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"Now Is the Time to Serve the Lord"

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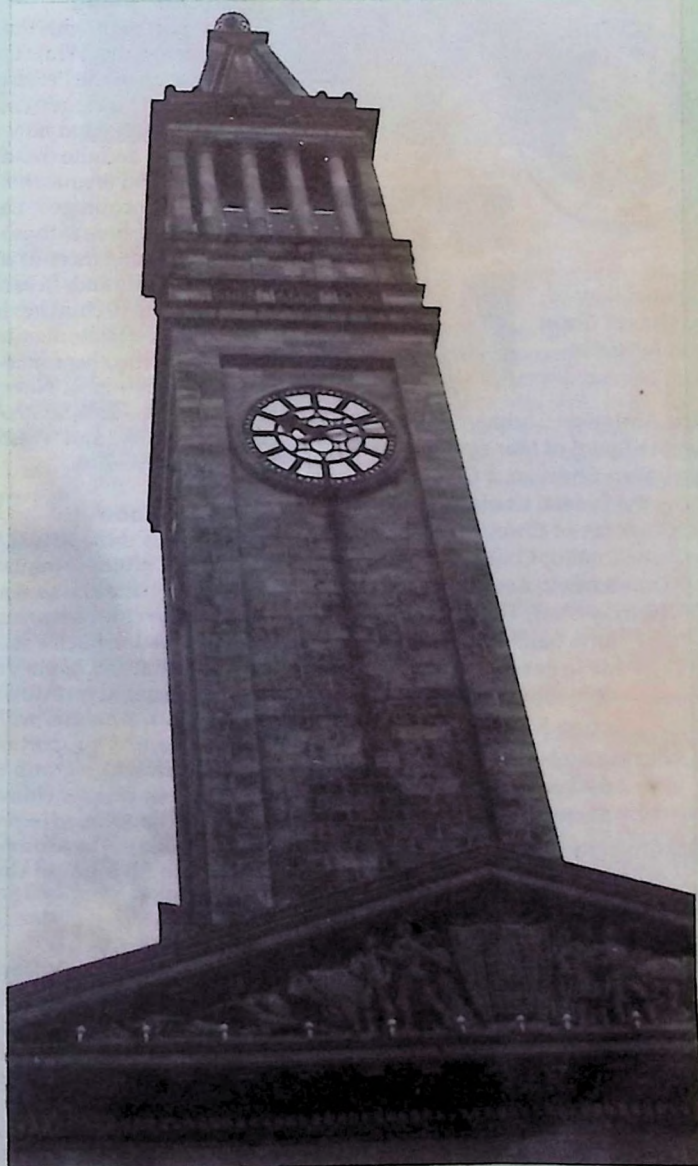
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Comment

The advantages of a big church

The Larger Church: A Positive Trend

by Don Smith

Wollongong, NSW, church's report ("AC" 18 August) and the details of the successful raising of \$1.7 million for the new facilities, the continuing growth of the church to 800 active members, 1,000 at worship on Sundays, and 100 baptisms each year are news items in which we can all rejoice.

Australian Trend

The report highlights the significance of the larger church. While this is not a new phenomenon in the Protestant church the development of larger churches both in the United States and now Australia does seem to be a definite trend of recent decades. The trend is something about which we can feel encouraged. Larger churches, which I define here as those with memberships and attendances of over 200, are of strategic significance in each of our states. In Victoria the 10 churches in this category have 30% of our state membership. Similar patterns exist in other states—Queensland, five churches—29%, New South Wales, four churches—25%, South Australia, three churches—20%, and Western Australia, four churches—27%.

Misunderstood

Sometimes these situations are misunderstood. A multiple ministry team in the larger church may be seen as selfish when some smaller churches are unable to locate a suitable leader. Such a complaint fails to recognise that the larger church needs a strong ministerial team to service the large membership. Analysis will mostly show that the team is proportionately spread over a much wider group of people than that found in smaller churches. On other occasions I have heard expressions of surprise that one of the team members is not available to fill a pulpit vacancy at some other location.

Second Priority

The American church consultant Lyle Schaller lists the development and encouragement of larger churches as his second priority in any denominational strategy. He lists new church development as the first priority. I believe we need to take Schaller's comments seriously and be as supportive as we can of the growth of larger churches.

Experience Counts

The larger church, with its program options, good music and improved facilities, is in a strong position to attract young adults, young marrieds, and in general terms those born after 1945. Because of the membership growth patterns the larger church becomes experienced in welcoming people and making deliberate efforts to assimilate newcomers. Mostly the larger church expects to have visitors and so is organised to both receive them and take active follow-up steps. Their experience counts and so stimulates further growth.

Larger churches constitute a high proportion of our membership, are in a strong position to attract new people and contribute more to conference work

Partnership

Our experience in Victoria is that larger churches contribute a significant number of people to Conference committees and are by far the strongest financial backers of both State and Federal departmental work. With Paul we can give thanks for their partnership in the Gospel (Philippians 1:5).

No Put-Downs

These comments are in no way meant to put down the overwhelming proportion of smaller and middle size churches in our midst. A similar pattern exists in the United States. Every church is in the business of partnership in the Gospel. We need a growing recognition of the dynamics that govern the operations of small, middle-size, and larger churches. Schaller's writing on these issues is of outstanding significance. Small churches will want to grow as do larger or medium-size churches. This reflection is about affirming our larger churches rather than knocking them.

