

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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4 March 1989

The Move to Mulgrave



- The new college buildings

After nearly eighty years at Glen Iris, Vic, the Churches of Christ Theological College (formerly the College of the Bible) is moving to Mulgrave.

- More pictures on page 3

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- Unpacking boxes in the new library

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Guest Editorial

Leaving the Ministry

by Charles Wilson

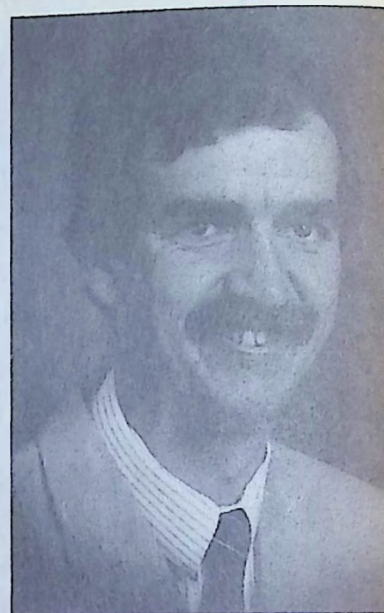
For some time I have been concerned about the numbers of people leaving the full-time parish ministry of Churches of Christ in Australia. Some of those who have left have been my personal friends and I have been saddened by both their disillusionment with the church and, in some cases, the churches' treatment and pastoral responsibility to them and their families.

In some recent research I conducted, I found some startling statistics concerning ministerial resignations. Between 1976 and 1986 89 people left the full-time ministry of Churches of Christ in Australia to go into secular employment. This does not include those who went into other forms of ministries such as ITIM, or hospital chaplaincy. Over 35% of those who left the local church ministry did so in their first ministry. Of ministers still serving in churches during the same period only 35% saw themselves as staying in the local church ministry and a further 11.7% were planning on a specific non-parish ministry.

These numbers should present a serious concern for us all. A great deal of financial and personal resources is given in training our ministers, only to see them leave the vocation they have been trained for. As well, we should have some concern for the people who in many cases have cared, loved and served us so effectively during their ministry with us. The reasons why people leave the ministry are quite varied. The study conducted showed that six reasons were noted of high importance by nearly a quarter or more of the ex-ministers. They were:

1. Serious conflict with lay persons over how to conduct church affairs. (33.3%)
2. Opportunities arose to do specialised work or training. (26.6%)
3. Crisis in personal life made move necessary. (24.4%)
4. Lack of support from "denominational leadership". (22.3%)
5. Family would benefit greatly by move. (22.2%)
6. Serious conflicts with colleague/sovereign job responsibilities. (22.2%)

The research also showed that the particular nature of Churches of Christ ministry, i.e. the autonomous nature of the local congregation, the lack of a formal denominational structure and an emphasis on mutual ministry, all cause resignation. Over 30% of ex-ministers stated that the locally autonomous nature of the congregation as well as the lack of a formal structure outside the church were of high im-



portance in leaving the ministry. A further 18% stated that being seen as equal with the congregation was of high importance. Both ministers and ex-ministers reported a high degree of no support from fellow Church of Christ ministers, as well as little support from denominational leadership.

I would like to suggest that these findings indicate that we need to seriously consider the support structures we give our ministers. Churches need to consider how they recognise the ministers' formal training and give the minister authority to exercise his/her skills within the congregation. They also need to examine what pastoral care they provide for their minister and their families.

Theological colleges need to examine the training they give to prospective ministers in handling conflict situations, as well as the training they give to help ministers withstand the pressures of their first ministry.

Conferences need to consider the establishment of formal support structures to help the ministers both personally as well as in their relationships with their congregation.

Ministers need to examine the support they give to their fellow colleagues and their families.

• Charles Wilson is the Executive Director of the Churches of Christ in New South Wales Social Service Christian Fellowship Association Homes Department and is secretary of the Federal Social Justice Department. He lives at Doonside with his two children, Matthew and Anthony, and attends the Castle Hill, NSW, church.

Theological College Moves to Mulgrave



• *top left* Moving out of the old college at Glen Iris

• *above* Student residences under construction

• *left* First year students and friends at the opening

• *bottom left* Faculty members in the courtyard: Don Russell, Ken Clinton, Greg Elsdon, Ian Allsop, Bill Tabernee, Alan Niven, Graeme Chapman

• *below* Moving into the library



Don Stewart Elected President of 43rd Federal Conference



Don Stewart was appointed President of the 43rd Federal Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia at the close of the 42nd conference in Canberra. He is the Executive Director of the Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department, whose programs employ over 670 people in aged care, child care, welfare, care for homeless persons and alcohol and drug dependent persons.

He holds a number of positions. He is president of the Voluntary Care Association Queensland since 1981. This association represents aged and disabled care providers from the church and charitable sectors in negotiations with various government and non-government organisations. He was for four years national president of the Australian Affiliation of Voluntary Care Associations and has been involved in negotiations with the Federal Government relating to the reform of aged care. He presently holds the positions of

national secretary and leader of the Hostel Negotiating Team. He is chairman of directors of the Community Services Superannuation Fund, in the founding of which he played a leading part. This fund was set up for the voluntary sector of the care industry as a response to the introduction of occupational superannuation.

Don Stewart has formerly been president of the Tasmanian and Queensland Conferences, and was president of the Queensland Conference for the conference centenary. He has had ministries in Traralgon, Victoria, and in Hobart, Tasmania. He had student ministries at Stafford and East Ipswich.

He was the first honours graduate of Kenmore Christian College and holds degrees in Art (Queensland) and Divinity (Melbourne College of Divinity) and a Doctoral Degree in Ministry (Fuller Theological Seminary, California). He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management. He also has an undergraduate Diploma in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.

Don is married to Margaret, a social worker with the Queensland Government Department of Family Services. They have three children, David, Anne and Paul. He is a member of East Ipswich church, where he made his decision for Christ and was baptised in 1948. Don traces his connections with Churches of Christ to his great grandfather, Wilhelm Wacker, who in 1863 left the German State Church to join the "sect of the Baptists", to his great grandmother Friederike, who with her three children migrated to Australia in 1883, and to his grandmother Catherine who, with her husband Edward Cole, became early members of the Ma Ma Creek church, which was formed in 1885.

The theme for the 43rd Federal Conference is "Now Is the Time To Serve the Lord".

Citizen of the Year



Warwick, WA, minister Graham Carslake was named as the City of Wanneroo's Citizen of the Year.

He was nominated by the Greenwood-Warwick Recreation Association, of which he has been the vice-chairman for ten years. This group is involved in co-ordinating sports and youth groups in the area.

Among other activities Graham is chaplain of the Warwick Aged Persons' Village and was on the committee that saw a chapel established at Warwick Senior High School.

Graham Carslake was thrilled with the honour.

"I thought it was wonderful for the church as well," he said.

"Sometimes churches do a

lot of work in the community, but the community does not always recognise this.

"Our church receives incredible support from the community because we are part of it. There is a high degree of respect between the community and the church, and that is something you earn. The honour is not just for me."

Warwick is the fifth largest Church of Christ in Australia. There are more than 100 in the youth group and sporting activities play a large role—20 basketball and three netball teams. There is an over-50s club, a craft group, an open-house friendship group and girls' and boys' brigades.

—from the Wanneroo Times

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Kenmore Christian College Welcomes New Principal

Donald W. Spencer is the new principal at Kenmore Christian College. The new principal served four American churches prior to coming to Australia. He was a youth minister and senior minister during his 22 years as a pastor in the USA. He has been a public school teacher with primary and high school students and has also worked as a tradesman doing interior and exterior painting, having owned his own business. Jogging, cycling, gardening and remodelling houses are some of his hobbies.

Don's educational preparation includes a Bachelor of Theology from Northwest Christian College, a Master of Arts in Education from Portland State University, a Master of Divinity from Emmanuel School of Religion and, most recently, a Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology from Lewis and Clark College. He has had experience as a hospital and hospice chaplain, as a mental health clinic therapist and as a director of children's summer camps.

Nancy, his wife, has been active in women's ministries as a Bible study leader and a seminar and retreat speaker. Mrs Spencer's background includes experience as a public school teacher as well as 14 years as a private piano instruc-



Nancy, Donald, Caleb and Beth Spencer

tor. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Portland State University and a Master of Sacred Ministry in the area of women's ministries from Multnomah School of the Bible. Nancy enjoys playing the piano and walking and aerobics to keep fit.

The Spencers have two children. Beth attends Kenmore High School as a Grade 9 student. She enjoys reading, shopping and baby-sitting. Caleb is enrolled as a Grade 6 student. He especially likes sports and is fitting into the Australian scene by playing team cricket and soccer.

Principal Spencer will lecture in pastoral theology and counselling. His desire is to assist the students and pastors to gain confidence in their abilities to counsel.

Volunteer Army Shares the Summer Gospel

Over January thousands of Christians took to the country's beaches, caravan parks, bush retreats, country towns and urban areas. But unlike most of their fellow Australians they were not there for a holiday—they were there to work.

This summer Scripture Union in Australia operated more than 130 family missions and 70 camps. Teams organised holiday spectaculars, they wrote and performed plays, staged bush dances and games nights, held sandcastle building and volley ball competitions, organised barbecues and picnics and told people about Jesus Christ.

That brief summer contact with a family mission or camp is often the only time many children and their families hear the gospel.

Reaching the family as a whole is seen as high priority in Scripture Union missions, with most of them holding specific programs for adults as well as the traditional activities for children.

New South Wales missions co-ordinator, Helen Sewell, is enthusiastic about the strong commitment to reaching and nurturing adults, a commitment which, she says, has been growing over the past five or six years.

In some of the camping grounds, some families return year after year, so a mission team has the opportunity to really get to know them. It takes the commitment of faithfully keeping on, year after year, to build bridges and reach people. At Coffs Harbour, the team had the privilege of leading three adults to faith in the Lord.

At one Queensland mission the team lent out videos of James Dobson's *Focus on the Family* series. Queensland mission director, Terry Williams, says that while women are often interested in receiving ideas and advice for the family, their husbands rarely will attend any group sessions. One way around that problem is to give

out material, like these videos, for them to digest in private.

Meeting the needs of families was an important part of the ACT beach mission. This mission has a team of around 50 who stay in SU's campsite Koorringa Park, at Batehaven on the NSW south coast. From this central position team members are bussed to five nearby caravan parks to run their programs.

Clayton Fergie says the response from teenagers was a highlight of this year's mission. Over the years they have struggled with a team for teens, but this time the response was terrific. 11 young people made definite commitments to Jesus.

SU in Tasmania operates three missions, two of which are urban ones held in Housing Commission areas. These tend to lack the sparkle of a holiday atmosphere, so the teams respond by taking the children out on a number of excursions. There is a growing family dimension in these missions with more contact being made with families. There was a good turn up at the final evenings barbecue where a video of the weeks activities was screened.

Ros Martin, the Children and Family Ministry co-ordinator in Victoria, has heard many encouraging and delightful stories from this year's missions. One of them involves a mission which ran for the first time this year at Mount Beauty. Almost every child staying in the caravan park came along. Hardly any of them regularly attend church or Sunday School.

Another team with reason to be encouraged was Craigieburn, an established urban mission which operates with the support of a number of local churches. The leaders felt that many years of hard work had come to fruition. As it is an urban mission the same children return year after year. This time a lot of children made commitments or indicated a real interest in becoming a Christian.

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On the Move with the President

Don Stewart as well as being the Federal Conference President also fulfills a number of other functions. This column seeks to keep our churches informed about his activities.

Following Federal Conference Don resumed his work as the Executive Director of the Queensland Churches of Christ Social Service Department. The first week was spent basically in office work and in writing letters to all our overseas missionaries, which should reach them before Easter.

28 January was a meeting of the Queensland Aborigines and Islanders Board which took place at Eidsvold. This involved a 960 km drive there and back. The meeting looked at the basic policies for the work among Aboriginal people in Queensland, which will be the basis for budget planning for Queensland for the Federal Aborigines Board under the new arrangements.

