some 200, mainly as a result of the very successful ministries

of H.S. Earl and J.W. Webb. The first chapel building, portion of the present structure, was completed and opened on 2 October 1866.

In 1880 the Sunday School, costing £1,000, was erected; the first of its kind built by Churches of Christ in the Southern Hemisphere.

The church resolved to use an organ in services in 1885.

The Sunday School was actually commenced prior to the formation of the church. As far as can be ascertained meetings commenced in September 1854. The first meeting place was in a converted house with all the interior walls removed to allow the Sunday School to operate.

1892 saw much needed additions to the chapel with a congregation of 700 attending the reopening service. This year also saw the formation of the first Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour.

The Robert Street Church (as Hindmarsh was known in the early history) was considered to be the pioneer church

among Churches of Christ in South Australia in mission work abroad. Two native preachers with the Furreedpore Baptist Missionary Society were supported at £30 per annum in 1885. In 1895 H.H. Strutton joined the Poona and Indian Village Mission and church. H.R. Coventry, a former Sunday School scholar, was farewelled in 1913 to the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, and left as a missionary to India in 1916 where he served for many years. He addressed the church during the centenary celebrations in 1955.

In 1987 the church property was acquired by the SA Government to be included in the development of an Entertainment Centre. The chapel building and lecture hall will be retained.

The name of the Hindmarsh Church of Christ will live on in an endowment to the Churches of Christ Theological College, in a trust fund servicing SA Churches of Christ, and in the lives of those who worshipped there.



## "U-Knighted" 60 Years



Robina and Ralph Knight

"U-Knighted" 60 Years" was the heading on a newspaper report on the celebrations of the 60th wedding anniversary of Ralph and Robina Knight. The Knights were longtime community workers in the Adelaide Hills. Since moving to the Glenrose Retirement Village, Glen Osmond five years ago they are busier than they ever were in the Hills.

Ralph Knight now manages the Glenrose canteen and chairs the Residents' Association.

Robina Knight has had a life time of involvement with

music. This includes 20 years as organist for the Stirling church and 21 years as the Weemara Choir pianist. She is in constant demand to play at church and other functions.

The couple were married at the Cottentville (now Hawthorn), SA, church on 17 July 1929.

At celebrations at the Stirling church they were joined by their family, the church and their groomsman Jim Knight (a cousin) and flowergirl (Robina's niece) Margaret Morris.

## Debbie Flintoff King Wins Sports Award

The 1989 Christian Business Men's Committees Sports Focus Award was won by Debbie Flintoff King at a recent CBMC dinner.

The trophy was presented to Mrs Flintoff King's father by 1988 Hawthorn coach Alan Joyce in front of over 500. Debbie was competing overseas and unable to attend.

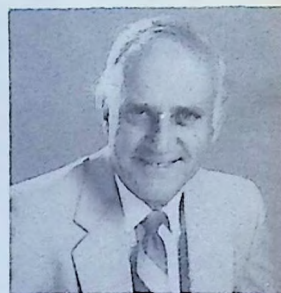
Speaker for the function was Brian Booth, former cricket test captain and Olympic hockey player.

Brian gave an entertaining address which challenged all those in attendance to establish a clear and personal relationship with God.

Alan Brown, Victorian Leader of the Opposition, Bill Deveney, Melbourne's Lord Mayor, and entertainer Paul Jennings also took part in the night.

This was the fourth of these annual awards presented by the CBMC and it is now becoming accepted by the sports community.

## John U'Ren Leaves Scripture Union



John U'Ren

Scripture Union Victoria has announced the resignation of its State Director, John U'Ren. John has been State Director in Victoria for nine years. He finishes with Scripture Union in August and takes up a new appointment as Director of the School of World Mission, attached to Whitley Baptist Theological College, in September.

John served for over thirty years through Scripture Union—in missions, in camps, in churches, on committees and on staff, in Victoria and around the world.

John's life as well as his words have challenged many. During his time as State Director, donation income increased dramatically. The pattern of John's life has been one of accepting new challenges and meeting them with enormous creativity and energy.

## "He Must Have Rocks in His Head!"

"40 years leading a Boys' Club!! He must have rocks in his head!"

Such was one comment concerning Les Stewart, who has announced his retirement from leadership in Boys' Explorer Club work at the Thornbury, Vic, church.

The comment is not without some foundation, for who in their right mind would go back week after week to experience the noise levels, to know the bedlam of a dozen hyperactive boys running in different directions demolishing everything in their path, or to feel the frustration of trying to talk sensibly to a group of undersized comedians; or to tear one's hair out trying to instil discipline in lads who make

Ned Kelly look like a Sunday School teacher.

Les took on the Boys' Club leadership some time during 1949 and the club has flourished since then. The club has maintained a program of development in physical prowess, intellectual abilities, social activities and spiritual enlightenment.

Les has maintained a consistent Christian witness to the boys in his charge, including vast quantities of patience. For a period of several years Les was the Chief Explorer of all Explorer Boys' Clubs in Vic-Tas. When asked why he persisted in working among boys Les pointed to the many boys who came up through the club and are now continuing their

involvement in the church and community.

The Boys' Club is fortunate to still have the services of Jason McCheyne and Len Johnstone to continue the work.

The word "retirement" is actually a joke, for Les is forming a senior Adventure Group for boys. No doubt he will throw himself into this venture with his characteristic enthusiasm.

—Dr R. Killmier

### BALWYN

67th Church Anniversary  
Sunday, 8 October  
Worship Service 10 am  
Speaker: John Tudor  
Followed by fellowship time  
with light refreshments

### IVANHOE

Church of Christ  
celebrates its  
72nd Anniversary  
Sunday, 8 October 1989  
at 10.30 am  
followed by lunch  
Guest preacher:  
Trevor Giles  
Telephone (03) 458  
2677



## The Teddy Bears' Picnic



Anne Runnalls leading the children in singing

Faith and Garnett Johnson and Lallie Smith pooled their talents (money received in the Keilor East's "Talent Program") and organised a "Teddy Bears' Picnic" to raise money for the church's ministry fund.

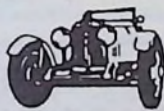
Teddy shaped tickets were purchased by local 3-7 year olds, mostly from church contact families. As each child arrived they received a "honey pot" to hand around their teddy's neck. The program included stories, games, a treas-

ure hunt and puppet show, all with a "teddy bear" theme.

Anne Runnalls, Gisborne, Vic, was guest artist, leading the children in songs about bears. Another highlight of the afternoon was a visit from "Mr Koala" (Garnett in disguise!). Everyone had fun playing "follow the koala" and "what's the time, Mr Koala?"

The afternoon concluded with an indoor picnic including honey cakes and (what else?) teddy bear biscuits.

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# World News

## When the Glasman Came

About 15 years ago, Maso had a large swelling that resembled a hard stone that had formed underneath the skin in the shin area of the right leg. This unusual lump was causing Maso much discomfort, and his parents were mystified. Their first course of action was to take him to the local aid-post but the problem was rather beyond the limited means of the orderly there. He was however referred to the regional hospital at Angoram.

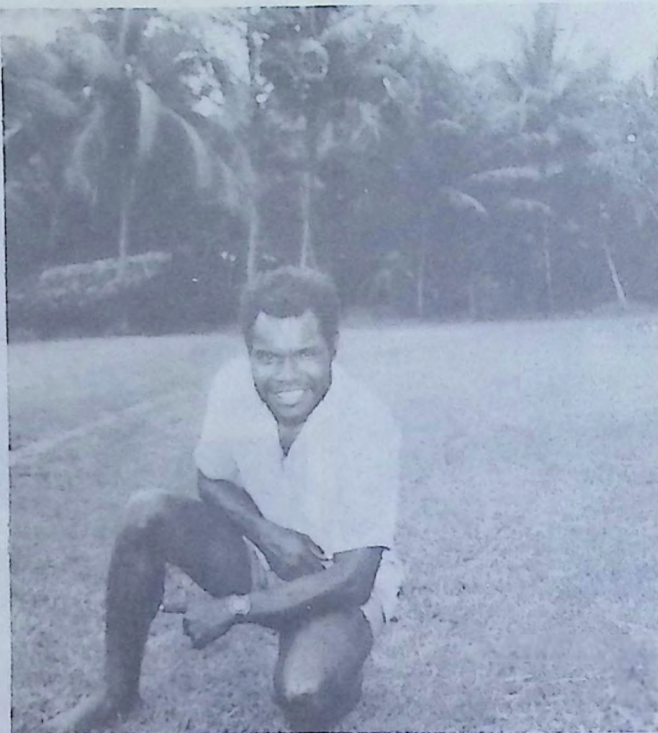
Again this large, hard lump underneath the skin defied conventional medical knowledge. They were told to return to their village some 20 miles away and seek to discover a spiritual cause. In other words, the family and the patient were encouraged to examine themselves to find what sin could have manifested itself in this way!

Unfortunately this exercise failed for there appeared to be no one obvious sin that stood out. The family therefore resolved to enlist the services of a "glasman", or diviner. In due course the practitioner came to perform his ritual. He chewed betelnut and a potent type of ginger plant, then spat into his hands. After this he spat into the wind. Finally he spat onto the leg and began to rub his spittle in vigorously and follow it along until he came to the big lump itself.

Maso felt something like a magnet pulling on the swelling. It seemed as though this fleshy lump was now travelling along his veins until it made its way into the mouth of the glasman, who emptied the betelnut remains from his mouth together with the hard swelling in a piece of red cloth! He spat this into half a coconut shell and called to Maso's parents to come and see the results of his work.

"Can we look inside the cloth, please?" the parents enquired.

"Certainly," replied the glasman. "I would not want you to think that I have tricked you in some way. What is in the cloth certainly will not harm you."



There wrapped in the piece of red cloth was an ordinary stone! The glasman's verdict was that the stone appeared to be the work of a sorcerer, who had placed the stone along the track where Maso had been walking. Through the sorcerer's special powers, the stone had then made its way into Maso's leg!

You and I may smile a little, but stories like this were commonplace at Samban just 15 years ago. In those days people

worked with the only forms of supernatural power they knew. However the gospel has taken hold here, the Samban people have discovered the place of earnest prayer and the flowing of the power of the almighty God. The medical cases are no less difficult now than before, but as the culture becomes Christianised the manner of dealing with them has changed considerably.

—G. Batley  
(Samban, PNG)

## Bangladeshi Churches Support Poor

The Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh works on the principle that by working together the poor can address the problems they face.

Force Ten is supporting the CCDB's rural development work in 10 districts. Villagers are encouraged to form small groups of 5-10 to discuss problems and develop solutions.

Once a group is formed, CCDB staff provide training in leadership, planning, budgeting, bookkeeping and public speaking.

With the support of CCDB, groups can run literacy classes and take action on health issues and provide agricultural services and training in live-stock care.

The CCDB's credit service provides loans of up to \$200 for individuals and \$600 for groups, provided they qualify for a loan by saving a few taka of their own.

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## Planning for the 1990s



Some of the state representatives and executive members present at FBCE Conference: (Front row, L to R) Dr C.E. Warmbrunn, K. Caulton, B.H. White, D. Fitzpatrick, C. Hutton, R.J. Barreau, D. Croot, I.A. Tippet, A.P. Ball (Back row L to R) J. Deutschmann, A. Hermann, J. Keatch, C. Colvin, D.H. Smith

Members of the Federal Board of Christian Education met in Melbourne for the board's Annual Conference.

Issues relating to the 1990s dominated the agenda. A new education strategy arising from planning which began in 1987 will be released early next year. This will include recommendations for local church, state and national planning in education. The material for local churches will cover areas of adult education, training, family life and children's ministry. Churches will receive a major statement on these issues followed by further detailed material on each of the themes. A regular national bulletin of ideas will commence publication and new resources to accompany the recommendations are also in preparation.

The new educational directions will be linked with evangelism initiatives currently planned, under the theme "Australia Grow".

### New Structure

Following discussions at the Board Conference in 1988, the 1989 Conference approved moves to integrate the education and evangelism roles. A new Board of Church Development will be inaugurated following approval by Federal Conference in Brisbane 1990.

Also in the new education strategy will come new initiatives in youth ministry.

### Resources

Since 1985 the Board has released 11 new resources, a number of which have been best sellers. There are 10 further resources in preparation, all of which are expected to be released by 1991. There is no lack of ideas, although problems include time available through part-time staff, limited finance and a supply of people to produce the resources.

### Optimism

The Conference closed in a optimistic mood for the future of the Board's work in the 1990s.

—D.H. Smith

(Executive Director)

## Qld Northern Women's Camp

The Queensland Northern Women's Camp was held at Camp Irwin, Magnetic Island. The theme was "Biblical Women United in Spirit and Purpose", and studies led by Nancy Spencer. This brought out a diversity in lifestyles, temperament and spiritual maturity. Each woman served God in her own particular way.

We farewelled Barbara Flett as she is moving from Mackay. Morning exercises were provided by Millie Smith and June Lunn gave a craft session on Saturday afternoon.

—J. Wright

## Conference of Tasmanian Ministers

The Howrah, Tas, church was the venue for a conference of Tasmanian ministers 21-22 June. Every church with a full- or part-time minister was represented.

Hospital chaplain Cec Neville was present and Errol Gilbert was also able to attend. Wives participated fully as far as family and work commitments would permit.

The Tasmanian ministers have been meeting three times a year for a couple of years now, generally at Ross in the Midlands. This latest gathering was a two-day event with

input from Ted Keating (Nunawading, Vic) along with Don Smith and Brian White (Dept. of MED).

Overnight accommodation was provided by the Howrah church.

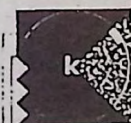
The topics covered included the practical aspects of leadership essential for growing churches and the future of Tasmanian churches in the light of current and future trends.

Brian and Joan White joined to present a session on the need to maintain healthy and vibrant marriages

—John D. Morrow

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# Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

## President's Remarks

To the Editor,

Thank you for the excellent article by Garry Harris "Communion Communication" ("AC" 19 August). I would like to add one point to Garry's helpful hints to presidents.