See Lyle Schaller's:

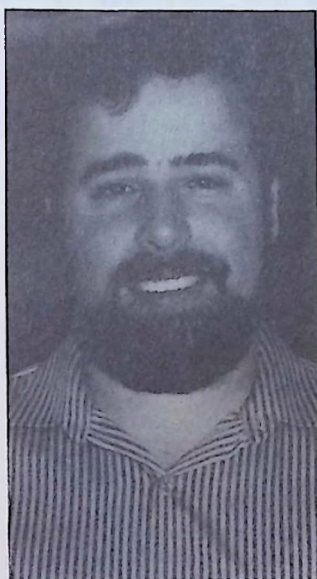
- *The Small Church Is Different*
- *The Middle Sized Church*
- *The Multiple Staff and the Larger Church*
- *Growing Plans* (a composite statement on issues for churches in each category)

• Don Smith is Executive Director of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development.

Recharge for Mackay

The Mackay, Qld, church has undergone many changes in the past 12 months. A fire destroyed the office and library sections of the new building. The restoration has now been completed. Norm Flett, who commenced ministry in Mackay in 1978, moved on to a new fellowship after 11 years.

1990 has seen a fresh start for the church with a new minis-



Gabriel Babare

ter, Gabriel Babare, and many new members. Gabriel commenced in January and brought with him a burst of energy. His enthusiasm is evident and his energy seemingly unlimited.

In his first eight months of ministry Gabriel has initiated many new projects, including new-style evening services, titled "Sunday at 7" (off the platform), Divine Drama, an IBM user group and a "Back to the Future" service inviting folk who hadn't been to services for a few years. A "Recharge '90" week included a guest speaker, Graham Hyman, and a concert from the church's many talented musicians and actors.

There have been several successful fundraisers including a mystery auction and a pre-loved Tupperware sale and planned functions include a fundraising dinner and mystery car drive.

"Come and Do", Boys' Brigade and playgroups continue as the church's community contact.

The church is excited about its future. In the first six months of 1990 there were 21 new members and many more visitors and friends.

Wall Hanging for WCC Assembly in Canberra



Samantha Gent and husband Gavin with the wall hanging

A wall hanging is being sent to WCC 7th Assembly Office in Canberra, by the Hampton Street, Vic, church. The designer is Samantha Gent.

The theme selected by Samantha from those given by the WCC was "Spirit of Truth—Set Us Free". The flaming bottom section depicting a ball and chain and a serpent represents the bondage of sin. The central figure rises from this on a cross with golden wings: "The Spirit of Jesus, of truth, setting us free!" The Rialto building and the Spire on the edge of Port Phillip

Bay represents Samantha's home city, Melbourne. Samantha makes excellent use of colour: the flames are red, the chain is gold, the serpent is multicoloured, the bay is blue as is the cross, and red, yellow and white are used for the flowers, which, with the green lawns, represent the "Garden State". The Rialto building is silver and the spire is gold.

This will be a bright star in the whole combined wall hanging and should open up a connection with the fortunate church that it will be given to.

—Alice Allison

CROP Second Anniversary Achievements



Ian Cartmel

Mornington, Vic, church celebrated its second anniversary in September. The church planting venture, under the leadership of Ian Cartmel, was the first initiative of the new joint Department of Mission, Education and Development—Properties Corporation Church Reach Out Plan (CROP). Progress has been so strong that the church achieved self-support in July this year.

Ian Tippet, field director with the Department of Mission, Education and Development, led a planned giving program in early September, which culminated in a 42% increase in giving from \$480 per week to \$683 per week. It is anticipated that weekly giving

should exceed \$700 per week when full details are available. The planned giving program has given the church a significant stimulus and should enable the congregation to plan for the future with confidence.

The church is in continuing contact with first-time visitors and enquirers. Since the Mornington church planting a further two new outer-metropolitan churches have been established, at Mulgrave and Rowville, with the latter calling its first full-time minister for 1991. A fourth new church is planned for Sunbury in 1992.

Alongside these new projects the Fountain Gate church affiliated with Conference, two new house groups at Berriedale and Kingston-Blackman's Bay in outer metropolitan Hobart and four new ethnic projects have been developed. A new Indian church is to be launched in October with further expansion of Vietnamese work planned for 1991.

Cheryl Johnson reports encouraging progress with the new singles program established at East Kew. Other proposals under the CROP initiative are pending.

15th Anniversary Celebrated on Bribie Island



The congregation on the anniversary day

On 1 June 1975 a small group gathered in the lounge at the newly opened hostel of the Bribie Island Retirement Village, Qld, to celebrate the Lord's Supper.

This group was mainly made up of those living in the village. In the early days the Social Service Department watched over this group, organising the Sunday speakers. As the years passed the group began to grow and a number of residents from the Bribie community joined in the fellowship.

In 1983 plans were underway to secure a portion of land where a chapel could be built. This was finalised in late 1983 and on 13 January 1986 the building of the chapel was commenced. The chapel was completed by July 1986. The first service in the new chapel was held on 9 July and the building was officially opened

by the Hon. Evan Adermann on 27 September 1986. The building was erected by Mobile Mission Maintenance.

The project was also assisted by many hours of voluntary labour from a number of men from the church. So enthusiastic was the congregation that in two years and eight months after the building was complete they had repaid their loan of \$61,000.

As there was no full-time minister the preaching and business of the church was carried out by students and a part-time minister but in the main by a number of faithful men from the Bribie church.

On 3 June 1990 a day of celebration was held when the church celebrated its 15th anniversary.

It was a special day! The speaker was again the Hon. Evan Adermann and the

other positions for the morning were filled by those who had contributed to the Bribie church in the early days.