Presentations of certificates of service for Social Service Department staff with 10 or more years of service were made at Brig-o-doon Nursing Home and at Burdeu House during the next week.

4 February it was off to Darwin for an extended weekend for the induction of Tony Ochse as the minister of the church. The Darwin church is the progeny of Federal Conference and as such receives support from all Australian churches. This was an opportunity for the

sharing of ideas, a greater understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of life in the Northern Territory. There were informal discussions with the elders, the board and the committee for the Child Care Centre that occupies the building during the week.

Don was most impressed with the spirit of the folk and their desire to get on with being the body of Christ in Darwin. It was also an opportunity to talk with chaplain Ron Oostenbroek, one of our ministers serving with the RAAF in Darwin. It was also possible to squeeze in a meeting with the Territory Attorney-General regarding the church's possible involvement in welfare activities and some other matters.

The release of the discussion paper *I'm Still an Individual* by the Minister for Aged Care has meant a deal of work responding to the press and to various groups involved in the care of the aged. This important paper identifies a range of important problems that must now be dealt with in an appropriate way.

The first and second weeks of February have been involved with visits to Maryborough, Qld, Toowoomba and Bribie Island to be involved with further presentations to staff of certificates of appreciation for service, attendance at the Regional Social Service Committees and inspection and advice on the operation of the facilities.

Kum Ba Yah Changes

Due to recurring health problems, Miss Merle Peacock has found it necessary to relinquish her duties as manageress/caretaker at the Kum Ba Yah Christian Conference and Recreation Centre at Marmion, WA. The centre commenced operation in August 1977.

The new managers, Derek and Catriona Ferrie, from the Warwick church, are living on the site in motel unit no. 1 at 12-14 Lennard Street, Marmion, and may be contacted by phoning the office on (09) 447 1188 or their unit on (09) 447 1500. This is an interim arrangement for 1989.

At present Miss Peacock is still involved with the banking, book-keeping and some maintenance at the centre. Her new phone number is (09) 246 2110.

Singles Ministry

Unfortunately the proposed visit of Jim Smoke, which we advised in issues last year, has not been able to be confirmed. Negotiations have broken down and at this time it is not envisaged that he will be coming to Australia.

In late April Jay Bacik, Northside church Sydney, will be in Melbourne to conduct two seminars. The first is being held on the evening of 21 April and will be a Divorce Recovery Workshop. On 22 April a Singles Seminar will be conducted. Details of both events will appear in a later issue.

Also Cheryl Johnson will be conducting a Singles Seminar in Canberra over the weekend of 26 and 27 April. Again details will be given in a later issue.

**Aim to support the
F.A.B.—annual
offering 19 March**

Information Wanted

Dr Douglas Abbott is undertaking research for the Australian War Memorial on *Chaplain General of the Australian Army 1913-82*. He is seeking information about Chaplain General Allen Brooke who was a Churches of Christ minister.

If anyone has any information that would help in this research could the information be sent to Clive Ward, Vic-Tas Conference Secretary, 52 La-Trobe St, Melbourne 3000.

Another project that is being conducted is *The History of Military Chaplaincy in Australia 1788-1988* for the Department of Defence Principal Chaplains Committee under the general editorship of Dr Douglas Abbott. The writing panel is interested in any material about the Royal Australian Army Chaplains Department and its members and specifically they would like a copy of a *Chaplain's Manual* prepared by the Chaplain General (CE), Bishop C.L. Riley in World War II.

They would be interested in recollections that any ex-service personnel might have on chaplains-general or chaplains. A response to the question: "What did you expect your Chaplain to be and to do?" should be accompanied by details of your rank, service, years of service and church affiliation.

Material relevant to either of these research projects can be sent to the Military Chaplaincy History Project, PO Box 7, Gerringong 2534.

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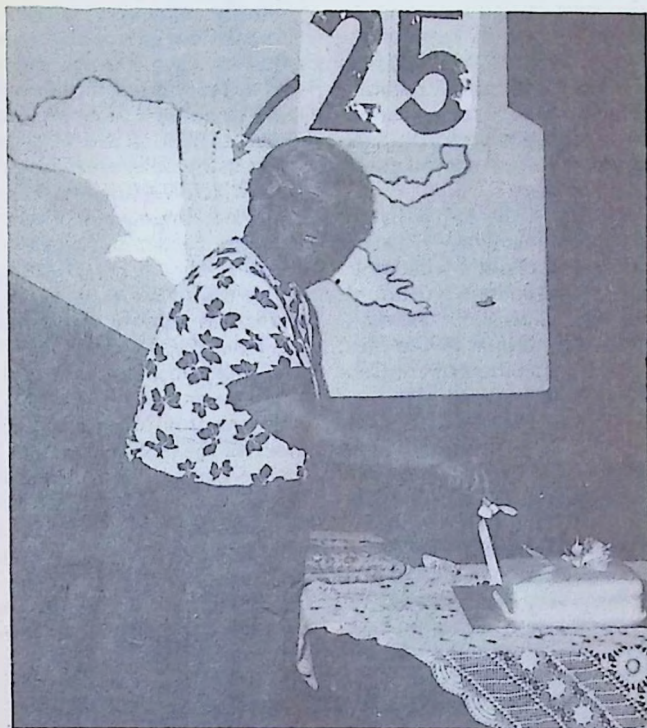
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25 Years in Papua New Guinea Honoured



Over 70 shared a great night of celebration at Padstow, NSW, church, when a recognition dinner was held for Diana Catts for 25 years of missionary service in Papua New Guinea. In charge of the night's proceedings was Laurie Thomas, who knew Diana from Sunday School days at the Marriekville church. There were taped greetings from fellow workers in PNG, and speakers included Ray Hawkings (NSW Conference President), Ken Baker (NSW Conference Executive), Doreen Moore (CWF President), Dennis Nutt and past missionary Rhonda

Whan.

On behalf of the NSW Mission Committee Ed Holt presented Diana with a photograph album and a cheque. Diana responded that she "didn't deserve what had been said about her," but rather she wanted to give thanks to God for his enabling power and to thank the churches for their support.

Thanks were expressed to Glad Camlin and a team of workers from Belmore church who provided the dinner and Denise Brown of the Overseas Mission Board who gathered much of the information.

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Director of Christian Welfare Centre

The WA Christian Welfare Centre in Perth said farewell recently to Arthur Urquhart who has served the Centre for five years as Director. His period as Director has seen the service consolidate and stabilize, and his leadership and management of the Centre has certainly been just what was needed at this point in its history.

As a consequence, the Board

has appointed John Clapp as Director of the Centre. John's appointment is only for one year, as he will begin a term of joint ministry with his wife Eira at the Wembley Downs church in 1990.

The Board is optimistic that John's time away from WA will equip him to bring valuable insights into the possibilities for the Christian welfare work in the state.

Alan McMillan Inducted



Gerald Rose (left), President of the Vic-Tas Conference, conducted the induction service for Alan McMillan at the Bentleigh, Vic, chapel of the South Eastern Suburban Regional Church (Bentleigh, Caulfield, Malvern).

Official representatives at the service included Glen Stibbe, minister of Ormond church, Ivan Humphries from the Department of Mission, Education and Development and Ken Masterton, World Convention Vice-President.

Alan Gray, regional secretary, welcomed Alan and his wife Sally and children Stephen and Cheryl.

Regional chairman, Duncan Crockett was worship leader

and Marj Buckingham presided. Marj has been full-time minister for the past year and continues in a part-time capacity.

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Letters to the Editor

The word limit for material submitted for this column is 200 words

CONTEMPORARY REFORMATION

To the Editor,

Reformation is a most important word in the faith and life of the Christian church. Dr Bill Tabbernee's address "Turning the World Upside Down through a Contemporary Reformation" (Pamphlet Club No. 362) is a most important statement for all Christians and especially for members of Churches of Christ.

It is easy to take for granted people whom we know well and therefore fail to take seriously what they have to say to us. The five points of Dr Tabbernee's address constitute both a challenge and a pattern for our churches as we face the 21st century. The degree to which Churches of Christ act on this pattern will determine our relevance in both Christian and secular society.

I commend the pamphlet for use in all our churches. I would urge ministers to use it in their teaching programs. It can be adapted easily for discussion purposes and can be used in conjunction with material already available. Are we prepared to commence the third century of our movement in contemporary reformation?

—Trevor Banks
(Chairman, Department of Christian Union)

PRAISE FOR "AC"

To the Editor,

I am writing to praise you and *The Australian Christian* for the fine issue of 4 February.

I was unable to visit Federal Conference but felt stimulated by the excellent summary of events that at least enabled me to be aware of the issues and happenings of the occasion.

There were the normal newsy articles from the churches and departments that we expect to read. Some are big events that may impact on the world around us. Unfortunately, some are "no real big deal" within the context of the things that really matter to

human life. The latter always disturbs me although I have come to terms with their predictability.

There are a number of articles that lifted my horizons and challenged my thinking and gave me food for thought. Keith Farmer's synopsis on "Styles of Worship" is an important issue and deserves further debate. Hiram J. Lester's article on Alexander Campbell, "He Gave the Bible to the People", was worthy of publication. The highlight for me of the issue was Alan Matheson's "Media, Moralising and Merry Christmas 1988".

Well done for this issue and I look forward to reading more of the same during 1989.

—Trevor H. Giles
(Melbourne, Vic)

PAVILION OF PROMISE

To the Editor,

A.E. White wrote about the Pavilion of Promise at Expo '88 ("AC" 12 November). I wish to correct the assumption that it was out of our usual "modesty" that the pavilion was right at one end of the Expo site.

This placement was of necessity because the building was to remain as a continuing part of the Maritime Museum, unlike 90% of the other buildings, which are being removed.

Secondly, Laurie Smith, the Expo gardener, who attends the Pine Rivers church, points out that it had an excellent exposure down the main concourse and thus easily seen.

Thirdly, 760,000 people were thrilled with the Pavilion presentation of the Christ of all ages.

Fourthly, an anonymous donation of \$90,000 (no, you cynics, it was not in a brown paper bag à la the Fitzgerald Inquiry!) meant that the pavilion supporters did not lose their houses, which they willingly laid on the altar of sacrifice, to ensure this Christian presence at Expo.

Finally, it took three months of courage to write and correct my former COB teacher that I still hold in awe and great appreciation.

—Allan Male
(Brisbane, Qld)

FEDERAL CONFERENCE

To the Editor,

As a delegate to Federal Conference, Canberra, January 1989, I write to express my appreciation to Neil Gilmore and the Conference Executive; worship and drama leaders, administration personnel, elective leaders and special guests and speakers.

It was great to be in the company of those who are concerned about a wide range of important issues confronting both church and society.

Special thanks to the hard working members of our Canberra churches.

—Keith Milne
(Boronia, Vic)

FEDERAL ABORIGINES BOARD FRAGMENTATION

To the Editor,

I was very disturbed to read of the decision of Federal Conference to fragment the operation of the Federal Aborigines Board. The Overseas Mission Board would not be happy to be composed of members from

each State, fragmenting their work and hindering its smooth running.

Surely members of WA churches can be trusted to organise this work in the same way as NSW is responsible for the Provident Fund, SA for Overseas Mission and Victoria for so many other areas of our work which WA supports without demanding equal representation on the Board. As constituted the FAB will not now have (apart from the Executive Director) any working members, e.g. treasurer, secretary.

A great deal has been said about the finances of the FAB. How can it improve when so much of the offerings contributed is going to pay interstate Board members' fares. Phone link meetings are inadequate and unsatisfactory. There has been a lot of criticism of various Christian organisations because too much of the money contributed has been swallowed up in organisation. It seems that our Federal Conference is quite happy to do this too.

Letters from Tertius

The Professor

To the Editor,

A young university professor of philosophy and his PhD wife and their small children have been transferred to our church. It caused more than a ripple. What do you talk about to a professor?

