

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

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20 May 1989



## Blackwood's Huge Success

"Darkness to Light" was the theme of an Easter event at the Blackwood, SA, church, when 1400 students and teachers from ten local schools visited the church complex for a 50 min program presented six times a day for three days. On arrival each busload of 70 was welcomed by a busker clown and divided

into smaller groups to hear 15 mins of story telling about customs and cultures of Easter around the world. Then the children proceeded through a series of four darkened caves to see—

- an audiovisual introduction to what



Easter means to children;

- an innkeeper's wife sitting by a straw covered manger explaining where it all began;
- animated models telling about the parables and miracles of Jesus;
- the entry to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday graphically silhouetted on a screen by moving figures over an overhead projector.

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# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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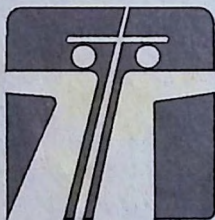
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## Guest Editorial

# Harvest Decade

by Don Smith

### The '90s

Later this year we can expect our newspapers and journals to be alive with comment about the significance of the last decade of the second millenium. Historically the end of a century or the conclusion of five hundred or one thousand year periods appear to have been times of crisis marked by a great outpouring of human energy and intellectual vigour. The tenth century is seen by historians as dark and barbarous. Europe waited in a spirit of fear that the end would come. But the closing decade ushered in a period that became known as Europe's first great age of civilisation.

Our century has been marked by the great crises of two world wars and the nuclear and now the environmental threats. Yet through all of these crises we appear to be moving to an era of world peace. The 1990s are likely to be marked out by an outpouring of great ideas and energy in many fields of human endeavour. We are in transition from one era to a new uncharted time. At the end of the first millenium the church entered into a great new period of advance linked with spiritual and intellectual leadership. This coming decade can be for us the beginning of a great new harvest of disciples.

### Long Haul

The last thirty years have been a long haul for our churches. We have experienced membership losses across the nation. There have been decades of uncertainty marked sometimes by the loss of conviction and failure of leadership. Some writers and thinkers have suggested that we have passed through the greatest crisis in the history of the Western church. Such an event will inevitably take its toll with repercussions felt universally. The worldwide decline of the mainline church is increasingly evident. It was always vulnerable. Wellington described the allied victory at Waterloo as a near run thing. The small encouraging signs of our own resurgence may be seen in the terms of Wellington's image. A national overview of our work suggests good prospects ahead.

### Growth Signs

The good prospects are evident everywhere. We have more young adults and first time visitors in our churches than we have seen for some decades. Of course there will be churches where this isn't so, but they will increasingly be the exception. Nationally we appear to be overcoming



our ministerial staffing shortages. With continuing strong recruitment we are well placed to service the increasing number of new projects and church planting ventures. New church development will be an important key to growth in a harvest decade. Leaders who visit churches report high morale and positive attitudes. Planning for the decade is well advanced.

"Australia Grow", a national evangelism initiative, will be launched later this year by state home missions departments, along with new education initiatives through our Federal Board of Christian Education. Our statistics can be variously interpreted according to mood, but overall they point to a strong emerging growth pattern. The recent social analysis of New South Wales membership in Peter Kaldor's survey gives much ground for confidence about a younger as against an older church. Through all of this there is a need to be open to God's spirit and leading. There must be an unswerving commitment to harvest. The dangers of complacency, resistance to change, diversion on marginal issues and weakness in the face of eroding secular tides are continuing threats. Leadership at local, state and national levels must have a harvest vision in the decade ahead. The truth of Donald McGavran's dictum remains constant: "Churches seldom grow without bold plans."

*• Don Smith is the Executive Director of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development. He trained for ministry at the College of the Bible in the 1950s and had ministries at Morwell, Vic, and Cowdilla, SA, prior to being appointed to the Home Missions Department in Vic-Tas. He also serves as Executive Director of the Federal Board of Christian Education.*

## Top Day in the Top End



It was a top day in the top end at the Darwin church Day Care Centre when it became Crocodile Dundee territory for a morning with a visit from the Conservation Commission. Commission officers brought a crocodile, two snakes and a turtle for the children to examine.

As the reptiles slid, slithered and waddled around no fingers were lost. Lots of questions were asked as the children's confidence grew, once they got over their initial surprise of having their local wildlife so close at hand.

This is just one of the many activities that is part of the centre's program that seeks to both entertain and educate the children.

All the reptiles returned home safe but exhausted and the children had lots of exciting stories to tell their parents.

The centre first opened in 1982 under the leadership of Kath Heyhoe an inaugural member of the Darwin church.

It is now under the directorship of church member Sally Hudson and is supported by eight part-time staff members. The centre is licensed for 30

children and operates a three year old kindergarten which has proved very popular. It is also developing an after-school care program in addition to the care already established for preschoolers.

Minister Tony Ochse views the child care centre as a significant element in the outreach of the church. It fulfills an important role in the local community by providing a caring environment for children of working parents and also occasional child care for homebased mums.

## Blackwood's Success

• continued from page 1

The children then moved into the chapel for a moving drama of the crucifixion and resurrection that concluded with children dancing out of the chapel with the actors and receiving an activity booklet to take back to school.

On the Wednesday, public sessions attracted over 300 people, many of them parents of children who went home excited about the program.

The production involved over 60 people—hostesses, guides, story tellers, cave operators and actors. The 5 m square black plastic caves were designed by John Mathieson. Marion Palmer and Paul Grant wrote the songs and created the drama, which was directed by Dale Martin. The activity book was compiled by Helen Jones. Graham and Judy Thomas co-ordinated the whole program. It was hailed as a huge success.

Written responses from the schools and a video of the presentation are available for those who would like to use the idea in their church.

For details contact Dale Martin at the Blackwood Church of Christ, PO Box 476, Blackwood 5050. Phone (08) 278 8666.

## Castle Hill Helps Bangladeshi Children

A small article in *The Australian Christian* last year (1 October) told how a group from the International Needs Children's Village near Dhaka in Bangladesh was visiting Australia.

Doug Allen of the Castle Hill, NSW, church, saw the article and quickly arranged for the children and the Rev Smith Adhikary to come to the church on a Sunday afternoon.

Those who attended thoroughly enjoyed meeting the children, Stella, Andrew, Kushi, Akim and Nomita, and hearing the songs they sang.

Later Jeff Deuble, Castle Hill's minister, felt that some form of giving to other than our families should be considered by the church at Christmas time.

It was agreed that the children's village was in special need, given the floods in Bangladesh, and a target of \$2000 was set, to be raised in two parts—one a church activity, the other straight out giving.

A carwash was planned. Amazingly the sun shone one Sydney Saturday, people decided their cars needed a wash and the church raised \$600.

On Christmas Day a special offering raised almost exactly the the required \$1,400.

The money is to be used to purchase a cutting machine for use in the print shop established at the village to train some of the students to enable them to earn a living.

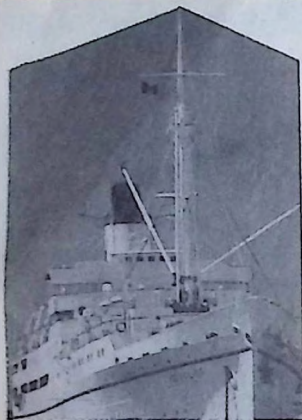
The result for Castle Hill has been a growth in interest in the problems of third world countries and a determination to have an ongoing involvement.

All in all they got more out of the project than they gave, which seems the to be the way God planned it!

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## Australia Welcomes *Doulos*



On 2 May the bookship *Doulos* arrived in Australian waters, the beginning of a five-month visit to ten ports around the country: Devonport, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Newcastle, Brisbane, Gladstone, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns. In Devonport the response of the Tasmanian media was very positive. Lindsey Evans, a local who has been on the ship for the past six

months, was featured in local newspapers and on television, and the "7.30 Report" aired a segment on the ship.

MV *Doulos*, a 6,670 ton ship (built only two years after the *Titanic* and one of the world's oldest passenger ships still in service), is the property of a nonprofit Christian charity organisation based in West Germany. She sails under the Maltese flag. The crew and staff of approximately 300 volunteers come from 43 different nations and devote their time, talents and energies to the project without remuneration. Currently there are 30 Australians on board.

*Doulos* carries the world's largest floating bookfair—half a million books for sale on a wide range of subjects. The objective is to show that people from different countries and backgrounds can live together in harmony and to provide access to good literature to all.

## New Church for Rowville



Left to right: Don Smith, Mike Folland (Boronia), Alan Emmett (Properties Corporation), Bruce McIntosh, Stuart Petersen, Keith Milne (all of Boronia church)

Representatives from neighbouring churches and Vic/Tas. Conference staff met in a community hall at Rowville on 13 April to take the first steps towards planning for a new church. The meeting, under the chairmanship of Boronia minister, Keith Milne, received a report by Mike Folland on projected development in the area. Don Smith of the Department of Mission, Education and Development and Ian Cartmel, minister of the Mornington church, spoke of current statewide planning and the importance of church planting. A general discussion of issues and needs followed.

The meeting resolved to proceed with further steps towards planting a church. Subsequent to this meeting

Stuart Petersen has accepted the role of co-ordinator of the project. Steps are being taken to locate members in the general area. Stuart may be contacted at 3 Settlers Court, Rowville, 3178, phone (03) 752 8134 concerning known or possible contacts in the Rowville, Upper Ferntree Gully, Upwey and Lysterfield areas.

It is anticipated that meetings will commence shortly. A brochure to introduce the project to local residents is being prepared. Further information may be obtained from Stuart Petersen or Don Smith of the Vic./Tas. DMED. The project will be part of the joint Properties Corporation-DMED-Church Reach Out Plan (CROP).

### Doulos

presents...

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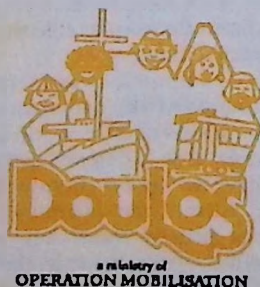
and pensioners \$3.40

Family \$15.90\*

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\* Includes Bass booking fee.

For more information contact the Doulos office (03) 418 3941



## Hillcrest Upgrade

The Commonwealth Government has announced a grant of \$155,420 to be used to upgrade Hillcrest Nursing Home. The grant monies will be used to upgrade the kitchen and dining areas, bathrooms and toilets and fire protection. Hillcrest Nursing Home is operated by the Queensland Social Service Department. The Nursing Home has 84 beds and is the largest Nursing Home operated by the Department. It is located at Annerley in Brisbane. Mr Lindsay Dipple, Administrator of the Brisbane Homes said, "The upgrading grant would assist in creating a

better environment for the residents of the home."

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## "Mission" Groups at Boronia



Some of the ministers at Boronia: Keith Milne, Mike Folland (student) and Gordon Stirling

The Boronia, Vic, church recognises that its mission and ministry is the privilege and responsibility of its total membership and not just its elected members.

Hence the acceptance at its annual meeting of a motion "that this meeting recognises that mission to the church is a corporate responsibility and encourages members to form and be involved in 'mission' groups to meet church and community needs".

A "mission" group is defined as any group of people who—

- recognise a particular need in the church community or

the wider world;

- believe they have gifts, insights, experience or expertise that could be used by God to address that need;

- are willing to take steps to better equip themselves to serve their particular mission;

- are willing to work with others towards achieving goals chosen by each group and accept the concept of accountability to their own group and the church as a whole through the church board.

Members are therefore encouraged to be involved in writing the agenda for the church's corporate mission

rather than depending on ministers, deacons and elders. All are being encouraged to see themselves as "shepherds" rather than "sheep", or, in Neil Gilmour's terms, "staff members instead of customers".

