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Helping to "Mop Up"

Four-year-old Jessica Payne, not at all too big for her boots, helping her father, North-side Community Church, NSW, associate minister Geoff Payne, with the church's Nyngan "mop up" appeal

—story page 5

Photograph courtesy North Shore Times

"Saints"—and Saints

page 15



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Guest Editorial

Our Mission

by Robert Leane

Aschurches with-
in Conferences
of Churches of
Christ in Australia,
there is a need for each
of us to evaluate our
purpose and reason for
being.

What image are we
creating within the com-
munities we interact
with? How do younger
people see us? What do
we stand for? Do we
know ourselves?

Keith Farmer (Chur-
ches of Christ in NSW
Theological College) at
the recent Conference in
South Australia urged
us to show excellence in
our loving and to pre-
sent the Gospel in a flex-
ible, sensitive way so
that those around us will recognise its rele-
vance to them.

At a recent seminar discussing
chaplaincy in schools, one of the partici-
pants who works in a team in secondary
schools said that students in the schools
perceived the team as coming "to tell them
to stop from doing things that were fun"
and to urge them to do something else. He
went on to indicate that too often we teach
people facts about Christianity rather than
promoting an active relationship with Jesus
Christ that, in turn, would bring positive
meaning and worth to life.

Keith Farmer put it, "There is a tendency
for a church's emphasis to change from
conversion to education; from addressing
matters of faith directly related to the
experience and concern of everyday life to
a discourse on theological matters."

In the commission Jesus gave to the
disciples as recorded in Matthew, he says,
"Go then to all people everywhere and
make them my disciples," and after bring-
ing them to faith, then to "teach".

We all know something about relation-
ships, for they surround every aspect of
our lives, resulting in joy and peace, grief
and loneliness, active concern for or open
discrediting of those with whom we are
involved. By making love the basis of our
relationships, we can begin to reflect
something of the Christ we all want to
serve. We can become real in the real world.

We forget that it was Jesus who said that
he came so that we would find real life, life



that was full (John
10:10). Not a life that
stops us from having
fun or from enjoying
ourselves but a life that
gives contentment and
purpose, despite the
problems that confront
each of us from time to
time.

We have a mission
that starts by showing
compassion to those
around us with needs
and hurts that we must
meet. We build these
people into community
so that continuing care
and interest is taken in
them because of who
they are. By the nature
of our witness and the
conviction of the Holy
Spirit, commitment to

Jesus may come.

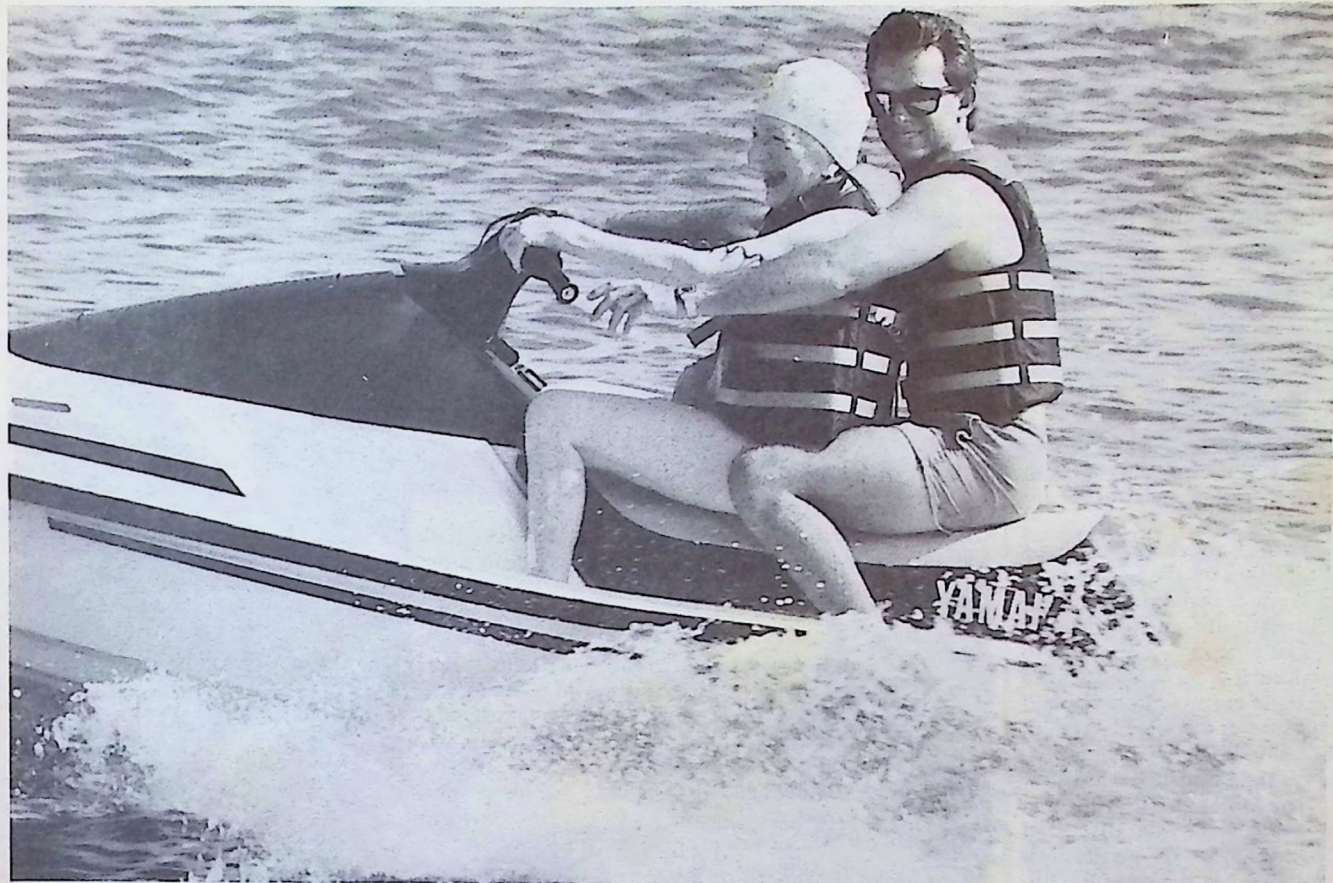
None of this should have as its prime
aim "bottoms on seats". Rather, our aim is
to bring people into a meaningful relation-
ship with Jesus by the quality of our love.
If this results in church membership, well,
that is a bonus.

What is more, we have the Holy Spirit to
guide us, a Spirit that will give us the
ability to go forward despite the difficul-
ties we encounter, a Counsellor who guides
our actions.

We are to show excellence in our love for
people so that we can bring them into a
relationship with Jesus. We don't do this
on our own, for God will lead us through
his Spirit, giving us the strength and the
peace to work where and when we allow
ourselves to be led.

• Robert Leane is President of the SA Confer-
ence. He is married to Barbara (a teacher),
with one daughter, Robyn, who is married to
John Gilmore, minister of the Aldgate Valley,
SA, church. He is chairman of elders at the
Blackwood, SA, church. Robert Leane was
appointed Director of the South Australian
Independent Schools Board in 1975, coming
from a three-year appointment in a senior
position at Oakburn College, Launceston. He
previously taught science and mathematics
in both government and non-government
secondary schools. He is a Fellow of the
Australian College of Education and a Mem-
ber of the Australian Institute of Educational
Administration.

Thrill Seeker Helen Makes Quite a Splash



Helen Brough aboard a wave runner with Sea World Nara's water sports instructor Chris Williams

At an age when most people sit back and reflect on times gone by, 86-year-old Helen Brough likes nothing more than a bit of exciting fun, despite suffering a stroke recently and having to make do with a wheelchair to get about.

Helen just could not resist a ride on a wave runner during a recent visit to Sea World on the Gold Coast, Qld.

Helen and 13 other friends from the Golden Age Retirement Village recently had a holiday at Sea World Nara Resort.

The holiday was the brainchild of Karen Hull, who works as activities officer at the

Golden Age Retirement Village.

Karen writes: "Our holiday started as a dream of one of our residents and ended up being everybody's dream."

"Contact was made with the Tourist Bureau, who sent us a booklet outlining the advantages and disadvantages of each complex."

"Nara Resort was found to be one of the few which had full wheelchair access and rooms for the disabled."

"The sales manager at the resort handled all arrangements and gave them the very best price affordable."

"They even offered to arrange special activities suited to and at times convenient to our residents."

9 May finally came. There was great eagerness in the eyes of 14 residents and three staff who were going on holiday.

"We had a wonderful send off," said Karen.

At Nara they were met by porters, who unloaded all the luggage.

They were then shown to their rooms. These were the ones that had the best views and included the three disabled rooms.

Karen paid tribute to the staff at the Nara Resort for their kindness, thoughtfulness and consideration shown to the residents during their stay. After check-in they had their first tour of the resort and then a ride on the monorail.

The residents enjoyed Sea World, saw all of the shows and rode a few of the rides.

The following morning was taken up with the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, *The Sun* newspaper and Channel Nine, who were all at the resort to film the 86-year-old resident riding a jet

ski. All the other holidayers were around the jetty applauding.

The holiday was a wonderful success. A few wished they could stay for another day or two and many are now asking when are we going back.

Gold Coast administrator Phil Kennedy indicated that the excitement generated prior to, during and subsequent to the holiday highlights one of the many positive aspects of life in one of our nursing homes.

Any information that other nursing homes or hostels wish to obtain as a result of this experience can be done by telephoning Karen Hull at Golden Age Retirement Village on (075) 32 6322.

Golden Age Retirement Village is a project of the Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department.

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Greg Elsdon on Contemporary NT Christianity

Greg Elsdon, lecturer at the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave, visited Canberra 17-24 June. During that week he joined a number of church groups and gave the first Alexander Campbell Memorial Lecture.

The subject of the lecture was "The New Testament Church in Contemporary Society". Greg spoke on the need to rediscover the New Testament church rather than to reconstruct its past.

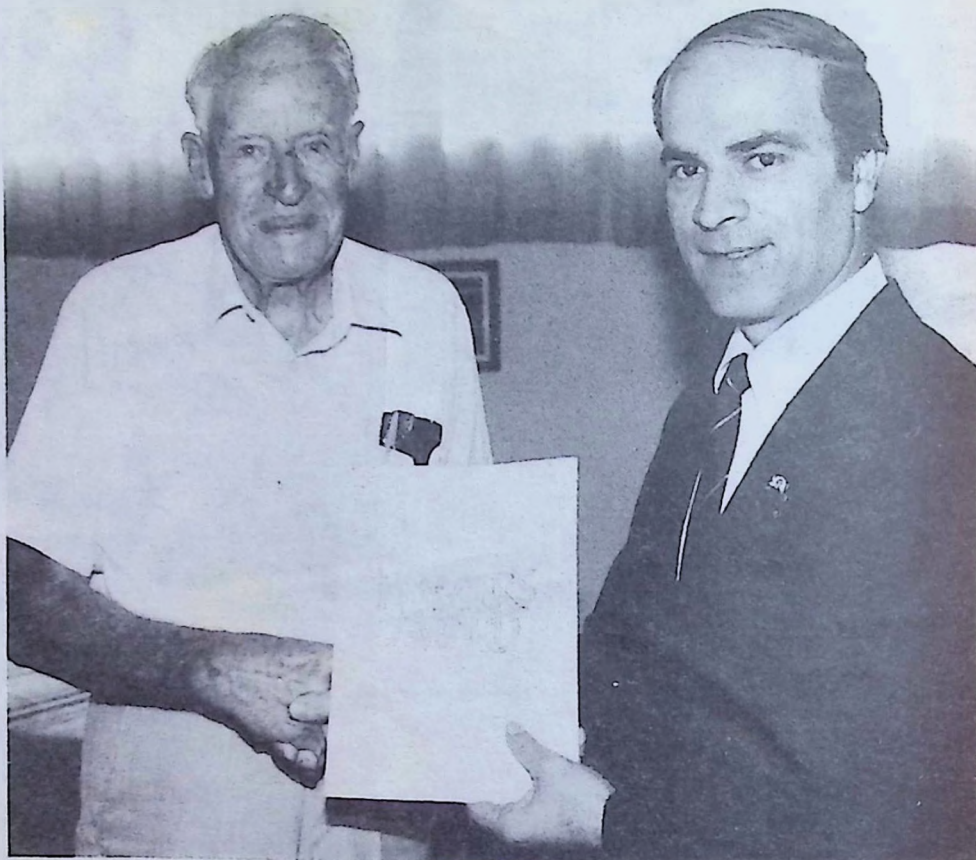
Each church enjoyed Greg's exposition on the Lord's Supper, which is the very centre of Christian life and celebration; Christ's people committed to making the life of Jesus visible in their own community and relevant in the world. At both Sunday services, Greg emphasised the Lordship of Jesus.