In February the church invited Wayne, Liz and Michael Kirk to be the first full-time minister. —W.R. Hill

Department of Community Care

Annual Fetes

Fun for All the Family

Fred Combridge House
1A Campbell Grove
Northcote
Saturday
20 October
10 am to 3 pm

Churches of Christ Nursing Home
Wahgoon Road
Murrumbidgee
Saturday
27 October
10 am to 3 pm

Christian Guest Home and Emmaus
139 Atherton Road
Oakleigh
Saturday
10 November
9.30 am to 1.30 pm

Morning teas and lunches available
Paintings, cakes, plants, jams, pickles, toys and gifts for sale

Harcourt Church of Christ Building Centenary

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Evangelist at Subiaco

Graham M. Johnston is currently serving the Subiaco, WA, church as senior pastor since his marriage to a local girl Tracey (nee Hemming). Part of his agreement with the church is that he will be released occasionally to join Leighton Ford Ministries to organise and participate in international evangelistic campaigns.

Now 30 years of age, Graham started preaching at the age of 15 and was taken under the wing of Leighton Ford to be coached in world evangelism. Graham has worked with both Dr Leighton Ford and Billy Graham in campaigns. He has participated in ventures for Christ in Russia, Hungary, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Poland, France, Thailand and the Philippines.

In October 1989, just before Romania broke away from Communism, Graham was in charge of a lightning strike for Jesus Christ when he and three other young preachers entered quietly into the country to preach for a few days to overflowing meetings of people thirsting to hear the Gospel. However, their every move was watched while in Romania, and their rooms were bugged, so that great care had to be exercised. To avoid arrest even their Bibles were left at home.

Next October Graham is to be involved in yet another adventure planned by Leighton Ford Ministries.



Tracey and Graham Johnston

Upper Blue Mountains—Another New Church Is Growing

1991 heralds the commencement of a new and exciting era for the gospel in the Upper Blue Mountains in NSW.

For many years the church has been faithful despite disappointments and lean times.

Wentworth Falls church began in 1946. The people who served the Lord there are to be commended for their faithful stand.

In 1976 a new work was begun in a rundown Anglican building in North Katoomba. It also knew good and bad times, and maintained its faithfulness.

However by the end of 1989 both congregations were struggling, and both works were weak. After prayer and discussion, a new vision was born and it was decided to take the big step of selling the Wentworth Falls church and property and amalgamating with the North Katoomba church. This meant that a new planting program could be undertaken in North Katoomba, which had a large block of empty land with a very small building on it, giving plenty of room for growth. Surrounding the church are many new homes and young families.

From the instant the amalgamation took place the people blended together as though it was the way it was meant to be. The decision then was to look for a minister who would be able to shepherd and lead the church forward. The choice was easy and obvious, and the new Upper Blue Mountains church looks forward to the arrival of



Andrew, Adrienne, Kirk, Doug and Katie Fitzpatrick

Doug Fitzpatrick, who is now at the Glen Waverley, Vic, church.

This has caused much excitement for the church and preparations are now well in hand to build a new manse for Doug Fitzpatrick, his wife, Adrienne, and their three children, Andrew, Katie and Kirk.

The amalgamated congregation now averages 23 each Sunday with new people coming to "have a look". The worship is positive and one of the features of the service is the open prayer time where many people not only pray for the needs of the congregation but also express a deep burden for their community and for the world at large.

Sunday School has now broken its record of 20, and has set

a new goal of 40 children. This is excellent as there was no Sunday School in existence at the beginning of 1989.

The NSW Department of Church Development and Education takes great delight in this new work, and will give financial backing to the ministry. Alf Bourne, Judy Gordon, Carolyn Baxter, Rod and Marjan Beer and Clinton and Trish Wardle have all played vital roles in establishing the work, and also thanks to God for the loyal and faithful service of Frank Clark, who maintained leadership at Wentworth Falls for many years.

The future looks good and blessings are expected to continue as God leads the church into its exciting future.

—Judy Gordon

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Leadership 2000 Revisited

Did "Leadership 2000" make any real difference to our churches? Was the initial, enthusiastic reaction to the experience in Singapore a year ago the predictable reaction to many training programs? Did the whole experience dissipate when the recipients returned to the reality of their churches? Not according to the reports received some 12 months later.

"Had 40 baptisms last year."

"We now have a much higher retention rate."

"We are soon to move onto a five-acre site."

"We have had to extend our building again."

"I cannot keep up with the new people."

"Thank God we have been now able to add new staff."

"We have had a 33% increase in membership and a 25% increase in the evening service."

"Now, with our growth, we are moving to multiple services."

"We thank God for an increased number of study groups."

In addition to these reactions, two of the participants have, since the seminar, been called to serve in larger churches.

These, and many other comments, underline the impressions that "Leadership 2000" had a permanent impact on the style, competence and content of the ministries of many of the participants.

Follow-up seminars, conducted by senior ministers, have been held in most of the participating churches.

"Leadership 2000", funded by Christian Projects, has proved to be one of the most significant training experiences organised by Churches of Christ. The model of intensive

Gladstone Church Moves

The Gladstone, Qld, church recently celebrated the opening of its move to new premises.

Gladstone, an industrial city on the coast of central Queens-

land, has approximately 600 km north of Brisbane, has always been a place of enormous potential, which is now coming to fruition. The church had been situated at 124 Auckland Street since 1953 and had suffered greatly with the boom and bust nature of the city itself. Over the last few years however, the population of Gladstone has settled and this has been reflected in the growth of the church.

At the beginning of this year, due to an increase in membership, the need to move became a necessity, so when a building became available it was seen as an answer to prayer. The church is now situated in a residential area and has a seating capacity of around 150.