Already over 30 "mission" groups exist (including those groups with traditional names such as CWF, CYF, Explorers, Good Companions etc.) but all members are being challenged to respond personally to "use their different gifts in accordance with the grace God has given them".

From time to time the various groups will be invited to share their insights in worship services.

The concept offers more liberty and less "red tape" but carries with it greater personal responsibility and accountability.

The Boronia church has long had an emphasis on democratic decision making and mutual ministry and the "mission" group concept is a further step in that direction.

The church is excited about its future potential and is looking forward to a second full-time minister to join its 200 other ministers in 1990.

## Charles McDonald Turns 100



Keen bowler Charles McDonald

Charles McDonald celebrated his 100th birthday on 26 April. A resident of Park Rose Retirement Village in Adelaide, SA, Charles has made quite a contribution to Churches of Christ during his long life.

Charles was baptised in the Port Pirie church on his 15th birthday and went on to serve that congregation in many ways—Sunday school teacher and superintendent, church treasurer, part-time preacher and elder.

After his retirement Charles moved to Adelaide and served as elder and treasurer at Grote St. In later years he joined the Ascot Park church which subsequently merged with Clovelly Park to form what is now Marion. During his years at Marion, he was very active in the Friendship Club and the Bowls Club. In fact, he was a very keen bowler well into his nineties as you can see.

**Introduce "The Australian Christian" to a friend.**

## Bob Beard Honoured

Magill, SA, member, Bob Beard, who has been treasurer of the Overseas Mission Board for eight years, was recently honoured by a well deserved tribute in the staff magazine of *The Adelaide Advertiser*. It was good to see the magazine making mention of his Churches of Christ connections, including his 10 years service as a deacon. (References to the religious side of peoples activities are infrequent in business papers!)

Bob Beard was honoured at a function held in his honour when he left *The Advertiser* after 26 years service to become corporate secretary of the Executor Trustee and Agency Company SA Ltd.

The Managing Director of *The Advertiser*, Brian Sallis, said: "Bob Beard is the perfect example to give if one is asked what one can you describe as a true, loyal, absolutely reliable, very competent company executive." The magazine report said Bob Beard had a newspaper interest from childhood: his father owned a bookstall outside the Adelaide GPO and his son sold newspapers at the Black Forest tram stop when eight years old! Later, much later, he graduated from the SA Institute of Technology after studies in accounting, company administration and secretarial studies. An example for all newsboys and newsgirls?

—JL



## Baptism for Vietnamese Church



Easter Sunday saw four Vietnamese adults baptised at the Richmond, Vic, Vietnamese Church. Pastor Nathan Nhan, left, is pictured with the four people after they were welcomed into the church membership. The baptisms represent a rising tide of evangelism and outreach by the church under Nathan Nhan's leadership.

Nathan trained at the Bible College of Victoria and began ministry in January. He is currently doing post-graduate studies in Psychology. A medical student in Vietnam, he escaped some years ago with his family and lived for a time in Sydney where he studied at the University of Sydney. He and his wife, Esther, are rejoicing in the recent birth of Amy, their first child. Prior to Amy's birth,

Esther was working in a full time job to allow Nathan to minister full time.

The church and the Department of Mission, Education and Development are contributing to accommodation and other expenses. The church plans outreach in the Richmond area, plus contact with families throughout Melbourne. Plans are in hand to set up a study group for enquirers through the Kensington Christian Network.

An immediate need is to provide Bibles to enquirers. Gifts would be welcomed. Nathan can be contacted at 19 Hughes Street, Braybrook, 3019, phone (03) 311 3131, or enquiries may be directed to Don Smith of the Department of Mission, Education & Development.

## Multi-Venue Western Australia Conference

The Churches of Christ in Western Australia held their Conference in early April. "Be Confident, Fix Your Eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2) was the theme for the year of President, Don Parker.

The Conference began with a "Praise and Worship" rally at the Riverdale church with George Wood as speaker. Next day about 70 ministers and their spouses enjoyed an afternoon program at the Dianella church, again with George Wood.

The report dealing with the National Evangelism Consultation held last August and the Evangelism Strategy Report for the 1990s were discussed and almost 100 shared in a dinner at the Nollamara church.

At the night session an open forum was presented dealing with the proposed restructure of the association and the adoption of a completely new constitution.

Next day the Christian

Centre in Perth was the venue for the Women's Auxiliary Conference and incoming President, Pat Beard, told of her plans for the coming year.

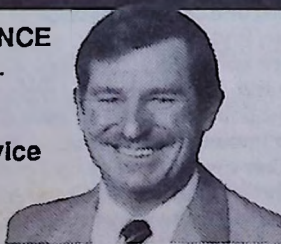
The new South Perth church was packed to capacity for the youth celebration—630 young people viewed the film *Without Reservation*.

The business session admitted new churches at the "Foot-hills" and Alexander Heights and adopted the new constitution. The Conference meetings concluded at night with a Celebration Rally at the Christian Centre Auditorium including ministry in music and song, the introduction of the incoming President, W. John Bolton, the minister of the Inglewood church, and George Wood was again the speaker.

As an experiment different venues were used this year in an endeavour to encourage more members to participate in the activities and most felt that this beneficial.

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# News

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NORTH ELEVATION

Consider with me, if you would, the nature of challenges. Two aspects of challenges interest me in particular. The first being that they have the ability to reveal potential and creativity, and the second being that, once released, this potential and creativity can accomplish things only previously dreamed of. These elements can be seen in at least one project before the Queensland Brotherhood at the moment.

For many years the board of management of the Department of Training for Ministry

has been concerned that married students with children were being placed under great financial stress by the prices of housing in the areas close to Kenmore Christian College. The challenge of relieving this stress was actively taken up by the board in the latter half of 1988.

Since the announcement of intention to build eight three-bedroom family housing units on the college grounds, offers of assistance have not stopped. Various tradesmen have offered their services. Some of

these include: cabinet makers, glaziers, drainers, painters and decorators, bricklayers and labourers, some with skills and some who are simply prepared to assist in any way possible. Almost half of the required finance has been received in gifts, not to mention some low-interest loans. Through the efforts of David Lowe (Chairman of the Building Committee), Marty Ruter, a building contractor, has been appointed as the project supervisor/manager. Marty lives lo-

cally and is a member of the Uniting Church.

The first adjustment to the Brookfield Road property was made by a group of men from the Rosevale church and area. With several trucks, tractors and able bodies, not to mention a sharp chainsaw, approximately 100 pine trees were felled and removed to make way for progress.

There is still a long way to go before the completion of the units.

—Evan Homan  
(Student, KCC)

## \$247,000 for Bribie Island Aged Care Hostel

\$247,000 is being provided by the Commonwealth Department of Community Services and Health to upgrade the Aged Care Hostel at Bribie Island.

The monies will be expended on the older section of the hostel to bring it to a standard closer to that in the new 17 bed section that was opened last year.

"The announcement of the grant was most welcome as it would enable the hostel to maintain its high standard of accommodation and when this grant is linked to the extension of an Activities Centre to the Nursing Home for which the working drawings have just been completed it will mean that the nursing home and hostel will continue to provide

top quality care," Dr Don Stewart, the Executive Director of the Queensland Social Service Department said.

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# Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words.

## DISCIPLES DECLINING

To the Editor,

It has come to my attention that the Disciples of Christ in the USA are moving towards extinction. In contrast, the Christian Churches/Churches of Christ (Independents) are envisaging an increase of 5,000 congregations in USA by the year 2000.

The latter's weekly publication, *Christian Standard*, recently quoted from an issue of *Visitor*, a publication of Overland Park Christian Church, Kansas, in which the minister, Forrest Haggard, who is a well-known Disciples of Christ preacher and former president of the World Convention of Churches of Christ, began a conference report by making this disturbing comment: "The Christian Church (Disciples) recently held a 'Churchwide Planning Conference.' It was a very honest evaluation (diagnosis) of a dying denomination." (*Christian Standard*, 9 October 1988).

This alarming fact was confirmed by US brethren who attended the 1988 World Convention in Auckland and visited me in Newcastle on the way home. Consider this information beside an excerpt from page 11 of AC (21 February), which states "Lexington Seminary is a graduate theological institution of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the counterpart of Australia's Churches of Christ."

If this is true it should be a matter of deep concern to those who espouse the restoration cause.

—F.D. Craig  
(Newcastle, NSW)

## CHILD SPONSORSHIP

To the Editor,

For many in our congregations the sponsorship of Third World children is an accepted part of their stewardship.

The current issue of the *New Internationalist* (April 1989), a highly regarded journal focusing on issues of world poverty and inequality, raises some

disturbing questions for those who "sponsor" children.

It suggests that "child sponsorship is a system of aid designed to meet the needs of the donor first and then those of the child. The donor decides when to give money, to whom it will go and ultimately how it will be spent. The notion of dependence is inherent in these schemes. The child is dependent on the donor; the donor calls the tune."

It concludes that if you want to help a poor child in the Third World, sponsorship is not the best way.

Some agencies such as Save the Children—Canada are getting out of child sponsorship.

The defects of child sponsorship include perpetuating ignorance ("letters from child to sponsor are usually censored to remove requests for money, complaints from disillusioned families and all mention of politics"), they are extremely expensive, children become political pawns ("for a child to qualify, its parents may have to cease certain forms of political or religious activity") and they foster racism.

The article should be read by everyone involved in child sponsorship.

—Alan Matheson  
(Hawthorn, Vic)

[Letter edited to comply with 200 word limit—Editor]

## THE UNMENTIONABLE PLACE

To the Editor,

When I read an article, "Thinking Things Through", by Peter Hastie in *New Life* (3 November 1988) I was reminded of a statement made by E. Turnbull in his recent book *Light after Darkness* (page 39): "All mankind by their fall lost communion with God, are under his wrath and curse, and so made liable to all miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever."

I wonder how many Christians today really believe the doctrine of eternal conscious punishment? As this is the teaching held by those of the reformed faith it does not sur-

prise me that one of my neighbours can no longer accept Christianity. He was a believer, but now reason and logic have supplanted faith and trust in the true holy and righteous Heavenly Father we love and serve. The Scriptures have been assailed by infidels and skeptics from time immemorial but how sad it is that "truth is wounded in the house of its friends". Could I appeal to Christians everywhere to pause and think through the following passages:

Acts 15:18, Isaiah 46:9-10, 1 John 4:7-10, 1 Timothy 6:15-16, Romans 2:1-9, 1 Corinthians 15:50-55, Isaiah 34:8-10, Isaiah 66:22-24, Jeremiah 7:20, 17:24-27, Ezekiel 20:46-48, Luke 23:34, Matthew 12:31-32, 2 Corinthians 4:1-4, Revelation 20:6-15.

Our Lord certainly spoke about hell, and no-one in a right mind should doubt that sin must be punished, and all who judge themselves unworthy of everlasting life cannot hope to share the joys and blessings of the heavenly home. But with 2

Timothy 2:15 in mind let us read the Word of God with sympathetic, not judgemental understanding, and the meaning of the Psalmist's words 145:20, and those of the Lord Jesus Matthew 10:24-28 will become much clearer.

—Eric Buckmaster  
(Glen Iris, Vic)

## HAND RAISING AND OTHER ISSUES

To the Editor,

I rarely write letters to editors, but...

H.E. Hayward ("AC" 18 February) suggests auto suggestion, melody movement, conditioned responses as reasons for hand raising. That may be so, perhaps it has more to do with the worshipper relating to the greatness of God in worship. I hope Bruce Roberts ("AC" 8 April) has given up trying to work out "how they choose when" to raise hands. How do you "work out" when to praise God?

Don Stewart ("AC" 18 March) talks about the "flat cocktail" of Federal Conference.

# Letters from Tertius

## Good News, Bad News

To the Editor,

Since I was a kid I've known that "gospel" comes from "godspel" which is old English for "good news".

