

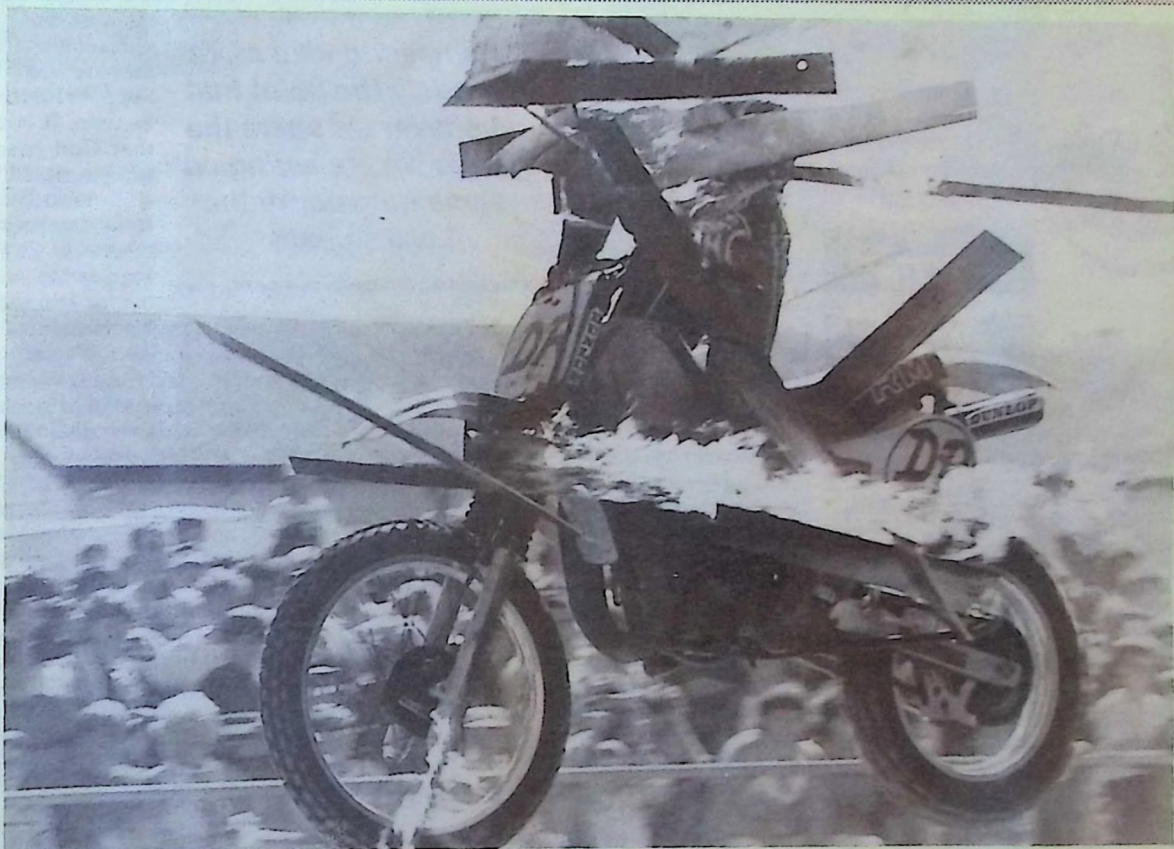
THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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7 October 1989



In this issue:

- Meals on Wheels21**
- Shepherding—A Trojan Horse? ...21**
- Will My Church Split?24**
- Lamingtons under Fire28**

Star Attraction

Motor cycle stuntman David Russell was the star attraction at the Royal Melbourne Show recently. David, a member of the North Balwyn, Vic, church, has appeared at shows throughout Australia delighting crowds by jumping over cars and crashing through a wooden wall set ablaze with petrol.

7 October 1989

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Guest Editorial

Remembering

by Peter Dixon

"This is my body."

"This is my blood."

What do those words mean to you?

It strikes me that Christians have become so bogged down by whether Christ meant those words physically, spiritually, symbolically, or some other way that we miss a point.

Jesus means us to have some sense that the bread and the cup we share in the Lord's Supper are his body and blood.

How that is so is of minor importance. The important thing is that we treat them as his body and blood.

I find remembering that helps me almost beyond words because it makes me appreciate more than God is giving his Son to me right now.

Remembering that also helps me to regard the Lord's Supper as special (which is a pretty good everyday word for "holy"). That helps me even more when I read Old Testament books like Exodus and Leviticus and see how God wanted his people to treat his presence so specially.

When Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians about the Lord's Supper he told them to look at themselves (1 Corinthians 11:28). Not to see whether they were worthy to come to the Lord's Supper but so that they would check they were treating the body and blood of Jesus in the right way.

Paul saw our attitude to the Lord's Supper as being so important that it affects our physical health, even to the point of death. How much more must it affect our spiritual health?

That has lots of personal implications for us all. It also means something for the place we should give the Lord's Supper in our worship together.

But that is not to say that this is a new issue nor that it is only a young people's problem. It is a people problem, and has been around at least since Paul wrote his letter.

The manner in which we share the Supper in our worship together can help, and it can hinder us, in seeing the body and blood of Jesus. Even with the most helpful presentation, though, it still comes back to our own individual attitude.

However, we need to go on thinking

about how we can share the Supper together in ways that will help us to the right attitude.

The contemporary use of mime, drama, creative movement and other effects emphasizes how much we are helped by visual and dramatic aids. Some people may find it hard to recognise this because these sorts of shared experiences are unfamiliar and therefore perhaps hard to understand.

I like to remember that God thought about these things first. And that's where the Lord's Supper also comes into its own. It is the play that God himself directly scripted.

We need to take more seriously the point that whenever we share the Supper we are acting out something about the

"We need to take more seriously the point that whenever we share the Supper we are acting out something about the Lord's death"

Lord's death. If that's the case it should be a feature of our meetings—even, or especially, the ones that we gear towards unbelievers. The Supper should be shared by believers in such a way that the death of Jesus will be clearly announced.

That brings us back to what it is—God giving his Son to us. That for me is life changing, not only in a spiritual sense, but also in a mind-transforming sense.

For when I remember Jesus' death for us in the way he told us to I am receiving him. I am reminded he is giving me himself, not only in the Supper itself, but also when I look back and think about what I have done in the past week. I can remember that one thing I did was to take Jesus, and that reminds me he is giving himself to me right now.

I am his, and that means I must live this moment, and every other moment as someone who belongs to God. Everything I do should be the action of one who shares the cross of Christ.

• Peter Dixon grew up on the Indian mission field and in manses at Bambra Rd, Vic, Hawthorn, SA, and Marrickville and Enmore, NSW. He is married to Karen and they have three boys and a girl. After studying politics and law Peter practised as a solicitor before entering the NSW Theological College. Following ministry at Chatswood, NSW, he returned to Carlingford College in 1988 to lecture in Biblical Theology and Old Testament.

Pendle Hill Alive and Well



Senior minister Ross Pelling

My memory of the Pendle Hill, NSW, church from about seven years ago is of preaching to a largely elderly congregation of women. A significant proportion of these people were living in the Retirement Village located next to the church and administered by the Churches of Christ Community Care Department. Although the church was quite viable and was very helpful to the faith of its members and adherents it did not have many younger families or young people, and therefore did not adequately represent the population of the area.



Evangelist/discipler Peter Clegg

Pendle Hill is 4 km west of Parramatta, which has now become the geographic centre of suburban Sydney.

Under the ministry of Ross Pelling, a graduate of Carlingford College in 1983, the church has grown strongly in the last six years. During the early weeks of my interim ministry at Pendle Hill I realised I was preaching to a morning congregation that has increased by 90% during Ross's ministry and averages about 190. There are now many families with young children and young married couples, who are active in the life of the church. It is great to worship with such a widerange of people. The beautiful thing is that the older and younger seem to actually like one another and there is a strongly felt harmony in the church. The morning worship is a combination of traditional and contemporary approaches.



Chaplain Allan Rae

One older lady expressed to me that it was refreshing to her to be able to be in a church with so many 20 and 30 year olds because to be exclusively with her own age group was too depressing for her. I know the young families appreciate having de facto grandparents.

A strong emphasis on small groups is integral to the vitality and harmony within the church. Older and younger people spend time together in prayer, study and social activity, on a regular basis.

Malvern-Caulfield Centenary



Nellie Beason cutting the centenary cake

The centenary communion service of the Malvern-Caulfield, Vic, church held on 20 August, and attended by 130 former members, was a time of celebration.

The parent church, Prahran, was represented by their current minister, Ian Bunnett. Other special guests included the president and secretary of the Malvern Inter-Church Council, Richard Snedden and Eileen Ellis. Those present were delighted that Rita Roberts was able to come after her long illness.

Brendan Cartmel presided with Harvey Clark and Max Moody reading the scriptures. Graeme Chapman, Senior Lecturer at the Churches of Christ Theological College, was the speaker.

Morning worship was fol-

lowed by a dinner in the hall. Vic-Tas Conference President, Phyl Davis, was the guest speaker at the dinner.

Official proceedings drew to a close with the cutting of the centenary cake. This displayed the badges of the Girls Good Companions, Boys Explorers, Kappa Sigma Pi, Phi Beta Pi and Christian Endeavour clubs that had all played a significant part in the life of the church. Mrs Nellie Beason, oldest long-standing member, cut the cake, which was made by Daisy Adkins.

A centenary history was produced and is available for \$5. Copies of photographs taken on the day (\$1 each) are also available by phoning Samlyn Crockett on (03) 509 3777. A tape of the service is also available.

Initially the audacious move of discontinuing the evening service in order to free people to attend small groups added to the strength of these groups.

The evening service has now been restarted, primarily because of the potential for a ministry to youth! As the children of church families grow into their teens they will pro-

vide a core group for reaching out to the expanding youth population of Western Sydney.

Pendle Hill church is alive and well. What a great experience it is to preach above the noise of the activity of young children and babies, surrounded by many stalwarts of Churches of Christ.

—Keith Farmer

Church Planter



Fairfield, Vic, was the setting for the commissioning of Thampi Issac on 6 August. The service marked the beginning of a new venture with a multi-cultural base. The project is being sponsored by the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development in co-operation with the Fairfield congregation.

The small group of members has endorsed the project and the secretary of the church, Ken Fitzgerald, took part in the commissioning.

The Fairfield community is increasingly taking on a multi-cultural base and the new venture is designed to reach the new groups. Thampi Issac is an Indian from Kerala state. He expects to develop a base of Indian people and progressively reach out to a wider range of people. Attendances for the meetings held on a Sunday evening have begun to build. Musicians from the North Fitzroy church have been of assistance in the project.

Those taking part in the service of commissioning were (left to right) Doug Adam, Deputy Chairman, DMED, Neil Glover, Anglican minister and

personal friend of Thampi, Ian Tippet, Ken Fitzgerald and Vic-Tas Conf. Pres., Phyl Davis.

Thampi is working in a tent-maker role, with the DMED assisting with some expenses. The project is a further development of the CROP initiative in Vic-Tas.

Bentleigh Church 60th Anniversary Services 29 October

11 am Peter Sumner
5 pm Marj Buckingham
Bring and Share Lunch
Enquiries (03) 557 5199

Kensington Appointments



Kim Thoday



Mike Esbenson

The appointments of Kim Thoday and Mike Esbensen for a further two-year term, were recently confirmed by members of the Kensington Christian Network and the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development. Both Mike and Kim are currently completing their studies at the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave, and anticipate being ordained at the end of the year.

The Kensington Network is

currently considering a number of new initiatives which include an extended house church program, a new morning worship service, and a social welfare initiative to help meet the needs of a growing number of homeless in the area. The church is also looking at a worship service in a pizza shop.

The Network is being supported through gifts made to the DMED. An amount of at least \$17,000 is needed for the project this financial year.

Brunswick Church of Christ

107th Anniversary
28 October
11 am Phyl Davis
2.30 pm PSA
Program by
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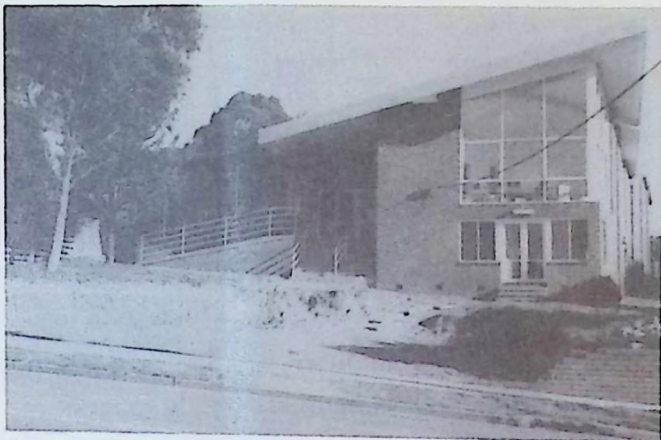
NEW CHURCH START

Richmond Vietnamese congregation, under the leadership of Nathan Nhan, will start a new Chinese church this month. Visitation revealed many new Chinese residents. Nathan's fluent Chinese enables him to share the Gospel with these people. Your gifts and prayer are invited.

