

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

Registered for Australia Post Publication No. VAR 0761

Volume 92, No. 9

3 June 1989

A Country Church Says Thank You

Caveside is a farming district, 74 km west of Launceston, Tas, situated in a lush fertile plain at the foot of the Great Western Tiers. The church at Caveside celebrates its 80th anniversary this year.

It has always been a small church, with a membership varying between 20 and 30 as people move into and out of the area. Since its commencement in 1910 the church has had only three secretaries; Ena Harvey has been secretary since 1960.

Over the years the church has received encouragement from many visiting speakers and the Launceston church has sought to encourage Caveside in a number of ways. Every year in April they journey there for an afternoon of worship and fellowship.

Following the death in 1978 of Alan Harvey, who was minister of the church for 40 years, Launceston gave assistance in providing preachers fortnightly until John and Colleen Harrison commenced a part-time ministry in October 1988. Many friendships have been established over the years between Caveside and Launceston.

It is good for Caveside to know that just 74 km away there is a caring city church that is prepared to help when help is needed—when extra hymn books or glasses are needed for a special service—and pray that the witness of Caveside will continue week by week.

Caveside wishes to challenge other city and large churches to exercise similar concern towards smaller and more isolated fellowships.



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National logo of
Churches of Christ
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Member
publication of the
Australian
Religious Press
Association



"The Australian Christian" is published by
the Board of Management of the
Australian Christian, a Department of
the Federal Conference of
Churches of Christ in Australia.

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Printing by New Litho Pty Ltd,

63 Sunbury Cres,

Surrey Hills 3127

Responsibility for electoral material is
accepted by Chris Ambrose,
3 Hamlyn St, Essendon 3040

Advertising Rates

Displayed: \$4.40 per column
centimetre

Classifieds: \$9 for the first 25 words
and 10c for each additional word

Guest Editorial

• *Jerusalem, city of the future. A great city. The heavenly city. The greatest city ever. And what will it be like?*

Homesick for Heaven

by Rod Huron

Now and then I'd like to be back in Toronto. To drive along the Lakeshore; to watch the boats at the Port Credit Marina; Eaton Centre, Yonge Street, Sherway Gardens—even the bitter Canadian winter; I miss them all. We enjoyed living in Toronto.

You may prefer Vienna; to stroll down Karntner Strasse on a summer evening. Windowshop until you are pleasantly tired of needlepoint and crystal and ceramic and furs. Find a table in one of the sidewalk cafes down Graben and watch the crowds go by.

Motor along the Thames and look across at Parliament House and Big Ben. Think of wave after wave of Luftwaffe bombers trying to destroy all that is here. Ready your camera for Buckingham Palace and the changing of the guard. London!

Enjoy Auckland. The zest and life of her busy downtown, the colour and drama of the waterfront. The charm of her shops and restaurants.

Or Leningrad, with the Hermitage and St Isaacs. Or Paris with *Le Tour* and the Louvre.

There is something fascinating about the city. John felt that, too, from his lonely exile on Patmos. John remembered cities where he had been: Capernaum, Ephesus, Jerusalem. Especially Jerusalem. His heart yearned for the Jerusalem he knew when he and Jesus and the others walked the temple courts and climbed the Mount of Olives and crossed the Kidron and prayed in Gethsemane.

Now these days are gone.

John will never walk those streets again, never hear those sounds again, never see those sights again.

John's loneliness; my homesickness; all our yearnings for warmth and security and wholeness and completeness—are not these our aching for heaven?

God gives John a preview of the city to come in a new heaven and a new earth. God permits John to see the bride of Christ, the new Jerusalem, redeemed and ready for the bridegroom.

Jerusalem, city of the future.

A great city. The heavenly city.

The greatest city ever.

And what will it be like? John almost empties the dictionary to tell us.

It won't be like this world. Jerusalem will be new. Here, cars and clothes, parties and politics, all grow old and stale. Not so



there. Nothing old in heaven. Nothing worn or wearing out.

None of the sense of haste and stress we feel so often here. Here, there's never quite enough time. We're never quite contented. Never quite do our best. Never reach all our goals.

How different in heaven, freed from tyranny of the clock and the limitations of the flesh. In heaven we will have space and time to spare.

Gladys Hunt said it for us: "We ought to sigh a little when we think of heaven."

Heaven's design pictures perfection. In Solomon's temple, the Most Holy Place, symbol of God's presence, was exactly as high and deep as it was wide. Heaven will be God's perfect dwelling place.

Heaven will be so satisfying.

We will be unwearied: "I am making everything new."

Our vision will be clear: "They will see his face."

We will know grace: "He who overcomes will inherit all this."

We will be happy: "No more death or mourning or crying or pain."

We will be free: "On no day will its gates ever be shut."

We will be unafraid: "There will be no night there."

We will be clean: "Nothing impure will ever enter it."

We will be truly and fully alive: "The

free gift of the water of life."

We will be active; "His servants shall serve him."

We will be comforted: "He will wipe every tear from their eyes."

We will have every need met: "To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life."

We will know the Father: "I will be his God and he will be my son."

We will belong: "His name will be on their foreheads."

We will be home: "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."

And that will be heaven.

Our Lord said it best:

Look up,

Hold your heads high,

For you will soon be free.³

1. Gladys M. Hunt, *Don't Be Afraid to Die* (Grand Rapids, Michigan, Zondervan Publishing House, 1971), p. 58.

2. See Revelation 21 and 22. New International Version.

3. Adapted by the author from his book, *Say Hello to Life* (Cincinnati, Ohio, Standard Publishing Company, 1984).

• Rod Huron began writing in 1954, when Christian Standard published a college assignment of his. Since then he has written poetry, biography, curriculum, numerous essays and articles and four books. His novel, *Checkpoint*, received the Sherwood E. Wirt award for excellence in Christian fiction from the Billy Graham Association and he was awarded the Gold Medallion from Evangelical Christian Publishers for the Christian Minister's Manual, published by Standard in 1985. Mr Huron is convention director for the North American Christian Convention, an annual four-day assembly sponsored by Christian Churches and Churches of Christ, which draws between 18,000 and 22,000 persons. He was recently named to the executive committee of the World Convention of Churches of Christ.

Progress for South Melbourne



The South Melbourne, Vic., church is in an expansive mood with morale high and planning commenced for important new practical and spiritual objectives. Seen here discussing issues are church secretary, Roger Baker (left), Merrill Blair (worship committee) and minister Alan Hirsch.

Major repairs to the roof have been completed with the help of tradesmen from Mobile

Mission Maintenance. The savings will allow for renovations to both the interior and exterior of the building.

Alongside the renovation program the church is responding well to the leadership of the new minister, Alan Hirsch, who follows a much appreciated term of service offered by Lyn Kenworthy. A number of young people linking with the church have increased atten-

dances. A 76 years old woman has recently sought baptism.

People are being encouraged to relocate in the area. Alan Hirsch would be keen to talk with young adults open to consider living in South Melbourne and working with the church.

This year Alan transferred from the Lygon Street, Carlton church where he was extensively involved with a large group of young adults in a leadership role.

The South Melbourne church is finding itself increasingly on the edge of the main downtown city development with its business focus and new residential attraction for young adults. Alongside this there are many older long term residents, plus low income families in Ministry of Housing accommodation.

The church leadership sees 1989 as a year of consolidation and planning with a major evangelism thrust to come from 1990. The work is being assisted by the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development.

Kaniva's Centenary Weekend Attracts Hundreds

People came from near and far to celebrate the Kaniva, Vic., church's centenary. The March long weekend began for the 200-300 participants with a great country barbecue at the rear of the chapel. Tours of the area followed. One group walked off the meal along the well-known Billy Ho bush walk south of the town while the rest of the crew piled into buses for a three hour tour of the sites of the early chapels that housed Churches of Christ in the area during the past 100 years, e.g. Yearinga, North Serviceton, Lillimur, Miram and many others.

Saturday night at the Shire Hall was a time for introductions and welcomes. After the formal proceedings a concert was held.

Sunday morning the Shire Hall was all but full again as Gerald Rose, Vic-Tas Conference President led the morning service.

Highlights were a centenary hymn written for the occasion by Bess Crouch, unveiling of a centenary plaque by chairman Albert Williams, music from the Kaniva Community Singers, readings from former ministers Arthur Withers and Wil Wigney and E.L. Williams as speaker.

The weekend concluded successfully with an evening service at which Pam Bowers, past minister was speaker.

Albert Williams declined to preside over the next centenary committee—he said his middle name is not Methusalem!



Addie Cunningham cutting the centenary cake

Banksia Development Continues



Campsite planning never seems to run out.

Seen here discussing future plans for Camp Banksia are, left to right, Ray Drayton,

Frank Richards (builder), John Beard (senior camping manager) and Russ Pearce (manager, Camp Banksia). Discussion centred on new site plans

prepared by architect and Department of Mission, Education and Development member, Ray Drayton.

The 10 acre site on the Gippsland Lakes is being progressively developed in keeping with Department policy to provide a site for adventure activities, tent and caravan camping.

The central core building containing kitchen, dining and recreation facilities, and the toilets have both been extensively renovated in the last two years.

The large grassed areas being developed in a bushland setting have won much positive comment from visitors.

Nunawading church held

their family camp at Camp Banksia during Easter with some 131 adults and children on site.

New proposals for the site include redevelopment of the camp entrance and internal tracks, a new water service and enlarged tenting areas. A continuing attraction of the site is the abundant wildlife in the area.

Camp Banksia is available for caravans and tent camps. A cabin has accommodation for six campers.

Enquiries should be directed to the Department of Mission, Education and Development, 52 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne. 3000. Phone (03) 662 2377.

Successful Singles Weekend with Jay Bacik

"I feel free of a great burden."

"It was a weekend of real inner healing."

"I've learned to forgive myself this weekend and now feel some hope for the future."

These were some of the comments from the participants of a Divorce Recovery Workshop led by Jay Bacik for the Singles Ministry Committee of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development.

Just on 60 people attended this Friday night workshop, part of a weekend seminar for

singles.

Cheryl Johnson, co-ordinator of the committee was delighted with the 50 people, including ministers and church leaders, who attended the Saturday program on "Commencing and Maintaining a Singles Ministry".

Jay Bacik, who led both parts of the program, was warm and sensitive and the insights arising from his training, experience and work with singles at Northside in Sydney, NSW, were very helpful.

His sense of humour and his ability to relate to singles, especially those recovering from divorce, developed an atmosphere in which healing and personal enrichment could occur.

He is not afraid to tell it like it is to those struggling with the post-divorce experience.

Cheryl Johnson has also been to Canberra where she conducted a similar program for ACT churches. It too was well attended and worthwhile.

The Singles Ministry Committee can be contacted through Cheryl Johnson on (03) 397 5715 or Anne Spoelder on (03) 662 2377.



Cheryl Johnson, co-ordinator, Jay Bacik, leader, and Helen McPherson, participant, at the singles weekend

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The Carol Preston Story



Carol Preston and her husband, Neil

It's the kind of story a script writer might use for a movie:

"Young mother of two attends WEA course on child development to find out 'what makes her kids tick' and ends up getting a PhD, without having previously a clue what a PhD is."