Our minister preaches good news, positively, enthusiastically and clearly. But not every one seems to want it. Maybe they'd accept it more readily if they heard a bit more about the bad news.

I've been thinking this way for a while now, especially since my wife and I began reading the Gospels before going to sleep each night. We've both been struck by how often Jesus the Good News man handed out bad news.

He talked about masses of people going down the road to destruction. He talked of weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth, and being in darkness, and being cut down and thrown into the fire and of being shut out.

I noticed last night that even when he said, "Come unto me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest", he had just been talking about people who were going to cop it on the day of judgement. This doesn't sound too much like "gentle Jesus meek and mild".

I suppose that intelligent people hearing the good news are able to comprehend its opposite. But a lot of us are a bit thick. Maybe we need to hear more about the bad news before we realise how good the good news is.

—Tertius

# Letters to the Editor

From past experiences of Federal Conferences I didn't believe that Canberra 1989 would be so different that I would go. The problem with registrations may indicate that others had similar thoughts. (Reports from those I shared with who went to Conference were positive and enthusiastic.) I wonder how many of our people chose between the Charismatic Convention in Adelaide, Wimber in Melbourne and Federal Conference in Canberra?

I search church reports for ideas from other churches that can be adapted here. They are few and far between. Is that because in so many of our churches mainly insignificant things are happening?

Congratulations to you and your staff for the 22 April issue. Best so far this year.

—Ken Wray  
(Keith, SA)

## "OUR CLUB"

To the Editor,

The anonymous author of "Our Club" ("AC" 22 April) will no doubt touch a sensitive nerve in many of us who are working in a small church. He describes his church as "in reality nothing but a club for elderly persons, most of whom are women, the majority well into their seventies." Unfortunately the description is not unique to his church.

Two things perhaps could be said on this matter. Firstly, hats off to the women who are keeping the church doors open and are providing a useful and caring ministry when many of the men have long since given up in despair.

Secondly, is the club mentality peculiar to the "little old churches"? A glance through the reports in *The Australian Christian* under "Church News" seems to indicate that

the main items of news of many churches concern social activities—bus trips, games nights, bush dances, quiz nights and so on. Are these not club activities? Are they not also a feature of the "growth churches"? Without condemning such ac-

tivities, is there not a tendency to, and a danger of, substituting entertainment for worship and social activity for Christian commitment and outreach—in churches big and small?

—Frank Raymond  
(Manning, WA)

## WORD MUSIC SEMINAR

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ABOUT  
GOD**



# Media Review

## Books

### WHO MADE ME?

**Text by Malcolm and Meryl Doney (Interbac-S John Bacon) \$9.95**  
This beautifully illustrated book is to help parents answer the question 'Who made me?' The book is designed for young children and simply but comprehensively answers questions young children may have about the facts of life. These facts are highlighted within a loving relationship and the book also points clearly to the part God has to play in the creation of life. Not simplistic and well written this is an excellent resource for parents with young children. I asked a group of playgroup mothers to read the book and they were impressed with the material and several were asking where to obtain the book for use with their own families and the majority of the women were not church attenders.

—CRA



### LENTEN LANDS

**Douglas Gresham (Collins) \$29.95**

Those who saw the television program, *Shadowlands*, about the relationship between C.S. Lewis and Joy Davidman, may remember two little boys in grey suits, who became Lewis's stepsons. One of these boys, Douglas Gresham, who now lives as a farmer in Tasmania, has written a most moving autobiography. This is not really a book about C.S. Lewis, although there is a very fine portrait of the writer, as well as of his brother and others, but is more the story of Douglas Gresham. It tells of the courage he has displayed over the years, his growing awareness of the existence of

a kind and caring God and the comfort he finds in accepting God's will when faced with the deaths of the people closest to him. The boy who lived through these strange years grew to maturity, made his way in the world and found happiness. The story is told with much honesty, compassion and love.

—GTA



### BEYOND HEALING

**by Jennifer Rees Larcombe (Hodder and Stoughton)**

Jennifer Rees Larcombe learned that she had a rare viral disease that she thought had been conquered. This flared later when she had a large family and was heavily involved in a local church. Her parents had been very well known evangelists in England. This book is the story of her struggle with the illness, with her understanding of healing, with faith and sin and God's forgiveness. She has to look very seriously at the issue of healing and the frustration that she feels and then later others

because although she is prayed for no healing comes. In fact often the insensitivity of others hurts deeply and she honestly deals with her thoughts and depression at this time. Written in a very readable style I initially thought that this would be one of the current crop of books that deal with the blessings of God and his miraculous healing. However, while Jennifer Rees Larcombe believes strongly in God's healing power, this book tries to deal with the frustrations of God not dramatically healing a person. For people suffering this could well be a helpful book. A very

interesting autobiography that deals realistically with life and its problems and trying to be a Christian in whatever life may deal up.

—CRA



### GOD'S WORD

#### THE GREAT NEWS

**The New International Version of the Bible and the New Testament**

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I don't need to review the Bible; what is significant here is the cost. This Bible and New Testament are printed in Australia—one of the few times this has been done. Because of this (and some cheap paper) the International Bible Mission can offer these Bibles and New Testaments at very low prices. For example 72 Bibles can be bought freight included for \$165 (or \$150 in Vic and NSW),

which means each copy costs less than \$2.30. The New Testaments are even cheaper—\$33.50 plus freight for a carton of 50. However if the NTs are used for youth ministry—RE in schools, beach missions, camps etc., a subsidy is available, which means these are available at \$15 per carton freight paid or only 30c per copy. At these give-away prices a New Testament (or even a whole Bible) could be given to everyone in the church or as part of a Bible study kit.

For details contact the International Bible Mission Ltd, PO Box 222, Frankston 3199.

—GTA

### MAKING THE SMALL CHURCH EFFECTIVE

**by Carl S. Dudley (Abingdon) \$15.75**

With a large percentage of our churches in the 75 and under size category, a book such as *Making The Small Church Effective* is a valuable resource for ministers and lay leaders. Carl Dudley believes "small" is more than a numerical description. Smallness to him is defined by the resources available for ministry and is based on the expectations of the membership. Small churches are everywhere and will often need convincing that growth is worth the cost. They are tough and close ranks when threatened. Dudley uses the questions and insights of the members as the basis of the book. Using the major themes of caring, conserving and coping he considers the implications of smallness in relation to the intimacy of the membership, prospects for growth, pastoral care, perspectives of culture, memories, events, conflict and setting goals. He reviews the role of the congregational patriarchs and matriarchs and sees finances, power and programing as the major sources of tension in the small church. Valuable for all small churches and available from the Department of Mission, Education and Development, 52 LaTrobe St., Melbourne 3000, phone (03) 662 2377, for \$15.75 plus postage.

—Ian Tippett



Darling, I told you those Mars Bars would give you too much energy!

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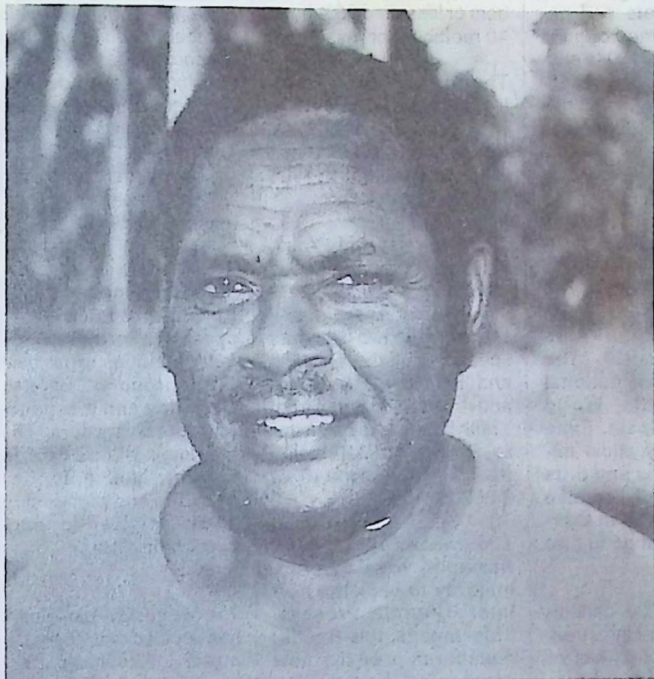
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# World News

## A Willing Horse



Hosea Bule

The time for dry season came. The dry season means a lot to the nationals of PNG. It may mean different things to different people. One person may want to make (1) a garden; (2) a canoe; (3) saksak or (4) catch fish etc. It is hard then to find someone to help you going on patrol.

It actually happened to me one day. I sent a message to the pastor, hoping he might come himself. To my surprise he came and told me he could not. He had already found someone who was willing to go, not only that time, but any time he was asked to do so. To me he was a "willing horse".

Reapia is the man I am talking about. He came on the right date. To our surprise we found that he had split his trousers right from his front to his back! I told my wife to give him a piece of our material. He was so pleased to have it, and quickly wrapped it around himself. Then we started.

Reapia is a nobody in the village; not much notice is taken of him. But this time he was being seen as important as anyone else. His willingness made him stand out and receive help, because we saw his need. This is a true picture of what God is giving to those who are "willing horses" in his service. Reapia enabled my patrol to be carried out, because he helped carry my bags and also he knew the way.

The Bible says that those who receive the prophet will receive half of the blessing of the prophet (Matthew 10:41). I am not a prophet, but I can certainly assure you that God is willing to bless when we are willing to go. Reapia took me to the village. The result was that the people shared the blessing also. You may think you are a nobody but God will make you become somebody and can bless others through your willingness.

—Hosea Bule

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## Lebanese Exodus Response

At least 10,000 people have fled to Cyprus from war-torn Beirut following the escalation of bombing in Lebanon. Gabriel Habib, General Secretary of the Middle East Council of Churches reports that church leaders have been in the bomb shelters with their people to assess the desperate situation.

There has been massive property destruction to homes, shops, schools and hospitals, with 2,000–3,000 bombs falling each night. Fuel oil is nearly exhausted throughout the country. Electricity, now rationed to one hour a day, will be cut off altogether unless oil tankers are allowed to unload.

There is also a fuel shortage and, without electricity or fuel, food storage and preparation is difficult.

In response to this crisis, the Australian Council of Churches has sent an immediate grant of \$10,000 and has launched an appeal to provide funds for antibiotics, burn medications, blankets and mattresses, as well as the purchase of food and other necessities.

Archbishop Gibrán of the Australasian diocese of the Antiochian Orthodox Church and pastor to many Lebanese in Australia has said that his Patriarch strongly urges Australians to respond by supporting the ACC initiative and praying for victims of this tragedy. The ACC will also be approaching the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Immigration to press for peace initiatives and to implement an emergency program.

## Les Lawlor says...

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# Happenings

Christians in one district of southern Ethiopia report the return of church owned buildings and goods that were confiscated 11 years ago in the wake of the Marxist-Leninist revolution.

In 1988 1.2 million Bibles were imported into the USSR, or were printed there. Baptists received 500,000, followed by the Orthodox with 375,000 copies. The rest were distributed among Catholics, Lutherans and Pentecostal believers. At present the Soviet authorities have issued permission for the import of a further 6 million copies.

Unofficial but reliable statistics put the number of alcoholics and "problem drinkers" at no less than 20 million in the USSR. This is about 15% of the population.

More than 1,500 are still being held in detention without trial in South Africa. A further group of up to 400 are also being held under the country's Internal Security Act. The South African Human Rights Commission also revealed recently that between 1984 and 1988 over 100 anti-apartheid activists were sentenced to death for "unrest related offences".

A ministry begun by Baptist women in a hospital near Moscow has received wide-

spread recognition in the USSR. The ministry is simply that of providing friendly companionship to patients in a local mental hospital. Over 100 Baptist women have now joined the service which has spread to other hospitals in the area.