The only philosophical thing that crossed the threshold of my ordinary life was Pythagorus's Theorem, and come to think of it that was maths, not philosophy. So I contented myself with a smile and a nod.

But it wasn't long before the professor and his wife and kids were part of the church family. They came on picnics and talked home and gardens and children like the rest of us. They joined our Bible study group.

The biggest difference that their coming made was in our minister. Maybe he'd never preached to a professor before. His sermons sounded as if he had prepared them with the professor breathing down his neck. He delivered them like lectures. As Harry commented, "He's gone all cerebral!"

That was until the Bible study a couple of weeks ago. The professor asked our minister a question about the previous Sunday's sermon. He prefaced it with, "I'm sorry, but you lost me several times in that sermon."

Since then our minister has been back to his usual something from the Bible and explaining what it means in the bits and pieces of life where we are at.

And the professor hasn't complained!

—Tertius

Letters to the Editor

Our own FAB and Aborigines Committee members tell us of the very great need to support the FAB offering on 19 March, but no wonder there is such a markedly poor response from many churches throughout Australia when they see their offering eaten up in unnecessary fares. I have always been a strong support of the FAB but I feel most disinclined to give hard earned cash to be used in this way. I'll make sure its ear marked for the purpose its given — to help support our Aboriginal pastors.

—Elma Ewers
(Perth, WA)

PROPHETS NEEDED TODAY

To the Editor,

I commend Barry Jenkins for his article "The Prophetic Word" ("AC" 4 February) There is a need for the prophetic ministry today but who is equal to that task? Jesus reminded us of the hardships, loneliness and rejection that would be experienced by a prophet.

"Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you." (Matthew 23:37)

"I tell you the truth no prophet is accepted in his hometown." (Luke 4:24)

Two weeks ago Edmund Heddle, a modern-day prophet visited Bishopbriggs Christian Centre, where our family is worshipping during our year in Glasgow, Scotland. His message from Malachi 1:6-14 was basically "A righteous God demands righteous living".

Three years ago another prophet, David Pawson, was in Australia. His message from Jude was "We must not trifle with God; we need to fear God". The following day he said how "hard going" his preaching had been because people didn't want to hear it. (Ezekial 33:30-33) NB: Neither of these men would advocate salvation by works. In fact most of our modern-day prophets are saying two things: "Repent" and "Fear God"—familiar words?

Yes we do need prophets—prophets who fear God enough to obey but have no fear of

man's reactions. But we need more than that, Christians sitting in the pews need to pray that God will open our ears to hear the prophets and give us teachable hearts to obey God's message.

—Estelle Potter
(Bishopbriggs, Glasgow, Scotland)

US PRESIDENT A CHURCH ATTENDER

To the Editor,

Now that George Bush has been sworn in as the 41st President of the US, let's look to the future.

Reagan often involved God and spoke religiously, but in eight years he never stepped inside a church except on a few short occasions and for funerals.

With George Bush, an Episcopalian, we are grateful he actually attends church. Most of the time it will be at St John's across Lafayette Park from the White House, or at the so-called "National Cathedral" that overlooks the city from Mount St Alban.

Ronald Reagan claimed that he did not go to church because the "security" that accompanies a president in all his activities would inconvenience ordinary worshippers. He never explained why he did not, as an alternative, have religious services conducted at the White House, as Richard Nixon did. The Reagans were often at Camp David on the weekends anyway. True enough, but services are conducted by chaplains for the camp's military personnel. The Bushs attended one when they were there the other weekend.

To some, this may seem an unimportant matter, but I believe that it will be salutary for the USA and the western world to see pictures of its chief elected officer regularly attending a church.

Please keep George Bush in your prayers.

—Laurie Cussack
(San Remo, Vic)

Letter edited to comply with 200 word limit on letters to the editor.

MEMBERSHIP WITHIN CHURCHES OF CHRIST

To the Editor,

Two issues have been considered recently by the Department of Christian Union and warrant debate among our churches. The issues arose out of the effectiveness of our church growth strategies and our incorporation into membership of people from other churches.

1. What is the appropriate response by Churches of Christ to those Christians from other churches who in all conscience do not want to be "rebaptised", but who want to witness to believers' baptism as the New Testament teaching and the restoration of New Testament understanding of the essential unity of the church? They want to become members of Churches of Christ and witness to our position but find "rebaptism" offensive.

2. Ought Churches of Christ readily accept membership from people who were baptised into another church or Christian sect as "believers", yet are unwilling to witness to a range of understandings about the restoration of the New Testament teaching of the essential

unity of Christ's church?

These issues have been considered by the Department and a brief paper prepared for consideration by churches. Copies are available from D. Allison, 28 Potter Street, Black Rock 3193.

—Ian Allsop
(Doncaster, Vic)

Rehabilitation of Injured Workers

Churches have an important role to play in the support of people who are suffering from injuries received in the workplace. They can "contribute to the caring that the injured worker desperately needs in our otherwise isolated and threatening world," said Peter Parkinson, an industrial officer of the Trades Hall Council, speaking recently at the launching of a pamphlet "Seven Steps to Support Injured Workers" produced by the Church and Trade Unions Committee. The pamphlet outlines the steps that a congregation may take in exercising a ministry to victims of work related injuries and diseases. Probably the greatest injustice suffered by injured workers is the failure of employers to find, and offer, dignified, appropriate, alternative duties that will allow the injured worker to return to work.

Copies of the pamphlet and information about the Church and Trade Unions Committee (CATUC) can be obtained from the secretary, Rev. John Bottomley on (03) 534 3474.



NEW LEADERS NEED SUPPORT

Kim Thoday has succeeded Ian Corlett in the Kensington Christian Network ministry. Kim and Heather and Mike Esbensen are part of an emerging Christian community with a commitment to witness to the Gospel in Kensington. They need your support.

DEPARTMENT OF MISSION, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

52 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000.

Media Review

Papers

CHRISTIANITY AND ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIA

The final paper in a series of five papers dealing with Christianity in the Aboriginal context, *Owning the Gospel: From Aboriginal Missions to Aboriginal Churches*, gives a brief overview of missions of the past 50 years, as well as considering the modern situation.

The missionaries' greatest stumbling blocks were their negative attitudes to Aboriginal culture and their insistence on changing Aboriginal lifestyle to a settled agricultural economy. Yet, on the other hand, many missionaries regarded Aboriginal culture more highly than other white Australians, and their emphasis on social and economic changes often sprang from a deep desire to provide for Aboriginal people a future with hope in it.

It is only very recently that Aboriginal people have begun to be freed—or freed themselves—from the constraints of white domination, in order to be able to make the Gospel truly their own and to take responsibility for its proclamation among their own people.

Written by John Harris, this paper is available from the Zadok Institute, Blackall St, Barton, ACT 2600, (062) 73 1634, for \$2 plus 80c postage.

Books

THE STORY MUST BE TOLD

by Bill Gaunson \$4

This small, easy to read book is a collection of Bill Gaunson's experiences and stories arising out of twenty years of ministry and evangelistic missions held in local churches in five Australian states.

The book reveals Bill's own commitment to evangelism and the profound joy he experiences in seeing others become Christians. He has chosen the stories to illustrate the Gospel and its power, to motivate people in personal evangelism and those with preaching gifts and to mobilise local churches to become involved in evangelism. It is a timely reminder of the basic priority of the Christian church.

It will warm the hearts of all who read it and is well worth the \$4.

Available from Bill Gaunson, 12 Mabel Street, South Perth 6151, for \$4, postage included.

—Brian White

BALUS BILONG MIPELA

The story of the Missionary Aviation Fellowship, Australia and New Zealand.

The first 40 years

by Vic Ambrose (MAF)

Balus Bilong Mipela is Melanesian Pidgin for "our aeroplane" and was often the excited cry of New Guinea villagers when MAF's little yellow painted aircraft appeared in their skies. At the end of World War II a group of Australian and New Zealand airmen caught a vision of using aviation to support and enable Christian work in remote areas. In 1947 a few men, with no money and no resources, met on a winter's night in Melbourne and formed Australia's Missionary Aviation Fellowship.

Vic Ambrose, who was MAF's chief executive for 27 of its first 40 years of existence, tells the story of MAF's development from that little group of enthusiasts into the highly professional aviation organisation it is today. Today MAF (Australia and New Zealand) has over 40 aircraft, three flying training schools and a network of maintenance engineering

workshops which serve a wide range of mission and community development programs in Papua New Guinea, North and Central Australia and Bangladesh.

Australian MAF began its work in New Guinea which has some of the most demanding aviation conditions in the world. This book is the story of the great triumphs of faith and of the times of steady growth. There are also the times of tragedy, especially the loss of pilots and passengers in crashes.

This is a very readable history of MAF that would be of interest to any supports of this ministry or to anyone interested in missionary service organisations.

—CRA

GEOFFREY WAINWRIGHT ON WESLEY AND CALVIN

Sources for Theology, Liturgy and Spirituality

by Geoffrey Wainwright (Uniting Church Press) \$8.95.

As the 1985 Cato Lecturer in Melbourne, Geoffrey Wainwright chose to reappraise the contributions of John Wesley and John Calvin, because of their theological importance, but also because their differing theologies contain problem material which still cause heated debate within and beyond the Uniting Church of Australia. This book is an expanded version of the lecture. Geoffrey Wainwright is the Professor of Systematic Theology at the Divinity School of Duke University in the US. Having introduced the two church leaders and dealt briefly with the context of their thoughts and some interpretations of their thought, Geoffrey Wainwright then describes areas in which disagreement and then convergence occurs between them. The author uses sources in both Calvin and Wesley to describe their positions on the knowledge of God, the divine decree or offer of salvation, the human condition and on the issues of grace, faith, freedom and responsibility.

BEING GOOD AND DOING GOOD

by Martin E. Marty (Fortress Press)

The foreword to this book contains an excellent summary of the contents: "Martin Marty has done the church a very important service in writing a book on Christian ethics, the nature and place of morality in the Christian life and the nurturing of it. The book will help Christians to avoid reducing the gospel and Christian faith to the law of love and other biblical directives. It also serves to counteract a sentimental, shallow teaching of the gospel apart from a dynamic relationship with God, a relationship in which God reigns through faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to him. This book begins with a review of the human impulse to teach morality. The second chapter examines why men fail and why things go wrong. Martin Marty then examines what it means to be good and this leads on to an understanding of the Christian gospel and the saving power of God. The final chapter is an examination of how Christians can publicly live this new life. This small book is not a list of things to do and not to do or a blueprint for morality but a discussion of the principles that the Bible sets out of good and evil. However it is not just an esoteric discussion but has great practical implications to the Christian."

—CRA




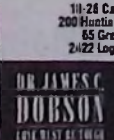



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The New Testament and War

In war-torn Lebanon displaced people, hospital patients, prisoners and rival militia are snapping up New Testaments as fast as they can get them.

"We used to distribute about 22,000 New Testaments a year, but now we are giving out more than 100,000 over 12 months," said Lucien Accad, General Secretary of the Bible Society in Syria and Lebanon. The ravaged land of Lebanon has two governments and six different armies.

Accad, who lives in Beirut, said the program of giving out New Testaments was heavily subsidised, with the churches paying US\$20c each for a New Testament, but giving them away free.

"This means we require a US\$40c subsidy for every New Testament we give away," Accad explained.

The bold initiative for this new scripture outreach was taken by several Catholic priests but the Bible Society helps to organise the program and provides volunteers. The Bible Society in Lebanon is fully Lebanese. Accad was born there in 1940 and has been with the Bible Society since 1977.

With Lebanese flocking to medical, relief and food distribution centres, these have become the natural outlets to distribute Bibles and Testaments. On a regular basis, teams

of volunteers travel school to school with puppet shows and selling the scriptures.

"We visit classes and provide a witness to these children," Accad said. "More than half of them are private schools, half of them run by evangelicals."

"We can go all over the country and are not hindered in any way by the military."

Another strategic breakthrough in Lebanon has come with the wide popular support for book exhibitions and book fairs.

