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Dick's Doll Houses

Dick Lydiard with one of the doll's houses he has built to raise money for the Christian Guest Home, Oakleigh, Vic

—Story page 5

Photo courtesy of the Melbourne Sun News Pictorial

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Guest Editorial

Trevor Banks reflects on the Garden of Gethsemane experience, both for Jesus and for the three disciples he took with him

Dimensions of Suffering

by Trevor Banks

Keeping vigil at a dying person's bedside is always a difficult experience, but it can be a most rewarding time. It spells out, perhaps more clearly than anything else, what it means to "be there" for another person. Although for the care-giver the vigil is often lonely because we cannot converse with the one who is dying, it is never lonely for the patient who is comforted simply by another person's presence.

At times, I have reflected on the Garden of Gethsemane experience, both for Jesus and for the three disciples he took with him. This was keeping vigil. Jesus was about to undergo his greatest suffering, greater even than his crucifixion. He needed people to "be there" for him, or as he put it "someone to wait with him". But his three loyal disciples were themselves so worn out that they were unable to give to Jesus the support he needed. They wanted to help, but were unable to do so.

Before dealing with Jesus' suffering, let us consider Peter, James and John. It is usually assumed that these three men were closest to Jesus in his travels throughout Palestine, the ones who knew him best and whom he relied on most. They, with the other disciples, had had a hectic five days culminating in the Passover supper. Yet, this Passover supper was different, full of mystery and foreboding of the loss of their Teacher. Now he had taken them away from what was normally a festive time into an olive orchard with all the strange shapes of the gnarled olive trees so that he might pray. It was too much for them and they succumbed to mental and physical exhaustion.

Our own experience of life confirms to us how often that occurs, that when bad things happen to people close to us we may be so overcome with our own grief and suffering that our support for them is less than is required.

But what was the dimension of Jesus' suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane? It was basically his realisation that he would shortly die. He understood the significance of his actions and the probable result. As with all people who come to that moment

of realisation, the meaning-of-life questions became uppermost in his mind. Probably from the moment of Judas' departure from the Passover supper Jesus started to experience spiritual and physical suffering.

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross has categorised for us the emotional responses to loss and grief and there are glimpses of them in the Gethsemane experience.

"Let this cup pass from me."—denial.

"Couldn't you stay awake with me for one hour?"—anger.

"Come, let us be going."—working through.

What happened in that Gethsemane experience? For Jesus the meaning-of-life question was answered. If the purpose in life for him was to be crucified for the sake of other people in order to turn away God's condemnation of humanity, he would accept that with all the strength and courage that would be given to him. The spiritual dimension was dealt with in Gethsemane with the result that those who stood around the cross saw him die at peace with himself and able to call out, "It is finished."

But what of the three disciples? I suspect that their conversion commenced that night. They had heard the teaching of Jesus and seen the miracles he performed. It was in Gethsemane that they started to see themselves. They were able to glimpse for the first time their importance to someone else. There was purpose and meaning in their lives also. It may not have been until after Jesus' resurrection and the filling of their lives with the Holy Spirit that full conversion came; but that night in Gethsemane the first sparks of realisation came that in death there is life and in life there is purpose.

• Trevor Banks is a medical practitioner and is a member of the Belmont, Vic, church. He is employed in hospice palliative care work through the Regional Palliative Care Program in the Western District of Victoria. Trevor Banks is chairman of the Federal Department of Christian Union and moderator of the Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council.

Lismore's "The Basement" Feeds a City's Need

Don Ferguson, of Lismore, NSW, had an idea to help the city's destitute and hungry.



Don Ferguson on the job

Photo courtesy The Northern Star, Lismore

He did something about it. He opened a free food kitchen in the basement of the Church of Christ building, at the corner of Keen and Magellan Streets, Lismore. Those wanting a meal, cup of coffee or just a chat—all can visit "The Basement" in the morning or evening.

Mr Ferguson, a ceramic tiler by trade, just asked the church authorities if the space was available for his kitchen.

"I am a Christian but wasn't a member of the church. I guess I'll have to join now," he said with a laugh. "I acquired a freezer and microwave after seeing how the St Vincent de Paul Society operated one of their hostels.

"They make a couple of extra meals and freeze them at the hostel, and then they can just pop the meals in a microwave when needed."

Mr Ferguson has now asked the Church of Christ members to make meals, which are placed in the basement's freezer for evening meals.

Breakfast comprises simple cereals, toast and some drinks.

Lismore business houses are helping "The Basement" by giving perishable goods at discounted prices.

This does not solve any long-term problems the poor and homeless may face, but it satisfies their immediate and short-term needs—food and comfort.

"If people need someone to talk with, I've got a really good ear," Mr Ferguson said.

"I've been down in the gutter myself.

"It seems that as towns grow, a lot of the people get richer, but then the number of the hungry and destitute grow, too.

"But this is a chance for Lismore people to get involved and help each other. I want everyone to know about 'The Basement' if they need some help."

—Heath Gilmore in *The Northern Star*, Lismore

Lismore minister, Ian Phillips, reports that "The Basement" has now been operating for two months.

Don is there every morning and evening and he usually has at least one or two people to feed and sometimes there are more.

He has also become a member of the church and is happy to be one.

In encouraging the church to provide meals Don suggested that people put Christ at the head of their table and serve him a meal.

That meal is then given to Don to give to "Christ" through the city's needy.

Australia Post: Delivering Poorer Service for Higher Costs

A Statement to Our Readers

The Australian Religious Press Association, of which *The Australian Christian* is an active member, has expressed its deep concern at the increasing costs and declining standards of service being imposed on Category A publications by Australia Post.

Postage costs increased further from 4 September, and yet the standard of delivery service for Category A publications is declining—for some publications to unacceptable levels. The increase for registered publications was an average of 15%, well above the CPI rise for the period, a situation we have faced for several years now.

These factors, plus Australia Post's intention to scrap the Category A concession altogether, are placing a severe strain on many religious periodicals.

The Australian Religious Press Association is taking up these concerns.

This publication supports the association in its campaign.

The Australian Christian is delivered to the Surrey Hills, Vic, Post Office at lunchtime on a Thursday. At the very latest the magazine should be delivered to Melbourne addresses by the Monday, neighbouring states by Tuesday and the rest of Australia by Wednesday. In addition, we pre-sort all mail according to Australia Post's detailed directions.

However, like all other publications, we receive a constant stream of complaints about late delivery.

Yet, only once in the past 12 years (that is over 250 issues) has *The Australian Christian* been delivered to Australia Post late.

The latest move by Australia Post is to require us to print, in large type, the words "SURFACE MAIL" on the wrappers.

This would seem to be a signal to further slow down the delivery of Category A mail.

WA Centenary Project for Warwick



The basketball stadium under construction during June

"Why don't you build it in Wanneroo?" the Mayor, Wayne Bradshaw, asked Graham Carslake at a Wanneroo City meeting. That was the beginning of a partnership between Churches of Christ and Wanneroo City to build a Sports and Recreation Stadium at Warwick, WA.

It is a unique partnership with incredible opportunities to service Christian and community interests. The church

has already been flooded with requests from the local residents wanting to use the centre.

The complex contains a building that is a four-court multi-sport stadium for all-age recreation and an outdoor six-court netball area. The cost of the Churches of Christ part of the project is \$1.5 million.

The City of Wanneroo is building recreation areas at a further cost of about \$1.5 million.

Areas such as the entrance foyer and creche are shared with the municipality. The canteen will be under the management of the Churches of Christ. The Conference will have a 30-year lease with options for possible extensions.

This is a Centennial Project for WA Churches of Christ with the hope that the building will be completed and opened in November/December 1990, ready for the next year.

A fund-raising dinner was held at Geneff Village on 15 August with 100 attending. Special guests were Richard Pengelley, Olympic water polo captain, Ricky Grace and Jeff Allen, Perth Wildcat basketball players, and Tom Randall, basketball/missionary from USA/The Philippines.

After considering applications for the position of manager of the complex, John Beard was appointed to the position. John is currently manager of Camp Waterman, Monbulk, Vic, and prior to this position taught in Western Australian high schools for 12 years.

Clelia Gough has been appointed as administrative secretary.

The next project for WA Churches of Christ is the development of a new campsite at Parkerville to eventually cater for 200-250 campers. Plans are now being developed and work is expected to commence in 1991-92.

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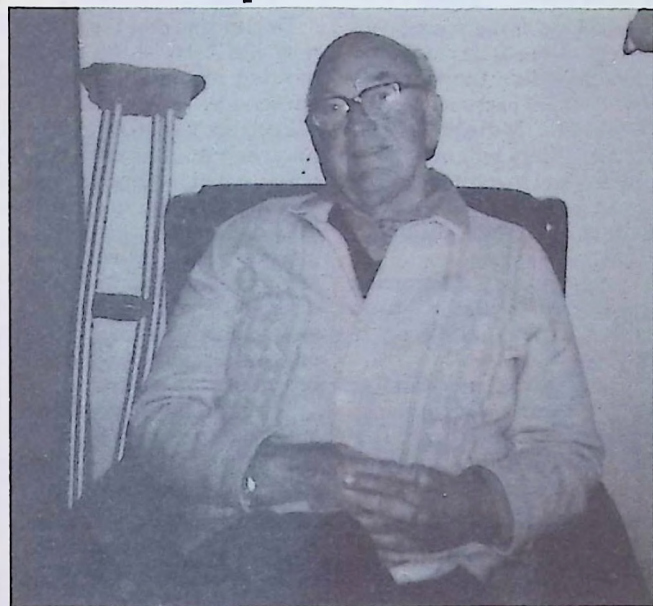
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Ted Thompson



Ted Thompson

Born in Penrith, NSW, in 1921. At the age of eight was struck down with poliomyelitis and meningitis and was in hospital for three years. Had to learn to walk again with the help of two callipers and crutches. In teenage years discarded one calliper and exchanged the crutches for a walking stick. In 1967 fell and broke his leg and since then has had to rely more and more on crutches. During the last 10 years has developed arthritis in shoulders and elbows making the use of crutches more difficult and painful. What a tragedy! What an opportunity for us to show our Christian love and care for one less fortunate than ourselves!

But—wait a moment! This is not a tragic person I am describing here. This is E.O. (Ted) Thompson, a busy, useful and devoted member of Churches of Christ. Before he joined Churches of Christ Ted was always connected with one denomination or another, depending on where he lived. From the age of 19 Ted has never been unemployed and for the last 20 years of his working life (1965–1985) was with the Engineering and Water Supply Department, first as

a fitter, then on the clerical staff.

In 1947 Ted made his decision for Christ at an E.C. Hinrichsen Mission and was baptised. Later that year he married Ruth Dockett at the Nailsworth, SA, church.

Ruth and Ted settled into the church at Kilburn (now closed). Harold Norris, the Kilburn minister, was the catalyst in starting Ted on his pilgrimage of service to his beloved Lord. Ted taught in Sunday School, was leader of the Explorers' Club and a member of the Board.

Then at Clovelly Park (since combined with Ascot Park to begin the Marion church) Ted was Sunday School Superintendent, member of the Board and founder and leader of a Boys' Club.

He and Ruth, with their son Mark, then moved to Koon-garra Park (now Magill) in 1959. Once again Ted met Harold Norris as minister and Harold encouraged Ted in preaching. Since this move Ted and Ruth spent three years at Beulah Rd church (now Kensington Park). Is it Ted's mission in life to sow the seeds of change in names of churches?

Since returning to Magill he had taught in Sunday School,

Rowville Appointment

The new Rowville, Vic, church, commenced in February this year, has called its first full-time minister. John Sutton, an exit student from Carl- ington College, will commence a ministry in February 1991. During 1990 John has worked with the church in a student role while completing his final year of study at the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave. Tom Ede has served as the senior minister. In 1991, Tom will continue with the church as associate minister.

During the first six months of its life the church has made encouraging progress. At a congregational planning meeting on 30 June important decisions about future directions were made, including the calling of a minister. The project is being supported by the Vic-



Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development as a part of the CROP initiative.

Dick's Right at Home

Dick Lydiard is never still. He's either building dolls' houses or making The Christian Guest Home, Oakleigh, Vic, a top place to live.

Dick, 93, makes toys and signs, recites poems and is a Justice of the Peace.

"People come to get documents signed and he drags them over to sell them a doll's house," says wife Ruby, 80.

Dick's dolls' houses come with dressers, wardrobes, toys, towel rails and planters.

Since November his work has earned the activities program at the Christian Guest Home \$900, already close to his \$1,100 record last year.

Dick and Ruby are certainly in tune—he sang before Edward, then Prince of Wales, as a child, and Ruby was a concert pianist.

Even his marriage to Ruby eight years ago was a performance.

"We lost our first partners about six weeks apart," Dick said.

"I proposed to Ruby 12 times and on the 13th time my luck ran out and she said yes!

"And I still hold her hand—she might run away otherwise."

been President of Men's Fellowship, a member of the Board as a deacon and later as an elder and has continued to preach and preside with cheerfulness and great dedication.

Ted has preached many times at Magill and Birdwood United Church, also at Victor Harbor, Goolwa, Strathalbyn, Murray Bridge and Melrose Christian Church, Roanoke, Virginia.

Ted's wife, Ruth, was very active in Sunday School, Girls' Brigade and women's fellowships until a spinal fusion in 1963 and failing health restricted her church activities to attendance at and leading of worship services.

Ted has had a life-long interest in cricket and was scorer for the Adelaide Cricket Club 1948–1958. He is now an arm-chair critic. As he nears the big "70" Ted has found that his health and strength have deteriorated to such an extent that he has written to the board asking for his name to be taken off all rosters, with the rider "of course if you are stuck..." Ted will be preaching at Birdwood in the near future!

—HBM

Kidsmin Launch



Left to right: Russell Croxford, Andrea Salmon (Deputy Chairperson), David Brooker (Chairperson), and Dot Brooker with the new Kidsmin logo designed by Keith Smith.

Kidsmin (Vic), a new committee for children's work, was launched at a well-attended meeting at the Nunawading, Vic, church on 1 August. The new committee, sponsored by the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development, represents a drawing together of leadership from the previous Children's Ministry Committee and members of the previous executives of Explorers and Good Companions. Representatives from various other children's groups are being invited to join the committee. The work of Explorers and Good Companions groups will continue within the new structure. Those attending the launch meeting were met by a large display of resource

materials from the department, Good Companions, Explorers, the Adventure Committee, Scripture Union, Word Books and the Joint Board of Christian Education. There was also a display of Sunday School work. Ros Martin, a worker with Scripture Union, was the guest speaker. Various committee members explained the new directions for Kidsmin and the satellite group structures responsible for training, camping, resources and events.

The committee is keen to make contact with children's workers and assist local churches wherever possible in programming and planning. Contact should be made with Brian White, (03) 662 2377, or Andrea Salmon, (03) 879 5014.

First Baptisms at Ballina

Late June saw a young couple who were to be married in July follow their Lord through the waters of baptism.

Pauline McIntosh and Warren Ellery will live in the district and continue to fellowship with the church at Ballina, NSW, after their marriage.

Greg and Joy Thompson transferred to Ballina from Murwillumbah, NSW, on 22 July.

Just prior to Roger and Rae Foletta joining the church in ministry in February God saw fit to grant the church an influx of new members.

This means that the church now has between 30 and 40 meeting regularly at the 9.30 am service.

Plans are well in hand for an outreach to Lennox Head where a hall has been secured and a gospel service will be held each week.

Offerings as well as numbers are increasing and it has been decided to support the Brotherhood and missions as well as our own building fund and so broaden our horizons.

The church is in good heart and seeks to express love to all who come.

—Malcolm McArthur

Happy Returns at Croydon

Additional seating was required to accommodate all the past members and their families who had gathered to celebrate the 80th birthday of the Croydon, SA, church at the morning service on 29 July.