A new compilation of all the available statistics has put the number of Protestant Christians in China at 20 million. In some parts of the country as many as one person in five is a Christian.

A conservative estimate is that 800,000, one in every five, Australian children lived below the poverty line in 1986.

A pastor and the young woman he was baptising were drowned in a South African river as scores of worshippers looked on. Netoliltha Mapatsela panicked when Pastor Payl submerged her head, and she pulled him under. Mr Payl freed himself but then dived back in to search for the woman when she failed to resurface. Divers later recovered the bodies of the two, who belonged to the Church of Zion in the black township of Khayelitsha near Capetown.

An American priest has 37 handguns and a sawn-off shotgun which he plans to melt down to make a bell for his Denver parish. Since

February Fr Gourley has been attempting to rid Denver's streets and parishioners' homes of guns by offering \$US100 to anyone who turns in a handgun. His inner city parish averages one funeral a month for people who die of murder or suicide and he believes that many are the result of guns being too readily accessible.

The King of Tonga and his government have agreed to feature the Christian musical "The Scroll" as their national contribution to World Expo '92 in Spain. Expo '92 rules only allow national pavilions and thus the Pavilion of Promise seen at Expo '88 in Brisbane could not go in that form.

A survey of 200 of Melbourne's inner-city street kids indicated that half of them are, or had been, wards of the state. Many of them had experienced up to 20 different foster or residential placements, and 90% had faced criminal charges, usually linked to a homeless lifestyle.

Sudan's National Museum has been ordered to remove all Christian exhibits, in what appears to be a test of public acceptance of Islamisation.

The average number of members in Baptist churches in Australia is 81.

In Victoria 52% of Baptist churches have 60 members or less, and 35% have 40 members or less.

**The number of men wanting to become priests in the Roman Catholic Church in the USA has fallen from 48,000 in 1966 to 7,500 last year.**

The 4th National Youth Workers Convention is being held in Sydney 16-19 June. Among the many speakers are two overseas speakers Duffy Robbins and Bill McNabb. Details and registration forms from Youth Specialties Australia, PO Box 1120, Burleigh Heads 4220. Phone (075) 34 6365.

The recent UK Baptist Assembly voted by a 73% majority to back the new Inter Church Process. This means full Baptist membership of the new ecumenical bodies proposed in the Churches Together in Pilgrimage report will go ahead.

At the World Council of Churches Assembly being held in Canberra 7-20 February, 1991 there will be 1,000 official delegates from the 307 member churches of the WCC, 1,000 advisers, speakers, stewards and staff, 1,200 accredited visitors, two thirds of them from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific, 1,000 members of the media and 2,000 volunteers. Factors contribut-

ing to child poverty in Australia include high levels of unemployment, increased numbers of children left in the care of one parent, high housing costs, eroded levels of government benefits for children, and low wages. There were 223,869 Australian children in families with an unemployed parent in June 1988.

Argentinian born evangelist Luis Palau is to visit Russia in September to speak at a series of evangelistic rallies organised by a group of Baptist, Orthodox and Independent church leaders. The meetings will be held in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and Riga and permission has been given for non-church buildings to be used.

The Yugoslav parliament has decided that those who object to the compulsory year of armed military service will be allowed to perform alternative service for two years in an unarmed military unit.

At least 20-25,000 young people aged 12 and over are homeless in Australia in 1989. The homeless young person is frequently hungry, has no regular accommodation, is in appalling health, is often abused, raped and exploited, sometimes addicted, and completely lacking in reliable adult support.



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# CENTENARY 1990

For further information write to the Centenary Committee  
142-146 Beaufort Street  
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## Towards 2000— Vic-Tas CWF Conference

Over 300 ladies enjoyed a day of fellowship, friendship, discussion and music at the 103rd Annual Vic-Tas CWF Conference. President Lois Smith's theme was "Towards 2000—Our Responsibility".

The morning session commenced with a worship segment, featuring the president's thought for the day and musical items.

Dorothy Geyer presented the missionary focus on her call to be a missionary and her work in India.

In the short business session that followed it was decided that the Conference Commitment Offering for 1989-90 would be given to the Overseas Mission Board for security fencing at Madang, PNG. The future direction of CWF was discussed—the recommendations from the consultancy report by Ian Tippet were read and Ian thanked for his report.

In the afternoon the guest speaker was Dr Muriel Porter, who looked back to the pioneering days of the women's work and gave encouragement to look to the future, saying just as Jesus challenged Mary and Martha to leave the safety of their household lives, he challenges us to find new ways in being women in his church.

This year's Conference Commitment Offering of \$5,109 is to assist the new Mornington church and Ian Cartmel, minister, and some of the members shared the progress of the church.

The evening session continued the themes of praise, music and a challenge to look to the future of CWF. "Where Do I Fit In" was presented by Naomi Sweetman, Bendigo, Shirley Ludgater, Balwyn, and Jean Preston, Mornington, each representative of a different age group, who shared some of their thoughts as to

**1990 AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**  
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(Note: The Scholarship Committee reserve the right not to award a scholarship.)

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how CWF can meet people's needs.

The Yukana Singers presented items and the guest speaker was Sr Nicole Rotaru, counsellor with Mercy Hospice Care for the terminally ill, who told of the work of this service. She said that life can be fairly easily survived but living life is something different. To live life is truly a challenge.

Incoming president, Dorothy Quantrelle's theme is "Go Forward in Prayer and Service".

## Ansvar Life Established for Non-Drinkers

Ansvar Life is a Life Office set up by non-drinkers and staffed by non-drinkers to cater for the life insurance and superannuation needs of non-drinkers.

Ansvar Life plans to carve a niche in the Australian market place by offering competitive premium rates and extra benefits for non-drinkers, coupled with an "ethical" investment strategy.

Ansvar Life's "ethical" in-

vestment strategy means that they will avoid investing in companies whose income is substantially derived from activities associated with alcohol, smoking, armaments or South Africa. Ansvar Life is the first Life Office in Australia to adopt this approach to the investment of all funds.

The Chairman of the Board is Sir Llewellyn Edwards A.C., Chairman of World Expo 1988 and former Deputy Premier of

Queensland. Another prominent board member is the Rev Dr Gordon Moyes, Superintendent of Wesley Central Mission in Sydney.

Jim Stewart, a life insurance executive with almost 40 years experience in the business, has been appointed General Manager of Ansvar Life.

The parent company of the world-wide Ansvar group (they have offices in 13 countries) is Ansvar Mutual of Swe-

den, one of the largest insurance companies in that country. In 1932, Ansvar began in Sweden as a general insurer and started selling life insurance a little over seven years ago.

The company also made a successful start to selling life insurance in New Zealand last year.

Ansvar has been selling general insurance in Australia for 28 years and goes far beyond providing a special range of policies for non-drinkers. "Ansvar" is the Swedish word for "responsibility" and Ansvar Australia provides various programs of alcohol education and information which reflect this wider sense of responsibility.

Ansvar research shows that there are over one million adults in Australia who are non-drinkers and more people each year are embracing this healthier life style.



### INNER CITY ADVANCE

South Melbourne members and new minister, Alan Hirsch, are rejoicing in new levels of activity and attendance. Long term residents, low income families and young adults are a big evangelistic challenge. The church needs your help.

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52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne 3000**

# World News

## Southern Sudan Desperate

The situation in southern Sudan is desperate, according to World Vision executive director, Philip Hunt, who has just returned from this war-ravaged region.

In an effort to get food and medical supplies to thousands of displaced Sudanese, World Vision is co-operating with the rebel group, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). World Vision is not supporting the rebels. It is trying to feed those who are dying and co-operating with anyone who can help get aid to the people who need it.

Philip Hunt met with SPLA members in the rebel-held town of Kapoeta. Normally this town has about 15,000 residents but it has swelled to more than 100,000. People were surviving on nothing in the bleak and dusty place and had no resources to get food. World Vision is seek-

ing to send food, medical supplies, seeds and tools to allow people to plant crops before the rainy season.

Australians can help by supporting World Vision's Sudan Appeal. Phone (008) 33 1337 for the cost of a local call (or 690 2166 in Melbourne).

Improved relations between China and Taiwan has meant freedom of travel between the two countries. Hong Kong's China Prayer Letter, says some Taiwanese Christians are taking advantage of this "to share solid, biblically based teaching with spiritually hungry believers in Mainland China".

A Plymouth (UK) curate spent the 28 nights of February sleeping in a cardboard box on his church porch to publicise the plight of the homeless.

## Radio Network for Zaire

A number of amateur radio operators in the US are using their hobby to help the overseas mission work of the church. Though the group, the Disciples Amateur Radio Fellowship (DARF), is ecumenical, most members are from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and it works through the Disciples Division of Overseas Ministries in order to best further the outreach goals and objectives of the whole church.

In Zaire most of the work of the mission takes place in the Equator Province, which is covered by thick tropical forests, swamps and rivers. There are few roads or telephones. Yet the church in Zaire is very successful in evangelism, education, medicine and community development. Part of this success is due to DARF. Communication in such a rugged

area could be difficult, even impossible, or at best requiring several days. But DARF has provided a radio network that is now a vital link for 17 major outposts, who are now able to keep in touch with headquarters and with each other. This church is now one of the fastest growing in the world.

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MANDURAH (R. Ryall) Easter services all well attended. Music ministry of Allan & Sarah Throne (Bullcreek) was appreciated ... Betty Campbell confessed faith in Christ 9 April ... Interchurch Bible study groups over 4 weeks leading up to Pentecost. Studies entitled "We Believe in the Holy Spirit" ... Jean Faulds transferred recently from local hospital to nursing home ... CWF meetings well supported. Ladies held street stall early May. CARNARVON (Donald Bone) Cyclone Orson not all bad! Good rain in East Gascoyne filled the dry river bed twice in April ... Mr & Mrs Bone attended State Conference in Perth ... Deputation from Middle East Christian Outreach flew into Camarvon & Cheryl Smith showed slides & spoke of Lord's work in Lebanon.

YORK (John Tocknell) The term church wedding gained a new meaning on 11 Feb at the wedding of Rob Nawalowald and Sarah Meiers - the whole church was invited & attended. The brides parents flew in from Switzerland & the grooms father, sister & groomsman from NZ ... John Tocknell will service a new church in neighbouring town of Beverley as an outreach project. An enthusiastic Bible study group has been commenced ... York church continues to grow having doubled in the past two years.

# Department of Christian Union

## To the Christians Known as Churches of Christ in Australia:

"Grace to all and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age according to the will of our God and Father to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Galatians 1:3-5)

This our annual letter to you through the pages of our joint messenger *The Australian Christian*.

Paul's greeting to the church at Galatia is very appropriate today, the "present evil age" to which the churches themselves contribute through a weak and divided voice against world evils. As the heads of churches said in their first bicentennial statement in December 1988, "...we wish to acknowledge that the Christian churches themselves are an illustration of the central problem besetting our nation. While claiming to represent the one church of Jesus Christ and placing in him our hope for a united and peaceful world, we yet meet under different names with a history of division and even conflict behind us... We have therefore committed ourselves in our personal ministries to work and pray for the reconciliation of the Christian churches." The president of our Federal Conference was one of the 14 signatories.

To be involved in interchurch/ecumenical activities is a great privilege for it enables us to see the church of our Lord as it really is. Our chairman, Trevor Banks, was greatly stimulated by his involvement in national and international meetings in this past year. From the Australian Council of Churches general meeting, through the meeting of secretaries of World Christian Communions to the 12th World Convention of Churches of Christ he was encouraged and challenged by the commitment of Christians around the world. The church is a most diverse organisation, which is why it is able to meet so many of the needs of the world. And this diversity is also reflected in worship. We start to appreciate the greatness of God and the greatness of the church when we share in a variety of worship experiences. We are encouraged as we hear of the growth and vitality of the church in so many parts of the world. It is always good news where the Good News is being proclaimed.