The Bible study groups that met during the week discussed Matthew 6:1-17, where Jesus is presented as the one who fulfils the promises of God given to the prophet Isaiah.



Greg Elsdon

Two Awards for Bern Watson



Bern Watson receiving Premiers' Award from Michael Kahla, Acting Mayor of Marrickville

Recently Bern Watson was honoured with the presentation of two awards. One was the Premiers' Award, in recognition of his outstanding service to the community and to New South Wales. The other award was a plaque from the Marrickville Council for his services to the senior citizens in the Marrickville municipality.

Bern is the secretary-treasurer and for several years acted as minister of the Enmore, NSW, church, which meets in the church manse, as the church building has been sold.

Bern drives and maintains the church bus and takes residents of Churches of Christ and other retirement and nursing homes, pensioner groups and folk receiving meals on wheels on outings. Bern also assists with Meals on Wheels two days a week.

He also has a concert party

called "Bern and Friends", which performs at many retirement homes, nursing homes and church fellowships. Each June and November this group holds a concert at the Bexley North church to raise funds for food and toys for needy people. A large amount of food and toys is always collected. The recent June concert saw a record attendance.

L. C. F. Higgins

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Testimony: **Nicky Winmar** (St Kilda AFL)

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Mopping Up

The Northside Community Church at Crows Nest, NSW, played its part in the Nyngan mop-up operation, making a \$2500 donation to the flood appeal.

In a spontaneous "mop-and-bucket" flood-relief drive at Sunday services on 6 and 13 May, members of the congregation gave \$1,225 to help families in Nyngan rebuild their homes and lives.

This amount was met dollar for dollar by the church from its mission funds, bringing the total to \$2,500.

Northside Community Church senior minister Jay Bacik said he was delighted with the generosity of those who contributed and hoped the donation would help the people whose homes and livelihoods had been ruined by the flood.

—North Shore Times

Aborigines Work in Vic

Mooroopna

The church continues in prayer that the Lord will provide the "right person" to continue the work particularly among the young people. Prayer is also requested for Peter Rama Rau as he conducts a biweekly interim ministry.

Albury

Cecil Grant is now well enough to continue his ministry at Albury and his extensive outreach work. Cecil is conducting a ministry among the unemployed in Albury.

Laurel Grant is awaiting surgery to correct and stretch a calf muscle and her leg will be in plaster for many months.

Many young people made their decisions at a families Christian Convention held at Condobolin. Denis Atkinson, formerly of Mooropna, was the speaker at a gospel rally held recently at Deniliquin. Denis is now Dean at the Bimbadeen Bible College at Cootamundra.

—Harold Taylor

Orange Upgrades



Service in the new enlarged chapel

The Orange, NSW, church celebrated a major expansion of its chapel and an upgrading of its facilities on 30 May.

The church has been host to the Orange Christian School since the school's inception about eight years ago. This year the school moved to its own premises and the church confronted an extensive maintenance and restructuring challenge.

With growth in attendance and projected attendance expectations it was decided that the existing chapel had to be

enlarged. A mammoth effort was put into effect to bring the whole complex up to standard. With walls moved outwards, general painting and repairs and a new concept in structure and decor major renovations were needed. The carpeting was completely replaced, due to wear and tear, storm damage and altered floor plans.

The final stages had to be approached as a matter of faith and commitment, resulting in the customary struggles to meet budget from week to week.

The long-term objective is to

have the greater accommodation capacity filled with an effective evangelistic impact on the local community. Max Watson, the current minister, maintains that Churches of Christ must break out of the "fortress church" character, and become more effective in taking the message out to where it can meet peoples' needs.

The celebration service and message was greatly enhanced with the presence and address of Dr Keith Farmer, Principal of the Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College.

Strong Youth Strategies for Albury-Wodonga Region

Over 30 youth leaders attended a recent youth ministry leadership event hosted at the Albury, NSW, church over the weekend of 15-16 June.

The event was initiated by the Youth Vision executive of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development and was presented by the discipleship-based parachurch organisation "Youth Ministries". Allan Blythe, associate minister at the church, facilitated the organisation of the program.

Participants at the weekend learned the value of planning for youth ministry. The times of teaching focused on the development of the youth lead-

ership team within the life of the church and emphasised the importance of building disciples.

Another training event is planned at the Glen Waverley church 26-27 October 1990.

Interested youth leaders should contact Andrew Ball on (03) 662 2377. Country churches wishing to pursue youth leadership training in their region for 1991 may also like to talk to Andrew.

IAN F. KNIGHT, LLB, BCom

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Double Celebration at Mildura

The Queen's Birthday weekend saw a double celebration in the life of the Mildura, Vic, church. First, there were the church centenary celebrations. In 1890, Reuben Mansell placed an advertisement in the local Mildura newspaper: "Wanted: the acquaintance of any member of the Church of Christ in this settlement, with a view to having Christian fellowship." The response was the beginning of the Mildura church, which has now served in the community consistently for 100 years.



Arthur Mansell (85), great-grandson of Reuben Mansell, cutting the centenary cake

A significant fact is the presence of a strong Mansell membership throughout those years. Commencing with founding father Reuben, there have been five generations of Mansells with an unbroken line of membership. Currently, direct descendants of Reuben in membership are grandson Arthur (69 years of unbroken membership), three great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren, with a total years of membership nearing 300!

The weekend celebrations brought about 100 past members from many parts of Australia for a nostalgic "back to". Activities included the launching of the 90-page book of the church's history; a church family dinner on the Saturday night, when 300 packed the Lawn Tennis Club rooms; a two-hour worship service on Sunday morning with 420 worshippers; a two-hour gospel celebration on Sunday night with 320 in attendance; social events including two river trips on the Ian Mansell paddleboat, *Impulse*, a tour of Mildura on the Russ Mansell coach to enable the "back-to" people to see the changes to the city since the days they were here and home hosting for Sunday lunch and evening meal by local church members.

Ted Keating, senior minister at Nunawading, was the guest speaker for the weekend.

Past ministers who returned for the celebrations were Don and Jesse Thomas, 1953-55; Claude and Addie Cunningham, 1956-59; Trevor and Glenys Lawrie, 1972-76, and Peter and Lee Nelson, 1983-86.

In addition to the publication of the history of the church in book form, a double-page spread in the local newspaper, *The Sunraysia Daily*, gave the church excellent exposure, and told the basic story of the service to the community by the members of the church.

Cr Roy Burr, Mayor of Mildura, was a special guest at the celebrations. A Christian in active service with the Salva-

tion Army in Mildura all his life, Roy was very much at home among his Christian friends.

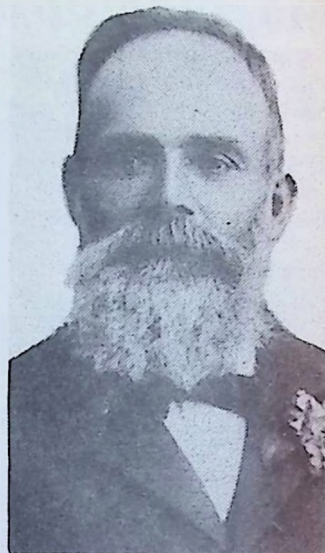
The second celebration complemented the first. It was the opening of the new worship centre—the just-finished-in-time extension to the chapel.

For the previous six weeks a dedicated team of church members, led by builder-member Chris Marr, had worked against the clock to knock out a main wall of the chapel and open up the vestry area behind it for additional seating space, creating a worship centre that will comfortably seat 320—an increase of 100.

The work included the resiting of the baptistry and the designing and fabrication of a new fibreglass unit, tastefully set into a corner of the rearranged chapel. The orientation of the chapel has been changed 180°.

In addition, through the generous donation of a member couple an upgraded state-of-the-art audio system has been installed, along with a new suite of lights, all of which are managed from a central control room.

The return of past members encouraged us to carry out



Founding father Reuben Mansell

other overdue maintenance. The toilet block and hall kitchen were repainted, and the courtyard between the church buildings and the manse was upgraded by the laying of brick pavers and instant lawn, and the planting of shrubs and creepers.

Copies of the church history are available through the church office for \$12, including postage (PO Box 2797, Mildura 3502. Phone (050) 23 1201).

—Doug Beasy (Secretary)



Great grandson Ian Mansell knocking down the wall built by Reuben in 1907

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On Radio



Graham Agnew

During August, Graham Agnew, senior minister of the Marion, SA, church, will be host for the popular Christian talkback show, the Ken Anderson Program, featured on 5DN each Sunday night from 9 pm to midnight. In recent years the program has consistently rated well—it has maintained first place in Adelaide Sunday night radio surveys for the past three consecutive surveys. Up to 50,000 tune into this program at some stage on any given Sunday night. Talkback and interviews are the most prominent features each week, with music, information and book reviews also being presented. The reason for the program's success is that it is people based, has a wide appeal and is ecumenical in its approach and content. Happily, the program will continue to remain a part of 5DN's format when the station transfers to the FM band later in the year. As a part of its philosophy, the church at Marion has always endeavoured to minister in a variety of ways beyond the confines of its own locality and, in this instance, the elders and deacons fully endorse Graham Agnew's decision to host the program, as it is a further opportunity to extend the ministry of the church.



Visit by Ronald Sider

As the world faces the prospects of global warming and increasing pollution many of us expect governments to take action. We expect restrictions to be placed on the use of harmful substances. We expect alternative technologies to be found so we can maintain our standard of living. But major changes cost money. What about poor nations? Are they to be condemned to an environmental wasteland?

It is a concern for the poor in this debate about the environment that has preoccupied Dr Ronald Sider, Director of Evangelicals for Social Action (USA): "Environmental decay and injustice are interrelated; as always, the poor suffer the most. They suffer from reduced food production, toxic wastes that the rich do not want in their neighbourhoods, unproductive land and polluted rivers. And furthermore, unless we can redirect economic life in a way that dramatically reduces environmental decay, it will be impossible to expand economic growth in poor nations to enable them to enjoy a decent standard of living."

Professor Sider recommends that we decrease the use of cars by taxing them heavily and become more energy efficient by having national energy saving standards and increasing our use of water, wind and solar energy. He would like to see a global agreement come into force to impose a carbon tax to pay for these reforms.

As Senator Peter Walsh found when he was Finance



Ronald Sider

Minster, many people in Australia are in favour of increasing our overseas aid. Senator Walsh wrote, "Few, if any lobby groups were as persistent, or generated as much incoming mail as the foreign aid lobby. The Government was repeatedly told that foreign aid must be increased to 0.07% of GDP or better still to 1%. There is little doubt that if Australia were to increase foreign aid it would be funded by increasing overseas borrowing, not by reducing consumption. Those who say our aid program should be increased, doubled or trebled are seeking a warm inner glow for themselves by borrowing more from foreigners and sending the bill to the next generation of Australians."

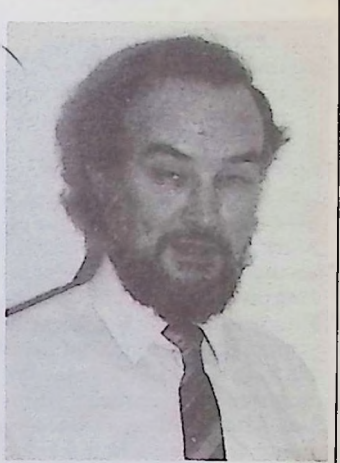
Ronald Sider says foreign aid can often be used to justify our own affluence. In his book *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*, he asserts that international trade practices that favour wealthy nations need to be restructured and also that "we should insist that foreign aid go only to countries seriously committed to improving the lot of the poorest portions of population. We should openly encourage non-violent movements working for structural change in developing countries."