I refer to the subject matter of the president's remarks at the Lord's Table.

It seems to me that the Lord's Table is not the place for a mini-sermon on the church calendar theme for the day, nor for any other subject of the president's choosing.

The president's remarks at the Lord's Table should be limited to the significance of the Lord's Table itself as sign and symbol of the wonder of God's love, the greatness of Christ's sacrifice on the cross, of our weakness and sin, and of the grace which enables partakers to be changed from weakness into strength, from fear into freedom, to become living sacrifices in true service.

In short, presidents will prove most helpful in communion communication if their remarks at the Lord's Table are limited to the significance of the Lord's Table itself, if they are brief, if they use carefully well-chosen words linked with Scripture.

—H.G. Norris  
(Alldgate, SA)

## A Personal Note

To the Editor,

On behalf of Mrs Evelyn Boettcher I would like to acknowledge with thanks the people from throughout Queensland and interstate who have enquired concerning her well-being.

For the past few years she was forced to spend long periods in hospital; periods of three to four months each year made up of two admissions. After another admission last June she was admitted to "Allambee House" in the Brassall Nursing Home village owned and operated by the Uniting Church.

Our very sincere request is for constant prayer that the very severe pain which racks her body endlessly may be taken away by the hand of the Lord. As she is unable to write, and finds it most difficult to read, please address mail and enquiries to me at 168 Glebe Rd, Booval, Ipswich 4304. Phone (07) 282 1432.

—V.G. Boettcher, MBE

## Logos Foundation

To the Editor,

Two issues are raised in the current exchange on the political agenda of Logos Foundation ("AC" 5 August). The first relates to the relationship between Logos and the League of Rights.

While Howard Carter may deny the relationship ("AC" 5 July) it's of interest to note his strong support for Jeremy Lee. "We are very appreciative of Jeremy Lee's participation in the church," Howard Carter said in *Page 1*, 16 June. "We have a commitment to Jeremy Lee."

It's hard to get any closer to the League than that!

However, it is the wider political issue which warrants comment.

Logos has an overt American-based political ideology and strategy, more akin to the Moral Majority than to the reality of Australian politics.

This is not to argue for a false distinction between "the Gospel" and "politics".

But it is to draw attention to the targetting of Australian churches by US-based and -funded Pentecostal-type parachurches.

Churches of Christ appear to be particularly vulnerable.

Whether "Doulos" or "YWAM" or "Logos" there is a naivety in our unquestioning acceptance and open access to our pulpits.

The experiences of Australian Christians in both Mozambique and the Philippines should be salutary lessons.

There is a critical need for ministers to be more aware of the overt political agenda of these US-based groups.

—Alan Matheson  
(Hawthorn, Vic)

## Giving

To the Editor,

I would like to answer question 3 in the "You Were Asking" column ("AC" 19 August): "Is the amount I give a realistic expression of the depth of my gratitude to God for what he has done for me through Jesus Christ?"

I could never come close to repaying God for what he has done for me. My love that I have for the Lord is very special that words could not do justice to it. But in return the love that God has given me enables me to give love in return to others, in the form of a smile, a kind word, encouragement to others, and helping people out with food, clothing and sometimes money.

My thoughts I will share, you can take it or leave it. It's advice directed to those who find things financially hard to give even one tenth of their wage.

You might not have money of your own because the basic cost of living drains it

out. But remember by helping, loving, and that happy smile is worth more than any money and helps in ways that may not be seen quickly.

Organisations need more than money. Loving is the best thing anyone can give.

—Janine Searles  
(Boort, Vic)

## Disciples Declining

To the Editor,

F.D. Craig ("AC" 20 May) says the Disciples of Christ in the USA are a dying denomination, citing one Disciples preacher and (presumably) some (Independent) Christian Church folk who attended the World Convention. This he contrasts with the aim of the Independents to establish 5,000 new congregations by the end of the year 2000. He therefore fears for a restoration cause that depends on the Disciples.

The issue he raises cannot be dealt with fairly in a 200-word letter.

1. All mainline Protestant

# Letters from Tertius

## Answered Prayer

To the Editor,

Our minister preached a good sermon on "Unanswered Prayer". He said that God answers all prayers in ways that are best for us, even if the answers aren't quite what we wanted.

My problem is not unanswered prayer, but answered prayer. I often ask God for something, and he goes ahead and answers the prayer, involving me, sometimes in ways that I didn't intend.

My wife and I have a little prayer together after our reading each night. We take it in turns. I find myself praying for a more Christlike home life, and then I can't get to sleep for thinking of my part in making it unChristlike, so often, and what I might be able to do about it. God answers a bit too literally.

Sometimes when I run out of ideas about what to pray for I use the old standby, "God bless the missionaries." Then I feel a hypocrite for asking God to look after them when I do so little about it myself. Why does God do these things to me? (Don't answer that bit, I know!)

You want to hear the way they rush the Lord's Prayer in our church. Maybe it's just as well. If I prayed some of those things slowly so that I could think about them, God would be answering them that fast that it would be uncomfortable. I think particularly about the bits that say "thy will be done...as it is in heaven" and "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive others".

I've discovered that prayer is a risky business if you take it seriously.

Nevertheless, yours prayerfully,

—Tertius



## Bethany Family Home



(L to R) Carol Robertson, Margaret Barton-Johnson (field worker), Mary Sedgman, Vicki Biro and John Morrow (minister)

churches in the USA have suffered losses in recent years: Methodists, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Anglican, United Church of Christ and Disciples. The causes have to be complex—cultural as much as religious—for this to be so.

2. The Campbell/Stone Movement had four emphases: the restoration of the early church, the freedom of the congregation and the Christian, the oneness of the church, and evangelism.

Their followers have always had a number of different definitions of restoration, have all stood for congregational autonomy and have had difficulty holding together both unity and evangelism.

If we plead for the church's unity, does that limit us in competing with, say, the Unit- ing Church?

If we major in evangelism, defined simply as the planting of new congregations, how does that further unity or re- store the early church's unity?

—Ronald Graham  
(Johnston, Iowa, USA)

### Historical Foresight

To the Editor,

Two years ago my husband and I walked over the site of the (then) future Church of Christ in Bathurst. In July this year we were privileged to worship in the church that rose on that bare piece of ground. We were also delighted to see the meticulous records that have been compiled from newspaper items and photos giving a complete picture of the beginnings of the Bathurst church. In 50 years time we can imagine the ease with which the church historians will be able to plan their first 50 years celebrations. Congratulations to the Bathurst church board and those responsible for putting the records together. Would that others follow their example!

—Peggy Harrison  
(Launceston, Tas)

**Subscribe to "The Australian Christian"**

At the annual meeting of Howrah, Tas, church in March 1986, a house being purchased by the church was no longer needed. The decision was almost made to sell the property, when the suggestion was made to use the property as a youth shelter or Half Way House.

Following discussion, a proposal was put to the church and accepted. The house was retained by the church to become Bethany Family Home.

The Hobart Churches of Christ Family Ministries Association and Jireh House Association agreed to provide residents who had spent some time in their refuge and provide oversight of these residents. We agreed to make the home available to them, and maintain the property. The first residents moved in on 1 January 1987.

From 1 June 1989, the Be-

thany Family Home has received substantial financial assistance from the Department for Community Welfare. The operational grant totals \$26,890 for a full year plus a \$7,170 one-off establishment grant.

Further financial assistance totalling \$3,600 has been received from the Crisis Accommodation Program to enable painting to be carried out on the home.

On 10 July Margaret Barton-Johnson commenced work as field worker with the responsibility to develop the project and the befriender network. When we commenced four of our ladies accepted the befriender role, a low-level counselling function.

Bethany Family Home provides a safe, comfortable home for women and children who have been experiencing domestic violence. The home is the

only facility providing such a service located on Hobart's Eastern Shore.

—John Morrow

## Corrections

### Rodney Tippet

In the article on Kenmore Christian College on page 20 of the 2 September issue it was stated that Rodney Tippet had an MA(Hons) from the University of New South Wales. That is not quite correct. Rodney is actually in the process of working towards the degree, and hopes to complete the requirements this semester.

### Pamphlet Club

John Somerville (please note: one "m"; our apologies) has pointed out that the quote attributed to John Stott in his pamphlet in the 2 September issue is really from the Postscript to the Declaration and Address. When he reduced the original essay to a length suitable for publication the following quote from John Stott was omitted: "Now the kind of unity Jesus envisaged is essentially a spiritual unity...an organic kind of unity...yet our concern for unity needs to go beyond this agreement in truth and life. I myself believe that some form of structural unity is also necessary..."

## VISITING CANBERRA?

### Stay with a Church Family

A number of Canberra church families offer accommodation in their homes at basic bed and breakfast rates to help raise funds for "Home Mission" extensions in the ACT.

If you would like to enjoy friendly "one of the family" hospitality in Canberra write for particulars to:

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| CURTIN 2605          | MELBA 2615         |
| Phone (062)81 3088   | Phone (062)58 1360 |

Advance bookings appreciated



# Media Review

## Papers

### Studio No 34

This is a quarterly journal of Christians writing and sharing their insights through poetry, short stories, reviews and interviews. *Studio 34* maintains the usual high literary standard. The three short stories are particularly interesting and varied. "This above All", by Bronwen Hickman (Werribee, Vic, Church of Christ), deals with the changing face of friendship between a Muslim and a Hindu; "Between the Lines", by Audrey Stevenson, reveals the hidden grief of a son for his praying mother's death; "Stranded in the Outback", by Meryl Tobin, should strike a chord with all Australians. The poetry in *Studio 34* is also stimulating, showing a variety of Christian responses to the hurts of life, the values of the business world, the phenomena of the natural world and the challenges of faith.

A year's subscription can be had by sending \$22 to *Studio*, 727 Peel St, Albury 2640.

—BMW

## Films

### Dead Poets Society

The other day I went and saw *Dead Poets Society*, which stars Robin Williams as an English teacher (John Keating) who comes to a very traditional school to teach English. The film is about his affect on the lives of his students.

Tell me if this story sounds familiar.

A charismatic teacher comes to a place where the people are trapped in legalism and tradition and offers them a gospel of release. He attracts a following. Within this following is an inner circle of students who take up what he says in his teachings.

He wants to loose them from a mere intellectual understanding of poetry. He wants poetry to have some meaning in their life. He wants them to live poetry, to feel it, to breathe it, to make it a part of themselves not just some mechanistic ritual.

Naturally such a revolutionary teaching brings him into conflict with the powers that be and persecution follows though it does not stop him.

Eventually however a crisis occurs and it seems as if a scandal will cause terrible trouble for the school. Working on the principle that it is better for one to suffer for the many Keating is made a scapegoat.

He is betrayed by one of his closest followers. One from within the inner circle of his students and the others fall away. They deny him and their part in what has happened.

He is made a scapegoat for the sins of others and is martyred (he gets the sack which in capitalist America must be the equivalent of crucifixion). This happens so that the college may preserve the status quo.

But at the very end, when he is going away, in a very powerful

scene, his followers return to him and, defying the headmaster, who is also an English teacher and who represents all that Keating has been trying to free them from, respond in the way that Keating taught them. And the headmaster is powerless to do anything.

It is a powerful and gripping story that made me want to take up the study of poetry and get involved in it in the way presented in the film. Poetry is presented as a thing that is not only relevant to everyday life but important for its success.

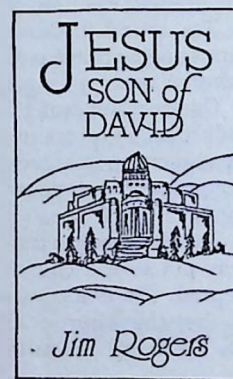
If you substitute religion for poetry and Jesus Christ for John Keating (even their initials sound the same) you have a summary of the Gospel.

I don't know if this is deliberate or not but I remember thinking if only we could present our Gospel as powerfully as Keating presented his how successful we would be.

A brilliant film with wonderful photography it is definitely worth seeing.

—James Pearce

## Books



### Jesus Son Of David by Jim Rogers (Self published) \$9.95

Tracing the course of history from Abraham, the father of Israel, to the Apostle Paul, the pioneer of Christian missionary endeavour, Jim Rogers has produced a free-flowing authoritative work that is gripping to read, flawless in its documentation and evangelistic in its thrust.

The writer is well known within the Queensland Brotherhood for his scriptural knowledge, doctrinal conviction and enthusiasm for preaching the word

of God and winning souls for Christ. These attributes seep through every word of the manuscript as with typical excitement he points the reader to example after example, prophecy after prophecy, historical fact on historical fact, verifying the ancestry of *Jesus Son of David*.

To the Jews genealogy is everything. Every Jew boasts of his heritage. The promise of the Messiah was made to the Jews at a time of national despair, pessimism and hopelessness. God would raise him from the House of David to save his people. It was one



The older I get the more I distrust the familiar doctrine that age brings wisdom.

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THE WAY TO GOD

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Lay Camp

**KIM BOON**



# Media Review

of the tests of the authenticity of Jesus' claim to be the Messiah that he fulfil this prophecy relating to his earthly ancestry. The writer takes up this question with some tenacity and by sifting the evidence of the Old Testament skilfully and thoroughly he compiles a case that is both convincing and exhilarating.

In a society such as Australia has become with its secularism and religious cynicism, the plain matter-of-fact statement of Jesus' heritage and mission in *Jesus Son of David* is both refreshing and stimulating.

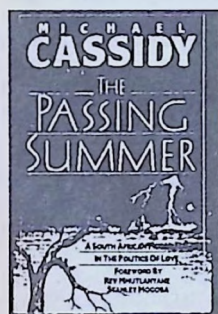
The author's real object is to present Jesus as the divine Son of God who is the last word of God to mankind.

The words are woven together with faith and conviction in a style that urges the reader on in a fascinating search for the scriptural truths of the life of *Jesus Son of David*.

There should be a copy of this book in every Church of Christ home.