This happened to Carol Preston. Carol was a mother of two small children running her own small hair dressing business at home, when a whole new direction in life began to unfold. It started with a WEA course. Then came the suggestion that she study for a degree. A surprised Carol gained mature-age entry to university and, after eleven years of study, a doctorate in psychology. Throughout her years of study Carol wrestled with the direc-

tion she was pursuing; where it might take her and what God's special purpose was for her in the highly developed skills she was acquiring. She gained a wide variety of experience from counselling drug addicts to specialised university research on critically ill people.

Near to the completion of her studies Barry McMurtrie approached Carol to become the academic dean of the Institute for Contemporary Church Leadership. Carol was thrilled.

This seemed just the right niche God had been preparing her for. Carol's story really begins when at the age of 12 she attended a Joe Blinko evangelistic mission in Wollongong and came forward in a very moving conversion experience to the hymn "Just as I Am". From that time Carol has attended the Church of Christ, was baptised at 13, became very involved at the life of the church and met her husband Neil in the youth group.

At present Carol lectures in personal development at Carlingford and pastoral care at Wollongong.

The moral of the story is...

"One thing can lead to another and if you are open to God you'll never know what that might be, because after all he is the most innovative script writer there is and Carol Preston is another of his fascinating stories."

—Stephen Curkpatrick (Epping)

Minister's Red Face

On 13 May while watching "Hey, Hey, It's Saturday" I thought I recognised one of the participants in the Red Faces segment. A duet under the name "The Complainers" sang a rewritten version of The Proclaimers song "I'm on My Way". The act won the segment on the night.

A phone call next week confirmed that my recognition was correct. "The Complainers" were John Parker and Geoff Payne, both from the Prospect, SA, church where Geoff is the minister.

They had devised the act as a stunt and only have the one number.

Talking to Geoff later he recounted to us the response to their appearance. From within church circles there have been basically two responses. One of these is that is beneath the dignity of the church and a minister to appear on television in such a way. The other response, by far the largest and especially at Prospect, is that it was good to see Christians enjoying themselves and just having fun. Many were pleased



Geoff Payne

that John and Geoff had done so well.

Geoff comments that he has been fascinated by the comments from people outside the church. They are commenting on how different it is to see a minister being human and willing to become involved in life and having fun.

Interestingly an entertainment agency has contacted John and Geoff and offered them bookings. So far they have accepted five bookings although they only have the one song in their repertoire and at present have no plans to add any more. The same agency were surprised when they turned down a Sunday evening booking because Geoff would be preaching at the time. —CRA

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Homeless Youth—An Issue for Our Community



The Travellers

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The Leprosy Mission International

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United Kingdom

Like it or not homeless youth is an issue in our community. The question we should ask is not, "Do I care?" but rather, "How can I make a difference?"

Working with young people is costly in time, resource and energy. Often little is given in return. Chances are you will know someone in your own family or peer network who is having to cope with a runaway or breakdown in the family unit. The figures are frightening. Nationally 25,000 young people between the ages of 11 and 18 have literally no place to call home.

Youth for Christ, the YWCA and Notting Hill, Vic, Gospel Chapel have joined forces in reaching out to hurting kids. Medium to long term accommodation that offers extensive support and fosters long-term relationships is required. The church has found that one of the most effective tools it has is a caring community that can offer support and a sense of belongingness. They have seen their young people befriend and involve troubled youth in a positive peer group environment. The church is now, in conjunction with other churches and under the auspices and direction of YFC, expanding its ministry to incorporate several homes with a variety of placement options under the title "Monash Youth Accommodation and Support".

The demand for beds and support is great

As a way of raising funds a benefit concert for homeless youth will be held at the Dallas



Steve Grace

Brooks Hall in Melbourne on Saturday, 22 July at 8 pm, featuring Steve Grace and the Travellers. Tickets are available through YFC centres in Melbourne, Geelong, Waragul, Peninsula and Geelong and the Notting Hill Gospel Chapel for \$12 (\$10 for groups of 20 or more). For further details telephone (03) 889 3696.

LAUNCESTON (Rod Foster) Mother's Day service on 14 May included baptism & a special male choir ... CWF program "Treasures from the Attic" an hilarious occasion ... 170 at Brigades Parade on 21 May when Jeanette Foster appointed Girls' Brigade chaplain ... Edwards family leave for trip to SA, Ron & Nancy Whittle for overseas trip & Heier family for round Australia trip.

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Crafty Busseltonians



As any Busseltonian will know, the photograph above could not have been taken on a Tuesday morning! For every Tuesday morning during school terms the car park to the front and side of the Busselton, WA, church is filled with cars, and between 9.15 and 9.45 am

women queue near the tree to pay their \$1 admission to the Craft Group. The idea for a community craft group was suggested by May Chapman, a technical teacher who had organised a similar group in the Baptist church at Claremont, a Perth suburb. A trial program

for a month in November 1985 resulted in attendances of 40 to 50 so in February 1986 the Busselton Craft Group commenced.

The group has gone from strength to strength and now numbers 150 individuals tackling some very creative crafts.

The dollar paid at the door covers the cost of morning tea and basic craft necessities—pins, paper, glue etc. The cost of other materials is met by the women themselves. (Busselton men haven't shown much interest to date.)

On the Tuesday prior to Easter various groups, each with their instructor (or two or three) were involved in making hot air balloon baskets, fancy containers for Easter eggs, fabric-covered gift boxes, Hobbytext, crocheting, stretch-knit sewing, and quilting.

A creche in a separate building staffed by church women is of great assistance to the many young mums. After the morning tea break the minister, Ross Burton, leads a brief devotional segment.

The church is now promoting similar craft groups in other South West country towns and conducting training sessions for group leaders.

Walking to Gisborne

On 1 May Ray Smith, minister of the Gisborne, Vic, church walked approximately 50 kilometres from the Churches of Christ Centre in Melbourne to the site of the proposed new Gisborne complex. The walk took him about 12 hours and Ray is hoping that the walk will eventually raise \$5,000 towards the new complex (About two weeks after the walk over \$1,500 of his sponsorship had been received).

Currently the Gisborne church meets in a public hall. They plan to finish a new \$300,000 complex by the end of 1989. Currently they have spent \$30,000 on architects and planning fees and they have to raise a further \$50,000 to complete the project. \$200,000 has been earmarked towards the project by the Vic-Tas Properties Corporation.

The new complex will have two meeting areas and will have a seating capacity for 22. Currently there are 120, including children, who are meeting each week on average. Ray reports that since the beginning

of 1987 97 new people are attending and this represents 22 families. The church is developing a ministry to families and is gaining a reputation and new families from the district because of this emphasis.

Currently the church only operates with a morning service. However there are two youth groups, senior and junior, and half a dozen home groups meet each week. It is hoped that soon a home group will commence in Woodend. The range of country covered by the church is very large and eventually Ray sees the Gisborne church developing fellowships at Melton, Sunbury and Woodend. It is also hoped to commence a Kids Club once the new complex is completed. On any given Sunday at present there would be 50 children present at the worship service.

One development over recent months has been a music group that meets weekly. Currently there are 15 musicians who participate in the morning service under the musical di-



Ray Smith in Kellor Road on the way to Gisborne

rection of Jim Lindsay. Eight or nine would be involved each week.

When asked about why people were coming to Gisborne he commented that most of the new attenders were not from a Churches of Christ background. Many were attracted by the flexibility and non-traditional worship style, by the emphasis on children's ministry, by the Bible teaching emphasis, and by the warmth and feeling that people are

made welcome. In planning the new complex these factors have been kept in mind to ensure that these attractive features are retained.

Pastor Josif Bondarenko, an evangelist in the USSR, is planning to visit Australia after attending the Lausanne II Congress in the Philippines. He is planning to visit Australia between 20 July and 5 August through Voice of Peace.

Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words.

LOVE HOMOSEXUALS?

To the Editor,

Should I judge my fellow? What should my attitude be to an unrepentant sinner?

Statistics tell me that between 1982 and 1987 631 contracted AIDS in Australia by homosexual activity, 41 by blood transfusions, 9 by heterosexual activity and 4 by needle sharing.

Your article ("AC" 6 May) pleads for love for homosexuals—compassion for homosexuals.

But I find it hard to separate the sinner from the sin—especially when I know that such a compassion as I am able to muster is tempered by the knowledge that, if homosexual practice were to cease tomorrow, few, and certainly a diminishing number, of cases of AIDS would occur in the future.

If the case quoted in "Comment" were true, it was a tremendous tragedy, and no one could be less than horrified—but I look at the statistics, at the unrepentant advocates on TV and on street parades and I hear the insidious propaganda from those who practice this transgression of God's law and I find it hard to think of love in such a context.

And I am troubled.

—Huon Byard
(Launceston, Tas)

SIGNS AND WONDERS

To the Editor,

I was much encouraged by Russell Kilgour's article ("AC" 22 April) concerning his experience of the Melbourne conference on Signs and Wonders and Church Growth.

Over a number of years I have observed the debate going on about whether signs and wonders are present in this age or whether they ceased with the apostles, and all the other wordy and largely negative debates that go on.

These debates might be included among what Russell calls "Methodologies that basically allow people to remain in control of things". For it seems

to me that here is the crux of the whole issue. We want to remain in control.

He is right when he says, "Allowing the Holy Spirit to reign in our churches can be scary." But, let's be honest—nothing less works! The schemes we have dreamed up for God have not done much for the Christian church over this last 100 years. And if the signs of the times are as they appear, it really is time, as he says, to "simply allow God to be God for our churches".

—Alan Williams
(Canberra, ACT)

ABC PROTEST

To the Editor,

Some time ago a local TV group disposed of a program that had been going for many years and was acceptable to Roman Catholic viewers and to others. A reply was issued when one protested, but it was already printed and sent to all, so issues were not really dealt with at that time.

With the ABC there is somewhat of a difference, and I urge all those who want to do so, to write to them and object to the completely negative, offensive and horrible shows that it has the gall to put to air. I mention the "Big Gig" show. It seems that anything goes, and particularly religious issues and religion as such.

It may be said that I have the answer in that I can switch off, or switch over channels. But in addition, anyone has the right to protest the licence which poses as liberty.

—W.B. Burn
(Morwell, Vic)

COMMONWEALTH BANK PROTEST

To the Editor,

I feel the flak that came your way as a result of the item "Courteous Protest against the Commonwealth Bank" (original article "AC" 8 April issue, responses 6 May issue) was undeserved and was couched in terms which don't exactly conform with Christian forbearance.

After all, you didn't actually endorse the un-named group's

suggestion, though some would say that the publication of the item implied a certain—or uncertain!—degree of sympathy for it. I assume the report was used for its news value and as a marker of the churches' interest in social justice.

You were also entitled to publish the piece as part of *The Australian Christian's* commendable policy of widening its appeal to readers by ventilating community issues that have a connection with the church's teaching. And the complaints took an exaggerated form—but this is common to many letters to the editor, including some of mine to secular papers! —Jack Ludbrook
(Dulwich, SA)

LOVE HOMOSEXUALS

To the Editor,

I consider the article "Please Love Homosexuals" (AC 6 May) timely having addressed the subject with a motion at the

recent SA Conference. But then isn't God's timing always perfect?