The enthusiastic participation in a singalong of well-loved hymns provided a stirring opening to the service.

The worship and communion service, ably led by Tom Bartlett, included inspirational items by the choir and its soloists.

Philip Stevens presented an amusing but challenging address: "Which One Are You?"

Present and past members mingled at the smorgasbord luncheon which followed. Many early photographs were circulated. Dorothy Turner, who had travelled from Victoria, recalled the period when her husband ministered at Croydon in the 1930s.

Among those who listened with interest as Jacki Hyam read a little of the early history of the church was her cousin Verna Horsell, daughter of H.J. Horsell, the first minister.

The cutting of the cake by a surprised Verna Horsell was a fitting climax to a memorable occasion.

—Cliff Spencer

Walk on the Light Side

The Kingsford, NSW, church held a concert on 28 July titled "Take a Walk on the Light Side". Stories from the Old and New Testaments were presented in songs, sketches, dances, reading, slides and

puppets. The night began with a creative dance on the Creation and the Fall of Man and closed on a high note with the Resurrection of Christ and his everlasting sovereignty.

Over 60 members of the church participated on stage and approximately 260 people attended, most of whom were visitors. The concert was well received.

The Kingsford church hopes to hold a similar concert annually on various themes as an outreach to the community, family members and friends.



Verna Horsell cutting celebration cake

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Ten Years Stint in the Library

In July Lindsay Smith, formerly Principal at Monash High School, Vic, completed 10 years of voluntary service with the Churches of Christ Theological College, now at Mulgrave. Lindsay, a former Chief Explorer of the Boys' Explorers Movement and a Secretary of the Federal Conference, in his role as Librarian supervised the transfer of the library from Glen Iris to Mulgrave. While at Glen Iris, Lindsay was also responsible for the management of the college grounds and buildings, which were in need of constant maintenance. Since moving to Mulgrave, Lindsay has built up a staff of volunteers that enable the college to offer a courteous and professional service to students and visitors. Lindsay has also been responsible for organising the college's Access mailouts, for which he has built up a second team of volunteers. He continues to take an interest in the grounds. The college recognised Lindsay's generous and unstinting service at the student assembly on 31 July when he was presented with a certificate of appreciation.



Lindsay Smith in the CCTC library

Three Generations Baptised Together

30 June was an exciting day for the Manning Valley, NSW, church, when three generations of the Lambert family were baptised at Diamond Head, the family's favourite beach for fishing.

Earlier this year Cec Lambert, aged 84, had not been expected to live.

Upon his release from hospital, he committed his life to Christ. Cec, his son Norm, daughter-in-law Elvie, and granddaughter Christine, chose to be baptised together.

As the church family were singing in preparation for the baptisms, a large eagle hovered over the water where the baptisms were to take place.

This had particular significance for the family, as some friends had shared Isaiah 40:31 with them as an encouragement for their baptism.

The following morning, the family were welcomed into membership, along with Christine's husband, Robert, and Norm and Elvie's son, Wayne.

Also welcomed into membership were Peter and Allyson Longworth, who have been working for a number of years at Sherwood Cliffs Christian Community Centre at Glenreagh.

A time of rejoicing for the church then climaxed in the marriage of Michael Davies and Christine Newton at the conclusion of the service.



Left to right: Cec Lambert, Christine Albury, Barry Rice (senior minister), Elvie Lambert and Norm Lambert

Welcome Home Dinner

On 21 July at the Belmore, NSW, church over 80 relatives and friends gathered for a recognition dinner for Rosalie Rofe, who has come home after 28 years of missionary service in Papua New Guinea. It was an opportunity to give praise and thanks to God for "Ro" (as she is affectionately known in PNG) and her life and ministry in the cause of the gospel.

Speakers commending Rosalie were Dr Keith Farmer, NSW Conference President, who has recently returned from speaking at the PNG Annual Conference, Fred Stephenson, Chatswood church, Mrs Nola Tideman, past missionary to PNG, Mrs Noelene Roose, CWF President, Kevin Crawford, NSW Conference Secretary, and Stephen Curkpatrick, past missionary to PNG and currently ministering at Epping. Greetings were

received from the field and all around Australia, particularly from Jeff May, Executive Director of the OMB.

Thanks to the Belmore folk, under Mrs Glad Camlin, for catering, to Kevin Roslyn, photographer, to Beth Chant for her solo and to Steve Williams on the PA.

The presentation to Rosalie

included a photo album and a painting.

Following the cutting of the cake Rosalie responded and Ed Holt, Chairman, NSW Overseas Mission Committee, who led the night, closed in prayer.

Rosalie is taking up an appointment as a part of the ministry team at the Chatswood, NSW, church.



Rosalie Rofe with her parents

Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Youth Ministry

To the Editor,

Is it any wonder that our youth ministry is, or has, "fallen by the wayside" (Greg Shaw, "AC" 4 August) when we refer to the young people as the church of tomorrow. If they are the church of tomorrow then they might as well wait for tomorrow before they come to the church. Why should they stay now?

While I agree with Greg Shaw that we must convert adults as well as young people, I believe that unless the young people are treated as the church of today then they will continue to leave no matter how many adults we convert.

I consider it a privilege to have been part of a church where the young people were treated as a part of the church today. Is it any wonder that this church is growing and so is its youth work?

If we are serious about reaching young people and keeping them in the church then we must burst out of this mentality that says young people can only be the church of tomorrow. They are the church of today. Remember recently converted adults are babes when it comes to the Christian life as are recently converted young people.

—Geoff Greenaway
(Kenmore, Qld)

Women and Leadership

To the Editor,

The findings of Ken Stothard and the Essendon church ("AC" 4 August) are similar to my own. I, too, see an interpolation in the 1 Corinthians 14:34, 35 verses that does not necessarily apply to the rest of that chapter. Nevertheless, these verses, in conjunction with 1 Timothy 2:9-15, have proved very effective in keeping women from the ordained ministry, despite Peter's declaration of the fulfilment of Joel's prophecy on the day of Pentecost.

Paul's prohibition against women were in the context of

his trying to be "all things to all men, that he might win them for Christ". (1 Corinthians 9:20-22) To bring the Jews out from under the old law into the new way of love and grace was no easy task. Thus we see Paul in great difficulty, not only over the Jew-Gentile problem, plus the equality of the sexes, but of the sacrificial system too.

Paul said we were to emulate him in all that he said and did. (Philippians 4:9) Yet, there was only Jesus who could qualify! Paul was a wonderful teacher, but still fallible man.

So, why does the church of Jesus, even in this day and age of grace, continue to use Paul's words against the ordination of women into ministry?

We need the gift of discernment today. I believe that our Lord is deeply grieved in his Spirit by the sexist hierarchy teaching that is being employed to divert women from their God given calling.

—Gladys Butler
(Bruce Rock, WA)

[Letter edited to bring it closer to our 200 word limit on Letters to the Editor.]

Youth Ministry "A" Priority Not "The" Priority

To the Editor,

I note with interest Greg Shaw's response ("AC" 4 August) to my article on Youth Vision ("AC" 7 July).

It is somewhat of a concern to me that Greg advocates that youth ministry is a trap. For too long within our churches, both politically and in leadership roles, young people have been "left out" and lumped into the old adage that "youth are the church of tomorrow".

As I read the scriptures and follow Jesus' example I note that Jesus himself in word, in action and in body language teaches: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Luke 18:16)

Certainly adults are important as models in any church. They're just as crucial as young people! The problem is that our

adults have had such a grip on worship, on leadership and on the decision-making processes in the life of the church that young people are either not given opportunities or are told to grow up and learn from the wisdom of their elders. It's time our churches were more balanced.

How many of our adults really understand young people today? How many of our churches love and accept young people unconditionally and are prepared to offer them hope?

Greg and others may well like to remember when they became Christians. Research indicates that over 80% of Christians in Australia made their conversion to Christ in their young adult or teenage years!

I would say that youth ministry is a priority, not a trap!

—Andrew Ball
(Field Director, Youth Ministry, Vic-Tas DMED)

Ministry Opportunities To the Editor,

The Leadership Resources Task Group of the Associated Churches of Christ in New Zealand invites contact from Australian Churches of Christ ministers concerning possible future ministries in one of five Union Parishes in that country.

The Union may combine a Church of Christ with one or more of Presbyterian, Methodist and Anglican communities. The Churches of Christ members can be expected to be in the minority.

Earlier this year two Union Parishes at Wellington and one in the Christchurch-Dunedin area were asking for ministers from Churches of Christ, but none were available. Theo and Alison Mackaay from Western Australia are ministering in a Union Parish in Christchurch.

Contact should be made to J.S. Fulford (the Task Force Convener), 55 Maxwellton

Letters from Tertius

Who Inherits the Earth?

The big fellow who walked in front of me wore a T-shirt proclaiming that "The Tough Inherit the Earth". I immediately thought of Jesus saying, "The gentle will inherit the earth." I wondered if we are meant to take Jesus' words literally because it does look as though the tough are inheriting the earth.

The wealthy hard-nosed nations keep the poorer ones in debt and manipulate the markets to maintain the status quo.

The powerful seem to be able to use legal processes to maintain their monopolies of power.

Pollutants poison the earth because the powerful pull the strings.

And we are all into deadlocks and security screens to protect ourselves from the violent.

But one thing seems to be clear to me. That is that the tough may be inheriting the earth, but when they get it it won't be worth much to them. They are wiping out the rain forests, eroding the mountains, washing away the topsoil, exterminating the species and using up irreplaceable energy sources. And in case that doesn't complete the ruination job, they are inventing bigger and better bombs.

Yet things are changing. The ordinary people seem to be rising to save the earth, to unseat the oppressors, to feed the hungry and to turn the tide of violence. And it all seems to have happened in the last decade or so.

Could it be that Jesus' words are meant to be taken literally and that the gentle are beginning to inherit the earth? It is beginning to look as though God is really on the side of the meek.

Yours gratefully,
Tertius

Letters to the Editor

Drive, Mairangi Bay, Auckland 10, New Zealand.

—David Allison
(Secretary, Department of
Christian Union)

In Defence of *The Road Less Travelled*

To the Editor,

In answer to Glenys Stevens ("AC" 18 August): To find a book of value is not to agree with or recommend all its contents.

I read *The Road Less Travelled* several years ago and concluded: If this writer is not a Christian he is very close. In the forward to his next book, M. Scott Peck describes his conversion to Christ as the culmination of a long spiritual search. It is the fruit of this search that makes *The Road Less Travelled* such a beautiful and valuable book.

Peck's books have helped me and others I know in their spiritual and personal journey. To find a copy? Ask at any good bookshop and if they don't have it they will order it for you!

—Paul Potter
(Belconnen, ACT)

Women and Leadership

To the Editor,

The report of the Essendon Bible study group ("AC" 4 August) was both heartening and of concern.

There is a tendency for the modern Christian to rely upon the opinions of others for our beliefs, and it is refreshing to read of a group who have been prepared to make their own investigation.

Unfortunately, the source of their knowledge appears to be less than best. Churches of Christ have always held to the infallibility of scripture, yet the findings of the group appear to have been based upon the speculations of man.

Whilst Metzger seems to have been accepted without question, Paul, and the actual Bible content have been found to be unreliable. Paul is charged with "theological inconsistency", and, apparently 1 Corinthians 14:34, 35 was not in the original!

Few churches study the Bi-

ble; we study books written by man about the Bible. We turn to the Bible for a few selected verses mentioned by the author, often without checking to see whether they are relevant and in context.

Jesus and his Apostles appointed men as leaders, and there is no undeniable, factual evidence whatever that women exercised authority over men in the New Testament church. The title "deaconess" was unknown before the third century.

—Owen Wainwright
(Bass Hill, NSW)

A Minister to Ministers

To the Editor,

Ken Clinton called on the ministers of the Sunraysia, Vic, churches on 15 August in his capacity as Minister to Ministers. His appointment to this position was made as a result of long service to the churches and his considerable skills in human communication.

A recent article by Ken in *The Australian Christian* (7 July) was titled "Stress and Church Growth". It touched upon the departure of ministers from the parish scene because of increasing pressures that ministers experience in the course of their normal activities.

There can be few vocations in which a person feels that they are called, at one and the same time, to be the servant of God and to serve a local church community; feels responsible to and for their own congregation and yet available to any person off the street who may see them as a possible source of help; feels a desire to be "on call" at all hours and yet desires nothing so much as to have needed time to replenish personal resources.

The ministers who met with him, Doug Clark (Mildura), David Ratten (Mildura), Leigh Melberg (chaplain, Mildura Secondary College) and Rex Sharrad (Red Cliffs), greatly valued Ken's willingness to meet with them over lunch and then to share with them individually his care and insight into their needs.

Whilst interviews were held in confidence, one obvious ad-

vantage of the work Ken is doing will be that he will learn at first hand the concerns which our ministers have, concerns for the work, for their own spiritual health and for the welfare of their families. These insights must, in their turn, prove invaluable as they assist churches to understand the kind of mutual support needed to retain active ministry within parish life.

For young ministers in the formative years of their service Ken Clinton's availability and caring ministry must be both welcome and beneficial.

—Rex Sharrad
(Red Cliffs, Vic)

[I have allowed this letter to be longer than 200 words as it is supporting a ministry amongst our churches and too often we do not acknowledge the great work being done by many in our churches—Editor.]

The Road Less Travelled

To the Editor,

It takes a bit of stirring to get me to write to the Editor, I generally only do so when one of my heroes/heroines is maligned. So I am responding to the letter of Glenys Stevens "Tipping the New Age Bucket" on M. Scott Peck and his book, *The Road Less Travelled* ("AC" 18 August).

Peck, an American psychiatrist, wrote this book about rediscovering spiritual values. He was not a Christian when he wrote the book but became one subsequently—I think he converted himself. I would rate *The Road Less Travelled* as one of the most helpful and stimulating books I have read in 20 years. His other books, *The People of the Lie*, *A Different Drum* and *What Return Shall I Make* are also great. Peck of course is not "orthodox", which makes him essential reading! By the way, "New Age" proponents also quote the Bible.

—Jay Bacik
(Northside Community
Church, NSW)

The Road Less Travelled

To the Editor,

I write in response to the letter from Glenys Stevens ("AC"

18 August). I have read *The Road Less Travelled* by Scott Peck and the quotes from pages 281–283 to which Glenys refers. Peck writes (page 281): "To put it plainly, our unconscious is God. God within us. We were part of God all the time. God has been with us all along, is now, and always will be. How can this be?" He then goes on to compare his ideas with the "Christian concept of the Holy Spirit which resides in us all..." Then on page 283 he writes: "I have said that the ultimate goal of spiritual growth is for the individual to become as one with God," and, "It is for the individual to become totally, wholly God." I think this makes more sense and that to quote the second sentence on its own is misleading. Is not this close to the style of John's Gospel?

Peck goes on to say: "We will have become God's agent, his arm, so to speak, and therefore part of Him...our lives themselves will become the agents of God's grace." Indeed this chapter on grace begins with the words of the song "Amazing Grace". I recommend that people read the whole of the book to grasp Peck's style and at least the whole of the section of the book dealing with grace to properly comprehend his understanding of life.

Finally look up Acts 17:28 where Paul says: "Yet God is actually not far from any of us; As someone has said: 'In him we live and move and have our being.'" An example of old age thinking!

—John Somerville
(Scarborough, WA)

Youth Best Target

To the Editor,

Greg Shaw ("AC" 4 August) emphasised the importance of converting adults. Naturally, God's love is for everyone regardless of age, race etc. However, the title "Youth Ministry Trap" is misleading and his claim that the churches' survival is primarily dependent on converting adults is unsupported by current research.

It is generally during adolescence that a sense of identity is developed, values are formed

and direction of life established. It is therefore critical that the church reach out effectively to young people who are more likely to respond in their teenage years than at any other stage during their lives.