An opening and dedication service held for the new building was attended by approximately 95. The Mayor of Gladstone, Alderman Col Brown, and the State Member for Port Curtis, Bill Prest, were among the official guests.

Guest speaker was Don Stewart, Federal Conference President and Executive Director of the Queensland Churches of Christ Social Service Department. Many from the other denominations in Gladstone as well as people from the Bundaberg and Rockhampton churches joined in the occasion.

The church is a very relaxed and friendly fellowship. There are four small groups operating with approx 35 people involved, an indoor cricket team, which is being used to reach the young people associated with the church, and a playtime group for parents and preschool-aged children. The morning worship service averages between 40 and 45 since moving to the new building. The minister, Murray Thomson, and his wife Narelle are planning to stay in Gladstone for a number of years to provide a long-term ministry for the area.

Murray is currently working part time driving a school bus, which is proving to be an interesting ministry itself.

Plans are now being made for a follow-up seminar in Sydney late in 1991 for all participants and other ministers involved in team ministries.

—Ted Keating

Sunday School Service at Bathurst

The 5pm service at Bathurst, NSW, on 12 August opened with young musicians playing for the opening praise songs. The orchestra consisted of two flutes, organ, cornet, piano, drum and electric guitar. The singing was led with enthusiasm by the minister, David Gurney. Among the congregation were many parents of the participating children in the Sunday School.

Jenny Gilbertson, the Sunday School Superintendent, opened the service and introduced the various Sunday

School groups as they presented their items.

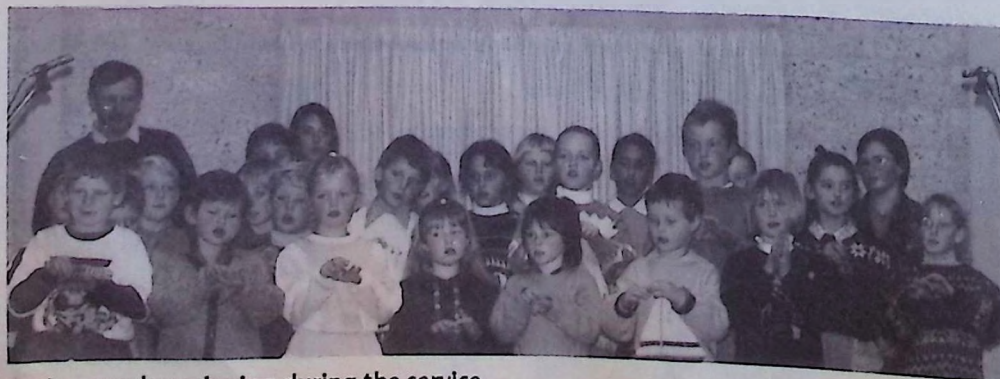
The junior section used the theme "Telling others the message of God". One class had been in contact with the Napper family in PNG. The children had been learning how a missionary family live, problems they have in a different country and how they spread the word of God to the indigenous people.

The senior class had been studying Acts, particularly the life of Stephen. Members of the class mimed the stoning of

Stephen while one of them read the story as a dialogue.

After a very enjoyable presentation by the teachers and children, David Gurney spoke about our obligations to share and spread the "Good News" and how our news media is often full of bad news, often in direct contrast with the good news of Jesus.

After the service the parents and children were invited to stay for a church family basket tea. This was a time for the church people to meet the parents of the students.



Junior members singing during the service

People

New Faculty Appointment at Carlingford



Brian and Joan White

The Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College at Carlingford has announced the appointment of Brian White as Director of Ministry and Development, to commence from the beginning of 1992.

Brian will have responsibility in the development of the college's new integrated training program, which will link theory and practice very strongly in training for ministry. Brian is well qualified for this, having had effective local church pastoral ministries at Norlane, Vic, Telopea, NSW,

Hawthorn, SA, and Caringbah, NSW. Since 1985 he has been Field Director with the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development and the Federal Board of Christian Education. Brian is highly respected throughout Churches of Christ in Australia. He was Conference President in NSW in their Centenary Conference Year and is now President of the Vic-Tas Conference.

Brian and his wife Joan have worked together in marriage and family education for about 20 years. They are well known for their Christian marriage enrichment seminars and their building strong families parenting seminars, which they will continue in the new ministry. Joan will be directly involved in the ministry of the college also through the follow up and support of recent graduates and their families and representing the college in churches.

Brian and Joan have three sons, one of whom is a graduate from Carlingford.

Roy Raymond Celebrates 100th Birthday

Roy Raymond will celebrate his 100th birthday on 1 October. Born at Moonta, SA, he was the sixth of a family of 12 children. Forced to leave school at the age of 10 because of serious eye trouble, which persisted for over two years, he commenced employment on the copper mines at Wallaroo Mines at the age of 12.

At the age of 21 he received an unexpected call to take up the work as a Home Mission worker on Eyre Peninsula, SA, with Robert Harkness. Friendships made in those days in 1912 have been maintained to this day with descendants of the original families.

Further pioneering work as a Home Mission worker followed at Berri, with subsequent ministries in SA at Murray Bridge, Kersbrook, Williamstown, Gawler and Nailsworth. He accepted a call to Fremantle, WA, in 1932 and further ministries followed at Subiaco (two terms) and Inglewood. He also served as Home Missions Secretary and State Evangelist in WA.

At the Federal level he was a prime mover in the establish-



ment of the Federal Aborigines Mission Committee, serving as its first secretary, with Albany Bell as chairman.

He is also remembered for his leading role in the establishment of Bethesda Hospital Inc. at Claremont in conjunction with Matron Beryl Hill.