Whilst not disputing the author's right to request love and compassion for the homosexual and AIDS sufferer, for the agape love and compassion of Christ can never be an option for the Christian, I would however question his claim as to the cause of his homosexuality and promiscuity. An experience with a paedophile youth leader is not the cause of either. I would suggest that the author has shifted the blame which is not helpful to his healing in the Lord Jesus Christ. Sexual brokenness would have occurred in his life at a much earlier part of his development than 11 years of age with a breakdown or severance of sexual identity with his father. I would however point out that, unfortunately, many paedophiles have the ability to detect sexually broken or potential homosex-

Letters from Tertius

Guilty

To the Editor,

I was mad the other day. I had just read the Food and Agricultural Organisation report that said there if 10% more food in the world than is required to feed everyone. The only trouble is that the surplus, plus a lot more, is in stockpiles to keep the prices up, or in the rubbish bins of the affluent quarter of the world. In the same report I read that 22% of the world's population is suffering from malnutrition, most of them young children.

These things make me mad. I was thinking that God's judgement on the perpetrators of this outrage will be horrendous. And I began to wonder who they are. First I thought of the multinationals, then down to the rich who get richer while the poor get poorer, then down to the politicians looking to keep their seats of power, then down to the trade union leaders who are more concerned about the living standards of their members than they are about the standards of the rest of the world.

As I descended the Judgement Parade I found I was getting very close to home. My own life style must be at the expense of someone else's diminished life style. Our humble brick veneer is pried by half the world. And our dog lives better than two thirds of the kids in the world. I realised that I am guilty and under the judgement of God.

The only way that I can see to get my hands clean is to ask God to forgive me and then to give and vote and live and talk and argue and pray until justice is done.

I'd better get started.

Hoping you are the same.

—Tertius

Letters to the Editor

ual boys and justify their actions with a statement such as: "He would have turned out gay anyway!" Promiscuity on the other hand was a conscious decision that the author made at a later time in his life and like all sin needs to be addressed with repentance and the acceptance of God's forgiveness, love and healing.

Praise God that the SA Conference have formally addressed the AIDS issue with a positive motion to love and support AIDS sufferers and simultaneously take the necessary measures to educate members and friends of our churches so that their life style will not be conducive to AIDS suffering.

I would like to inform readers that a support group known as Love in Action meets at the Prospect chapel for people with sexual brokenness. This group endeavours to bring about wholeness and healing that can only be found in our Lord Jesus Christ. Love in Action may be

contacted by writing to GPO Box 1115, Adelaide 5000, or by phoning (07) 371 0446.

—Ken Jacobs
(Manningham, SA)

[This letter is longer than the 200 word limit on Letters to the Editor, however I have allowed it to be published because of the importance of the argument.—Editor]

ACCOMMODATION FOR THE DISABLED

To the Editor,

The Victorian Churches of Christ Department of Community Care also shares the concern of Margaret Mill and Nancy Garth ("AC" 6 May) regarding accommodation for people with disabilities. The Government program of moving people out of institutions and back into the community commenced in the mid 1960s. In broad terms this has been a worthy goal and an important step to ensure that those with disabilities are seen as valued

people who enjoy the same rights to life that the rest of the community enjoys. The church also has an important role in the transition period by offering a caring ministry that is consistent with our Christian understanding of life. This will include an advocacy role in appropriate situations where people are vulnerable to exploitation or misrepresentation. It also means providing accommodation and support services that meet various needs of people with disabilities.

Community Care (Vic) have approved as part of their policy the provision of support and accommodation for people with disabilities. An application to the Commonwealth Department of Community Services and Health in 1987 was rejected. Further information is required before a new application is made. We would invite people with specialist skills in this field to offer, on a voluntary basis, the gathering of information required in order for

us to successfully apply for future funding grants. The need is real and deserving of our support.

—Trevor H. Giles
(Executive Director)

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

To the Editor,

In your last issue ("AC" 20 May) Alan Matheson painted child sponsorship in dark colours. Whilst pure altruism is very scarce and few claim that child sponsorship is perfect, it still has several pluses: it can provide short-term relief; empower whole communities to decide their own futures; and put donors in touch with their own and another's humanity through a direct encounter which leads to transformation of the rich as well as the poor.

Sponsorship funds can provide such things as clean water, education, health services, skills training and loans to help the poor become self-reliant.

There are many ways of "doing" sponsorship, but both

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Lord Make Me Whole
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emotional and spiritual
wholeness (review on page 15)

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the Master's sacrificial death on the
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for leading worship.

Alan and the *New Internationalist* article imply that all sponsorship agencies are the same, and that all sponsorship is still done in the welfare/charity model of 20 years ago.

Alongside child sponsorship, World Vision for example strives to be advocates on behalf of the poor. Advocacy can change structural conditions such as slavery or homelessness which make children suffer.

Both advocacy and child sponsorship, as well as other strategies, have a part to play in our responsibility to God for our neighbours. Such reflections on stewardship are to be welcomed, but simplistic "black versus white" arguments tend to foster stereotypes rather than offering constructive suggestions about helping the poor.

—Rowland Croucher
(World Vision of Australia)

EPPING—CHURCH PLANTER

To the Editor,

May I, with respect, amend the story you printed in "Focus on Telopea" ("AC" 6 May).

Telopea actually began as a church planting project by Epping in 1961 when Epping commissioned a percentage of its membership to begin the Telopea church. This work was heavily assisted by Epping, initially with leadership, build-ings, then finance for a further 12 years.

This is an important amendment to note, because Epping has for many years had a strong commitment to church planting, as a viable strategy for church growth.

Following Telopea, Epping's next major project was planting the Castle Hill church in 1979, in a similar strategy, until Castle Hill was self supporting.

Since then Epping has supported financially the new churches of Menai and Bathurst in a substantial way.

In early 1988 the Epping eldership explored the possibility of assisting in a College proposal to establish a new church in the developing West

Pennant Hills region.

Commitment to church planting, and assistance to new church projects, never occurs without great sacrifice and cost, to strong churches, but Epping has always found its life and energy by dying to itself, in commitment to such a church growth strategy.

—Stephen Curkpatrick
(Epping, NSW)

TAKEN TO TASK

To the Editor,

While reading *The Australian Christian* dated 20 May two things I noticed disturbed me.

Firstly, the Easter Event at the Blackwood, SA, church (of which I am a member) was not solely conducted by Church of Christ members. Those involved in the production were from a number of churches around the Blackwood district so I wish it acknowledged that the event was of an ecumenical nature.

Secondly, while reading of the Richmond, Vic, Vietnamese church and the baptism of four adults, I was disappointed and disturbed that their names were not included under the photograph. The only other photograph which was not accompanied by the names of those involved, was of the children looking at a crocodile at the Darwin church Day Care Centre. I believe that it is important that all people be given the same respect and dignity.

—Bronwen Whyatt
(Blackwood, SA)

[In the case of the Blackwood article the material was supplied by the church and although we edited the material we were unaware of the ecumenical co-operation in this very interesting venture. The material and photograph regarding the Vietnamese church was supplied by an interested Department and we were not advised of any names. We certainly attempt to name everybody whom we feature in a photograph and we urge everyone sending us material to include significant names and facts in any reports and photographs sent to us.—The Editor]

The 2:7 Series

For over 50 years *The Navigators* has been committed to the discipling process. In recent years they have developed the 2:7 Discipleship Series for use by churches in small groups.

The 2:7 Series is an approach to discipleship training that encourages a more dynamic personal relationship with Christ. It is specifically designed for couples and single adults. The title, the 2:7 Series, is taken from Colossians 2:7; "Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him. See that you go on growing in the Lord and become strong and vigorous in the truth ... let your lives overflow with joy and thanksgiving ..."

Small Groups

The 2:7 Series has been designed for use by lay people in the local church. A 2:7 group consists of 8-10 people who meet each week with a trained instructor. The groups are meant to create an atmosphere of help and encouragement for the group. The group will pray for one another. Spirited group discussion will prove to be interesting, challenging and helpful to everyday living in a non-Christian world.

Time and Cost

The 2:7 Series consists of six 12 week courses. Three courses

are covered in each year of the two years that participants are asked to give to the course. The cost of each 12 week course is under \$1 per person per week.

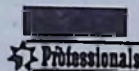
Leadership Training

As only those who have successfully completed the Leaders' Training Seminar may use the material, the Navigators train people to lead groups in their local church (see advert on Page 21). The training includes pre-conference assignment (about four hours), lecture, small group discussion.

Commendation

Allan Webb, Swanston St, Melbourne comments: "The biblical basis of ministry is that every member is to be a minister. As a pastor I can think of no better resource tool to equip members for the work of ministry than the Navigator 2:7 Series. It has been exciting to see dormant members realise their ministry potential and be unleashed for the work of ministry."

Swanston St started their first 2:7 Series group three years ago and have recently started their fourth group. David Spencer, a Navigator staff worker who has been in membership at Swanston St for the past 18 years and who has been a part of Swanston Street's missionary family for the past 12 years, was the first group leader.



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World News

Twenty-five Children Die Every Hour in Southern Africa

Twenty-five children die every hour as a result of war in Southern Africa, according to a report produced this year by UNICEF.

In Mozambique, nearly 3.5 million people have been forced to flee their homes. Another 1 million have sought refuge in neighbouring countries.

The war in Mozambique between the government and South African backed rebels has affected the whole region. Churches in the region have been struggling to meet the refugees' basic needs and to help them rebuild their shattered lives. Force Ten will support their efforts.

In Mozambique, the war has cut off whole districts from the rest of the country. In Zambia province, the Christian Council of Mozambique, in co-operation with the national airline, has organised an airlift to meet the immediate needs of at least 100,000.

Desperately needed are seeds and tools for the next planting, blankets, food, soap,



Displaced people in Tete Province

beans and maize. The area's isolation is so great that many of the local people have no clothing.

A factory in Mozambique produces "family packets" of clothing at a cost of about \$50 per packet.

In neighbouring Malawi, 750,000 Mozambicans have sought refuge. The Christian Council of Malawi has helped to construct hundreds of shelters for the refugees.

The Council has also organised skills training, recreation

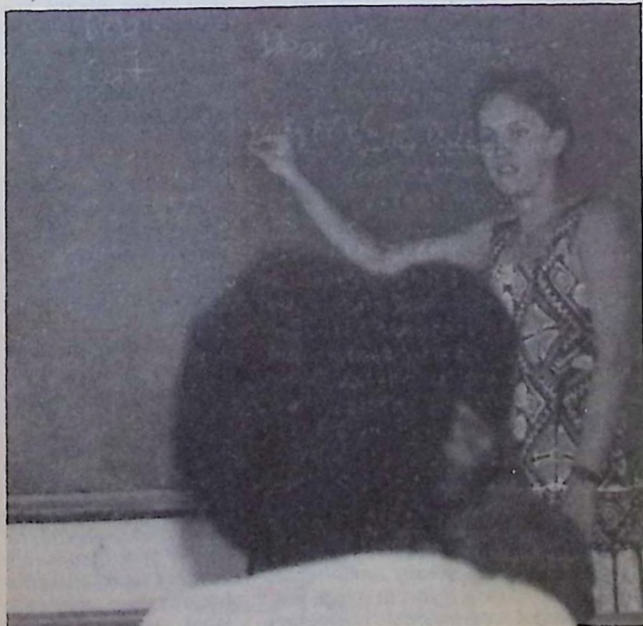
and income generating projects. Its member churches provide pastoral care and counseling.

For more information, contact Force Ten at Box C199, Clarence St. P.O., Sydney 2000. Phone (02) 29 2215.

Cyclones in Our Lives

One weekend in April Cyclone Lilly nearly blew us away

at Londua Training School. It wasn't a really strong cyclone,



Kerry Schulz teaching at Londua Training School

but it was enough to bring branches down and to blow a few tank tops away.