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



Prayer Sanctuary Vision



New building at Burwood

The Burwood, Vic, church will open its new prayer sanctuary overlooking the skyline of Melbourne, on 8 October.

The church, disturbed by the picture of a declining, stagnating and directionless denomination is seeking to capture a new vision that will see the church returned with unity and purpose to effective mission.

The drift from a movement that wanted to see the Christian church exhibit unity of purpose, to that of a separate and distinct denomination, may be a stirring example of the consequences of losing sight of the vision. "Where there is no vision the people perish."

Burwood's search led them to examine the words of Jesus recorded in John 17 and it became clear that the effectiveness of Jesus' mission was founded in prayer and a clear vision for his church: "...I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you

sent me, and have loved them even as you have loved me."

The church produced a vision statement, which says: "To see the church of our Lord Jesus Christ unified in prayer and purpose so that revival comes to Melbourne."

This vision statement is supported by five mission statements, one for each area of ministry. They are intercessory prayer, evangelism and church growth, training and development, pastoral care and administration and planning.

The new church extensions also provide a dramatic increase in meeting and administration facilities.

The finishing touches to the building are almost complete and the church is encouraged by the level of interest from churches and missionary societies eager to use the prayer sanctuary and intercede with unity of purpose for revival to come to Melbourne. It is the church's intention to encour-

Better Together

The inner suburban churches of West Adelaide for the last three months have been exploring the concept of co-operating Christian ministries. The churches have gathered together for combined Sunday evening worship services, followed during the week with shared home study groups.

The theme for this co-operating venture was "Though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ." (Romans 12:5) Participating churches were the Anglican Church of West Adelaide, Cowandilla Church of Christ, Mile End Baptist, Richmond Baptist, Thebarton Catholic Church and the Uniting Church—West Adelaide.

The venture began with three combined services held on successive Sunday evenings in different churches with Bruce Rosier, former Bishop of Willochra, preaching. These were followed by five combined worship services with Rev Gethin Abraham-Williams, a Baptist minister from Milton Keynes, England, as guest preacher. Gethin Abraham-Williams visited Australia from June to August as part of an exchange ministry with Rev David Williams of the Anglican Parish of West Adelaide. Gethin has been the Executive Officer of the Milton Keynes Christian Council (England) since 1981 and has had twenty years experience in co-operating ministries. The Milton Keynes Christian Council serves a community of 150,000

people.

Although this special series of combined services has concluded it is just the beginning of co-operating Christian ministries in West Adelaide. The well-attended, often packed-to-capacity Sunday evening worship services and the active participation by many in the home study groups was an expression of the enthusiasm and willingness of church members to do things together. "Better Together" has become the slogan of our growing participation in shared worship and witness.

The following section of a letter to the Editor of *The Advertiser* by Gethin Abraham-Williams, just prior to his leaving Adelaide for Milton Keynes, expresses his satisfaction over the co-operating Christian ministries venture and his expectations for the future:

"At the neighbourhood level, the West Adelaide initiative in co-operating ministries, with which I have been particularly involved seems to be very hopeful.

"Here Anglican, Baptist, Churches of Christ, Catholic and Uniting parishes are on to something that could have a profound effect on all those churches' mission in that area...

"...Looking at those areas where new approaches are being pioneered, with the support of the heads of churches as well as with the enthusiasm of the parishes concerned, the picture is very encouraging."

—Ron McLean

age people to send their prayer requests to the sanctuary.

The church is determined to reach out with the gospel to a community locked behind doors and also that its efforts must be preceded by prayer.

An offer is extended to visit the prayer sanctuary dedication on 8 October and also to consider participation in this ministry of intercessory prayer.

For more information phone Peter Wing-Tang on (03) 808 1613.



Gethin Abraham-Williams

L.M.C.T.
6549

Ken Geyer

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New Ministry at Chelsea

The Chelsea, Vic, church has called Ian Whitelock to be its next minister beginning in 1990.

Ian was brought up in a Christian home at Hampton, Vic. As a young man he became a Christian and was active in the Were St, Brighton, Methodist Church, a missionary minded church.

While working for the SEC Ian heard God's call to prepare for ministry. Participation in CSSM beach missions was a valuable training ground for witnessing. Ian also met Jean while they were serving on a team and they were married during Ian's final year of training at Otira, the Methodist Home Mission Training College. Missionary training followed in Sydney, including

studies at Sydney University. Bronwyn was born during that year.

In 1960 the Whitelocks commenced 12 years of missionary service in Papua New Guinea and three more children were born into the family (Kerryn, Judith and Bernard).

After returning to Australia parish appointments have been Ulverstone, Tas, South Oakleigh and Moorabbin-Highett, Vic.

In March Ian resigned from the Uniting Church and recently he accepted the call to minister at the Chelsea Church of Christ.

Jean, a nursing sister, has worked for over 10 years at the Churches of Christ Nursing Home in Murrumbidgee.



Jean and Ian Whitelock

Insurance Retirement

Though the liquor trade is legal, its product is one of the scourges of mankind. Because of this, members and ministers have felt called to devote their time and energies to lessening and removing the ill effects of alcohol.

In Churches of Christ none have served more effectively and with greater dedication than Cliff P. Hughes and his son Lawrance.

Cliff trained for ministry at the College of the Bible. Upon graduation he ministered in South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria. He was then called to

full-time temperance work as Secretary of the SA Temperance Alliance. He was subsequently appointed Secretary of the Australian Temperance Council. He learnt about the Swedish insurance company, Ansvar, which insured only total abstainers and sought to foster and promote total abstinence.

Cliff dreamed of Ansvar operating in Australia and co-operating with local temperance bodies. His dream came true when Ansvar agreed to operate in Australia in 1960, following an invitation person-

Graham Warne Roasted



Randy Edwards, Graham Warne and Donald Spencer examining degree

Graham Warne, Kenmore Christian College's Vice-Principal, was toasted and roasted by Past Principal Randall Edwards and current Principal Donald Spencer, at a recent reception honouring his graduation.

On 17 August the University of Queensland honoured a large number of successful students. Among those graduating was Graham Warne who had bestowed upon him a Master of Arts degree for the completion of his thesis "The Soul in Philo and Paul".

That evening students, faculty, friends and family joined to roast Graham. A student ingeniously recreated the front cover of a recent issue of *The Bulletin* using a photograph of Graham. The cover had a graduating student dressed in traditional cap and gown with headlines reading "Have We Got a Degree for You?" and

"Why Our Universities Are Selling Out."

The crowd also toasted Graham with expressions of appreciation. Graham has been lecturing at KCC since July 1983.

His thesis efforts included five and a half years of part-time research and the writing of a 322-page examination of the concepts of "soul" in Philo and Paul. The Old Testament provided the basic data for the Hebraic understanding of personhood. Philo, a Jewish philosopher, lived in the Egyptian city of Alexandria around 20-40 BCE. Philo's philosophy was deeply influenced by Greek ideas.

Graham concluded that Philo moved away from his traditional Hebraic concept, while Paul retained the Hebraic conceptuality rather than shifting to a synthesised Greek/Hebraic view.

ally delivered by Cliff at a World Temperance Convention in Sweden.

Lawrance had become involved in leadership in the SA Temperance Alliance. He was chosen to be trained as Ansvar's first Australian employee and underwent training in Sweden and the United Kingdom of offices.

Lawrance was installed as manager of the South Australian office in 1961. At the end of 1982 he was appointed Underwriting and Claims Manager

for Australia and transferred to the national office in Melbourne.

The Hartwell and Bayswater, Vic, churches have benefited from Lawrance and Fay's active involvement. Lawrance has also been instrumental in the formation of the La'el Music Company.

After 28 years as an Ansvar employee, Lawrance retired on 31 July. Tribute was paid to his leadership and to his unfailing Christian witness and conduct.

—W.W. Saunders

The Christian Projects Plan

Christian Projects has a dream—to raise \$5,000,000 by the year 2000. This will provide funding of \$10,000 per week for visionary programs: a new church in a remote mining community in Northern Australia, a new ethnic ministry in urban Melbourne; a scholarship for a potential Aboriginal pastor; a crisis centre for homeless people...the possibilities are endless.

The fund will grow as people buy Christian Projects products: stationery, home videos, CP security bonds... and travel. Personal or business travel, booked through Christian Projects, will probably cost less (because they have negotiated discounts for our people where possible) and will help build the fund. Call 008 24 2904 for information.

Christian Projects has organised a tour to the Holy Land and Oberammergau for September 1990.

The passion play, put on once a decade by the tiny village of Oberammergau in Germany, is an all-day event staged in an magnificent open-air theatre with the Bavarian Alps as a backdrop.

The visit to the Holy Land to walk where Jesus walked for 12 days is a wonderful way to prepare for the Oberammergau experience. Christian Projects has organised a 27-day journey to combine both events.

Bob and Marilyn Smith will be leading the journey. Bob was part of the delegation from the Australian Council of Churches to the Middle East in 1984.

On the way from the Holy Land to Oberammergau, participants will see Rome, Florence and Venice. Lucerne, Paris and London are also on the agenda. The 27-day trip costs \$5,350. Modules of the Holy Land or Europe only can be arranged.

For further information contact Marilyn Smith at Christian Projects, P.O. Box 140, Carlingford, NSW 2118. Phone 008 24 2904 (Sydney 872 2825).

Aids Forum

Those who attended the recent AIDS Forum sponsored by the Vic-Tas CWF Resource and Development Committee left at the end of the evening with a greater understanding of the dreadful and fatal disease that AIDS really is, and the question "What should the church do about it?"

Dr David Bradford, a member of the Australian National Council on AIDS and author of many publications on communicable diseases, said that AIDS is a terrible disease, which at the moment is fatal in virtually all cases. It is a long, drawn out, chronic disease that causes a great deal of pain and wasting until the patient becomes thinner and thinner. It is a disease that carries a stigma and is caused by a virus. We can be very sure how AIDS is transmitted—predominantly by sexual transmission, but also by blood by the sharing of needles by intravenous drug users. The disease can also be transmitted from an infected mother to baby. If everyone only had one steady relationship it would never spread. It is very important for young people who have never embarked upon a sexual relationship therefore to understand that sexual relations should be entered upon with care and responsibility. It is extremely regrettable if young people are never told about faithful sexual relationships.

Jenny Ross, Executive Officer of the Haemophilia Foundation of Australia, who has a son with haemophilia, spoke about the affects on AIDS sufferers and their families. She said that Factor VIII infused blood products used between 1980 to 1985 to treat haemophilia were infected with HIV, which causes AIDS. The issues for families are difficult—there is a feeling in the group of being unclean, it causes difficulties in marriages and there is a particular issue of guilt. Mothers feel responsible for the pain that is caused to their sons.

Louis van Laar, Vic-Tas Department of Community

Kenmore Accommodation

Accommodation is now available at Kenmore Christian College for couples (or couples with one small child) for 1990. With the approaching completion of the new three-bedroom family units at the college, the previous, smaller housing areas will be open for incoming students with spouses and a single child. These unfurnished units consist of a lounge-kitchen area, one or two small bedrooms, and private bathrooms and toilets. and are conveniently located to campus activities. Accommodation fees are nominal.

The newly constructed family units have all been reserved for the 1990 college year. Families from as far away as WA will be living in this superb, on-campus accommodation. Three

units will house families of students who will graduate from Kenmore in November 1990 and those units will then be available for new students and families early in 1991. All units are reserved by priority, depending upon date of requests and completion of application for enrolment.

Christian students other than KCC enrollees are also finding the accommodation and meals on campus an asset. University of Queensland, college and high school students who want to study in Brisbane enjoy KCC community life while enrolled in their courses.

Enquiries about accommodation at KCC should be directed to the Principal, Donald W. Spencer at 41 Brookfield Road, Kenmore 4069.

Care and a participant in the first church AIDS seminar, spoke on what the church should do about AIDS. He said we should offer support to make lifestyle changes and offer practical care during times of HIV related illness. Pastoral experience has shown that fear arises out of concerns of catching the virus. You cannot be infected by sharing clean cups and utensils, sharing bathroom and toilet facilities, sleeping in the same bed without being sexually intimate, touching or hugging someone with AIDS, wiping off

the tears of a person with AIDS, or a light kiss on the lips of a person with AIDS.