Consider the following:

- Youth are significantly under-represented in our churches. ("Compared with their numbers in the national population, the proportion is roughly half that which could be expected."—Tricia Blombery, *Tomorrow's Church Today*, Report from the Combined Churches Survey for Faith and Mission, Christian Research Association, page 53.)

- The trend of declining religiosity in the young is only relatively recent. (Bruce Wilson, *Can God Survive in Australia?* Albatross, page 16.)

- It is most often in the 18–25 age group that people make decisions to take religion more

seriously or else abandon the faith of their childhood. (Tricia Blombery, page 27.)

We need to find ways of effectively bringing people into the Kingdom of God, and the most likely time this will be successful is when people are young. Every church must ask: "What does God want us to do here with young people?" Develop a youth vision!

—Mary Dewberry
(Cheltenham, Vic)

The Road Less Travelled To the Editor,

I was disappointed to read the comments by Glenys Stevens ("AC" 18 August) regarding the review of M. Scott Peck's book *The Road Less Travelled*. Since I discovered his first book several years ago, Scott Peck's writings have become among the most used and borrowed books in my library. As his latest books clearly indicate his travels have led him to a real and practical Christian faith.

I do not agree with every word he writes nor with every conclusion he reaches. His work of course needs to be evaluated with intelligent discernment but I deeply appreciate the insights he shares and have felt privileged and excited as he has allowed me to join him on his journey toward faith.

I have no hesitation in recommending *The Road Less Travelled* and several more recent titles to anyone wanting to better understand the nature of love and grace in particular.

Incidentally, I purchased my copy at a Keswick Book Depot branch store.

—Keith Milne (Boronia, Vic)

World Literature Crusade changes its name Every Home for Christ

A few years ago there was a change of name internationally and now World Literature Crusade in Australia and New Zealand has decided to officially adopt the name Every Home for Christ.

In the past, many people who heard or read the name World Literature Crusade assumed it was "some kind of a publishing company".

The new name will clearly state the vision of personally taking a printed Gospel message to every home in every nation of the world.

World Literature Crusade was founded in October 1946 in Canada. Dr John A. (Jack) McAlister, with his wife Hazel as his only partner, used his small church study as an office. The beginning was modest—a 30-minute weekly missionary radio program called "Tract Club of the Air".

The vision was directly from the heart of God; total obedience to the Great Commission: "Go you into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)

This world vision was, in the following years, articulated and strengthened under the missionary leadership of Dr Oswald J. Smith.

In 1950 the McAlister family moved to central California to establish the WLC ministry in the US. It was a trip to Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and India in 1953 that provided him with an eye-opening experience; the printed page had to be used if we were going to evangelise

the world in our generation.

It was during this trip that the concept and vision of an Every Home Crusade (EHC) was born.

An Every Home Crusade would take a piece of Gospel literature to every home throughout the nation.

From 1946 to 1957 the first full-scale Every Home Crusade was launched in Korea.

1958–1968 was a decade of rapid growth; Every Home Crusades were organised in 27 countries.

1969–1979 was a decade of breakthrough as Every Home Crusades were expanded from 27 to 49 countries; Christian volunteers from 415 different denominations, missionary agencies and national groups were every day reaching homes where one million live.

Since 1980 World Literature Crusade has continued to expand and is currently working in 60 countries.

Today Dr Dick Eastman is the International President. Eric Leach is the Executive Director for Australia and New Zealand.

86,600 pieces of Gospel literature are taken to homes around the world every day and some 938 people make decisions for Christ every day.

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The greatest challenge is ahead with more opportunity for Gospel literature distribution than for 70 years with Eastern Europe being an open door for the Gospel.

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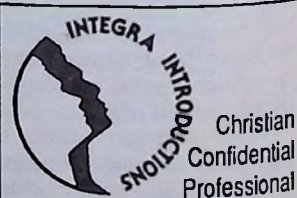
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The Crisis in the Middle East and the Fairfield Church

What Middle East crisis? Listening to the radio or talking with people one senses a desire to ignore the situation. Yet I have a nephew in the Navy on standby. Watching the telly my wife notices the face of a lady she has talked with many times. She is unaccounted for in Kuwait.

All this pales when talking with the members of the church that uses the facilities of Fairfield, NSW, church. Welcomed to use the facilities two years ago, the Evangelical Arabic Church has very close ties to Iraq.

Nearly half the members are Assyrian, from a "Christian" people-group within Iraq numbering a million.

Though many are Christian in name only many others have a genuine faith and love for God.

One evangelical congregation in Baghdad has over 1,200 members. It is their brothers, their uncles, their families on the "other side".

Some of the congregation have family members who have been detained. Others have shared great fear for the safety of others. Still others are being

forced to fight an Islamic cause, forced to pay the price for a Muslim leader's arrogance. It is obvious they are not telling our Western congregation very much because of the fear they have. And, yes, there is even some anger toward "us". Not really toward us as much as an expression of deep frustration, for they know the trials their families were undergoing before all this came up...and now?

Knowing these brothers and sisters in Christ, the Fairfield church has had special times of prayer each Sunday for them, and for peace in the Middle

East. But on 2 September the two congregations united together in a time of prayerful solidarity and love, each praying in their own tongue for peace and the faithful courage of Christian "family" in the Middle East.

To these folk, and therefore to all Christians, the crisis over there is a lot more than just another squeeze on our budget.

We write to encourage you to pray with even greater understanding and earnestness for peace and our Christian family in the Middle East.

—Ted Bjorem

Liberia's Civil War Devastates Christian Work

Liberia's seven-month civil war has devastated Christian work in this West African country, forcing all but a handful of missionaries to evacuate.

Since National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebels launched a violent bid to unseat President Samuel Doe last Christmas Eve, more than 5,000, including a number of Christians, have died.

Although most of those who were killed were from rival tribes, missionaries agree that Christians were not especially targeted because of their faith, but rather because of their ethnic identity.

The NPFL forces, led by former civil servant Charles Taylor, draw much of their support from the Gio and Mano peoples of Nimba County, while President Doe's support comes primarily from the Krahn tribe. Many Gio and Mano tribespeople, who generally support Taylor's rebels, were forced to take refuge in Monrovia after soldiers reportedly attacked their homes and summarily executed hundreds of their family members.

The rebels have in turn sought bloody revenge on Krahn and Mandingos, a group of Muslim traders accused of sympathising with the government.

The bloodiest incident documented thus far took place

on 30 July at St Peter's Lutheran Church in central Monrovia, when government troops burst in and killed anywhere from 200 to 600 men, women and children, many of whom were of the Gio and Mano tribes taking shelter there.

Among the early casualties in this war were two Protestant Bible translators working in Nimba County. Tom Jackson of the US and his British wife, June, were killed during fighting between government and rebel troops on 24 March. Rebel leader Taylor explained later that government forces had put the Jacksons, who had worked in the area for decades, in the middle of a troop convoy as a deterrent to rebels, who subsequently opened fire with automatic weapons.

Missionaries report that since their evacuation, Taylor and other rebels have taken up residence in missionary homes and looted others throughout the country. Some missionary vehicles have also been commandeered by rebels and government troops.

Other casualties in the conflict include two pastors of the Liberian indigenous African Christian Fellowship (ACF), Alex Menlor and Dennis Graye, who were killed in early March. Two of their associates, ACF missionaries Randolph Sieh and Morris Dapay, are still

missing and feared dead.

Recent fighting in Monrovia's eastern districts also saw the partial destruction of rebel-controlled Radio ELWA, which was set up in January 1954 by SIM International. Missionaries with radio contact inside Liberia reported that on 31 July government troops bombarded the mission station where ELWA's studios were located, leaving "considerable damage" and forcing the rebel-held radio off the air.

Jonathan Shea, SIM International's West African director and general manager of SIM in Liberia, said after leaving the country at the end of July that the remaining 10 expatriate staff and some 22,000 Liberians from all ethnic groups evacuated the compound on 25 July.

Rebel leader Taylor had ordered some ELWA staff members to return to ELWA on 27 July to reactivate the transmitter for a special message in which he claimed his forces had effectively overthrown Doe and that he was stepping in to lead a new government he called the National Patriotic Reconstruction Assembly.

Before suspending regular transmissions on 6 July due to rebel advances, Radio ELWA broadcasted evangelical programming in English, French, Arabic and more than 40 African dialects to West Africa.

Mid-Missions Baptists representatives also reported that their mission radio station in the city of Tapeta, Nimba County, has been under rebel control since 23 March.

Missionaries in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, estimate that only a handful of their colleagues are still in Liberia, and that there are none left in the besieged capital.

As of 1 August, however, missionary sources said they did know of a few Baptist missionaries, one Child Evangelism Fellowship worker, and a few scattered independent missionaries still in the country.

Prior to the civil war there were approximately 500 expatriate missionaries working in Liberia. Now there are fewer than 10. Other missions that have evacuated staff members include WEC International, Baptist Mid-Missions, Evangelical Lutherans, Roman Catholics, and New Tribes Mission.

Prior to the civil war there were an estimated 40,000 Catholics and 282,000 Protestants among Liberia's 2.4 million population, some of whom are descendants of North American slaves who returned to Africa in the 19th century.

—Richard Nyberg
(News Network International correspondent)

Happenings

Radio Moscow recently asked the help of HCJB radio in the making of a special program to raise money for disabled children. HCJB is an interdenominational organisation involved in broadcasting, and they prepared a program along the general theme of "what God thinks about children".

A favourable report on the visit of the Christian mission ship *Logos II* to Leningrad has appeared in *Izvestiya*. It noted that the ship, crewed by about 200 Christians of 35 nationalities, aims to unite Christians from different regions of the world and to distribute Christian educational material.

Baptisms, church weddings and church funerals have all increased substantially in the USSR since 1985, according to a report in the weekly *Argumenty i fakty*. Baptisms rose from 16.4% of new-born children to 46.4% (637,081 to 1,639,285). Church weddings increased from 1.4% to 3.8% of all marriages while religious funerals were held for 13% of those who died in 1989 as opposed to 9.6% in 1985.

It was announced in Poland on 4 August that a joint commission of the government and the Roman Catholic Church has reached agreement on the reintroduction of religious instruction in Poland's schools. Parents who object can withdraw their children from the twice-weekly lessons and the children will attend alternative classes in ethics.

According to an official Chinese report a political indoctrination campaign led by 32 senior Chinese officials has been carried out in 282 Buddhist monasteries and temples in the Tibetan city of Xigaze. In many monasteries the entire leadership has been replaced with "experienced monks who respect the laws, the leading role of the Communist Party and the socialist system".

A French archaeology team reports finding remains of an early church on the Kuwaiti island of Failaka. The building was abandoned in the 7th Century, apparently in connection with the advance of Islam. Also reported are church remains in parts of what is now Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

The Federal Government has an opportunity to counter public cynicism about political promises by maintaining its overseas aid budget, World Vision Australia executive director, Philip Hunt, said recently. He said aid agencies could only confidently attest to fulfilled promises if the government maintained current spending in real terms. He strongly endorsed a submission by the Australian Council for Overseas Aid to the Expenditure Review Committee on maintaining the 1990-91 aid budget allocation.

Education that changed attitudes and practices was the only real weapon against the looming AIDS pandemic, a World Vision health expert has warned. Dr Chandler said the slogan that should be emphasised was "responsible sexual behaviour" not just "safe sexual behaviour". Dr Chandler said the changes in attitude had to occur in Western countries as much as in Third World countries.

An Israeli solidarity movement, Clergy for Peace, is seeking to bring peace to the war-torn region by uniting Arabs and Jews of all faiths. It is a grass-roots campaign aimed to end all suffering in the Israeli-occupied territories and push for a Palestinian homeland. The movement has attracted more than 150 Jewish, Islamic, Christian and Druse clerics from all over Israel. They have organised meetings of Arab and Jewish youths and begun preaching peace to one another's congregations.

A Russian scientist who recently renounced athe-

ism has been appointed Adjunct Professor of Biology of the Institute for Creation Research Graduate School in California. He will be based in Moscow and is an active Christian in the Soviet Union. Dr Kuznetsov's laboratory in Moscow researches genetics and toxicology as well as specific projects related to creation science.

The US Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ have agreed to take steps in combining their world mission efforts. As early as 1993 the two churches may share all the personnel and programs they sponsor in partnership with churches overseas, including medical, educational, agricultural, disaster relief and church work.

The Australian Christian Literature Society recently announced its 10th annual book awards. The 1990 Australian Christian Book of the year was *Certain Lives* by Margaret Reeson (Albatross Books). The Children's Award went to *Waddayaknow!* edited by Denise Lake (Christian Education Publications). *Fringes of Freedom* by Athol Gill (Anzea Publications) won the Design Award for the cover by David Wong. Highly commended certificates were awarded to *Apocalypse Now and Then* by Paul Barnett (Anglican Information Office), *Beyond the Trees* by Aub Podlich (Lutheran Publishing House), *Women of Spirit* by Janet Nelson and Linda Walter (St Mark's), *The Cloud* by Austin Cooper (St Paul's Publications), *Fringes of Freedom* by Athol Gill and *Magpie Boy* by Beth Roberts (JBCE).

National Children's Week is being held this year 20-28 October. In each state a church service is being held in the capital city to open the week.

Two awards have been made in the F.X. Roberts

Poetry Award. The award was for poetry to be used at farewells and funerals. Joan Oastler's "Kaleidoscope" and Kathryn Ann Morton's "Joining Together" were both awarded merit prizes. Copies of these poems can be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Poetry Award, GPO Box 2171, Sydney 2001.

Leaders of evangelical ministry organisations in Queensland have been invited by the Evangelical Alliance of Queensland to a consultation to confer on their ministry goals and strategies in the final decade of the century. Called Consultation 2000, the gathering will be held at the Bible College of Queensland 1-6 pm on 20 October. A feature will be a number of workshops arranged in association with the Christian Management Association. These will enable leaders to be updated on the latest trends in goal and strategy setting, developing and managing human resources and the impact of legal requirements on Christian organisations. Those interested in participating should contact EAQ on (07) 350 2939 or write to PO Box 104, Carina 4152.

Christians in Sport hold regular dinners in Melbourne. Those attending include professional sports people and those who minister to sports people. Noel Mitaxa on (052) 44 2464 will give details of the evenings. The next dinner is being held on 20 September at WYAM, 18 Islington St, Collingwood, with Dr Mark Tronson, the founder of sports ministry in Australia, speaking. Cost is \$12 or \$20 a double.

After a warmly received visit by OM workers to Vietnam and China a few months ago, plans are now being made for MV *Doulos* to visit Vietnam towards the end of 1990 and China in mid-1991.

The Commonwealth Government has provided \$1 million to help pay for television and radio coverage for the 7th Assembly of the World Council of Churches to be held in Canberra, February 1991. The money will cover part of the cost of establishing a host broadcaster arrangement for the event.

The first affiliate of Habitat for Humanity in Victoria has been established in Kyneton. Also a block of land has been offered for a house in Crib Point and so a group is to be established in the Hastings Shire. People interested should contact Graeme Addicott on (03) 725 7793.

A group of South African Muslims assaulted an American evangelist after he contested the authenticity of the Koran, Islam's holy book, during a meeting in the Inter-racial Cape Town suburb of Wittebone. Anis Shorosh was attacked while preaching and beaten. In fighting that followed a man was stabbed while trying to protect the evangelist.

Christians in Soviet Central Asia say they are concerned about the massive influx of copies of the Koran, which is expected to saturate 5 of the 6 Muslim-dominated republics by the end of 1990. Supplies of Bibles and New Testaments are dwindling.

A major program of Christian outreach and Scripture distribution is being planned to coincide with the World Rowing Championships at Lake Barrington in northern Tasmania, 27 October-4 November. The championships will attract 1,200 competitors from 39 nations and an estimated 20,000 spectators daily. Youth With A Mission is working with the Bible Society, other groups and a range of local churches to stage a program of Christian entertainment, Scripture distribution, rallies and other events.