Now available from the author, Jim Rogers, 18 Mistral St, Jamboree Heights 4074. Phone (07) 376 7765. The cost is \$9.95 plus \$2 postage.

—John Sheriff



## The Passing Summer

A South African Pilgrimage in the Politics of Love

by Michael Cassidy (Hodder & Stoughton)

This is a very reasoned examination of the whole South African situation and a plea for a Christian approach to solving the whole mess. Michael Cassidy is a South African of English origins who is the founder of Africa Enterprise, a multiracial, continent-wide evangelistic association.

In this book Michael Cassidy first looks at the whole historic context of the current political situation. He has some very interesting and informative chapters on the Afrikaner's mind-set and on how they view their Christian faith and the politics of South Africa.

As everybody is aware the political situation is such that time is running out for peaceful solutions to the situation. Cassidy sees it as crucial that people realise that the South African political problem is really a religious and political problem. He also sees South Africa as a test case for the workability and relevance of the Christian faith in polarised contexts anywhere.

After his interesting summary of history and the attitudes of the protagonists Michael Cassidy attempts to propose a particular Christian approach to solving the problem. He has interviewed many of the leading lights on all sides of the South African situation and this is apparent in the text.

Michael Cassidy sees seven possible scenarios for South Africa's future. The only scenario that he sees as possible without bloodshed is a properly negotiated future, worked out by all together. This is all wrapped up in the concept of the Politics of Love, love being understood in the true New Testament context. He has a vision of how the Christians involved can exercise love, true renewal, justice and reconciliation so that the whole situation is diffused.

Anyone interested in understanding the South African situation should read the first few chapters that set the whole context. Written from an intensely personal viewpoint it does offer a glimmer of hope and his arguments about the Politics of Love should be read and applied to all societies.

One only hopes that South Africans of all sides will read this book and at least start to reflect on what Michael Cassidy is saying.

—CRA

## The Australian Clergy

Report from the Combined Churches Survey for Faith and Mission

by Philip J. Hughes (Christian Research Association) \$10

Many people are asking the question as to where the church is at the end of the 1980s. During 1987 the Christian Research Association surveyed 98 churches from various denominations around Australia. Since then the two researchers with CRA have produced several papers which have examined the various material that this survey produced. This book looks at the attitudes of ministers and their beliefs.

As Philip Hughes comments in the preface, it is easy just to read the book without reflecting on the content. There must be an interchange between the reality as reflected in the results of the survey and the ideal of what we consider to be the biblical model of ministry. This book does not provide the answers to this interchange but it does provide the original material with which to start this dialogue. Churches today need to consider the results of the survey and some of the implications that Philip Hughes draws out of the data and our biblical basis and then reconsider the nature of the ministry of both lay and ministers, the selection and training of ministers and the role of the church in contemporary society. The main conclusion that is made from the research is that the ministry has coped with the crisis that the church has faced over the past 25 years by withdrawing from the world and indentifying the primary function of the church as that of worship and that the primary function of the ministry is that of leading worship.

The various chapter headings illustrate the material covered in this book: "A Profile of the Clergy", "The Faith of the Clergy", "Ministry in the Church", "The Exercise of Ministry", "Resources for Ministry" and "Representatives of God".

This book should be read by anyone involved in ministry and ministry training. There are all sorts of interesting comparisons that were drawn in the various tables which should be considered as a whole.

Available from the Christian Research Association at either 1 King St, Newtown 2042 (Phone (02) 51 2360) or 161 Sturt St, South Melbourne 3205 (Phone (03) 699 8522).

—CRA

## Ivan and the American Journey

by Myrna Grant (Creation House) \$6.95

*Ivan and the American Journey* is an account of Ivan Nazaroff's great faith in God in a strange land. In Myrna Grant's many books of the Nazaroffs, who live as Christians in communist Russia, Ivan and his family encounter enormous difficulties faced by believers in a country that teaches that there is no God. However thanks to God things are changing in this troubled land. Mikhail Gorbachev's government policies encourage the change that is so desperately needed. One of the benefactors of such change is Ivan, who for the first time is permitted to enter a Moscow essay writing competition. As a gifted student Ivan wins the prize for his history essay. All prizewinners travel to America for five weeks on a school exchange program. For the first time a Christian is included in the group, an attempt to show the outside world that there is religious freedom in Russia. America holds many trials for Ivan as he is caught in the midst of a defection attempt that could endanger his life. Ivan must trust the Lord to help him make the right decision and his faith is a great example to the reader.

*Ivan and the American Journey* is easy to read and written mainly for young teenagers. It is a great book that also offers a clear challenge.

—Matthew Smith



# Happenings

Roland Butcher, one of the two black cricketers who pulled out of the unofficial English team to tour South Africa, made a point of mentioning his Christian faith in announcing his decision to withdraw. "As a Christian I believe that all men are the same before God," he said.

**Professor Malcolm Jeeves**, Professor of Psychology at the University of St Andrews, Scotland, is to speak at Ridley College, Parkville, Melbourne, on 10 and 11 November. The series of talks will discuss matters of science, religion and psychology. There is a dinner on the Saturday evening. Full details from Jillian Quartel, 641 Whitehorse Rd, Mont Albert 3127. Phone (03) 898 5493. The meetings are sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Christianity in an Age of Science and Technology, AFES Graduates Fellowship, the Zadok Institute for Christianity and Science and Ridley College.

According to Luis Palau interest in mass evangelism is powerful around the world. The evangelist was invited to return to the Philippines for crusades in the 1990s and was also invited to countries such as the USSR. Dr Palau was born in Argentina but has been a US citizen for 25 years. He has written 24 books, in English and Spanish, which have been translated into more than 30 languages worldwide.

A group of about 150 homosexual activists protested outside Mora, Minnesota, Assembly of God church on 23 July. They were there to protest what they said were derogatory remarks about homosexuals made by pastor David Squire.

The Israeli Supreme Court has ruled that people converted by Conservative or Reform rabbis must be registered by the government as Jews. The deci-

sion lays to rest a long-standing debate over whether those who are not Orthodox Jews can really be considered Jews.

A recent national survey, conducted by the Barna Research Group of Glendale, California, found that the American population is divided equally into three groups of people: those who attend Sunday morning church services every week, less frequent churchgoers, and the unchurched. The survey showed 67% of all adults in the US attend Sunday morning church services, 14% attend church services two or three times a month, 9% attend once a month, and 6% attend less often.

The World Health Organisation has warned that unless an AIDS cure is found, 100 million people world-wide will have HIV infection and another 10 million will die or be seriously ill by the year 2000.

Following representation from churches, Australia's 1991 census will again include a question about religious affiliation.

For the first time in its 45-year history the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the USSR has issued detailed statistics on its membership. It indicates that there are 260,000 believers in Baptist churches, mostly in congregations belonging to the union, but with 15,000 in unregistered churches and almost 8,000 in independently registered churches.

A chapel for the worship of all denominations has been opened in Pentridge Prison in Victoria. The chapel includes offices for the chaplains and a library.

Scripture Union Bible resources for Aboriginal community groups will become available as a result of a workshop held recently in Darwin. The resources will eventually include teaching cassettes

which will be available in the six Aboriginal languages represented at the workshop.

**Radio Alta Mira FM101.7** will broadcast Christian radio from this year's Royal Adelaide Show. Christian radio will be coming to Adelaide very soon. A licence will be offered next year and a full-time station should be operating by 1991.

All Saints Uniting Church at North Plympton, Adelaide, has a scheme whereby a number of families are willing to provide bed and breakfast accommodation during the Adelaide Grand Prix, 2-5 November. The suggested fee is \$40/person/night with funds going to a rebuilding project of the church. Details from David Anderson on (08) 294 3544 after 6 pm.

At an ecumenical service to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Christian Television Association of SA on 10 September the speaker was Rev Maurice Coombs, the first Director of CTA in SA. He is currently Rector of the Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd (Anglican), Philadelphia, USA. He was a Churches of Christ minister when he was the Director.

More than 4,000 were baptised in Papua New Guinea last month in the Seventh Day Adventist Church's largest mass baptism. About 400 pastors officiated in the ceremony at Keiya, on the Asaro River.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics reports that in the last statistical year only 58.7% of weddings were conducted in a church. This continues a trend of many years. The annual average of church weddings in 1966-70 was 89%. The Roman Catholic Church performed 21% of all marriages, the Anglican Church 13% and the Uniting Church 11%. The average age for

first marriages continues to increase, with spectacular falls in the number of young marriages over the past decade. The average age of bridegrooms being married for the first time is 26.1 years and for brides is 24 years.

At the close of its General Council, which marked 75 years of existence, the Assemblies of God launched a campaign to increase its membership by 5 million (it is now about 2.1 million) by the end of the century. The campaign also calls for 5,000 new congregations and 20,000 more ordained ministers in the same period.

Chinese Christians report a new wave of fines, arrests, and radio confiscations as punishment for monitoring broadcasts aired by the Far East Broadcasting Company. According to house church leaders "scores" of believers in at least 5 provinces, most notably in Jiangsu Province, have been penalised by authorities.

According to reports from 219 religious bodies in the US 143,830,806 Americans belonged to a church, synagogue or religious congregation in 1987; that's 58.6% of the US population. US religious bodies reporting significant net inclusive membership increases in 1987 included the Christian and Missionary Alliance (up 2.33%), the Church of God-Anderson, Indiana (up 5.24%), the Church of the Nazarene (up 2.42%), the Free Methodist Church of North America (up 2.15%) and the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel (up 3.28%). Among churches showing membership losses were the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), down 1.81% to 1,086,668 members.

The official *China Daily* says new legislation on religion is being prepared whose purpose will be to "strengthen religious liberty" and improve Chi-

nese relations with religious communities overseas. However, it added, "no foreign religious organisation will have permission to get mixed up in internal affairs of the country."

Hardly any Greek is not at least nominally Eastern Orthodox. But a third Greek Baptist congregation has been started in Greece, this time by Vietnamese refugees.

Representatives of the minority Christian community in Pakistan have appealed to government Broadcasting Minister Javed Jabbar to carry out a 1988 agreement to give "appropriate time...on television and radio to the Christian community". Currently, Christians get 30 minutes at Christmas and Easter.

Australians are being urged to give up a day's pay, or part of it, on World Food Day (16 October) for Community Aid Abroad. CAA will be directing the money to agricultural and reforestation projects overseas, including a tree planting project in the Philippines, farming work in Mozambique and a fishing project in India. Work Against Want is easy to join. Simple phone 008 03 8133 (for the cost of a local call) to register. Cheques can be sent to CAA, GPO Box 9920, in your capital city.

The 5th Conference on Psychiatry and Religion, "Empowering the Powerless: A Role for Psychiatry and Religion", is being held on 20 October at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne. Registration is \$50 (\$30 for students and religious). Details from Assoc. Prof. Edmond Chiu, Department of Psychiatry, St Vincent's Hospital, Victoria Pde, Fitzroy 3065. Phone (03) 418 2830/33.

According to an official Chinese government report, about 32 million abortions were performed in China during 1985-87.



## World Convention

Long Beach, California, USA

5-9 August 1992

August 1992 seems a long way away! Yet already planning is well underway for the World Convention of Churches of Christ to be held at Long Beach.

Information from General Secretary, Dr Allan Lee, advises that the organisers have booked the Convention Centre at Long Beach and reserved a number of hotel rooms.

The theme for convention will be "His Dominion: From Sea to Sea".

President, Dr Harold Watkins, anticipates an attendance of 5,000.

The Australian Committee has also commenced planning for 1992 and has opened a mailing list for any who are interested in receiving details of Convention as they are announced. There is a charge of \$10 to be included on the mailing list. If later you register for Convention the \$10 paid to be on the mailing list is credited towards you registration costs.

Enclosed in this copy of *The Australian Christian* is a mailing list form, which includes a return slip. Please return these forms to the listed address. Any queries you may have should be directed to Ron Brooker on (059) 97 6227.



### SPRING ARBOR DAY

Churches of Christ Theological College

Come along and enjoy the fellowship as we make a spring planting of trees and shrubs around our College.

Saturday, 14 October  
10 am to 2 pm

40-60 Jacksons Rd, Mulgrave  
BYO lunch, drinks provided

## Filipino Christian Educator

Dr Betty Javalero from the Philippines will visit in October. Her visit is being arranged by Christian Nationals.

A reception with Dr Javalero will be held at CCTC, Mulgrave, at 10 am on 6 October. It is hoped that teachers can to attend.

More details from Barry Jenkins on (03) 870 8169.

### FOR SALE

EERDMANS PULPIT COMMENTARY Full set (23 volumes). Excellent condition. Half retail price. \$450 plus freight. Ring Don Herbert (066) 24 1979.

## BRIGHTON

Church of Christ celebrates its 130th anniversary Sunday, 19 November 10 am Service of celebration

Speaker: Ian Allsop  
Followed by

Fellowship Luncheon  
All past members and friends are invited.

For further details contact:  
Max Bismire  
12 Isabella Street  
Moorabbin 3189  
Phone (03) 555 0164  
For catering purposes  
RSVP by 31 October

## Back to Portland Church of Christ

Portland celebrates its 50th Anniversary 6-7 January 1990

All past members and friends are invited.

Guest speaker

Sat 6 Jan. 5.30 pm Tea  
Welcome and fellowship

Sun 7 Jan

10 am Worship & Communion  
followed by fellowship lunch

7 pm Service  
Speaker: R. Hough

## Welcome Home Nunawading Work Party from Vanuatu

Friday, 20 October, 8 pm  
at College Lecture Hall  
Jacksons Road, Mulgrave  
Bring your youth group  
Video of the South Seas  
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Church of Christ





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Miss Phyl Davis  
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8 October 1989  
at 2.30 pm  
All past members and  
friends are invited to  
share with us at this  
time of celebration.