Christians must therefore attempt to influence legislative responses to the HIV positive and AIDS affected persons within our community. The church's pastoral care must include clear teaching on human sexuality and sexual behaviour. He concluded by saying that the pastoral care response of the church reflects the compassion of God towards humanity as expressed in Jesus Christ. —Barbara Andrews

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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

President's Remarks

To the Editor,

I was gratified to read the views of H.G. Norris ("AC" 23 Sept), as the points he makes were in large measure the motivation for the booklet *The Table of Love*, in the introduction to which I wrote:

"...the president's remarks should be designed to guide the thoughts of the congregation to the Master's sacrificial death on the cross...Material, however carefully prepared and however well presented, is simply inappropriate unless it satisfies this single criterion. And material that in general terms does meet the criterion may yet fail in presentation by the inclusion of a single word (let alone a thought) that results in dispatching someone's thoughts in a direction other than towards the cross."

Surely themes for the day

(and also special occasions—Mother's Day, Boys Sunday etc.) are rather subject matter for the minister's sermons, as only rarely do they direct attention to the cross.

—A. Augustine
(Chelsea, Vic)



SPRING ARBOR DAY

Churches of Christ Theological College

Come along and enjoy the fellowship as we make a shrub 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

Letters from Tertius

"The Man Upstairs"

To the Editor,

Nothing galls me more than to see some character on TV lift his eyes upwards with a half cynical and half superstitious smirk, and refer to "The Man Upstairs". Those who say, "Somebody up there likes me!" aren't much better.

How have people out there in the world managed to get such notions about God? Ever since I was a kid I always knew that God is everywhere and that we can't see him because he doesn't need a body to house him like we do. My grandma used to say as she kissed me goodbye, "Remember Tertius, the Lord is with you wherever you go."

As I was thinking about all this I thought, surely the church is not to blame for outsiders having these weird notions of the "Man Upstairs"! Then on Sunday we had a bright young man leading us in action choruses and he had us all pointing up in the air every time God or Jesus were mentioned. And I recall that some of my friends look up and hush their voices when they mention God or the Lord.

I checked out the hymn book and most of the hymns are clean, except a few like the one that says I have a soul to save "and fit it for the sky". Not all choruses are of the "Somebody up there likes me" type. It is mostly the people who lead them who gesture us into sloppy theology...not to say sloppy worship!

Maybe people out there in the world with relics of a former attachment to the church find it easier to have a remote "Man Upstairs" than a God who lives "downstairs" where we are, and who calls for our lives!

—Tertius

Friends Forever

Most things in life are more enjoyable if shared with someone else. I found this to be the case when a group from the Nunawading, Vic, church decided to put on the musical "Friends Forever". The enthusiasm of the 40 young people wanting to be involved was very encouraging, from the age of 12 to those in their early 30s.

As the youth worker I greatly appreciated the talents of Juliette and Tim Keating (producer and band director) and Paula and Dean Cresswell (singing director and stage set-up).

The musical's message was that Jesus must be the model for our friendship. It helped us all ask, "Why is Jesus a good friend?"

Over 800 attended the three performances of the musical held during July.

—Lynda Smith

Western Weekend

Over 50 visitors enjoyed the Western District Fellowship weekend at Bonge, Qld. Visitors came from churches at Roma, Chinchilla, Hopeland, Dalby and Murgon, and included an increased number of young people.

During tea on the Saturday evening segments were presented by Trevor Meares on Outback Christians-in-Ministry and Don and Nancy Spencer. Visitors were billeted with church families Saturday night.

Don Spencer, Principal of Kenmore Christian College, was guest speaker on the theme "Reach Out, Touch Another" when 117 attended the com-

munion service.

The next meetings will be held at Hopeland in March 1990. Officers elected for the next two years were president Col Deacon (Dalby), secretary John Hart (Chinchilla) and treasurer Adrian Went, Chinchilla.

—M.H. Nowitzke

WCC Assembly

There are only 503 days to the opening of the Seventh Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Canberra in February 1991. As well as speakers, there will be plenary sessions on unity, covenanting for life (issues of justice, peace and the integrity of creation), churches in solidarity with women, sharing life—towards a new community, and the Spirit speaks to the churches.

Issues which have a regional focus and illustrate power and powerlessness will be land rights of indigenous peoples (Australia) and nuclear issues (the Pacific).

It was also decided to have greater theological cohesion at Canberra than has been the case at other assemblies. Each of the four sections will be the place where theological reflection on the sub-themes, Bible studies and issue discussions are integrated.

Study Papers

The Federal Board of Christian Education received two papers on the theology of the child at its annual conference. The papers were prepared by Allan Hermann of the Queensland Department of Church Development and Education and David Brooker of Victoria. Prepared separately, the



Brian White, with David Brooker (centre) and Allan Hermann (right) discussing the two study papers

News

papers surveyed the place of the child within Churches of Christ.

Board members noted strong agreement on the various issues raised by the authors. The papers will be published and distributed to churches early in 1990, along with other statements and resources related to ministry with children, adult education, lay training and family life ministry. The material is part of the new directions being set by the Board and State Departments for ministry in the 1990s.

The papers are available by request in writing to 52 La Trobe St, Melbourne.

Hunter Revival

The seven Churches of Christ in the Hunter Valley, NSW, realised that the overall work in the district needed a co-operative endeavour for revival. The four full-time ministers therefore planned a series of midweek combined services for August.

The venue was the Mayfield church, where a 6.30 pm fellowship dinner was prepared by Mrs K. Phillips and her helpers. At 7.15 a praise session was held followed by a 30 min address by one of the ministers. A 30 min segment of prayer and sharing then climaxed the evening.

The subjects chosen were "Revival and the Word" (Max Hall), "Revival and Prayer" (Bill Flett), "Revival and Wor-



Mornington's Ian Cartmel (minister) and Ern Baxter (elder)

ship" (Steve Downie) and "Revival and Relationships" (Ray Hawkins). An average of 100 attended each evening.

—R.N. Hawkins

Year 2 Running

A new year, the second, for the Mornington, Vic, church began with a service of praise and thanksgiving on 3 September. The ministry in music of Ernie and Judy Kemplay, Cheltenham, and their own Bruce Bunn was appreciated.

The fellowship witnessed the induction by Ian Cartmel of Ern Baxter as the church's first elder. Clive Ward, Conference Secretary, led in a dedicatory prayer. Over 100 were present and they were challenged by the message from Phyl Davis, Conference President.

Victory Venture

An opportunity for Christian basketballers to reach out

to South East Asia with a vital witness for Christ is available through the 15th Aussie Venture for Victory team, who will be touring the Philippines and Hong Kong, 26 December-27 January.

Sport is one of the world's great international languages. Wherever games are played crowds gather to witness the spectacle of competition. The crowds and the athletes who watch and listen at the games are the vast unreached for Christ.

Each person selected on the team is expected to raise their own finance. Application

forms to join the team are available from Bruce F. Townsend, Hon. Sec., Venture for Victory Board, GPO Box 1717, Adelaide 5001. Phone (08) 212 4611.

CWF Bayside

The annual CWF Southern Bayside Conference was held at Red Hill, Vic, with 62 from seven churches represented. Mrs E. Andrew, Red Hill, presided, worship was led by Mrs M. Prosser and Mrs D. Ryan rendered two solos. Rev David Best from the Far East Broadcasting Company was guest speaker. The first broadcasts of the gospel into China were in 1949. FEBC now has five transmitting sites broadcasting in 100 languages 380 program hours per day and receives 51,000 letters a month from listeners.

The Conference continues to support the Banmatmat Bible College, Vanuatu. \$500 was forwarded to purchase sewing machines for the use of wives of students and sweets were also sent to be shared at the last student-staff-family gathering before Christmas.

—Win Lee

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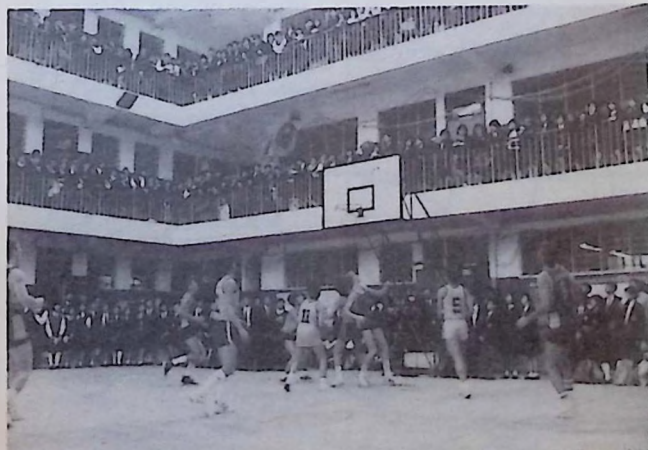
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Media Review

Radio

Willing Spirits

Dr David Millikan, Head of Religious Broadcasting for the ABC, will host a new weekly program on Radio National. *Willing Spirits* is a ten-minute program on religious news in Australia broadcast across Australia on Mondays at 10.30 am. It will be followed by a repeat of *Insights* and *Kronos*, thereby giving 90 minutes of religious news and information on Radio National on Monday mornings.

Papers



The Life of Jesus

(World Home Bible League) 45c

This is a new comic on the life of Jesus from the World Home Bible League. 16 pages in length and in full colour, which looks primarily at the birth and death of Jesus. Two pages are an outline of how to be a personal friend with Jesus. The text of the comic comes from the New International Version.

Available from the World Home Bible League, PO Box 464, Penrith 2750.

Books

The Religion of Power

by Cheryl Forbes (Marc Europe—World Vision) \$6.95

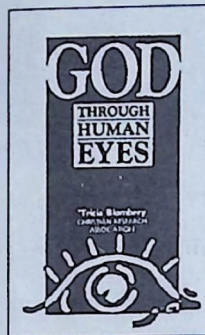
There is an inbuilt desire in the heart of each of us to assume some measure of power. This is why many boys in their earlier years nurse a desire to be a policeman, or a soldier, or perhaps a train driver. They have this desire, whether rightly or wrongly placed, to exercise power. It may even be subconsciously the reason why some people are anxious to serve on committees, or be appointed to office in some venture including (God forbid) the church. Cheryl Forbes suggests that power is a god, and I am sure that there are very few right thinking Christians who would disagree with that.

In this frank and revealing little book we are called upon to look at ourselves as in a mirror and to test our motives and our attitudes towards power. When we do this, it is likely that we may begin to see that we may not always operate under the total guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is not a new concept; indeed the Bible is full of admonishment and teaching in this regard, but the author of this worthwhile book leads us to look at many aspects of our lives today, and endeavour to be totally honest in our assessments of our own religious performance. Interesting chapters with such titles as "What Price Power?", "Power through

Piety" and "Power Face to Face", lead on to the important question, "So, What Does the Bible Say?", and then latterly to a discussion on "Paul and Power". Why is Paul's personality mentioned? Because we can learn a great deal about power from what Paul says both directly and indirectly and from what we learn of Paul in his writings.

A strongly recommended book for any Christian desirous of achieving true humility whilst serving strongly. Do read it!

—Paul Payne



God through Human Eyes

by Tricia Blombery (Christian Research Association) \$8

A further report from the Combined Churches Survey for Faith and Mission. This report examines how people in the pews regard God and the type of images that are used to describe God, his attributes and his functions. As the introduction to the first chapter states: "The concepts and images of God which people find important in their faith relate to and emerge out of: denominational teaching and traditions;

other beliefs, attitudes and aspects of faith; the individual's childhood experiences; and the individual's experience of society. Images of God are a key to understanding the faith of Christians in Australia and reflect Australian culture and the place of religion within it."

The report shows that the traditional views of God's awe, power, justice and mystery have little or no attraction or relevance to most churchgoers in Australia today. Faith is a private thing, based on a personal and somewhat utilitarian view of God. It appears to be based on a need for God to help the individual believer solve basic problems from day to day, rather than on any sense of participating in the work of God in the world.

Women see God more as a friend, ever-present helper and comforter; men see God more as a creator, redeemer and judge. Religious education and Sunday schooling have little impact on how churchgoers view God. More educated parishioners view God in more abstract and less personal ways.

These type of findings have huge implications for churches in Australia. Are we preaching a message about God that people just do not listen to? What do we need to teach about the images of God to both attenders and to the general community?

This book is 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).