Sunday morning was the worst. We had buckets of rain. The roads are now in a dreadful state.

Church was due to start at 9 am but we would have been very wet by the time we got to the chapel, which had three inches of water in it anyway.

We planned to have the service at 11 am regardless. When that time arrived the rain

stopped and even the wind died down.

Our lives are like that sometimes. We too experience 'cyclones'. Earlier this year we had many problems at school. Apart from that Peter's father had a heart attack. At this time we really drew closer to God and felt at peace, even though the 'cyclone' was around.

It was strange that as soon as we finished the service the rain and wind were strong again.

—Kerry Schulz (Vanuatu)

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Happenings

Operation Mobilisation have advised that MV *Doulos* will now be berthing at Princes Pier in Melbourne and not at Station Pier as previously advised.

Russell Wesley, a graduate from the College of the Bible in 1978, and currently CCES Chaplain at Geelong High School, underwent a heart transplant on 24 May. At the time of going to press his condition was listed as extremely serious.

A Chinese house church evangelist arrested last year in what apparently has been an organised government clampdown against the house church network nationwide, remains imprisoned. Meanwhile government officials have released little news about the status of his case.

The effort to bring peace to Sudan, the north African nation that has seen civil war in one form or another for the last 30 years, has again been stalled in the wake of demands from influential Muslim officials who say they will not join a new provisional government unless Sharia or Islamic law is implemented to govern all the nation's people.

The exiled religious leader Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh (Orange People), known for his teachings on free sex, announced from his Poona, India, resort that he has changed his name once again; this time to Suravi Rajneesh.

In the 6 May issue of *The Australian Christian* the Department of Mission, Education & Development advertised for gifts for Bibles and outreach activities. The Bible Society's Victorian office read the ad and were happy to supply 50 copies of the Vietnamese Bible at no cost.

A book on child rearing, written by a psychiatrist from an explicitly Christian perspective, has been pur-

chased by Soviet authorities for distribution in Russian health centres. The book *How to Really Love Your Child* by Ross Campbell was first published by Tyndale House in 1977.

While there were only 9 known Christians in Afghanistan before the Russian invasion in 1980, there are now about 350 known believers there. While the numbers are still relatively small, the political and social upheaval wreaked by the invasion has sparked an interest in spiritual matters.

In June 1988 there were 432,863 children in Australia in sole parent families reliant on social security pensions.

Barbara Tripp, the Canadian cyclist who rode around Australia last year with the Bible Society's "Bike for Bibles" team, has gained recognition from the *Guinness Book of Records* for being the first woman to cycle around Australia. Barbara was the only woman to ride every kilometre. Last year's Bike for Bibles project raised \$475,000 throughout Australia.

The American Bible Society has learnt that churches in Iraq have been given Government permission to import thousands of Bibles and New Testaments. Official permission has already been given for the shipment of 2,200 Bibles; churches have applied to import more than 14,000.

Billy Graham has accepted an invitation to preach in Hungary's largest outdoor sports stadium on 29 July. This is the first time permission has been granted for such an event, in an outdoor stadium, anywhere in eastern Europe.

By June 1988 there were 195,000 on public housing waiting lists throughout Australia.

During May the World Home Bible League shipped a further 300,000 copies of the Portuguese Bible to Brazil. The shipment, in 10 containers, is being paid for through donations and will cost \$150,000. The Bibles were all printed in Australia and follow the 1 million copies sent in 1988.

In 1985-86 the bottom 10% of Australian income units received 2% of total income whereas the top 10% received 28% of total income, or more than 15 times as much.

Rex Marre, North Queensland's deputy commissioner of taxation, resigned recently to have more time for theological studies. Rex Marre, already a deacon in the Anglican Church, is reading for a Dip Th and hopes to proceed to priesthood. In an interview with the *Townsville Bulletin* he pointed out that our Lord had a particular relationship with tax collectors!

Alexei Bishkov, the General Secretary of the All Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the Soviet Union, reports they can now announce evangelism meetings in newspapers, radio and on placards. Permission has now also been given for a four year Bible Seminary in Moscow, the first in 70 years.

A labour shortage in Hong Kong has indirectly brought attention to the living conditions of refugees. Hong Kong needs up to 150,000 extra workers to cure its labour shortage and it has often been suggested that the refugees be released from their camps to perform various jobs.

The missionary organisation Interserve (formerly BMMF International) is to pull out of Afghanistan following British Government advice.

Renewed belief in God is taking place in Central Africa, according to missionary organisations in Rwanda and Uganda. Missionaries claim that more people are coming to Christ now than at any time since World War II. Although the spread of AIDS into the region has turned some people to God, missionaries feel there is also a sincere belief in the power of the church.

Australia should increase its overseas aid by \$300 million a year, according to a report by the Federal Parliament's joint committee on foreign affairs, defence and trade. Significant cuts in recent years had damaged Australia's reputation, the report said.

Luis Palau, together with British rock star Cliff Richard, spoke at an evangelistic youth rally in Budapest, Hungary, on 8 April. There was a capacity crowd of 12,000 and 1,200 responded to the invitation at the end of the event.

Pentecostal churches are growing fast in Finland, at a time when regular attendance at the state established Evangelical Lutheran Church has reached an all-time low. Although 95% of Finland's citizens register themselves as belonging to the state church, and many have baptisms and church funerals, only some 3% of the population attend weekly worship. Monthly churchgoing is higher at over 10%.

An Ethiopian theologian, Rev Birhanu Wodajo, has said that women will soon be ordained in his church, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. His prediction is based on the active involvement of women in the service of the church.

The Kenya government was greatly embarrassed by a report at a high level international conference that the country had ex-

ported 12,000 human foetuses to the US for experiments in the development of future biological warfare.

The AIDS toll in Uganda has created a new army of orphans, overstretching the available welfare resources and spreading panic among social workers. In Rakai district, the most affected area in the country, 12,000 orphans had been registered in the last 10 years. The situation has been escalated by widows of AIDS victims migrating to urban areas thus spreading the disease.

A printing press destined for use in independent publishing was confiscated by customs officials on 14 April soon after arrival at Moscow's Sheremetevo Airport. According to Keston College the press was to be delivered to Christian activist, Alexander Ogorodnikov, editor of a Moscow based independent journal *Christian Community Bulletin*.

Americans are about evenly divided on the abortion question, a new poll conducted by the *New York Times* and CBS News has shown. The poll found that 49% of Americans favour continuation of the present legal status of abortion, while 48% favoured some restrictions, including 9% who want a total ban on abortions.

In the US an Air Force woman who identifies herself as a witch has been given permission to observe 8 religious holidays, including All Hallow's Eve.

An ordinance proposed by San Francisco city officials would expand the legal definition of "family" to include homosexual couples and unmarried couples who live together. Recognition of "domestic partnerships" would give homosexual couples and unmarried heterosexual couples the legal status of married couples.

Advertisements

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10.30 am

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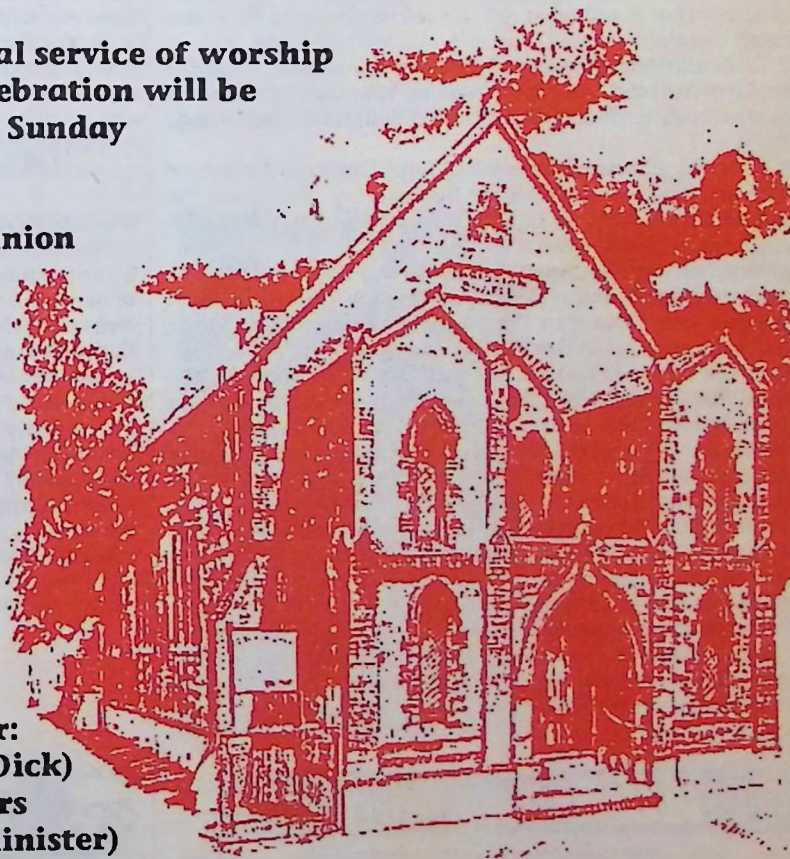
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11 am

Communion
Service



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Keith Aird

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Media Review

Radio

THE GOOD BOOK

"The Good Book" is a series of 13 features on the history and theology of the Bible that are being broadcast on ABC Radio National on Sundays 5.10-6 pm commencing on 9 July.

This series, presented by Brian Redhead, one of Britain's best known radio broadcasters, is the result of over 100 interviews with scholars in Britain, Europe and America. The Bible is examined and explained in terms which a century of scholarship has brought forth.

The following is a synopsis of each session (date of broadcast in brackets).

1. **The Flight from Mystery (9 July).** Genesis is the first book of the Bible tells the story of the Creation of the world. Why are there two accounts of it and what can this tell us about the Bible as a whole?

2. **Pride and Patriarchs (16 July).** Abraham the father in faith of Jews, Christians and Muslims. Who is he? Why did he pretend his wife was his sister? What is the lesson of his life and the challenge of his story?

3. **The Bridge between Dreams (23 July).** Exodus is the story of Joseph and Egypt and the escape from slavery, Moses and the God of wonders. Can we say when it happened or know with greater clarity precisely what did happen?

4. **The Path to Kingship (30 July).** Joshua, Judges and Samuel. The followers of Moses rebel against Pharaoh, turn to God and demand a king. What were the pressures and examples of their neighbours reflected in this abrupt change?

5. **A Tent made of Gold (6 August).** David, Solomon and the Temple, the Psalms. When the Roman Pompey walked into the Temple in Jerusalem he was astonished to find at its heart an empty room. Why did the Jews build a house for the God whose home is the whole universe?

6. **Zion's Watchman (13 August).** The Prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah and their fellow Jewish prophets didn't specialise in describing the future. Their task was the much more important and risky one of describing the present. Criticism of the powerful continues to challenge their successors today.

7. **The Furnace of Affliction (20 August).** Ezekiel, Daniel and the Exile in Babylon. How could the ruin of the Temple, and the catastrophe, be the starting point of a new, deeper and richer understanding for the Jews of God's purposes and man's place in his plans?

8. **A Framework for Eternity (27 August).** Jonah and Job. The shipwreck of Jonah and the sufferings of Job have implications far beyond the individuals in these stories or even the whole of their people. The reality of the divine and the problem of pain are questions now set before not just one nation but the whole human race.

9. **Crisis in the Wilderness (3 September).** The world between the Old and New Testaments. The time of the Greeks, the Romans, the Maccabees. Into the story step such figures as Salome, the Herods, and a desert prophet called John.