"Four times since 1984 the New Testament has been the best seller at the fair," Accad said.

"Last year we had a fair in West Beirut and the Hezbollah (Islamic Army of God) held up the Bibles, but the mullahs and sheiks came and told them that the Bible is allowed in all other Islamic countries, so that settled it."

"The TV crews only took pictures of us," Accad said. "Lines of people wanted to buy New Testaments."

Accad noted that more people are studying the Bible, especially since a new Arabic translation came out in 1979.

"The old translation was considered a protestant translation," Accad said. "The new one has been recognised by the Catholic and orthodox churches."

Dr Iris Paul

For some years now we have supported the work of Dr Iris Paul through COCOA giving. Iris is working at Malkangiri in the state of Orissa in India. She has four children, Mano, Remo, David Livingstone and Mary. David and Mary are adopted children. The \$150 we provide each month enables Iris to give free treatment to tribal people in the area. She came to this isolated place with her husband some 18 years ago. Together they provided a holistic ministry in the name of Christ. In September 1986 Paul died following complications during heart surgery. A widow with four children understandably could have returned to her parents and friends in Madras and experience the relative security and prosperity of a city practice.

But Iris is called of God to be a medical missionary to tribal people. God has honoured her ministry. Three churches in the area have been established and are growing. She has faced unfair criticism and violent opposition and continues to trust in God. In her spare time Iris is doing both further medical studies and a Bachelor of Divinity degree by correspondence. We can continue to support her work financially but she would also value our prayers.

Recently Iris was appointed as the Community Development Officer for the Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief. She has been honoured by the Direct Mission Aid Society of the USA as they awarded her the Yokefellow Award given for non-Western missionaries.

—Jeff May



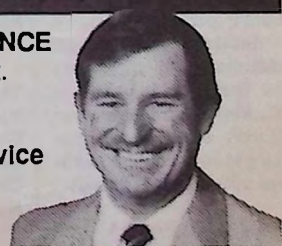
Dr Iris Paul and family

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Happenings

The Council of Adult Education in Melbourne is holding a one day seminar on 1 April on "The Crusades and the Quest for the Holy Grail" at Janet Clarke Hall at the University of Melbourne. The fee of \$35 (concession \$28) includes lunch. Ring (03) 652 0614 for a brochure.

On 3 April Mervyn Himbury, formerly Principal of Whitley College, the Baptist theological college in Melbourne, will begin a 10 session course on The Family in the European Tradition for the Council of Adult Education in Melbourne. The course begins with a study of the child and the family in primitive Christianity, examines the medieval view of sex, women and the family, the strict Reformation attitudes and the property emphasis of the 18th and 19th centuries. Details from the CAE on (03) 652 0611.

A further one day seminar for the CAE is being held on 29 April at their headquarters, 256 Flinders St, Melbourne. The seminar, "Religion and Society Today", focuses on the complex and problematic role of religion on contemporary Western society. Attendance costs \$28 (concession \$15). Inquiries and enrolments on (03) 652 0614.

2,000-4,000 priests and clergymen in West Germany are addicted to alcohol, according to a report published by a Protestant workgroup on addiction. 5% of clergy are thought to have a drinking problem but church authorities usually get to hear of a problem only at a late stage.

There are some 10,000 Russian Orthodox Christians living in China today, most of them the descendants of Russians who fled their country after the Communist revolution in 1917.

In their Cologne Declara-

tion, 163 Roman Catholic theologians from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the Netherlands have issued sharp criticism of the leadership style of Pope John Paul II.

In its 30th annual Book of the Year contest *Eternity* magazine has announced that *Reforming Fundamentalism* by George Marsden (Eerdmans) has won the award with 101 votes. *Kingdoms in Conflict* by Charles Colson (Zondervan/Morrow) was second with 90 votes. Publisher of the year was Harper & Row, which had seven books in the top 25.

In the recent Australia Day Honours list Roy Stanhope of the Epping, NSW, church was awarded membership in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) for his service to education particularly in the field of science education.

Sherwood Wirt, former editor of *Decision* magazine for many years, will be leading a series of Christian Writers Workshops to be held in Sydney on 4 March (Phone Barry Berryman on (02) 267 9336 during office hours for details), Adelaide on 11 March (Phone Bruce Townsend on (08) 212 4611 during office hours) and Melbourne on 18 March (Phone David Morley on (03) 404 3073). Cost of the one day workshop, including lunch and refreshments, will be \$35.

The first Assembly of the Victorian Council of Churches is being held at the Cheltenham Church of Christ on 16 March on the theme "From Vancouver to Canberra". Worship will be led by Gerald Rose with contributions from Trevor and Helen Banks. The service will commence at 6pm with a meal to follow. Bookings for the dinner to VCC office on (03) 63 2736.

The Lutheran Church of Australia has agreed to enter into conversations with the Australian Council of Churches regarding an expanded ecumenical body.

Australia's worsening housing crisis is a major contributor to child poverty according to the Chairman of the National Anglican Welfare Conference, Bishop Peter Hollingworth.

Foreign religious organisations working in Italy have had their tax exemptions revoked. Among groups affected are the British and Foreign Bible Society, the (US) Southern Baptist Convention and the Methodist Missionary Society.

Plans have been proposed to involve the Lutheran Church in Australia, the Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod, and Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore in work among ethnic Chinese in large Australian cities.

The Lutheran bishops of Denmark and the government Minister of Church Affairs have protested a decision by the Danish broadcasting service to reduce from 22 to 14 the annual number of TV broadcasts of worship. Another decision to replace a 5 minute series of daily Christian reflections by a series with both Christian and secular messages has prompted protest as well.

Religious and political tensions are mounting in Nigeria after suppression of a debate on the adoption of Sharia (Islamic law) in the country's next constitution, by President Ibrahim Babangida. Sharia law, which gives preference to Muslims in legal matters, has been an explosive topic of debate in Nigeria for years.

A recent analysis by the leading Hungarian sociologist on religion indicates an indisputable resurgence of

religious interest and activity among Hungarians. According to Miklos Tomka, a Marxist, religion in its more dynamic and revitalised form has become a vital factor in public life and is preferred by many young people.

The Lone Father Family Support Service operated from the Christian Welfare Centre in Perth is the only support group in WA which works 100% of its time with motherless families. They commented that in 50% of the cases taken to the Family Court custody of the children is awarded to the father.

The Methodist Church Conference in Fiji may be brought forward to resolve discord. Methodist sources in Fiji maintain there is no rift in the church. There is a need, they say, for discussion of all differences between groups and on attitudes towards Sunday observances regulations imposed by coup leader Brigadier Rabuka, and implications of his proposed new Constitution.

The Wycliffe Bible Translators have completed their 300th New Testament, translated with local people, which was dedicated in January for the Cotabato Manobo people, who live in the southern area of the Philippines.

One in four British churches is likely to suffer at the hands of an arsonist, vandal or thief in 1989, according to The Ecclesiastical Insurance Group.

The Community Aid Abroad's Walk Against Want is being held on 16 April in every capital city and many regional areas throughout Australia. Participants can walk, or run, 5-20 km, or cycle 10-60 km to raise money to aid such projects as a reforestation program in India or a village school in Namibia. Readers interested in participating or wanting more informa-

tion can ring for the cost of a local call on (008) 038 180.

World Vision will mount a mine clearing and explosion operation in the Paktia Province of Afghanistan. Millions of mines sown during the Afghan war need to be exploded to avoid returning refugees falling victim to them. World Vision's rehabilitation work in agriculture, irrigation and reconstruction is being hampered by the presence of the mines.

World Vision projects in Ethiopia are being threatened by serious outbreaks of meningitis and malaria. The two diseases have already claimed thousands of lives in the Humbo, Omosheleko and Ansokla areas.

Emergency needs have been met in Soviet Armenia in the wake of the devastating 7 December earthquake, but it will be weeks or even months before enough debris is cleared for reconstruction to begin. The latest statistics show 25,000 confirmed dead, 15,000 pulled from the ruins alive, 12,000 hospitalised and 114,000 evacuated, 74,000 of them outside Armenia. The disaster has also spurred a spiritual renewal in Armenia as people cling to their Orthodox faith.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is 'a man sent from God' according to the general secretary of the Soviet Baptist Union, Dr Alexei Bychov.

Former TV evangelist Jim Bakker has been indicted by a federal grand jury on 24 counts of fraud and conspiracy arising from mismanagement of his PTL ministry. Bakker and wife Tammy made a surprise return to TV screens in January.

Thousands of Americans demonstrated against abortion in a National Day of Rescue. 2,631 were arrested in 42 cities.

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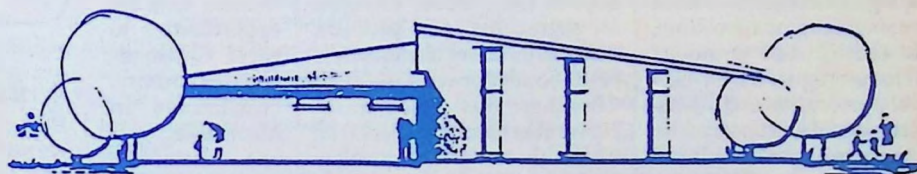


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1988's Top Ten News Stories

Each year *The Christian Century* asks a group of people involved in the media to nominate what they see as the main religious news stories for the year in America. From this they draw up a listing of the top 10 stories for the year. They have announced that they consider the following stories the top 10 for 1988.

1. Glasnost for religion in the USSR. In the year marking the millennium of Christianity in Russia, the Soviet Union took some significant steps toward increasing religious freedom, while the Russian Orthodox church, having survived decades of persecution and atheistic propaganda, appeared to obtain a new degree of cultural status and influence. The openness of the Gorbachev era has created a strikingly new context and challenge for the next generation of believers and for Orthodox leaders.

2. The 'disestablished' mainline churches. Years of decline in membership hit the mainline Protestant churches in the pocketbook, and Protestant leaders spoke of the 'disestablishment' of the mainline churches.

3. Preacher or President? Charismatic campaigns and prophetic passion made Jesse Jackson and Pat Robertson serious contenders in the US Presidential Primary campaigns, though neither had held public office. Both are ordained ministers and drew much of their support from church people. They represent the 'left' and 'right' wings of American politics.

4. Churches and gays. Debate over mainline churches' nuanced statements on homosexuality, particularly on ordination, tended to produce more heat than light.

5. Women's issues. Barbara Harris was elected bishop by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. Some attacked her lack of conventional training, her limited parish ministry and her theological and political views. Many Episcopalians remain opposed to women's

ordination. Other issues include the discussion of the ordination of women among Anglicans worldwide and comments from various Roman Catholic sources regarding sexism and the place of women.

6. Church-state conflict in South Africa. Not long after a number of South African church leaders announced that they would defy the government's state of emergency with a new non-violent civil disobedience campaign and would boycott the October elections for segregated local councils, the Johannesburg headquarters of the South African Council of Churches was bombed. In November church leaders at an interfaith conference in New York vowed to intensify their opposition to South Africa's apartheid system.

7. The Last Temptation. Battled in America, later banned in Israel and bombed in France, *The Last Temptation of Christ* was released after four weeks of "sneak previews", which allowed time for fundamentalists to attack the "blasphemous" portrayal of Christ, movie critics to point out cinematic shortcomings and mainliners to welcome the opportunity to discuss Christ.

8. The Vatican quells dissent. Among those subjected to a silencing order from Rome was Dominican priest Matthew Fox, who heads a movement called "creation spirituality" which utilizes non-Christian as well as Christian mystical traditions. Also silenced was Bishop Pedro Casaldaliga of Sao Felix, Brazil, who has been outspoken in his championing of liberation theology. The Holy See's long arm reached Australia where Father David Coffey of Saint Patrick's Seminary, in Sydney is under investigation, reportedly for underplaying the physicality of Christ's resurrection.