Dr Sider is a radical Christian social activist. One of the foremost speakers on issues of social justice for the church today, he is Professor of Theology and Culture at the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, USA, and Director of Evangelicals for Social Action (USA).

His visit to Australia is sponsored by TEAR Australia, the relief and development agency established by the Australian Evangelical Alliance. It seeks to challenge Australian Christians to live biblically in the face of world poverty and to channel resources to their brothers and sisters in Christ who are ministering to the poor in low-income countries.

Ronald Sider will be in the

Award



Brian Kidd

As noted in the 23 June issue Brian Kidd was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Brian received his award for service to architecture and design, particularly for the needs of those with physical disabilities and the frail aged.

Brian qualified in architecture in 1958. Since 1977 he has been lecturing in architecture at the University of Melbourne. His major area of research has been in designing buildings for use by the disabled and frail aged. He has had over 25 years involvement with the Australian Council for the Disabled. While in Perth he designed the Karinya Village for our WA churches. In South Australia he was involved with the Uniting Church in the development of their Aldersgate Village.

For the past 10 years he has been involved in the Vic-Tas Department of Community Care and has recently been elected as the Chairman of the department. Brian worships at the Hurstbridge, Vic, church.

Melbourne-Geelong area 9-12 August (details from Phil Wilkerson on (03) 819 1900 during office hours), the Sydney-Wollongong area 15-19 August (details from Matt Wade (02) 389 6997) and in Canberra on 21 August (details on (062) 88 5330).

Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Encouragement

To the Editor,

A word to encourage John Alderton ("AC" 9 June).

His authoritarian elders are nothing new. The Apostle Paul was like that in his early years of success. He threw out young Mark because he didn't act in accordance with his own ideas. Happily for us "The Son of Encouragement" took the young Christian and built up his faith so that he became the minister God wanted him to be. After Paul had learned many lessons in humility he wrote to Timothy, "Get Mark and bring him...he is useful for my ministry."

Later on when Paul knew more about his role as a leader he admitted that even as an Apostle he only had authority "to build you up, not to tear you down".

When on a journey to Jerusalem he met the elders from Ephesus he warned them that from among them there would arise those who would not spare the flock (they would tear the flock apart). As an Apostle

and an elder Peter urged elders to be "shepherds of the flock". Psalm 23 will tell us what shepherds should do and Jeremiah 23 tells what God thinks of shepherds who don't.

May John Alderton and his elders have many years of happy and co-operative service for the Lord.

—E.A. Barton
(Port Lincoln, SA)

Magarey Lectures

To the Editor,

I feel that the Magarey Lectures is a very special time for ministers and spouses. It was a time for making friends, sharing problems and being fed spiritually.

This year the cook did a great job and not having to prepare meals for three days was fantastic. Stuart Robinson, our guest lecturer, was extremely interesting and gave us plenty to reflect on. Being able to sing together and pray for each other in small groups was a most uplifting experience.

Graham Ritchie spoke so sensitively on visiting the dying patient, Geoff Fewster gave us a different view on communion and Grant Simpson spoke

of our wonderful Lord being with us on the mountain top and also with us in the valley.

All of us, at one time or another, face disappointment, frustration and trials in our churches, so we can praise God for this special time apart when we can truly rest a while.

—Joan Wray
(Keith, SA)

Need for a Vision for the Future

To the Editor,

Steve Downie's series of four articles on identity and directions within Churches of Christ has raised some very important issues. We have been similarly challenged by Keith Farmer's recent pamphlet ("AC" 23 June).

The need for a strong leadership force and a more open debate about what Churches of Christ are on about has been bubbling to the surface in recent times. I am aware of a

number of individual programs aimed at meeting this need. However I believe they are not, at this stage, meeting the far greater need for a process by which a vision for the future can be formulated. We need a vision which will capture the hearts of our people.

Those visionaries or prophets amongst us, who love the church, must be brought together with expert facilitation and empowered to formulate a national "way ahead". This then needs to be sold to our membership and the Australian community.

The vision must state: who we are, why we exist, why and how we are different from other denominations, and who we are seeking to reach—all in a way which is related to our Australian culture today and can be understood by those outside the church. The "way ahead" must state our national strategy for making the vision

Letters from Tertius

Through Jesus Christ Our Lord

To the Editor,

When I say my bedtime prayer I always end them with "through Jesus Christ our Lord". I'm not sure why, but I think it's because I have heard others doing it.

Before I went to sleep the other night I was wondering what the phrase means.

Does it mean that I say my prayer and Jesus sort of edits them to make them more acceptable to God? That is, they go through him for approval before being passed on higher. If this is so I'm pleased because I'm sure that I often pray for the things I want rather than the ones I need.

Or maybe it means that I have the right to pray to God because Jesus promised that it was all right to talk to God about anything "in his name". But does this mean that God doesn't take notice of my prayers if I don't add "through Jesus Christ our Lord"? I wouldn't think that God would want a reminder of what his Son has promised.

Or maybe it means that my prayers are hopefully the sort of prayers that Jesus would be pleased to put his name to. A sort of endorsement.

In the end I came to the conclusion that whatever "through Jesus Christ our Lord" means, it is not just a neat way to end a prayer. It obviously means that I've got to be a lot more careful with my prayers, because it's no light thing to conclude them with the signature of our Lord himself.

Yours prayerfully,
Tertius

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Letters to the Editor

a reality. Much effort is going on. But we need to be smarter, more organised and less parochial in how we are communicating to the millions within our community who are not members of any local church and are desperate for some Good News.

—Dean Phelan
(Sassafras, Vic)

The Authority of Scripture

To the Editor,

Ken Stothard ("AC" 23 June) wonders why Ron Graham ("AC" 9 June) "fails to find Paul's inspired statement in 1 Timothy 2:14a uninspiring". Maybe Ron views the outcome of this Jewish-oriented text with distaste, along with many other Christians.

No other New Testament writer backs Paul in all his hierarchical gender-based structure, in fact he refutes it himself in Galatians 3:27,28.

Paul's statements (of this nature) must be understood in relation to the days he lived in and in respect of the culture prevailing then. Likewise they must be considered in contradistinction to the Holy Spirit speaking through Peter on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:17,18).

The church of Christ (worldwide) is trying to make God subject to some Pauline biblical texts, but it cannot be done. God is showing us all, very plainly, that he has women capable of leading in all spheres of service, nationally, culturally and spiritually.

But, are there those in Churches of Christ who have the same doubts that some of the "olden days" church fathers expressed in the following unctuous statement? "What God did not assume he did not redeem."

—Gladys Butler
(Black Rock, WA)

Sydney/Melbourne Church of Christ

To the Editor,

There is a lot of rubbish being disseminated against the Sydney/Melbourne Church of Christ movement.

If you haven't already heard

any of it, it will probably be not long before you do, perhaps because of their increasingly high profile. A recent article in *The Australian Women's Weekly* (June 1990) by David May is couched in such journalistic style as to suggest that the church is condemned as a cult by Churches of Christ minister Adrian van Leen. The article links the church with Scientology and Jehovah's Witnesses, even highlighting a Scientology quote in the middle of the church segment. This could not surely have been deliberate, or it would constitute the most blatant subtle and dangerous form of "religious" journalism I've ever encountered. The incredible bankruptcy of the accusations against the Sydney/Melbourne Church may be seen from the interview with Fran McAlee, who is used as the total basis of evidence to attack an evangelical church; but here is the bottom line; though the interview implies, along with numerous other fallacies, that Fran's parents are Christian, could a totally different light be cast on the scenario if they were in fact Buddhists? On good report, I am advised that this is the case, and, by the way, this is all very "rich" coming from a magazine which endorses practice and interest in astrology. If you want to find culs, go no further than the horoscope.

I have personally studied in depth the workings of the Sydney/Melbourne Church of Christ with their evangelists, discipling leaders, and ordinary members. I have attended dozens of services in Melbourne and Sydney as well as study groups and have lived in the home of one of the evangelists during a weekend in Sydney. I know what they are on about. If you want any further accurate information I would be happy to do what I can.

—Robert D. Drummond
(Elder, Orange, NSW)

[Because of the nature of the material in this letter I have allowed it to be longer than the normal 200 word limit—Editor.]

News

Walk for Aborigines Mission



Hugh Roose leading sling in woolshed after walk

Hugh Roose from the Mt Druitt, NSW, church looked beat. And well he should have been. A self-proclaimed "old man", he had challenged the NSW churches to a walk for the Federal Aborigines Board. And what a walk, 60 km that began at midnight. With him were Shirley Rankine and Dorothy Bonney, Aboriginal members of the State Committee, and 25 others, walking to raise money for Aboriginal evangelism.

At the Fairfield chapel the 12 long-distance walkers were joined by 16 others for the final 20 km to Calmsley Hill Farm, operated by the City of Fairfield. In this group were Steve and Merri Wladyiuk and their two preschoolers, who travelled by pram, the Bryan Dixon family, Cathrine, Brendan and Fynanwy, all under 12, and 10-year-old Michael Olson, who walked 45 km.

The farm, located in a bush setting in low hills at the western edge of Sydney, provided a fitting end to a walk that began 60 km earlier at Sydney Town Hall. The Sydney walk ended with a sausage sizzle and singing in the woolshed.

Walking through Fairfield provided an opportunity to experience the mission field right at our doorstep. 41% of Fairfield's 170,000 are migrants from over 100 nations.

Invitations to all NSW churches encouraged country churches to organise their own walks. One area that took up the challenge were the mob from Newcastle, organised by Bill Flett (Georgetown).

It is estimated that \$1,500–2,000 was raised for missions by these hardy walkers who used part of the Queen's Birthday long weekend to help others

—Ted Bjorem (FAB NSW)

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Books

The Books of Haggai and Malachi

by Pieter A. Verhoef (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company) \$24.05

In recent years the New International Commentary on the Old Testament series has been expanding. This is one of the later volumes in the series. The two minor prophets are dealt with in great detail. This is a more scholarly commentary rather than an expository style. The approach that Pieter Verhoef takes is very conservative and he opts for the orthodox dating and authorship in the introductory material to each book. The commentary proper is based on the author's own translation and he proceeds by discussing the text section by section.

—CRA

In His Steps

by Charles Sheldon (Key-Word Books) \$7

This novel was first delivered as a series of sermons in Charles Sheldon's Topeka, Kansas, USA, church. They were published in book form in 1897 and became an immediate best seller and have continued in print since that time. The story turns on the response of key church members to the challenge of their minister. He requested that they join him in a pledge that for one year they will make no major decisions without first asking, "What would Jesus do?" The book looks at the revival that eventually comes to Topeka but not without some heartache first.

This paperback edition has a series of study questions written by David and Karen Mains added to the end so that a study group could use the book to examine the possibilities of revival in their own church.

Some of the original material and situations are now dated and very American in outlook.

—CRA

Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?

by John Blanchard (Evangelical Press)

John Blanchard has set out to provide a comprehensive overview of Jesus—the historical Jesus, the biblical Jesus, Jesus as God and Jesus as Saviour. The author commences with a summary of the writings of contemporary historians, and then poses the question: "Who exactly was he?" This is an ambitious task within a book of less than 200 pages, but the result is easily read and interesting. There is little scope, however, for the development of particular themes and alternative opinions receive cursory attention.

If you are seeking the dour scholarship of a Barclay, the acerbic reportage of a Muggeridge or even the jovial logic of a Lewis writing about Jesus, then this is not the book for you. Its style is direct, uncompromising and evangelical.

Possibly the real value of this book is as a primer for the new Christian, but for its confirmation and amplification the best evidence of the risen Jesus lies in the humble and gracious lives of individual Christians glowing in a tarnished world.

—Graeme Addicott

Obadiah, Jonah and Micah

by D.W. Baker, T.D. Alexander and B.K. Waltke (Inter-Varsity Press)

How does one assess the value of commentaries done by three different authors on three important books from the minor prophets in so short a space? The answer must surely mean that one must keep to general impressions rather than specific observations.