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Papers

Studio

A Journal of Christians Writing No 39

This quarterly issue maintains the usual high standard of poetry, short stories and book reviews. Of particular interest is a group of poems and prose by young writers, one as young as 11. The Christian interpretation of life is subtle and thoughtful and the topics range widely, from Bantu murders to a two-year-old's dominance of the household, from rainforest to old age, from the turmoil of Ireland to the bishop's cleaning lady. Those who want to be stimulated by what they read and to hear Christian voices crying in a secular wilderness will enjoy the writing in *Studio* and may be inspired to contribute themselves.

A subscription to *Studio* costs \$22 for four issues and can be obtained by writing to *Studio*, 727 Peel St, Albury 2640.

—B.M. White

Books

What Makes Aussie Kids Tick

by Jill and Roger Dyer (self published) \$10.95

This book is part of the continuing study of the missionary family, especially the needs of missionary kids. There have been three international conferences—one in Manila in 1984, one in Quito, Ecuador, in 1987 and the latest in Nairobi in November 1989.

Roger and Jill Dyer have written this book out of their experience and involvement in these conferences. The first value of the book of course is that it is Australian and written for Australian readers about Australian kids and missionary families who have gone overseas from Australia. The book is written by caring and experienced people themselves. Both Roger and Jill are teachers from Adelaide and they worked at Faith Academy in Manila as teachers for three years. Having three children of their own in another culture, many of their observations are based on experience.

Initial chapters are centred on preparation needed before a family leaves Australia. The experiences of culture shock as a family moves into a new situation, including of course all the educational options that are available, makes the centre part of the book. The conclusion is relevant to missionaries returning to Australia and how they fit into society here.

Above all, this book is very practical, down to earth and easy to read. An excellent gift that could be given to any family who are about to go overseas or have returned from overseas (not exclusively missionary families).

Copies of the book, at \$10.95, are available from the publishers, Jill and Roger Dyer, PO Box 205, Kingswood 5062, or through missionary societies.

—Barry Jenkins

Conversion—Initiation and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

An Engaging Critique of James D.G. Dunn's Baptism in the Holy Spirit

by Howard M. Erwin (Peabody) \$13

Although this is not a new book in that it was published in 1984, it is a book that deserves to be more widely read by those seeking clarification on the vexing theological debate on the nature and purpose of the so-called "baptism in the Holy Spirit".

The methodology of the book itself is aptly described in the subtitle: Erwin engages in forbidding theological/critical dialogue with Dunn's seminal and highly regarded work on this subject. Erwin is a Pentecostal and if anyone thinks that Pentecostals do

not have good scholars they will have to seriously rethink that view after reading this excellently written book. On a points-for-points rating for scholarship (if there is such a thing) Erwin at least equals if not surpasses the formidable scholarship of James Dunn on this subject, and that is no mean feat. His arguments are lucid, well-informed theologically, and penetrate to the presuppositional/theological roots of Dunn's initiation-conversion theology. Whether or not one ultimately agrees with Erwin, and I find his argument disturbingly compelling, this book deserves a hearing.

A must read for those seeking illumination on this essential doctrine/experience, although people without theological training will find it somewhat technical—both theologically and linguistically—but not impossible to understand.

The book is probably available at most retail outlets, but definitely at Koorong and The Open Door in Melbourne, Vic.

—Alan Hirsch



Certain Lives

by Margaret Reeson (Albatross Books)

This book is family history written as a novel. It tells the story of Anna Rootes when she first arrives in Australia in 1837 on a convict ship and how her descendants proceed to settle and become Australians. The women of the family in succeeding generations show their strength and faith through good times and bad. They were pioneer members of the Methodist Church in Matavai. This is a pleasant book recommended for those with an interest in Australian history and family loyalty.

The story highlights how hard the pioneering women of Australia had to work and how it was the women who held the family together in the very tough times.

Certain Lives was awarded the Australian Christian Literature Society's 1990 Australian Christian Book of the Year.

—Mary Ambrose



Manse Redevelopment Project

When the Benthleigh, Caulfield and Malvern, Vic, congregations came together to form the South Eastern Suburban Regional Church of Christ, each congregation had a part-time or student minister living in the manse and serving the church. The formation of the regional church and the calling of Ian Adams as the first full-time minister with Kevin and Rhonda Luttrell as joint student ministers meant that only two manses were required to house the ministry team. The Malvern manse was let and the rent collected helped to support the costs of ministry.

The Regional Board became concerned that none of the manses provided the sort of accommodation that the church wanted to provide for its minister and that to varying degrees the manses were all showing signs of age and lack of maintenance brought on by a shortage of funds. There seemed little likelihood that sufficient funds would become available to make good the neglect of past years, let alone make the desired improvements.

After discussions with Alan Emmett of the Properties Corporation and architect Lawrie Grant of the firm of K.A. Reed (Group) Pty Ltd, a proposal was developed to sell the Malvern manse and use the proceeds of the sale to renovate and extend



Left to right: Lawrie Grant of the architectural firm of K.A. Reed (Group) Pty Ltd, Ian McDonald, the builder, and Duncan Crockett, chairman of the board, at the signing of the building contract

the Caulfield manse as the full-time minister's residence and develop the Benthleigh manse property as a pair of dual-occupancy units using the existing manse as the basis of one of the units. These units would then be available to house a student minister or for rent to generate funds to maintain all three buildings and support the ministry of the region.

The three congregations agreed to the redevelopment proposal, to joint ownership of the resulting properties and to hand over the management of the manse properties to the Regional Board.

Youth Summit

Some 23 youth leaders gathered recently on the East Coast of Tasmania at Bicheno for a significant time of planning for youth ministry amongst our Tasmanian churches.

The two days were spent reviewing both the work of our churches in youth work and in setting new directions under a five-year plan for the future. Participants had the opportunity to discuss issues affecting young people and their churches and look at positive ways of programming to meet youth needs.

The highlights for the summit included the sharing times, the opportunities for worship and the Bible studies led by Rod Foster, the minister at Launceston. Each church was actively involved in helping to plan new initiatives, which included a proposal to conduct a second statewide youth camp over the March long weekend in 1991.

The summit also endorsed the key objectives behind Youth Vision in helping individual churches to plan for effective long-term youth ministry. Churches throughout the state will be sent a report on the summit.

—Andrew Ball
(Director—Youth Vision)

On 27 July contract documents were signed for the building works at a cost of \$166,425. Signatories were Ian McDonald of I. & L.A. McDonald, the builder, and Duncan Crockett from the Malvern congregation. Ian and his wife Anne are members of the Ormond church and former members of Benthleigh, where Ian and Duncan shared in Sunday school, youth group and tennis club activities more than 25 years ago.

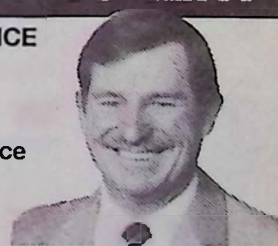
Building activity is expected to start during the first week of September.

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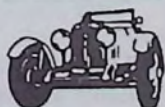


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CCES in Victoria Plans Ahead in Centenary Year

As the Council for Christian Education in Schools in Victoria celebrates its Centenary Year, its council members and staff have spent some time considering the achievements of the last century.

They have spent more time in planning for the future because they believe the best way to celebrate the centenary is to take positive steps to expand the council's work.

"At present the CCES supports 4,200 accredited volunteers to teach Christian religious education to 162,000 primary school children every week," said Rev. Peter Whitaker, the council's director.

"The council's 35 chaplains carry out a unique pastoral and teaching ministry in 36 postprimary schools across Victoria.

"Nevertheless, there are still tens of thousands of students in the state with whom we have

no contact. Many if not most of them receive little or no religious education. So there's still a huge task ahead.

"The present state of the work is strategically significant in itself, representing the single most important ecumenical work of the Victorian churches.

"That's why we decided that in our centenary year we would set some long-term goals to expand the work qualitatively and quantitatively, and embark upon a major fundraising campaign to achieve these goals."

The CCES Centenary Appeal has five important goals, which will be implemented over the next five years. These are—

- to establish five new chaplaincies in the northern and western suburbs of Melbourne, in areas where most students have virtually no church contacts;

- to establish at least three new chaplaincies elsewhere in

the state;

- to appoint more regional officers, who will recruit and train additional volunteer teachers and work to raise the awareness of CCES in the churches;

- to appoint a training officer, to help the regional officers with their teacher training program;

- to continue the employment of the CCES Beliefs and Values Officer, who is currently seconded from the Ministry of Education, and to appoint a second officer part time. These staff members have a great opportunity to help schools to develop beliefs and values units as part of their normal curriculum.

Appeal funds will also be used to develop additional curriculum material, particu-

larly for postprimary use in the areas of values, multi-faith issues and the uniqueness of Christ.

To date, a training officer and four additional regional officers have been appointed, providing a better support service to the volunteer CRE teachers and developing new work.

The CCES is an extension of the church in Victoria and support for the council's work is important as it continues to address the spiritual and pastoral needs of young people in schools in the name of the church.

Further information can be obtained from the Council for Christian Education in Schools, 4th Floor, 130 Little Collins Street, Melbourne 3000.

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Oakleigh Church Anniversary

21 October
(Please note change from
first Sunday to third Sunday)

Sessions:
10.30 am
Guest preacher Mr Tom
Slater (State Director,
Scripture Union)
Lunch (after morning
service)
Afternoon session (following
lunch)
Guest speaker Mr Tom
Slater
Musical and vocal items
(03) 579 1603

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SUNDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER
10 AM

GUEST PREACHER: MR CHEK CHIA
MUSIC BY THE CAPPELLA CHOIR

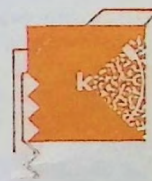
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Youth Vision Camping

Youth One Camp
24-28 September Halls Gap
For young people in Years 7 and 8
Camp Directors: Phil and Nina
McCreddin
Study Leader: David Brooker

Youth Two Camp
30 September-5 October Halls Gap
For young people in Years 9 and 10
Camp Director: Alison Nankivell
Study Leader: Mike Esbensen

Cummeragunja Adventure
21-26 September Barmah Forest
For young people in
Years 9, 10 and 11
Camp Directors: D. Fitzpatrick
and G. Buxton

Happening Weekend
19-21 October Belgrave Heights
For young people aged 12-18
Camp Director: Alison Pitt

Kidsmin Camps

Boys Initiative Camp
30 September-4 October Monbulk
For children in Grades 4, 5 and 6
Camp Director: Phill Williams

Family Holidays

Banksia Family Holiday No. 1
3-10 January 1991 Banksia Peninsula
Camp Directors: Mike and Ruth Folland
Russell and Karen Croxford

Banksia Family Holiday No. 2
12-19 January 1991 Banksia Peninsula
Camp Directors: Neil and Jan Galbraith
Ron and Dot Brooker

Banksia Family Holiday No. 3
21-28 January 1991 Banksia Peninsula
Camp Directors:
Bruce and Chris McKenzie
Malcolm and Jill Gray

Halls Gap Family Holiday
2-8 January 1991 Halls Gap
Camp Directors:
Glen and Margaret Wegner
Grant and Sue Shaw

Adventure Camps

Great Southwest Adventure
5-11 January Bike Ride
12-19 January Bushwalk
Directors: G. Smith and M. Lawn

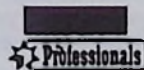


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Dean Sander

Mongolian New Testament Makes History

History was made in the tiny nation of Mongolia last month when Mongolian became possibly the last official national language in the world to receive the New Testament.

Landlocked by its massive neighbours, China and the Soviet Union, Mongolia has a population of only 2.2 million, people who have lived under the yoke of atheism for 70 years. Yet already the United Bible Societies have received a request from Mongolia for 500 Bibles in Mongolian and 500 in Russian.

The first copies of the complete New Testament in the national language of the Mongolian People's Republic were delivered to the warehouse of the Hong Kong Bible Society on 2 August—the first stage of their long journey to Mongolia. The print run of this New Testament is 5,000 copies.

Translations of the New Testament have been produced in related languages, but these editions are not understood by the majority of people in Mongolia, 94% of whom speak Mongolian. The language is not related to Russian or Chinese.

John Gibbens worked on the New Testament with his Mongolian wife, Altaa. There is no known Christian church in Mongolia and Christians are said to number fewer than a dozen. A few thousand Mongolians study and work outside the country, mainly in Central and Eastern Europe, and a further 3.5 million live in China.

A UBS request in 1989 to import the New Testaments met with the government's refusal, but in recent months the entire Politburo has been replaced and the first free elections in 70 years took place.

Before 1921, when Mongolia became the first socialist republic after the USSR to adopt atheism as part of the official Marxist-Leninist ideology, the population had been deeply committed to Buddhism. In fact 60% of adult men were monks

at that time.

"The struggle to complete this translation was enormous," says John Gibbens. "It was an impossible project in every way, but God has been the key. He brought it through, though at times no one would have believed it. One's mind goes back over the heartbreaks and joys, the impossibilities and miracles."

Mr Gibbens credited various people and organisations for their assistance. Wycliffe Bible Translators provided extensive consultancy on the quality of the translation, and typeset the text. In 1979, Open Doors printed an edition of half of the New Testament that had been completed up to that time. The UBS has given consultant help to the project since it began in 1972, has assisted in the translation and financed the typesetting.

John Gibbens met his wife in 1978 during his second visit to the Mongolian People's Republic, where he was studying Mongolian history and language. She wanted to learn English and he needed someone to check his translation work. Altaa was studying thermal engineering at the university in the capital, Ulan Bator, but her first love was languages.

Having been raised in a Communist state where atheism was the official teaching, she had no interest in religion, but read a Russian Bible, provided by John, because of her interest in languages.

It was when she was reviewing her future husband's translation of Paul's letters that she began to question why such writings should be prohibited. To her, the letters seemed full of good advice.

In 1980, the authorities alleged that John's visa had expired and asked him to leave the country. It was seven years before he was allowed back into Mongolia to marry Altaa and take her to England.

During the long wait John continued to work on the

First Wedding at College



On 30 June the first wedding at the new Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave, was held in the lecture theatre/chapel. Paulene Brulnewoud of Melbourne and Darren Kittel of Whyalla, SA, both students at college, were married by Graham Agnew, minister at the Marion, SA, church

translation of the New Testament in consultation with speakers of Mongolian, but he freely admits it was his wife who "turned it from a missionary's translation into one that will be clearly understood by mother-tongue speakers".

The UBS published the book of Job in Mongolian last month. The National Bible Society of Scotland has donated US\$15,000 for work to continue on the Old Testament, and the Bible Society in Australia

shares this longing to see the complete Bible available in that remote part of the world.

Recent pressure for religious freedom is leading to a resurgence of interest in Buddhism, and Australians are encouraged to help make the Christian gospel freely available to this nation now ready to be reached for Christ.

Gifts should be marked "Urgent—Mongolian Bible" and sent to the Bible Society in Australia Inc, PO Box 460, Ingleburn 2565.

Triumphant Sacrifice

The Sisyphean circuit,
Broken by a nail
And another rolling stone.

—Garry Harris

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Official Opening Launches Community Activities

21 July saw the official opening of the **Lower Blue Mountains, NSW**, church building complex and also marked the commencement of a variety of outreach and community activities. The official opening of the new building, in Blaxland, was attended by more than 230, as civic leaders, local residents, church members and visitors from sister churches, from both New South Wales and interstate, gathered.

During the program the secretary, **Keith Davies**, outlined the short history of the Lower Blue Mountains church, reminding those present of the small but enthusiastic group of Christians who first met in a private home, in Mt Riverview, in the mid-1970s. Since that time the church has met in a variety of venues including, for the last 10 years, the hall at a local primary school. This was, therefore, a very significant event for the church members as it marked the completion of the church's first permanent "home".