9. Jews and the intifada. Unlike previous Palestinian uprisings, the *intifada* that began a year ago had a sustained and social impact throughout the world, and created divi-

Spread of Christianity Forbidden in Mauritania

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania continues to be one of the few African countries with a closed-door policy to Christian evangelism. According to foreign diplomats a number of Christians have recently been expelled from the country for distributing Christian literature. Some Muslim extremists look for opportunities to expel Christians from the country. "Christians in Mauritania," says one missionary, "must watch every word."

More than 99% of Mauritania's 1.8 million people are Suni Muslims. About 80% are Moors, or a mixed Arab-Berber race, and 20% are black Africans.

World Vision, one of the few Christian agencies active in the country, is allowed because the group provides health and nutritional care. According to Dr M'Baissouroum Mouanodji, a Chadian cardiologist who worked from 1985 to 1987 with World Vision in Mauritania, "It is forbidden to engage a Mauritanian in a discussion about Jesus Christ, but if someone asks a question, a

Christian has the right to explain his faith." Occasionally Mauritanian members of his medical group posed questions, particularly after Christians were seen praying or reading the Bible. Dr Mouanodji currently lives in the Ivory Coast.

"In general," he added, "you encounter no problems if you respect their culture, their laws and their religion—and if you don't evangelise."

There is no organised church in Mauri-

tania, but Mouanodji knew of one group of about 10 expatriates that meets weekly in a home. The only Mauritanian Christian he knows lives in Nouakchott, the capital.

During the past 15 years drought conditions have caused many Mauritians to flee south into Senegal, Mali and the Ivory Coast. Missionaries are now beginning to evangelise refugees in northern Senegal, and they also claim there are only a few Mauritanian Christians in the world.

—APS



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sions among American Jews.

10 Swaggart's sin. With Jim Bakker's fall still in the news, another televangelist admitted committing a sin he had vehemently condemned throughout his ministry. Jimmy Swaggart stepped down from his pulpit in February, tearfully pleading for forgiveness after various ministers and the media reported having evidence of Swaggart's rendezvous with a prostitute. He was given a one year preaching suspension and a two year rehabilitation period. Refusing to be censored, Swaggart was back in his rostrum in May.

A Church ABC

Port Macquarie is a delightful town on the mid north coast of NSW, 420 km from Sydney. Rated by some as having the best climate in Australia (if not the world!) the area's 26,000 inhabitants enjoy magnificent rugged coastal scenery and beautiful beaches. Its popularity has resulted in a building boom in what is now the fastest growth area be-

up area. It has an active membership of 71 and an average attendance of 90, often including tourists passing through. The high proportion of retired people in the area is reflected in church membership. Limited opportunities for employment before the boom (at one stage there was an unemployment

threw, who works locally, and Karen, in Year 10 at school.

Services are held at 9.30 am and 7 pm. Sunday School is held at the same time as the morning service and as it is 50 and growing this puts constraints on space—some classes are held in the manse. There is a movement into emphasis on small groups in the life of the church, catering for

Focus on Port Macquarie

tween Sydney and the Queensland border. Tourism and people retiring to the area account for most of the town's growth and economy and the local council has been concerned to preserve beaches and parklands.

Port Macquarie was established in 1821 as a penal settlement. It was named by explorer John Oxley after the famous early governor of NSW and was a port for coastal steamers in the days before railways and good roads. The church was established in 1972, with the help of the Taree church, in Clifton Drive on the western side of the town in what was then the edge of the built

rate of 25%) means that the church had few people in the younger middle age group. The buildings consist of a hall, which is used for both worship and other activities, and a two-storey manse next door. In 1987 a large foyer and other rooms were added to the hall.

The minister at Port Macquarie is Barry Brown. Barry graduated from Woolwich in 1969 and had ministries in Victoria at Echuca, Kaniva and Mildura before coming to Port Macquarie in 1983. He and his wife Judy have three children, Grace, who is married and lives in Melbourne, Mat-

fellowship and nurture as well as study. A majority of the church are involved and will include older young people as well as adults.

Other activities include "Task Force" on Thursday nights for primary school aged children, a youth group on Friday nights, a young adults group, a choir, and the "Clifton Club" (named after the street), held once a month for seniors, with lunch and fellowship.

With the usual social events—picnics after church, fellowship teas and the celebrations of people's anniversaries—Port Macquarie has a happy family atmosphere and very friendly people.

Growing Spiritually

A Risky Bunch?

by Barry Ryall

He was running out between the cars on the busy freeway picking bananas, well picking them up at least. Further on I saw the truck driver tying his boxes more securely, he was also counting them to see how many had been lost. I thought the guy was taking a big risk for a few bananas, but obviously he had assessed the risks and was prepared to take them for the reward, a box of bananas.

I couldn't help remembering a couple of months before, chasing a 1,000 wan note across the road in Seoul. I had assessed the risk also, but the information I used to make the judgment was incorrect. We were only new to Korea and thought 1,000 wan was a lot of money. It wasn't—it's worth less than \$2. I'd forgotten that in Korea the cars go rather quickly and on the other side of the road. At least the fellow who had dropped his money in the windy street seemed to be appreciative.

We find ourselves taking risks in all

sorts of ways in our everyday life. This raises the question about the risks we are prepared to take when it comes to our faith.

An obvious risk every Christian should experience regularly is that of rejection or refusal when we share something of our faith or ask someone to take part in the life of the church. Avoiding these risks leads to stagnation in our own lives and in our churches. Far from being foolish this sort of risk is what the church is founded upon. Men and women of faith speaking about Jesus and sometimes facing real persecution or rejection.

God took the ultimate risk in the incarnation. (Romans 8:32) Paul took many risks on his missionary journeys (2 Corinthians 11:23-28) and the history of the church is filled with the men and women of faith who took great risks for God in their efforts to serve him.

We are not meant to be taking foolish

risks, but then who decides what is foolish? Some individuals and churches do things many would call foolish and others would call "stepping out in faith". The armchair experts find it easy, it's "foolish" when it fails and "faith" when it succeeds.

Are we known as a "risky bunch"? Do we take risks to extend the kingdom as individuals? Do we elect "risky" people to our leadership positions? People who will risk new ideas, risk being understood and risk the concern about how the "power base" may be affected or even altered.

It's much easier to let them "go it on their own". I mean then we can tell—if it succeeds it's faith, if it fails it's foolish. What disturbs me though is whether more of our risk takers would succeed if they had support rather than silence.

• Barry Ryall is the minister at the Dalkeith Road, WA, church.

Classifieds

BIRTHS

BASSETT (JOHNSON) To God be the glory for Benjamin Luke, Just to prove Joshua wasn't a fluke. Born on 8th February at 3.44. Weighed seven and a half pounds or just a touch more. Hazel and John are as proud as can be. For another son to share life within PNG.

ENGAGEMENTS

SMITH—MEERS Keith and Jean Smith (Bexley North) are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Debra, to Russell, son of Robert and Marjorie Meers. "The Lord bless you and keep you and give you peace."

SMITH—PAGE Banks and Rae with Alan and Iris announce with joy the engagement of Sue and Alan. Our prayer is for a lifetime of happiness.

JONES—FARMER Pam and Neville with their families are very happy to announce their engagement.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

BEILER Don and Ellmer celebrate 50 years of happy companionship since their wedding at Glenelg church conducted by Dr Johnston and Will Beiler on 4th March 1939, and praise the Lord for his goodness and all the blessings that have come in Christian fellowship and service for him.

MANNING Christine and Ross, married at Ikau, Belgian Congo (now Zaire), 8th March 1939. Now living at 3/79 Witton Rd, Christies Beach, SA. Love and congratulations from Frank, Jean, Mavis and Jim and families.

STRACK—KEMP Jim and Doreen were married at the Essendon Church of Christ on March 20th, 1939 by A.E. Illingworth and A.A. Hughes. Loving congratulations from Peter, Catherine, Greg, Andrea, Julie and Peter and all six grandchildren. They invite the many friends of their parents to greet them on Sunday March 19th at Essendon Church of Christ. At home 2.30—5.30 pm. (No presents).

IN MEMORIAM

GAIRNS Alan James January 31st 1988. We miss you more each day. Your loving wife Phyllis and family Marilyn, Bernice and David. Till we meet again.

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A human rights agreement signed in Vienna by representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union and 33 other nations makes guarantees for—among other things—religious freedoms for believers within their respective borders.

Media magnate Rupert Murdoch has chosen Robert Schuller's television program, "Hour of Power", as the only religious program to be broadcast on his Sky Channel television satellite network in Europe.

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Church News

Qld

CROWNST, TOOWOOMBA (Ron Green) Church enjoying fulltime ministry of Ron & Sue Green ... Sunday School attendance increased since Christmas ... Two new families attending ... Family service followed fellowship tea held first Sunday of the month ... CWF busy ... Craft mornings held second and fourth Tuesdays attract outside ladies ... Mary & Martha morning and Mother's Day luncheon coming up ... Church saddened by deaths of Elizabeth Major & Les Enchelmaier.

Vic

NORTH ESSENDON (David Rees) Christmas carols service at Essendon church ... Geoff Alves, Dennis & Norman Peebles, Jack Pemberton and Linda Lycett January lay preachers ... Young people involved in Banksia & Adventure Club camps ... Several thousand showbags packed ... Schaefer family farewelled & given presentations 12 Feb. Luncheon & PSA followed and David Rees welcomed ... Recent guest speakers Louis van Laar & Dorothy Geyer.

The F.A.B.—Aiming in the Right Direction

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- and Development •
- 52 La Trobe Street •
- Melbourne 3000 •
- • • • •

Tas

NUBEENA (Gordon Henderson) Minister & wife attended Fed. Conf. Stan Hince (ITIM) together with laymen spoke in minister's absence ... Family camp, incorporated Sunday School, was held at Fortescue Bay. 26 camped out and others attended during the day ... Average weekly attendance for the last two months have been am 57, pm 36, communicants 50 ... Three young people have gone to mainland to have practical experience and do Christian studies.

Australian evangelist Stuart Gramenz's book, *Who Are God's Guerrillas?* was briefly withheld from shops in South Africa. Bureaucrats thought the title indicated advocating violence against the state.

SURREY HILLS/ WATTLE PARK

Church of Christ

is celebrating 100 years of witness in the Surrey Hills' district and plan a centenary service for

16 July 1989

Further details later.

Please notify any interested friends or contacts.

For further information ring:
Nell Haines 29 5062
Joyce Clutterbuck (Gilmour) 288 2874

Joan Davies (Murray) 890 4758
Ray Minahan 898 2489

VICTOR HARBOR Church of Christ

DIAMOND JUBILEE

Sat. 8th April:
9.30 am Morning Tea
12.30 pm Barbeque lunch
7.00 pm "Black Stump" Social

Sun. 9th April
10.30 am Thanksgiving Service
12.30 pm Lunch
2.00 pm Music, Musings and Memories
Come and help us celebrate our 60th birthday!

Victor Harbor Church of Christ
Seaview Road, Victor Harbor
For more details contact
Ruth Mayon (085) 52 1601
or write PO Box 687, Victor Harbor 5211.

We Are Moving into a Different World

Tom Houston tells of his view on the trends of the world. His in-depth and perhaps prophetic insights are a possible reference for strategic plannings and mission outreaches.

☛ 1. People power is on the move. Today it is Burma, Poland, Chile and ethnic groups in the Soviet Union. Yesterday it was Korea, Haiti, the Philippines, Brazil, Portugal, Spain, South Africa and many others. Tomorrow who knows where it will be? People are taking their destinies into their own hands. Economic desperation is likely to be the tinder that sparks the risings as poverty becomes intolerable. This spells struggle and strife, and all the agony that arises when vested interests are threatened and fight back to survive. Projects will have to be managed in this atmosphere.

☛ 2. The simplistic bi-polar view of the world will no longer be adequate. It is no longer the free world against the communists or the west against the east. The USA and the USSR will be on the same side more and more. There will

be unforeseen variations on the theme "socialism". The world will not divide neatly as before ideologically. *Glasnost* and *perestroika* and other such emphases will make it difficult to steer by our international bearings as we have learned them.