But involvement in the world church reminds us of the hurts of the world, the evils. The church is involved in such areas of conflict as South Africa, Ireland and the Middle East. In Israel the church is suffering greatly because of the Jewish-Arab conflict. The church is also involved in areas of natural disasters and is often the first organisation to offer aid in these situations. How fortunate for the world it is that the church is a servant church. How privileged we are that we can contribute to and share in this work of Christ's church at international levels.

Most people do not have the opportunities of our chairman to intersect the church at these ecumenical and international levels, but we do all belong to a local outcrop

of that church, our congregation. We need to affirm our belonging to the wider church even as we rejoice in the fellowship of Jesus Christ as we meet regularly for worship and service "at home".

Those who attended the World Convention in Auckland heard Dr Tabbernee's address "Turning the World Upside Down through a Contemporary Reformation" (published by the Pamphlet Club in "AC" 1/ December 1988). Many said that this was the highlight of the convention. The Department of Christian Union endorses this challenge and way forward for all our churches; it accords well with our historic plea: "the unity of Christians". At the recent conference of South Australian churches, their Ecumenical Affairs Committee challenged their churches to use the pamphlet as a focal point for study and action and to be a "people with a vision and a will to work for its fulfilment".

The SA Committee and the Queensland Christian Unity Committee recommenced during the past 12 months. Only NSW is without a state committee at this time.

A discussion paper, "Membership within Churches of Christ", was produced with the objective of confronting the very difficult question of "Who is a Christian?" State conference offices received copies of the paper and several churches requested their own copies. More are available from the Secretary, D. Allison, 28 Potter St, Black Rock 3139, for the cost of three stamps.

We trust that churches found inspiration and challenge by participation in the "Service for Christian Unity". If you did not use the service in relation to the Week of Prayer for Christian Union, we commend it to your use. We welcome responses to this material.

This committee feels that sometimes its work is overlooked by many churches. We may be inadequately informed about activities in the interchurch arena in which your church is involved. To what extent is our vision of a united church, locally confronting the evils of the world, being taught and worked out? To assist our understanding a questionnaire was sent to each Australian church seeking responses from three members. We seek all returns by 31 May thanks.

Funding is another area of concern overlooked. Some churches and some states still fail to give financial support thus reducing the department's ability to fulfil its federal responsibility. There are no salaries paid in DCU work so all cash goes to the task of answering the prayer of Christ that we might be one with Christians everywhere. Nonetheless, we have been able to assist Dr Tabbernee attend the Faith and Order Assembly in Budapest and a meeting of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches in Seoul later this year, and also for Jeff May, the executive director of OMB to attend the World Commission on Mission and Evangelism in Texas, USA.

The essay competition on "The Relevance of the Declaration and Address to the 1990s" was won by John Somerville from WA and publication will follow soon. But why did only a few take up the task? Were people just uninterested in this historic document? If so we can only urge those who have never read it to do so and get the feel for what we are on about.

Our dialogue with the Uniting Church of Australia, a "five a side" arrangement has held the second of its planned six sessions. A report should follow early in 1990.

In readiness for the coming of the World Council of Churches 7th Assembly in Canberra in February 1991, the Joint Board of Christian Education will provide study material next year on the theme of the assembly, "Come Holy Spirit, Renew the Whole Creation". The assembly will afford everyone an opportunity to participate in one or more ways as will be advised. Those holding doubts about the authenticity, integrity and value of the WCC must grasp the opportunity to see first hand through involvement. Only thus can propaganda be evaluated honestly.

May we of the Churches of Christ "live by the Spirit and also walk by the Spirit" even as Paul asked of the Galatians so long ago. Shalom.

—David Allison

P.S. As June is DCU appeal month please forward donations to the Treasurer, I. Page, 31 Maxia Road, Doncaster East 3109.

**"We need to recover the passion for unity, discern in the depth of our faith its demands; we need to recognise that our being in Christ implies being with the others and for the others. Every aspect of a World Council of Churches program must be seen as serving this vision, passion and conviction."**

—Rev Emilo Castro, General Secretary, WCC (in Unity, Dec 1988/Jan 1989)

**"Christ, your passion has become our passion,  
And now in silence, we renew our vision.  
Come and make us one, come and make us one,  
Make us one."**

—Murray Wylie, from the oratorio *The Jerusalem Passion*, currently being performed around Australia. Murray, a Queensland, has a personal conviction about this unity message, which "heralds a vast revival of faith and unity as we approach the coming of the New Jerusalem".

# Classifieds

## BIRTHS

**PEARCE** James and Eva. God has given Jonathan James to us, a brother for Patricia and Talitha. He is a real delight and we thank God for blessing us with him. 23.4.89.

## ENGAGEMENTS

**HENDERSON—SALMON** Ern and Gwen of Sarabetu church, Vanuatu, together with Dot and Ray of Chadstone church have much pleasure in announcing the engagement of Narelle and Malcolm.

## APPROACHING MARRIAGES

**LEANE—GILMORE** Barbara and Robert Leane, together with Joy and Neil Gilmore, are delighted to announce the approaching marriage of Robyn and John at Blackwood Church of Christ on 11 June at 2.30 pm.

## DEATHS

**MANNING**, Clifford Albert. On 3 May. Beloved husband of Jane, dearly loved father and father-in-law of Kate and Ron, Peter and Helen, Dot and Grant, John and Jenny, Helen and Rick, and much loved grandfather of 14 grandchildren. Aged 74 years.

**MARKS** Melville Jane. On 30 April, beloved wife of the late B.C. (Bob) Marks, loving mother of Les (dec.) and Joan. Loving mother-in-law of Yvonne, darling Nana of Robert and Eve, Christine and Len, Heather and Paul, Lynette and Guntis, Peter and Maxine, Shelley and Leo, Glen and Jenny. Dearest Little Nana of 17 great-grandchildren. Safe in the arms of Jesus.

## IN MEMORIAM

**DEANE** Grace. 16 May, 1988. Loved mother of Stan, Dorothy, Marjorie and Terry. Treasured memories of a wonderful mother. **MURNANE** Cherished memories of Jack, loved husband, father and grandfather of Aimee and family. Died 11.5.1973. "In heavenly love abiding."

## WANTED

**HYMNBOOKS—Urgently—Can you help please?** Have you tucked away in your church cupboard any hard cover, size approx. 185 mm x 140 mm, large print Sankey's *Sacred Songs and Solos* hymnbooks that you are no longer using and which now cannot be purchased new? Also *Great Gospel Songs*, large print, size approx. 190 mm x 140 mm. These

are required for use in the church services at the Church of Christ Golden Age Retirement Village, 60 Ridgeway Avenue, Southport. Your help would be much appreciated—thank you in advance. Please contact Mr Doug Holloway (Chaplain), 58 Ridgeway Ave, Southport 4215. Phone (075) 31 2003.

## SHARE HOUSE

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

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**Caulfield  
Regional Church  
of Christ**

**69th Anniversary**

**28 May 1989**

**10.30 am**

**Speaker: Dr Trevor Banks**

**Music: Sandra Gibson  
Past members and  
friends welcome  
Fellowship luncheon**



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CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

El Kanah is pleased to announce the visit of  
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noted author & lecturer, as guest speaker at a  
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**10-28 July 1989**

Dr Augsburg is best known for his "Caring Enough" series of books. He is an experienced teacher and author in the areas of relationships, conflict resolution, forgiveness and communication within and across cultures.

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# White Papers

## No. 1 on the Charts

Once upon a time I was in my study trying to understand why God should love such a wayward world, when Opportunity came to the door.

Sometimes, Opportunity knocks timidly and softly and we don't hear her. This time she nearly smashed the door down trying to get me into the action, but I missed out.

Actually it was my No. 1 daughter, and she came into the study without even knocking.

"Daddy," she said, "I want my Teddy's arm fixed."

"When do you want it?" I asked, as I thought about the wayward world and wondered if Mother Teresa, Albert Schweitzer, Billy Graham and Martin Luther King would help to offset the crooks, swindlers, butchers and terrorists of this century.

"Daddy!" she said, "I want it **NOW!★!★**"

There! Opportunity as ever was! If only, if only I could have seen what was happening, I could have had wealth beyond dreaming.

If only! I could have dashed right out and copyrighted those words, and several fortunes could have been made.

"What do we want?"

"Teddy's arm fixed!"

"When do we want it?"

"**NOW!★!★**"

I reached past the golden hand of fortune and fixed Teddy's arm. It was only later that I realised that these words had slipped out into the world and everyone was using them.

They were welcomed by our country as the French welcomed "The Marseillaise", and the Americans welcomed "The Battle Hymn of the Republic", and for the same reason. It is the heartcry of the nation.

It fits everyone and everything:

"Wadda we want?"

"★★★★★★★★★★★★★!"

"When do we want it?"

"**NOW!★!★**"

You see them every week. University students, nurses, truckies, storemen and packers, waterside workers, child-care workers, painters and dockers, pro-life protesters, Aboriginal activists, even primary school kids and their parents—all using these lines.

"Wadda we want?"

"★★★★★★★★★★★★★!"

"When do we want it?"

"**NOW!★!★**"

If only, if only I had held that copyright. Even a very small royalty would have made me rich. Say, a dollar a group a time. Just one group in one day would bring me in at least \$300!

Small changes to the text wouldn't void the copyright. Take the BLF for example:

"Wadda we bl—dy want?"

"More or less. Less or more. Whatever?"

"When do we bl—dy want it?"

"**NOW!★!★**"

On second thoughts I would not charge the BLF. I wouldn't want to be nursing a broken leg while I was fixing Teddy's arm or contemplating the wayward world.

All of these reflections are pointless, of course. Opportunity went off to knock on

the more accessible doors of modern song writers to encourage them to copyright even less attractive verses. To them went the fortune.

But why was it that my contribution to immortal verse became so popular? There are many reasons: it is brief, it fits the shortened concentration span of the television age, it is pithy, it allows for individual expression, you don't need a band and it fits almost every need.

There is another reason. That little verse is about justice. In every instance that you read, hear or see where my verse is used the core sentence is about justice. Justice real, justice imagined, justice denied, justice delayed, justice defied.

Every group that uses the words wants some wrong righted and, where there are real wrongs, they could be put right at once. "**NOW!★!★**"

There are many things that only the future can bring. We have to wait for them. Seeds have to germinate, plants have to grow, crops have to mature. Children have to wait before they can receive the fruits of adulthood, even if they don't want to believe it. Skills have to be developed, sometimes slowly. We have to save to buy a car or a house. Most of the best things in life are beckoning peaks that have to be climbed, with time and effort.

Not so justice! It is in the power of the unjust to give justice. Now!

My little verse, if I may call it that, is humanity's cry for immediate justice, to have what is wrong put right now.

Justice should be the priority of this generation. After all, it is God's.

"What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice...now!"

—A.E. White



## Pontius' Puddle

TO WHAT DO YOU ATTRIBUTE THE PERCEPTION THAT YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY AREN'T AS SERIOUS AND COMMITTED AS WE WERE IN OUR YOUTH?

POOR MEMORY.

## Leaving the Ministry

by Malcolm Gray

Within five years of ordination about half of our ministers have left the local church ministry, according to Charles Wilson ("AC" 4 March). In response Peter Burnham ("AC" 8 April) floats the concept of a Department of Ministry at Conference level.

I suggest that job satisfaction is the key to any person remaining in a particular position, whether it be in ministry or in the general workforce. We need to see results. If we don't see them we either get out or we settle in a rut where we coast along waiting for something to happen.