The program also featured musical items from **Beth Chant**, the unveiling of a thanksgiving plaque by representatives of the foundation members, and a challenging and inspirational address from the NSW Conference President, **Dr Keith Farmer**. Dr Farmer's address centred on the theme of Psalm 127. Enthusiastic congregational singing also helped to make the occasion a memorable one for all who attended.

To celebrate, and as a way of

getting to know their new "neighbours", the church has been conducting a program of outreach activities over the last few weeks. In the week immediately following the opening a special after-school children's mission was conducted with the assistance of **Owen Shelley from Scripture Union**, and this proved to be very popular. Soon after moving into the building the members invited their new neighbours to a "house warming" barbecue, which was held in the church grounds. This informal gathering provided an excellent point of contact with many people.

Other special events that have been held since include a ladies' coffee morning, a youth band night and a family outreach night. In addition, all houses in the area surrounding the building have been given a special leaflet introducing the church and providing details of church activities.

As the members look back over the last two years of planning and construction, they continually give thanks and praise to God for his guidance and provision.



Visitors inspecting the building following the opening

60th Anniversary of World Convention

October 1990 will be the 60th anniversary of the **World Convention of Christian Churches/Churches of Christ**. It will be a time not only of celebration but of challenge and commitment.

Little did **Dr Jesse M. Bader** realise when the Convention first met at dawn on the steps of the **National City Christian Church** in Washington, DC, that it would have such a worldwide impact. Little did he realise that evangelism would have such great emphasis in our midst as a result of the World Convention. Little did he realise that 60 years and 13 conventions later, the Convention would continue to impart Christian fellowship in some 60 countries.

October 1990 is **World Convention Month**. It is hoped that local churches will want to recognise and observe this global fellowship. World Communion Sunday would be a good time to do this as this occasion was basically started by **Dr Jesse Bader**, our longtime general secretary. **Richard Ziglar**, current program chair-

man for the 1992 **Long Beach World Convention**, has created a litany that could be used on this Sunday. A copy could be obtained from the office of *The Australian Christian* (phone (03) 379 1219).

Churches might assist the World Convention by sharing a \$60 gift with the Convention or with the Permanent Endowment Fund of Convention. It is hoped to raise \$60,000 at this time. Donations could be forwarded via the **Australian Committee for World Convention Secretary, Ron Brooker**, St Helier Rd, The Gurdies 3984. Phone (059) 97 6227.

Dr Harold R. Watkins, World Convention President and President of the Board of Church Extension of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ), sends special greetings to each church with the hope that they will want to share in this anniversary time in some tangible way.

—**Allan W. Lee**
(General Secretary, World Convention of Churches of Christ)



Foundation members **Hazel Tolhurst, Marlene Deadman** and **John Deadman** unveil the plaque

Classifieds

BIRTHS

JOHNSON (KRUGER) Graeme and Sandra thank God for his precious gift, a daughter, Laura Emily, born on 16 July 1990 at the Flinders Medical Centre, SA.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

FINGER-EDWARDS Fred and Thelma of Mt Martha with their children Grenville, Darrel and Cheryl praise God with gratitude for the 50th anniversary of their marriage at the Church of Christ, Thornbury, August 1940 by H. Edwards, father of Thelma, then minister of Church of Christ Brim. FOOT Mollie and Geoff were married on 18 September 1940 at Launceston Church of Christ by the late W.S. (Stan) Lowe. Congratulations, love and best wishes from all the family. You are an inspiration to us all. We thank God for your 50 years together!

DEATHS

BARNETT Ercil Lorraine passed away peacefully at home on 28 August. Dearly beloved wife of Roy. Loving mother of Yvonne, Elwyn, Margaret, Lorraine, and David. Dear mother-in-law of Frank, Graeme, Jeff, Ian and Sue. Loved grandma of Greg, Kate, Rodd, Craig, Michelle, Leanne, Kerri, Cheryl, Darrin, Scott, Karen, Stacey, Kathryn and Belinda. Loved and remembered always. In God's care.

COLE Henry Edward (Uncle Harry). Dearly loved brother of Louisa, brother-in-law of Allan Clark and loved Uncle of the family. 5 August, aged 90 years in Queensland. He lived for others. "The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell."

DICKSON, Henry William—Passed away peacefully at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, Saturday, 25 August, aged 90. Much loved and devoted husband of Ivy. Dear Dad to Ray and Joyce and Fred and Alison. A very special grandad to seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. A gentle man at rest.

HUNTSMAN, Benjamin Francis, on 2 September, at Chelsea Hospital. Husband of Marjorie (dec.), father of Frances and Ben (dec.), father-in-law of Elaine, grandfather of Debbie, Chris and Sue, Lisa, Ben, Nicole and Steven, and Dean.

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- Hear guest speaker PETER HILARY, recently returned from a successful conquest of Mt Everest.
- Remember trials, experiences and old friends.
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14 SEPTEMBER 1990. 7.15 pm—CHAUCER'S Restaurant—COST \$38 per person.

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Andrew Ball, Department of Mission, Education and Development, 52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne 3000
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Thanksgiving Service v. Funeral

by Allan Anderson

The chapel was full. There was almost a feeling of excitement. Voices were raised in triumphant song. The widow and children were carried along in the thanksgiving. "Have faith!" "Death has no sting! Shall never die! Never die! Never die!" The words echoed through the rafters of the church but the widow and children went home to a house that would never again hear the voice of the one they loved.

Four weeks later, when others had coped with the loss and returned to their living, the widow and the children felt the cold sting of death and struggled to hold their faith.

"It was a good idea," so the friends had said. "A private cremation with a public thanksgiving service to follow." The body could be laid to rest and then the hope of the resurrection could be celebrated. It would take the pressure off the family. After all it was difficult enough to cope without the added pressure of all those people.

"A good idea," they said! "It saves the trauma of seeing the coffin and remembering it in the church."

This scenario appears to be increasing in popularity. There is a growing tendency for the coffin not to be present in the church. It is a pity that, when at last society is starting to face the reality of death and grief, some Christians seem to be trying to deny its painful presence.

The funeral is a time when those who grieve are faced with the reality of the loss. It is a time when, in drama, ritual, ceremony—call it what you will—we act out and acknowledge the reality that someone has died. It is a time that helps all those who grieve (not just the family) to move from denial to sad reality.

The funeral is not a private affair; it is a social event. It is a public acknowledgement that, because this person has died, our society is now changed. It is a rite of passage.

Christians, along with all others, need to state openly that a life lived is now ended. The acceptance of this truth is helped by the presence of the body, visibly represented by the coffin or casket. Sometimes it is easier for us to celebrate our hope of eternal life without the presence of the body proclaiming the truth of our mortality. We can almost forget that the "going" of this person has produced a "coming" of grief.

Christians sorrow! They do not sorrow as those without hope—but they do sorrow.

Recently a widow, who arranged a private burial followed by a public thanksgiving service, said to me, "I have only just realised it but I was really trying to protect my adult children and myself from publicly displaying grief."

Christians can be triumphant and at the same time express grief. Too many grieving people drift from the church because after the funeral is over and the people have gone back

to life they are left alone in their grief. They do not know how to express the grief they feel and yet meet the expectations of victorious living placed on them by other believers.

The church of today again needs the faith of the early church who, living in the same triumphant historical moment of the resurrection, "buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him" (Acts 8:2).

• Allan Anderson is the manager of the Training and Education Division of the Tobin Brothers group of Funeral Companies. After serving in the pastoral ministry of Churches of Christ for over 20 years he is now involved in bereavement counselling and education. Each year Allan conducts programs for over 6,000 people throughout Australia.

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

Juan Speaks with His Fingers



Juan Carlos demonstrates the letter x

Juan Carlos, a student at the Haitian Christian Deaf Centre, is one of the few deaf children who is able to attend school and learn to speak with his fingers.

Supported by the Christian

Blind Mission Juan's school also teaches deaf children handicraft skills.

Deafness prevents many children in poor countries from being given the opportunity to receive an education.

World Vision Helps Romanian Orphans

A recently approved World Vision project aims to help thousands of abandoned children in Romania to lead normal lives.

Through its ROSES (Romanian Orphans Social Educational Services) project, a team of medical specialists will teach Romanian staff how to access the developmental needs of the neglected children and design projects to help them to talk, walk, play, learn and smile like other children.

No-one knows how many abandoned children live in hospitals and other orphanages in Romania.

Estimates start at 40,000 and have been as high as 400,000.

Dr Barbara Bascom, an American pediatrician with training in child development, believes that 85% of children in

orphanages can live normal lives.

Many of the orphaned children withdraw from human contact because they have been deprived of love and touch. Dr Bascom hopes to see a ratio of one adult for every five pre-school-age children as a result of the ROSES project.

There are 78 orphanages officially registered by the Romanian government and most major hospitals also have a ward where abandoned babies and children are housed.

Under the government of Nicolae Ceausescu, who was overthrown last December, most methods of birth control were outlawed, causing a fertility rate that most families could not cope with.

When Chaplains Retire

by Alan Fletcher

The super sales people would have us believe that everyone, including service chaplains, walks off into the sunset of retirement well heeled and comfortably prepared for the future.

Many church members, it seems, also believe that chaplains (defence and others) automatically spend a relaxed retirement golfing, gardening and occasionally filling the pulpit of their lesser blessed colleagues. Such ideas are the figment of some vivid and misinformed imagination. Not all chaplains have either equal opportunity or equal support in preparing for their retirement from ministry. The majority of chaplains, in fact, will face a significant midlife crisis with often minimal support and assistance from their employers.

A few ministers do enter service chaplaincy as relatively young people. They have completed their theological studies, followed by a period of parish ministry. They have been nominated by their denomination's chaplaincy committee. They have then been considered and found suitable by the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services, and after careful scrutiny been offered a commission in the Australian Defence Forces. From the outset each chaplain has been required to contribute to the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefit Fund (DFRDB).

After 20 years, like all other officers, our chaplain can then retire on a pension related to his rank/salary level. These people are reasonably secure and measure their future by "how comfortable" will be their lifestyle. They are still young, with time and opportunity to move into new and challenging fields.

Others, however, are nowhere near as fortunate. The chaplaincy requirements of formal theological training, parish experience and availability mean that far more often ministers are called into chaplaincy later in

life. If they can complete 15 years of eligible service by retirement age (55) they too are eligible for a pension, although significantly smaller. For these the future is very uncertain. Chaplaincy for them is not the end of the employment saga, it is merely another chapter, and any financial security can only be found in further employment, be it parish ministry or other. This uncertainty about the future is spelled out by "how uncomfortable" will be their lifestyle.

Again comparisons are affected by the differences between church organisational structures. Some on discharge can anticipate placement by a central church governing body. They have a guarantee that there will be something to go to after chaplaincy. No matter how small or large the church may be, there will be a subsidised stipend adequate for ongoing needs. There may be some apprehensions and misgivings, but no doubt in mind that the church cares for and about its "good and faithful servants".

At the other end of the spectrum are those chaplains representing congregational-style church organisations, who are often faced with the question from uninformed church members, "When are you coming back into ministry?" They are faced with absolute disbelief when responding, "I've never been out of ministry." All too often these people have become the forgotten ministry. Their experience, skills and perceptions are seen by the church as inappropriate to modern church life and need. Many church appointment boards are unwilling to risk calling unknown old-timers, whose lifestyle, convictions and theology have been contaminated by the worldly environment in which they have faithfully served for so long. So much for the support due to those who took seriously our Lord's command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel." Others of course find

themselves somewhere between these two extremes of attitude.

The midlife crisis that many chaplains face on retirement begins with the fact that, at 55, their "get-up-and-go" has largely "got-up-and-gone". Muscle has changed form and substance and doesn't look anything like it did 20 years earlier. Hair and eyesight are both losing the battle. Society today places little value on second-hand merchandise. This crisis is compounded by the fact that these people have run out of time to re-run their failures. It is now or never. Retired chaplains must succeed at his new venture or end their working lives with serious doubts about the overall value of their life and ministry.

Another complication arises in moving from a secure and ordered service environment to a free and unsecured secular situation. In the Defence Forces every person is told, "We will care for you, that is your right." In the church a minister is told, "You will care for us, that is our right." Again in moving from chaplaincy to church a person's motivation subtly changes. In the Defence Forces a job well done is an end in itself. The chaplain is part of a large and complex piece of "machinery". The ministry helps keep the organisation functioning efficiently, motivated to sustain and be sustained by the whole team's morale. In church ministries however, the older person is often essentially alone. By congregational expectation the minister can only perceive the job as a means to an end. Ministry must pay for itself. If it is successful it is self-generating. As pews are filled offerings increase and self-sufficiency will follow. The church will take comfort in its projected image of success, and their minister and the ministry will be to the glory of God. If however their minister and ministry are not successful the whole situation becomes self-destructing: empty pews mean empty purse and

empty manse. Another dimension of many chaplains midlife crisis relates to their changing relationship with themselves as individuals. Some chaplains over the years will have become more relaxed and comfortable with their weaknesses. They have invariably learnt to accept themselves as they are and have little difficulty accepting others as they are. Others however will be painfully aware that regardless of their faith and trust in Christ as the motivating and directing power in their lives, they are not getting any more capable and capable, confident and at ease. In fact they seem to be experiencing more discomfort and dis-ease both with themselves and with those to whom they minister. Their certainty of convictions is not lessened by time and experiences, but their certainty of inevitable success is.

Yet another aspect of this midlife crisis is to be found in the differences between chapel and church attitudes towards the life of faith. Some chaplains retire somewhat uncertain as to whether the mental images they still have of the church as the Body of Christ after many years in the Defence Forces are still relevant to the world outside. They feel very much like a blind person revisiting a china shop. Somebody has moved the merchandise and nobody notices the blind person's hesitation and uncertainty. The dilemma is whether to ask for help and draw attention to the blindness, or to risk moving through the shop and cause unnecessary damage.

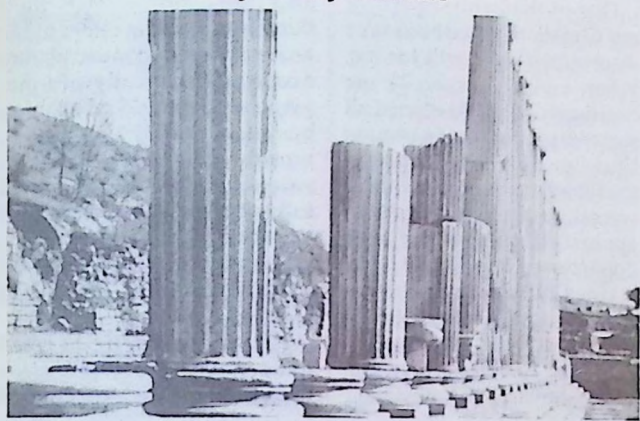
Someone wisely asked, "Who ministers to the minister?" Some effort has been made to address this within church structures. The churches would do well however to re-address the question: "Who ministers to the retiring chaplains?"

Let the churches with ears hear.

• Alan Fletcher is an RAAF chaplain at Richmond, NSW.

In the Footsteps of Christianity

by Nancy Souness



Ruins at Ephesus

My husband and I have just returned from a trip into Turkey. We were delighted to find that we had quite a number of fellow Christians travelling with us. Among them were two other couples, together with a single lady, who were members of our churches in the USA. We were thrilled to be able to go to so many places where Paul and John had travelled and preached so long ago.

My mind goes back to the day we visited Ephesus. So much of the old city has been excavated and stands in good condition, but the highlight to us Churches of Christ people was the Church of St John, containing the tomb of John, with the original baptistry built into the marble floor of the church. Its design was that of a cross; the one to be baptised stood in the body of the cross, the one officiating stood in either of the arms. It would be very economical on heated water and space. It's surprising to me that the design has not been utilised by modern churches, for it looked very efficient and attractive.