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USA Evangelism

The 1990s have been declared the Decade of Discipling by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the USA. Such focuses can work. Aiming to commence 100 new congregations in the 1980s, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) commenced more than 120!

Evangelism was the focus of a two-day conference of the National Evangelism Association prior to the General Assembly.

The NEA is a "ginger group" with close links to the official Division of Homeland Ministries.

It is headed by Herb Miller, who was recently in Australia. 700 attended the conference.

Kennon Callahan, author of *Twelve Ways to an Effective Congregation*, was one of the key speakers.

He said that the top two motivators for ministers and key leaders are challenge and commitment.

Research has also shown that rank and file church members and the non-churches are motivated chiefly by appeals to compassion and community.

This leaves a communication gap, as the church leaders use challenge and commitment to appeal to the others, for whom these are not the key triggers!

That may be one reason why most of our offerings come from the few at the top.

T. Garrott Benjamin, minister of the 2,500-member Light of the World Christian Church, had the mainly white audience responding to his address in the manner of black worshippers—well, almost!

Talking of "Christ the Liberator", he called for Christians to become free of all that holds them back from an enthusiasm for the Gospel that would be contagious.

Twenty-eight workshops were offered, from which, frustratingly, participants could only choose two.

Subjects included evangelism through small groups,

Flat Batteries in the Canoe



It was powered by outboard motor, but the canoe also had six dozen D cell batteries as part of the cargo it was carrying. They were put to good use—I sat on them for about five hours as we made our way from Momonup to Yamen in PNG. I don't think I actually flattened them although they were not designed to be used as a seat.

Others in the canoe had found various objects to sit on. One man was on some mattresses, another had his own little wooden stool, some sat on the sides of the canoe, some on a plastic sheet on the bottom of the canoe. Aileen Draney had an Eskey to sit on and Julie, one of the teachers at Yamen Girls' School, had her pillow. There were 14 people in the canoe for most of the trip.

We had set out from Bunam early that morning with 26

through worship and through vital congregations.

Australians present were Jay Bacik (Northside Community Church, NSW) and Dawn and Richard Lawton (Maylands, SA).

The NEA will hold a similar gathering in Nashville, Tennessee, in April 1990.

—Richard Lawton

people and their belongings in the canoe. They were travelling home after the annual PNG Churches of Christ Conference. Some of the passengers ended their journey at Momonup, where we met the MAF plane, added some more cargo to that already in the canoe, waited for someone who were buying smoked fish and sak sak at the small market then continued down the Keram River.

We passed many villages on the river banks, houses on stilts, canoes pulled up out of the water, people preparing sago for eating by pounding it and washing it close to the river's edge. In some ways it was just like driving through a town after travelling along a country road. The canoe would slow down, greetings would be exchanged and the driver would only increase the speed of the canoe after the village had been passed. This etiquette also applied when other canoes were passing, particularly small ones from which people were fishing or in which they were transporting vegetables. In order not to cause a strong wash the canoe would slow.

Some mail had come on the plane and Aileen read hers as we travelled along. A copy of *The Australian Christian* was also in the mail bag. After reading it with interest I passed it to one

of the other passengers who scanned the contents then used it to protect her head from the harsh rays of the midday sun. There was no shade during the hottest part of the day. The last leg of the journey, along the river leading to Yamen, was more pleasant, with high trees providing welcome shade.

We were greeted at Yamen by the Girls' School staff and students, John Bassett and a number of the villagers. That evening as I lay in bed it seemed that my voyage in the canoe continued, the sensation of rocking staying with me till I slept.

About four days later Aileen had to make the reverse trip, from Yamen to Bunam, to accompany to the clinic at Bunam some people who had eaten bad mushrooms. They travelled at night, reaching Bunam at 3.30 am. The following day they returned to Yamen. Although I found the trip interesting and the sights varied, it was also long and hot—not something I would want to do three times in one week. The people working for Churches of Christ in PNG work under more difficult conditions than many of us would accept. They do so with a positive and selfless attitude that brings its own rewards.

—Julie Trinnick

Happenings

At a recent commissioning service for ITIM Victoria 9 chaplains were commissioned for various ministries. Among the new chaplains were Owen Clarke (chaplain for staff in business in Box Hill, Telecom and ICI) and Lynn Kenworthy (chaplain with the State Insurance Office and Telecom Research and Engineering), who are both Churches of Christ ministers.

Cardinal Edward Clancy, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference, has said there is no prospect of women ever being ordained priests in the Catholic Church.

A series of large press advertisements which offer people a free booklet on the Christian faith has been launched by the new Christian Information centre, an experimental ministry under the auspices of the Uniting Church NSW Synod's Board of Mission. The initiative parallels that of the Catholic Enquiry Centre, which received 7,400 responses in one year—by advertising in *Cleo*.

An ecumenical ministry in high schools in Adelaide is to employ an extra half-time staff person, thanks to 2 Uniting Church business executives who have donated their recently granted \$100/week pay rise to the United Christian Forum.

The World Home Bible League is to make available a free Bible to all the 15,000 students from mainland China studying at various universities, business colleges and English language schools across Australia.

A coven of Rhode Island witches in the US has convinced state officials that it is entitled to tax exempt status as a religious group.

About 80% of Muslims who convert to the Christian faith later revert to Islam, according to Dudley Woodberry, a

professor of Islamic studies who spoke at the World Mission Congress of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization. He attributed the high reversion rate to family pressures and the individual nature of the Christian faith. He suggested baptising family members only after the head of the family had adopted the Christian faith and adapting Islamic cultural traditions for Christian worship.

All couples intending to get married in the Namirembe Diocese of the Anglican Church of Uganda are required to prove that they do not have AIDS, the bishop of the diocese has said.

Christian activists in the USSR are appealing to the authorities to hand back all church buildings to the Orthodox Church. According to Keston College, prior to 1914 there were 45,147 churches and 25,593 chapels of the Orthodox Church in the Russian empire. It is not known how many are ruined beyond repair but many which have been handed back have needed major repairs or restoration.

In 1990 the Department of Studies in Religion at the University of Queensland is introducing a new degree, an MA (Studies in Religion), which is a coursework degree. It can be completed in 2 years of full-time work or in 4 years of part-time work.

The Uniting Church at Nuriootpa, SA, is providing an alternative to worship on Sundays. They have commenced an alternative "Worship on Thursdays" on a trial basis. Starting at 7.30 pm the service would finish in time for people to do some shopping before the shops close at 9 pm.

Amnesty International week is being opened in Victoria with a day of prayer and an ecumenical service at St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, on 15 October at 3 pm. The theme of the week this

year is "Children as Victims of Human Rights Abuse". A prayer kit, which consists of prayers, poems, songs and drawings, is being developed and is available from Amnesty International (Victorian Branch), PO Box 1333, Richmond North 3121. Phone (03) 51 1972 or 51 6621.

Egyptian officials have arrested a Muslim convert to Christianity on charges reportedly related to his Christian activities.

The Venezuelan government has ceased granting visas to the majority of evangelical missionaries seeking permission to enter the country, reports the Evangelical Council of Venezuela.

According to the Puebla Institute, a Roman Catholic human rights monitoring agency, there are at least 37 Christians currently in Chinese prisons for religious reasons. Of these 20 were arrested en masse on 18 April 1989, when police attacked a Catholic village in Hebei Province.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will become the first Kremlin leader to meet a Pope when he visits the Vatican in November. A return visit by the Pope to Russia is expected to follow next year.

More than 700 languages are spoken among the 3.5 million population of Papua New Guinea, 350 of which are still without one portion of Scripture, according to Christian Mission.

A recent survey by Notre Dame University found that after the Sunday Mass, the "most popular, well-attended and vital activity in American [Catholic] parishes today" is bingo.

The WCC announced grants of \$US635,000 to 59 groups from its Special Fund to Combat Racism. The bulk of the money goes

to 4 groups fighting white minority rule in South Africa and Namibia. The Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre in Australia was a first-time grant recipient of \$US6,000.

Radical changes are needed if the cycle of criminal recidivism is to be broken, according to Charles Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship Ministries. He stated: "Rehabilitation isn't working, as evidenced by a prison population that's increasing exponentially. We need to change our way of responding to crime. We need a system that holds offenders accountable for breaking the law and for injuring their victims. That means finding alternative ways for punishing non-violent offenders so that restoration can take place. Retribution and community-based punishments are a good place to start."

The Israeli Parliament has been told that 185 Christians have converted to the Jewish faith in the last 5 years while only 56 Jews converted to Christianity during the same period.

Bishop Oliver Heyward has been appointed acting President of the Australian Council of Churches. The ACC's President had been Melbourne Anglican Archbishop David Penman, who died on 1 October following a severe heart attack on 24 July.

The retiring age of Anglican priests has been raised to 70 following the annual synod of the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide.

A 21 year old unemployed man was fined \$150 plus costs on charge of having "delivered a speech without a permit" in the Queen Street Mall, Brisbane. Representing himself the young man told court that he had seen other people making speeches in the Mall and he had been inspired to do the same, including a

Bible reading. He had been warned twice to stop his activities before he was arrested.

New Life Training Centres, a program of New Life 2000, an evangelistic global strategy being spearheaded by Campus Crusade for Christ, is responsible for more than 2,300 new churches being planted in northeast Thailand in the last 5 years, according to Fuller seminary student Roy Rosedale.

Religious giving rose by 8.2% to \$48.2 billion in 1988 in the US, according to figures compiled by the American Association of Fund-Raising Counsel. Total charitable giving rose to \$104.3 billion in 1988, an increase of 6.7% over the previous year.

NSW has joined every other state in granting to clergy the legal right to maintain the secrecy of the confessional. Amendments to the Evidence Act just passed provide legal protection to clergy with respect to information given to them in the course of religious confession, i.e. "confession made according to the ritual of a particular church or religious denomination".

Churches, Amnesty International and Australia's Korean community are seeking urgent government action over the arrest of a Uniting Church missionary dentist in Seoul. Dr Kim Jin Yeop was detained by Korean security forces on 2 September, charged with "knowingly aiding a North Korean agent". That "agent" was Im Soo Kyung, a South Korean who attended a youth festival in North Korea in July and who has since been arrested and tortured by South Korean authorities. Dr Kim, an Australian citizen, who took up a mission position as a dentist at the Il Sin Hospital at Pusan, South Korea, in April, has had no involvement or contact with Im Soo Kyung.

Centenary Revolving Fund

Next year the Western Australian Conference celebrates its centenary. To help celebrate the centenary a Centenary—Church Building—Revolving Capital Fund was begun in October 1985. The objective of the fund was to raise \$275,000 to assist new churches become established and small congregations to gain new premises with interest-free loans.

The idea of the scheme is that participants make a weekly pledge to the fund over a five year period. The Revolving Capital funds raised from these pledges are managed by the Properties Committee and lent on an interest-free basis for new church buildings in growing population areas. To date some \$230,000 has been received by the fund.

The first church that benefited from the scheme was Noranda, which received an interest-free loan of \$60,000 to build the first unit of its complex, a Sunday School module. This unit was opened on 21 May 1988.

Rockingham was the second church to receive assistance from the fund. A loan of \$50,000 was given to the church to help it construct its new complex. The new complex was opened on 5 February ("AC" 2 September).

The new church at Kingsley also received an interest-free loan of \$50,000 to assist them in building their new complex. This complex was first used on 30 July with the official open-

ing on 3 September ("AC" 2 September).

Further new areas are under consideration for the use of the remaining funds to help develop Churches of Christ in growing areas of Western Australia as they face their second century.

Tom Tresedar has, for the third time, won the World veteran Rowing Championship, held in Vichy, France. Australia won 7 of the 226 races held. Tom won 4 gold medals and one silver. Tom is the State Director of the Bible Society in Australia (NSW).

70,000 Australian children and young people are homeless. Most of these children left home because they had no real choice, due to physical or sexual abuse, family conflict or family breakdown.

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Disciples Assembly

The General Assembly of the US Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was held recently. It took stands on several social and theological issues.

It said the African National Congress and the Palestine Liberation Organisation are necessary participants in any negotiations aimed at peace and justice in their respective regions.

The assembly also voted its unhappiness with a recent decision by the US Supreme Court, which allows states to restrict abortions.

It approved a report from its Commission on Theology, which says only God decides who is saved and who not. The report was requested by the previous assembly in response to proposals that it state explic-

itly that salvation is possible only through faith in Jesus Christ.

A resolution saying AIDS is not a punishment from God, and calling on Christians to treat those with the disease, and their families, with compassion and love was approved overwhelmingly. Opponents were unhappy with the theological judgement.