10. **A New Song (10 September).** The New Testament. Who was Jesus of Nazareth? The greatest man who ever lived-or the son of God on earth? Why almost 2,000 years after he was executed on a cross do more than a billion people call themselves his followers?

11. **To the Ends of the Earth (17 September).** The Acts and the Letters. Paul, the rabid persecutor of Jesus' followers became the most tireless of his spokespersons. How was the message of Jesus spread and developed after his death? What does it mean today?

12. **The Rock as Battleground (24 September).** The Revelation of John the Divine is the last book in the Bible. Called the "Apocalypse" (Uncovering), its prophecies of blood, death and judgement bring the New Testament to a stern conclusion, yet combined with a message of hope. What is the meaning of this most mysterious book?

13. **The Final Arena (1 October).** A summary program looks at the transmission of the Bible and its effect up to the present day, and surveys some general questions raised by the series.

Film

BUSINESS AS USUAL

Business as Usual is not the type of film to view if you are looking for an evenings entertainment. This film examines a large number of issues but without over preaching on the matter. The film is well acted with the stars being Glenda Jackson, John Thaw and Cathy Tyson. For once this was a film that did not have to use nudity, violence and gross language to sell its self.

Business as Usual is set in economically depressed Liverpool and is partly a commentary on the lot of the working class in current England. That country is split very much between the economically bouyant south and the depressed north. The story revolves around Babs Flynn (Glenda Jackson) who stands up to the area manager over his sexual advances to one of the clerks in a fashion chain. Babs is sacked and this brings her into contact



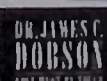

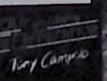
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Media Review

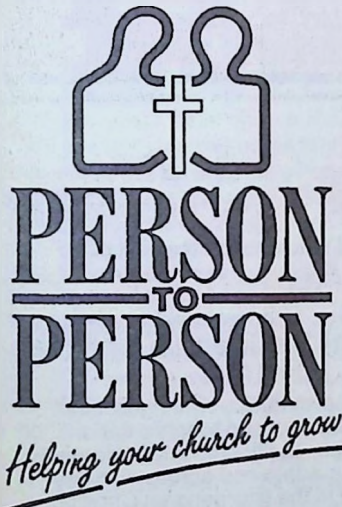
with radicals in the union movement who picket the shops and gain much media attention. Babs' husband Kieran (John Thaw) is a house husband following the failure of his negotiations to save an ailing business. Kieran had been a prominent labour union negotiator who was not in favour of the radicals approach at all. The film deals sensitively with the conflict within the marriage relationship and the family. Other issues such as racism, police brutality, sexual harassment and marriage relationships are all covered in the material in this film.

I found the film very thought provoking and "enjoyed" viewing it but it is not a film I would see for pure entertainment.

Business as Usual is currently screening at the Kino, 45 Collins St, Melbourne and will no doubt screen in Sydney and other capital cities. This will not screen through the normal distribution outlets but will be screened in the art-house type theatres.

—CRA

Video



PERSON TO PERSON
(Scripture Union) \$395 or
\$150 for 13 weeks rental

Many church leaders are puzzled about the best way to equip and mobilise their members for evangelism. This video training program is designed to help ordinary Christians talk about their faith and share the gospel. The program was produced in England through the combined efforts of the Bible Society, Campus Crusade for Christ and Scripture Union and uses video, group work, homework assignments and "on the job" experience. There are ten training sessions of approximately two hours each.

Person to Person is flexible in its use for training in a range of evangelistic initiatives. It includes a short leader's briefing before each video session and there are supplementary printed resources as well.

The program is available in Australia through Scripture Union. A 20 min demonstration video is available on free loan for a month to help churches decide if they want to use the program.

Books

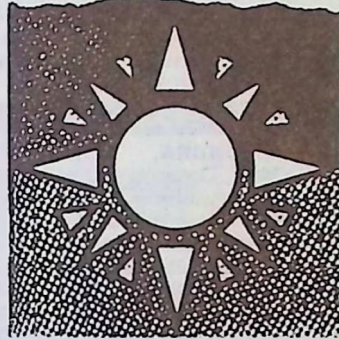
LORD MAKE ME WHOLE
Five Studies on Developing Emotional and Spiritual Wholeness

by Pat Greig & Brian White (Vital Publications) \$3.50

The latest in the series of national study guides that the Federal Board of Christian Education is publishing in co-operation with the Federal Literature Department. *Lord Make Me Whole* is designed to be used primarily in study groups but would also be very useful for individuals to read and reflect upon. Pat Greig and Brian White believe that once we establish a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ we then begin to grow towards wholeness. These studies have been written to help Christians grow in the area of emotions and in bringing participants to a sense of peace and well-being.

Lord make me whole

PAT GREIG BRIAN WHITE



The first study looks at the whole question of our emotions and feelings and looks at how these affect our relationship with God and with fellow humans. Study two looks at the emotion of guilt while the third study looks at anger. A common emotion in our society is depression and this is dealt with in the fourth study whilst the last study looks at the issue of self-esteem.

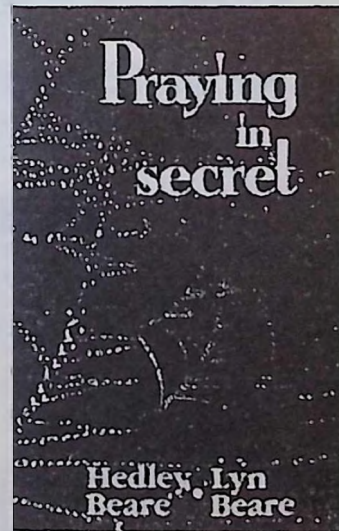
Pat Greig, a clinical and educational psychologist, co-ordinates the pastoral care team at the Ringwood, Vic, church. Brian White is currently a field director with the

Vic-Tas Mission, Education & Development.

An excellent series of studies that every church should consider using in small groups. The material is of value for all Christians not just those who are currently trying to deal with difficulties in their life.

Lord Make Me Whole is available from the Federal Board of Christian Education, 52 La Trobe St, Melbourne 3000, Phone (03) 662 2377 or from the Federal Literature Department, C/- Mrs E.M. Rankine, 5 Atkins Ave, Glen Iris 3146, for \$3.50 plus postage.

—CRA



PRAYING IN SECRET
by Hedley and Lyn Beare
(Joint Board of Christian Education) \$7.95

Here is a manual for making meditative prayer part of your every day. It's written from the perspective that every Christian needs an extra dimension to prayer to make it more meaningful. There is within some very helpful suggestions for "quietening down" before we pray, making sure the one engaged in prayer is in a regular place and with a relaxed mind and body before prayer begins. The authors very cleverly use visualisation, the Bible, the lectionary (lists of Bible readings used by

Churches of Christ) to help the pray-er realise the presence of Jesus.

The authors deal with the deep meaning of 1 John 1:9 expertly targeting the need to be spiritually and physically healthy in applying the verse to our lives. In the final two chapters the readers are encouraged to tap into God's resources which make us feel good about ourselves and to feel "all is well".

This is a "how to do it" book, a rare commodity for everyone wanting to "tone up" their prayer life. It's a book of 80 pages very well written and obviously from the pen of two people who have been able to capture in the pages of their book their own experience of Christian meditation and how to practise it. —MWM

Classifieds

BIRTHS

CROWDEN (nee HANSFORD) Meridith and Alan are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter Georgina Louise on 3 May 1989. Fourth grandchild for Ben and May.

APPROACHING MARRIAGES

GRIFFITHS—DARGAVILLE Lucy and Doug have pleasure in announcing their marriage, to take place at Christ Church (Anglican), Essendon, on Saturday, June 17, 1989 at 3pm, and invite their friends to join in celebrating the event. They will live at 4 Fletcher Street, Essendon, Vic 3040.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

SLOMAN—HARROP Geoff to Beatrice on 8 July 1939 at the Belmore church by the late Benjamin Corlett. After a lifetime in Sydney we now live in Queensland in one of our church villages at Unit 23 Retirement Village, Foley Street, Bribie Island, Qld 4507. "Thou wilt show me the path of life, in Thy presence is fullness of joy, at Thy right hand are pleasures for evermore." Psalm 16:11.

DEATHS

ANNEAR Bruce. Passed away suddenly at home, Launceston, on 6 May 1989, much loved and loving husband of the late Katie, and loved father and father-in-law of Phyllis Kane, Carl and Shirley, Peggy and Don Cleaver, Beverley and Noel Dargan and Maureen and Geoff Ferrar and loving Gar of all his grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren. In his 94th year.

COBINE William Samuel. Sunnysbank, Queensland, suddenly 13 May 1989. Lovingly remembered by Myra, Russell, Robyn and family, Claire, Trevor.

IN MEMORIAM

HUMPHRIES June. My family and I remember with pride my darling

Church of Christ PORT LINCOLN

requires a part-time minister.

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Port Lincoln 5606

Grammy, died 4.6.88. Jillian Morris.

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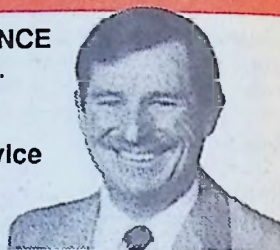
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One Day Seminar 22 July 1989

Dr Augsburger will also lead a one day seminar sponsored by the Christian Counsellors Association. His topic will be cross cultural communication. This will be held at the Churches of Christ Theological College, 40-60 Jacksons Rd, Mulgrave, on Saturday, 22 July 1989, 10 am to 4 pm. Cost: \$30 including light lunch

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Minister's Workshop

The Minister and Counselling

by Kelth Farmer

It is probably impossible to be involved in full-time Christian local church ministry without being involved in some counselling. However the minister is wise if there is a determination not to spend too much time each week in scheduled counselling sessions. (I am assuming here that counselling is only one part of pastoral care ministry and that it involves such structures as appointments, set lengths for each session etc.) Most ministers are not adequately trained for counselling that requires more than three or four sessions and thus may not help very effectively—research has shown that ineffective counselling can work towards people being less, rather than more, able to cope. Surveys conducted within Churches of Christ in recent years have shown that neither ministers nor church boards rate counselling in the top three areas of ministry responsibility (For example, "Study Panel on Ministry", NSW, 1976; "Stress in Ministry", unpublished thesis by P. Kerrison, 1986) Thus, while counselling is an integral part of ministry, it should be kept in perspective. The structured counselling session is often emotionally draining. Too many of these in one week will mean not only that other responsibilities, preaching and general pastoral visiting, will suffer through insufficient time being available, but that also they will not be undertaken as effectively because the minister is emotionally drained. If I were in a local church GP ministry today I would not accept more than four or five counselling appointments per week. Anyone doing more than that should have a counselling supervisor.

"While counselling is an integral part of ministry it should be kept in perspective."

The minister can operate as a diagnostician because, being in the front line of helping by virtue of close contact with people (including their home life), the minister is in a good position to recognise the developing difficulty relatively early and get help of an appropriate type through referral. It is really important that ministers build up a group of professional people (Psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, welfare workers etc.) to whom they can refer. This may be very difficult for those who are ministering in small rural towns or cities, but they should attempt to find the closest suitable resource people. Referral needs to be considered carefully. We would not want to refer people to anyone who would rubbish Christian faith or who has moral or ethical values that are contrary to Christian teachings. It is valuable for the minister or others in the congregation to stay in contact with the referred person as a support person (rather than as a counsellor) during the time of referral.