During the days prior to our visit to Ephesus the single lady, named Cheryl, and I had some very meaningful discussions on baptism. (She was an associate member of our church in Washington and had previously been christened in the Presbyterian

Church there.) She reacted very sincerely when we came to the baptistry, "Nancy! If this water was not so filthy (it was green with algae) I would have you baptise me right here and now." It was very hot and our clothes would have dried quite quickly but she was determined to be baptised as soon as she returned to Washington.

There is so much for Christians to get excited about in Turkey that I would recommend that church travel groups look into visiting this part of Asia Minor frequented by Paul.

Another wonderful experience we had was at Cappadocia, a province of Turkey, previously known as Asia Minor, which is mentioned in Acts 2:9 and 1 Peter 1:1. As Christianity spread throughout Asia Minor many Christian Armenians came to Cappadocia to live. Because of the continuous fighting going on in Asia Minor they chose a desolate part of the country that no-one would want to own. This area of 180 miles by 50 miles was truly desolate, with very little water. It was covered with sandstone pinnacles, or needles, some as high as 100 feet. The Christians had carved homes and churches in this sandstone, some three and four storeys high, with internal stairways designed so that the air could circulate through them. There were hundreds of pigeon lofts

Beyond the Mud Lid

As we arrived home from church one Sunday morning, Humbee, the kids' cat, ran across the road toward our home and was run over by a car. He made it into our front garden, gave a few gasps and died. As our twin children Samuel and Surekha stroked their lifeless cat lying limply in his basket, I dug a hole in the lawn under a persimmon tree. Humbee was buried and the lawn square was replaced over the grave.

The incident created the first occasion to explain death to our three-year-old children, and since then we have had many discussions about the events of that day, especially the impressionable "mud lid", a phrase they coined for the square of lawn replaced over the grave.

In our secular age, death has become the "unmentionable subject", but less than a century ago death was widely talked about. Families often lost a child before they reached adult age through common maladies that children are inoculated against today. Not

many years ago it was common for people to die at home. The dead body was laid out by members of the family and kept somewhere in house, such as on the dining-room table, for a few hours while all the family came to pay their last respects.

But today death is removed from our lives. People frequently die in hospitals or nursing homes after prolonged illness, and then are whisked away by efficient professionals and undertakers. It is now possible to go through life and never see a dead person, and people prefer it that way. After all, in a society that assumes there is no God, no spiritual dimension to life, only matter exists and you enjoy it while you can, death is it, the final curtain on the drama called life!

For our children, questions about "what lies beyond the mud lid" will one day become questions about what lies beyond the marble slab, and in an age in which death has become the "unmentionable subject", that can only be a good thing.

—Stephen Curkpatrick

built into the sandstone, with dozens of square holes cut through the walls into the large lofts so that the birds could come and go. The pigeons provided the Christians with meat and eggs and the droppings were carefully collected to fertilise their vegetable gardens and small wheat fields. Their churches, always on the ground floor, were small, holding between 20 and 40, nicely decorated with icons on the walls. On the floors above the churches there were often small monasteries where the monks lived and retired to after working in the gardens. Hundreds of thousands of tons of sandstone must have been excavated to form these dwellings. For miles and miles these cave-like homes are empty. The growing areas are today desolate and barren. When did they leave? Where did they go? What caused them to leave?

On a cruise of the Greek islands, the most interesting place for us to see was Patmos, which is called "the Jerusalem of the Aegean". Here, in a cave, John received the Revelation. During our visit to St John's cave, which has now been transformed into a small place of worship by the Greek Orthodox Church, I was able to communicate with the senior priest through an interpreter. I asked if he Revelation as difficult to understand as I did. He thought for a little while and then a wry smile came over his lovely old white bearded face. He said, "Yes, I do find it difficult." He then went on to explain that which I already knew, about God giving the information to John in a vision. It was a wonderful experience to have him explain to me in such detail with the guide to interpret.

• Nancy Souness is a member of the Hurstville, NSW, church.

When It's Time to Leave a Church

by Ross Pelling

One of the biggest issues facing any minister is: When is the right time to get out?

Stories abound of ministers who appeared to have stayed too long, others of leaving when things seem to be just getting going. Theories galore exist about the optimum length of a ministry. Advice by the bucketful awaits the young minister brooding over the length of that first ministry.

Which way should I go? Who should I listen to? If only God would send little envelopes from heaven with clear directions.

After eight years of an extremely satisfying and rewarding first ministry here at Pendle Hill, NSW, I am sure it's time for me to leave. I thought I would never be able to say that—the words of another minister: "You will just know when it's time to go," seemed like a pious cop-out.

When I first came to Pendle Hill I had the luxury of being a fourth-year student minister—the only "full-time" minister at the church—which allowed me up to 12 months to find out what I was possibly getting myself into before making any firm commitment to full-time ministry. The church's vision for ministry to young families coming into the area excited me so I stayed.

However, like everything in Sydney, it didn't stay that way for long. Housing prices soared, young families moved on, Housing Commission flats sprung from nowhere and Pendle Hill was a new community—now exhibiting characteristics of an inner-city suburb requiring a fresh approach to ministry.

I had worked through those early issues of adjustment to ministry and its expectations; I now had a great team of ministers and lay people within the



church to allow me to "specialise" according to God's gift. I had even battled with issues of burnout—some of which still haunt me, but I still had a vision for Pendle Hill.

So it's not that there is nothing here to excite a ministry—recent years of hard work through the Community Care Crisis Accommodation Centre and effective outreach to the poor and rejected living in Housing Commission flats have given the church great reason to rejoice and expect further growth.

Drug addicts and prostitutes have been reformed, and now minister to others. Abused and rejected women have been nurtured, restored and some even reconciled with their husbands. One Sunday evening service I noted the backgrounds of part of our congregation: prostitution, sexual abuse (including rape), bike gangs, murder, homosexuality and AIDS, severe drug addiction, domestic violence, alcoholism. Mixing comfortably with the "middle class norm" of our churches, I rejoiced at the church's effectiveness in loving all people.

But this was only the start!

It's not that I feel I'm no longer suitable to ministry here, it's just that there are more issues involved than my suitability to ministry.

If the church, indeed any church, is going to be relevant to its world (i.e. surrounding local mission field/community) then it needs to change its focus and style as the local community changes. Haven't we learnt that lesson from our past inner city churches yet?

But surely this is true for every church whether inner city or not. So I feel the issue of leaving a ministry is bound up in other issues of church relevance and direction.

If God Has a Plan for My Life, I Wish He'd Let Me in on It!

by Elra Clapp

One of the hardest parts of my Christian life is the area of discerning God's will for me. When making the really big decisions of life, I have tried all sorts of approaches. As a young Christian, I used the "flip open the Bible" approach, and there were times God honoured that approach. I have used the "open door/closed door" method of asking God to arrange circumstances in such a way that a wrong way was closed to me and God has done that too. Lately, however, I have found that there are times when more than one door is left open, and further guidance is required. I have tried the "talk it over with other Christians" approach, but the Christians don't always agree! I have tried to "listen to the Spirit" but there are times when I have found my own inner voice to be a little too dominant.

When all else fails, I have found one piece of advice to be especially helpful. I heard once that decisions are always easier when you know what your values are.

Once at a home study group we did an exercise in which we listed the things that we spend our time on. Then we listed the things we valued most in life. When we put the two lists together, it was quite disconcerting to see how little correlation there was between our values

and our actions! That night there was a young father at the group who was contemplating a course of extra study to further his career. It would mean that a busy man would have even less time for his family. Listing his values pointed out to him the folly of his plans—what good was career advancement if he lost touch with his children at a very important time of their lives?

I think what our Christian life is supposed to do is to make us more like Christ. That means that our values should be more like his too. That would make it a lot easier to be sure of the choices we make in life, wouldn't it? When faced with a major life choice, we need to ask ourselves what values undergird the choice we are making. Would Jesus do it on these grounds?

My experience has been that when I ask that question honestly, the decision almost makes itself. My decision becomes a matter of trustworthiness, or placing my own needs alongside others, or what will most honour Jesus, or not neglecting my family, or some other value judgment. Taking time to sort out our values can be one of the most helpful ways of discerning God's will.

• Elra Clapp is in ministry with Wembley Downs, WA, church.

At Pendle Hill an exciting era is before us. A shared ministry arrangement with Graham Long will see a further development of the local church's working relationship with the NSW Community Care Department.

Graham's experience and skill will provide the vital relevant ministry leadership style for Pendle Hill to continue to be an effective local mission post.

Pendle Hill church won't be "what it was like when Ross was there"—whether for better

or worse—but that's the price of effectively loving others. As for me, well, I know a little more about leaving a church now, but I'm still reluctant to tell anyone else what to do. But I know leaving or even staying at a church is much more than just a personal consideration.

• Ross Pelling writes this article at the end of an eight-year satisfying ministry at Pendle Hill. His final Sunday will be 16 September. He is commencing a new ministry at Noarlunga Centre, SA, on 29 October.

"Friends" for "Life"

by Judy Russell

Within the city of Toowoomba, Qld, (population 80,000) the community at large has recognised the increasing potential of the 60-plus age group who are no longer members of the paid workforce. Consequently, many opportunities exist where people can broaden their education, learn new skills and enjoy socialising with their peers.

While many retirees are content to enjoy their freedom, others find great difficulty in making the necessary adjustments, especially when they have found a high degree of self-fulfilment in paid employment. This has been a major factor in attracting this age group to volunteer service within the community. However, volunteering is much more than a substitute for paid employment or exercising one's social conscience. The Ralph Waldo Emerson quote "It is one of the most beautiful compensations in life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself first" can become a reality as volunteers find fulfilment and self-satisfaction in helping others.

Women, who traditionally have been the mainstays of many volunteer programs, are re-joining the workforce and organisations such as ours need to look further afield for new volunteers. This trend has been reflected within Mylo Hostel for the Aged and Nubeena Nursing Home, Toowoomba, projects of Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Services Dept, where for many years a very active group of our church ladies provided both financial and moral support.

As a result, our volunteer program has been restructured. It

is no longer called "The Ladies Committee" but "Friends of Mylo/Nubeena". While the ladies of the committee form the nucleus of our program, opportunities have been created for men, women and younger people from within the community to participate. Of the 70 volunteers, approximately 40 fall within the 60-plus age group, with 20 of that number coming from within Churches of Christ circles. Our volunteers play an active role by extending and enhancing the care provided by staff, with the retirees contributing the bulk of our volunteer hours.

We live in an era when people are enjoying increased lifespans due to better health. The challenge is to active retirees within our churches to consider opportunities that may present themselves.

The community is constantly seeking voluntary help for Meals on Wheels and other worthy organisations. Our Social Service Dept is very prominent in aged care statewide and there are endless opportunities to make a worthwhile contribution within one of our church-based hostels or nursing homes.



John Crowther, retired grazier, conducting bowls at Mylo Hostel



Mrs Dora Jackson (80 years), a Nubeena Village resident, taking pottery with Nursing Home residents

At Mylo/Nubeena, activities undertaken by volunteers include reading, cards, board games, craft, sewing, bowls, cooking with residents, music for sing-a-longs and communion, canteen, visitation, outings—including shopping and library, hand creaming, numbers game, art, pottery, Bible study, videotaping and billiards.

Some volunteers participate as often as three times weekly, some on a weekly basis, others fortnightly or monthly. A few are available for special occasions only and this is equally appreciated and encouraged.

Our aims for the program can best be described by our "Friends" title.

F: Friendship—It is great to see the friendships which have developed, where volunteers receive back as much or more than they give.

R: Relationships—Genuine, caring relationships have been created between volunteers and residents.

I: Individuality—Residents are always encouraged to express their own individuality.

E: Encouragement—Volunteers help provide that special encouragement

which is sometimes needed.

N: Nurturing—The extra support can create a new sense of self esteem in residents.

D: Devotion—It does take devotion and commitment to the task to be a volunteer.

S: Sharing—Volunteers come to us with a wide life experience and share their interests and skills on a personal basis.

The Apostle Paul in writing to the church at Philippi stressed to those early Christians that as well as being concerned with their own needs, they must show equal concern for the needs of others. This message is still the same today. Maybe we can learn from the insight of one volunteer, a retiree who has no church affiliation. Her thoughts were that to grow as an individual she needed to place herself in a vulnerable position where she gave to others with no expectation of reward. However, she has experienced great personal reward in the caring relationships she has developed with residents and staff. As the body of Christ, no matter what our age, we will be blessed as we choose to give of ourselves in his service. Volunteer and become involved in this vital service in your community!

• Judy Russell is the Volunteers Co-ordinator at Mylo Hostel/Nubeena Nursing Home, Toowoomba, Qld

Nigel and Julie Pegram

One of the most interesting questions that I find myself replying to is, "What year are you in at college?" This may seem like quite an innocuous question, but to answer it I have to explain something of my recent history, since I am a first-year student, a fourth-year exit student and a sixth-year post-graduate student!

For me, the desire, the calling to move into full-time Christian service has been with me since very early on in my Christian experience. It was, however, over four years before I would begin a formal study, the ministers at the church I was attending (Thornlie, WA) having the knack of encouraging you in your aims while advising you to wait and mature somewhat as a person and a disciple.

Eventually the time came when I was convinced the Lord wanted me to do something concrete about the call. It developed into one of those situations where you really wonder whether God really knew what he was doing since it was very clear to me that he was directing me to attend the Baptist Theological College in WA! At the time, and at many times in the ensuing years, I had second thoughts about God's competence at being God since I was intending to serve in the Churches of Christ, not in a Baptist church. Didn't he know I should be at a Churches of Christ college?

I have to say, though, that I'm rather glad the Lord did things the way he had because a number of very positive things happened through my going there. A very significant one was that I met and was engaged to Julie, my wife, in my first year of study, and was married at the beginning of my second year of study. I think that's a good reason not to have made the move east any earlier. But also, upon reflection, I think that the people I came in contact with, and the training I received there, were exactly what I needed, at the time, to bring

out the best in me. Similarly, our moving to Victoria at the beginning of this year, to study at CCTC, is now, as we see it, the Lord's moving us on to help us to develop our ministry by pursuing further study, and by completing the Diploma in Ministry. The move from one to the other came about very naturally with the commencement of the off-campus study program. But only the Lord knew four years before that this would come on line just as we were wondering what was to happen next as I was nearing the end of my studies in Perth.

In many ways the story of our journey with God has been one where we wonder at times what God is doing because things seem so difficult and strange. Yet it has also been one where, in hindsight, we can see why God has taken us on the path he has. So even now, while we cannot see where we will be and what we will be doing even at the beginning of next year, we trust the Lord that he knows where we will best serve him and his people, and that he will guide us there.



• Nigel and Julie Pegram are currently studying at CCTC and are in a student ministry at Balwyn, Vic.

Time Running Out

by G.L. Butler

The article in the 21 July issue of "The Christian" will, I feel sure, cause many Christians to take a closer look at the policies of World Vision.

We believed that we were supporting a united Christian, apolitical work; supportive care for underprivileged countries. But, when the Australian executive director, Philip Hunt, asks us to urge governments in Australia and the USA to withdraw all support to Israel and to apply sanctions against that nation, because of their alleged brutalities towards Arab children in the current intifada, many questions come to mind. "New evidence of the brutality of the [Israeli] army's response to the intifada has emerged [according to] a four-volume research report published by the Swedish Save the Children Fund," reads the article.

Recently in a TV interview the terrorist Yassar Arafat boasted of the success of his trained "David and Goliath" children who were accomplishing so much for him in his reign of terror. The Arabs cannot have it both ways.

In 1985 we spoke with a Jewish soldier who said he would have to leave the army for he could not bring himself to kill boys who were 12-14, the same age as his own son. But, they were a menace; it was a case of kill or be killed.