In ecumenical action it approved a higher level of partnership with the United Church of Christ, whose General Synod had earlier approved the relationship. Opponents said the Disciples action would be "putting our stamp of approval on homosexuality". (A few acknowledged homosexuals are UCC ordained ministers.)

—Ecumenical Press Service

...A Personal View

7,500 attended the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) held in Indianapolis in July–August. Two-thirds of those attending were lay people, slightly more than half the decision-makers were women and 5.5% were under the age of 22.

Speakers included Daniel Woods, the Moderator; Norman Bent, a Miskito Indian from Nicaragua; Beverley Garenta, Professor of New Testament; Gilbert Davis, Texas Christian University, and Leontine Kelly, a Methodist Bishop.

Four Australians were present at the Assembly: Dr Keith Farmer (Principal of Carlingford College, NSW); Dawn and Richard Lawton (working for three months in Tucson, Arizona) and John Paver (Professor of Field Education at Lexington Theological College and soon to return to Melbourne).

Business sessions were held over four full days. The Assembly discussed the authority of Scripture and the way of salvation. It opposed further restriction of women's abortion rights

and civil rights (both still hot issues in the USA); expressed regret on clampdowns in China and advocated talks with Jews and exchanges with the Soviet Union.

The Assembly resolved to enter full communion with the United Church of Christ, recognising each other's ministries and baptisms. At the same time it was reported that General Minister John Humbert had initiated talks with the independent Christian Churches.

A highlight was the dynamic 50 minute address by tiny, near-70-year-old black, retired Bishop Leontine Kelly. She earned her standing ovation.

Workshops, interest groups and inspections of Disciples facilities were available as were numerous breakfasts, lunches and dinners. Dozens of exhibits were set up by church bodies and interest groups.

The organisation was superb. Worship sessions were inspiring and fellowship opportunities abounded.

The next Assembly will be held in Tulou, Oklahoma, 25–30 October 1991.

—Richard Lawton

On the Receiving End of a Blessing

Report of the North American Christian Convention

My trip to the North American Christian Convention, 11–14 July, was truly an answer to prayer. Dr Don Young, the minister of the Russelville, Ohio, Church of Christ, and an international evangelist, had arranged for me to be present and had raised the money necessary for the fares. Last October Dr Young visited the Peel Street, Ballarat, church. During our time together, Don and I discovered a kindred spirit. He ministered to me with a power that was both genuine and gentle. Now, here I was again, on the receiving end of a blessing.

The NACC is the annual gathering of the independent Christian churches and churches of Christ in the US, Canada and Mexico. Delegates come together for three days and four evenings of worship, workshops and fellowship. There are thousands who register and hundreds of displays from Bible colleges, mission groups, book retailers, publishers etc. Add to that, a very active Babyland, Toddler Town, Kiddie Land, a full separate program for teenagers, a Bible Bowl and a puppet competition, and you have the ingredients for a full, exciting convention.

The Kentucky State Fair Grounds and Convention Centre was the site for the 1989 Convention. There were 40,000 registrants. The main sessions saw an attendance of 8,000–12,000 adults. This year's Convention President, was R. Allan Dunbar, minister of the Cambrian Heights Church of Christ in Calgary, Canada. His theme was "Holy and Pleasing to God".

Worship was led by Lanny Hemmings, minister of music at the Southeast Christian Church in Louisville. Allan Dunbar delivered the opening sermon on the theme: "Reflecting Holiness".

Each day began at 9 am with

a smorgasbord of spiritual food with a choice of five Bible studies or one of five workshops. At 10.15 a worship service was held along with another five workshops. The afternoon saw two sessions, each giving the delegate the choice of around 25 workshops. There were another 10 workshops in the early evening, with a worship service commencing at 7.15 pm.

For me, the highlight of the NACC was the spirit of the convention. As one who has grown up in the independent arm of the Restoration Movement, I have often despaired that there seems to have been a technical attitude when it comes to doctrine and a real lacking when it comes to compassion and reliance on the Spirit of God. Nearly all of the speakers at the main sessions in Louisville challenged us to look again at our Movement with a fresh vision—a vision for holiness, humility, openness, service and genuine love.

Convention drew to a close with a worship service that said beautifully what we had been hearing all week. Bill and Gloria Gaither and Friends led the worship, singing and leading the congregation of more than 20,000. Bob Russell, Louisville, gave the final address, encouraging us all to "Grow In Holiness".

—David Woodward
(Minister, Peel St, Ballarat, Vic, church)

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Classifieds

MARRIAGES

LYNCH—BUTLER The marriage of Amanda, daughter of Graeme and Beth Butler, to Rod Lynch, will take place at Ainslie Church, ACT, on 14 October 1989.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

CLARK—COLE Allan and Louisa thank God for 50 years of happy marriage in the service of Christ. Wedding was conducted by the late Laurie Trezise on 28 October 1939 at the Margaret St. Church of Christ, Toowoomba. Congratulations from family of five, sons-in-law and daughters-in-law and 14 grandchildren. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance on that day of Mr H.E. Cole (gave bride away), the late Miss Edna Metcalfe (beautiful bridesmaid) and Mr W. Clark (best man), all of Queensland. Present address 12 Ryland Ave., Croydon 3136. Phone (03) 725 9520.

STEPHENSON (HUDSON) Margaret and Jean wish to announce their parents 50th Wedding Anniversary. Celebrated at Subiaco Church of Christ 14 October 1939. A. Hurren officiating. Congratulations to you both. Your family, relatives and friends thank God for your loving marriage and home. Present address: 409A Sailors Bay Road, Northbridge 2063.

DEATHS

DOUGLAS, Leslie, passed into the presence of the Lord on 25 August 1989. Loved and loving husband of Nora, father of Maureen and Bill, Colin and Rhonda, Denis and Ronnie, Aldyth and Bruce and Warren and Liz. Aged 66 years. A crowded chapel bore testimony to his life and standing in the community and church.

KEATCH, Reg, on 17 September. Loving brother of Les and Maurice, brother-in-law of Mavis and Betty, fond uncle of Aileen, Jim, Trevor and Liz.

IN MEMORIAM

GEAKE, Lil. 22 October 1986. Cherished memories of a wonderful wife, mother and grandma. Forever with the Lord. Loved always. Husband Bob, four children, 20 grandchildren.

MILES, Beryl Mavis. In loving remembrance of our darling Mother and Grandma who passed to be with her Lord on 17 September, 1985. Greatly missed by Rochelle and Rob, Carol and John, and grandsons Jonathan, Justin and Nicholas, and her family in Western Australia. A friend to all and loved by all.

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HOLIDAY HOUSES

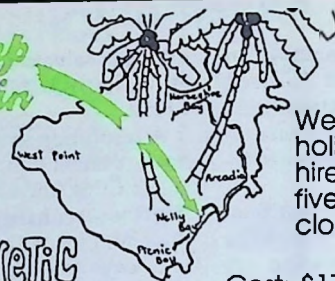
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After the Cyclone



Damage to walls and roofs

Various parts of India were effected by a severe storm in July.

According to a TV report some 5 million houses were damaged all over India. Ootacamund, in South India, was unfortunately one of the targets of nature's fury, which lasted about 10 days.

Giant trees that had been landmarks for many years fell, bringing down with them electrical and telephone lines.

There was plenty of water all over the place, but none in homes, due to a lack of electricity to run the pumps.

Houses of many poor people were either completely destroyed or roofs were blown off.

People were forced to take

refuge in the houses of neighbours and relatives or they sheltered in schools and other public buildings.

The Smyrna Fellowship Trust distributed blankets, clothes and food to many of the hundreds who came to them seeking relief.

Plastic sheets were provided to be used as temporary roofs by those who were able to live in what remained of their houses.

The Trust is assisting in the work of rebuilding and repairing houses.

Gifts sent to Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) will be forwarded to assist this work.

The address for donations is PO Box 320, Unley 5061.



Laying the foundations for a new house

Back To Pir

In May 1959, after the Overseas Mission work had been established in Papua New Guinea for only a year, work commenced on a new school building at Pir. Rex Chamberlain, and later Dorothy Holden, were the teachers. Pir was only the second place to welcome the work of our mission.

In May I was invited to go to Pir as a guest preacher for the area meeting of the Lower Ramu churches. However, at the last minute I was apprehensive. The day before my right eye was swollen and painful, my children were sick, and there had been threatened trouble from rascals passing through the village. I was not feeling spiritually prepared for the task ahead.

After the plane trip to Bunapas, I was taken on a 30-minute trip by dinghy along the Ramu River to Minung. Here I met three young men waiting to take me along the bush track up the mountain to Pir. Little did I know that for the next four hours I would slip and slosh around with my feet often disappearing into knee-deep mud. My walking shoes could not cope and I desperately tried to keep top and sole together by fastening them as securely as possible with bush vines. All to no avail. My companions were sympathetic and over some of the really bad spots they piggy-backed me, and once or twice (I must admit it!) I even sat for brief spells upon one young man's shoulders.

It was truly worth it as the next days were exciting. I challenged the people to consider the question, "You may be in the church but are you in the kingdom of God?"

Over the four days 40 responded in conversion or recommitment.

One older couple testified that they had now disposed of the "magical items" in their house and that these had prevented them from becoming Christians previously. An esteemed businessman shared how that he had become suc-

cessful financially in this world but that God had challenged him to consider his preparations for the next.

The business sessions too showed a lot of initiative with the churches themselves choosing their own area executive leaders, including a women's work co-ordinator and a youth work co-ordinator. There was discussion on how to increase finances for local work and how to best budget the moneys on hand. All matters were dealt with very constructively and with maturity.

As I made my way back down the mountain (which was not quite so difficult due to less rain), I could not but think of the sterling efforts of our pioneer missionaries who many times must have encountered the same discomforts. Many times they must have laboured wondering how much fruit would come from their efforts in the years ahead. The Pir people for a long time had been resistant to the gospel and never before had seen God touch lives as he did during that area meeting.

30 years have come and gone since that initial contact with the Pir people and what was born then is coming of age. The tiny mustard seed has become a mighty tree.

—Graeme Batley

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National Youth Convention 14



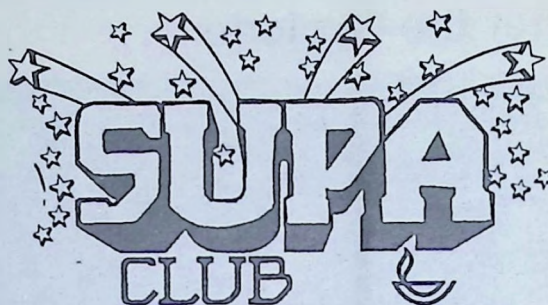
At the recent Federal Board of Christian Education Conference, plans were finalised for the National Youth Convention in Perth in 1990.

Pictured discussing details are, from left, Chris Hutton, Youth Direction NSW, Craig Colvin, West Australian Organising Committee, Cliff Warmbrunn, Chairman, FBCE, and Andrew Ball, Director of Field Services FBCE.

The Convention is open to young people aged 16 years or over from across Australia and runs 8-14 January 1990. The program promises to be the best

in the Convention's history, with international speaker, Duffy Robbins, and acclaimed musicians on site. The program includes a trip to Rottnest Island, a smorgasbord dinner, a formal tea and a range of interesting electives.

Transport arrangements from the eastern States are being arranged by State Directors and plans are being finalised for participants to travel by luxury coach in convoy across the Nullarbor. Parents and young people interested in the Convention should contact their State Youth Director.



SUPA (Scripture Union Primary Age) Clubs are now operating in Victorian primary schools, following their growth in other Australian states. They have been developed extensively in both Queensland and New South Wales, with both states having around 100 such clubs. They have also been developed in Tasmania and South Australia and the scheme is now also being launched in Western Australia as well as Victoria.

SUPA Clubs are designed for children in Years 4, 5 and 6 who meet voluntarily with club leaders at lunchtime or after school to explore Biblical themes through a fun program. Their aim is to meet children's needs, lead children to a personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and nurture the child to grow as a disciple of Christ.

The use of SUPA Clubs is being encouraged in schools where Christian Religious Education teachers see them as a way of complementing their work and building on their already established relation-

ships with children. Both groups have been co-operating in the development of SUPA Clubs.

So far in Victoria seven clubs have been established, four in Melbourne and three in country schools. SU have an aim to establish 91 clubs by 1991.

It is hoped to establish the clubs on school premises, however if the school council does not allow the club to use the school property it is possible to establish them in local churches, preferably those close to the local school.

Anyone can lead a SUPA Club after they have been approved by Scripture Union. They are supplied with starter packs and resource material that will enable them to set out a half hour program each week. Additional material is also supplied that will enable a leader to expand the program to the time available.