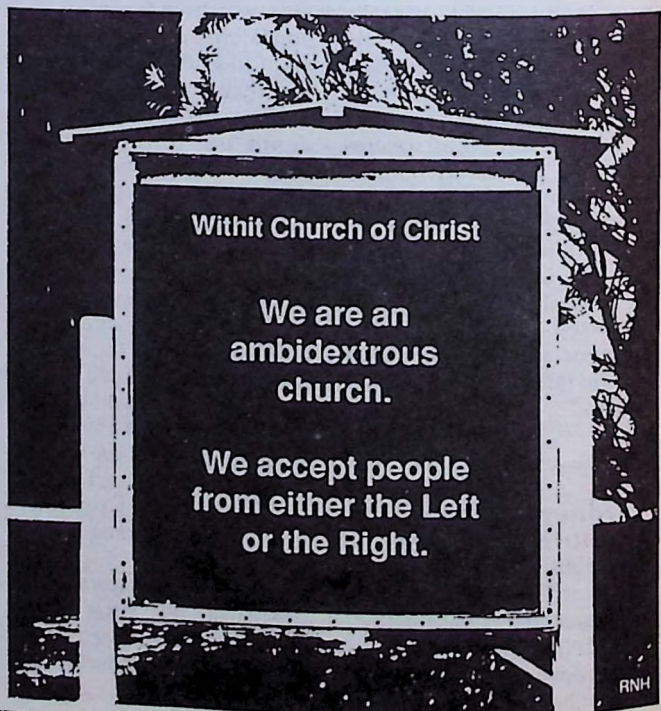
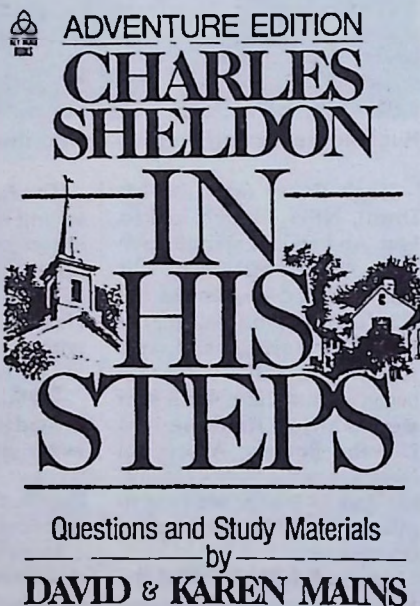
This writer senses that since the inception of the Tyndale series there has been a general improvement, at least from a technical point of view, in the accuracy and usefulness of the series. The newer commentaries have reflected a more thorough scholarship so as to make the series more usable to the theological student while not diminishing its usefulness on a practical level. This commentary is no exception.

In keeping with the aims of the series major critical issues are discussed in the introductions and additional notes, while undue technicalities have been avoided.

All three authors reflect a thorough acquaintance with views that differ from their own. They argue admirably, and to my mind convincingly, for the conservative evangelical view on most issues, e.g. the historicity of Jonah and some other issues relating to biblical criticism. The exegesis and interpretation of Scripture in these commentaries is not original, in the sense of being innovative and novel, but is nonetheless thorough, up-to-date and more than adequate taking into account the necessary limits of space and the objectives given.

Due partly to the lack of good commentaries on the minor prophets from a conservative viewpoint and secondly, on the merits of these commentaries alone, this book (and indeed the series) is well worth purchasing.

—Alan Hirsch



Time Running Out for Israel and Palestine

Time was running out for a peaceful solution to the Israel-Palestine question, the executive director of World Vision Australia, Philip Hunt, commented after his return from a visit to Israel.

He said time was running out for the Palestinians because there was a real danger that the intifada would pass into a new phase of true violence in frustration at the lack of progress.

The politicising of the Arab young people was creating a generation that aspired for a Palestinian homeland.

Time was running out for this aspiration to be achieved in partnership or co-operation with Israel.

Time was running out for the Israelis as the continuing brutalising effect on a whole generation of young Israelis as they inflicted oppression on the Palestinians would soon create a nation incapable of understanding peace and co-operation.

The long-term result of Israel's response to the Palestinian intifada was creating heroes and martyrs of Palestinians, and destroying the morality of Israel itself.

The Israeli Defence Force's routinely violent response to the intifada seemed of little concern to officialdom. What in most other civilised countries would seem outrageous and abhorrent was seen as justifiable and commonplace, or not seen at all.

New evidence of the brutality of the army's response to the intifada has emerged recently in the form of a four-volume research report published by the Swedish Save the Children Fund.

Using official records and eye witness accounts, the report showed the error of the army's claims that children under 16 were killed or injured "by mistake" or were "exceptional cases". The report said that between 50,000 and 63,000 children in the Occupied Territories required medical treat-

ment for injuries caused by the army during the last two years.

It said 52% of the children who were killed were not in the vicinity of a protest activity at the time and that 40% were in fact at home or within 10 metres of home when they were killed.

Time was running out for peace because there was a grave danger that the situation might already have turned the corner that would see Israel sink into violent civil war as in Lebanon.

Philip Hunt urged the Australian Government to increase its commitment to bilateral aid directly to Palestinians.

He said ways should be found to put pressure on the US Government to be courageous in dealing with Israel: "Half of the total US aid budget to the Third World goes to Israel. The US is the key to bringing Israel to the negotiating table."

He said Australia should consider sanctions against Israel: "If the US or the European Community begin to withdraw privileges or impose sanctions, Australia should identify itself with such action. We have seen in South Africa that sanctions do send out a powerful message of disapproval."

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Thousands Attend Crusades in Vanuatu

Evangelist Bill Newman and his team are currently in Vanuatu.

On the island of Ambae over 4,000 attended the three crusade meetings, with over 350 making decisions for Christ.

The meetings were held on the football field at Ndui Ndui, and people in their hundreds were there to greet the team on arrival.

From Ambae the team travelled on a small six-seater plane to the island of Santo, where crusade meetings have been held this week in the local park. With all denominations co-operating in the crusade, and it being part of Vanuatu's 10th anniversary celebrations, the town has been alive with excitement and expectation.

In spite of rain, the opening night drew a crowd estimated at 3,000. Bill Newman's message on the crucifixion and the love of God drew hundreds to the point of decision and repentance.

Team member David Eagling described opening night as a "happy disaster" as counsellors worked late into the night counselling up to 20 people each. As they went into the second night the team decided to change the counselling procedure so that those making first-time decisions would be counselled on a one-to-one basis first, while those responding for rededication or restoration would be first addressed by a team member before being individually counselled.

Over 200 counsellors had been trained on Santo by David Eagling, and a special course held during the crusade added to that number.

After a week of ministry in Santo the team flies to Port Vila for another week of crusades there at the national stadium. Final crusade meetings will be held on the island of Tanna.

—Reprinted, with permission, from *New Life*.

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Happenings

Claims by Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi that the Anglican Church is involved in a plot to kill government leaders have been refuted by the Anglican archbishop.

Novi Sad Radio in Yugoslavia has started to broadcast regular religious programs in Hungarian. The weekly program will cover issues of interest to the Catholic and Protestant religious communities. A similar program in Croatian is planned for the near future.

The three Catholic seminaries in Slovakia have accepted 277 applicants to study for the priesthood for the next academic year. During the Communist era there was only one seminary for Slovak Catholics and the intake was strictly limited.

A detailed proposal to establish a more comprehensive national ecumenical body than now exists should be put to Australia's Roman Catholic bishops and the Australian Council of Churches in 1992. There is a distinct possibility that the body could be set up that year.

The Parramatta diocese has become the first Catholic body to join the NSW Ecumenical Council as a full member. The membership was made official during the Week of Prayer for Christian unity in May.

Rev Carlos Garcia, a Baptist minister who was president of the National Evangelical Council of Peru until mid-April, was elected second vice-president in Peru's June elections. He held the number three slot on the ticket of Alberto Fujimori, a practising Catholic. But the Roman Catholic Church openly campaigned against Fujimori's Change 90 party because of its strong support in evangelical circles. The ironic aspect of this is that the defeated candidate, Vargas Llosa, whom the

Catholic Church backed, is a self-styled agnostic.

Just over 1.75 million Bibles and New Testaments have been produced or are in the final stage of production since the Amity Printing Press in Nanjing, China, started rolling in 1988. The greater proportion of these scriptures are Bibles, 1.5 million all told. This far exceeds the original expectation of the printing press's output. Most of the scriptures produced are distributed very quickly.

Close to 50% of Poland's population lives at or below the recognised subsistence level, which is \$75 per month. Consumer prices have skyrocketed. Last year's inflation was 900%, and 1.8 million Poles are homeless. The Polish Ecumenical Council is asking World Vision for help.

According to the World Health Organization, almost half a billion people, one person in ten, are now suffering from tropical diseases. Most of those affected are in Africa.

According to the Lentz Peace Research Laboratory there were 20 wars around the world in 1989. Average deaths per war were 189,000.

Families with children are now estimated to be 40% of the US homeless population.

The Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students in Melbourne is holding its annual dinner on 1 September at Ridley College, Parkville. The speaker will be Dr J.I. Packer, Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology at Regent College, Vancouver. Cost is \$18 per person (\$12 for students). Enquiries to Jillian Quartel on (03) 898 5493.

Unprecedented numbers are coming to Christ in evangelistic campaigns throughout New Zealand. Rise Up Together New Zealand, Open Air Cam-

paigned and evangelist Bill Subritzky all report a sudden surge in the numbers making commitments to God at their meetings.

After a lively debate the English Methodist Conference has voted overwhelmingly to go ahead with a denomination-wide consultation on possible union with the United Reformed Church. An unexpected development was the strong attempt by some delegates to insist that episcopacy as part of any future union scheme be on the agenda from the start.

Recently mission and relief agencies were shocked when their contracts to stay in Nepal were not renewed. They were offered instead a 6-month stay in place of the usual 5-year permit. The new democratic government is to review the situation.

A church minister in Swaziland has received permission to print warning messages on condoms distributed to help halt the spread of AIDS. The message reads: "You use this packet to prevent AIDS, but it is still God's will that sex should be part of marriage."

Internationally known archaeologist, Dr Jim Fleming, will give a series of lectures on biblical history and historical geography at the Wesley Theatre, 600 George St, Sydney, 9-11 August. The cost for the 4 days will be \$45 or \$15 per session. Arranged by Creative Ministries International, details are available from Hilda Caine on (02) 267 8741. Dr Fleming is the Director of the Biblical Resources Study Centre in Jerusalem.

Leading figures in politics, law, business, medicine and media will speak on the theme "Keeping Society Honest" in six talks organised by the Wesley Uniting Church, Melbourne. The series begins on 18 July, 6-7.30 pm, on the 4th floor, Wesley

House, 148 Lonsdale St, Melbourne. Each lecture will focus on a profession and explore how the speakers' faith enabled them to work for the integrity and humanity of society. Details on (03) 662 2355.

The Solomon Islands are 93% Christian and have the highest percentage of evangelical believers in the world.

Though overall church membership is declining in the United Kingdom, two new house churches are established each week.

7 churches are planted every day in South Korea.

The United Bible Societies have helped to set up a liquid capital fund to enable churches in China to borrow the money to pay for Bibles purchased from the Amity printing Press. Previously, if a church in China wanted to order Bibles from the press the money had to be collected from individuals first. The money was then handed in to the distribution centre run by the China Christian Council who would place the order with the Amity Press. This was not only a lengthy process, it resulted in distrust and suspicion because people's names had to be taken with the orders.

A confessed homosexual will remain a key youth leader in the Uniting Church in SA, following the inability of the synod's Standing Committee to break a deadlock over the issue. The issue was raised when Simon Moglia, a youth worker employed by the Pilgrim Uniting Church in the city, admitted in a personal profile published in the synod's paper *New Times* that an important part of his faith journey was his coming to terms with the fact that he was a homosexual.

Two Baptist ministers have opened a home in

Georgla for pastors dismissed by their congregations. In 1988 a church survey found that more than 2,100 Southern Baptist pastors were fired by congregations during an 18-month period, an increase of 31% over a similar survey in 1984.

Jim Wallis, founder of the Sojourners Community in Washington, DC, and editor of *Sojourners* magazine, arrived in Australia for a month-long tour on 20 July. The tour begins with a conference to examine the agenda for the church in the 90s.

In recent months Vietnam has begun to slowly open a window a crack with some changes to religious freedoms that have not been permitted in the country for nearly 20 years. Christians in Vietnam are now permitted, to some extent, to build churches and Bible schools with the permission of the Government. But they are experiencing another problem—a shortage of pastors.

About 1,000, a tenth of the audience, stepped forward to express an interest in accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour during an evangelistic crusade in Prague, Czechoslovakia, led by former astronaut James Irwin and British evangelist Vic Jackopson.