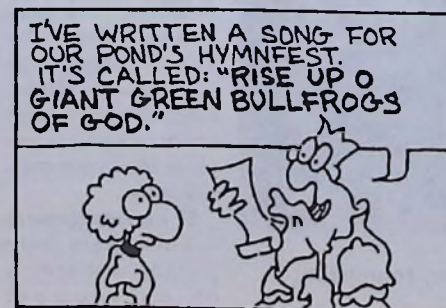
War is a bitter fact of life, but why should we in Australia take sides against the Lord's own kinsmen however wrong they may be? They were wrong in having Jesus crucified, but he prayed for them and still loves them. "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem" by all means but turn

our backs on them? Never. "Vengeance is mine," says the Lord. Israel is the apple of God's eye and every weapon that is formed against her will not prosper. The last chapter of Zechariah is a terrible revelation of end-time troubles for all who come against Israel. World Vision and Save the Children Fund will find themselves fighting a losing battle should they begin to work against God's anointed nation.

The International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem, formed in 1980 for the express purpose of showing God's love to the reconstituted nation of Israel, has also issued a sad complaint against Philip Hunt's interference in the intifada workout. The Arabs have a policy of complete annihilation against Israel. They sing and proclaim, "On Saturday we will kill the Jews, and on Sunday we will kill the Christians!" And it is more than just the current pop song says the ICEJ monthly newsletter. "Behind it is the intensity which is expressed in these words: 'Peace will come when Jerusalem is totally free and Muslims rule over the land like they did 1,300 years ago. We view not only the Jews but also the Christians as the worst enemies of the Arabs and the Holy Koran forbids its believers to accept the friendship of both Jews and Christians.'" By this we must recognise that any well-meant interference by welfare societies from Christian nations will not be acceptable to Arab nations in their "Holy War" against Israel.

• G.L. Butler is a member of the Bruce Rock, WA, church.

Pontius' Puddle



Aging, Activity and Independence

by David Beard

We hear it every day—"The population is aging."

So why do they have to keep reminding us? The grey hairs, the sagging muscles, the expanding waistline, all remind us that we are getting older without the media telling us or the government warning us of the economic and social consequences!

It is an accepted fact that aging causes a number of alterations in the systems of the body. However it appears from recent evidence that the physical decline we commonly see "accompanies" aging but is not necessarily "caused" by it. In fact, lack of exercise may be a key factor in many of the observed alterations.

Exercise science is a relatively new discipline, but it has made significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge about human performance. Unfortunately, until recently, looking at the relationship between exercise and aging has not been a research priority for exercise physiologists. With an aging population however, a better understanding of how exercise can affect the aging process is possibly the most significant contribution exercise physiology can make in altering our way of life and society's expectations of the aging process. Scientists have documented many of the manifestations of aging but have been unable in many cases to determine to what extent we should implicate age, abuse of our bodies through unhealthy lifestyle habits, or simply lack of activity. More and more research indicates that we can greatly modify many of the functional and structural changes associated with aging by a healthy, active lifestyle.

So what are some of the commonly observed changes we see as people age?

After the age of 30 in sedentary individuals:

- Functional capacity or maximal oxygen uptake ($\dot{V}O_2$ max) decreases by 1% per year.

- Muscle mass decreases 12-30% and strength declines 20-30% by 50-65 years old.

- Nerve conduction velocity decreases 10-15%.

- Basal metabolic rate declines 8-12%.

- Capacity of the cardiovascular system declines 30%

- Flexibility decreases up to 30%.

- Blood pressure increases: systolic 10-15 mmHg, diastolic: 5-10 mmHg.

- Respiratory vital capacity decreases 40-50%.

- Average female bone loss is about 30%, men about 15-20%.

- Liver/kidney function declines 30-50%.

Gerontologists know that function declines with advancing age and, as indicated above, the decline is at a rate of approximately 1% per year. This means that the work capacity of a sedentary individual decreases by about 30-40% before they reach retiring age.

Unfortunately, it is not until the sedentary individual reaches the later years that the real significance of this decline becomes evident. Take, for example, the case of an elderly woman who lives in her own home and apart from some assistance from her family with the garden, is able to do everything for herself. If, through lack of exercise, she becomes progressively weaker, the time will come when she is no longer strong enough to carry her shopping home from the supermarket. She has lost her independence and must go through the major upheaval of changing her life to avoid having to go shopping by herself. This may even mean selling her house and moving into an aged persons hostel where she no longer needs to do grocery shopping. Apart from the physical stress this places upon the woman, the psychological impact can be quite devastating.

Another common example of how the effects of aging and

inactivity do not become apparent until it is too late, is the those who do not maintain their flexibility. For years this does not represent a limitation, although it significantly increases their chances of back problems. It does become a very significant factor however when the individuals can no longer bend down to do up their own shoe laces. This may be the deciding factor that results in the family pushing a person into a nursing home.

All this sound pretty depressing and with the economy in such a mess who needs more bad news? Fortunately the news is not all bad. While it is true that we all experience a decrease in our capacities as we age, there is strong evidence that the decline in exercise capacity often observed in the elderly is neither inevitable nor, once developed, irreversible.

Studies where they have "trained" sedentary elderly show that they experience significant improvements in their functional capacities. In fact the magnitude of the improvements is similar to that of younger subjects, especially when it comes to endurance-related capacities.

More importantly for future generations, and that includes us, is the fact that regular exercise is believed to prevent up to 50% of the decline in function we see in the sedentary elderly. Given that we are living longer, this may be the difference between the last years of our life spent independently enjoying the things we have worked for, or being limited by our physical abilities and perhaps even restricted to living in an old age institution.

Given the option, I know which one I would choose. And I'm sure that the readers of this magazine feel the same way. The challenge for individuals involved with the aged is to encourage them to maintain an active lifestyle so as to prevent, or at least postpone the decline in functional capacity that accompanies aging.

To do this involves not only providing an environment that supports and encourages active lives, but also changing people's expectations about aged care. No longer should elderly people entering residential care expect that everything will be done for them. In contrast, they should expect to have to do as much as they possibly can for themselves, with assistance given only where absolutely necessary. This may sound "hard" and "un-Christian" but it is surely better for the residents, both physically and mentally, to maintain their independence for as long as possible.

In addition, people entering retirement villages, hostels and nursing homes should be informed that they are expected to participate in activities and programs designed to maintain and improve their health, fitness and, therefore, independence. As professionals working in the aged care industry, we should be supporting those who wish to maintain their independence, not making people more dependent on us.

A final challenge for the aged care industry is to lobby governments for a change in the criteria for funding. Funding should be made available for preventive programs that aim to maintain the resident's independence, not allocated on the basis of how dependent residents are on us. Surely it is better to keep an individual as independent as possible, not make them more dependent so the organisation gets more money. In the long run everybody wins if the resident retains the maximum possible independence—the individual, the government and those working in the aged care industry.

• David Beard is the Program Director of Churches of Christ Homes in WA, running health and fitness programs for residents (and staff). He has a Bachelor of Physical Education and a Master of Science in Exercise Sciences.

This is the first of an occasional series on various topics related to care of the aged.

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Bryant, Lavinia (Vin or Bid) (23.5.90) Vin Bryant was born at Bet Bet, Vic, in December 1900, the eldest of 12. She attended Bet Bet State School until age 14. She stayed home helping her mother until age 19. At 22 she decided to go to the College of the Bible in Melbourne to train for missionary work. Not having studied for eight years she found her biblical studies hard but did pass three intermediate subjects. She then decided to go into nursing and began training at the Austin Hospital. She also trained at the Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital and midwifery at the Queen Victoria Hospital. In 1930 the depression hit hard and jobs were scarce. At one stage she worked for nine months with Churches of Christ in a hospital on an Aboriginal station in NSW near Echuca. She worked for 23 years at the Maryborough Hospital from 1937. Many people commented on her love, care and skill in her job. In 1979 she had a leg amputated as a result of her diabetic condition. She still attended Maryborough in her wheelchair whenever she could. She was a woman who had truly found peace with God.

—Bruce Anderson

Goudie, Winifred Beatrix (Freda) (26.7.90) Freda Ross was born on 10.1.04 at Pahrn, Vic, and at three moved with the family to Castlemaine. At 13 she gave her life to Jesus in the Castlemaine church. In 1928 the family bought a mixed business in Kyneton and it was then she met Rowland Goudie. They were married at Kyneton by Mr Clipstone on 4.1.30, the first wedding in that chapel. They had four children: Winifred, June, Irvine and Ross. In 1950 they moved to Wallacedale and fellowshipped at Hamilton. Nine years later they moved to Springvale. Rowland died in August 1976 and by this time Freda was having difficulty with her memory. There followed a long period of deteriorating health until Freda quietly died. She was faithful in her ministry as Sunday School teacher, deaconess, pianist and camp mother. Above all her gift of hospitality was welcomed by all who knew her. Her trust in the Lord and her sense of humour carried her through many difficult times. She leaves a sister, Connie Jacobs (Kyneton), and children Winifred Mountjoy (Seymour, Vic), June Tocknell (York, WA), Irvine Goudie (Springvale, Vic) and Ross Rumsey (York, WA).

—JLT

Oliver, Kenneth Wilson (10.8.90) Ken served at Epping, NSW, for many years as a youth leader (a group that grew considerably due to Ken's enthusiasm and love of young people), as a Bible School teacher, Bible study group leader, deacon and an elder until his ill health in 1989. He was also Chairman of Elders at various times. Ken also preached frequently, served many Christian groups and Brotherhood committees. Ken was always busy in the Lord's work and was always supported by his wife Doff. He had the joy of seeing all his children accept the Lord and be baptised in the church he served so well.

—Frank Elsmore

Church News

Tas

LAUNCESTON (Rod Foster, C. Spaulding) 130 present 12 August to hear Rosalie Rofe ... Bob Leane, President SA Conf, speaker am service 19 Aug & over 200 present at Brigades' parade in evening when Danielle Larson, winner GB Queen's Award, interviewed & Craig Spaulding spoke ... 40 Hour Famine raised over \$2,200 ... Board's recommendation that Craig Spaulding be appointed part-time pastoral minister for four years unanimously accepted by congregation.

HUON COMMUNITY (S. Warwick, J. Gray) Visitors from CCTC to Geeveston ... Rosalie Rofe spoke at Geeveston, the Andrew family of SIM at Dover & Geeveston, David Best of FEBC at Huonville ... Geeveston represented at Tasmania Grow ... A group now doing "Let It Begin with Me" studies ... Successful Brownie & Guide church parade at Geeveston. Large number of parents attended ... Sunday School recommenced at Huonville. **DEVONPORT** (B. Butler) Annual meeting held. All aspects of church life reviewed: past, present, future. Pleasing progress. Total church assessment, "Art of Caring" courses, outreach series planned 1990-91 ... Death of Jossie Cranney, much-loved former member & former Cundalee missionary, at Wynyard

... Visit of Rosalie Rofe ... Half-night of prayer ... Church host Red Cross Sunday ... Attendances continue to grow ... Church meeting needs of new families, including one-parent families.

NSW

MANNING VALLEY (Barry Rice, Ross Norling) Sunday School conducted morning service to mark commencement of Education Week ... Church farewelled Julie King, exchange teaching at Campbell River Christian School, British Columbia & Peter Reed to Bible College in New Zealand ... Focus on the Family videos used for outreach ... Op Shop gave \$1,000 to Nyngan Baptists for flood relief work ... Warren Griffin of WEC International was recent speaker.

SEVEN HILLS (T.J. Beaman) Church very busy arranging 100th anniversary 2 September. Catering Committee (Bev Beaman, Vianne Willis, Sylvia Foote) working hard on luncheon ... Mrs Victorie Shlief & family came 18 August, 33 in attendance ... Deanna Van Twest holidaying in America ... Dorris Ovey in Blacktown Hospital ... Ros Bell not well ... Bev Beaman had exchange with Hugh Roose, Mt Druitt ... Guest speakers David West (Overseas Missions), Charles Wilson (Community Care) & Kevin Crawford.

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Secretary, CCES

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• Suzanne Shadders, Daniel Knight, Port Fairy, Vic • Vicki Lanyon, Henley Beach, SA • Hazel Booth, Muriel & Alan Spencer, Martin Walker, Margaret Dessent, Barry McGugwin, Dandenong, Vic • Diane Collinson, Lindsay Dunning, Lyn Clements, Bridgetown, WA • Alan Trebbin, Kathleen Grayson, Bundaberg, Qld • Louise Kruger, Catherine Kruger, Slesley Artis, Magill, SA • Ashley Davidson, Belconnen, ACT • Julia Anthony, Tuggeranong, ACT • Rudi Andreason, Tootgarook, Vic • Dianne Keesman, Emmalie Clark, York St, Ballarat, Vic • Sharon Ries, Balaklava, SA • Bob Garven, Robyn Bond, Rodney Snelson, Sonya Phillips, Genevieve Stephens, Yarrawonga, Vic • Loughlin & Lin Tweed, Pine Rivers, Qld • David & Trisha Deakin, Georgina Hinrichsen, Jim Norris, Mt Walker, Qld • Alissa Pohl, Shane Giles, Leigh Height, Salisbury East, SA • Howard Bentley, Goolwa, SA • Sheila Moore, Sue Swan, Kerry-Louise Gray, Tanya Hudson, Kalamunda, WA • Laurel Trotter, Croydon, SA • Cathy Allen, Townsville Qld

Marriages

• Andrea Sobey to Robert Boswerger, York St, Ballarat, Vic • Noreen McCallum to Stephen Baker, Balaklava, SA • Lisa Feldhahn to Chris Gregory, Mt Walker, Qld • Rhonda Cocks to Howard Bentley, Goolwa, SA • Pauline Bruinewoud to Darren Kittel, Mulgrave, Vic • Irene Allen to Victor Pampling, Anne Cottam to Christer Lindee, Jan Flynn to Lionel Dodd, Kalamunda, WA

Deaths

• Nita Harvey, Strathalbyn, SA • Fred Rees, Len Long, Bert Huntley,

Tootgarook, Vic • Mrs Vera Feary, York St, Ballarat, Vic • Mrs Broad Snr, Balaklava, SA • Roger Bowen, Col Light Gardens, SA • Henry Mandelkow, Mt Walker, Qld • Dick Prideaux, The Patch, Vic • Earnest Edward Harridge, Sylvia Joyce Simmons, Kyneton, Vic

Changes

Port Fairy: Secretary—Mrs Margaret Sykes, RMB 4390, Korongah Road, Rosebrook, Vic 3285. Phone (055) 68 7325.

Chadstone: Secretary—Ray Salmon, 24 Mount Street, Glen Waverley, Vic 3150. Phone (03) 560 9601.

Maldstone: Secretary—Mrs Ida Phillips, 44 Omar Street, Maldstone, Vic 3012. Phone (03) 318 4205.

Patterson: Ken and Vera—40 Geake Street, Albany, WA 6330. Phone (098) 41 7195.

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The Department is looking for someone with welfare experience, who can co-ordinate the program and work in a team situation.

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Executive Director

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For further information please contact Bob Smith, Executive Director, Department of Church Development and Education, PO Box 140, Carlingford, NSW 2118. Phone (02) 630 7533.

Church News

Vic

DANDENONG (Graeme Fong, Mark Butler) Church complex nearing completion. Opening day set for 4 November ... Christmas in July held & the food that was collected was given to the Salvation Army for distribution in Dandenong ... Youth service held with "Adonai" featured guest artists ... Church now meeting in homes over winter months ... Youth meetings alternate week about with good attendance.

TOOTGAROOK (M. Giezendanner) Church saddened at death of three loyal members, Fred Rees, Len Long & Bert Huntley ... Much illness with Jack Gittins & Elsie Griffiths very ill ... Members enjoyed visit to Theological College when CWF presented cheque for \$500 ... Inter-church studies being held over winter ... Local Fusion being helped by donations of goods ... CWF meeting "Back to 1920s" conducted by Joan Pye.