The nature of local conflicts will shift and groups will need to come to terms with one another in a face to face fashion if they are not to destroy each other. There will be wars and revolutions, and the call to ministries of reconciliation will be more clement and more frustrating.

☛ 3. There will be big economic shifts. The financial strengths of the Pacific rim countries and western Europe will catch up and may even overtake that of the United States, with its enormous debt. Japan is already giving more aid money than the US.

☛ 4. The secularisation of the West will accelerate with less tolerance for things Christian, and charitable money harder to come by and be more closely scrutinised.

☛ 5. The erosion of family structures, both Christian and traditional to other cultures, will go on and have a disintegrating effect on social cohesion.

☛ 6. AIDS will increase as a world scourge. International drug trafficking and drug use

will remain centre stage, and terrorism will continue to be one of the orders of the day.

☛ 7. Disasters, natural and man made, will increase and the poor will be the ones to suffer in greater numbers. We have Scripture and trends to tell us so.

☛ 8. Moves towards world evangelisation will accelerate in the decade leading up to AD 2000, but there is no guarantee that this will not engender backlashes and lead to more strident divisions between the churches.

☛ 9. Islam as an ideology will take its place alongside of Marxism and secularism as a dominant factor in world politics and people's attitudes.

☛ 10. Languages other than English will become more important as world evangelisation becomes a shared goal. Chinese, Arabic, French, Portuguese, will all come into their own.

☛ 11. Technology may become the closest thing to a universal language and literacy in that language become a key to organisational effectiveness in the international world.

• Tom Houston is president of World Vision International. This article is reprinted, with permission, from "World Evangelization"

Radio station 2CBA-FM, owned and operated by the Christian Broadcasting Association Ltd, stereo 103.2 MHz, was the first Christian FM station in Australia. It was also only the third FM station to be licensed in Sydney. The station will celebrate its 10th anniversary on 5 March.

The Christian Broadcasting Council of Great Britain has been asked to provide "short, inspirational spots, of one minute duration" for use on Rupert Murdoch's Sky Channel, which will beam them into Europe.

Defrocked TV evangelist Jimmy Swaggart, ousted from the Assemblies of God in a sex scandal, has lost nearly half of his television viewers, according to the latest Arbitron ratings survey.

The US has denied refugee status to dozens of Soviet pentecostals now living in Rome. There have been claims of numerous abuses of procedure and misapplications of legal standards by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service.

A new Church and Perestroika group in the USSR has announced its intention to work for the right to actively spread Christianity in the country. Among other things it is calling for the establish of catechism groups, prayer circles and research and study groups. The group says the Russian Orthodox hierarchy is insufficiently interested in evangelism.

The Swiss Federal Military Department has decided to allow deacons, pastoral assistants and women to become military chaplains. Currently there are 456 chaplains, all male and all pastors or priests.

The Catholic church in Mozambique, facing an acute shortage of priests and religious personnel, has sent an SOS to African countries. Of 230 priests in the country, only 38 are Mozambicans.

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Science, Technology and Christian Faith

The following statement is another in a series being issued by the Heads of Churches covering various issues facing Australian society.

The "Conflict" between Religion and Science

Since the late 19th century it has been assumed that there is some kind of conflict between Christianity and science.

Science, it has been said, is dedicated to explaining the world about us and human life itself in naturalistic terms: that is, without involving any "supernatural" factors. Christianity, on the other hand, speaks of God as the creator, sustainer and providential carer of all things. It centres on Jesus Christ as the person in whom God in a unique way entered the world. It testifies to an order of love, grace and divine spontaneity which appears at times foreign to the cut-and-dried causal determinism of nature.

There is thus, it is argued, a conflict between the world view of science on the one hand and Christianity on the other. Yet none of the great founders of modern science—Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, Newton—saw any necessary conflict between science and Christianity. They thought Christianity and science were concerned with quite different questions so that, as long as science did not trespass into the sphere of religion, there could be no conflict between the two.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, science became linked with a particular philosophy (or ideology) of science which claimed in effect that scientific knowledge was the only valid form of knowledge; science could tell us not only how the physical world works but also answer fundamental questions about the meaning and value of human life.

That philosophical theory about science should not be confused with science itself. One cannot prove by scientific means that scientific knowledge is the only valid form of knowledge, rendering all other forms (Philosophical, religious, etc.) nonsensical or superstitious. In fact, science assumes a large number of things that it cannot itself prove or explain in scientific terms. Science can tell us only how things are - it cannot tell us whether they are good or bad or how they ought or ought not to be. The scientist deals with facts, not with values, although it should be said that values are often implicit in the way the scientist goes about his/her work.

Christian attitudes to Science and Technology

Christian attitudes to science and technology betray a deep ambivalence.

There is, for example, the approach which sees some technology as an attempt by human beings to play God. Some of us look with considerable concern at developments in the area of biotechnology, seeing them in some respects to interfere inappropriately with the very processes of human life.

Other Christians see technology in an excessively optimistic light as a means of human liberation from the constraints of nature. Just as the older industrial technology freed at least some human beings from much of the oppressive drudgery of work so the new biotechnology, they believe, will free us from many of our biological limitations. Hence, it is argued, we will be able to control the process of life itself and imitate the free creativity of God.

An authentically Christian attitude must respect both the potential and the limitations of science and technology. The Christian cannot rule out all technology as an attempt by human beings to supplant God. God did not simply create the world and human nature and leave them be.

In a certain sense, the work of creation is continued through the work we human beings do. We draw out and develop the latent potentialities of nature, controlling and harmonising the natural forces for humanity's benefit. Much of this takes the form of technological advance and represents part of the benefit accruing to us from science.

However, against the idealistic position mentioned above we have to insist that science and technology demand constant Christian scrutiny. The practical applications of technology are not all automatically good. We see no reason to believe in any kind of pre-established harmony between scientific and technological progress and human happiness.

Choice is necessary. Technology makes possible many things we should never do. Therefore society needs moral and social criteria in the light of which it can say "yes" to some technological developments and "no" to others. Christians ought to play a major part in formulating those criteria so that science and technology are made to serve truly human purposes and to give glory to God.

The church as a body has a strong commitment to the appropriate use of science and technology. The unique position of the church in society gives it a particular responsibility to take part in community debate wherever human life and values are involved.

Stefan's Thanksgiving

—a meditation for Maundy Thursday based on an actual observation

The Melbourne morning is crisp, with the threat of an early winter. The weakening sunshine shows yellow through the dying leaves of the street trees—reminders of a long-forgotten homeland.

Early mornings are for good pickings, so old Stefan shuffles down Collins Street, past its opulence and its churches, to the corner of Swanston Street.

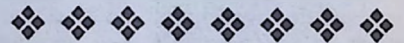
He knows there stands in the shadow of a proud town hall, and within sight of the altar-end of St Paul's cathedral, the most rewarding rubbish bins in his adopted country.

At the moment the priest at St Francis', down Elizabeth Street, proclaims triumphantly in his not-forgotten Irish lilt: "...the body of Christ".

And just before the minister at Scots', up Collins Street, pronounces determinantly in his never-forgotten highland accent: "...in remembrance of me".

Stefan plunges into his treasure trove and brings trembling to his cracked lips the leftovers of someone's supper and in his half-forgotten native tongue offers up his only eucharist that day.

—Bruce McIntosh



Why

Why do we always think of a cross
When Easter comes around,
Why do we always think of His Tomb
In a rock deep in the ground.

Why not think of a risen Lord
Who paid the price and died,
Why not think of our Father in Heaven
Who received His Son with pride.

Why are we bowed down in sorrow
When it was all meant to be,
Why not sing and be joyful
Until His face we see.

—Ruth Wilson

Ministers' Workshop

Gospel Preaching

by Bill Gaunson

Some years ago I was arranging speakers for my church during my holidays. I rang one man and asked him to speak at a gospel service. I commented to him that our men were happier to preach in the morning than the evening. To my amazement he replied, "I can't understand that. To preach in the morning you have to research and prepare, but the evening is the same every week."

That is as far from my understanding of preaching the Word of God as it would be possible to get! Jack Bond once said to me about evangelistic preaching, "I like to give people something to believe on."

My thoughts on gospel preaching all arise out of our call to study and preach the Word of God (2 Timothy 2:15 and 4:2). In particular I would draw attention to 1 Timothy 4:16: "Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers."

If we are doing that, there will be content in our preaching. The world's top evangelists expound the scriptures. Recently at our church we had a nine-week series on the life of Joseph. It crystallised in my mind as I was reading R.T. Kendall's book, *God Meant It for Good*. That is a long series on Joseph, and it struck me that he preached these messages at the regular Sunday night evangelistic service at Westminster Chapel.

That leads me to another truth found in 1 Timothy 4:16. The word "save" cannot here only mean conversion, for Timothy was already saved. The promise for him was personal enrichment and deepening of holiness. When we preach the Word of

God, the non-Christian hearer can be converted and the Christian hearer sanctified. I was attracted to that series on Joseph because we get a lot of young people on Sunday nights, and there is so much teaching in Joseph's life about the way God wants them to live, and the problems they experience today.

Now let's focus on those who need to be saved in the first sense. Paul said, "You will save your hearers." We should be preaching for a verdict. The aim of evangelism is conversion.

We should be addressing the people who need Christ. Talk to the unconverted, and be sure you are preaching the gospel, not preaching about the gospel.

The invitation flows naturally from this. We should give the appeal, I believe—

Constantly: Some ask, "Do you always give the invitation?" as if you either do or you don't. I think it is far more a question of how you give it (how much pressure, how much explaining etc.) but you can always give that opportunity.

Sincerely: I like to approach it with Charles Finney's prayer, "Lord, give me a warm heart."

Scripturally: By that I mean two things. 1. To quote scriptures like Romans 10:9, 10 is the best way to tell people why you are asking them to come forward: to commit themselves publicly to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. 2. Our main appeal, I believe, is for first decision. Let the rededications come without manipulation.

Briefly: There is no need to labour the point. Be careful of extending the invitation when no-one has come. As a rule it would be better to interrupt the hymn and say another word when someone has come. R.T. Kendall, in *Stand Up and Be Counted*,

points out that "by giving a regular, calm and clear opportunity for people to respond", the minister puts himself in the position where he can "press further than usual" when he is so moved.

For me, the privilege of preaching the gospel and calling for decision is based on the awe-inspiring words of 2 Corinthians 5:20, "God making his appeal through us".

• Bill Gaunson is senior minister at the South Perth, WA, church and is often involved in evangelistic missions.

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

Chronologia

Night of selling became
Day of trial,
Afternoon of dying,
Evening of repose,
Two days of silence.

Then came joyful morning.

Resurrection's victory bursting in on
all
Who henceforth would believe.

And Time, like the veil was rent in
twain.

—Garry Harris

Pontius' Puddle



I'm Still an Individual

by Donald Stewart

The Report

The Minister for Aged Care, the Hon. Peter Staples, has released an issues-paper-report entitled, "I'm Still an Individual" amidst a great deal of hype about the widespread abuse of residents in nursing homes and aged care hostels across Australia.

Concern

Our conferences and churches ought to be concerned because the nursing homes and hostels operated by our care departments are included in the report.

Response

In response to the report it needs to be noted that the report does not detail any actual physical abuse nor does it indicate that basic health care is being denied to residents. What it does detail is the failure of nursing homes and hostels to provide or only partially provide a "home-like environment". It does seem that there is a vast difference between "abuse" and the failure to provide a fully "home-like environment".

Issues

Aside from a small number of side issues such as the recommendations relating to care provider associations the types of problems identified relate to the following:

1. **Boredom**—The problem relates to the fact that there is insufficient interesting activity being organised for residents. Presently most homes employ some activity staff on week days. This leaves the evenings and weekends bereft of interesting and stimulating activity. The problem exists because of shift and penalty payments and insufficient funds to employ the appropriately trained staff needed.