## MIDLAND

**CHURCH OF CHRIST  
60TH ANNIVERSARY**  
Sat 28 Oct 7 pm  
Dinner  
Sun 29 Oct 10.30 am  
Worship Service and  
Luncheon  
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Ettalong 2257  
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Sydney  
Phone (02) 235 1022

Sunday, 22 October 1989

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Speaker: Conf Pres Miss Phyl Davis  
Lunch provided\*  
2 pm Musical program  
arranged by the Leach family  
\*Contact person  
Mrs J. Huggan (03) 489 8746  
(We are to have a dedication  
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in the morning service)

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Ministries

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Dr John White, Dr Jack  
Deere, Pastor Paul Cain,  
Pastor Brent Rue, Pastor  
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"What the Holy Spirit Is  
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Today"

13-16 March 1990

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Ph: (09) 244 1145 Fax: (09) 448 2525

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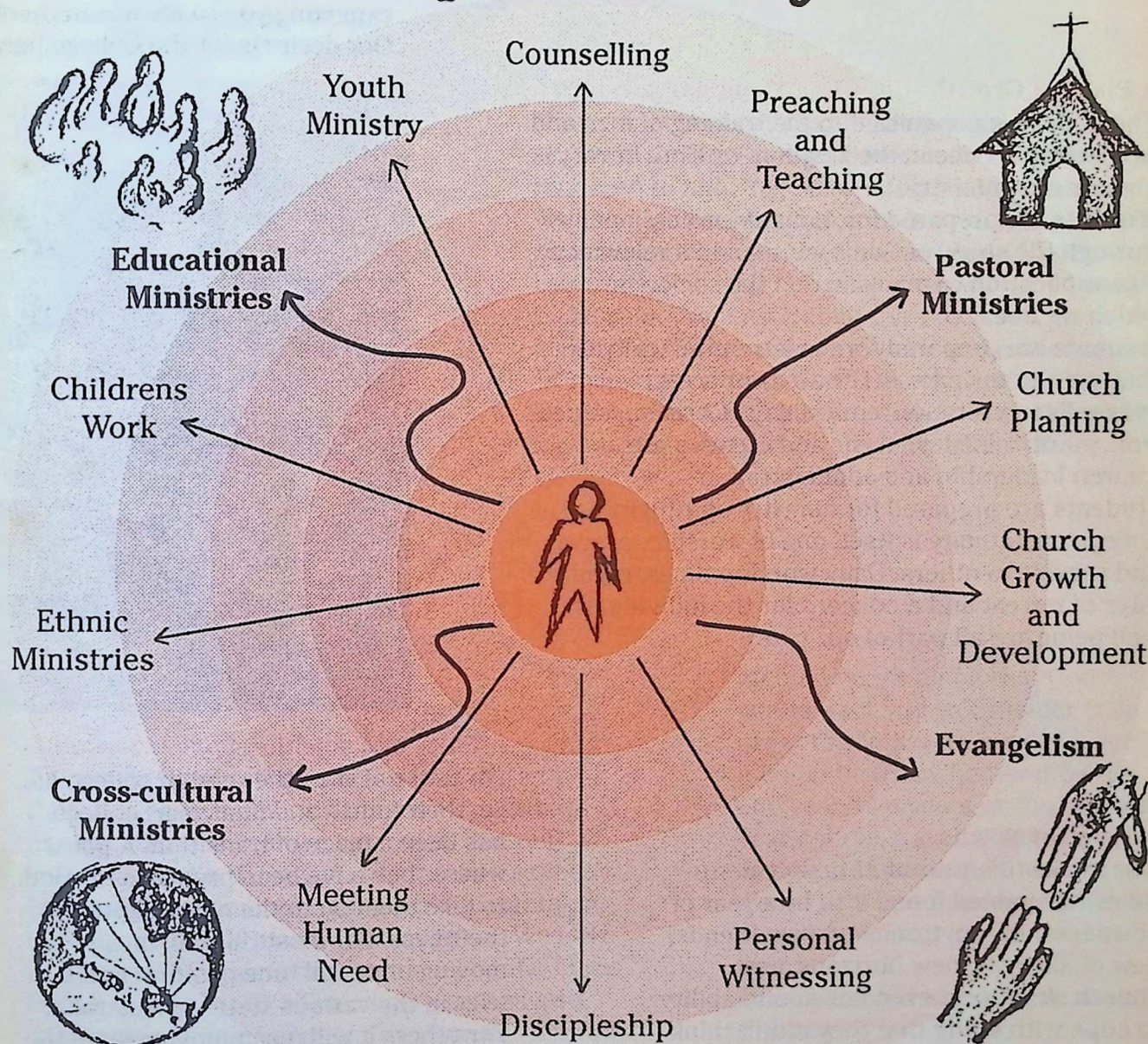
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People often ask the question, "What sort of place is a theological college?" expecting you to answer in theological terms that they cannot understand. Our desire is for the College here to be "a different kind of place".

### A Place of Growth

The College is committed to the training of men and women for service in the kingdom of God, in varying forms of ministry.

Students are prepared for ministry professionally through the study of God's word and its relevance and application to mankind and the society in which we live.

Students are prepared for ministry practically as they gain experience in the areas of preaching, evangelism, visitation, counselling, Christian education, youth ministry, music and creative arts, church leadership and administration.

Students are prepared for ministry spiritually as the college community is itself one of worship, prayer and service to others. Daily worship times, regular days of retreat and a concern for the individuals well-being are all part of our care.



### A Place of Transition

For those at the other end of college life, i.e. their fourth and final year, college has been a place of transition. A place where they have been prepared for God to take them on to the next chapter in their lives. For most this will mean moving on to full-time pastoral ministries in the various states of Australia. For others it will mean moving on in the process of continually seeking God's direction for their own particular ministry in his church. For another it will be the beginning of missionary service in bringing the word to others farther afield. For all it has been a place of transition.

### A Place of Change

Things rarely stay the same for too long and there are always new and different things happening. Just this year we have seen that our Principal, Dr Keith Farmer, has been on sabbatical leave for six months, with Dennis Nutt taking over the leadership role in his absence. We have had two visiting lecturers from the USA, Dr Lewis Foster and Dr Nick Phillips. This year has also seen a new appointment of Tim Hanna as the full-time Director of Field Education. Some of the "old students" have again become "new students" as they come back for the conversion course to update their qualifications to degree level. Things don't stay the same too long around this place and God brings new people and experiences into our lives.

### A Place of Vision

Many aspects of college life are designed to give students a vision of what God can do with a life surrendered to him. Regular student ministries give a vision of how the local church is meant to be God's representative in the world. Our annual "Week of Evangelism", where this year we saw over 40 people make commitments of their lives to Jesus, gives us a vision of the transforming work and power of God. Our working with the State Department of Church Development and Education to help with the planting and fostering of new churches also lifts our vision.

### A Place for You

It could very well be that God would want you to consider training at the "different kind of place". It could be that whether it be for one year, two years or the full four-year course, the challenges and discoveries you would have here would help open up for you fresh areas of ministry for God and his kingdom.

Don't be afraid to ask more about this place.

**Write to the Principal,**  
PO Box 140  
Carlingford, NSW 2118  
Phone (02) 630 7533  
or call in to the Campus  
216 Pennant Hills Road  
Carlingford, NSW 2118

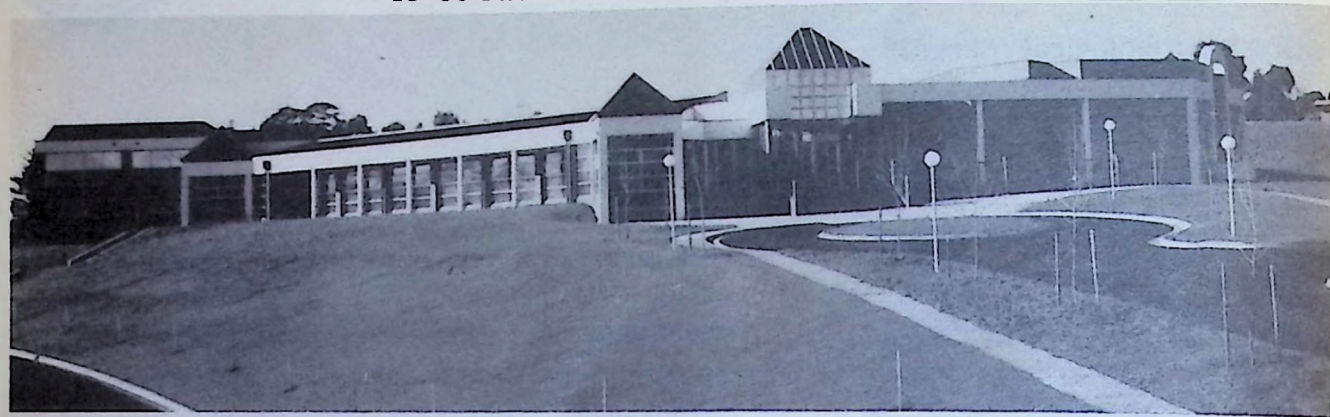
### A Place of Newness

Our intake this year of 21 first-year students has indeed found it to be a year of newness, new environment, new friends, new challenges, new horizons, new church situations, even new-found ability to cope with study that they didn't think they possessed. These people from all over Australia have responded to God's call on their lives. Some have sold businesses, some changed courses of study, some even come from overseas, but all have sensed God's direction to this different kind of place.



# Churches of Christ Theological College

The Federal College of Churches of Christ in Australia  
40-60 Jacksons Road, Mulgrave, Victoria

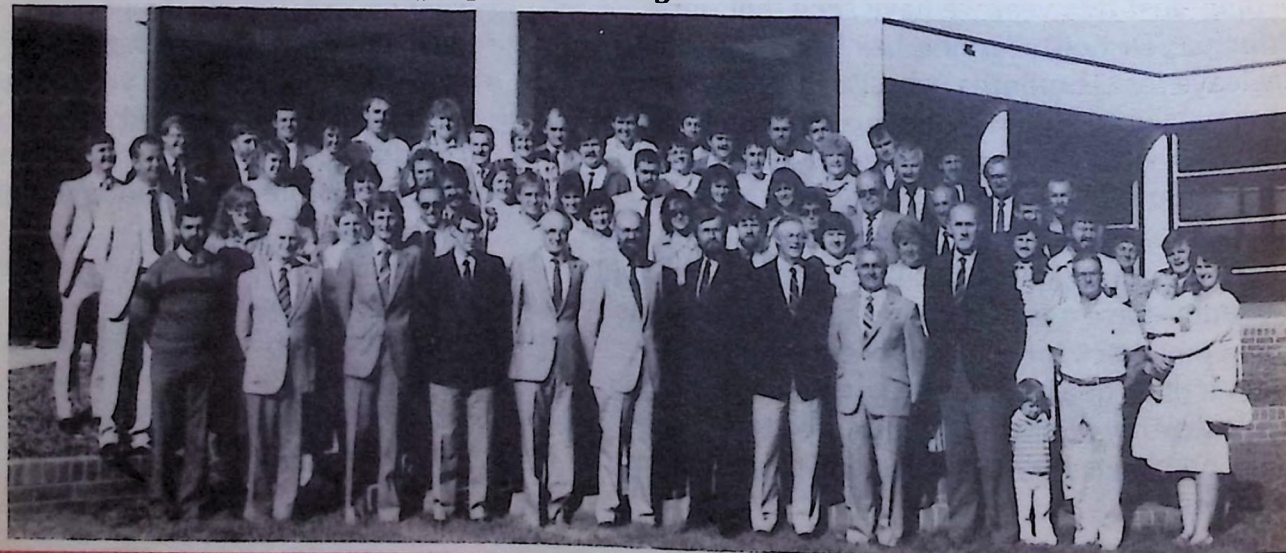


## Life at College is Exciting!

- What a momentous and exciting year we have had at the Churches of Christ Theological College! The new buildings at Mulgrave are proving to be ideal for their purpose and symbolise the unity and faith of our churches and our commitment to growth.
- The broadly based and carefully balanced courses and the ever increasing confidence the College is enjoying is resulting in record enrolments.
- God is clearly at work in our midst! Students are being challenged in their faith and in its implications for their daily lives.
- The ministry of the students in the churches is having a powerful impact and their developing skills and commitment is a joy to see.
- Specific needs of students are being wonderfully met as we commit their concerns to God.
- Already ten candidates have been accepted to commence full-time study in 1990.
- We have people from diverse backgrounds and experience accepting the challenge to prepare for Christian ministry: teachers, radiologists, bank officers, business people, trades people.

Come and join us—

It will give you a real sense of purpose for living!



# Churches of Christ Theological College

## Annual Offering

Sunday  
1 October

The college earnestly solicits your continued financial support to repay short-term loans and to meet our on-going operating expenses. It costs approximately \$8,000 per year to train each full-time student. Each student contributes a little over \$1,000 per year. We need the support of churches and friends of the college to make up the difference. Your generous giving will be a real encouragement!



## Prospective Students' Seminar 6-7 October 1989

The seminar will commence at 6 pm on Friday and will conclude at 4 pm on Saturday.

To Graeme Wigney, Registrar  
Churches of Christ Theological College  
40-60 Jacksons Road, Mulgrave, Vic 3170

Dear Graeme,

☐ I/We would love to come to the Prospective Students' Seminar.

☐ Please send me/us information about the courses offered at CCTC.

Name:  
Address:  
Phone:



## Classifieds

### ENGAGEMENTS

**HARD—BRYANT** Sandra, of Blackburn South, and Peter, of Traralgon, together with their families, are happy to announce their engagement, and marriage on 23 December.

### MARRIAGES

**THOMAS—WESLEY** Stephen and Glenys Thomas and Colin and Fay Wesley have much pleasure in announcing the coming marriage of Carolyn and Stuart, to be held at Engadine Church of Christ at 4 pm on 23 September. God's richest blessing on you both.

**GRAHAM—MAGGS** Rennice and Alan Graham, 101 Upper Road, California Gully 3556, are thrilled to announce the marriage of their daughter, Janine, to Stephen Maggs. We wish them every happiness and God's blessings in their future together. The marriage will be celebrated on 30 September 1989 at 11.30 am at Bendigo Church of Christ by John Sweetman

### SILVER WEDDINGS

**ADAMS—STEVENS** Much love and congratulations to Julie and Ian on your 25th wedding anniversary from all the family. Present address: 26 Caulfield Ave, Cumberland Park 5041.