Details of SUPA Clubs and the material available in running one can be obtained from each Scripture Union state office.

Lismore Chaplaincy

The Lismore, NSW, Ministers' Fraternal has launched a campaign to place a religious education teacher on the full-time staff of Lismore High School. The plan has the approval of the NSW Department of Education, however the local churches must find about \$600 a week to fund the project.

Ian Phillips, minister of the Lismore Church of Christ, commented that they are looking for 600 local church attenders to pledge \$1 a week for one year.

He commented: "At present, most Lismore high schools are being serviced by a committed, but small, group of volunteer scripture teachers made up of local clergy and lay people. While their work is invaluable, we simply can not reach the bulk of secondary school students as we would like.

"On average a secondary

school student in Lismore can expect to be offered just six periods of religious education each year."

The project is being co-ordinated by the Religious Education Association of Lismore, which is a committee of the Ministers' Fraternal.

An advertisement appears in this issue looking for a suitable candidate for the position. Details from REAL, PO Box 311, Lismore 2480.

Correction

In the Numurkah church news ("AC" 23 September, page 30) the church mentioned that their sixth anniversary would be on 22 November. We have now been advised that the correct date is 22 October.

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Lower Blue Mountains Finds a Home

Homelessness is something that is certainly undesirable for anyone and the same could be said for a congregation. After 13 years of temporary accommodation, the Lower Blue Mountains, NSW, church is about to commence construction of their first building. This modest, multi-purpose hall will become the centre of community, worship and outreach activities.

This fellowship began in 1976, meeting in a rumpus room. The first gathering consisted of 23 adults and six children, most of whom were members of the nearby Penrith church. The congregation soon outgrew this room

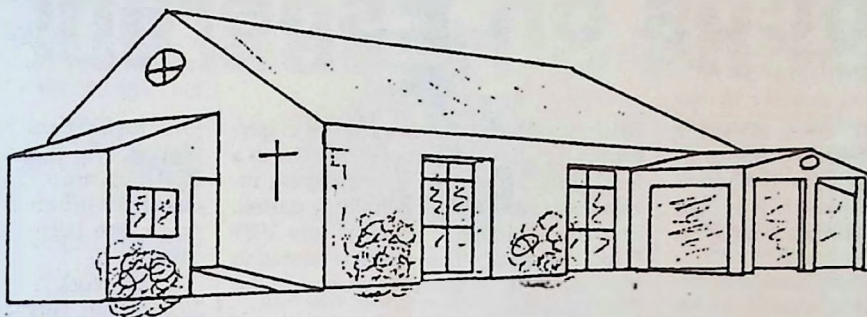
and various community halls have been hired in the years since. The church currently meets in the primary school hall

of a meeting place on any day apart from Sunday. The community to whom this fellowship witnesses is on the out-

reach programs including playgroups, a retirees club, family evenings and after-school children's activities. In addition, existing activities such as the Women's Fellowship, Bible study groups and the youth group will have the use of a permanent, larger venue.

The Lord has been gracious in his provision and guidance for the church, firstly in providing suitable

land in an excellent location near to where they currently meet and secondly in leading the members to this next step in the growth of the fellowship.



Sketch of proposed hall

at Blaxland.

While this particular facility is excellent, the church's program and witness have been seriously hampered by the lack

of skirts of Sydney and has a large proportion of both young families and retired persons. The new home for the Lower Blue Mountains church will provide

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A Church ABC

Esperance is situated on the south coast of Western Australia on Highway 1 and on Esperance Bay. It enjoys a beautiful climate combined with beautiful scenery. To sea there are over 200 islands. It is the centre of a large farming area, with sheep and wheat important. Over half a million tonnes of grain went through the port last year. The town, attracting retirees from the Goldfields area and tourists, is growing rapidly. Over 150 homes were built in the last financial year. The population, including surrounding areas is now over 11,000.

The church had its beginnings in the mid 1960s when Graham Carslake, then at Kalgoorlie, visited Esperance seeking Churches of Christ members. Meetings began in the Fairhaven girls home, which had been established in the town by the Federal Aborigines Board. Later Sonny Graham came from Norseman to pastor at Esperance. Services were attended by girls at the home, boys from the Wongatha Mission Training Farm outside the town and others. Eventually it was decided to affiliate with the WA Conference and the inaugural meeting was held in August

1981. In 1985 Peter Spence, who had been on Warburton outreach with FAB, joined Sonny Graham, who transferred to Pt Hedland in April 1988.

Meanwhile two blocks of land had been purchased and with the closure of the

Peter Spence, the minister, is married to Robin and has four daughters, two of whom are now working. Peter also helps at Norseman, which has no minister at present. Jackie Dorman, formerly at the hostel, is supported by the Thornlie, WA, church, and assists with youth and children's work.

The work of the church

Fairhaven Hostel due to a change in government policy, meetings were held in a local primary school library. Giving increased dramatically and building started. The new building opened in July 1989 ("AC" 5 August). The church is located in Nulsen, north of the town centre, on the Pink Lake Road.

At present the church has about 35 members, many of whom are retired pensioners or missionaries, but the church is growing and there is much potential for growth. Services are held at 11 am, with Sunday School before at 9.30, and lunch afterwards in the church's fully equipped kitchen. In summer these after-church lunches are held in the Port Authority Park. A gospel service is held at 5 pm. This allows farmer members, who travel some distance, to get home early.

includes CWF and KYB and prayer triads groups. The church considers prayer is vital to its life and growth, and groups of three meet in homes weekly. The effects of prayer are being seen in the life of the church.

Youth work is very strong, with about 20 attending. There is also a young people's Bible study. During the long weekend the young people enjoyed a camp at the training farm. This has been assisted by the local high school chaplain, Tony Newson, a Baptist from the USA.

At present the Esperance church is subsidised by the Aborigines Board, but with the potential for growth in the town and the church and with its new building providing greater opportunities for witness in the area, the church is hoping this won't be necessary for much longer.

Focus on Esperance

Comment

Mission Strategies

by Barry Jenkins

In August the President of the World Evangelical Fellowship, Dr Theodore Williams of India, visited Australia. At a meeting of executives from more than 20 missionary societies he outlined some of the tremendous changes that are occurring in the world that affect Christian outreach.

He suggested that we should not use the term "closed doors" because these may in reality be "revolving doors". There may be access to a country if we look carefully enough. It would be better to call such countries "restricted access countries". Two-thirds of the world could be described as having restricted access for the gospel. This trend is increasing.

This means that traditional missions must change their thinking. Tentmakers (persons who take their profession or employment to a country that is otherwise not open to the gospel and work alongside

the church or make contact with Christians) may be one approach that becomes popular in the next decade.

At the World Congress on Evangelisation (Lausanne II) in Manila one speaker described two models of missionary work.

These were frogs and lizards.

Using Proverbs 30 he described lizards as creeping in to even the most restricted places for food.

On the other hand the frog expects the food to come to him.

Frogs are a model of the traditional missionary approach, where stations are set up, churches established and people brought in.

The lizards are an illustration of the need to move out into the most remote and inaccessible places and actively seek out the people.

Quoting from K.P. Yohanna's *The Coming Revolution in World Mission*, Theodore

Williams floated the concept that in future Western missions might simply be the source of funds and would just send money and not personnel to developing countries.

Many nationals can be supported for the same cost as one Western missionary. However neither Western or Eastern mission work should work separately or independently. There needs to be fresh examinations of strategies of partnership in mission.

Another trend examined is the change in world population, especially in relation to the explosion of urban populations. There is a great need for Christians to be concerned about the urban poor especially in the developing countries urban areas that are booming.

• Barry Jenkins is the minister at the Ringwood, Vic, church.

Growing Spiritually

Meals on Wheels

by Kaye Wray

Meals on Wheels. A great organisation. Someone helping someone else. Nourishment provided by one who has it to one who needs it. And available at less cost.

I'm not yet ready for the real Meals on Wheels but I am ready for the spiritual kind.

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Someone who has an insight to share, or a testimony to glorify God, or a musical talent to create an atmosphere of worship provides the nourishment. And all for the cost of an audio cassette.

And what a smorgasbord is now offered to those on the move. World renowned preachers, teachers, singers and musicians

can bring their wisdom, encouragement and expertise to the minutes or hours spent between point A and point B.



So much more nourishing to the spirit than listening to a post-mortem on a football match, wailing pop stars or endless opinions being expressed about interest rates, vacuum cleaners or the best way to clean a blocked drain!

A popular diet book has a warning: "You are what you eat". A timely reminder for Christians, too. We can become so full of what the world offers that we can't fit in too much spiritual food.

Or we can go on a spiritual fast and stay just as we are, or even worse, become spiritually malnourished. And it shows.

Christian musician, Carmen, puts the "you are what you eat" another way. He says: "Garbage in, garbage out".

So why not become a spiritual meals on wheels recipient and avail yourself of all the goodies that are available? And as a bonus, you can continue the nourishing meal on your cassette player at home or work.

• Kaye Wray is a member of the Owen Combined Congregation, SA.

Comment

Shepherding: A Trojan Horse in Church!

by Alan Matheson

Press announcements of the "Australian Shepherds Conferences" herald the first targeted penetration of Australian church life by the shepherding movement.

One of the most disconcerting aspects of current church life is the well-funded, political conservative targeting of Australian churches by American-based Pentecostal religious organisations.

Churches of Christ, with their loose congregational form of organisation, are most vulnerable to this penetration.

"Shepherding" or "discipleship" is "used to describe a broad range of charismatic churches in the USA led by strong leaders intent on building dedicated flocks around themselves".

What distinguishes this particular stream of church life are the "hierarchical pyramids of cells, whose members submit themselves to shepherds for worldly and spiritual direction and doctrinal emphasis on biblical references to authority and obedience".

In the USA they are characterised by a commitment to the radical right position

on abortion, an explicit divinely ordained role of the USA government in foreign policy, and the promotion of the arms race.

It is a secretive, highly mobilised cadre movement which needs to be approached with considerable caution.

Origin

In the late 1940s the Pentecostal Latter Rain movement believed that their generation was the last generation and that revival was at hand.

In the 1960s a group of ministers in Florida entered into a covenant relationship and formed the "Christian Growth Ministries" and began to publish the *New Wine* magazine. Currently this is the largest group of shepherding churches.

Another significant figure in the movement was an Assemblies of God preacher Juan Carlos Ortiz, who emphasised a radical form of initiation not unlike Eastern mysticism's traditional guru-disciple relationship.

His book *Call to Discipleship* is the "shepherding" pastors handbook. The underlying principle is submission:

"Here is the first law of discipleship: There will be no formation of life without submission...my Bible says that the people should be submitted to the pastor.

"Submission means submission, nothing less. I can form the life of my children because they submit to me."

Controversy

Two charges have been levelled against shepherding.

First, that "shepherds" have infiltrated and taken over established churches (*San Francisco Examiner*, 19 February 1984).

Secondly, that disciples were being intimidated to such a point that mainline Pentecostals were calling shepherding an "unnatural and unscriptural domination of one man by another".

Contemporary everyday life for many is uncertain and bewildering. It provides the perfect opportunity for para-church groups such as "shepherds" to infiltrate congregations.

• Alan Matheson is Ethnic Liaison Officer with the ACTU.

"Baptism in the Holy Spirit"

by Debbie Wylie

Recently I spent a weekend in Perth at a Children's Teaching Seminar. I came away from this meeting deeply concerned.

The seminar was run by **Sunshine Children's Ministry**, which is primarily an outreach of the **Shiloh Fellowship** in Perth and which identifies itself closely with the modern Tongues Movement.

People from various churches attended this seminar, including members of Churches of Christ. Up until that weekend I had not formed any position concerning the Tongues Movement.

I had always thought the Tongues Movement was a position formed by Christians relating to the Holy Spirit and the "gift of tongues" found in the scriptures. Those within this movement make no such mistake. The movement believes, practices and preaches a doctrine, not a position. The doctrine is called "Baptism in the Holy Spirit", defined as "being filled with the Spirit" and evidenced by "power and a (secret) prayer tongue".

The "baptism" can only take place after salvation. Without this "baptism" the Christian is powerless to witness for Jesus. Without this "baptism" the Christian is unable to praise and worship God in spirit or in truth. All Christians are candidates for "Baptism in the Holy Spirit". The word

"candidate" means one who seeks, or is nominated for, an office, honour or privilege. At the seminar I was urged to seek this "baptism" if I had not done so already. I was also urged to praise and worship God in spirit and in truth if I had experienced this "baptism".