2. **Relatives**—The problem is the loss of relationship with relatives. This is recognised as being a major concern to residents. The way in which this matter needs to be tackled is the provision of social workers on the staffs of nursing homes and hostels to do the work of maintaining and building relationships to relatives and where no such relationships exist to endeavour to establish some viable alternatives. Staff are presently so engaged in meeting basic health care that there is really no time to seek to meet this problem.

3. **Privacy**—The government, over the years, has persistently kept the number of

single rooms in nursing homes at a low level because they were conceived of as long stay hospitals. We now have the legacy of this approach. To change it will mean the expensive rebuilding of almost all of the nursing homes in Australia. With the equipment and atmosphere resembling a hospital it is difficult to develop a "home-like environment". Many of our homes have tried hard to soften the sterile hospital environment but the fact remains it is basically a hospital design.

4. **Clothing**—It is bad that there should be a pool of clothing that is shared among some residents. But there are reasons for a pool of clothes. Some relatives collect the residue of the resident's pension for their own use and make little or no provision for clothing so the facility has little option but to use a pool of clothes to see that the residents are clothed. The other difficulty relates to the problems of incontinence, where a resident may need a significant number of changes of clothes that they may not be able to afford or may not wish to purchase.

5. **Resident Agreements**—These agreements setting out the conditions and arrangements for care are provided at present in hostels and the basic provisions in those agreements are regulated by the Federal Government. However, in the great majority of cases there are not agreements for nursing home residents. This situation will have to change and some of our church departments are on the point of introducing nursing home resident agreements.

A Quantum Leap

It is important to see the report as an analysis of the situation in nursing homes and hostels, which we hope will lead to further improvements in aspects of the provision of a more "home-like environment", but at the same time to realise that our nursing homes and hostels are offering good quality care within the constraints of Commonwealth funding. To make the quantum leap to meet the recommendations of the report will require a massive increase in the costs, which will have to be borne either by the residents, the Commonwealth or both.

Paying the Price

Our conferences and churches should note that Churches of Christ are among the leaders in providing good quality care by international standards. The next step for even better care is being opened for us by this report, provided the costs can be met without detriment to basic health care.

• Donald Stewart is the Executive Director of the Queensland Churches of Christ Social Service Department.

HEALING THE WOUNDED

by John White and Ken Blue (IVP)

This book is sub-titled "The Costly Love of Church Discipline". Coming from the experience of John White, the well-respected Canadian psychologist and author of such books as *Paranoia in Pain* and *The Masks of Melancholy*, the book is recommended reading for those struggling with the issue of church discipline.

Our churches in Australia have not been strong in the area of church discipline. Mostly our discipline cases solve themselves by going out the back door of the church and so we put them on the 'inactive' or 'supplementary' role and, after a few years, heave a sigh of relief when we forget them altogether!

This book calls us to take firm, but loving, initiatives in the area of discipline; the particular area dealt with is described by the authors as 'corrective discipline'. John White writes, "Yes, the re-introduction of church discipline will bring dangers with it. Some may get badly hurt. But the dangers of failing to restore it will be incalculably greater."

The aims of discipline are (a) the purity of the church and (b) the restoration of the sinner to righteousness. White adds to this the principles of (c) reconciliation and (d) freedom.

The Book has three sections (a) The Problem, (b) Goals of Corrective Church Discipline and (c) Practical Considerations.

Although it is not bed time reading, the many examples given are relevant and helpful. It is not a book with all the answers, but an encouragement for elders to get involved in one of their often neglected tasks.

Ken Blue, who co-authored this book, was in Australia recently promoting the John Wimber seminars. Both Ken Blue and John White are active in Vineyard Ministries. —B. Jenkins

THE PEACE MAKERS

Resolving Conflict between Christians

by Horace L. Fenton (Inter-Varsity Press)

When Christians hurt, the Body of Christ bleeds. Whether we blame the influence of Satan, lack of love, or our flawed human nature, the inter-necine disharmony of Christians can make the average civil war look pretty tame. In fact, the would-be peace maker is just as likely to be among the casualties as are the antagonists. Dr Fenton writes from the experience of over 50 years of Christian service. He examines and analyses Biblical examples of personal and doctrinal division as a basis for the resolution of conflict between contemporary Christians.

The author does not guarantee that the principles of peace making which he has identified from Bible study and pastoral experience will be successful in every situation of conflict. He recognises that ultimately resolution lies in humble submission to the Prince of Peace.

Despite the tragedy and trauma inherent in such situations, if we are prepared to distinguish between our will and that of God, and to submit to the reconciling power of Christ, there exists the potential to display to the world a powerful and positive example of Christian love and peace making in action.

There is much wisdom in this book. It should be read by pastors, church board members and all concerned Christians—preferably before disagreement arises. —Graeme Addicott

Discipleship

•Suzie Brearley, Helen Keightley, Anita O'Lesk, Judy Read, Warren Charles, Sharon Charles, Springvale, Vic •Joanne Threadgold, Myriam Christinat, Raphael Christinat, Tiffany Wray, Kelth, SA •Shona & Trevor Shellberg, Allison Ritchie, Ronda Donald, Ann Neal, Katherine Mugridge, Eloise Dock, Annerley, Qld •Heather Moore, Heather Sarginson, Bowral, NSW •Mrs Sue Williams, Frankton, Vic •Kylie Sims, Karen Twentyman, Maryborough, Qld •Bradley Stock, Christopher Wiltshire, Albion, Qld •Hani Mir, Katherine Blyth, Angela Cleeton, Albury, NSW •Glen Megson, Ruth Flaherty, Blackwood, SA

Marriages

•Michelle Baensch to Lester Sutton, Springvale, Vic •Colin Avery to Jill Henderson, Frankton, Vic •Thirza Rayward to Jim McPhee, Nunawading, Vic •Karen Goldsworthy to Wayne Pecar, Dorothy Bahr to Cliff Morrison, Belmont, Vic

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9.00 a.m. Worship &
Communion
6.30 p.m.
Gospel Celebration
Minister: Noel Newton
(075) 32 5660 or
31 4353 (Home)

Deaths

•Olive Wilson, Epping, NSW •Mrs Nellie Gatsing, Warrnambool, Vic •Dot Mansfield, Maryborough, Qld •John Gilbert (Bert) Doubikin, Kalamunda, WA •Myrtle Jennings, Belmont, Vic •Les Enchelmaier, Elizabeth Major, Crown Street, Toowoomba Qld •John Williams, Willis Christian, Nubeena, Tas

CORRECTION

In the 4 February issue we were advised to place the name of Christina Tay of the Epping, NSW, church among the deaths in the Personal column. We wish to report that Christina Tay is very much alive. We apologise for any inconvenience that this wrong report may have caused.

Changes

CLAPP, John and Eira—13 Lenham Way, Marangaroo, WA 6064. Phone (09) 343 2173.

OCEAN GROVE: Minister—Andrew Henley 3 Dandariga Drive, Clifton Springs, Vic 3222. (home address)

Church office—97 The Terrace, Ocean Grove, Vic 3222. Phone (052) 55 2025.

BOND, John and Julie—Sonlife Ministries Inc, P.O. Box 154, Mad-dington, WA 6109.

L.C.F. Higgins

Chartered
Accountant
7 The Parade
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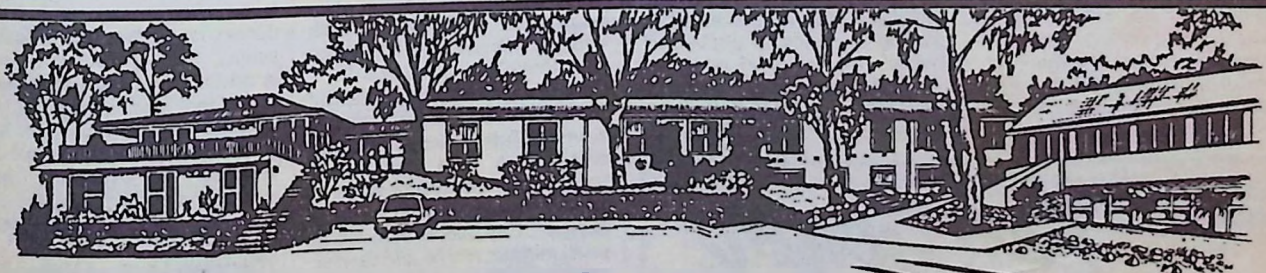
The 1989 40 Hour Famine is approaching us fast and we need several VDU operators or typists with some telephone and clerical skills to cope with the large amount of calls generated by the 40 Hour Famine. These positions are temporary, beginning in April through to June, and could possibly be suited to committed people wanting to contribute their abilities to a Christian Overseas Aid Organization.

Because the 40 Hour Famine is such a large operation, our staff need to be flexible with working hours, as evenings and some weekends are required.

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Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words in length

BARTLETT, Frank Tristram (9.2.89) Born in 1913, Frank was the second child of Rose and Harry Bartlett of Croydon, SA. He married Hilda Pearce in 1941. Their children, Peter and Joy, were nine and four respectively when their mother died. Frank later married Lorna Garland. During World War II he served in the RAAF, returning to the SA Gas Co where he was employed as a meter reader, storeman and manager. A keen sportsman at cricket, tennis and lawn bowls. He has been involved in the church all his life (over 50 years) Sunday School teaching, officer and elder. A helper to everyone at Rose Park Village; Chairman of the Residents' Committee and leader of Sunday morning worship.

—T. Lawrie

DINNING, Linda Annie (27.1.89) Naracoorte, SA, chapel could not accommodate all who paid tribute to Linda for her life of 69 years. Patience, serenity and loving service typified this quiet woman. Years of devoted and meticulous service in the church with Sunday school, women's work and music were supported with a reputation for hospitality and friendliness in the community. Born at Bordertown, she was a descendent of pioneers in Churches of Christ. In 1944 she married Byn Dinning and they spent most of their life together in the South East. Their children, Glenice, Roma and Ian and the grandchildren were to Linda "my most precious possession".

—Ron Holmes

RUTHERFORD, Robert (6.11.88) Bob Rutherford passed to be with his Lord after a 21-month fight with cancer, which was typical of the firm faith and determined application that he brought to life's experiences. He and his family made a strong contribution to the church fellowship at Brooklyn Park, both in their readiness to relate lovingly to people on a personal level and to share in the responsi-

bility of administration. Bob did not ever seek "up front" positions, but was always available when practical help was needed. He is survived by his wife Roberta and children Lynne and Keith.

—HSP

Tas

DEVONPORT (B. Butler) During the past 19 months the church has been without a full-time minister. On 5 February, Bruce and Shirley Butler and their two children, Adam (6) and Holly (3), were welcomed into the fellowship and ministry of the church. Steve Warwick, Tasmanian President, presided over the service and brought a tremendously challenging word to the minister & congregation. Representatives from several of our churches were present and greetings were received from every Church of Christ in Tasmania. A fellowship lunch was held in the hall, where opportunity was given to greet Bruce & Shirley in a more formal way.

LAUNCESTON (Rod Foster) Gordon Stirling conducted induction of Rod Foster on 12 Feb. and 200 joined in a fellowship lunch to welcome the family ... House parties held during the week for members to introduce themselves ... \$350 from local sales of Lesley Stirling's book sent to COB campus appeal ... Gordon Hush to be guest leader at Easter camp at Bicheno ... Martin Sigurd from Sweden back with us for a month ... Kerrisons spoke to CWF on 22 Feb.

WA

BRIDGETOWN Bridgetown has a growing & changing population. The church has good prospects but really needs a part-time pastor as we cannot afford a full-time man at present without considerable

Church News

assistance ... Glyn & Jeanette Butler & family have been transferred to Northam & we miss their help ... Number continue around 30 with a good percentage of young people ... Seven young people meet weekly for Bible study before Sunday morning worship They form the nucleus of the Friday night group which caters for non-Christians.