### DEATHS

**THOMAS (WITNEY)** On 29 August (suddenly) Alma, loving wife of Charles, mother of Beryl (dec.) and Bill, grandmother of Matthew, John, Paul and Kylee Anne. Sleeping in Jesus' care.

### ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

**BOARD** available for woman or girl with elderly lady at Maryborough, Vic. Rates and conditions by negotiation. Ring John (054) 61 1704 Saturday evenings.

**CHRISTIAN** required to share 2-bedroom unit in Reservoir (near station). Rent \$50 p.w. plus ex-

penses. Phone John (03) 460 7157 or (03) 465 2511 (work).

### FOR SALE

**ROBUST KINDERGARTEN BIBLE SCHOOL FURNITURE** 12 tables, 24 bench seats and trolley to carry it all. \$1,000 o.n.o. Contact Glen (03) 484 6928 (a.h.) or (03) 611 2500 (work).

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**CALOUNDRA, SUNSHINE COAST**, Queensland 2 bedroom units. 2 minutes walk from Kings Beach. Rates from \$130 p.w. off season to \$390 p.w. holiday season. Phone (071) 91 7454.

**HOUSEBOAT "White Heron"** 10 berth. Moored at Blanchetown, SA. Phone (08) 380 5009 or (085) 40 5100 or write PO Box 65, St Agnes 5097.

### BUILDERS

**IAN & L.A. McDONALD** Carpenters and builders. Renovations—kitchens and bathrooms. All jobs large and small. For free quotes please ring (03) 557 1257. 41 Somers St, Bentleigh.

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### HOLIDAYS

**QUEENSLAND GOLD COAST** Absolute waterfront unit Runaway Bay Broadwater. Peaceful area. Delightful views. Available privately. Only 45 minutes to Brisbane. Very reasonable rates. Enquiries: Len Brooks, 118 Wilgarning Street, Stafford Heights 4053. Telephone (07) 359 7227.

## Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

### Barnett, Charles David

(22.8.89) Charles Barnett was a bomber pilot in Britain during the war and afterwards worked for the Shell company. His humility and wisdom were valued by church and community alike. He was a volunteer in St John and the fire brigade and a life member of the Bordertown Bowling Club. A member at Bordertown church for 46 years, he was secretary for 30 years, elder for 20 years and was also SS supt. and teacher for many years. Charles married Phyl Carson in 1940 and they had two children, Geoff and Jill.

—Leola Maddern

### Barreau, Janet

(24.8.89) Janet Barreau passed away following a lengthy illness. For her husband Robert, daughters Julie, Susan and Joanne, parents Max and Gwendoline Pitcher and sisters Barbara (Mrs Robert Leane) and Jill (Mrs David Thyer) her passing leaves a great sense of loss. Yet they also affirm the lovely influence of Janet's life and witness. A packed chapel at the thanksgiving service was testimony to Janet's influence. Janet was a talented musician whose musical ability enhanced our worship. At Glen Waverley, Vic, Janet served as President and Treasurer of the CWF. The congregation, along with her family, will miss Janet very much.

—Ron Elbourne

### Cole, Ernest Francis

(28.5.89) Ernie Cole was one of the outstanding pioneering members of the Churches of Christ in Queensland. He occupied most official offices in the church at Ma Ma Creek, including 35 years as Secretary, a lifetime as deacon while some years ago he was honoured in being elected a Life Elder. His family consists of four daughters and one son: Laurel (Mrs

R. Dewar), Maureen (Mrs J. Steele), Norma (Mrs H. Sargent), Frances (Mrs J. Chadwick) and son Robert with wife Margaret. Mrs Isabella Cole predeceased him in September 1981. The large representative gathering of some 450 who attended the chapel and graveside services bore testimony to the esteem in which Ernie was held.

—V.G. Boettcher, MBE

### Gordon, Ivy Alice

(9.9.89) Ivy was born in Goolwa, SA, in 1896. In the 1910s her family became members at the South Richmond, Vic, church, where Ivy was Kindergarten Superintendent and girls club leader. She remained single after her fiancé was reported missing presumed killed in World War 1. Her friendship with China missionaries Albert and Eva Anderson led her becoming Auntie to Pearl, the Chinese girl they adopted. The friendship between Ivy and Pearl lasted a lifetime, and Pearl and her son David, now living in Melbourne, attended the funeral service. In membership with Gardiner church, Ivy lived at Emmaus and Murrumbidgee homes.

—Harold Steele

### Gordon, Wally

(20.8.89) Family and fellowship feel keenly the passing of Wally Gordon, at the age of 76. A service of thanksgiving and tribute was held in the Warrnambool church, where a tribute was given by his daughter Joy. Quietly spoken, Wally was extremely strong in conviction. There is much rural land in SA and western Vic worked through his industrious and resourceful endeavour. His faith walk began in 1928 and he quietly and convincingly lived out the fact that he knew God's love in his heart. We give thanks for a life that bore testimony to the love and faithfulness of God.

—Peter Broadbent

## Oakleigh

church invites former members and friends to its 73rd anniversary A.E. White, BA, guest preacher, at 10.45 am and luncheon session to follow

Phone (03) 579 1603.

## LEGACIES KEEP COUNTING

A legacy keeps counting in the years ahead. Your interest in evangelism, new churches, youth work, camping and education will be sustained for the future. You are invited to discuss these matters with Department Treasurer, Terry McCredden, or your solicitor.

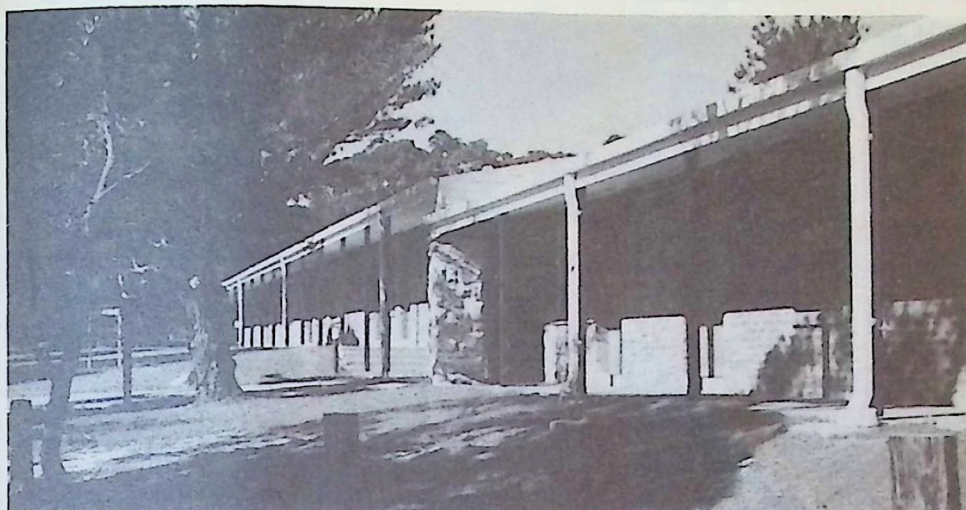
## DEPARTMENT OF MISSION, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000





## Stanwell Tops Expands



An additional accommodation block, called Waratah, has been added to Stanwell Tops Christian Conference Centre, NSW. It consists of 15 rooms accommodating four each, all

with their own en suite together with a meeting area, office, sick bay and tea room.

This lifts the total accommodation on all sites to 500.

Bill Impey, now Australian

President for Australian Christian Camping International, has just returned from visiting conference centres in the US and will shortly leave for a period of one month assisting

Christian Camping in South Africa.

Another staff member, Greame Ratten, has recently visited Queensland speaking on behalf of Christian Business Men's Committee in Queensland country areas.

Have you thought of helping  
"The Australian Christian"  
in its ministry among  
Churches of Christ?

Why not include us in your will?  
The following wording could be used  
in your will:

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.

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## Bushwalking around Canberra

We are going for a bushwalk. Anyone interested is welcome to come with us .... That is how the Canberra Churches of Christ bushwalking group started. Two families accompanied by eight or up to 50 friends have enjoyed the beauty of God's creation by getting away into the beautiful country surrounding the national capital. In the seven years the group has organised walks, a total of about 150 have been able to share in both happy light fellowship and deeper discussions away from the distractions of city life and commitments.

The walks are planned in advance, alternating between moderately difficult walks to stretch the fair dinkum bush-



"A Tent in the Wilderness"—Hardly "roughing it" as was the case in biblical days



"Crossing the Waters"—Jesus gave us an example we cannot emulate without taking off our socks and getting a bit wet

walker to gentler walks for parents with strollers. The oldest to attend was 83 and the youngest a babe in arms.

There is a steadfast core of about six who are prepared to shepherd, like a kelpie, taking the lead or the load, often sharing with friends we sometimes cannot get into a church. The growth of character of many has been a reward in itself and can be attributed to the often selfless sharing bushwalking seems to engender.

At least once a year a two-day walk with an overnight camp makes further bonds of lasting friendship.

We are reminded constantly of the witness of Jesus who walked with many, drawing so many parables from the world of nature around him.

—Peripatetic

## Anniversary for Narellan

On 6 August 110 gathered to celebrate one year of ministry for the Narellan, NSW, Community Church of Christ.

Tim Hannah was guest speaker at the service. The church has been a project of the Institute for Contemporary Church Leadership, with the support of the NSW Department of Church Development and Education.

Students from the Institute have been involved in developing all aspects of the ministry.

Brian Bruce, a third-year student, has taken the leadership role in planning.

He has just completed six months of internship at Narellan and will stay on in 1990 as minister.

He has great vision for the work and over the past 12 months has gathered around him a group of supportive helpers.

The first meetings were held in Narellan Scout Hall, and later in the Community Hall. Since March this year meetings have been held in Elizabeth McArthur High School.

As well as Sunday services Brian has established regular weekly Bible studies and Monday night prayer meetings. The group also enjoys social and fellowship gatherings.



Brian Bruce

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## Leadership 2000: An Outstanding Event

"Leadership 2000 has been the most significant time of inspiration and learning since I commenced full time ministry—a real turning point in my ministry direction."

—Kevin Simington, Engadine, NSW

"Ten days of insight, inspiration and encouragement. Leadership 2000 has broadened my vision and renewed my commitment to see Christ's church grow."

—David Ratten, Mildura, Vic

"The conference was stretching, challenging and the most affirming thing that has happened in my time in ministry."

—John Gilmore, Aldgate Valley, SA

"As a result of Leadership 2000, I have been helped in ways which will continue to affect my ministry for years to come."

—Rod Foster, Launceston, Tas

"The experience reaffirmed and strengthened my commitment to go out and make disciples."

—Steve Fahey, Withcott, Qld

It is impossible to tell what the long-term impact on our Brotherhood will be as thirteen young ministers drawn from various parts of Australia continue to develop in their minis-



Dr Metford Jones

tries, fired by the vision that was Leadership 2000.

They, along with a group of nine senior ministers from some of the largest churches in our Brotherhood, converged on exotic Singapore for ten days of concentrated input on a wide variety of topics relating to effective, growth-oriented ministry in the local church. By every standard, the event was an outstanding success.

Keynote speaker for Leadership 2000 was Dr Medford Jones from the USA. For many years Dr Jones was Principal of Pacific Christian College in California and prior to that had established an impressive record as an evangelist in our churches—with over 25,000 people coming to Christ in the twenty-year period of his ministry.

Dr Medford claimed that the conference was the most exciting thing happening in the Restoration Movement in the world today.

Daily sessions were conducted in a seminar room on the top floor of Singapore's Equatorial Hotel, which also hosted the conference participants.

The various senior ministers, who had originally given birth to the idea of the conference presented sessions on the following topics: Barry McMurtrie: "How We Moved off a Plateau"; Ron Elbourne: "Leadership in a Larger Church"; Bruce Armstrong: "Functional Church Operations"; Geoff Rowcroft: "Arranging Worship"; John Bond: "Equipping the Church for Evangelism"; Ted Keating: "Attracting New Members and Keeping Them"; Graham Carslake: "The Oikos Ministry (Home Fellowship Groups); Graham Agnew: "Motivating a Ministry Team and the Laity; and Noel Newton: "Visitation in a Larger Church".

Dr Medford Jones gave presentations on the Biblical principles and foundations of church growth.

The general feeling of all the participants in Leadership 2000



Participants (Front Row L to R) John Gilmore, SA, Lindsay Mayes, Vic, Steve Fahey, Qld, Ross Pelling, NSW, Richard Oakes, NSW, Trevor Pedler, Qld (Back Row, L to R) Roger Risson, Vic, Geoff Payne, SA, Rod Foster, Tas, David Ratten, Vic, Keith Simington, NSW, Robert Hough, Vic, Darryl Seip, Qld

was that the program had offered a good balance between the theoretical and the practical aspects of dynamic ministry.

A feature of the ten-day experience was the informal interaction that took place between the ministers present. Many opportunities were provided for the senior ministers to chat with the developing ministers about specific problems and challenges being faced by them in their churches back in Australia. In fact, one of the very practical measures to come out of Leadership 2000 has been the commitment by the senior ministers present to maintain ongoing links with the younger ministers and a number of steps are being worked on to ensure that this happens.

In some cases, where personal and/or church finances permitted, the wives also at-

tended Leadership 2000. They were involved in several conference sessions, discussing various aspects of pastoral ministry from a wife's point of view. Marj Keating played a special role in convening these sessions.

Leadership 2000 became a reality thanks to the creative and generous support of Christian Projects. This arm of our Brotherhood, with its commitment to church growth and its willingness to back imaginative proposals, is worthy of the support of our members. The ministers who attended Leadership 2000, their wives, families and churches wish to express their gratitude to Stan Gilmour, Bob Smith and the other men and women around our nation who are working hard to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of Christian Projects.