When ministers do accept counselling responsibilities it is wise to contract with the person or persons concerning the number of sessions for which they are prepared to be involved. Beware of letting people become too dependent on you. Set

limits, as a dependent relationship will not help the counsellor or the counsellee in most cases. I encourage ministers to continue to develop their counselling skills by attending courses, e.g. appropriate ICEM courses. There is a tendency in ministry for us to stop listening to people or to give advice too quickly or in the wrong way. We must earn the right to be listened to by first listening and caring. However it is fallacious to think that a good Christian counsellor should not be directive or give guidance to a counsellee. Most people who come to see us as ministers are seeking spiritual help and for us to be nondirective or think that all we should do is listen may well miss a very good opportunity for sensitive witnessing or upbuilding of a Christian life. Counselling is really about helping people to live more effectively and therefore should also facilitate any constructive actions that need to be undertaken by the counsellee. The support of the church community should not be overlooked as a very important part of the resources available to the minister as counsellor.

• Keith Farmer is the Principal of the Churches of Christ Theological College and is a member of the Australian Psychological Society.

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

Pontius' Puddle



Shopping for a Church

by Rod Foster

A check of the church roll at Albury highlighted an interesting statistic. Less than 40% of the membership derived from a Churches of Christ background. Going one step further, over 90% of the transfer growth of the past five years was from denominational backgrounds other than Churches of Christ.

Albury-Wodonga had a population that was both transient and growing. We were well accustomed to the "church shopper". The pattern is generally the same. People move to the area and begin to look for a new church home. Most often denominational loyalties are secondary to finding the church that is "right" for them. They can visit two to six churches and the process of deciding where to attend can take between a month and a year. We even encountered someone who was doing the church shopping by phone. A mother of a young family new to the district knew exactly what she was looking for and rang all the local ministers with her check-list!

The increasing trend of denominational labels no longer being enough to attract membership has some vital implications for Churches of Christ.

First, we are well positioned to attract and retain a good percentage of these church shoppers. There seems to be a substantial group of Christians who are no longer satisfied with the traditional and stereotype services of some mainline churches, but who find the exuberance and apparent lack of order in worship of many Pentecostal churches too extreme. At Albury we worked hard to offer a "middle of the road" alternative. There is informality and reverence, flexibility in worship but not disorder. We attempted to combine the best of both worlds and retained a large percentage of visitors, who have become active members of the church.

Secondly, maybe we need to do just a few things in our programs and to do them



well. To successfully retain the church shopper it seems we need variety in our programming. Parents may be looking for a Sunday school or youth group for their children. Mothers often hope for a day time Bible study, and singles like to relate socially with other singles. Admittedly it is easier for the larger churches to offer this smorgasbord of activities, but I suggest in smaller churches it is better to concentrate on programs that meet the needs of families. Adults will often settle for less than the ultimate but parents generally desire the best for their children and are often only happy when they are happy. By the way, let's remember a Sunday school, youth group, single club or whatever doesn't have to be large to be successful and to fulfil a role in the life of the church.

Last, but probably most important of all, we need to keep in mind that we may have only one opportunity to represent our church to the one-time visitor. Here, then, are a few practical suggestions that we found helpful at the Albury church:

- Pay attention to the church environment. Is it welcoming? Are the surroundings pleasant and inviting? (Fresh flowers always help.) Is heating, cooling and seating adequate?

- Have organised "greeters" at the door to welcome people with genuine warmth and a sincere smile.

- Be sure to obtain visitors' names and addresses in a visitors book or by some other suitable means. Consider welcoming them by name during the service.

- Educate the congregation to be aware of visitors, to talk to them after the service and offer friendship and hospitality. Invite visitors to stay for morning tea and introduce them to others.

- Following their visit, send a letter of welcome from the church and arrange for a church member to visit them early in the week. This is much more effective than a visit from the minister.

- It's courteous and helpful to visitors for church members to wear good quality name badges with clear print.

- Ensure that the services are Christ centred and joyous, that worship is alive and vital and that preaching is Bible based but relevant to real life.

Some time ago a church shopper visited. He was a young man who had no background at all in Churches of Christ. We were glad he decided to stay. It was a joy to witness his baptism and welcome him into membership, to see him elected to the board and assume the role of church treasurer and take the leadership role of the senior youth group.

We had one regret. We lost him at the end of the year. He went to Carlingford to train for the ministry!

All the best with the church shoppers that might soon be visiting your church.

• Rod Foster is now the minister at the Launceston, Tas, church.

The number one cause of disease in the world is poverty, the end result of oppression, exploitation and war, the Christian Medical Commission of the World Council of Churches has concluded in a draft report on health, healing and wholeness.

President Omar Bongo of Gabon has signed a de-

creed in April which means that the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship International and the Bethanie Evangelization Association were "dissolved and forbidden to meet." No reasons have been given but the action is in line with the government's current policy of reducing the number of religious groups in the country. According to

estimates by the *World Christian Encyclopedia*, of Gabon's nearly 1 million people, more than 80% claim to be Christian.

Without explanation officials from China Central Television prevented the screening of evangelist Jimmy Swaggart's first program with religious content scheduled to be

aired 23 April. Swaggart's first contract with CCTV stipulated that as of 8 January, CCTV would air a 30 minute program of instrumental music every Sunday. However a second contract stated that, beginning 23 April, CCTV would air another series of 15 programs which included a 10 minute section of "religious

teaching" by Swaggart.

A Catholic religious Sister has been given the day-to-day pastoral care of an Adelaide parish. Sister Catherine Seward, a Sister of mercy, now has the major responsibility for the pastoral care of Mansfield Park parish. This is the first arrangement of its kind for the Catholic Church in SA.

A Church ABC

Victor Harbor is a beautiful seaside holiday town 80 km south of Adelaide, SA, on the Fleurieu Peninsula. Its calm setting and wonderful scenery attracts day trippers, holiday makers and retirees. It is a developer's paradise.

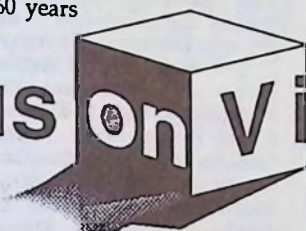
The Victor Harbor church is situated next to a new shopping area in Seaview Road and this year celebrates diamond and golden anniversaries. It is 60 years

Harbor. He and his wife Maureen have six children, ranging in age from 15 down to three months.

Services are at 10.30 am and 7 pm. Victor Harbor is a family church that seeks to cater to every age group. It has lots of tiny babies and all ages in between up to grandparents and the very oldest. Activities include an active and vital youth minis-

A feature of Victor Harbor is its musical ministry, which it has promoted over many years. They have an excellent and well-respected choir that is often asked to perform in Adelaide, as well as other groups such as "CC and D" a group of girls in their early twenties. It seems that virtually every second person in the church can play some kind of instrument—there is a brilliant

Focus on Victor Harbor



since the church commenced in the the Masonic Hall and 50 years since they moved into their present building (thanks then to the money-raising abilities of Bart Manning). Made of solid brick, the buildings are serviceable, consisting of a chapel, a large kitchen, a hall and other ancillary rooms

The membership is about 145, which is a high proportion for a Church of Christ of the town of 6,000. Attendances fluctuate according to the holiday season but are generally 120 to 140.

The minister is Adrian Clark, a College of the Bible graduate, who is now in his seventh year of ministry and at Victor

try—there is a kid's club and youth group catering mainly to young people outside the church family and a Sunday School associated with the morning worship—a number of Bible study cell groups, playgroups and a friendship centre. This ministry to adults (not all of them old) is a regular Tuesday morning event that seeks to meet the needs of a retirement community, which are often different to those of a suburb. Fellowship luncheons are held periodically on Sundays in members' homes and have proved quite effective. Camps, for children, teens and adults, are also popular.

trumpet player and a band including banjo, guitar, flute, violin, keyboard etc., so there is hardly a service without musical performances

The work of the eldership is very strong and the church is very fortunate to have Merv Laurie, who assists with the pastoral work.

Victor Harbor is a growth centre and the church too is looking at expanding its property and buildings to accommodate future growth. The church has been growing steadily over the years and is now looking to preparing for a vital and active ministry in the 1990s, especially to adults. It is poised for great possibilities.

Growing Spiritually Life's Stepping Stones

by Helen Maiden

Talk of journeys conjures up all kinds of thoughts and memories from those who have been, those who are planning to go and those who wish they could. Journeys can be exciting, challenging, risky or just plain boring.

One of the epic journeys recorded in history that remains relevant today is that of the Children of Israel when they were led from slavery in Egypt to the land God had promised them in Canaan. The journey was filled with miraculous signs and wonders as well as many catastrophic happenings.

So too is our personal journey of life. Experiences that come our way make us what we are today; the good experiences that build up; the not so good experiences that hurt, disappoint and anger and cause bitterness, resentment and disillusionment.

It's these ups and downs of life that create opportunities for spiritual and

emotional growth or give a reason to opt out, remain stagnant or eventually wither and die a spiritual death.

For me personally, as I reflect on my many and varied experiences of life, I see a pathway of stepping stones, each representing an experience, with its accompanying emotions—emotions that have been both positive and negative, emotions that take time, energy and faith to move through to the point of acceptance. It's this part of the journey that involves a process taking weeks, months or years, the latter being so in my most recent experience.

Much that I have lectured and spoken about over past years has now become my experience—being on the bed end rather than the administrative end of the nursing profession, the depersonalisation that exists in a large teaching hospital, the object, as it were, of mismanagement in timing and lost test results, the uncertainty and

anxiousness accompanying long delays in diagnosis, the disillusionment and anger at the medical system as a whole—I'd given my life to being part of the system and now when I needed help from "them" it couldn't be given.

Through the support and prayers of family and friends, I believe I have moved from that particular stepping stone onto the next, which is the rebuilding of a new life style to suit my physical limitations. Into this life style is built a much larger portion of time to spend in quietness and meditation and to just allow the Father to love me.

I have found that it is in the midst of desolation rather than consolation that the heart of God can be discovered and in so doing the long process of healing begins.

• Helen Maiden is a member of the Warwick, WA, church.

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words.

JONES, Alice

(7.5.89) Born Melbourne 23.4.09, Alice grew up in the Hawthorn area. As a girl she attended the Hawthorn church and was a member of Phi Beta Pi. There she made her commitment to the Lord. In 1940 she married Jack, who passed away in 1979 after an illness. For the last six years Alice was a member at the Surrey Hills church, where she joined in the women's and Bible study groups. Although a shy "behind the scenes" helper, she had many friends. Alice contracted cancer last year. We praise God for his mercy in releasing her from suffering.

—Milton Oliver

MANNING, Clifford Albert

(3.5.89) Cliff was born at Narrogin, WA, on 8 July 1914, the son of Harry and Phillis. The family moved to SA in 1926. Cliff was involved in churches at Henley Beach, York, Mile End and Hawthorn where his father was minister. He was baptised at Henley Beach. Cliff served for five years in the 2nd 8th Field Ambulance, including Tobruk, New Guinea and Borneo. He married Jane Branford in Tumby Bay on 1 March 1944. They moved to Bordertown in 1945 where they were members for 23 years. The family transferred to Brighton in 1969 and then to Noarlunga Centre in 1982. His Christian service in so many directions held priority and was monumental, with consistency, dedication, Christian love and concern, faithful witnessing and preaching and a devoted husband and father being outstanding characteristics. A challenging thanksgiving service was held at Noarlunga with over 400 present. Sympathy is extended to his wife Kate and Ron, Peter and Helen, Dot and Grant, John and Jenny, Helen and Rick and 14 grandchildren.