Roy is in membership with the Manning, WA, church where he still takes an active part in worship services from time to time.

Ray Vincent, Editor of *The Western Christian*, notes: "His quality of life and his contribution to the Christian church have been outstanding."

Trombone Evangelist

If you have heard a trombone then you'll know that it has a beautiful full melodic sound, especially when played by a master.

Sam Saltar is such a master. He accompanied Liberace, Judy Garland and many others. He was a musical "star" in America—wealthy, feted and famous—until one day he and his wife (a Jew) came to know the Lord.

Sam Saltar still plays the trombone, but now the notes rise in celebration and praise to God.

For the last 25 years Sam and Roni Saltar have travelled extensively, telling of God's wonderful workings in their lives, and sharing in music, song and testimony. They op-

erate on faith giving at their meetings.

On 2 September Sam and Roni came to the Hadfield Secondary College for a night of Christian Celebration organised by Louis Clun, minister of the Coburg and Pascoe Vale, Vic, Churches of Christ. It was an interchurch event supported by Brunswick Church of Christ, three Uniting churches and two Anglican churches. It is the first time in quite a while (if ever) that an outreach involving different churches has been conducted in the area.

Despite the bleak and stormy weather 75 turned up for the outreach service with several making indications of committing their lives to Christ.

—C. Clun

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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Father's Day

To the Editor,

Yesterday morning, 2 September, I was sitting in the choir in our church proudly wearing

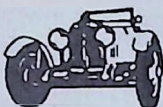
my red flower for "Father's Day", and as I looked about me I realised I was the only one in the whole church with one. My first reaction was to take it off, my second, no. I love my husband very much, he is a loving caring father to our son,

daughter and son-in-law, so I left it on. I felt sad when thinking back to Mother's Day and how we hand out white flowers with a pin for any who forget to wear one, but our dads seem to get forgotten. Our dads are just as important as mums. While Ron does not agree with the commercial side of Father's Day, he appreciates the card and the wearing of the red flower.

—Brenda Talbot
(Magill, SA)

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Women and Leadership

To the Editor,

Though grateful for Owen Wainwright's interest in the leadership issue, I feel he has missed the point ("AC" 8 September). Far from undermining the authority of Scripture I am seeking to uphold it (see my letters "AC" 23 June and 4 August). As a textual critic Metzger is simply stating a fact not speculating about 1 Corinthians 14:34 and 35.

All evangelicals I know accept the Scripture "as originally given". To be committed to

something other than that could well lead to absurdity.

My point is that if the passage above is allowed to stand as part of the original text Paul really does appear to be at odds with himself—a serious matter.

True, women did not exercise leadership in the early church (though note Acts 21:9). There were obviously social, educational and (I would want to argue given more space) theological reasons why they didn't.

Regarding deaconesses, Dunn thinks that a more "recognised ministry or position of responsibility" is implied at Romans 16:1 and that the NIV's "servant" is inadequate. He further states that "the fact...remains that Phoebe is the first recorded 'deacon' in the history of Christianity." And Bruce thinks that Philippians 4:3 "does not suggest that Paul's female co-workers played a minor part as compared with their male counterparts" (GNB Commentary ad loc).

—H.K. Stothard
(Essendon, Vic)

Letters from Tertius

Glass

To the Editor,

Our church paper announced solemnly that "the quality of our lives depends on our use of glass—whether we use it most as mirrors or as windows".

I know what that means. Each morning on getting up I look out of our bedroom window to an ever-changing scene of sunshine or cloud, frost or rain, with a bird or two thrown in, and last week a lone daffodil, the first herald of spring. This gets me ready for the first shock of the day, looking at my early morning face in the mirror.

Mirrors are certainly useful checks on us before we present ourselves to the unsuspecting public. But I'm sure we can overdo the mirror bit—figuratively, I mean. Sometimes it's easy enough for me to look at my woebegone countenance and turn on a "poor Tertius" soliloquy. Or conversely I can do a "Narcissus" and get exaggerated ideas of myself.

I can see the importance of checking up on myself and accepting what I see. But I think that too much of the inward look can put my self-esteem out of kilter, either up or down.

Maybe it's the window vision that counts, rather than the mirror image. And I find that if I am looking out all the time, at life with all its colours and at people in all their variety of moods, I can keep my self-esteem where it belongs.

Yours reflectively,
Tertius

Calendar

National

October
8-14 Federal Conference, Brisbane
Western Australia

October
1 Roy Raymond Train Excursion and Picnic
26 Centenary Thanksgiving
27 Music Festival

November
2 Dawn Communion
3 Centenary Dinner
4 Evangelistic Rally

Queensland

October
6 Kenmore Christian College Jubilee Banquet
13 107th State Conference

Victoria

October
5 CCTC Celebrity Concert
6 Central & Northern District Conference Executive, Bendigo
7 Annual Offering, Department of Christian Union & Ecumenical Affairs
26-27 Youth Ministry Leadership Seminar, Glen Waverley
27 Fete, Nursing Home, Murrumbidgee
28 Annual Children's Sunday

November
6 Cup Day Bike Ride
10 Christian Guest Home, Oakleigh, Fete
16 CCTC Graduation Ceremony
25 Annual Offering, Department of Mission, Education & Development
27 Christian Fellowship Association Dinner & Annual Meeting

December
1 Youth Vision Closing Event
South Australia

October
4 Women's Ministry Thursday Focus, Grote St
5-8 Adventure Camp
19-20 Social Justice Retreat
20 "At Home", Glenrose
19-21 Women's Camp
24 Ministers' Association
26-28 Women's Camp, Mylor

November
1 Women's Ministry Country Rally
17 Kidsmin Party Day
24 State Board
25 Community Care Volunteers Break-up
25 Evangelism Church Resources Offering
26-30 Retreat Camp
30 Ministers' Association

December
6 Women's Ministry Thursday Focus Christmas Meeting, Grote St
6 CMS Christmas Service
New South Wales

October
5 CWF Convention Day, Bowral

November
2 CWF at Burwood
23 College Graduation
25 DCD Offering

December
7 CWF, Burwood
7-9 Summer of 90 Camp, Grassy Head

World News

Christians in Jordan Call for Help

"There is nothing left for life."
"They took everything we had. We came home like cattle on the backs of trucks."