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# A Church ABC

**A** glance at a map will easily show why Dalby is known as the "hub of the Downs". It is situated at the centre of Queensland's rich Darling Downs, with roads radiating outwards as much like the tentacles of an octopus as the spokes of a wheel—north-east to Kingaroy, north-west to Roma and Charleville, south-west to St George and Cunnamulla and south-east to Toowoomba.

Dalby is a substantial town of 10,000 inhabitants, with 35,000 more in surrounding districts. Wheat growing is the major agricultural industry, but the tourist will find much of interest, for example Lake Broadwater and the Bunya Mountains. The church is substantial, too, with a membership of 84 and an average attendance of 101.

The Dalby church is located on the western outskirts of the town on the Moonie Highway. The building is a multi-functional facility, with the chapel, hall, kindergarten and other rooms all situated under one roof and situated on a large block, with the adjacent manse facing onto a side street.

The work at Dalby commenced in 1950, when a hall was purchased that had originally been brought from Warwick. In 1968 the church moved to the present site, and a new hall was built. Services are now held every Sunday at 10 am and there is a gospel service on the first Sunday of the month at 6.50 pm.

## Focus on Dalby

The minister at Dalby is Neil Melville, who commenced there in 1987. A former railway worker from Ipswich, he graduated from Kenmore Christian College in 1986. He met and married his wife, Elaine, at the East Ipswich Church of Christ. They now have two young daughters, Renée, 4, and Chelsea, 20 months.

The program of the church at Dalby includes a senior youth group, a play-group, Sunday school, a women's fellowship, and Bible study and prayer groups during the week. A men's ministry is being started—the first men's dinner is planned

for 20 October. The church is also looking at its ministry to younger young people in the senior primary and high school age groups.

There is a Cornerstone Bible College in the town and each year a dozen or more young people from the college choose to make the church their place of worship.

The caring nature of the Dalby church is demonstrated by the way the members enfold these young students in the fellowship.

Incidentally, the smiling man in the cockpit of the kit aeroplane he has built himself, pictured on the cover of this issue of *The Australian Christian*, Trevor Meares, of Outback Christians-in-Ministry, is an active member of the Dalby church.

The members of the church at Dalby are now looking seriously as to how they can broaden their horizons and take a bolder approach to evangelism to minister to and share their caring nature with those people in the town in need of the love and concern of God, for example single parents and older people.

## It Ain't the Same as the City Trevor Meares interviews John Runham

**J**ohn Runham is the Principal of Farnborough State School near Yeppoon in central Queensland. During his teaching career he has served at centres such as Yuleba Creek, Lockhart River, Boulia, Muttaborra and Djarra. In these situations he has experienced first hand the trials and tribulations of being a Christian in the more isolated areas of Queensland.

T.M: John, why would anyone want to live in the sort of isolated places to which you have been transferred as a teacher?

J.R: In a few words—they like it. When Dorothea MacKellar wrote:

I love a sunburnt country,  
A land of sweeping plains,  
Of ragged mountain ranges,  
Of drought and flooding rains.

she encapsulated for many what they see and experience each day of their lives. For those who live in the Outback there is a growing love and fascination of the land and its people.

T.M: As a Christian how do you look upon the Outback and its people?

J.R: With a love tinged with sadness and a sense of despair...a feeling akin to that of Jesus as he stood overlooking the city of

Jerusalem. We know the desperate need of the people for the Gospel but find the task of communicating it in a meaningful way a daunting one, one which will only be achieved by God's grace and power.

T.M: How does this situation differ from presenting the Gospel in a city suburb?

J.R: Several areas of difference occur. Firstly, the distances are quite immense and services sparse. Secondary education is non-existent except for Correspondence School. It is a country where to survive one has to make do and be reasonably self-sufficient, which in turn breeds a race of people who are very different.

T.M: But surely they are not all that different from other Australians?

J.R: As people they have the same needs and wants as the rest of us but, as they have learned to do without, they have become very self-sufficient and resent outside intrusion into their lives. They are distrustful of strangers who just visit. And yet they are openly hospitable and will give assistance to those in need.

T.M: Is that true of all people in the Outback?

J.R: There are several groups in the Outback, each with their own set of values

and ideas. There are the Aborigines, a generally peaceful and friendly people, who have suffered much during the last 200 years and have in many cases sought consolation in the numbness of alcohol. There are the station owners or managers, usually well educated and with considerable economic and political power. There are the Jackaroos and Jillaroos who enjoy the hard work and the camaraderie of the bush. Or the governesses who have an important part to play in the education of many of the children. And then there are the "townies".

T.M: How are the "townies" different?

J.R: In this group we have two noticeable divisions—the locals and the transients. The locals fall into two groups, those who were born there and those who are longtime residents. The transients are the school teachers, policemen, bank employees and Government workers. It is possible for a transient to become a local but it takes time or a wedding!

T.M: How should we approach ministry in the bush?

J.R: Perhaps we could start with the people themselves. Because they are self-sufficient they often do not see that they



# Growing Spiritually

## A Process of Maturity, Not Ageing

by Ron Hewitt

I am staggered at the number of people within our churches who, when they were baptised and welcomed into membership of the church, felt and therefore acted as if that was it—they had arrived. It was not until some time later, maybe years, that they were shocked to discover on looking back, or because of some crisis, that their baptism was not the "be all and end all" of their Christian experience, but rather the beginning—the beginning of a journey having both physical and spiritual dimension, with highs and lows, through a continual spiritual process of change and development.

This spiritual process may be described as a continuous experience of being, that is, being renewed, restored and transformed, which then gradually permeates

through our living and lifestyle. Then the seeming impossibility of living in obedience to the call for the people of God to be perfect, holy etc., is overcome by this ongoing spiritual process of being made into the likeness of Christ.

A Christian maturity begins to develop which is not dependent on how long we have been a church member nor how old we are, but our availability and willingness to allow this spiritual process to take place. The results of this process are best demonstrated by changes in our attitude and behaviour. These changes begin within us and are manifested outwardly in our lifestyle—thus the spiritual directs the physical. Our own personal wants and dislikes begin to take on new perspectives and priorities; people of all walks of life

become important to us as we begin to see them with fresh understanding and Christ-like concern and compassion.

Although we are all at different stages of this journey we can be strengthened by the realisation that we are not left to our own resources, but God, through Jesus Christ, provides us with the presence and power of his Holy Spirit. For me this journey began nearly 40 years ago and I am amazed at the number of occasions, through both mountain top and valley experiences, that a renewed and renewing excitement come from discovering what God has in store for us as we travel on this, our spiritual journey into eternity.

• Ron Hewitt is the minister of the Hawthorn, SA, church.

are lacking in the spiritual area. The idea of a Lord (boss) is also not one which is easily accepted. The society in which they live condones, if not encourages many lifestyles that are sinful and soul-destroying. Being suspicious of strangers means that outsiders need to spend a long time establishing their credentials before they are listened to. To win these people one does not simply drop in, preach a message and depart. It must be a long term effort which begins by being a friend.

T.M: How has the traditional church fared in this environment?

J.R: The role that the established church has played in these areas is a tragedy. It has largely been another social group without any real life changing message. It generally proclaims a gospel of good works and mateship. When those who attend church do so, it is often because it is the "done

thing" rather than a warm fellowship of Christians. To many in the Outback this kind of fellowship can be obtained at the local pub.

T.M: How should we be approaching these people with the Gospel?

J.R: The need of the Outback is for those who know this Lord and have a vision to go and live with the people and to quietly win their confidence and to gently share their faith. This requires a degree of physical, mental and spiritual stamina and will not be for everyone. It is a lonely and difficult mission.

T.M: How do you see the work of Outback Christians-in-Ministry?

J.R: The ministry which Outback Christians-in-Ministry is developing is one which recognises the difficulties of Outback life and it provides a means of support and encouragement to those who

accept the challenge. The pastoral visits on a regular basis provide the means of encouragement and spiritual enrichment which is desperately needed by those living in communities isolated by distance. Those who are Christians and those who become Christians in this environment do need continual support and encouragement if they are to continue to grow in their faith.

• Trevor Meares is the founder of Outback Christians-in-Ministry and the Outback Church of Christ, which provides training and support for those who see their transfer to isolated centres as an opportunity for evangelism. The Outback Church of Christ provides weekly communion services to isolated Christians by linking up to five centres at a time using Telecom's Confralink service and amplified telephones.



### Pontius' Puddle





# The Cultic Connection

## Which Is the True Church?

by Adrian van Leen

**O**ne question most cults ask, as they point to the divisions among the Christian churches, is, "Which is the true Church?"

Their answer is, of course, that all other churches are wrong, but they alone constitute the "True Church".

For the non-Christian the multiplicity of denominations and Christian groups is confusing, and a hindrance to faith and commitment. Churches of Christ may, unfortunately, provide a further source of confusion for many.

Locally our churches in Australia are known as the "... Church of Christ", prefaced with the name of the suburb.

In America those churches related to us have divided into three major groups: the Disciples of Christ, the (Independent) Christian Churches and the (non-instrumental) churches of Christ. There is now a recently formed fourth group, "Christ's Church Fellowship".

As if that isn't sad enough, the divisions in our U.S. churches are even greater and more complicated, particularly amongst the (non-instrumental) churches of Christ. Some of these complications and divisions are also in Australia.

There are not just the independent, non-denominational, non-instrumental churches of Christ; further divisions in this group include the "one cuppers" (who insist we can only use one communion cup); the "AD70s" (who claim Second Coming prophecies were all fulfilled in AD 70); the charismatics (very few); the "covered heads" (insisting that women must have their heads covered); the "Mutual Edification" group (against having one main preacher); the "Saturday Observers" (who observe the Lord's Supper on Saturdays)—and many more.

Editor of "Where the Saints Meet—A Directory of Churches of Christ 1986-87", MacLynn, from Nashville, Tennessee, lists 42 different character divisions amongst the non-instrumental churches of Christ. He states that many of these will not have any fellowship with any of the others, and quite a lot of the groups are often represented in one state, particularly Texas.

This could lead to, say, the city of Adelaide, having three churches with the same name: The Adelaide Church of Christ (of Conference of Churches of Christ); the Adelaide Church of Christ (non-instrumental); the Adelaide Church of Christ (non-instrumental, one cupper). And now there is the prospect, indeed the promise, of another Adelaide Church of Christ (Crossroads/Boston).

A very aggressive, ultra-exclusive, independent (non-instrumental) church of Christ has arrived in Australia from the Boston Church of Christ, in Massachusetts, which formed the controversial Central London Church of Christ in June 1982.

In February 1987 James Lloyd and Chris McGrath, plus a team of about 30, came to Australia from the Central London Church of Christ and established the Sydney Church of Christ. Late in 1988 the Sydney Church of Christ sent a team to establish the Melbourne Church of Christ.

This controversial group establishes churches by planting new congregations and by "reconstruction" (more common than "planting"). Reconstruction is a deliberate policy of deception where a number of members move into an established (non-instrumental) church of Christ and become so actively involved that they are able to take control of the leadership, and only then do they identify their links with Crossroads/Boston. The Sydney Church of Christ was set up this way. The group took control of a small fellowship known as the Sunrise Church of Christ, led by Mike and Terry Fontenot, and started on 1 February 1982. On 1 February 1987 the Sydney Church of Christ was "born again" (according to their own claims). Fontenot was sent away to America for retraining, while Lloyd and McGrath took control of the church.

According to their claims, there were no true believers in Australia until Lloyd and McGrath arrived from the Central London Church of Christ. They have plans to establish a "true" Church of Christ in every capital city by 1993 (if not before then).

The Boston Church of Christ had its beginnings in the controversially aggressive evangelistic methods and teachings applied, especially on university campuses, by Charles ("Chuck") Lucas, employed by the 14th Street Church of Christ in Gainesville, Florida, in 1967, as Campus Evangelism minister. As he developed his "Campus Advance" principles the Gainesville church grew, put up a new building and called themselves the Crossroads Church of Christ.

The evangelistic techniques and teachings presented by Lucas led to many baptisms, and soon others wanted to learn Lucas's principles.

Various names have been used of this movement: Crossroads Movement, Discipling Movement, Multiplying Ministries, and now, the Boston Church of Christ (the "Mother Church").

During the 1970s a Florida University student, Kip McKean, was converted and then trained by Lucas. McKean tried (not too successfully at first) to establish discipling ministries in several congregations. Then he moved to the Boston suburb of Lexington, in Massachusetts, at the age of 25. He had soon changed the small church of Christ into a growing movement—the Boston Church of Christ, established in 1979. Following the Crossroads Church's dismissal of Chuck Lucas in 1985, for "recurring sins in his life", McKean became the new leader of this controversial movement.

In June 1988, however, the Crossroads Church in Gainesville, Florida, formally disassociated itself from the Boston Church of Christ and the whole of the "Discipling Movement".

This group has divided churches and taken control of others, broken up families, and caused disruption on university campuses.

It has been called "devastating, devious, deceitful", "masters of deceit", a "manipulative cult", and more, by some of our brethren in America.

It practises rebaptism (and sometimes rebaptism of the already rebaptised); an extreme form of "shepherding"/big brother system, called "Prayer Partners" (now "discipling partners"); "Soul Talks" (now "Bible Talks"), which are more pep talks to induce conformity, submission and obedience to the leadership and group—these are regarded as compulsory home group meetings; an obligatory "Quiet Time"; a "TOTAL Commitment" (not so much to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour as to obedience and submission to the group and its leaders). The main leaders are the "Evangelists" and their "Women Counsellors". The group functions as a strict hierarchy, and has set up Sectors, Zones, House Churches, Pillar Churches, Capital City Churches, Small City Churches, Country-side Churches.

The movement has been described as a kind of pyramid-type organisation in their teacher-student structure of authority. One of their leaders has been noted to state, "Leadership should be imitated, not evaluated." There is no accountability, other than ultimately to Kip McKean, at Boston. Opinion and individuality are submerged under submission. As one former member stated, "Freedom in Christ" became the sin of being a prideful 'Lone Ranger' and having an inappropriate independent spirit."