A jury has awarded \$US246,000 to a woman who was sexually abused as a teenager by a former pastor at a Minneapolis church. The jury found both the church and the minister liable for the woman's emotional suffering.

World by 2000, a co-operative effort of broadcasters to bring the Gospel to the world by the year 2000, is creating a 5-part radio adaptation of the film *Jesus* in the Arabic language. The concept grew out of an earlier project to create a version for the blind.



christian RESOURCES exhibition

The first Australian Christian Resources Exhibition is being held in the Royal Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne, 16-18 November.

For the past five years, three times a year, similar exhibitions have been held successfully in the United Kingdom. In 1988 a similar exhibition was held in Sweden.

The objective is to bring together various church, para-church and associated organisations to display the various services and goods available to enhance Christian ministry.

Some of the range of exhibitors will include Christian outreach organisations, missions, charities, Christian communication groups in different areas of media, church administration and finance, Christian

education, youth ministry, health and welfare organisations, music and drama, arts, crafts and design, training camps, retreat centres, holidays and travel and Christian businesses.

Alongside the exhibitions a series of seminars and lectures will be offered to the public. Entry into these seminars/lectures is included in the proposed entry fee of \$5 (pensioners and accompanied children under 15—\$3).

Topics so far organised for seminars include such areas as health care in Christ, creation science, focus on the family, world of work/Word of God, archaeology, education and environment.

This program will be enhanced by music, drama, films

and historical displays.

During the exhibition Triple Seven Christian Radio will be making a test broadcast and including spot announcements from the exhibition.

Groups and businesses wishing to be involved in the exhibition should contact Christian Resources Exhibition, PO Box 314, Carlingford 2118.

Their phone number is (02) 872 6255. Fax (02) 872 6879.

World Vision 40 Hour Famine Success

The 1990 World Vision 40 Hour Famine has been an unqualified success, with a 30% increase in participation over last year.

It took only six working days for fasters to bank the first \$1 million of the targeted \$7 million.

So far, \$1,302,102 has been banked, which is 18.5% of the projected total.

World Vision 40 Hour Famine manager, Graeme McSolvin, encouraged fasters to return their money as quickly as possible.

"The quicker we get the funds, the sooner it can be put to the uses for which it is intended—in Mozambique, Sudan and Ethiopia."

Because of the unprecedented demand for individual famine kits this year, some people were sent group kits. Those in possession of group kits should remit their money directly to World Vision.

Ecumenical News Service Begins

The Australian Religious Press Association is sponsoring a new initiative—an ecumenical news service.

Called Religion-Watch the service monitors over 70 relig-

ious and secular sources for religious news and comment, as well as generating its own coverage.

The service is prepared by a professional Christian journalist and desktop published for easy reading.

It is available weekly, by mail or facsimile.

Religion-Watch is designed not just for the editors of the religious press, but for all people engaged in research, writing, broadcasting or full-time church work who need to keep abreast of religious affairs across Australia.

For further information contact David Busch, Editor, Religion-Watch, 10 Lyttleton St, Longford 7301. Fax (003) 91 2032.

Bob Hobson at Pine Rivers

Sunday evening, 3 June, the Pine Rivers, Qld, church joined a combined service with the North Pine Baptist Church, commencing a week of inspiration and encouragement meetings with Bob and Nina Hobson, North American Director of the Capernray Missionary Fellowship.

An invitation was extended to all churches in the area to share in the meetings.

Monday to Wednesday evening meetings were held at the Church of Christ, with good numbers attending.

Thursday morning, a women's meeting was held at the Kallangur Uniting Church with Nina Hobson.

Saturday morning a men's breakfast was held at the North Pine Baptist Church.

Sunday morning the Hobsons shared at the Bribie Island Church of Christ and Sunday evening at the Pine Rivers Church of Christ.

The Hobsons are in Australia until January 1991.

They shared in meetings with the Redcliffe and Arana Hills churches during the week commencing 17 June.



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Comment

• Alan Page reports further on the Christian Conference of Asia Assembly in the Philippines

Unity and Disunity

"The Asian context has presented specific challenges to the life of the church. These include a challenge to the "unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).

The divisions of the Christian population of Asia challenge us to consider how far the bond of peace extends even among those who call Jesus "Lord". We are meeting in a country that is predominantly Roman Catholic, yet this "ecumenical" fellowship does not formally include the Roman Catholic Church. What sense does it make to speak of proclaiming Christ as our peace when Christ is divided?

Even within the more traditionally defined Christian Conference of Asia fellowship we have been reminded on a number of occasions in the last five years how different we are. As churches, our members are vastly different in history, language and culture. Our unity can at times seem fragile.

Yet most dramatic in terms of Christian disunity may seem to be the continued growth of fundamentalist and Pentecostal groups outside our fellowship. We are having to face their existence and strength as an ongoing fact in the Asian reality. There is a need for dialogue..."

I use the above quote from

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the President's Report at the Assembly to lead us to think for a time about unification. The CCA itself is seeking to be both a unified body and a unifying agent, and recognises that because of human nature and existing social conditions, progress is slow or at times non-existent.

There seems to be no question about the need for change in our world. It was not only in the conference that we heard about the desperate plight of people in Asia, but in Manila we saw with our own eyes just a glimpse of it all. If only you could see it too. Well, the Philippines is a nation that is trying to rise out of 400 years of colonisation and generations of totalitarian regimes. While the government has its battles, the people have many more. The people of Asia are hurting, and the churches of Asia become the servant Christ—to offer healing, wholeness and peace.

This brings me to the point I want to make—that we should be more serious about the unity of the church. Jesus willed that his church be one, yet even as we accept this fact we go on to rationalise that the divisions are just "expressions of diversity". How we fool ourselves! There is a point at which diversity becomes division.

Whether we talk about churches or peoples, when we create "isms" and divisions, or allow these to continue, we are being disobedient to Christ. Pride and exclusiveness must give way to humility and inclusiveness. I am not suggesting that a conference of churches is a goal in itself, but see such a body as an agent to bring about the "fulness of the body of Christ". Then the worshipping community will be better able to carry out the mission (in the words of the assembly theme): Christ Our Peace—Building a Just Society.

Growing Spiritually

It is easy to come to conclusions about people and situations without adequate facts

Jumping to Conclusions

by Ray Vincent

"Don't jump to conclusions without adequate information" seems to be part of the message of Psalm 73. The writer also implies that we should not express these unfounded conclusions because they may have an adverse effect on others. In writing of the apparent success of the wicked and their relationship with God, he states: "But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed a wearisome task...until I went into the sanctuary of God."

It is easy to come to conclusions about people and situations without adequate facts. We can take refuge in popular statements that lock us into uncharitable attitudes and hinder our spiritual growth.

How often we hear, "It's a jungle out there...it's dog eat dog. No one cares for others any more." Sometimes it takes a simple experience to reassure us that some people do care.

In 1973 we were in Basle. It was a public holiday and the streets were crowded. We needed to get to the river to meet a relative who was arriving by boat. We were lost. How do we get there? Can we make it on time? Which way do we go? These questions perplexed us. We turned to a young woman who had just passed us. "Do you speak English?" we asked. "Yes, I was thinking in English as I repeated an English poem to myself," she replied. She was a student and spoke at least four languages. We told her of our plight. She took us to her room in a 14th-century house. From her room we could see the nearby river and watch the boat come. There was one bean bag to sit on. My wife sat on that, I

on the floor. We soon had coffee and conversation. "Did we know Gibran's *The Prophet*? What did we think of it?" We asked did she know Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning*. We have a copy of *The Prophet* she sent us and she happily received a book on Frankl's theme. Not only did she take us to the boat but also to the train. That was in 1973, but the joy and sense of harmony still refresh our spirits. Out there it is not a jungle only—there are people who care.

Recently we were standing overlooking the Scarborough Beach. The steps down were rather steep. A young man stood near us. We commented on the lovely day. He took off his cap and the sunglasses that hid his eyes.

He was a young Asian, from Thailand. He said that he was a student at the University of WA. We indicated we had both graduated from there. With a smile he said, "Then you are my seniors." He asked if we wanted to go down the steps. He took my wife's arm and walked with us. Some young people do care about aged people, and some of those young people are Asian.

It is good that the writer of Psalm 73 wrote his final conclusion first, after he had got more facts. His feet had almost stumbled, his steps had well nigh slipped. After more information, more understanding of people, more consultation with God his outlook was changed. He had grown.

• Ray Vincent is currently editor of *The Western Christian*. He and Jenn are members of the Wembley Downs, WA, church.

"Saints"— and Saints

There is a propensity within us all to have "heroes". We have them in sport and many other areas of human endeavour. We even have heroes in the church, that is people we look up to and emulate, people whose example we aspire to, people we consider "a real saint!"

An exegetical approach to the New Testament would tell us that there are no "special saints" in the sense that we have come to understand saints, but that in fact we are all saints.

However the need for metaphors that evoke and distil our inspirations, tells us something different. There are some people like St Francis of Assisi, St Nicholas or, perhaps, "St Teresa of Calcutta", as well as unofficial saints like Albert Schweitzer or Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who seem to achieve what we all aspire to, and embody everything about "saintliness" that we do not.

Throughout the centuries, it has been such saints who challenged the lethargic perceptions of life that their contemporaries accepted without question. They showed us new possibilities of God's involvement with the world, and brought the very presence of God into sharp focus in their own lives. That's why an obscure Albanian nun working amid wretched poverty in the slums of Calcutta is an inspiration to service and love for one's neighbour among Christian and secular people alike.

While exegesis tells us that we are all saints, our perennial need for poetic metaphors, animate and inanimate, remind me that there have been, and always will be, some great saints!

—Stephen
Curkpatrick

• Alan Pelling

God's Unique Privilege

I returned to Sydney with my wife and daughter after living in Perth for more than two years to study at the Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College. I had experienced frustration while living in Perth. During the long hot, dry summers I watched my front and back lawns die. This added to my feeling inside that I was walking in a spiritual wilderness. But I knew then that I was genuinely seeking God's plan for my life.

In May 1989 a job offer came up in Brisbane so I drove across Australia. My wife and daughter remained in Perth, intending to sell up and follow me. Alone in my caravan in a Brisbane caravan park I knew the Lord was convicting me about going all the way for Christ and serving full time, rather than remaining in the secular workforce for the rest of my life. At the same time, on the other side of our great continent, my wife was receiving similar orders from the Lord.

Before I met my wife I had some involvement with the Wesley Central Mission in Sydney and gained insights into the work amongst Sydney's homeless and also amongst alcoholics. I met my wife through Solo Too. This is run by Wesley Central Mission. We have always believed that the church's ministry should not just be to families but to

Student Profile



those who are single, i.e. never married, separated, divorced, widowed and single parents.

During eight years of marriage I had the opportunity to come to know and love Eric Evans. Eric had been a long-time friend of my wife when I first met him. I grew to respect Eric's walk with the Lord, value his friendship and appreciate his vision. Eric was the founding editor of Challenge Literature Fellowship in Perth (phone (09) 453 3311), a parachurch work that is still growing, even after Eric's death. Copies of *Challenge*, the good news newspaper, can be seen in many and varied places across Australia. When Eric died my wife and I had the privilege to attend his funeral. The graveside message was given by the Baptist pastor of the church Eric and his wife and my wife and I attended. In his message the pastor said that it is only what we do for the Lord in this life that will count

in eternity. Eric had lived a life of faithful devotion to the Lord. I found his funeral both challenging and inspiring to go all the way for Jesus. Eric, with no Bible college or theological college training, had remained faithful to his Lord.

God, through circumstances, has enabled me to study for his service. After spending nearly 20 years in the workforce (mainly in the building industry as an estimator) I count this opportunity to study at Carlingford a privilege and responsibility. My wife and I still have a heart for the less privileged people in our society. We do not yet know where God will direct our steps but I felt strongly that I needed my experience of life to be complemented with a thorough training in the Scriptures.

I am confident the Lord will continue to lead our steps. We had some concerns before we left Perth regarding arrangements for accommodation and

my wife's part-time employment. Yet we left our friends in Perth and a city we had grown to love behind, trusting the Lord and with a peace in our hearts. The Lord answered our prayers and those of our friends in wonderful ways for which we are so grateful.