KALAMUNDA (John Thornhill, Mark Proud, Paul Sanders) John & Kae Thornhill & family welcomed. John's induction as senior pastor took place on 5 Feb ... Church saddened at death of Bert Doubikin, long standing member, elder for 13 years ... Dean & Heather Smith & family have commenced church planting ministry at Quairading. Church supporting them in this outreach ... Young people, under leadership of youth pastor Paul Sanders, involved in outreach to Mandurah ... Singing group "Udumo" took part in evening service & also concert in Stirk Park as part of summer outreach program.

NSW

MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins) Dr K. Johnstone shared his experiences of Korea. Assisted Korean missionary candidates to speak English ... Gaylene Hawkins welcomed home from West Germany after 12 months youth exchange. Surprise 50th birthday for minister at same social. He also celebrates 25th year of ministry ... Sunday Seminar with Peter Dixon on "Ordering your Personal World". Scripture Union assisted with input with children ... Mr & Mrs R. Dixon transferred from Seven Hills.

TWEED HEADS (Richard Oakes, Guy Cooper) Church family celebrated Jean & Syd Creek's 50th wedding anniversary in November at "At Home" organised by CWF ... 5 baptisms in December, 8 received into fellowship ... Church blessed by visit of Peter & Kerry Shulz, link missionaries from Vanuatu ... Several boxes of groceries given to "Blair Athol" half-way house at Bilinga ... Guy Cooper inducted as youth minister and he and Stephanie welcomed into fellowship.

ALBURY (Alex Wilson) 18 Dec. special youth service & baptism ... 2 capacity to overflowing services 5 Feb—morning service for induction of new senior minister Alex Wilson, evening Good News baptismal ... Annual faith offering of \$2,400 still growing ... 3 "Getting to Know You" groups commenced for Bible study & fellowship ... 3 church

members attended federal conference.

SALT ASH (Max Hall) Bible anniversary theme was "Australia for Christ". Platform decorated as Australian bush scene with gum trees & even a live koala. Children dressed up & sang songs especially adapted for the occasion to appreciative congregation ... Church sorry to lose elder Rex Gray & family who have moved to Garden Suburb ... During Jan services commenced at 9 am. Following one five were baptised in sea at Tanilba by minister.

Qld

ANERLEY (Russell Ritchie) A prayer powered Bible studying church main aim for church's future. Plans include special evening "Power Services" where pertinent gospel Bible study takes place of sermon. Other plans actively commenced or keenly planned for future ... Eight received into membership & a special dedication service of the whole church was held over two Sundays including dedication of leaders/office bearers for 1989.

MARYBOROUGH (Ray Patterson) Ray & Wilma Patterson welcomed to interim ministry, Wayne & Lynne Murray to youth leadership ... Second manse purchased ... One confession, one rededication, three baptisms ... Kylie Sims, Karen Twentyman new members ... Molly & Edwin Enchelmaier transferred from Nambour ... Family & youth services well attended ... Sudden passing of Dot Mansfield ... \$1.2 million extensions to Fair Haven ... Em McLucas, Win Beale improving.

ALBION (Peter Overton) Annual report shows increase in attendances for the first time in several years ... Sunday 8.30 am services in addition to 10 am services ... Combined evening service with Clayfield Uniting Church for baptism conducted by Ron Holt. Address by Peter Overton ... Christmas Eve candlelight service conducted by Dr Phil Jauncey & Peter Overton.

TOWNSVILLE (Greg Muller) New committee formed to look into various aspects of community care ... World Day of Prayer to be held in our church this year 3 March ... Minister to attend a "Power in Evangelism" conference in Melbourne ... Easter camp to be held at Camp Irwin, Magnetic Island with study leader Graham Sercombe from Campaigners for Christ, Brisbane.

L.M.C.T.
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Church News

Vic

SWAN HILL (L.J. Mayes) Baptismal services held in Dec & Jan for 2 young married couples & 2 men ... Christian bush dance party attracted approx. 250 to high school assembly hall on New Year's Eve ... Series of morning addresses on "Are You Looking for God?" creating much interest ... Lindsay Mayes now in 7th year of ministry ... New Kawai organ purchased by CWF.

SPRINGVALE (T. Ede, P. Lyne) John Sutton concluded six & a half years as associate minister & now elected as elder ... Peter Lyne commenced as youth minister for 1989 ... 27 YP at inaugural YP BBQ tea at manse ... Holiday service attendances increased. Many new folk attending ... Minister & wife to tour Israel late Feb ... Gaslin/Kelso mission from US great uplift. Six baptisms since, four on New Year's Day ... Kerry Hutton now recovered from bike/car accident.

DAWSON ST, BALLARAT (Jim Cunningham) 4 Dec Christmas Carol cabaret ... 11 Dec musical "Kids Praise" ... 24 Dec Christmas Eve service ... In Jan Dawson St & Peel St united for evening services ... Church welcomed into fellowship Norm & Joyce Carter from The Patch ... Farewelled Paul & Janine (nee Cartledge) Motyer to Mildura, Rosemary Shaw to Kingsley Theological College ... Max & Sylv Peacock celebrated 40th wedding anniversary.

FRANKSTON (Allan Avery, Pam Bowers, Don Wesley) Christmas Bowl offering over \$3,000 ... Senior minister attended Federal Conference & led an elective on church programing ... Several members seriously ill ... Jane Fowler inducted as student minister to work with youth ... Allan Avery inducted Graham Foon & Greg Elsdon to ministry at Dandenong ... Several attended College opening. Our promised gift is over halfway ... Sympathy to Mrs Nemic, Mrs Unmack & Mrs Cohen in passing of their respective husbands.

WARRNAMBOOL (Peter Broadbent) Combined churches choir practicing for Easter Passion musical, led by our elder Chris Walters ... Ron Elbourne led profitable overnight camp for South Western church board members. The role of an elder was studied ... Dorothy Geyer visited for evening service & after church fellowship ... Peter & Margie Broadbent had a weeks leave & also have attended John Wimber Conference.

CHELSEA (T. Frazer) Several members attended official opening of Mulgrave Theological College, thereafter four offered voluntary service for College ... All auxiliaries recommended: CWF, Explorers, Good News Club, youth group & Sunday School ... Three attended Federal Conference & enjoyed changes in format ... Stephen Fielder received Order of Australia for service as test pilot in RAAF ... Wayne & Cheryl Allen farewelled to Surrey Hills/Wattle

Park ... Peter Demshey of New Tribes Missions screened slides.

NUNAWADING (E. Keating, D. Hamilton, J. Wright, L. Smith) Christmas musical presented by young people ... Festival of Lessons & carols on Christmas Eve by church choir ... Evening services during Jan featured "Great Experiences" from visiting speakers ... Dean & Glenys Hamilton commenced ministry 5 Feb ... Hospitality arranged for 41 South Australians visiting Melbourne for College opening ... \$3,555 raised for Bangladesh from Simply Sharing Week ... Christmas Bowl offering exceeded \$8,000.

ORMOND (G.O. Stibbe) Norman Pell gave life and witness instruction to enable members to speak more naturally about their faith in Christ ... Special meeting held to plan for the year ... Bible School to hold reunion picnic on Saturday, 18 March at Mornington Oval—past pupils and members invited ... Bible study, prayer groups and auxiliaries have recommenced ... Michael and Melissa Adamson welcomed and commenced ministry.

BELMONT (Bob Clymer) The Walking Group started the year well with 45 attending the first walk ... Karen Goldworthy married Wayne Pecar & Dorothy Bahr married Cliff Morrison ... Church was saddened by the death of Myrtle Jennings ... This year two extra clubs have commenced. We now have junior girls, junior boys & senior girls.

SA

GOOLWA (Graeme Ritchie) Holiday Bible Adventure held during school holidays attracted daily average of 80 children ... Dora Tuckwell awarded Citizen of the Year by Goolwa Council at Australia day ceremony ... Fellowship enjoyed with Doug & Julie Walladge & children on furlough from Vanuatu ... Inter-church Lenten study groups begin late Feb ... First year of Graeme & Anne Ritchie's ministry with us completed.

KEITH (Ken Wray) Family day & Sunday School picnic barbecue held ... Churches combined for teaching Christmas lessons in Primary School & for carols ... Testimonies being featured at evening services ... Circuit focus on "What Churches of Christ Stand For" in Nov ... Noel Harris speaker at Sunday School presentation day ... Four teenagers baptised before Christmas ... Church using Shekinah studies for adults & teenagers ... Family camp planned for July.

BLACKWOOD (Rob Combridge) Church enthusiastically voted Colin Dredge in as assistant minister for 1990 and Dale Martin as pastoral assistant for this year ... Ecumenical Easter event to be held in the week preceding Easter to which local school children invited ... Church to be involved in studies on Holy Spirit and discovering gifts ... Elders and deacons retreat held to facilitate planning.

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8-14 October 1990

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I Know I Shouldn't, but I Do

by Fred Blittner

I like noisy children. I know I shouldn't, but I do. Noisy children mean a healthy body and a bright future.

I like full pews. I know I shouldn't, but I do. I may have to squeeze to get a seat, but I'll gladly give up my "comfort" so that others might hear the gospel.

I like full parking lots. I know I shouldn't, but I do. I drive around the lot and find cars that I don't recognise, but I will gladly park and walk if someone new meets Jesus.

I like worn-out carpets. I know I shouldn't, but I do. Sure it costs a lot to repair, but those grooves in the rug tell me people are there. I will gladly foot the bill if more people learn about doing God's will.

I like high power bills. I know I shouldn't, but I do. Big bills mean busy churches. While others complain about the cost of power, I'll keep rejoicing in the source of the power and thank the Lord that people are involved in the kingdom work.

I like variety. I know I shouldn't, but I do. You see, I realise people are different, and they have needs, too. So for the growth of all, I'll be like Paul and work at becoming all things for all people. Help me to like things your way and I'll help you to like things my way. This too is fellowship.

I like not knowing everyone's name. I know I shouldn't, but I do. I can only learn so many names and I would hate to close

our doors because I have filled my friendship list. I may not know your name but I will pray for you anyway because you are special to our Lord.

Yes, I like all of these things, and I know I shouldn't, but I must confess that I do. What good is a church that sits as a monument—quiet, empty and unused—when the world is lost. These things tell me that a church has taken the Great Commission seriously and loves the Lord enough to share God's values and not man's.

Christ said, "Upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it." (Matthew 16:18) He said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." (Mark 16:15) The apostle Paul said that we are called "in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church." (Ephesians 3:10) You see,

God values people. It is his will that none should perish but that all find salvation in Jesus Christ.

So for the glory of the Lord, I'll love the kids, squeeze the pews, park and walk, do the repairs, pay the bills, try new things, and expand my circle as large as possible. You see, this is all a part of evangelism and that is what God desires for his church.

• Fred Blittner ministers with the First Christian Church, Anaheim, California, USA. This article is reprinted with permission from the "Christian Standard".

Sometimes things need a little adjustment.



The Last Word

Fear not that your life shall come to an end, but rather that it shall never have a beginning.

—John Henry Newman

Politician: What we need is a working majority.

Businessman: What we really need is a majority working.

★★★★★

Motorist: What will it cost to fix my car?

Mechanic: What's wrong with it?

Motorist: I don't know.

Mechanic: \$300!

★★★★★

Employer: Look here! What did you mean by telling me you had five years experience when you've never had a job before!

Employee: Well, you advertised for a person with imagination!

★★★★★

"Every blade of grass is a sermon," the minister told his congregation. A few days later one of the members spotted the minister mowing the lawn. "That's right," he said, "cut your sermons short."

★★★★★

"What was that thing the choral society just sang?"

"Judging from the reaction of the audience, I would say it was a lullaby!"

★★★★★

The guest rose to toast the happy couple at their silver wedding: "Our good friends, Mr and Mrs Jiggs, have always made us welcome in their home. It's not just the friendly smile they give when they receive us but it's the even more friendly smile they give us when we leave!"

★★★★★

"That worn-out suit that our scarecrow is wearing came from a first-class tailor and was made to measure."

"What? For the scarecrow?"

★★★★★

Our speaker this evening requires no introduction...he failed to turn up!



Blest be the tie that blinds!



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