When James Lloyd and Chris McGrath



## Student Profile

### Life Begins at Forty-Seven!

set up the Sydney Church of Christ in 1987, they wrote to all non-instrumental churches of Christ in Australia, in the hope of gaining entrance into these churches. As a result a meeting was held at the Macquarie (non-instrumental) Church of Christ with Lloyd and McGrath.

The two men were given the opportunity to present their case, and were then questioned—some 6 1/2 hours of taped comment, questions and answers resulted. Most who attended found it very revealing. It was found that often the two men from the Sydney Church of Christ were vague and evasive. Some of the specific answers were disturbing. It was admitted that what happened at the Sydney Church of Christ was the same as what happens at the Boston Church of Christ; that there were leadership levels and a chain of command; that the evangelist has total charge and control of the local congregation; that the "big brother" discipling partner scheme was practised and expected; that the less mature of the partners must follow the advice of the more mature partner; that pressure is used to get the person to follow such advice; that guilt is emphasised and used because "Guilt produces the best results in changing life!"; that any young person from the Sydney Church of Christ wanting to date someone from one of the non-instrumental churches was preferable to dating a non-Christian, but they would be told it was not the best.

One former Sydney Church of Christ member remarked that members of the non-instrumental churches would be considered "cousins in Christ" but not brethren. Members of Conferences of Churches of Christ probably would not even be considered distant cousins.

Leaders in the Australian (non-instrumental) churches of Christ have disassociated themselves from the Crossroads/Boston/Sydney Church of Christ movement. They have described it as "divisive and destructive" and have referred to James Lloyd as "a deceiver" and his teachings as "dangerous to the harmony and peace of the brotherhood in Australia".

Concerned Christians Growth Ministries has received many enquiries and expressions of concern over the alienation and disruption this group has caused in several states on university campuses, to families, and to friendships.

Please be aware!

*• Adrian van Leen is Director of Concerned Christians Growth ministries, a ministry dedicated to informing the church about cults and ministering to people involved in them. Further articles in this series will focus on our church's links with spiritualism and with Jim Jones.*



Roy and Margaret Hope

**R**oy Hope, aged 47, entered the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave, Vic, to undertake the Certificate in Lay Ministry this year. 26 years earlier he had explored the possibility of entering ministry, but with a limited education he was reluctant to accept the challenge of academic studies.

Some years later Roy felt the call of God a second time but the prolonged illness of Margaret, his wife, was another hindrance. The thought of early retirement re-awakened the interest and so he commenced a correspondence course offered by the College as he waited for the day when he would be able to leave work.

A complication arose when Roy's employer, the Australian Wheat Board, decided to move their operations from Portland. Roy had no desire to leave this location and finally, after a number of attractive offers designed by the Wheat Board to keep his services, he resigned, even though this action denied him the benefits of a superannuation pay-out, which he expected would be a big part of the plans to serve God in the future. Once he made that decision Roy had a great sense of release. It freed him for whatever God wanted him to do. At that very time Roy and Margaret received an invitation from the College to attend a Prospective Students' Seminar. "I was excited about the prospect of visiting the College," explained Roy, "but I was determined not to say anything to influence my wife. As we were leaving the College following the seminar, Margaret turned to me and said, 'I think we should

go to College for one year.' I was delighted!"

"To agree to come to College is one thing," mused Margaret with feeling. "To leave our home, our children and our aged parents and to be no longer financially secure were issues that took a lot of working through. We shed many tears but having put our trust in God he has provided wonderfully."

Roy has had a strong feeling of call to minister to some struggling church that needed a pastor but couldn't afford a salary. Without the benefit of a superannuation payment he's not sure how he can manage that now but to his surprise he is living this year on less than he thought he would need. He gives praise to God for the financial and prayerful support of the Portland and Brighton churches and the faithful financial help of a dear couple.

"Having had a limited education, studies at College have been demanding," says Roy. "How much easier it would have been if I had already developed essay writing and study skills! However, with God's help and by concentrated effort I have successfully completed first semester and I face the remainder of the course thrilled by the prospect of serving the Lord in a full-time capacity next year.

"The experience I have gained as an elder and chairman of the board of elders and deacons, my responsibility with Margaret for the pastoral care of the congregation at Portland and my experience in the world of business have provided a sound background for College studies. The Certificate in Lay Ministry, being only a one-year course, was ideal for my needs. This course has given me the opportunity to



# Testimony

*For fifteen-year-old Jodie Foster shifting interstate from Albury, NSW, to Launceston, Tas, was, in more ways than one...*

## ...a Moving Experience

**S**omething has happened to me recently, which has been a big change. That is, I have moved interstate. "Big deal, wow," you say! This is the attitude of many people. But have they ever experienced the trauma, heartache and loneliness?

During my fifteen years, my family has moved five times. I have attended eight schools and I have lived in three different states and also spent one year overseas. But this is not what I want to concentrate on. This particular move has been the hardest, and the one I want to talk about.

We moved from Albury, New South Wales, where we had been since I was ten. It was the longest I had lived anywhere. Over the years I gradually settled into Albury and formed many wonderful friendships so it came as a great shock to me when Dad announced in late 1987 that there was a possibility we might return to Tasmania. (I was born there.) Gradually, I forgot about it though and things went on as usual. I met new people and they became some of my best friends.

All of a sudden Dad and Mum announced that they were going to Launceston, Tasmania, to make a final decision. They came back and what they told me shattered my secure little world. We were moving! That was the bad news. The good news was that the move wasn't until January 1989—Monday 9 January 1989, to be exact. Now, I'm wondering whether this really was the good news after all. It allowed a longer time for my friendships to become even stronger and to form a greater urgency about them.

Goodness knows, how many "Tassie" jokes I had to put up with after our decision was made public. The year passed far too rapidly and I found out six more of my good friends were moving on, five of them also interstate. I was able to relate my fears and expectations to those who knew how I felt.

The end of the school year hit me fast and all the arrangements for leaving Murray High School were made.

Throughout the year many new people came to our school. I am ashamed to admit that I felt they were a "threat" to my environment and didn't take to them too kindly always. Now I know how it feels.

But back to my story. I am jumping ahead. Christmas didn't quite have the usual spirit and cheer. How could it? The lounge and entrance of our house were lined with removal boxes, half packed, and there was a general feeling of sadness and regret. The holidays were busy. For once not going away was a good idea. We stayed in Albury and said goodbye.

There was also our farewell. It made my heart fill with pride and pleasure to see the hall, where the party was being held, full with friends from both past and present who had come to say a final goodbye. One last visit to our now empty and lifeless house brought many memories back. We were really leaving...

Our last day in Albury brought many tears and promises to write—although I knew that gradually these promises would fade. Saying goodbye to all my friends that day was perhaps the hardest thing I have had to ever do. So we began the journey into the unknown. The next day dawned bright and clear, although strong winds were predicted. We left, the sorrow of parting heavily upon us and headed for Melbourne.

We arrived barely on time to board the *Abel Tasman* and were greeted by several more friends. I could have cried right there and then as I saw some of my friends from my move before this one approach. Five years onwards and they had still travelled some distance to see me leave the mainland. Now that's friendship!

The boat trip was smooth and we arrived in Devonport early.

After looking at the house I was pleasantly surprised and the next couple of days were very busy sorting out our furniture and getting our bearings. We were overwhelmed by the kindness of people bringing us casseroles and biscuits. Our family then went round the state for a few

weeks visiting relatives. Sure, all this was okay but the worst was yet to come—school! I returned feeling refreshed and positive towards things in general.

That Sunday, 12 February, my Dad was inducted at the Launceston Church of Christ. Well, that day I must have met over 300 people. The same Sunday night some very enthusiastic young people began talking to me and before too long I was invited out. I couldn't believe their easy-going acceptance of me. Their friendliness was a great example for all.

The first day of school came and friendliness was expressed towards me to no end. The schooling system I found was very different. I had a lot to get used to, but with the help of my now very good friends, I settled in reasonably well. I cannot praise highly enough the students of grade 10 and the staff of Prospect High School. I felt very welcome and gradually became proud to be associated with Prospect High.

Of course, there are always difficulties and problems to overcome but that's what moving is all about.

Gradually, the past is slipping away and the present and future is becoming more important each day. Sure, there are still times when I get lonely but I know I can always turn to one of the many terrific friends I have made here. They will understand.

Each day brings new experiences and changes I have to make. It is hard, very hard, to move but when you have no choice it is much better to go with a positive attitude. Many great things happened to me in Albury—my first boyfriend, my commencement of high school, my first camp and getting girl dux of my primary school, but I know Tasmania will hold greater things for the future, like gaining my HSC, establishing a career and getting married. Just remember you are not losing friends but you are gaining a whole lot more.

Moving is not the end of the world—instead it is the opposite. A new start, a new beginning...

study the Scriptures more intensively, broaden my perspectives of the Christian faith and develop ministry skills. It has confirmed my faith, increased my appreciation of God's written word and given me insights I long to share with others.

"I pay special tribute to Margaret. She is a wonderful support to me. She provides

both encouragement and inspiration. Until three years ago Margaret suffered from a chronic and debilitating illness that plagued her continually from the age of three months. In 1987 she was miraculously healed by the Spirit of God and now provides home help for the Brighton City Council. This would have been out of the

question three years ago! In addition to her work and her home duties Margaret has undertaken some studies that she has enjoyed immensely. She has a love of both young and old and has a special empathy for the ill and infirm. Together we look forward with eager anticipation to serving God wherever he would have us."



## Discipleship

•Alice Harris, Greg Harris, Jenny Ho, Glen Waverley, Vic •Mrs Charmayne Feldman, Belmont, Vic •John Malpass, Jeanette malpass, Cora Dik, Mandy Lam, Mt Clear, Vic •Charles Morris, Evan Kennedy, David Glenister, Belconnen, ACT •Steven Derbyshire, Justin Hawksworth, Roslyn Motherwell, Leone Motherwell, Springvale, Vic •Tony Rolph, Wembley, WA •Fiona Burns, Ringwood, Vic •Timothy Stupak, Nicole Barnes, Bob Johnston, Grote St, Adelaide, SA

## Marriages

•Sylvia Arnold to Andrew Gale, Epping, NSW •Karen Stanway to Glen Anderson, Annerley, Qld •Debbie Ponig to Jim Willis, Bowral, NSW

## Deaths

•Ted Cuthbert, Bayswater, Vic •Mrs E. Preston, Traralgon, Vic •Janet Barreau, Glen Waverley, Vic •Robert Osswald Reissmann, Carnarvon, WA •Wally Gordon, Warrnambool, Vic •Ivy Gordon, Gardiner, Vic

## Changes

CAVESIDE: Secretary—Mrs P. Byard, "Brookhill", Caveside, RSD 674, Deloraine, Tas 7304

NORTHCOTE: Secretary—Hayden Anderson, 70 Jenkins Street, Northcote, Vic 3070. Phone (03) 481 2025

TWEED HEADS: Secretary—Mrs K. Thompson, 8 Dobby's Crescent, Terranora, NSW 2486

RYALL, Roger and Betty: Unit 4, 8 Valentine Avenue, Dianella, WA 6062. Phone (09) 275 8291

BANNON, Stan and Irene: 11 Madden Street, Morwell, Vic 3840

## Tas News

CAVESIDE (John & Colleen Harrison) Church AGM held 13 August ... After 30 years as church secretary, & on her retirement, a rhododendron was presented to Ena Harvey. Phyllis Bond appointed new secretary ... Offerings for last financial year showed increase of 36% on previous 12 months. 33% of offerings received given to missions ... Committee appointed to establish goals for next 12 months & the strategy for achieving them.

LAUNCESTON (Rod Foster) Conf. Pres. Steve Warwick spoke 3 Sept ... John Harrison reported on development of work at Caveside ... Scott Dubbeld presented "Christianity—A Salesman's Ap-

proach" when 1 reconsecration made ... Kath Edmunds & Kate Skirving out of hospital & staying with relatives ... Lynn Blyth baptised 10 Sept. at 7 pm ... \$2,012 raised for 40-hour famine appeal.

The Council for  
Chaplaincies in Tertiary  
Institutions

## CHAPLAIN

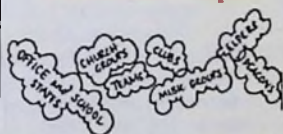
Applications are invited for the half-time position of Christian Chaplain at the Swinburne Institute of Technology and the Swinburne College of TAFE, Hawthorn, Vic

A statement of the position is available from

Rev. Brian Porter  
Secretary, CCTI  
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Camberwell 3124

to whom applications should be sent by  
31 October 1989

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# Church News

## Vic

**BAYSWATER (R. Combridge)** Visiting speakers Neville Lilley, König family & our own Mark Riches ... Youth group held Pot Hole Coffee Shop involving other youth groups ... Marilyn Wilson, Max Allsop, Ian Hughes re-elected to deacons board. Daniel Hills re-elected as elder ... Successful Sunday School anniversary with Rhonda & Andrea Proposch ... Annual meeting 20 August.

**TRARALGON** Two weekly covenant groups attended by 15 regulars ... Navigator Bible study group meeting each Sunday 8.30 am ... Endeavour House program including a sewing circle each Monday, antenatal classes & two Sunday School groups ... Church rejoices with Peter Bryant & Sandy Hard on their engagement ... Over 60 locals attended an ecumenical service ... Two new members elected to join eldership team.

**BELMONT (Bob Clymer)** Mrs. Charmayne Feldman was baptised & received into membership ... At the AGM the church looked at ways of witnessing for Christ. It also discussed a brief for upgrading the building complex to meet present-day needs ... A church camp was held at Bamba & the studies were led by Alf White.

**NORTH BALWYN (Paul Burnham)** Church full for celebration 38th anniversary. Phyl Davis, Conference President, speaker. Alan & Sue Page guest singers. Spit roast lunch followed ... A time of thanksgiving for children, Linda & Stephen, & dedication of parents Len & Jill Webster was led by minister ... Mel Davidson, evangelist from WA, led an evening service, witnessing in word & song, theme "Dare to be Different".