Pontius' Puddle

MY JOB WAS CREATING TOO MUCH STRESS IN MY LIFE. SO I BEGAN DAILY DEVOTIONS, EXERCISING REGULARLY, AND SPENDING QUALITY TIME WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY.



SO... DO YOU FEEL LESS STRESS FROM YOUR JOB?



MUCH! TO DO ALL THOSE THINGS, I HAD TO GIVE IT UP!



Classifieds

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BEARE On 8 July at Maroondah Hospital, Harold, of Croydon, formerly of Chewton. Dearly loved husband of the late Eva (Brodie). Loved brother-in-law of Jean and Bob Addicott and Uncle of Graeme, Glenda and Philip and families.

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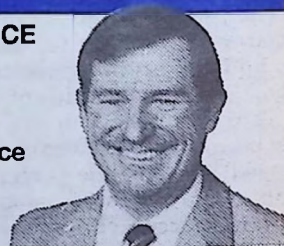
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Stress in Ministry

by Bruce Waldron

Ken Clinton's article, "Stress and Church Growth", left me feeling a little incomplete; there were some things strongly on my mind that I felt were unsaid. Stress concerns me, I have seen its devastating effects in marriages, children and people's continuing commitment to ministry being lost.

The experts in stress talk about two types of stress—"eustress" and "dystress". Eustress enervates and stimulates. It is the type of stress that is behind statements like: "I work best under stress." It is the type of stress that gets the adrenalin pumping and out of it comes creative action. Some very important aspects of eustress are:

- Something can be done. We have facilities and abilities to achieve something by our expended energy.
- We have a purpose and direction for our effort that we believe in.
- There is a definable goal, a point at which our task can be achieved and finalised.

Dystress is, of course, the antithesis of eustress. There is little we can do, we haven't the facilities or abilities to achieve a satisfactory end, the purpose and direction is unclear or not a personal aim, it is not something we believe in and there is no definable end point or goal. As a result we are challenged by some agent but instead of being able to respond creatively we are forced to swallow our stress and absorb the toxins that our body creates in response to the perceived stress. Many physical and emotional illnesses are directly related to this type of stress. It is essential to define the sources of dystress in our environment and eliminate as many as possible by careful planning and personal management. They can kill. If they cannot be eliminated then a good counsellor should be consulted to design effective

York is situated 97 km east of Perth, WA. It is a picturesque town of 2,700 in a sheep, wheat and tourist area. It was the first inland settlement in WA, in 1831. People are moving to York to take advantage of a country lifestyle in reasonable proximity to the city.

The Church of Christ was started in 1904 and has been relatively small over the years. The first chapel was built in 1926 and the present chapel was built in 1968, however both buildings may need replacing some time in the future. The active membership is about 41. Last year a work began at Beverley, 35 km away, meeting monthly with a number of members who had been coming to York for worship. This year the group at Beverley is meeting weekly and they have just begun renting a shop in the main street. Services are held at Beverley at 9 am and at York at 10 am. There is also an evening service at York at 7 pm (7.20 in the summer).

The minister to both York and Beverley is John Tocknell. Originally from Blackburn, Vic,

methods of managing them, turning them into eustress. Feelings of helplessness are the most reliable sign that dystress is present. It is usually an avoidable evil. Something can be done. Stress is often blamed for tensions that are our own making. One of the stressors (things that cause us dystress) in ministry, or any public office, is the public expectation, the belief, that somehow the minister is all the things that no one else can successfully be. There is also a contradiction in expectations of the minister in most churches. The level of stress felt will be directly proportional to the level of harmony between who the minister is personally and what he or she feels is necessary to present to the congregation or community. If the two are widely disparate then the level of tension

John has had wide experience on the mission field and in churches. He served at Carnarvon and Roelands Missions, in the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean, at Busselton (seven years) and Narembeen (five years), and has been at

helps distribute the *Challenge* newspaper in the local co-op. John also broadcasts a 30-second spot each weekday on the local radio.

The secretary at York is Ray Lawrence. Ray has held this position for 54 years!

A majority of the membership at York is young. A few years ago the membership at York was only

York for three and a half years. He and his wife June, whom he met at Carnarvon, have four grown children, a daughter and three sons.

Sunday School is held during the message at York. Bible studies are held at York on Wednesday nights and at Beverley on Thursdays. The CWF meets monthly and there are KYB groups at both York and Beverley.

The church is involved with other churches in the town in outreach programs. Companion Time is an outreach to older people and each church takes its turn for a month to present the program. July is the Church of Christ's turn. The church also takes its turn in conducting services at the hospital and

23, mostly older people. However, since, a number of young marrieds, with children, have joined the church. A feature of the church is the friendliness of the members. It is not uncommon for the older members to invite younger people to meals after church or during the week, and take a genuine interest in their welfare. The fellowship around the pot-belly stove at the evening service on winter nights is more than warm, as is the cuppa afterwards.

The town of York is growing, therefore the church is also looking to growth. Thirty-six new homes were built in the last year. Although the church at York may be small, this has not stopped a growth in numbers or outreach to other areas.

will be acute.

The more our professional image is in harmony with the reality of who we are spiritually, emotionally and intellectually, the less we will be a victim of stress. In summary:

- We need to identify the sources and nature of eustress. These are our creative areas and we need to experience them frequently.
- We need to identify the areas and sources of dystress and operate on them, taking the helplessness out of them.
- We need to foster a harmony between our professional and personal selves.
- We need people we can be honest with, who we can share our own brokenness and frailty with, who we can experience forgiveness and grace with. We are not the givers of these things but the co-recipients.

I greatly appreciated Henri Nouwen's book *In the Name of Jesus* on this last topic. Nouwen reflects on the importance of the minister or Christian leader being very honest with his/her people and in that honesty a healthy, healing environment can develop. It is a book worth reading. He reflects on the whole of accountability, that we cannot work alone, must not work alone. We are part of the body of Christ. We aren't meant to work alone. The disciples were sent out in twos. Together they shared the experience of grace with each other. In our professionalism and individualism we often deny ourselves and others the opportunity of experiencing the reality of Christian community.

• Bruce Waldron is the chaplain at Warragul, Vic, High School.

Focus on York

Am I Ready?

Life and death are part of living and, here at Yamen in PNG, it is no different. The other day I wanted to send an old man off for medical help, but he refused to go. He didn't want to cause a problem for his family in getting his body back to Yamen.

Five days later he died. I found it very hard to deal with the issue of allowing him to die. I guess I have always felt we should get all the medical help we can to ensure life. But here I was given a lesson in dying. That man was ready to die. As I struggled with the concept of letting him die I came face to face with the age-old question, "Am I ready to die?"

Once again I worked through my salvation, coming to the conclusion that I was safe in Jesus' arms and nothing could remove me. But it also started me wondering about what I was realistically doing to see that others, too, knew Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. It challenged me to look at my attitudes and actions.

We Christians need to be constantly reminded of the task that lies ahead of us and the need to be sharing the gospel, not only in what we say, but in what we do. Are we doing the job our Lord has given us? If Christ came today would he reward us as faithful servants? Let us get on with the task that is before us.

—Hazel Bassett, PNG

Fill Me

Fill my lips with your praises.
Fill my heart with your love.
Fill my soul with thanksgiving—
To my Saviour above.
Fill my actions with kindness
Fill my whole life with grace.
Fill my thoughts with your presence,
Till I see your dear face.
Oh take me, and use me, and Lord
may it be
Jesus my Saviour living, not me.

—Margaret Croucher
(Scarborough, WA)

Issues Affecting Youth

by Terry Grant

Angela sat and cried through the entire evening service. Just the day before she had found the body of her 18-year-old sister, with only a note to utter her final anguished goodbye. Through her I was to gain my first insight into the pain of teenage suicide. In the next few days I discovered her sister to be the sixth teenage suicide received by just one of our local funeral directors over the three months surrounding Christmas.

What is happening within the lives of our teenagers for them to believe that death is their best option?

Today more than ever our society is conscious of the potential of our young people to impact upon our society. Yet for many of them it is this very expectation that is robbing them of their ability to live.

On the one hand the pressure is to achieve academically if they want a decent job or the esteem of their parents (and themselves). Or if not in academics, perhaps it will be the sports arena where they will be able to demonstrate their worth.

On the other hand the odds stack mercilessly against them gaining any solid base on which to build. Their family structures and securities are crumbling as parents chase their own desires and fulfilment. And for many that brings the added burden of guilt in somehow being part of that failure.

With no sense of direction in values and morality from home or school teenagers increasingly rip themselves and each other apart in damaging relationships.

The employment market seems to be increasingly closing in on their hopes, and the role models of others having "dropped out" begin to look more and more attractive. Or conversely, others escape into a haven of eternal education.

One crucial issue unique to today's teenager is a pervading sense of hopelessness. The great expectations of technology have been eaten away by a terminally diseased ecology. The god of materialism has fallen on its face in an empty decadence and drivenness reflected in their parents' lives. The dream of owning a home in the suburbs is but that—a dream.

It should be of no surprise that young people seek to escape into the immediate gratification of sex, dance parties and drugs. Nor that others opt for an even quicker solution to their emptiness and lostness.

The challenge before us is to build into our teenagers a sense of identity, worth and hope; to give them a vision of the life they can discover in relation to the One who created them and knows their greatest potentials.

As parents we need to build in time to show our love and respect for our children—for who they are and not how they perform or conform. Our ability to listen deeply to them, even when their opinions differ from our own will affirm their significance.

As churches we need to affirm and use their gifts and believe in them enough to hold them responsible for their commitments.

Their values and sense of hope in life will only be established as teenagers see them modelled in our lives. Is our behaviour consistent with our words? Does our faith in a sovereign God affect our ability to deal with the pressures and trauma of our lives? Can they detect hope that enables us to deal with the hard issues of our own lives in peace?

As always it will be the life-renewing power of Christ in our lives and our ability to communicate his love and hope that will give our teenagers the sense of worth, direction and hope for which they hunger.

• Terry Grant is associate minister at the Engadine, NSW, church.

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

• **Leroy Garrett is a member of churches of Christ (noninstrumental) in the USA. In this article, first published in Restoration Review (of which he is the editor) he argues that his churches should be part of the World Council of Churches**

Part of the World Council of Churches

I want to show why we in the Churches of Christ do not have to continue as a deprived people in reference to fellowship with other Christians. There is so much to be learned from contact with other churches, and there is unspeakable joy in being part of the whole Body of Christ, not only in our immediate neighbourhood but all around the world. It is a matter of intensifying our awareness of the universality (catholicity) of the church, and of realising that the church is all the family of God in heaven and on earth. Only insofar as we increase our awareness of the church catholic will we strengthen our witness to that church. Other Christians are not going to take us seriously so long as we have nothing to do with them. Are you inclined to listen to someone who only shouts from a distance?

We must come "within understanding distance" of those we expect to influence. Starting with the "other" church that is nearest us, we can go on to have meaningful association with churches around the world in the form of the World Council of Churches. I am going to show how we can do that with good conscience and without violating any truth we hold. To do this I must show that we have been influenced by wrong thinking, which is that since we believe we are the true church we cannot associate with other churches without making it appear that we believe that they are also true churches, while in fact we believe they are false churches. To have fellowship with those who are "in error" is to share in that error and to lead them to conclude that they are all right where they are. We cannot treat them as equals because they are not equals. We are the true Church of Christ and they are not.

When our people draw such conclusions I know where they are coming from, for I was taught the same thing. One of our ministers said on the radio only last week, "You hear it said, 'Join the church of your choice,' but I say join the church of God's choice." If we are the church of God's choice, then on what basis do we associate with other churches?

Let's grant for the moment that we are right about being the only true church. We can still be a part of the World Council of Churches, which is just where we need to be so that churches around the world can have some contact with the one true church. And in its Toronto Declaration of 1950 the World Council issued an invitation to just such denominations, those with the conviction that they are the true church and that the churches of the Council are not. It is an amazing statement:

Membership in the World Council does not imply the acceptance of a specific doctrine concerning the nature of Christian unity. Membership does not imply that each church must regard the other churches as churches in the true and full sense of the word.

The Council is saying that what is important is that we get together and learn from each other and do things for Christ together. You don't have to believe like anybody else does about the nature of unity, and you can even believe that we are not as true a church as you are. We can still be with each other for the Lord's sake!