For job satisfaction ministers need to see hard results. Some count the number of visits they make, some plot attendances, others count the number of decisions, counselling sessions or length of ministry in this church. The editor of *The Australian Christian* no doubt felt great satisfaction at seeing this issue disappearing into the post office.

All are valid ways of seeing hard results.

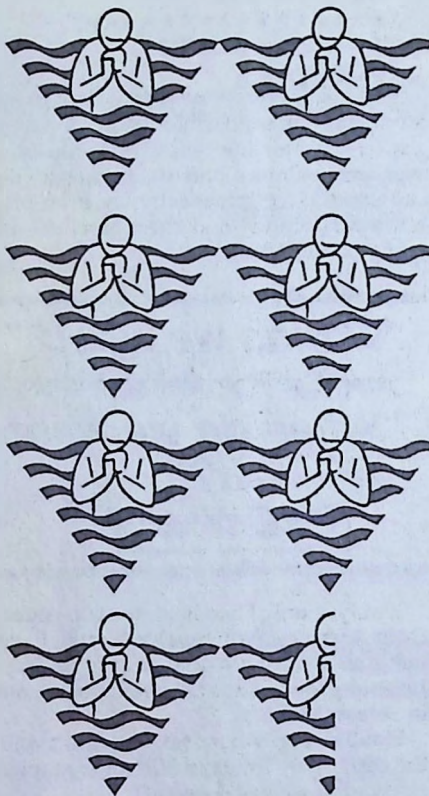
A news item in *The Australian Christian* (15 June 1985, page 4) reported that ten retired ministers in Adelaide got together for lunch. I imagine the reminiscences flowed. But the article also included some hard results. Between them they had served 378 years with over 3,000 baptised. I believe these figures help give meaning and job satisfaction to those ministries.

I also believe there is the closest possible link between their average 37.8 years in ministry and their average 7.5 baptisms per minister per year. They stayed in ministry because they were seeing specific results.

So I recommend that 7.5 baptisms per church/minister be seen as a rough rule of thumb for keeping ministers in the full-time ministry. Don't laugh, sceptic! With results like that which minister could fail to gain job satisfaction?

Here then are my suggestions that should be taken up by Peter's new Department of Ministry:

- When approached by a church, ask for the number of baptisms each year for the past decade. If no year was above 7.5 make sure you don't accept the invitation be-



cause the chances of achieving job satisfaction are slight.

- And vice versa. Before inviting a new minister check to see if the minister has had 7.5 baptisms in any one of the past ten years. This may be modified slightly if the church had no such year in the ten immediately prior to arrival of the minister.

- Churches that have not had 7.5 baptisms in any of the past ten years are automatically banned from inviting a new minister until such time as plenty of money has been spent to call in a management consultancy for a complete review of management practices. No review, no minister.

- Ditto for ministers.

- Churches that have not had a single baptism for ten years must be automatically sold and the money reinvested for a worthwhile return in baptisms. What a motivation!

- Ministers who have not conducted a single baptism for ten years must move to a tent maker ministry, i.e. you must earn your income from making tents until you

score a baptism.

These are my six commandments for improving job satisfaction and keeping trained people in the local church ministry.

The problem of course is the sheer size of coping with them. As I write I have before me the 1989 handbook of the Vic-Tas Conference. 134 churches reported statistics. 116 churches had below 7.5 baptisms. In fact those 116 averaged 1.5 baptisms.

My mind is intrigued by the thought of reinvesting just ten of those churches.

The good news is that 18 churches reported above 7.5, with an average of 13 baptisms for the year.

Which church topped the list? One of the oldest, and furthest from the new dormitory suburbs, Swanston Street Church of Christ (started 1865) in the heart of Melbourne, had 41 baptisms. The 385 members and Christians in fellowship averaged 385 communicants for each Sunday of the year.

I suspect their ministers have a reasonable amount of job satisfaction.

One final comment may be worthy of discussion at board level in local churches, and it is this: Laymen work one day a week for the church, where ministers labour seven days a week. Therefore ministers require hard results seven times as often as lay people.

Therefore I would suggest that lay leaders be wary of taking too many weeks to arrive at a decision. You could be straining your minister's patience and long suffering.

Actually lay people may be getting such job satisfaction from their secular work that they do not need it at church, and so don't even realise their minister is not getting reasonable job satisfaction. To solve this, let's add to Mother's Day and Father's Day and have a Minister's Day where we all show our appreciation with a bunch of flowers. Better still, a bunch of baptisms.

• Malcolm Gray is a member of the Berwick, Vic, church and is a self-confessed stirrer.

# A Church ABC

Ulverstone is a pleasant town of 10,000 people on the north-west coast of Tasmania with a mild summer climate that attracts many holiday makers and retirees. The Christmas-New Year period is a very active time for both the town and the church.

Established in 1898, the church occupied its present site in 1921. The building complex, erected mainly by voluntary labour in 1973, consists of a chapel and a lounge with a hall at the rear. It is strategically sited in West Ulverstone—the town is divided in two by the Leven River and the church is the only mainstream denomination west of the river.

In the early 1980s the membership was traumatically reduced to a very small number. After a period without a minister, but supported appreciatively by the Launceston church, Tom and Ruth Edge arrived in 1988. Tom and Ruth are in a semi-retired situation providing a very effective lay ministry. They previously worked in the Welfare Centre in Adelaide, SA, Ruth in

marriage guidance. Tom has an education background. Tom and Ruth were very happy with the warmth of their reception by the membership of mostly (but not all) mature people. There are now about 30

members.

Morning worship is at 10.30, combined with a small children's church that caters for the children of worshippers. The average attendance is 29 and there is the possibility of growth. The evening service uses the Kerygma program, an in-depth Bible study. Family teas are held regularly and there is a mid-week home fellowship attended regularly by nearly half the membership. There is a high involvement by the members in the programs of the church.

The emphasis of the church's outreach is to adults. The previously small internal CWF program is now running as a learn and share afternoon tea once a month. Guest speakers are invited, and before each meeting there is a letterbox drop to 500

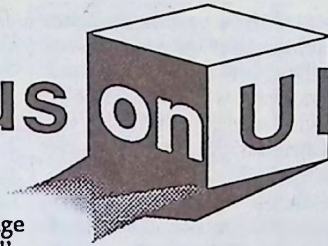
homes and extensive advertising in the media. There is also Club Solo, an outreach to single people 30 to 60 years of age, which provides a

social program and an evening meal. Last year the church combined with the other churches in "Operation Good News", a Bible distribution to every home in the town.

The church is not just for older people however. They are now launching a half-day toddler care program to give time out for mothers on Thursday mornings.

Ulverstone's emphasis on reaching to touch the lives of the adults of its area has great potential. West Ulverstone is a large residential area ready for a church that is trying to become visible and re-establish itself in the community.

## Focus on Ulverstone



## An Open Letter to the Author of "Our Club"

by W.W. Saunders

Dear Ms/Mrs/Mr Anonymous,

You are surprised at your church! Its members must be surprised at your vitriolic attack on it.

It is a grave injustice to say that Sunday services comprise the members' total activity for Christ. They doubtless witness by their lives and probably render untold acts of Christian service between Sundays. Their Sunday giving furthers the work of our brotherhood at home and abroad.

What a crime to be "well into [one's] seventies" and, worse still, a woman. Christ did not despise women! Indeed a band of them followed and ministered to him during his ministry and stood by his cross when the men had fled. I know from my ministries in local churches, the brotherhood and beyond it the amazing part women play in those spheres of service. They surpass men in their organisation and the number and breadth of their interests and activities. Our churches and brotherhood would be far from what they are without the ladies. I thank God for every remembrance of them.

You say a member was invited to meet the board and did so. Having been present at that meeting it is unbelievable that he or she should have requested a report of it.

You criticise the secretary for saying, "We only have one meeting a year." That referred, surely, to the church business meetings. Most churches have only one annual general meeting or maybe two half yearly, with the provision for the calling of special meetings when required. How many meetings are necessary? Your "club" is simply in line with others in this regard and appoints a board to conduct the business of the church between annual general meetings.

"The...opinion of outside observers is that the church cannot continue." What outsiders think is of no consequence! Each church knows its own business best, has a mind of its own, and makes its own decisions in the light of that knowledge. That the church is continuing and that the board has made no public pronouncement about action to terminate the work surely indicates clearly the members and the board disagree with the outsiders. They are to be complimented on their determination to continue to exist and serve to the limit of their capacities.

"An elderly group (mostly ladies) [have taken] over the direction of a tired church." All praise to them! I know churches where the membership comprises mostly ladies; men, for legitimate reasons, being con-

spicuous by their absence. But for the devoted leadership of the ladies, the whole witness of those churches for the whole work of Christ would cease. If those elderly-lady-run churches are a "club" they are vastly different from the general clubs you describe in that they are not "inward looking". "The field is the world," Jesus said. These churches see the whole field and support the Lord's work in every corner of it.

"I wonder how Jesus would fare if he came to this club...I'm sure he would be warned off." What an outrageous assumption! The author could well heed Jesus' words (Matthew 7:1-2), "Judge not that you be not judged—with what judgement you judge you shall be judged." And remember, "The Lord seeth not as men seeth, for men looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)

Finally, that one should write so scathingly of a church and then hide his or her identity in anonymity, is utterly contemptible. One should have the courage of one's convictions, declare oneself and take the consequences.

• W.W. (Dick) Saunders is a retired minister.

## Comment

# Relationships between the Churches of Christ in Australia and the Disciples

by Don Stewart

The visit of Luz Bacerra from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to Australia and the 42nd Federal Conference to seek a more formal relationship between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the USA and the Australian Churches of Christ.

She discovered this was a far more difficult undertaking than she had imagined because of the very different structure of Churches of Christ in Australia and the Disciples. The Disciples channel their combined activities through their National Assembly while the Churches of Christ in Australia channel their combined activities through the various state conferences, with only a low-power two-yearly Federal Conference.

It is worth reminding ourselves that the movement of which Churches of Christ in Australia are a part has divided in the United States into many parts. However, these can be put into three main groupings: the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the independent Christian Churches, which tend to group theologically around different theological and Bible schools, and the "nondenominational" churches of Christ, which are conservative and non-instrumental-music worshipping independent congregations (but which have a fairly strong cohesion).

Historically the South Australian Conference has its roots more firmly in the American scene than the other state conferences, but recent contacts by other

Australian states with the various branches of our movement in the United States are worth noting. The New South Wales and Queensland conferences have built strong relationships with some groupings of the independent Christian Churches and have welcomed evangelistic missions and academic visits. Randall Edwards (Past Principal) and Principal Donald Spencer of Kenmore Christian College were both trained at North-West Christian College, a unique Disciples and independent Christian Churches college and Emmanuel School of Religion, a Christian Churches theological college. Both Kenmore and Carlingford colleges have working relationships with Emmanuel. The Victorian and South Australian conferences have tended more to develop relationships with the Disciples but there have been only a few visits and an occasional minister exchange in recent years.

Most of the initiatives have come from individual Australian ministers or churches.

However in 1987 Queensland Social Service Department entered into a formal affiliation with the National Benevolent Association of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) and have just completed a one-year-long aged care administrator exchange. Dr Trevor Banks from Victoria serves on a Disciples Ecumenical Committee at world level.

It must be our concern in Australia that we do not import the American divisions.

To date we have probably avoided some of their problems because we have institutionalised our own divisions in our separate state conferences, which each have their own cultural and theological ethos. However it is important that we maintain balanced links with all sectors in the USA (including the "nondenominational" churches of Christ). The question is, how should we do it? In particular, how should we do it with the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ)?