—S.R. Beck

NICHOLAS, Alfred Cecil (Cec)

(5.4.89) Born in Chewton near Bendigo, Vic, 24 March 1909. Cec grew up in Bendigo and attended the Methodist Church where he eventually became Sunday School Superintendent. In 1937 he married Mona and came to Melbourne to live. They joined the Maidstone Church of Christ about 25 years ago. Cec was a deacon for many years and two years ago was elected Deacon Emeritus in recognition of his faithful service. He was founder and president of the Camera Club and was very in-

volved with the Vietnamese Fellowship. He will be missed by all. Sympathy is expressed to Mona, also Brian, Dorothy and family.

—Wes Rodgers

REYNOLDS, Dorothy

(30.4.89) Dorothy was born in 1913 and was baptised at age nine by the late T.H. Scambler at Hawthorn, Vic. Her working life was as accountant/secretary with the Victorian Police Institute. Dorothy moved to Camberwell and for more than 30 years lived with Bill and Dais Kent. Dorothy lived for the church. She refused promotion in her professional life so that her Christian commitments would not suffer. She was church treasurer, leader of Good Companions club, teacher in the Bible School, member of the Department of Christian Education. Above all, for 50 years, she was a member of the Good Companions executive committee. Her insights were invaluable. As a camp leader over many decades "Auntie Dot" was a friend and mentor to thousands of young people. The thanksgiving service at Camberwell was conducted by Ron Mullen, Dorothy Brooker and Viney Longthorp.

—Viney Longthorp

WAITE, Stuart

(3.5.89) In September Stuart was diagnosed as being terminally ill. The last stage of his earthly pilgrimage had begun. Those few months proved to be a deep spiritual learning experience for Stuart as he plumbed the depths of human reality. His faith came through this testing experience stronger than ever and he reaffirmed the reality of the peace of God that passes all human understanding. Stuart's wife, Deirdre, and his children, Erin, Paul and Michael were lovingly supportive of him and he drew strength from their love. We assure Deirdre and her family of our ongoing loving support, and convey to Stuart's mother, sister and brothers in England our Christian sympathy. We share with the whole family the sure hope of resurrection in Christ.

—Ron Elbourne

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Church News

Qld

MARYBOROUGH (Ray Patterson) Ray Patterson & Wayne Murray ably leading ... New minister sought next year ... Family services well attended ... Successful Girls' Brigade bridal night ... New members Cathy Menzler, Evan & Joyce Patterson ... Em McLucas, Esma Klein hospitalised ... CYF, Boys' Brigade enjoyed camps ... Joe Reinertsen, Win Beale passed away ... Debbie Pratt & Garth Harvey married ... Cathy Ammenhauser, Mark Sorensen showed slides of PNG workparty.

SOUTHPORT (N. Newton, D. Murray, D. Capuano) Special Mother's Day services with gospel celebration baptismal service. Nine baptisms—five mothers, two fathers & two youths including Lyle Newton (minister's son). All nine plus a husband welcomed into membership ... George & Carolyn Jackson's firstborn son Aaron dedicated ... Recent transfers welcomed into membership—Laurie & May Brown, Paul & Joan Saunders, Joanne Saunders, Terry & Liz Wadley, Andrew & Rhonda Keay, Nell

O'Hare ... Church rejoicing in the continued blessing of the Lord in additions almost every week.

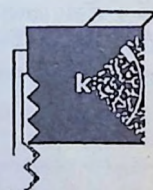
Tas

LAUNCESTON (Rod Foster) Team from *Doulos* led evening service on 7 May ... Final year WEC student to be part time pastoral assistant to Rod Foster ... CWF traditional Mother's Day program on 8 May "Down to the Old Farm" a great fun occasion ... Church saddened by sudden passing of oldest member, Bruce Annear, aged 93.

DEVONPORT (B. Butler) Elders & deacons retreat held with minister ... 16 attended "Christianity Explained" seminar to develop skills in personal evangelism ... Wednesday morning ladies Friendship centre attendance of 50% non-church members ... Men's prayer breakfast to develop outreach to men ... Church involved in MV *Doulos* ship's training & evangelism program to city of Devonport ... Church encouraged by Bruce & Shirley's ministry & fellowship.

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Marriages

•Debbie Pratt to Garth Harvey, Maryborough, Qld •Dawn Turgeson to Ross Willoughby, Cowandilla, SA •Debbie Tree to John Walker, Devonport, Tas •Cathy Baker to Keith Hallam, Thornleigh, NSW

Deaths

•Ken Dubberlin, Warwick, WA •Bruce Annear, Launceston, Tas •Joe Reinertsen, Win Beale, Maryborough, Qld •Mrs Eileen Wilson, LaTrobe Terr, Geelong, Vic •Mrs Amy Sheppard, Glen Waverley, Vic •K. Niblock, Balaklava, SA

Changes

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Dr Alan Cole is the 1989
Oliver Béguin Lecturer for
The Bible Society. Dr Cole is
a widely experienced
missionary, and theological
college and university
lecturer.



Dr Cole asks the
question: "Is the
traditional attitude to the
Bible still possible today?"
He examines some recent
views and tendencies

The Bible Society presents the
Oliver Béguin Lecture annually.
The Lecture examines the authority
and relevance of the Bible
in the modern world.

**WHAT SHALL
WE DO
WITH THE BIBLE?**

**BRISBANE —
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7
7.30 pm.
Administration
Building, 21st Floor
60 Anne Street**

**SYDNEY — THURSDAY,
JUNE 8
7 pm. Chapter House
Between Town Hall and
Bathurst Street**

**MELBOURNE —
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21
7.45 pm. St John's
Anglican Church
Burke Road, Camberwell**

**CANBERRA — TUESDAY,
JUNE 20
7.45 pm. Academy of
Science
McCoy Circuit, Acton**



**THE
BIBLE
SOCIETY**

The Bible Society in Australia Incorporated GPO Box 501 Canberra ACT 2601

Church News

WA

WARWICK (G.B. Carslake, B.A. Eagles, R.L. Mason) 16th WA Company of Boys' & Girls' Brigade commenced with 80 enrolments in 1st term ... New term of Craft Group commenced with 80 participants & 56 in creche ... Young people led services at Rockingham ... Marriage enrichment weekend led by Bruce and Glenys Eagles ... 19 basketball & 2 netball teams sponsored by church ... Young and older singles camps well supported.

ROCKINGHAM (Keith Ware) All enjoying services in new building complex, which was opened earlier in the year ... Numbers increasing in attendance and we praise God for recent commitments to the Lord, baptisms and a number of folk being welcomed into the fellowship ... Junior Bible School, Kids Club & Young Peoples Group all functioning well and a Play Group has recently commenced. Landscaping continuing.

MANDURAH (R. Ryall) Inter-church Bible studies led up to Pentecost, concluding 10 May ... United gathering at UC 11 May, "Breakthrough in Prayer" inspiring ... Many members travelled to Rockingham for combined service when Betty Campbell baptised ... Evening service moved to 5 pm for colder months ... Rodriguez family moved to Pinjarra. Food, bedding given to help them settle in appreciation ... Speaker V. Taylor (Evangelism Consultation) ... Marvin & Harriet Sconce visitors.

DIANELLA (John Spencer) Mother's Day & Pentecost celebrated together with Sunday School taking part in morning service ... Church in good heart with many new faces appearing & new contacts being made ... Preparing for 25th anniversary celebrations early July ... New sound system up & running.

FREMANTLE (D. Good) Our minister was the speaker at the combined service of churches in this city on the evening of Pentecost Sunday ... There are now two deaconesses on the church board ... Arthur Johnson appointed this church's delegate to the State Council of Churches of Christ ... A course on Church Growth being led by Doug Good.

ALBANY (Mark Randall) Well established in the new year's work are Sunday School, youth groups, Bible study & home group Bible study ... Church attendances still growing. Seating becoming a problem. Decided to expand by opening a wall which will give extra

seating for another 80 ... Baptisms still following recent conversions. Most recent are Mark Sandells & Garry Coleman ... Fellowship luncheon held to welcome into fellowship new members. Very successful.

KALAMUNDA (John Thornhill, Mark Proud, Paul Sanders) Mid-year mini mission held in May, theme "Be Bold & Obedient to the Vision." Guest speaker Stuart Robinson, Blackburn, Vic. Special events included a family tea & ladies breakfast ... Over 300 shared in surprise luncheon held in various homes ... John & Kae Thornhill guests at Nollamara's weekend camp where John spoke on encouragement ... Over 100 shared in night of prayer ... Leadership Enrichment evenings held alternate months when different areas of leadership are highlighted ... Plans in hand for School of Christian Growth in July.

KALGOORLIE (Gene Howell, Larry Gibb) Quiz night great success ... Farewelled Adrian, Virginia & Caspian Yurisich to Mandurah ... Hamburger stall, annual fair-fun, hard work, profitable ... Ladies craft group Thursdays ... Larry Gibb attended State Conference ... Women's seminar guest speaker Margaret Jacobs ... Pastors & elders assisting Norseman monthly ... Births - Timothy Philip to Murray & Judith Cullen, Michelle Elaine to Paul & Maggie Robinson ... Farewelled Murray, Judith & Timothy Cullen to NZ.

NSW

EPPING (Stephen Curkpatrick, David Moyes) Elders recently spent time in a planning retreat. Examples of outreach include the craft group (serving needs of nearby home units) and the Monday afternoon kid's club (which held a tea for parents) ... Guest speaker for Mother's Day was Carol Preston ... Stephen Curkpatrick spent a week at Carlingford college in May as "minister on campus".

MOUNT DRUITT Mrs Anne Cohen, the local State Member of Parliament, attended our recent coffee & dessert night held on Mother's Day. Sharing in the service Mrs Cohen shared, with much feeling, her concern for Australia & its "self inflicted" problems & of our need to meet our neighbours one to one ... Coffee & dessert nights remain an effective way of seeing unchurched friends & neighbours come to hear the salvation message.

MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins) Ninth

anniversary speaker M. Hill. Tea & concert enjoyed ... Recent speakers - Jeremy Lee on our Christian heritage, David Taufus of Solomon Islands ... Ray Hawkins has concluded his Conf Pres year ... Eight week series on church growth begins in June ... Church assisting Napper family in PNG with New Tribes mission. John had all his clothes stolen when family away ... Ken Shaw, National Marketing Manager for Bible Society, shared in word & song.

THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) All those taking part in the am service on Mother's Day were mothers although the preacher was Franklyn Elliott ... Mother's Day was also Pentecost Sunday & the pm service was a combined service for all churches in the Thornleigh-Pennant Hills area at St Agatha's RC Church. 350-400 shared in the service & Franklyn Elliott was the preacher ... Play Group held a garage sale on 20 May raising over \$200 for their group.

SA

NARACORTE (Grant Simpson) Over 70 enjoyed day of fun & sun at Pink's Beach, Kingston ... 35 ROCK children participated in Palm Sunday service with many families staying for lunch ... Youth Ministry Committee met with youth club & took part in Sunday service with some youth club members attending, followed by lunch ... Film "Fallen Angel" screened to over 80 with many visitors attending.