That is the essence of magnanimity. There are numerous denominations around the world that believe that they are the true church, such as the Orthodox Church, who stayed out of the World Council for that reason. When the Council made its Declaration that they would accept such churches anyway, many of them became

members.

I am reminded of the girl who did not want to date a certain man because she feared he would pressure her to get married, and she didn't want to marry him. When he told her that he understood her position and that he would not think of dating her in terms of getting married, she went on to date him with a great deal of pleasure. When we can associate with other churches on our own terms and without fear of compromising any conviction, are we not all the more obligated to do so? We are after all under a mandate from Jesus Christ and his apostles to be concerned for the unity of all Christians.

The issue we must face is whether we really believe in unity. Do we really want to reach out to others in a loving and gracious way? Or do we want to be a people apart, playing party games with each other while ignoring and having no part in the great issues facing the people of God around the world? One of our ministers told me of the response of his elders once he began to fraternise with those in other churches. "If you don't watch," they said to him, "you'll get to liking them."

It is a matter of whether the Churches of Christ will eventually become an authentic part of the church universal, in spirit and in deed, or whether they will struggle to survive as an insignificant sect, parroting a party line that no one takes seriously, not even themselves.

The World Council is a fellowship of over 300 denominations from all over the world. Its fundamental identity is "a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and therefore seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of

the one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" (WCCC Constitution).

The member churches do such things together as to send 10,000 copies of the Bible to French-speaking people in the Third World, arrange for the publication of 50,000 Russian Bibles in the Soviet Union, respond to those nations suffering starvation through drought, and support development projects in over 100 countries, to name some things done recently.

Is it so bad to be part of a program like that, working with other believers in blessing the world? Must we go on being a people apart, doing the good things we do all to ourselves? If there is unity in doing things together, there is also good economy.

Rules for Editors

Editors of church magazines and contributors may find these rules helpful. They were developed by Robert L. McGee, who teaches English in Rome.

- Don't never use double negatives.
- Make each pronoun agree with their antecedent.
- When dangling, watch your participles.
- Verbs has to agree with their subjects.
- Just between you and I, case is important too.
- Don't use commas, which are not needed.
- Try not to ever split infinitives.
- It's important to use apostrophe's right.
- Proofread your writing to see if you any words out.
- Correct spelling is essential.
- A preposition is a bad word to end a sentence with.

Mutual Ministry

by John J. Alderson

There was a time when the movement we now know as Churches of Christ had no clergy, that is an organised group of people ordained as ministers. It was commonplace for some brother who had something to say to get up and say it, and sometimes several had something to say and as they were, according to all accounts, even less inclined to brevity than brethren of today, services were not only of indeterminate length, but also tended to be very long indeed. There is, however, less known of those churches who had no such men wishing to deliver what the Lord had first delivered to them.

The custom still prevailed even when a guest speaker had been invited. The story goes that Alexander Campbell had been invited to one such church and, after hearing several brethren get the Lord's message off their chests, he rose to speak. The total of his sermon was: "The Lord's body is not all tongue," and he sat down. It was reputed to be his shortest sermon, but it certainly finally had influence. The movement gathered to itself an ordained ministry. But the ideal of mutual ministry was not lost.

The basis of the mutual ministry is the New Testament one that we are "all kings and priests before God" (Revelation 5:10). The writer to the Hebrews was very careful to point out in no uncertain terms that the priesthood was finished (Hebrews 10:14). A priest stands between people and God and mediates, but Jesus the Christ has superseded all priests inasmuch as he made the final sacrifice, which allows all to draw near to God, and if there is any difficulty, he then is the mediator smoothing the way for one to come to God. It is unfortunate that in some denominations there are still priests who presume to stand between the laity and God, but they have no

such role, usurping as they do the place that Jesus Christ holds in the church, and setting aside as of no effect the sacrifice that Jesus made to free all from such bondage, when at his death the veil of the temple "was rent in twain".

With the Reformation, at least in Scotland, the presbyter took over the ruling of the church, to the jibe, which was and is only too true, "that the presbyter is priest writ large". Presbyter is merely the Greek word for priest transliterated as Moffatt does in his translation. We now translate it as "elder" but both words (and also "king") originally meant the same thing, and, contrary to a certain popular saying, the Greeks did not have a word for everything, and our modern conception of elder and deaconess are cases in point.

Hence then the writer to the Hebrews places heavy emphasis on the fact of the priesthood of all believers and even the stricture "call no man your father on earth" (Matthew 23:9) was another argument in the same direction. Desirous of building a church on New Testament principles the forebears of our movement would willingly have dispensed altogether with a paid ministry had it been possible.

Campbell and his contemporaries were emphatic that the laity could and should preach. In the absence of an appointed minister or an ordained minister members of the congregation were not only permitted, but also encouraged, to speak. Indeed the real and only objection to anyone who liked getting up and saying their bit at the service was its total lack of planning and thus the difficulty of putting a service together when no-one quite knew who and how many were going to speak, and on what! The creation of an ordained ministry was to create order, not to supersede the mutual minis-

try. Thus, say 40 years ago, it was most emphatically preached that the mutual ministry was comprehended in the presiding at the Lord's Table (not excluding the laity preaching as well) and as many as possible were encouraged to take their turn at this. Indeed it is my personal opinion that every member of the congregation should be able to preside at the Communion Table and that in small churches at least everyone should do so at least once during their Christian service. But while this presiding at the Lord's table fulfilled the mutual ministry idea it was not the ideal, and we did encourage as many people as possible to give a sermon now and then.

Indeed, and again I give it as my personal opinion, we do not pay a minister to preach sermons but to lead, and the minister should be one of a roster of as many as possible doing the preaching. The minister too should have the opportunity to sit back and worship like the rest of us.

There is a tendency for lay preaching to be a thing of the past, and for the roster of the Communion Table to be as restricted as possible. Part of the latter stems from the self-importance of those concerned and the knowledge of the power they exert in keeping others from presiding. It is frequent now if a church is without a minister for all the speakers to be imported from outside, when only a few years ago there were a dozen people in the church who would have taken the pulpit and who, incredibly enough, are frequently still in the congregation.

There is one thing certain, that if the congregation does not put up with a raw amateur now and then nobody is going to say within themselves, "Well, I could do as good as that!" and make a timid offer to try some time when the pulpit

is vacant. This timid offer is worth a thousand pleas and cajolings to get someone to the pulpit. I well remember when I was young the lay-preacher (Jack Sewell in point of fact) who had been taking the services during the holidays when we had no student coming to me and asking me to take the service because he would be away, and our elder saying to me on the Sunday morning, "Who is taking the service, John?" I said, "I am," and I feel prouder now of that moment than I did then.

Today there would be a con-fab of officers who would hastily try to get someone from another church and the youngster of fifteen would not be launched on a preaching career—and this is the rub. There is such a belief in the divine cognisance of elders now that no raw amateur as I was then would suddenly be found taking the service. They would have to consider and determine and approve etc. etc., and above all know that that one was worthy. But again let me venture a personal opinion, but one which I believe is the mind of Christ: anyone who will preach for the Lord is worthy. The Lord will make sure that is so.

Of course it boils down to this: how many students enter theological college without previous experience of preaching and taking the service? Without this encouragement there must be a drying up of students.

A person comes to the Lord, not as an accomplished Christian, but as a sinner needing grace. What perfection we gain in this world is gained through service. The new Christian or the old one does not wait for someone with divine cognisance to come and say: "We know you are worthy to do such-and-such," because they don't know. We of the Churches of Christ must hear anew the Lord Saying, "Whom shall we send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I: send me." (Isaiah 6:8)

• John Alderson is a member of the Maryborough, Vic, church.

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Prince, Val Underwood, Dorothy Smith, Noela Eggins, Martha Mulay, Yvonne Emerton, Cec Lambert, Norm & Elvie Lambert, Christine Albury, Sohndra Yeark, Manning Valley, NSW •Chris Carey, Mildura, Vic •Jenelle Davy, Dawson St, Ballarat, Vic •Win Hammersmith, Jeanette Murray, Sandra Lightfoot, Murray Morewood, Joyce Blackmore, Rob Connelly, Elizabeth, SA •Jim McLachlan, Daphne McLachlan, Rachel Walker, Morwell, Vic •Mark Jennings, Glenn Wyss, Mark Hall, Darren Jones, Jack Williams, Warwick, WA •Marj Hoskinson, Debbie Osborne, Anne Jessup, Devonport, Tas

Marriages

•Elaine Peters to Chris Cracknell, Marcia Williams to Ralph Roath, Dorothy Taylor to Ron Cameron, Berwick, Vic •Chris Newton to Michael Davies, Manning Valley, NSW •Kylie Green to Colin Hanley, Mildura, Vic •Lesley Youton to Tim Hall, Dawson St, Ballarat, Vic •Annette Tanner to Stephen Ivey, Warwick, WA

Deaths

•Maurice Jacques, Ormond, Vic

Changes

Vic-Tas Aborigines Mission Department: All correspondence and inquiries between 26 July and 16 September to 22 Goe St, Caulfield South, Vic 3162. Phone (03) 571 5832.

Stevens, D.A., Melbourne Airport Chaplain: Correct phone number (03) 339 1690.

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Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Pietzsch (Cousins), Hazel Elizabeth

(23.6.90) A faithful and loved member at Hurstbridge, Vic, Hazel made her decision for Christ at Cordy's Green, Footscray, at 11 years of age in 1925. She married Henri in 1936. Hazel served as Kindergarten-Sunday School teacher and pianist at Footscray,

Maidstone and Hurstbridge. She ministered to all whom she met, nursing the ill and helping those in difficult circumstances. Hazel was an active member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and Christian Women's Fellowship. Her hospitality knew no bounds. She continually practiced family prayer and scripture reading. She remained faithful to her Lord until the end.

—Andrew George

Vic

CHELSEA (I. Whitelock) Millie Wame celebrated 90th birthday with "open afternoon". Church gave floral arrangement. Daughter flew out from Isle of Wight for occasion ... 17 involved in Chelsea churches study groups "Come Holy Spirit" ... Youth group grown to 12 ... Win McCallum transferred from Oakleigh ... Church reps involved in combined churches survey of community need with view of initiating church-based community care ministry.

ORMOND (G.O. Stibbe, M. Adamson) Plans for self-care units & information given by architect Brian Kidd. Project well underway ... Several took part in 40 Hour Famine ... Outreach by telephone planned ... 65th anniversary celebrated. Laurie Barker guest speaker, followed by well-attended luncheon ... Three-course dinner with international flavour & guest artists planned for 28 July ... Annual meeting 8 July.

SWAN HILL (L.J. Mayes, S.J. Willis) Another successful family camp held at Halls Gap over Queen's Birthday weekend with Sheryle & Richard Brown (Wycliffe Bible Translators) as study leaders ... Chapel filled to overflowing for evening service on 24 June when eight were baptised. Celebration supper followed in hall ... Two morning services attracting new families & many contacts being made ... Win & Clarrie Stewart celebrated golden wedding anniversary.

PORTLAND (R. Hough) Recent speakers Will Marshall, Frank Gason & elders while minister ill ... Visit from Barabool Baptist young people ... Some young people training with YWAM ... Visit from YWAM members early July taking meeting at coffee shop & local schools also taking part in services ... Church planning & looking forward to mission with Sonny Pillay & other churches in Western District Sept-Oct ... Half yearly planning day 30 June.

BERWICK (Peter Holt, Gordon

Stirling) Tim Hanna accepted invitation to become senior minister in 1991 ... Stewardship campaign raised \$700,000 promised over three years ... Sunday School children enjoyed Coinda Camp ... Cake stall, garage/bargain centre sale & bush dance all successful fund raisers ... Alan McCraw honoured for his contribution to tennis club over many years ... Project manager & builder appointed for new church complex.

FRANKSTON (Allan Avery, Pam Bowers, Harold Bischoff) Film series on 23rd Psalm ... "Growing in Christ in the 90s" theme for year ... Series "Growing in the Spirit" with John Sweetman, Peter Wing Tang, Trevor Giles & Phil Andrews ... Musical afternoon raised funds for new music resources ... Several involved in ecumenical Bible study ... North Fitzroy & Sunshine guests at two evening services ... Mrs Pat Greig led three evenings "Growing in Faith & Personal Development".