**CHADSTONE (Peter & Kathy Bradley)** The church rejoices with Kathy & Peter in welcoming their first child Zoe Jessica on 24 July ... Marj. Buckingham was the speaker on Australian Women's Fellowship Day held in our chapel ... Sympathy expressed to Field family, Beryl's mother & brother passed away within a week of each other ... Speakers in minister's absence Jill Hook (Amnesty International), Mike Esbensen (Kensington Christian Network).

**MT CLEAR (Paul Creasey)** Three

new members by transfer. Four baptisms ... Members encouraging Allan Hocking (Youth Guidance) running "Church at the Pinnies" ... Fellowship luncheon held for BCAE students ... Fellowship enjoyed in homes after evening services ... Rod Hall & Bronwyn Booth leading evening services with theme "Lost & Found" ... Outreach luncheon held for elderly people recently shifted to retirement units close to church.

**SPRINGVALE (T. Ede, P. Lyne)** Resource centre established with Christian literature and video and audiotape library ... Missionary offering for 1988-89 raised \$13,002 (\$1,000 more than pledged). Successful missionary focus held in July with \$15,600 pledged for 1989-90 ... 4 recent baptisms & 3 welcomed by transfer ... Ski camp held at Falls Creek with 22 YP ... New Saturday night youth outreach, "Barney's" commencing ... 50 attended men's breakfast.

**WARRNAMBOOL (Peter Broadbent)** Minister led farewell service at Pt Fairy for Steel family as they move to Maldon ... CWAFC catered for lunch to raise funds for Hey Hey Club (SS) ... Many families travelling during holidays: Marg Brough to Vienna to visit her brother, Carters to USA for computer conference & touring and others interstate ... Continued prayer for "Vision East" project.

**MAIDSTONE (W. Rodgers)** AGM held 20 August. Ida Phillips new asst sec ... Many members have flu ... Grace Stevens making good progress after recent surgery & J. Risk able to be with us after stroke ... Church enjoyed visit by Ulster Choir & Youth with a Mission puppet team on Children's Day, 27 August ... The internal work is nearing completion on HC units on church land.

**PORT FAIRY** Church packed to farewell Laurie & Annette Steel & children supported by Warrnambool & their musicians, Hamilton and Portland ... Laurie recovering steadily from bike accident, will shortly commence ministry at Maldon Baptist ... AGM appointed B. Shalders, J. Hindman, elders; M. Dumesny, G. Clayton, deacons; H. Watson, deaconess ... Ivy Dumesny able to attend services again ... Fellowship welcomes Colin & Margaret Sykes & 4 sons.

**NUMURKAH** 2 new members by transfer ... Jumble sale 21 July raised \$250 ... 2 members returned from trip up centre & down east coast ... Youth meetings continue to increase averaging 35 ... Coffee morning speaker from Salvation Army, 25 ladies present ... 6th

church anniversary 22 November speaker will be Alf White ... Morning services well maintained. Local & visiting speakers appreciated.

**RINGWOOD (Barry Jenkins, Michael Grechko)** At church meeting 10 Sept church members invited Michael Grechko to extend his ministry for further 5 years from Jan 1990. About 40 later that day met at Antonio Park for a barbecue to celebrate Mike's 30th birthday ... Church anniversary held at Karilika Theatre with about 300 in attendance. Brian White spoke. Big crowd returned for chicken lunch at church.

## WA

**MANDURAH** Church luncheon, presentation held last Sunday in honour of Roger & Betty Ryalls. Termination of three & a half years ministry at Mandurah. Sorry to see them leave & thank them for their love and dedication ... We thank home mission for arrangement, preachers for Sunday services ... 3 September Anniversary. John Bolton speaker ... We are looking forward to relocating the church early next year.

**CARNARVON (Donald Bone)** New deacons elected—Gordon Musulin and Ian Holliday ... Families enjoyed picnic & wildflowers at river pool ... CWF's special project is new kitchen for Yamen, PNG. Their guest speaker this month was Maria De Lima, Gascoyne Community counsellor ... Christine Holliday brought devotions ... Busy bee held to renovate and paint.

**FREMANTLE (D. Good)** Presidential visit by John Bolton ... At annual meal service highlights of family wedding in UK and travels expressed by T. & A. Marshall & S. Caddy. Slides of Bible lands used in other segments ... Prot chaplain, Fremantle Prison, told of ministry ... CWF's morning coffee "getting-to-know-you" session attended by 20 migrant women ... "Sundays at Seven" series commence 1 October ... D. Good beginning 2nd term.

**WEMBLEY (John Timms)** Congratulations to Gillian Baldsings & Michael Ossebaar on engagement ... YP had great time of learning with Rod Taylor in Aug. & combined cell groups studied apologetics with John Bond in Sept ... Church extended condolences and love to Karen Ellison & family on tragic loss of brother Scott on 19th birthday ... Visiting speakers included Jack Bond, Colin Wheat & David Timms ... Tony Rolph baptised.

**BUSSELTON (R. Burton, C. Chapman)** Week of evangelism held with John Bond. During the crusade week, 20-27 August, there were 15 commitments to Christ, 39 rededications, 2 enquirers, 6 wanting to study "Christianity Explained", 2 into membership & 2 baptisms. Church fellowship turned around, turned on for Jesus Christ & tuned in to more effective praying—a transforming experience for the church fellowship.

## SA

**PROSPECT (G. Payne)** Maurine Driver, a talented lady with a ministry in song, sang at the morning service ... Sunday Night Coffee Pot going well. Jim Keatch, Assistant State Minister, & Les Knowling presented a special feature on Freedom from Hunger ... KOALA Club celebrated its third birthday ... Family camp to be held at El Shaddai. A great program has been organised ... Ken & Nancy Banks enjoy the weather in Kilcoy, Qld.

**QUEENSTOWN (Colin Hocking)** Amalgamation with Albert Park was talked about earlier this year to commence 1990. God intervened & directed Colin & Lylia Hocking to come from Mt Clear, Vic. Welcoming in service held 18 June by Harold Long, Semaphore, into part-time ministry & church fellowship. Cheltenham Baptist Male Choir in attendance. Luncheon followed in church hall ... Church celebrating 120 years of witness on 29 October ... CWF strong ... Prayer & Bible study group well supported.

**ADELAIDE (GROTE ST) (Ian Adams)** Church unanimously approved appointment of Ian Adams as pastor for further term—3 years commencing March 1990 ... am worship well attended, 5 pm gospel service popular, soup & toast served afterwards ... 3 baptisms during month ... "Upper Storey Community Care Shop" opened. Counselling course held over 5 weeks. 23 attended ... Youth group commenced. Biweekly meetings. 3 leaders appointed ... CWF family tea August.

**DULWICH-ROSE PARK (Rob Williams, Roger Brown)** Neil Bright has recovered from heart surgery; George Snow filled in for him in ministry team ... Tony Baker addressed church on industrial chaplaincy work ... Moves made for stronger appeal to youth, teenagers plus, with Friday night events twice monthly, also holiday week camp & hike on Keynes Trail ... Vei Koto visiting Bangladesh to repair recalcitrant generator for his firm.

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# Church News

## NSW

**TWEED HEADS** (Richard Oakes, Guy Cooper) Two playgroups meet weekly ... Over 200 attended 21st church anniversary, Civic Centre ... Guy lead camp for SPLATZ YP group ... Several ladies at Women's camp for North Coast and SE Queensland churches ... Trash'n'treasure, organised, CWF, raised over \$2,900, missions ... Film "The Question" screened ... Three primary decisions and three rededications recently ... Singing group "Endless Praise" led service.

**EPPING** (S. Curkpatrick, D. Moyes) The church recently celebrated its 66th Anniversary, with special services addressed by Tim Hanna ... Another recent service, on the theme of the potter, featured handiwork from the craft group ... About 40 members spent a weekend in Orange, where they met with the growing church there ... A weekend house party was attended by over 60 young people and leaders.

**GILGANDRA** (George Arundell) Bob Smith at Gilgandra after Dubbo. Bob spoke at morning service, speaker at evening service Jordan Jamieson ... Pastor attended seminar for churches with under forty members ... Members participated in hymn singing night arranged by ministers' fraternal.

**MAITLAND** (R.N. Hawkins) The church supported the excellent combined services of our regional churches on revival ... Dr M. Tronson of Specialised Life Oriented ministries recent speaker. Showed video on chaplains in sport ... Tahlee students at Friday variety program. Students from Solomon Islands & Mauritius shared testimonies.

**THORNLEIGH** (Franklyn Elliot, Stuart Wesley) Recently the church said au revoir to Phil Scherrer, who is going to China then Tibet as a missionary, and Bob & Lynne (& baby Peter) Cossar, who are going to PNG with the New Tribes Mission ... The ministry team & the elders & their wives had a weekend retreat at Raymond Terrace 25-27 August. Tim Hanna was a guest speaker.

## Qld

**ANNERLEY** (Russell Ritchie) Glynthea Finger preached. She is on her way to study at Trinity College, Ireland ... Kid's Club & Boys' & Girls' Brigades effective in out-

reach. Our services are crowded with young people ... Special Bible study with board members proving very positive in spiritual growth & blessing. These are conducted by Jan Prior, the board chaplain.

**CENTENARY** (Reg Charles) Close co-operation between minister & elders, Charles Kimber, Jef Gordon & Syd Burman ... New families continue to attend worship almost every week ... Schulz family visited Peter & Kerry in Vanuatu ... Alan Burnham entering hospital for heart surgery ... Don & Nancy Spencer, KCC, welcomed into

membership ... Dr Don Stewart addressed 12th anniversary services ... CWF, Bible studies & youth work all extending.

**TOWNSVILLE** (Greg Muller) AGM concluded with election of Paul Crawford to join last year's re-elected team of deacons. Glen Wright was re-elected as elder—to join Ian Watson ... Community Care Committee's proposal supported—started with accommodation of one homeless youth ... CWF held a successful "Christmas in July" evening, with 70 ladies from outside the fellowship attending ... 59th

anniversary of the church celebrated.

**BONGEEN** (B.N. Nowitzke) Church farewelled Wood family who have moved to Central Qld. John & Veronica will be part of Outback Christians-in-Ministry telephone hookup ... SS picnic held ... Kenmore student Warren Wright addressed church on KCC Day ... John Mackay from Creation Research Centre addressed meeting ... Church hosted Western District Fellowship meetings ... Ladies combined with other churches for CWF rally at Dalby.

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## Bathurst Shows the Way

Two hundred people gathered to celebrate the official opening of the Bathurst, NSW, church's new building. "We don't want to congratulate personalities today," said Bathurst minister David Gurney, "we want to celebrate the goodness of God."

However they did relent after lunch and allow DCD's Bob Smith to express his committee's feelings about the Bathurst development.

"The Bathurst Church was the first new church development of the DCD era," Bob said. "Everything about it went just as we had hoped. It serves now as a model for church planting."

The foundation members were four couples, recent arrivals in the town. They began meeting for occasional Bible study and fellowship in the home of Warwick and Jenny Gilbertson in 1981. In September, together with DCD, they decided to constitute themselves as a church.

Initially they met at the Gilbertson's home. It wasn't long before they had outgrown the lounge room and so they moved to the West Bathurst Public School. David Gurney, then ministering in Brisbane, was approached about the possibility of a pioneering work in Bathurst.

The Gurneys took up their new ministry early in 1983. It was a happy match right



from the start. Together with the small group of existing members, they launched a vigorous program of outreach, door knocking, children's work, youth work and crisis counselling.

The first couple of years were very difficult. The biggest disappointments came as people who had become associated with the church moved out again through job transfers.

"I used to phone DCD regularly to report another family having moved out of town," David said. "We would have had a good size church years ago if only our members had all stayed in Bathurst."

DCD was able to loan Bathurst \$50,000 from the Centenary Fund and this, plus other gifts, and the skill, sweat and hard work of the Bathurst members resulted in the fine multipurpose building that now stands atop a rise overlooking West Bathurst.

# The Last Word

Happy is that family where the worship of God is constantly maintained. Such houses are temples, in which the Lord dwells, and castles garrisoned by a divine power.

—John Newton

A local minister asked in the sermon: "Why are so many people ready to carry the stool when the piano needs to be moved?"

\*\*\*\*\*

A church gave its minister a CB radio for a birthday present. A month later he received this letter from his board: "We might suggest that you are getting a little carried away with your CB hobby. Last Sunday your prayer started: 'Do you read me Big Daddy?' You described the crowd as 'wall to wall and treetop tall'. It was also a bit much when you kept referring to Moses the Lawgiver as the Sinai Bear. We believe our congregation would have better understood your sermon on the hereafter without the constant references to Negatory Purgatory. And last, we prefer a reverent Amen to 'From Holy Roller to Big Daddy—10-4'."

\*\*\*\*\*

They were writing letters. Hubby looked up worried. "What's the matter dear," asked his wife. "Why—er—I had it on the tip of my tongue, and now it's gone." "Never mind," she said, soothingly. "Just think hard for a moment; it's sure to come back." "Thinking won't help this time," he replied. "It was a stamp."

\*\*\*\*\*

"Darling, would you love me if I had only one eye?"

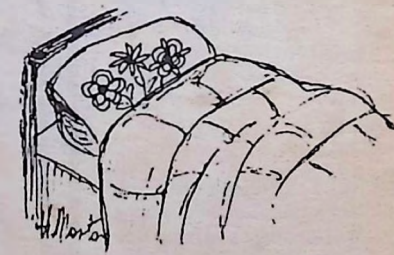
"Why, no dear. What a thing to say!" "Very well then, let me carry that umbrella."

\*\*\*\*\*

The goalkeeper of the visiting side was very thin, and was being annoyed by a small dog that kept running on to the pitch during the match. Eventually, after he could stand it no longer, he turned to the crowd and shouted: "Take this animal off the pitch!"

The answer came from the owner. "Here Spot, them's not bones, them's legs"

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A flower bed



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