CARNEGIE (Norma Hall) Memorial service & dedication of memorial windows held in memory of past members Mrs Win Barranger & Miss Bon Newnham ... One decision made ... Kathy & Stewart Rochester & family led morning service in music & song with Kathy presenting the sermon ... Singles & Friendship Centre groups each celebrated Christmas in July ... 5 pm Winter Witness programs enjoyed by all.

YORK ST, BALLARAT (Jim Cunningham, Gary Berry) June gospel services featured different eras in church. Members dressed in appropriate attire for 50/60s, 20/

30s & 1800s ... Prayer of praise & thanksgiving for birth of Nathaniel Bishop ... \$500 raised from fashion parade, \$55 from Coffee Shop for building fund ... Kindergarten children raised \$36 from sale of "special sweet stall" ... \$10,000 received from thanksgiving offering toward church building.

YARRAWONGA (Bill Keddies) Many avenues opening up for ministry of the Keddies ... Series of evening services illustrated with slides of Zimbabwe ... "Endless Praise" well received ... Successful mid-year business meeting ... Youth night most effective ... Youth regularly meeting for tea after evening service ... Hospitality is a feature of church life ... Baptismal classes culminated with five baptisms on 19 August ... Phil Davis was church anniversary speaker.

BOX HILL (J. Edwards) Minister to conclude present ministry in 1991 ... Missionary projects faith promise offering giving \$312 a week ... Manse now debt free ... 36 participating in four prayer chains ... Prime of Life held "Christmas in July" at restaurant & slides on Jerusalem ... Explorer Club had day skiing ... George Clare often hospitalised ... Allan Webb & Greg Elsdon recent preachers ... CWF shared meeting at Emmaus.

THE PATCH (Mike Folland) Large amount of food given to Sherbrooke Shire for needy people ... Board held successful retreat at Jindivic ... Church saddened at death of organist Dick Prideaux ... Congratulations to Andrea Dean for winning Victorian netball best & fairest player award ... Church & youth work growing well under Mike & Ruth Folland's leadership ... New chapel to be officially opened on 16 September at 10.30 service.

NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn) Rev. Robert Gribben spoke on World Assembly at ICC meeting held in our building ... Dedication of David Carbis during morning service ... Lunch together & annual meeting in afternoon. Church reports showed that church was quite healthy & offerings increasing ... Third Sunday at 5 pm speaker was George Morgan (Triple Seven Communications) Christian radio ... Three Bible study groups meeting weekly.

GLEN WAVERLEY (R.B. Elbourne, R.L. Croxford, D.J. Fitzpatrick) Eight Fellowship groups now meeting ... Leadership Recognition Dinner said thank you to 80 lay leaders in ministry ... Church family thanksgiving tea held to mark 20 years of "Live at Five" & thank God for commitments & record attendances ... SBS (soup, bread, slice)

enjoyed after 5 pm services ... Theme term 3 College for Christians "Discovering Basic Christianity" ... AGM was time of praise & thanksgiving.

KYNETON Church is saddened by the passing of two members, Earnest Edward Harridge & Mrs Sylvia Joyce Simmons. Both members have served their Lord with faithful service.

LATROBE TERR, GEELONG (Dr C.J. Mackenzie) Gideons International representative recent speaker ... Conference President speaker at combined churches service ... Rui, a Japanese student, guest of Geoff & Jenny Smith ... Bible Society representative introduced annual appeal to Sunday School scholars ... Ian Kirwood recuperating after hospitalisation ... Mrs Wileman & Mrs Barnett celebrated 90th birthdays ... CWF visited Mission to Seamen ... What do we see, hear & do highlighted at family service & tea.

PEEL ST, BALLARAT (Vince Gibbs) Church family received with regret the resignation of minister Vince Gibbs to conclude 8 November ... Combined Churches of Christ recently held a growth meeting led by Ted Keating of Nunawading ... Aboriginal Dept recently screened audio-visual "Beyond 2000" by Harold Taylor, who also led service ... Church families leading evening services ... Building upgrade continuing to meet the needs of the congregation.

SA

STRATHALBYN (Dick Hayman) Church organist, Nita Harvey, passed away suddenly ... Many sick restored to health ... George Dugmore transferred to Daws Rd for therapy after stroke ... Cliff & Mary Perkins retired from ministry after four years service. Farewell tea after combined service with Milang, Pt Sturt ... Dick & Pip Hayman inducted at Milang with Strathalbyn following Sunday on part-time basis.

STIRLING (John Main) Church celebrated 123rd anniversary on 12 August with guest speaker Keith Horne. The theme promoted was "One, Two, Three, Go!", & Keith spoke on "Going Forward with God" ... Young Peoples' orchestra providing music ... Keith Ravesteyn leaving soon to teach for three months at Ranwadi High School. His daughter, Jane, doing medical work in Zaire for six months ... 11 attended Dr Calahan seminars.

BALAKLAVA (Graham Lawrie) Social evening held to meet Ron & Kate Roberts ... Blessing service held

to support volunteers going to Yorketown-Warooka Mission ... Bob Keay spoke to all local churches as Bible Society representative ... Henry & Audrey Carslake returned from trip to Europe & Holy Land ... Halbury Camp was a great Christian experience for over 100 young people & leaders ... \$300 sent to assist Barry Goode's prison work.

COL LIGHT GARDENS (A. Clark) Pleasant Sunday Afternoon & "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" organised by CWF raised \$500 for foyer rebuilding ... Dorothy Heard & Maureen Clark took part in Southern Districts Women's Conference at Murray Bridge ... New piano for church donated by CWF ... Fifty Plus group, Pairs & Spares, church teas regular monthly events growing in attendance ... Church saddened by death of Roger Bowen in August.

SALISBURY EAST (Graham Wade) An exciting year for Boys' Brigade. Matthew Broster promoted to Lance Corporal. Kay Marsden inducted as Warrant Officer. Shane Giles, Coran Hackett, Leigh Height & Ben Sporton awarded Community Service badge. No 1 Section came third in the state games & handicrafts competition. They also competed in international team games competition & came 37th overall, fourth in Australia and first in South Australia.

GOOLWA (Graeme Ritchie) Good support from parents & families when Sunday Youth staged play "Joseph, the Dreamer" as anniversary celebration. Fellowship at barbecue lunch followed ... Uniting Church ladies visited our CWF & supplied program. Speaker from Royal Flying Doctor Service ... Members attended Dr Callaghan Church Growth seminar in Adelaide ... Our minister exchanged pulpits with Victor Harbor minister, Ray Patterson, for evening service.

TUMBY BAY Appreciated ministry of Bert & Nancy Coleman & visit from Bruce Townsend ... Children's Club "Dynamite" enjoyed "Mini-Commonwealth Games" & barbecue on foreshore. Children also joined Bikes for Bibles ... Successful street stall held for Bible Society ... Members continue to help with church service at hospital every fortnight ... EP Conference held at Tumby Bay when Rob Leane (Conf Pres) & Ron Roberts (State Minister) led studies & gave helpful messages. **CROYDON** (Philip Stevens) CWF project fund benefits from film evening ... Laurel Trotter baptised at morning service of 26 August ... In evening 40 participated in a fellowship tea & a time of recreation & conversation.

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Church News

WA

ROCKINGHAM (Keith Ware, John Crosby) Successful Vacational Bible School held in July with over 200 primary & secondary students attending. An active week concluded with a packed church on Friday evening ... Members increasing in all auxiliaries ... Church planning to distribute 300 Bibles in area early September ... An outreach mission will be conducted in Oct by Rob Adams, Director of OAC Ministries. **SCARBOROUGH** (Nigel Merrick) Jean-Paul Willems, who serves with ECM in Bourges, France, fellow-shipped with us ... Seminar "Biblical Keys to Lifestyle Evangelism" led by John Bond ... "5 Day Club" outreach held during school holidays culminated in child orientated service, speaker Rob Adams of Outreach & Church Ministries ... Nigel Merrick attended National Youth Workers' Convention & church growth seminars in Queensland. **BRIDGETOWN** (Errol Kirk) Bill Gaunson guest speaker for South West Conference. 120 filled chapel for youth rally. 180 viewed film "Caught" during afternoon. Bill spoke at both services on Sunday. One decision, one rededication ... David Pyne, State President, spoke July gospel meeting ... Andrew Lansdowne speaker when minister & wife in Queensland for birth of granddaughter ... Dobson film series "Focus on the Family" to be shown next five Sunday nights.

MANDURAH CITY (Bill & Gay Addison) The Lord continues to draw people into life of church. Two families welcomed 12 August, three more families regularly meet, bringing total of 50. Two classes of children ... Prayer & Praise Sunday evening, three Home Care groups Tuesday, Kids Klub Thursday after school, Prayer & Bible study Tuesday, CWF twice a month Thursday ... Monthly women's lunch being arranged by Gay ... Lunch held for visit of Roger & Betty Ryall. **KALAMUNDA** (John Thornhill, Mark Proud, Paul Sanders, Guy Roberts) Good News Holiday Club, over 250 children & helpers involved July school holidays ... Jean-Paul Willems, visiting missionary from France, shared several special meetings ... Ron Pandal appointed elder ... Capacity audience attended musical "Edge of Tomorrow" on life of Hudson Taylor performed for OMF by group from New Zealand ... Visit of group from Nollamara Fellowship Centre, sharing in fellowship & morning tea.

Qld

BONGEEN (B.M. Nowitzke) Seminars on worship & evangelism conducted by Alan Hermann from DCDE ... Combined gospel service with Dalby held at Dalby ... Sunday School scholars & teachers went skating ... Trevor Firth (Carlingford College) to commence ministry 1991 ... Construction of new manse commenced ... Warren Daff & Kathy

Ivstchenko congratulated on their engagement.

ROMA (Trevor Pedler) Roma church in south-west Queensland is on the move & needs prayer & financial help ... The church will soon build a new chapel rather than do expensive repairs on its present premises ... Church, founded 1888, has vital ministry in Roma, a town of about 7,000. For information contact Secretary, Alec Waldron, PO Box 409, Roma 4455. **BUNDABERG** (Alan G. Leane) Missionary Convention Aileen Draney & Horace Christensen 17-19 August ... 20 shared in opening of new Gladstone chapel ... Gideons International rep. Doug Cribb spoke National Bible Sunday ... Stephen Knights, Trixie & Derek James ride local Bikes for Bibles, target \$3,000 ... Senior Bible study under Hayden & Carol Francis for residents Argyle & Sugarland Villages ... Philosophy of Christian Woman studies being formed ... Prof A. Wilson visit 2 Sept. **PINE RIVERS** (N. Proellocks, I. Todd) Successful flea market stall 14 July ... Sunday School anniversary very successful with over 170 present ... Family teas still very popular. 70 at August meeting when Jim Deutchman was guest speaker ... Youth service for August theme "Junk Mail" ... Average attendance for July 131 am, 94 pm ... Couple baptised 19 August ... Welcome to new babies Alison Lea Whitchurch & Stacey Murphy. **MT WALKER** (R. Bennet, D. Mansell) David Mansell conducted

recent mini-mission. Four baptised, two reconsecrations ... Dr Dobson's "Focus on the Family" videos viewed in homes ... Graham Hyman led Discipleship in this Decade seminar ... Jean Williams guest speaker at Sunday School anniversary ... Mid-week meetings held in homes ... Much prayer for health of Ruth Ruhland ... Frank & Mona Smith, David & Lucy Kruger (Adelaide) combined 50th & 60th wedding anniversary celebrations. **BRIBIE ISLAND** (Wayne Kirk) June celebrated 15th church anniversary ... Guest speakers Evan Adermann, Bob Hobson, Allan Webb. Encouraging messages ... Wayne Kirk inaugurated After School Kids Hour. 21 members ... Church joined combined church service. Address John Shaw, America's Cup crewman ... Thanks to Allan Mayer, Doug Willis, Jim Mahaag for interim services ... Jim Bye, Mackay, assumes administrator retirement village Sept ... Thanks for restoration of Law Edwards. **TOWNSVILLE** (Greg Muller) Cathy Allen baptised & welcomed into membership ... AGM new deacons Troy Harris, Ingrid Harris. Re-elected Greg Wright, Michael Poulton, Dave Matthews, Simon Moore ... Congregation voted to accept "Living Link" with Hazel Basset, PNG ... Community Care House now occupied ... Junior & senior youth groups enjoyed a variety of activities over last few weeks—bowling, "foot rally", barbecue/swim.

43rd FEDERAL CONFERENCE

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

8-14 October 1990

THEME: "NOW IS THE TIME TO SERVE THE LORD"



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Print Evangelism

by Chris Ambrose

This is the first time for a couple of years that I have written this column. However, I intend occasionally to include a contribution to the pages of *The Australian Christian* when stirred by a press conference I have attended or by some material I have read. It is not an official editorial; it is more along the lines of random meanderings on a theme I wish to share with our readers.

Several weeks ago I attended a press luncheon with a representative from the Christian press in the Middle East. The meeting was held not long after the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq.

Because of the sensitivity of the situation I am not able to report the name of the person or name the publication, but the person involved edits a glossy monthly publication sold via newsagencies throughout the Middle East. The magazine has a readership of over 600,000 and there is even apparently a good market for second-hand copies of the publication.

The magazine is described as a "pre-evangelism tool" as it is not able to publish material that is overtly Christian. It overcomes this by publishing lifestyle material and by asking for responses. Care is needed to avoid being banned and confiscated—one way to do this is to print the publication outside the Middle East, although the staff all live in one country in the Middle East.

The main area of contact with readers is in the almost 3,000 letters received each month. People are counselled and responses are made to all letters, so there are people who have become Christians through reading the magazine. While the magazine is primarily directed to the 15-26 year old group, the magazine is passed around to all the family, so it includes

material for them too.

The magazine has to be very careful in its use of language and in the material that is presented, not only to ensure that it is understood but also to avoid problems encountered from constant surveillance by secret police.

The magazine is very well produced and attractive as is the tract material on the Christian faith the publishing group also produces.

It was interesting to hear of this evangelistic thrust and to consider similar publications in Australia. Only occasionally has a comparable evangelistic publication appeared in Australian newsagencies and none of them have lasted anywhere near the more than 10 years of the Middle Eastern magazine. Often the Australia efforts have been primarily aimed at one age group, of poor quality and stricken by lack of finances.

We need this type of evangelistic material—well-produced, raising questions of lifestyles and helping people. But—who will produce it, and how can it be funded?

Breaking the Silence

Silence is fool's-gold when words are needed,
Building blocks that construct community.
Word by word, level by level, trust grows
Towering above the doubt of shadowy miscommunication.
Eye to eye we see now,
Listening; hearing; understanding;
Because you dared to speak.

—Garry Harris

The Last Word

If we exaggerated our joys as we exaggerate our woes, our troubles would lose all their importance.

—Anatole France

Danny always was a boy for boasting. He grew up quickly, came to the city and got himself a job. Every time he met with success he wrote home to his father, "Another feather in my cap Dad!" He worked his way up to "Boss of my department—another feather in my cap, Dad!" Then came an urgent telegram: "Sacked, send far home." Dad replied: "Use feathers, fly."

★★★★★

Salesperson: These are exceptionally strong shirts. They simply laugh at the washing machine.

Customer: I know. They come out of it with their sides split.

★★★★★

Cartoonist: What do you think of this?

Editor: Hmmm—pity you didn't put the characters in 1840 dress.

Cartoonist: Why 1840?

Editor: Because that's when this joke first came out.

★★★★★

If a boy is a lad and he has a step-father, would he be a step-ladder?

★★★★★

From a church bulletin: "Our first project is a series of talks and discussions on 'Preparing for Marriage'."

★★★★★

Doctor: Say ah.

Child: Aw.

Doctor: No, ah.

Child: Noah.

Doctor: No.

Child: No.

Doctor: No, just an ah.

Child: Anna.

Doctor: I give up.

★★★★★



He said his recovery was a miracle, so he sent the cheque to the church instead of you!



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