ECHUCA (A. Symes) Study group leaders have begun meeting mostly in private homes, which seems to be quite successful & will continue for some time ... The church is preparing for the 100th year of continued worship ... We all thank our gracious Lord for all his mercies in the work in Echuca.

RED HILL (Wally Gibney) 120 attended five home luncheons to get to know the Gibney family ... Prime of Life group enjoyed rich fellowship at Healesville Camp ... Delicious Christmas dinner in June raised funds towards manse ... Sunday School raised \$770 towards 40 Hour Famine ... 24 June 5 pm service with tea. Evening services continue 5 pm during July-August ... Luncheon planned at church 22 July.

MILDURA (David Ratten, Doug Clark) Centenary celebrations on QB weekend a great success, 100 past members, four past ministers "returned". 430 attended centenary worship service ... Extended worship centre finished in time for the centenary. Chapel now seats 320 ... New sound & lighting sys-

tems make worship centre a well-resourced auditorium. Provided excellent support for Negro Gospel singer Deltha Rozier when 230 attended on 27 June.

BORONIA (Keith Milne, Andrew Henley) Sunday evening services at 5 pm during winter ... Ministers attended Ministers' Camp in June ... CYF camp at Healesville on holiday weekend ... Combined Pentecost celebration with Baptist Church ... Geoff & Wallis Edwards return from PNG. Geoff spoke at morning service ... Members participated in World Vision 40 Hour Famine ... Overall attendances up on last year ... Much illness amongst members over last two months.

SURREY HILLS (D. Brooker, Julie Adam) Surrey Hills & Hartwell shared hypothetical session. David Brooker was panel master asking questions about the attitudes of panel to hypothetical case of church leader suffering from AIDS. Panel consisted of minister, youth leader, lawyer, doctor, nurse working with AIDS patients, personnel manager, senior church member & three young people. The congregation were challenged to consider their answers & their attitudes.

MAIDSTONE (Wes Rodgers) CWF raised \$360 by stall, gave two tables to CCTC & prepared 400 items for hospital visitation ... Lillian Gunthorpe, Geoffrey Freiberg, Iris Gates all home from hospitals ... Thanks to Clive Hampton for several years of organ playing ... Sympathy to Pietzsch family in home call of Hazel ... O. Neil (Mission to Lepers), Arthur Lewis & Mark Rodgers speakers during minister's holidays.

DAWSON ST, BALLARAT (Stephen Templeton) Church continues supporting Kerrison & Harmer families PNG ... Marriage enrichment seminar with Brian & Joan White ... Robyn Wickham serving in Spain with OMS ... Youth group "sleep over" at church ... Sunday School/church continually growing ... Jenelle Davy & Betty Smith welcomed into membership. Through transfer Jani White, Alan & Glenda Hocking ... Len Chibnall & Daphne Peck hospitalised.

MORWELL (Graham Woodward) Baptised: Jim & Daphne McLachlan, Rachel Walker ... Children dedicated: Jessica Ancilleri & Lydia Mathews ... Ann Paul appointed music director ... Care group functioning well ... Adult Social Group popular & growing ... Praise God for new families worshipping with us ... Restructuring board to facilitate ongoing growth & outreach of church ... Near completion of prayer (retreat) room ... Wednesday Bible study group going well.

Church News

WA

CARNARVON (Donald Bone) Don & Aileen Bone attended ministers' seminar in Perth ... Ray & Peggy Schmitt spent time here on Aborigine outreach & went on to Onslow to minister to small group of isolated Christians ... CWF held historical evening to celebrate WA Churches of Christ centenary. Period costumes & photos on display with program of reminiscences ... At a missionary evening speakers were Joan Stutley & Donella Schwabb.

GERALDTON (Rohan Burcham) Missionary speakers kept our minds on missions & faith promise over last few months including Jennings family, Herb Cutler, Pat Brian & Joan Hainsworth. John Bond & Greg Munyard led the Faith Promise weekend which included family breakfast, "Your Guess is as Good as Mine" dinner for the young people & two challenging Sunday services. \$28,000 pledged for mission work in coming year.

WARWICK (G.B. Carslake, B.A. Eagles, R.L. Mason) Church completed project to fund G.B. & F.M. Carslake Lecture Room, Mulgrave for \$53,000 ... NBA coach Dick Helm, USA, spoke to packed church, wife Andrea spoke at candlelight dinner to 115 women ... Seven attending National Youth Workers' Convention on Gold Coast ... Craft group full with 120 enrolments & 45 children for third term ... Shelley Taylor-Smith farewelled in her attempt to swim the English Channel twice.



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Church News

SA

ALBERT PARK (S. Ogden) June theme, commencing Pentecost Sunday, "Spirituality". "Being open to God as a way of life" simplified version of theme which Bible study discussed ... CWF commenced day meetings this winter on trial basis ... Friendship Club & Drop-in Centre offers caring company & fun ... Board regretfully accepted Steve's resignation to finish ministry end 1990 in lieu 1991 ... Dedication for babies Mia Davidson & Steven Keley exciting.

BLACK FOREST (A. Lochhead) Sunday evening services shown new life this winter with showing of series of 12 30-minute videos commencing at 5 pm entitled "Jesus, Then & Now". Attendances of members good. Circulars distributed in area, although very little response has come from the "un-committed" a number of members of surrounding churches are regulars. Following the video a bowl of soup is available.

DULWICH/ROSE PARK (Rob Williams, Roger Brown) Present at morning worship 1 July were Dr Trevor Banks (Chairman Christian Union Dept) Vic, Linda Pilton WA, Colin Dredge, Ken Dawson & Robert Leane (SA Conf Pres), delegates to ACC meetings then in session in Adelaide. Apology from Joan Pye, Vic.

MAGILL Over 150 came together for a thanksgiving meal in recognition of Trevor & Glenise Lawrie on the conclusion of their ministry at Magill ... "The New Connexions" preparing for the recording of a new tape of modern gospel songs ... Youth group organised another successful Talent Night with young & old displaying their hidden talents.

NSW

MANNING VALLEY (Barry Rice, Ross Norling) Men's & ladies' luncheons & "Loving & Understanding Yourself & Others" seminar held with Dick Innes of ACTS International/Encounter ... Youth camp held with Larry Galbraith, youth minister at Wollongong, guest speaker ... Third church anniversary with Barry McMurtrie of Wollongong church as guest speaker ... "Here's Life 90" combined churches crusade with Campaigners for Christ was a great time of blessing with many commitments & rededications.

LIVERPOOL (Peter Raymond) 1 July mission celebration. Tim Hanna guest speaker ... May-June special

offering for Fiji was \$680. This was above normal offerings & missionary gifts ... 2-14 July eight members leading a WEC camp ... Plans for new building now before council ... 21 July set apart for an elders retreat all day.

Tas

LAUNCESTON (Rod Foster) Successful church fair for Talent Endeavour held on 30 June ... Tim Foot & Malcolm Lacey (Hobart) led evening program on 1 July ... Peter Barns speaker on 8 July & he &

Lyndal left for Melbourne next day ... Craig Spaulding appointed part-time interim pastoral assistant.

DEVONPORT (Bruce Butler) Weekend seminar with Kel Willis on "renewal in the Church" ... 5 Day Club in church hall with CEF representatives Sandra How & Norma Taylor ... Two groups using *I Hate Witnessing* book & *Christianity Explained* material ... Two baptisms ... Three received into church membership ... Individual care/share/prayer follow up ... Sunday family fellowship with Linc Rainer from Scripture Union.

Qld

PINE RIVERS (Neale Proellocks, Ian Todd) Project X underway & foundations laid ... Men provided coffee & desserts evening service Mother's Day ... Successful church picnic at APM grounds, over 100 attending ... Playgroup & Child Care Centre combined for "Barefoot in the Park" ... Ladies studying Nehemiah ... Dinner held to raise funds for Living Link ... Combined Redcliffs & Pine Rivers bus trip to Avocado Land successful ... Laura Beth Packer arrived safely 25 June.

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God's Word

• Philippians 1:19-26

by Dennis Nutt

Having outlined the state of the Gospel in Rome, Paul now goes on to talk about his own condition and hopes. He is convinced that the whole train of afflictions that have attended his ministry will result in his deliverance (verse 19). There are some interesting concepts in this verse.

First, the idea of assured knowledge. This is represented by the word "know" (*oida*) which is the knowledge of intuition or satisfied conviction. It is used frequently by John of Jesus (3:11, 5:32, 6:6, 61, 64, 7:29) and by Paul of God (2 Corinthians 11:11, 12:2). In John 21:17 the idea of satisfied conviction is linked with the usual word for knowledge (*gignosko*). Secondly, the idea of salvation (*soteria*). Paul here is not referring to his release from prison as verse 20 shows. Nor is he talking about his salvation from eternal destruction since that has already been guaranteed in Christ. The clue to what Paul means is found in verse 28 and in 2:12. He means salvation in the widest New Testament sense—the whole saving and sanctifying work of Christ in the believer. There are two instruments of this deliverance: the prayers of the saints and the supply that the Spirit of Jesus gives. The word translated prayers (*deesis*) does not mean prayers in general but a petition, and is the common word used for petitions in the law courts of the time. Paul is referring to very specific prayers of a particular type. The same word is used in verse 4 of his prayers for them. Here he assumes that their fellowship in the gospel (verse 5) and their partaking with him of grace (verse 7) will lead to their prayers on his behalf. Paul also refers to the abundant supply (literally supply upon supply) from the Spirit of Jesus. This refers to the Spirit of God that animated Jesus in his human life, and that, in the risen Christ is the life principle of the believer.

Paul "eagerly expects" (*apokaradokia*) to maintain the faith "unashamed" (*aischynthesomai*). Once again there are some lovely ideas in these words. First, the word translated "eagerly expects" means to watch something with the head turned away from other objects. It is only used here and in Romans 8:19 in the New Testament. It is a word of the games and refers to keeping the eyes on the finish line. Paul's singleness of purpose is shown here. While his outward attitude is expectation his inward one is hope. And Paul will not be ashamed. This word is rare in the New Testament and means to be disappointed in a hope or disgraced. He will not be shown to be a deluded enthusiast. On the contrary Christ shall be enlarged, magnified, extolled, yes glorified, in his afflicted and imprisoned body.

The force of this whole statement is highlighted by three ideas put together:

- Christ will be magnified though Paul will refuse to modify his preaching.
- Christ being magnified in spite of opposition will be nothing new.
- The result will be the same whether Paul shall live or die.

Verse 21 tells us that Paul's life is summed up in Christ and his death will be gain because it will introduce him to complete, unhampered union with Christ. What a striking contrast with the apathy of the Stoics, which leaves all to fate.

The outworking of all this is Paul's dilemma expressed in verses 22 to 26. The problem of whether he wants to go to be with the Lord or to stay and minister. Facing death he will continue for their "progress and joy in the faith" (verse 25).

What a model for us! With eager expectation and hope, with a courageous and unashamed faith we need to keep serving under all circumstances for the building up of the body of Christ, the church.

The Last Word

Men at first conversion are like a cake well baked and newly taken from the oven; they are warm and cast forth a fragrant scent.

—John Bunyan In *Solomon's Temple Spiritualized*

What is that which Adam never saw or possessed, yet left two for each of his children?
Parents.

★★★★★

Etiquette is learning to yawn with your mouth shut.

★★★★★

Tax collector: "Why don't you pay your taxes with a smile?"

Taxpayer: "I'd love to but you insist on money!"

★★★★★

He's always offering "sound advice"—99% sound and 1% advice.

★★★★★

The bulletin from a church in California once carried this announcement: "The fifth grade chorus will sing, 'No One Knows the Trouble I've Been.'"

★★★★★

Youngsters in a Des Moines, Iowa, congregation were invited to participate in the ground-breaking ceremonies for a new church school building. Each child was asked to turn over one shovelful of dirt. Later that day a six-year-old was asked by her grandparent what had happened at church that morning.

"We dug for a new Sunday School," the child replied, "but we didn't find it."

★★★★★

The Town Hall was packed, but a series of boring speeches had made the audience restless. Yet another speaker rose to speak. "Can you hear me at the back?" the speaker asked. A voice from the back of the hall replied: "Yes, but I don't mind changing places with somebody who can't."

★★★★★



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