Should it be through each state conference, Federal Conference, all of them or none at all? We need to keep in mind that there are many members of Churches of Christ that travel overseas regularly, especially to the US. We need to consider also the increasing US tourism to Australia and that tourist members of the Disciples and the Christian Churches confuse Churches of Christ with the "nondenominational" non-instrumental churches of Christ. We should encourage opportunities for fellowship and sharing and with that sharing discover a deeper understanding of the Gospel as seen through the eyes of other people from our movement.

I would like to see opinions on this matter from readers of *The Australian Christian* before I invite our state and Federal Conference executives to express their points of view.

• *Don Stewart is President of Federal Conference.*

## Growing Spiritually: A Life Worthy of the Lord

by Brian Trowbridge

One of my favourite passages in the Bible comes from the book of Colossians. Colossians 1:10 says, "And we pray that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God."

A very vivid image is used by the apostle. The words picture a scale. What Christ has done and is doing for Christians is on one side and Christians' behaviour and conduct is on the other.

To live a life worthy of the Lord means having weight that balances the weight of the Lord's love at the other side of the scale.

The authentic motive of living the Christian life is the love of Christ for us. He has made his home in us in order to express his love and forgiveness through us. We have been empowered to do what he did and to be to others what he has been to us. Our relationship with Jesus is not an end in itself. It must result in attitude and action. We do not live a life worthy of the Lord in order to earn his love but because of the love we have received already.

The apostle speaks of bearing fruit in every good work. There can be no fruit without the planting of the seed and the growth of the plant. Root and fruit are inseparable.

The more we focus on Christ, the more we become like him. Jesus says in John 15:5, "Apart from me you can do nothing."

Apart from Christ there are no Christian ethics or responsible behaviour.

Christ is all we need. That's the burning conviction of my life and ministry. In him we find the fullness of God and the fullness of our potential.

My prayer is that through the precious Word, the fullness in Christ that Paul offered the Colossians will be ours in a greater and more victorious way.

• *Brian Trowbridge is the minister of the Nailsworth, SA, church.*

## Obituary

Obituaries are limited to 100 words.

**MATHIESON, Gertrude**  
(7.5.89) Born in Prahran in 1904, Gert grew up in a Christian family. At an early age she was baptised at Prahran church. She was active in girl's gymnasium and Sunday school, being kindergarten superintendent for many years. During WW2 she was a member of the Australian Women's Army Corps. Following her father's death she moved to a unit in Glen Iris, her home for 17 years. She transferred her membership to Gardiner and was regular at worship, Friendship Club and CWF. Poor health affected her activities in the past year. She is survived by her brother, Jack, and sister, Jean.

—Harold Steele

### Malvern/Caulfield Church of Christ

invites past members and friends to our

#### Centenary

Sunday 20 August 1989  
10.30 am

Fellowship luncheon to follow  
We are anxious to contact all who have had past association with the church and if you can assist with names and addresses please contact:

Alan Gray

Flat 6, 16 Sutherland Rd,  
Armadale 3143.

Phone (03) 509 6140

Also urgently required memoirs for our Centenary Booklet.

### MILDURA

#### Church of Christ

advises past members and friends of its

#### Centenary Celebrations

to be held Queen's Birthday weekend

8-11 June 1990

For details and registration of interest forms please

contact Auralie Munro or

Laurie Stafford, c/o Mildura

Church of Christ, 131

Deacon Ave., Mildura

3000.

### Richmond (Vic) Centenary Celebration Sunday, 29 October 1989

11 am Morning Worship

Speaker: R.E. Hillbrick

3 pm "Churches of Christ in Richmond"

5 pm Fellowship Tea

We would welcome the names of past members and friends of North Richmond, Burnley and South Richmond churches who would appreciate an invitation.

Please contact (03) 419 4318 or (03) 427 1800

## Personal

### Discipleship

•Cathy Williams, Lauren Zeuchner, Elizabeth Aiton, Andrew Clarke, Steven Hansen, Greg McMaster, York St, Ballarat, Vic  
•Betty Campbell, Mandurah, WA  
•Jennifer Lade, Judith Lade, Traralgon, Vic  
•Rachael Lockhart, Rae Van de Winckel, Dawson St, Ballarat, Vic  
•Chris Gale, Margaret Neilsen, Johanna Nutt, Greenacre NSW  
•Chad Sloane, Nigel Wells, Donna Thomson, Fiona Phelan, Paul Connolly, Gordon Tunc, Bendigo, Vic  
•Kylie Hughes, Aldgate Valley, SA  
•Peter Mau, Wagga Wagga, NSW  
•Alicia Goodger, Murray Bridge, SA  
•Matthew Bishop, Mark Worsfold, Thornleigh, NSW  
•Wayne Bennett, Wayne Lambert, Megan Yealland, Renee Buttsworth, Kandi  
•Richardson, Jackie Lewis, Lorraine Harris, Robyn Pope, Bip Bulley, Tracey Bulley, Manning Valley, NSW  
•Harold Holman, Bundaberg, Qld  
•Chris Jenner, Caloundra, Qld

### Marriages

•Helen Corbett to Stuart Sanders, York St, Ballarat, Vic  
•Katherine Garrett to Mark McGibbon, Bendigo, Vic  
•Danielle Emslie to Tony Attard, North Essendon, Vic  
•Sarah Meiers to Rob Nawalowalo, York, WA  
•Janelle Chilcott to Harry Mager, Dalby, Qld  
•Marion Smith to Bruce Robinson, Ruth Thompson to Rod Dunkley, Manning Valley, NSW

### Deaths

•Dulcie Jones, York St, Ballarat, Vic  
•Sharlene Cook, Chev Weakley, Greenacre NSW  
•Vivienne Milne, Boronia, Vic  
•Stuart Waite, Glen Waverley, Vic  
•Henry Pedler, Dalby, Qld  
•May Smith, Bundaberg, Qld

### Changes

STARNAUD: Service times—First Sunday of each month 9.45 am, rest of the month 10.30 am.  
IVANHOE: Minister—New telephone number (03) 499 4155.

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Applications close 30 June 1989

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## YFC HAPPENING

comes to the City  
Saturday 3 June

Melbourne Town Hall

Corner Collins and Swanston Streets

Melbourne

7.41 pm

Admission free



Speaker: Rob Coyle  
from Youth Dimension  
Special Guest Artists:  
Hill St and Joint Heirs

# Church News

SA

**HENLEY (Brian Hill)** Two decisions at the Bill Newman Crusade ... Visiting missionaries to Henley were Robyn Lantham from Japan, Glenda & Ray Leatch, Dianna Catts from New Guinea ... Bible School picnic very enjoyable ... 7 May ecumenical service at St Michael's Anglican Church ... 14 May combined evening service with Flinders Park & Cowandilla. Guest artist Mel Davison.

**HAMPSTEAD GARDENS (Keith Ridge)** New minister inducted by Conf Pres Colin Dredge ... Easter services well supported including Maundy Thursday Passover service ... Church supported Bill Newman Crusade ... Sunday School numbers increasing due to children from Playgroup becoming involved ... Mavis Follett celebrated 90th birthday with open house at church ... State Youth Ministry team conducted evening service 30 April.

**MURRAY BRIDGE (Bill Bowden)** Bill's zealous ministry encouraging the church, his pastoral visiting appreciated & bringing about restorations ... Attendances good ... Four decisions, three rededications ... Sunday School growing ... Bookshop outreach to community ... Church held service at "Lerwin" aged home. CWF provided birthday tea there ... Craft mornings, Bible study, CWF, Friendship group all enthusiastic ... Visit of MV *Doulos* team inspiring ... Women attended CWCI camp.

**BERRI (A. Chapple)** Allan & June Chapple attended Conference & Margarey Lectures ... Every Member Present Sunday 6 August. Jim Keatch will be speaking. ... Church planning marriage enrichment weekend with Alan Bailly ... Painting done in church & new carpet ordered ... Different groups conduct night service once a month ... Dorothy Thurmer welcomed into fellowship ... Mrs Heinemann in hospital due to a heart attack.

Vic

**WANGARATTA (Carl Clayden)** Joy to see young children contributing to music at morning service under guidance of Bill Keenan & Doug McGregor ... Carl Clayden completed first aid course & attained bronze medal in exams for SES. Carl is chaplain to SES personnel ... Church family celebrated Phillip Clayden's 21st birthday with a social evening ... Bible studies, day club for elderlies & friendship centre all operating again this year.

**RED HILL (Ken Clinton)** Wonderful harvest thanksgiving display delivered to CCTC & Community Care ... Older SS group met 28 April for tea, Christian videos, games night ... Playgroup & church young marrieds combined for dinner provided by church ladies 29 April. Talk by Jeff & Merrill Prossor on work at Fitzroy Crossing. Children catered for separately with party tea ... Prime of Life group held camp at Healesville.

**CHELSEA (T. Frazer)** Women's choir & woman president conducted communion service on CWF Sunday ... Chelsea community minibus booked to enable members to attend combined gospel rally in Dallas Brooks Hall ... Joy & Brian Fielder holidaying in Zimbabwe, Malawi & Botswana ... Glove puppet "Big Chooka" again being used by minister for usual children's session during Sunday morning services.

**YORK ST, BALLARAT (Roger Risson)** February worship services featured series by Harold Howlett on "Coping Christianly at Work" ... Gospel services covered topic "Single & Sanctified"—coping with singleness. ... Christmas Day appeal: COCOA \$815 ... Christian Projects granted \$500 to help our instrumental group ... Church family donated \$175,000 so far to church building program averaging \$165 p.w. ... Church regretfully accepted resignation of Roger Risson, effective end of 1989.

**TRARALGON** Two covenant groups commenced during week for home fellowship ... Navigator series Bible study Sunday 8.30 am ... Youth activities including Walhalla hike, pizza night, video night; camp at Mill Valley Ranch planned ... Church maintenance commenced with external painting ... 56 attended baptisms of Jennifer & Judith Lade ... Sewing circle in Endeavour House meeting local community needs ... Playgroups meet twice weekly.

**DAWSON ST, BALLARAT (Jim Cunningham)** Church elder Bob Whitehead received civic honours after 10 years as Parks & Gardens Director ... Lillian Price, following serious illness, able to attend worship services ... CWF responsible for World Day of Prayer services ... Stephen Templeton called to minister in 1990 ... Jim Cunningham's interim ministry greatly appreciated ... May James celebrated 102nd birthday—singing hymns ... Gwen Mason incapacitated ... Increasing attendances appreciated.

**BENDIGO (J. Sweetman)** John & Naomi Sweetman & family back after holiday break. Thanks to all

speakers, I. Lacy, K. Lacy, Transworld Radio, who helped out ... Annual meeting held. Elders elected J. Ford, A. Garrett, M. Broad, deacons A. Graham, P. Brown, L. Crother, D. Peacock, deaconesses H. Thomas, S. Hosking, A.M. Misson ... Rob Gate now recovering after surgery. R. Langley, Thelma Perl, John Martin on sicklist ... Creche now available at both morning & evening services.

**NORTH ESSENDON (David Rees, David Perkin)** Autumn Fair raised \$633 profit ... Crazy Whist evening 1 April, another planned for May. Proceeds to aid Indian child ... David Perkin welcomed 23 April ... Board elections held ... David Rees absent with virus until June. His father, lay members & David Reynolds to preach in meantime ... Sympathy to Jean Hosking on husband's death ... Annual general meeting 30 April ... Manse being let.

**SOUTH YARRA (A.B. Clark)** Meetings continue to be well attended ... Evening services conducted by Graham Bradley from Prahran also well attended ... Rita Roberts in Box Hill Hospital. Mrs Hilda Barbour in St Leon Nursing Home, Malvern ... Prayer continues for the sick ... CWF visited Wycliffe Bible Translators, Kangaroo Grounds. Enjoyable time spent ... At May meeting Jean Witt spoke & ladies gave knitted garments & gifts for Social Service.