COWANDILLA (R.S.A. McLean) Highlight this year are early morning praise meetings; three weeks of meetings—one preceding praise service for Harvest Festival, another leading into Easter & the third before Pentecost Sunday ... Combined Men's & Women's Fellowship dinner & meeting in April with speaker from cranial facial unit ... Diana Catts & Pat Connell brought Overseas Mission news ... Harold Long guest speaker for Second Coming meetings.

STRATHALBYN (C. Perkins) Combined ecumenical service on Pentecost Sunday organised by Ministers Fraternal held in Anglican Church ... Alex & Nadia Kozned, radio missionaries to Russia, singing & showing video on revival in Russia. soon to go back to Alaska. To celebrate Jubilee 150 past minister Ralph Oke guest speaker followed by luncheon. Many returned to meet old friends ... Cliff Perkins accepted another term of ministry.

SEMAPHORE (Harold Long) Joined with local churches in Pentecost Celebration. 250 in attendance ... Extensions to church hall incorporating toilet facilities have been completed with help from Mobile Mission Maintenance ... Victor Harbor Church of Christ Choir provided PSA program of sacred music on 21 May. Visitors from sister & local churches in attendance. Afternoon tea served in new hall. Offering of \$177 received for COCOA ... Mr & Mrs G.A. Bywaters celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

MAGILL (Trevor Lawrie) "New Connexions" spent weekend at Kadina presenting concert on Saturday night & participating in morning service at the church ... Our minister, Trevor Lawrie, inducted as President of Churches of Christ in SA at recent state conference ... 36 young people camped at Barmara on May long weekend ... Facilities much improved with completion of new foyer extensions & toilets.

HAPPY VALLEY (Russell Allison) Eric Hollar guest speaker on 17 April ... 30 enjoyed weekend at Coorong ... Grahame Miller visited to encourage us to attend State Conference ... Jim Keatch led meeting with SS teachers & elders to discuss children's ministry ... James Dobson videos shown in home groups during May ... Sunday school led worship service 7 May ... Colin Stock guest speaker 21 May.

BALAKLAVA (Graham Lawrie) "Endeavourers" choir presented excellent concert for Bible Society & musical "Majesty" at our morning worship ... 10 studies on Gateway Series "Caring" taken by a group with George Mathieson as guest speaker at the grief session ... Arthur & Daphne Pritchard celebrated 55th wedding anniversary ... Julie Trinnick & Russell Craig recent guest preachers while Graham Lawrie was at Roxby Downs ... David Kowalick studying at Tabor for missionary service.

Church of Christ
SOUTHPORT
now meets in
Parkland Drive
9.00 a.m. Worship &
Communion
6.30 p.m.
Gospel Celebration
Minister: Noel Newton
(075) 32 5660 or
31 4353 (Home)

Church News

Vic

YORK ST, BALLARAT (Roger Risson) Outdoor worship and lunch enjoyed at Kirk's Reservoir ... Barbecue and work day held to landscape and clean up building site ... April gospel services featured video series: "Messages from the Memory Bank" ... Special night of prayer held ... Building for day kindergarten completed and appreciated by staff ... Guest speakers: Peter McGrath, Peter Breen (CBM), Simon Nette (Bible Society)

NUNAWADING (E. Keating, D. Hamilton, J. Wright, L. Smith) Ted Keating leading course in Art of Step-parenting ... 56 attended young couples guest dinner, 16 visitors ... Church venue for Blackburn Primary School centenary service ... CWF organised outing to Williamstown for adult deaf people ... Bible study groups & Care groups for all ages held weekly ... Springfield Road cake stall raised \$1,500. Proceeds allocated to COCOA, Force Ten & Vanuatu work party.

COBURG (L & C Clun) Coburg's 69th anniversary incorporated former Moreland members reunion held on 7 May. Great warmth of fellowship for over 230. Present & past members leading. Speaker Arthur Withers. Afternoon gave opportunity for reminiscing ... Louis & Cathy Clun active in leadership ... Monday morning prayer meet-

ing enriching experience ... Young adults Bible study commenced at manse ... CWF celebrated birthday, special speaker Olive Ackland, secretary Coburg Inter-Church Council ... Regional AGM held. Elders elected were Chris Ambrose, George Dawson & Alf Marsh.

THE PATCH (Glynthea Finger) Church looking forward to full-time ministry with Mike & Ruth Folland & children in 1990 ... 14 welcomed into church fellowship ... Church said goodbye to Anita, exchange student from Munich, who stayed with the Archer family for three months ... Special service for Pentecost Sunday with interviews, choir & children taking part ... Plans being prepared for extensions to chapel.

NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn) Minister commenced third year of ministry & his term has been extended for another three years. He is now on holidays ... Jeff Weston & Steve Warwick from Tasmania were speaker & president at recent worship service ... Minister & Heather Carbis have been able to commence Christian Education at local Primary School ... After church picnic held ... Sunday at 5 pm continues to be a success ... A number of members away ill over recent weeks.

LA TROBE TERR, GEELONG (Dr C.J. Mackenzie) Over 100 at special "Bring a Friend" service conducted by young people with fea-

tures for all ages. Morning tea provided opportunity for further fellowship ... Children sang at Mother's Day service & handed everyone a white flower. Belinda van Dort gave Bible reading. Amazing Grace played on bagpipes by John Young a special feature. Young men led service ... Trevor Carr spoke of his experiences while working in Singapore ... Brett & Gaylene Lawrence welcomed into fellowship.

BELMONT (Bob Clymer) 132 attended the service at which Lawrence Barker was inducted as chaplain to Oberon High School. Offering towards Geelong CCES was \$264 ... Mrs Carol Mitchell, Samantha & Benjamin Lee have been baptised & welcomed into membership. Sarah Shrimpton confessed her faith in Christ ... CWF birthday meeting held & offering of \$154 given to Hospice ... Church board held its annual Study Day at which planning for the coming year took place.

ECHUCA (A. Symes) Brent Turnbull & Ross Clifton received into membership after passing through the waters of baptism ... Church groups launched at church dinner 21 May. Dinners will be held on the third Sunday of each month ... Four members elected as deacons ... An elder sister has been able to meet with us again after a long recovery. Two other members are still on sick list. We pray for their recovery.

WANGARATTA (Carl Clayden) Junior youth & dads dined & entertained mums for Mother's Day. Ladies conducted special service on Mother's Day ... Senior youth held debate with "oldies" to raise funds for TV & video ... Several ladies attended CWF Conference day ... Church, family & friends shared dinner & social evening celebrating Myra & Carl's 25th wedding anniversary.

CHELSEA (T. Frazer) 14 Women's Fellowships from neighbouring churches were represented at birthday meeting of our CWF ... "Sifting the Evidence" video on origins of Bible being shown in homes of members ... Group conducted worship services at local hospital & elderly citizens' residence ... Large congregation of 70, including children, at Mother's Day service ... T. Frazer inducted as chaplain for Chelsea Chapter of Order of St Luke.

GLEN WAVERLEY (Ron Elbourne, Lindsay Croxford, Doug Fitzpatrick) "Teaching the Bible to Children" presented by John Emmett (SU) over two sessions ... New Pastoral Care Network established & working well ... Book Sunday feature held ... New singles group "Cast 13" (Caring And Sharing Together—1 Peter 5:17) meeting regularly ... Newcomers dinner again appreciated ... Know Your Bible now divided into two groups ... Church again providing worship leaders for CGH in month of June.

43rd FEDERAL CONFERENCE

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

8-14 October 1990

THEME: NOW IS THE TIME TO SERVE THE LORD

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CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS SECRETARY: Mrs C. Forster, PO Box 508, Kenmore 4069 Phone (07) 378 0400

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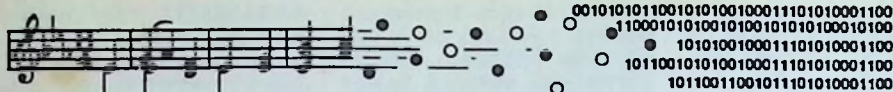
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Music Resource Database



At the Federal Conference held in Hobart, January 1987, a motion was passed which requested a thorough review of the adequacy of worship resources, in particular the current Churches of Christ hymnbook, and work towards creating a new resource adequate for our contemporary needs. To this end a committee was formed, originally called the Churches of Christ Hymnbook Committee, which had its first meeting on 25 May, 1987.

The members came from diverse backgrounds with Churches of Christ, and brought with them musical, literary and theological knowledge. After many nights of brain storming and planning several points became quite clear. Firstly, our churches needed to be made aware of and encouraged to use the available resources. Secondly, our worship leaders needed to have available to them effective and relevant training to make worship meaningful and enjoyable to the broad spectrum of members within our churches.

The committee began the task of meeting these two major needs. In May 1988 a music and worship seminar was held at the Cheltenham, Vic church. Sessions included children's music, organ techniques, liturgical movement, modern music, choir training and many other topics. It was a great success and those who attended were enthused and encouraged. The committee is planning more seminars in the future with the possibility of taking seminars to country and interstate centres.

However, the major decision of the Hymnbook Committee was that there will be no new hymnbook. After much discussion it was decided that there are already so many music books available and being used by our churches that it would be wasteful of money and other resources to produce another.

Instead, the committee decided that it should make the churches aware of these resources and where they could be obtained. To facilitate this, a computer database is now being compiled. This database will contain information such as the song title, memorable line if you can't remember the title, the tune or tunes that can be used, the various instrumental and vocal arrangements, scripture references, theme and time of year. It will also detail where works are available to either purchase, hire or borrow. It is planned that churches will be able to access the information either via copies of printed indexes, which will allow them to search for resources by a whole range of topics, or by obtaining copies of the database program to run on their own computers, which will give a quicker and more flexible range of options.

As you can imagine, the task is quite enormous. The number of resource books in use just by our churches is huge, let alone the others that are available to us. The committee is looking for volunteers from churches who have IBM compatible computers who would be prepared to enter the details from one of their resource books into the database. As an incentive, any church or person volunteering will be able to keep the database program and receive copies of the total database as it builds up.

The database will constantly be updated and copies made available at a nominal fee to cover costs.

If you would like to be involved in this exciting venture please contact Belinda or Colin Gillam on (03) 728 4740 or write to 5 Jasper Rd, Kalorama 3766.

We are also planning to expand the committee and would like to hear from anyone who feels they could contribute.

The Last Word

To Innovate is not to reform.

—Edmund Burke

It could have been any church notice board, but it happened to be outside a Pentecostal church. "Don't let worry kill you", it urged. "Let the church help."

★★★★★

Gossip is like a photograph...something negative gets developed, then enlarged.

★★★★★

Customer (pointing to a gun): What does that shoot?

Shopkeeper: Slugs.

Customer: Good, I'll take it. There are too many slugs in my garden.

★★★★★

Mother: Where did you get that 20c?

Son: I got it from my brother for doing him a favour.

Mother: What was the favour?

Son: I was hitting him over the head and he asked me to stop.

★★★★★

Teacher: Now we know that fish can see, hear, taste and feel. Now tell me, do fish smell?

Student: If you keep them long enough!

★★★★★

Daffynltions

Radio Announcer: A person who talks until you have a headache and then tries to sell you something to stop it.

Hospital: A place where people who are run down wind up.

Laplander: An unstable bus passenger.

Fjord: A Norwegian car.

★★★★★



There was an old woman who lived in a shoe,
With more children than she could handle.
When they grew up and all left home
She moved herself into a sandal.

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