"We had to sleep at night in the desert camps and Iraqi soldiers, they came in the night and searched our pockets."

"I think what's happening is crazy—it's never happened in Arab history."

"We left because we can't find food, gasoline. There is nothing for life there. Everything in Kuwait has become destroyed, and life there is dangerous. There is no control, no government. If you drive in the streets there are no traffic signals. The Iraqi Army has destroyed everything there."

These are the testimonies of some of the 200,000 refugees who made a dash for the Jordanian border after Iraq invaded Kuwait on 2 August. In just one day 42,000 swarmed into Jordan and thousands more lined up for 100 miles trying to escape from Iraq. Nearly 100,000 were left at the port of Aqaba, Jordan, waiting for a chance to escape via the Red Sea. Many of the refugees are workers from Egypt, Sudan and Yemen who are transiting through Jordan tired, dirty, thirsty and without any cash. Lack of food and safety is causing them to leave the Gulf area.

Jordan's King Hussein says his country "is overwhelmed by a flood of refugees and [this is] straining the resources of Jordan." His country is no longer capable of "meeting the needs of these people" without international help.

Jordan has only a tiny Christian community, perhaps 200,000, but they are committed to working together to assist the refugees. A committee of Christian leaders in Amman has been formed to organise a relief project. Destitute refugees, 250 at a time, 3,000 over three months, will be given shelter in Camp Gilead, a relief centre. In Amman, food rations will be distributed to 6,000 a day. One of the Jordanian

church leaders said, "The task force is doing the best it can. We are working on a voluntary basis and only with funds that have been donated by Jordanian Christians. The needs are overwhelming."

This relief work coincides with the desire of the Jordanian government to meet the basic needs of the refugees and gives the churches of Jordan a unique opportunity to work in co-operation with the needs of the Jordanian government. Christians in Jordan feel that it would be an outstanding testimony for the body of Christ to be helping at this critical time in the life of Jordan. King Hussein has said on several occasions that he feels it is the prayers of the Christians that have supported him through numerous assassination attempts and throughout his 37-year rule. It is rare that the body of Christ in Jordan is positioned to meet the needs of destitute people, support the government and at the same time have occasion for solid proclamation of the Gospel.

An experienced missionary also points out: "There are a large number of evangelical Christians coming out of Iraq. So anything we can do will be helping Christians survive—a group that is often ostracised and probably won't get help from anyone else. Ministering to these refugees also gives us a good opportunity to do something in the name of Christ in a predominantly Muslim area. Thousands of refugees are from countries like Yemen that are virtually closed to the Gospel."

TEAR Australia can forward your gift to help the tiny Jordanian church in its relief mission and witness. TEAR's address is PO Box 289, Hawthorn 3122.

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Papers

Violence and Pornography

An Assault on Human Dignity

by Hank Petrusma, MLC

This is a 12-page pamphlet that examines some of the material linking violence and pornography. One of the reasons that Hank has put this material together is his concern for the children of our society. After his examination of some newspaper reports and other literature regarding pornography and violence he makes some suggestions for parents, including a large section regarding television viewing. This is followed by two short sections for schools and broadcasters. Some of the suggestions relate specifically to Tasmania as Hank is a Member of the Legislative Council of that state, however the appropriate addresses in other states would be easily obtainable. Hank is associated with the Collins St, Hobart, church. The paper is available from Hank Petrusma, MLC, Parliament House, Hobart 7000. We are unaware of any charge for the paper.

Books

Land of the Spirit?

The Australian Religious Experience

by Muriel Porter (Joint Board of Christian Education & WCC Publications) \$10.95

This book has been written to supply delegates to the World Council of Churches Assembly to be held in Canberra next year an account of the development of Australia's spiritual life.

It is a potted history of Australia that concentrates on the effect of Australia's history on the current religious scene here.

Readers should be aware that this book is written primarily for people who have little or no knowledge of Australia and its history and thus it is sometimes sweeping in assumptions and does not cover every little incident and influence on our culture. Muriel Porter was further limited in the range of material covered in being limited to 30,000 words.

Thankfully an idea to write the book by a committee was overturned.

Muriel Porter very skilfully explores the achievements of the religious community in Australia and explores some of the significant failures over the past 200 years.

As one other reviewer noted: "One of Dr Porter's most valuable emphases is the way that she links the story of service to the community within the communication of Christianity."

This book will still serve the church in Australia very well.

It deserves to be read and reflected upon in all our churches. We need to explore further many of the points she raises about Australian society and their relationship with the church and to work through the implication of this for Churches of Christ and individual churches.

—CRA



LAND OF THE SPIRIT?
The Australian Religious Experience

A Future and a Hope

by Lloyd Ogilvie (Word Publishing) \$10.50

Climbing across seaside boulders in Scotland, Lloyd Ogilvie slipped and fell, shattering his left leg. The beach was deserted and night was coming. Dragging himself along he cried out to God and knew that he was promising him "a future and a hope". Nearly three hours later he saw a man out walking who "happened" to be a doctor and thus Lloyd Ogilvie was rescued.