**BORONIA (Keith Milne, Gordon Stirling, Mike Folland)** "Understanding Stress & Depression" seminar held, led by Brian White ... Gordon Stirling showed slides of last World Convention at evening services ... Music in the Garden led by Danny McDowell & orchestra raised \$350 for CCTC Mulgrave ... Church represented at meeting regarding commencement of new church at Rowville ... Second band being formed ... Evening services for June, July, August 5 pm.

**HAMPTON STREET (P. Pitts)** Preworship prayer meetings held each Sunday ... Tuesday morning Bible studies continuing ... Important decisions made concerning outreach at workshop & planning day ... Cell groups proving popular ... Contacts being made through visitor's book ... Overhead projector & screen in use to good effect ... Jumble sale proceeds \$445 ... Barbara Pitts recovering after surgery. Margaret Sampson still in hospital ... Many from community attended bush dance.

**CAULFIELD (A. McMillan, M. Buckingham)** CWF took part in morning & evening meetings for

CWF Sunday ... CWF 66th birthday held 27 April. M. Buckingham speaker. Soloist Rev Coombe, Uniting Church ... Church members looking forward to church's 69th anniversary on 28 May. Dr Trevor Banks speaker ... Sympathy extended to Pam Jones on the passing of her mother.

**MORWELL (Graham Woodward)** Maundy Thursday night passover feast held ... Graham spoke at combined Morwell churches Good Friday service ... Friendship continues every Wednesday & picnic held at Walhalla ... Church picnic at Tyers River ... Church camp at Walhalla ... Celebrated Carl Palmer's 80th birthday with family from Queensland & Morwell ... Young people meet Wednesday evenings for Bible study led by Graham & Neil Little.

**SWAN HILL (L.J. Mayos)** Many attended worship workshop/seminar with John Sweetman & team from Bendigo ... Combined service with other local churches in High School hall on evening of Pentecost Sunday ... Evening services during May featured series of addresses on the Holy Spirit ... Average communicants of 114 during April.

**COLAC (David Horne)** Church growing steadily ... 18 attended marriage enrichment seminar held 28-30 April with Brian & Joan White ... Church centenary will be in 1992. Past members who could help with information, pictures etc. they would be willing to share please contact Secretary, J. Griffiths, RMB 8365, Nalangil, via Colac 3249.

**STAWELL (S. McElwhee)** Church hall carpeted ... New pews (upholstered) with American redwood stained frames ... Welcome cards placed in hymnbooks ... Name badges procured ... Church continues to support St Arnaud fellowship, supplying team ministry ... Tape ministry commenced mainly for ill & aged unable to attend services.

Tas

**NUBEENA (G. Henderson)** Minister & wife attended ministers' fellowship at Ross ... 6 young people attended camp at Bicheno ... Stan & Muriel Ryles spent 4 weeks holiday & Stan spoke on several occasions ... Working bee was held at church & manse ... 41 pastoral visits for March ... 27 ladies attended World Day of Prayer service.

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The Australian Christian**

# Church News

## Qld

**DALBY** (Neil Melville) At recent congregational meeting church voted unanimously to extend Neil & Elaine Melville's ministry further three years ... Successful camp at Bunya Mountains. Study leader Graham Warne, Kenmore College. Theme "Models for Discipleship" speaking on Paul's associates Barnabas, Apollos & Timothy ... CWF studying "Spiritual Living" ... Ed & Edna Nash conducting week of teaching on theme "Holiness as a Life-style".

**CALOUNDRA** (Jeff Welden) Kenmore student Graeme Scott appointed youth minister. Encouraging growth in youth activities ... Thursday "Kids Klub" replacing Sunday School now has 23 members ... New group "Us" (ages 20-40) commencing soon ... Wednesday morning Friendship Group attracting non-members for games, singing, morning tea & fellowship ... Rotary exchange student, Andrew Jenner, off to New Zealand for three months ... Over 100 attended recent baptismal service.

**BUNDABERG** (A.G. Leane) A.G. Leane commenced ministry Feb ... Several families welcomed into fellowship ... Increasing attendances. Folk from Argyle Village attending regularly ... Letterbox drop prior to Easter ... Ladies choir & craft morning commenced ... Sunday School picnic postponed due to rain ... Young people fund raising for camp ... Church grounds further landscaped ... Men attended Men's Camp at Bargara ... Handbills distributed at local school attracted new SS scholars.

## NSW

**GREENACRE** (P.P. De Wildt, T. Smlth) Praise God, we're 21! Celebrations confirmed the church's vitality & highlighted its recent growth. Anniversary dinner was attended by many past as well as present members. Garry Towle & Ian Morton were speakers. Anniversary cake was cut by our 21 year olds ... Growth continues with 8 new members this year. Married woman was baptised at a well-attended Easter Thursday service. **BROKEN HILL** J. Oswald Sanders was speaker at Easter church camp. A feast of spiritual food & lots of fun & fellowship over 3.5 days ... Prior to camp he had a one day seminar on Spiritual Leadership & took four sessions on Spiritual Maturity. Other Christians in

Broken Hill joined these sessions ... MMM have helped for two weeks to extend chapel ... Second intake of Cornerstone students settling in ... Over 50 now living in "convent" complex.

**WAGGA WAGGA** (R. Whan) Faith giving for missionary family launched with initial promises \$9,664 ... Christian Projects approved initial grant \$600 towards visit by Graeme Hush for ministry to youth worker & other young people ... Judy Gordon to conduct seminar 20-21 May sharing with Sunday School teachers ... R.

Whan appointed chairman of Inter-church Councils RE program ... Departmental system working well ... Council approved plans for new cry room.

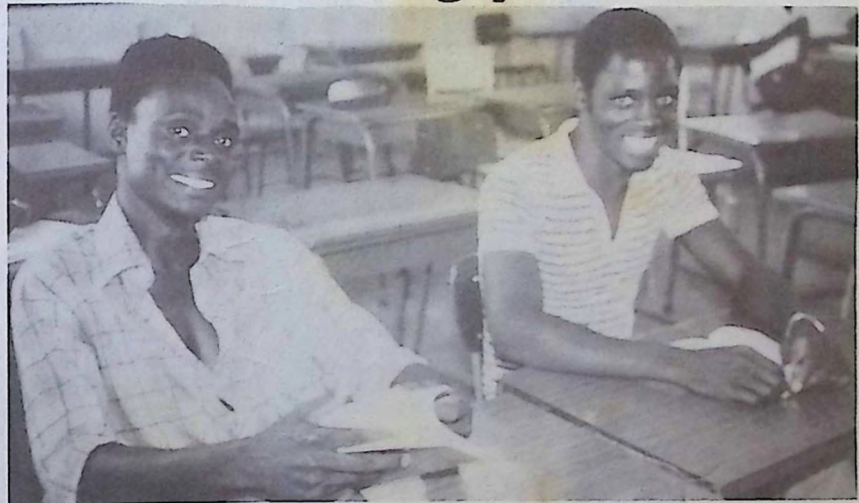
**THORNLEIGH** (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) Matthew Bishop & Mark Worsfold baptised by Franklyn Elliott at pm service 23 April ... 10 young people of year 7-9 attended a camp 28-30 April at Sofala under the leadership of Alan & Cheryl Norton, Robert Garrett & Matthew Greenaway ... Sympathy of the church has been extended to Deanne Elliott & family, Merle

Robinson & family & Steve McFadzean & family at the recent passing of their fathers.

**MANNING VALLEY** (Barry Rice, Ross Norling, Noela Mobbs) Lia Emerton appointed part-time youth worker ... AGM took form of Vision Dinner. Enthusiastic response as goals of future outlined ... Church accepted gift of 5 acres of land for future building ... Sponsoring two national leaders at Pacific Training Institute, Laurieton, who will be involved weekends with church as part of training ... Youth camp held with Jeff Reynolds as speaker.

# COCOA

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## Comment

### Christian Homes for Disabled Adults

by Margaret Mill

As one of many parents concerned about the future welfare of a disabled young adult, and on behalf of all those loving aged parents who are just about exhausted with the daily, and in many cases, nightly care needed for those older disabled family members in their homes, I submit this plea.

The need is urgent for Christian homes for disabled adults in Victoria. This has been an established fact for well over 20 years. Government Homes, as we know them, generally lack the warmth of Christian love and example. Many years of careful guidance and Christian training would be lost in the wrong atmosphere. What is needed is loving concern, prayer, finance, and for people to be given the chance to help and do something which may be the Lord's goal for them in their lives. Our sick and aged folk know about the care of the church for them, but what about the disabled, who in many cases are unable to present their cries for help themselves?

Crossroads Victoria, an interdenominational fellowship ministering to people with disabilities, seeks to encourage their individual growth, emotionally and spiritually, acknowledges the pressing need for accommodation for disabled persons under the auspices of the church.

Their need is a common problem facing people from all Christian denominations, and one that should be faced up to now. Faith, hope and love will bring results. Jesus himself said, "Heal the sick, bring sight to the blind...go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all people..." He did not say to shun the disabled. The church needs to see itself as a community of grace, providing distinctive care, environment, staff and support systems appropriate to the need and to be an initiator, willing to challenge, liaise, consult with those already

working in the area and to review its own stewardship situation in terms of property and people resources.

Crossroads initiated a seminar last year and subsequent meetings were held. A Task Group was formed to develop a statement of the need for accommodation for the disabled for general distribution which includes the need for Christian support and environment and to encourage and assist local churches to develop specific projects to meet the varying needs of the disabled. This Task Group is seeking the assistance of all people from all denominations interested in on-going procedures. At a follow-up meeting guest speaker was Hal Bisset, Housing Policy Officer of the Victorian Council of Churches. Hal spoke on "Your Church and Housing" and "Project Partnership" - an initiative of the Victorian Ministry of Housing and Construction which enables local churches to become involved providing decent, secure and affordable housing to low income residents of their local community. The Ministry has produced a set of guidelines which enable them to take a consistent approach to all possible joint ventures in housing; these guidelines are flexible enough to take account of the uniqueness of each local initiative.

To be truly effective do we need to respond at an interdenominational level as a community of faith - commissioned to continue the servant role of Christ in the local neighbourhood?

As Christians, we ask that the church listens to these cries for help and that at least some of its energies and resources be directed toward meeting the needs of disabled people in our community.

*Margaret Mill is a member of the Preston, Vic, church.*

## The Last Word

Once a word has been allowed to escape, it cannot be recalled.

—Horace

Did you hear about the lemming that didn't want to jump to a conclusion?

★★★★★

There was a young fellow named Paul  
Who went to a fancy dress ball.  
He thought he would risk it,  
And go as a biscuit—  
But a dog ate him up in the hall.

★★★★★

Learning to ski is like having your portrait painted. It requires a number of sittings.

★★★★★

An earwig sat on a mulberry leaf,  
When it began to rain.  
As it washed him off he was heard to say,  
"Earwig go again."

★★★★★

Ship's Steward: "Your lunch will be up shortly."

Seasick Passenger: "So will my breakfast!"

★★★★★

Cat: I'm not your father, am I?

Kitten: "No."

Cat: "Then stop paw-ing me!"

★★★★★

Policeman: "What's your name?"

Truck Driver: "It's on the side of the truck."

Policeman: "It's obliterated."

Truck Driver: "No it's not. It's O'Brien!"

★★★★★

To avoid that run-down feeling—look both ways before crossing.

★★★★★

Teacher: "I wish you'd pay a little attention!"

Student: "I'm paying as little as I can!"

★★★★★

The recruit was on guard duty at a secret weapons site with orders to admit no-one. A car drove up with a high-ranking officer in the back seat. The guard stopped the car but the officer ordered his driver to go on through. The guard turned to the officer. "Excuse me, sir. I'm rather new at this. Do I shoot you or the driver?"

★★★★★



The best thing to save for your old age is yourself.

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