"Use your (secret) prayer tongue, don't worry about what you are praying," urged the guest speaker. "Just believe you are praising and worshipping God."

From scripture it is understood that 1 Corinthians 12, 13 and 14 refer to "gifts of grace". The term "gifts" in 1 Corinthians 12:4 being the Greek word *charisma*, which literally means "gifts of grace". These are given by God. Gifts are not earned and cannot be the result of a nomination, honour or privilege. Keeping these scriptures in context they cannot be related in any way to the modern Tongues Movement's doctrine of "Baptism in the Holy Spirit".

My concern is that this doctrine is taught as a necessary step after salvation. (Salvation alone is not enough.) Salvation in the scriptures is a "done" gospel. The modern Tongues Movement in believing, practising and preaching the doctrine of "Baptism in the Holy Spirit" is adding "do" to the salvation gospel. As "do" pertains to a "works" gospel according to Paul in Galatians 1 it becomes another gospel (*heteros*),

which isn't really a gospel at all, and whoever believes it, practices it and preaches it is eternally condemned.

Who is the author of the "*heteros*" gospel?

The modern Tongues Movement, from its own teaching, which I sat under at the seminar, identifies itself with Satan, not the Christian God. I neither believe, practice or preach this doctrine. As a concerned Christian I must speak out in condemnation of it and give a plea to all, especially those within Churches of Christ leadership and teaching ministries, to remember what you were taught about the danger of eisegesis, and remember the value of exegesis. I have pamphlets available from this seminar that clearly show scriptures have been taken out of context to support their doctrine.

The seminar was directed to those in the area of children's ministries. We were urged to teach this doctrine to children.

Feelings are never a basis for truth. The Scriptures alone lead all into truth. 1 John 4:1 says, "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

• *Debby Wylie is a member of the Maylands, WA, church.*

"As I continued to lie there listening, thinking of God's creation and his continued interest in it I became aware of another sound"

The Sounds of Dawn

by Rosalie Rofe

On patrol and sleeping in the "haus boi" (village community house) of one of the Pir village camps I found myself awake at my regular time of 5 or 5.30—my internal "alarm" switch hadn't turned off even when there was no need for me to get up. I lay listening to the pre-dawn sounds.

Often, during morning prayers our people rejoice in the new day God has given them and the evidence of his presence and care as seen in the things that are alive. That morning I appreciated in a new way the meaning of those prayers.

There were the sounds as various birds greeted the dawn with their songs. Insects

joined in with their clicking and humming. The gentle early morning breeze stirred the leaves on the trees and their rustling provided the background for the others.



As I continued to lie there listening, thinking of God's creation and his continued interest in it I became aware of another sound. This was a human voice and as I listened I realised that a man in a nearby house was praying, thanking the Lord for

what he has done for us and committing himself to the Lord for the day ahead. His prayer was interspersed with songs of praise. It was a privilege to join him in his worship. I later became aware of other

people, a little more distant from me, also starting their day with the Lord.

It was a precious time. It was an encouraging time. How gracious of the Lord to allow me to experience

it for there I was reminded that he wants us to come to him in a simple quiet way with hearts set on worshipping him.

• *Rosalie Rofe is a missionary in Papua New Guinea.*

Student Profile

Peter Richardson



Peter Richardson, BCom, age 34, was a partner in a chartered accountancy practice before entering College (Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College). He is a first-year student, is married to Angela, and has four sons, Michael, Christian, Benjamin and John-Peter. His story:

The last three years have seen a dramatic change in my family's lifestyle. Prior to that time, I was hard at work building up my practice as a chartered accountant, working long hours and leading the life that business demands. Angela and I had been married for five years and we had two children and were expecting a third. We were buying a home

in one of the beautiful hill suburbs of Perth. It seemed apparent to all that we had all that we could desire—and yet on our fifth wedding anniversary we had to confess to one another that something (later confirmed to be Someone) was missing.

It was probably at this point that the calling of our Lord Jesus Christ first manifested itself. Through the agency of a business colleague and the prayers of earnest Christians the Lord led us to Tim Hanna and the Kalamunda, WA, church. The love of that church for their Lord and for others was a powerful witness. It was a matter of days before we confessed our need of Jesus and then weeks before we were baptised together.

From the first it was clear to us that the Lord wanted us to be wholly available and totally committed to him. That he enabled me to start a part-time course at Perth Bible College the night after my baptism reflected that. We also received sound, biblically based teaching at Kalamunda, both from the pulpit and in our home fellowship group, together with love and support. We were nurtured in this environment for about two years before, after some trials and much prayer, Angela and I received a very clear calling to come to Carlingford College.

In the next 12 months the Lord arranged the sale of my accounting practice and of our house, favoured us with a fourth son and attended to the necessary arrangements to move our family, complete with furniture, from Perth to Sydney. We regard ourselves as blessed to have experienced the trauma of that move, for it was a time when we saw the Lord constantly clearing the path before us.

Our first eight months in Sydney has given us a real understanding of the term "culture shock" and it is perhaps only recently that we have begun to feel at home. Yet we understand why the Lord called us to Carlingford, because the support and encouragement we have received from the faculty, staff and our fellow students here has been a source of strength to us.

As we look to the future, we have the hint that the Lord wants us in pastoral ministry, but we will await his confirmation. Meanwhile, there is much to learn. The faculty skilfully leads us on that delicate balance between the firm biblical and evangelical basis of Churches of Christ and the everyday leading and guidance of the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Pontius' Puddle

THE PROBLEM WITH TODAY'S WORLD IS TOO MUCH FREEDOM. WE NEED LESS FREEDOM SO WE CHRISTIANS CAN PUT AN END TO ALL THE THINGS WE DON'T AGREE WITH. WHO ASKED FOR A FREE SOCIETY, ANYHOW?

THE CHURCH. WE WANTED TO WORSHIP AS WE PLEASE WITHOUT BEING PERSECUTED.

OH... THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A LITTLE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE TO RUIN A GOOD TIRADE.

Ministers' Workshop

Will My Church Split?

by Don Stewart

It is not unusual for ministers and church boards to find themselves in situations of conflict within the church where they ask, "Will my church split?"

Right at the outset it is important to understand that the church is an organisation which has a high potential for conflict, and the amazing thing is that so little actual conflict occurs. Wherever there are people in an organisation with a high life commitment and the issues are about basic living and relationships there is a high potential for conflict. This is apparent in political organisations and in the church. The church in the New Testament and church as seen in history is well sprinkled with conflict, which is the price that must be paid for high commitment about things that matter. Who would want the church if it did not have that high commitment?

The word of Jesus to us is about grace (and graciousness), love and forgiveness. It is this commitment that prevents much of the potential conflict from arising. Because we are not prepared to be gracious, loving and forgiving and because we hold strong points of view, conflicts will arise. The problem is whether we try to pretend that the conflict does not exist or admit it

exists and seek to solve it. Conflict can not be buried for like an infection it struggles to get out.

The recognition that a state of conflict exists is the first most important step in the resolution of the problems. There are different levels of conflict and these different levels of conflict require different approaches to find resolution where that is possible.

At low levels of conflict an approach around the table of the ones involved with the attitude "we have a problem and we can solve it" approach will normally work. In this approach the people involved are empowered to solve the problem.

With moderate levels of conflict when those involved are not distressed by the conflict the approach is to try to cool the heat of the conflict so that a problem solving approach can be taken.

If conflict levels are high and people are distressed by the conflict and are bent upon hurting each other you really need two things to work towards some resolution: a set of rules about the way the administration is to work (this is sometimes called a "constitution" but is a term I object to because only Christ constitutes the church)

and someone skilled in conflict resolution to help you. The rules for administration need to be in place well before any conflict arises. Never empower people in high conflict for they are "out of control" and can only use the power to hurt and to destroy. It needs to be realised that some conflicts do not appear to be reconcilable.

Will my church split?

The answer is: it depends upon how the conflict is handled and whether the parties involved really want to find a solution. Ministers and board members need to realise that there is now a range of literature available on dealing with conflict, but we also need people well versed in the techniques for working with conflicted parties to help churches through their more serious conflicts.

• Don Stewart is Executive Director of the Queensland Social Service Department and Federal Conference President.

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

Comment

Leaping Backwards into the 1940s

by Brian Phelps

I have to wonder why it is that we seem to be determined to make great leaps backwards into the 1940s.

Garry Harris' Comment on "Communion Communication" ("AC" 19 August) presents a style and concept of communion that seems to equate the celebration with clear enunciation, keeping hands out of pockets, of having a "consonance between facial expressions and the mood of the subject being discussed".

We are enjoined to avoid being too casual and are told that it is very difficult to appear overly pious. Actually my experience is that it is remarkably easy to appear overly pious.

The "rhetoric of the dress" is important and there seems to be an assumption that there has to be some kind of sombre, self-effacing style of attire, which is necessary if one is to lead communion. Those of us

old enough to fondly remember Nick Gavros and his attire will wonder how he ever managed to focus attention on Christ so successfully!

Where is the sense of celebration at the fact that the death of Christ was the prelude to his resurrection?

Where is the sense of joy to be expressed because God loves us regardless of our clothing styles?

And where is the realisation that we live and worship in a new world where the Gospel is perfectly able to stand on its own merits and does not need to be packaged in archaic, irrelevant anachronisms derived from Victorian era social and cultural mores?

Of course preparation is necessary and presentation needs to be thoughtful and sensible as well as sensitive. But leading in worship ought to be an uplifting, exciting

experience for leader and congregation alike and never locked into a liturgy of rhetoric or appeal.

And now we have W.W. Saunders ("AC" 2 September) telling us that never again are we to talk about "kids".

Surely the church is a family, and our coming together ought to be in the atmosphere of a family of people who respect and care for each other and don't get hung up on the minutiae of language patterns which are continually changing anyway. By now "kids" is probably outdated.

For God's sake can't we start to spend more time on reality instead of fiddling with pretentious nonsense?

• Brian Phelps is a member at the Magill, SA, church. He has his hands in pockets, lacks a tie, and is proud of two of the best kids in the business.

Personal

Discipleship

•Rosalind Maher, Meg Morrison, Rocky Cameron, **South Tamworth, NSW** •Ray Cooper, **Surrey Hills/Wattle Park, Vic** •Pamela Creeper, Keith Cook, **Croydon, Vic** •Margaret Droney, Stella Seelenmeyer, Peter Simmonds, Rebecca Bridgford, Naomi Bridgford, Tania Giles, Bev Scott, Coral Friebe, **Castlemaine, Vic** •Melissa Hore, **Bordertown, SA** •Sharon Harling, **Boronia, Vic** •Tricia Garth, **York St, Ballarat, Vic**

Marriages

•Joyce Bray to Ken Belford, **South Tamworth, NSW** •Sharon Critchley to Brett Gamble, **Castlemaine, Vic** •Rhona Price to Mike Mudford,

Anne-Marie Thompson to Craig McSorley, **Albion, Qld**

Deaths

•William Ross MacKay, **Oakleigh, Vic** •Ada Reddick, Annie Dodd, **Castlemaine, Vic** •C.D. Barnett, **Bordertown, SA** •Mrs Flo Caldwell, **Yarrawonga, Vic** •Miss Dot Cook, **South Yarra, Vic** •Alice March, Florence Henry, **Boronia, Vic** •Edward (Ted) Collings, **North Balwyn, Vic** •David Keir, **Albion, Qld** •Timothy Moors, **York St, Ballarat, Vic** •Gladys Molyneux, **Launceston, Tas**

Changes

McKENZIE, Ray 15 Ribbon Court, **Frankston 3200**. Phone (03) 786 3671

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DEPARTMENT OF MISSION, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT MELBOURNE

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Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

COLLINGS, Edward (Ted)

A thanksgiving service for Ted's life of service and witness was conducted at North Balwyn. Ted's early life was spent in the Northcote area, attending North Fitzroy, Thornbury and Northcote churches. His marriage to Mavis Ferguson led Ted into a significant ministry with Ferguson Funeral Directors. In 1952 Ted and family moved to North Balwyn, so beginning an association with that church. The service was shared with Arthur Withers, Bruce Alcorn and Paul Burnham, who highlighted Ted's fine Christian qualities. Ted's family and church will miss him. His faithfulness to God is a legacy we will not forget.

—Paul Burnham

PLUCKNETT, Iris

Sweetness, dedication, faith, loving care, sympathetic are all words that describe Iris's Christian walk. She was keenly interested in Churches of Christ. For many years, along with husband Rod, she was a delegate from Gympie, Qld, to State Conference and both represented Queensland at Federal Conferences. The whole church appreciated her contribution as organiser of the flower roster. As a member of the Know Your Bible group Iris showed her love for God's word by in-depth answers to questions and in sharing many insights. The place she will be missed most is the mid-week prayer meeting. Our sympathy goes to husband Rod, Ann and Greg, Paul and Cheryl, and grandchildren.