His long months of convalescence gave him time to see that his experience was a metaphor of life. He was at the time researching for a book on the Christian's hope. His experiences helped him to better understand the whole concept of hope that God gives to the Christian. This book is the result of that research and the very close shave that Lloyd Ogilvie had.

Dr Ogilvie examines the way that Christ in our lives gives us a hope for the future. He constantly examines the various Scripture passages on hope and he shows how the Bible constantly shows that hope in the midst of darkness is a promise of God to all who follow him. The author also shows how the hope of the Christian can set them free from their past and how our hopefulness can lead to us encouraging others.

—CRA

International Children's Bible Dictionary

by Lynn Waller (Worthy Publishing) \$20

Designed for primary-school-aged children, this is an excellent resource for leaders of Sunday schools, children's clubs and other ministries with children. The alphabetical dictionary has over 100 line illustrations to help children better understand the words and concepts being explained. The language is simple and there are clear instructions as to where the words are found in the Bible. There is an excellent one-page summary on the front page on how to use the dictionary. The price for this hardcover book is very reasonable.

—CRA



Bishop Leads Dulwich Anniversary Service

The unusual phenomenon of an Anglican bishop being guest preacher at a Church of Christ anniversary service in a united parish in which that church is partner with a Uniting Church—this was the situation for the 70th anniversary of Dulwich, SA, on 19 August.

UC and C of C members met unitedly in the fine Rose Park building of the former Methodist, now UC, church, widely known as Gartrell Memorial, after its original benefactor. The parish includes former Congregationalists of the suburb. Why an Anglican bishop in this ecumenical setting?

Answer: The Right Rev George Hearn, Bishop of Rockhampton, Queensland, was a graduate of the then College of the Bible in 1956 and pastor of Dulwich church in 1957-61.

With his wife Adele he went on to our church at Warragul, Vic. Invited to train for the Anglican priesthood and having strong leanings to the traditions of that church, he took a BA and ThL at La Trobe University and was ordained in 1964.

Rural and Anglican Board of Education appointments followed, and in 1981 he was, to his surprise (he says), given charge of the diocese of Rockhampton.

Early this year, with the approach of Dulwich's 70th milestone as a full-fledged church (seven years of cottage meetings had preceded its chapel

opening), Ken Allison, one of Dulwich's noted lay leaders, heard that Bishop Hearn was coming south for meetings in NSW and Victoria.

Ken suggested inviting the minister of 30-odd years ago to be the guest for the perfect number anniversary, and this was enthusiastically taken up and accepted.

So the robed (but not mitred for this occasion) prelate stepped into Gartrell's lofty pulpit to preach the occasional sermon. And a packed audience of 300 crowded the church, including the gallery. Six surviving former ministers of Dulwich were present. Two others, Geoff Whiting and Milton Drake, sent apologies.

The parish's two current ministers, Bob Williams (UC) and Roger Brown (C of C) conducted the service, including communion (individual cup distribution to pews). Bishop Hearn had been asked whether he would like to administer communion; he said this would be inappropriate but he would be pleased to receive communion with other members of the congregation.

The welcome and call to worship had been given by Jack Ludbrook, the only current member of Dulwich who was at the 1920 opening, John Allison (Blackwood) was at the organ and immediate past UC minister Ted Bray and his wife Noreen joined the choir.

Elsie MacIntosh, 80, and David Tregenza read the les-



Rob Williams, Bishop Hearn and Roger Brown outside Gartrell Memorial Church

sons and Ngairé Llewellyn developed a role play with the children using vari-coloured balloons.

After lunch Ed Ots (Vic), Cynthia Snow and Jennifer Higgins led us "Down Memory Lane" with reminiscences, and there was a thank you to the Gartrell ladies for superb help with food and serving.

An extensive memorabilia exhibition was displayed. On

the preceding Friday night district ministers, the secretary of the SA Council of Churches (Janet Wood), and others joined us to hear Bishop Hearn's account of his journey in ministry from Dulwich to Bishop's Court at Rockhampton.

He answered questions and listened to a statement by a leading Roman Catholic layman supporting co-operation and a distant hope of unity.

—JL

The Woods in SA

Betty and George Wood conducted a series of meetings at Bordertown, Mundulla and Keith, SA, over 1-9 September that were titled "A Certain Word in an Uncertain World".

George is known as a Christian communicator, evangelist and gospel speaker. The Woods came to us from the Thornlie, WA, church, where they are currently ministering. Previously they have had ministries at Norwood and Hawthorn churches in South Australia and South Perth, WA, before joining with Leighton Ford of the Billy Graham Crusade team. Following this, George then pastored Central Christian Church, Wichita, USA, and Blackwell Christian Church, USA.

With his prayer partner, Bill Bowden, George was well prepared for his time at Bordertown. The church had also prepared with home study groups and prayer meetings some weeks beforehand.

George spoke at a men's breakfast to a gathering of 84 on the first morning. A ladies coffee hour on three occasions gave Betty an opportunity to address 162 women.

The final night was one to remember when George and Bill conducted the final service with old-time gospel hymns led by Bill.

All meetings were completed with an invitation. Over the period of the mission 1,200 attended the various meetings.

—Bill Carson

Married Couple

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of a 21-unit village located in Croydon, Vic.

Applicants should be practising Christians, able to relate to elderly folk, be reasonably handy and capable of all management functions.

A job specification is available by phoning (03) 725 9739 or the Croydon church office (03) 723 6500.

A nominal remuneration and fully maintained 2-BR unit is available.