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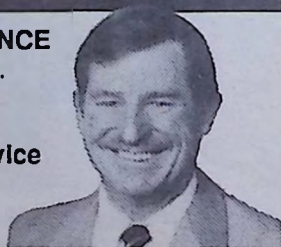
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Church News

Vic

ESSENDON (Ken Stothard)

Pleasant Wednesday Afternoon proving popular ... Aust Church Women's coffee morning in July ... Saddened at death of Jim Hemsley, aged 87 years, long serving secretary & Elder Emeritus ... Phyl Davis, Conf Pres, to speak 22 October at 5 pm ... The Howard family from England to settle in Australia ... Choir visited Lionsville on 8 Sept ... New gas heaters installed.

OAKLEIGH (L.S. Dewberry) Our minister has had mixed fortune. His car was stolen then recovered after some days. He was then injured in a fall ... Frank Gibbons & Alan Matheson were recent speakers ... Church regrets death of Ross MacKay ... At 54th CWF birthday Freda Fraser presided, Jenni Ashton was speaker ... Church greatly appreciates services of organists Alison Walpole, Nell Stephenson & Sylvia Weir.

STRATHMORE (James Pearce) Successful Harvest Thanksgiving service. Goods taken to Kensington for distribution ... Baby Jonathan Pearce welcomed ... Garage sale at church financial success ... Two parades of ladies recently, CWA & CWF ... Sunday School children along with Julia Gallagher led a bright church service ... Christmas in September social night held with visitors from North Essendon & Essendon. Gifts brought will be given to our missionaries ... Church made presentation to Janine Baldry on her forthcoming marriage.

CHELSEA (T. Frazer) Nearly 25% of members attended first ever fishing & sightseeing camp near Tambo River in caravans ... Springtime service featured backdrop of flowers from member's gardens & gifts of groceries for needy ... Explorer Boys won Victorian championship for indoor sports ... Beverley Backholer & Lyn Brinkman of Frankston were guest artists at monthly Friendship Hour organised by Harold Taylor ... Four from CWF attended Southern Bayside Women's Conference at Red Hill.

SURREY HILLS/WATTLE PARK (M. Oliver, W. Allen, A. Withers) Phyl Davis speaker on Special Projects Day. Offering for CROP \$1,750 ... Mel & Arthur Hartvigsen thanked for work done in producing history of Wattle Park church. Copies for sale ... Good Companions raised funds with shoe shine night ... Family service had König family sharing with singing & puppets.

CROYDON (Wally Gibney, Martin Burgess) Board members &

families enjoyed weekend retreat at Belgrave Heights ... YWAM visited 17 September. Conducted Sunday School ... Common Care Counselling courses commenced ... Alex Visser talked at morning service about Oikos (household) evangelism ... Square dance held in church hall ... Eight welcomed into membership ... Church band played at evening service at Hurstbridge.

PRESTON The church accepted with regret the decision of Jack McCormick to retire from full-time ministry. At his final service on 24 September a presentation was made to Jack & Hazel in recognition of their ministry at Preston ... 22 from Open Door enjoyed a weeks tour of Sydney.

CASTLEMAINE (P. Haylock) Recent baptisms encouraging ... Church anniversary planned after 20 years in limbo ... Church family camp at Halls Gap planned for November ... La-El Singers took recent evening service ... Some members took part in community concert to aid schools chaplaincy fund ... Minister presented a week's epilogues on local TV station.

EAST KEW (E. Roffey, D. Jolly) Celebrated two diamond weddings at last Thursday luncheon. On 21 September Fred & Doris Elliott followed on 3 October by Fred & Vera Ellis. Don Thomas was speaker at the luncheon. He told of his life as a POW looking after the medical needs of those working on the Burma railway ... Kids Klub started earlier this year has welcomed four new members.

YARRAWONGA (Steve Fraser) Weekly playgroup for mothers & infants meets in church hall under Barbara Fraser. This has led to a small group of interested mothers attending a "Christianity Explained" class ... Barbara Fraser was the speaker at Women's Interchurch

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Church News

Community Day ... Brian White was speaker for church anniversary. later he encouraged the new leaders of the four newly formed Bible study cell groups.

SOUTH YARRA (A.B. Clark, Graeme Bradley) Church saddened by sudden passing of Dot Cook. Funeral service conducted in church. Representatives from missionaries from interstate present, whom Miss Cook generously supported. Church extends sympathy to relatives ... Rita Roberts now at Emmaus Home, Murrumbidgee. At present having tests at Monash Medical Centre ... CWF guest speaker from Leprosy Mission ... Gospel Singers concert held. Graeme Bradley guest speaker.

BORONIA (K. Milne, G. Strling, M. Folland) InterChurch Council in City of Knox formed ... Local youth accommodation project supported with finance ... Building Strong Families seminar conducted by Brian & Joan White ... Features at Five Sundays extended to end of October ... Family concert unearthed great talent ... Bible studies "Sermon on the Mount" day & evening sessions ... Youth Forum, series of studies, leader Mike Folland ... Spring Festival theme "Integrity of Creation".

LATROBE TERRACE (C.J. Mackenzie) Alison Billett spoke at am service 10 Sept on work she is planning to do as a microbiologist for Leprosy Mission ... Bob Drayton and Shirley Moore married at Pt Macquarie 24 Aug ... Valmai

Claxton told CWF of work as a sign language teacher, interpreter & integration aide ... Belinda van Dort won tennis trophy ... Mrs Denmead & Mr Hands guests on FM station 3YYR.

MARYBOROUGH Members looking forward to the arrival of Bruce Anderson, who has accepted a call to Maryborough. He will commence his ministry in Jan. 1990. Members are blessed to have Bruce, Sandra & their four children, Shane, Darren, Kathryn & Michelle, moving into the church family and they are looking forward to a fruitful time together.

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (Paul Downie, Max Bail) 64th church anniversary guest speakers Geoff & Joan Fewster ... Sunseekers returning from Qld, including Max & Coral Ball, refreshed to share God's ministry ... Visitors have been His Majesty's Players, an American drama group, & John Rouse & family, shortly to return to South Africa with AEM ... Good News Club leaders & children enjoyed Mt Evelyn camp ... 3 leaders attended youth conference in Qld.

YORK ST, BALLARAT (Roger Risson) Doug Jenkins, Peter Veal, Ian O'Brien & Lyn Zeuschner re-elected to board ... Bob Feary retired after 20 years as secretary—work much appreciated ... Gary Berry appointed associate minister for 1990 ... Church saddened by tragic death of Timothy Moors ... Building Fund: Formal dinner \$193.65, Art 'n' Craft Group \$375.

Ladies Guild \$200 ... Guest speakers David Morley (Director, RBMU International), Dorothy Geyer.

Tas

LAUNCESTON (Rod Foster) "Christianity Explained" courses have begun with three groups ... Young people led admirable program on "Me & My Car" ... C. & L. Cripps home after extended Australian trip ... Marion Peel spoke to CWF on her experiences in Burma & China ... Sympathy extended to Spinks family at passing of Gladys Molyneux at Norwood Haven.

NSW

SOUTH TAMWORTH The fellowship while still without a minister is very thankful to John Howes & Barry Young who are helping with speaking assignments ... Mary Hawkins was our speaker for the World Day of Prayer & although illness brought the numbers down 50 attended our women's anniversary. Much interest was shown in the stories of mission experiences by Noeline Roose who was standing in for Hennie de Wildt ... Two ladies & one man have been welcomed into fellowship.

THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliot, Stuart Wesley) Special guests both services 17 Sept were Elven & Joyce Smith of USA on topics related to marriage & family ... Spe-

cial smorgasbord luncheon held after am service to celebrate forthcoming marriage of Carolyn Thomas & Stuart Wesley on 30 Sept ... BS scholars attending the Mini Midgets Camp at Stanwell Tops over Oct long weekend ... Members assisted at stall at Community Care fete.

Qld

ALBION (Peter Overton) Members joined with groups of laypeople from Anglican, Catholic and Uniting churches to study "Christians in Dialogue—What Is the Church for?" Peter Overton led the final combined study ... Maurie Pieper, former minister, spoke as representative of Christian Blind Mission International ... Allan Dunn appointed as elder; Madge Bird reappointed.

SA

BORDERTOWN (S. Pillay) Church saddened with passing of Charles Barnett ... Wampoony church closed. Members joining with Mundulla & Bordertown ... Youth work continues strongly under Ken Grey's leadership ... Weekend with Prof Clifford Wilson on evolution very interesting ... Julie Trinnick, OMB, shared slides & talk on work in New Guinea ... Michael Myers & Kym Diment joined YWAM in Melbourne for study & outreach. They will be leaving for India soon.

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The Second-Last Word

A controversy has broken out in the Sydney media over the quality of church lamingtons

Lamingtons under Fire

A rather tongue in cheek controversy has broken out in the Sydney media over the quality of church lamingtons. The debate began when Harold Hayward wrote to *The Sydney Morning Herald* complaining that charity drive lamingtons tasted like "cardboard and soap". Two days later *The Herald* published a response from Cliff Hensby accusing Harold of "unpatriotic" and "treasonable" behaviour for attacking this national symbol. Cliff is Harold's brother-in-law and like him a member at North Turramurra.

The debate was taken up by the media. Mike Carlton read Harold's letter out over the radio and TV weatherman Brian Bury told his viewers "it would be a nice day for a lamington". It was also the subject for discussion on talkback radio. A Catholic school in Chatswood claimed a record for having made 20,000 lamingtons on one

day!

Interviewed by *The Herald* for a feature article, Mrs Nancy Souness of the Hurstville church came to the defence of the church lamington. "Sales of up to 1,000 dozen in each of five drives a year speak for the widespread popularity of the modern lamington," she said.

Harold was amazed at the response. "It seems obscene," he said, "to be talking about the quality of lamingtons when half the world is starving. I guess it provided light relief from the pilot's strike and worries over the interest rate. At any rate, I hope it gave some publicity to the dedicated work of the volunteers who give of their time to raise thousands of dollars for charity."

P.S. The CWF at North Turramurra will be looking to Cliff Hensby to play a leading part in its next lamington drive!

An Answer to Prayer?

A high school violinist in our suburb was agog with anticipation of performing with a large metropolitan choir and orchestra of young people. Ready for her after-school practice at home on the Friday she was dismayed to discover that her violin was not in its usual place. The house was searched from top to bottom, but in vain. She then decided that she had probably left her violin at school.

Dad drove her 3 km to school but it's locked and the caretaker/cleaner is away for the weekend and the headmaster is overseas on long service leave. She does not know who else has a key and has no clues as to staff addresses.

The family return home dejected. Being

Christians they pray, at mother's suggestion, asking God's help and leaving the quest in his hands.

Dad says: "Let's go for a run in the car," and they call at a delicatessen for some consolation "treats".

A man enters the shop who is recognised as the deputy headmaster (he lives 19 km away). Hearing the tale of woe he says, "No trouble, I have the school keys. Let's go." The missing violin is found.

The punch line is that neither the family nor the teacher had ever been in that delicatessen before! A million to one chance? An answer to prayer? Or a metaphysical mystery?

—Jack Ludbrook

The Last Word

Temptation itself is not sin. It is yielding to temptation that is sin. What matters then is not so much the temptations as what we do with them when they come.

—Richard Bowdler

Added Ads

Car ad in a London newspaper: "Vicar's Volvo Estate, 1971. Superb condition, religiously maintained."

Ad in a New York newspaper: "Wanted: Hair cutter. Excellent growth potential."

Classified from England: "Schoolboy is anxious to exchange birthday pair of nice warm gloves and birthday knitted tie for white rat or anything else useful."

Diner (pointing to menu): I would like some of this "Hei Chuling".

Waiter: I'm very sorry, sir. That's the proprietor of the restaurant.

"In my family," explains one parent, "I am considered a patron of the arts. That means I keep up instalments on a piano, flute and trumpet, and run a chauffeur service to music lessons."

"Alice is as beautiful as a flour to me," wrote the suitor, not very strong in his spelling, when asking Alice's father if he might marry her.

"Is it the flour of my family you're after," replied the father, "or the dough?"

The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposing ideas in the mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function.

—F. Scott Fitzgerald

Since teenagers are too old to do the things kids do and not old enough to do things adults do, they do things nobody else does.



You'll find the book *Congregational Volunteerism in Today's Church* in the fiction section.



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