Applications, in writing, to M/s Isobel Marshall, c/o 11 Jackson St, Croydon 3136, by 8 October 1990.

Tarralla Christian Retirement Village

Happenings

Human foetuses have been sacrificed by devil worshippers in Adelaide and animal sacrifices are being practised in the Adelaide Hills, Anglican priest David Binns has claimed in an interview with the *Adelaide Advertiser*. It is interesting that in his youth David Binns was a member of the Dulwich, SA, Church of Christ. He is currently the priest at St Luke's Anglican Church in the city, where he has been the priest for 25 years.

SIM Australia has announced the release from Iraq of Alan Barnett. Alan is the 15-year-old son of SIM missionaries, presently in Scotland. Alan was seen in the background of the video showing Saddam Hussein with the hostages shown recently on television screens around the world. Alan had landed in Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion and had been held in Baghdad.

SIM's radio ELWA and hospital facilities just outside Monrovia, Liberia, have been "flattened" according to German mine operators who have just come out of the country. All 22,000 refugees fled the ELWA campus when SIM personnel were evacuated when word was received that the Liberation army would shell the radio station to keep it from being used by the rebels, but until now this could not be confirmed.

Trans World Radio's president and founder Dr Paul Freed was recently in Czechoslovakia for meetings with government officials regarding TWR's use of that country's super-power broadcasting facilities for gospel radio ministry programming.

A cut of \$100 million from the foreign aid program effectively negated the generosity of the Australian community, which would give about \$100 million in donations to aid agencies this year. This was the message from 12 aid agencies to the Federal Government after the disappoint-

ment of further cuts to already depleted aid funds. They said the cuts meant foreign aid had plunged to its lowest level in 25 years.

Japan is the world's biggest foreign aid giver, having spent \$9 billion on aid to the Third World last year. Japan has pushed the United States, at \$7.7 billion, into second place for the first time. In terms of gross national product (GNP) the most generous donors are the Scandinavians and the Dutch.

Rally for Family is introducing Life Chain, a form of anti-abortion protest, to Australia on 14 October in Brisbane. The Life Chain strategy is to have hundreds of concerned citizens line the footpath of a busy street holding placards with the message "Abortion Kills Children". It is proposed to hold the protest on Coronation Drive, Bowen Bridge Rd (near the Royal Brisbane Hospital) or Ipswich Road (near PA Hospital) between 1 and 2 pm.

The Essendon, Vic, Branch of the Bible Society is holding a meeting with Dr Mae Reggy, a renowned linguist from Nairobi, Kenya, on 25 September at 1.30 pm at the Essendon Church of Christ, Buckley St. The afternoon will also include items by pianist Romney King and tenor Geoffrey Dean.

A national renewal campaign, to be known as "The Southern Cross Crusade 2000 AD" is being launched by the Festival of Light. They describe it as the most important campaign since the formation of the Festival of Light in 1973. The first major public event will be the 1990 Kings Cross Jesus March to be held on 1 October, which is a public holiday in Sydney. The march will commence at Central Railway Station and proceed to El Alamein Fountain in Kings Cross.

On 28-29 July hundreds gathered at Long Bedlan,

Borneo, to celebrate the arrival of the Kayan Bible. The sponsoring church was the Kayan Church, a division of the Evangelical Church of Borneo (SIB). Soon after the Kayans began to turn to the Christian faith in 1949-50, the Kayan language was written for the first time and translation work began.

The following people connected with Churches of Christ in Vanuatu were awarded the 10th Independence Anniversary medal by the Vanuatu Government in July: Morrie Tabi (Bible translator and elder), Wilson Webak (pastor), Kathy Solomon (National Council of Women), Jonas Tabi (businessman), Samuel Vusi (pastor, Bible College Principal), Allick Vuti (pastor).

A further stamp sale is being held at the Blackburn Baptist Church on 27 October. Churches of Christ will have a stall at that sale and any Australian or overseas stamps could be delivered to the Box Hill church or ring Ern Blake on (03) 803 4858 if you have stamps that could be sold to provide Bible correspondence courses in India.

Tasmania's Christian FM Broadcasters group has won the licence to broadcast in the northwest of the state, but only if they drop the "Christian" from their title. The station will be known as Coastal FM.

The Australian Teachers' Union wants compulsory AIDS education in state schools, irrespective of the students' religious or cultural beliefs. But they oppose mandatory testing for the HIV virus, despite the advantages of early detection.

1 million face starvation in southern Angola after 3 years of crop failure. African Evangelical Fellowship missionary Stephen Foster calls it "a serious situation which is rapidly escalating into a national tragedy".

The most common source of help or encouragement to American adults is their immediate family. 56% of all Americans say they turn to their family when they have problems or concerns, according to the Barna Research Group. 43% of those polled turned to personal friends for help, while 38% often go to the Bible for help.

Allan Male, a Churches of Christ minister in Queensland, has founded the Shaftesbury Citizenship Centre at Burpengary, north of Brisbane. 20 prisoners will be released 3 months before their sentences end to enable them to participate in a government-approved program run by the centre to reorient them to society.

When Ervin Borgfeldt of San Francisco died in 1985, he left \$100 to his wife, whom he was about to divorce, and bequeathed the rest of his fortune to "Lutheran children's home of Australia". No such charity exists, but a 2-year legal battle in the US has resulted in the Lutheran Church here being awarded \$1 million for work with children. A trust fund is being established.

Evening news should not be broadcast on TV before 7.30 pm because of its violent content, a Uniting Church report has advised.

Christian leaders elsewhere in the Gulf region think Christians in Kuwait are coping and attempting to maintain services in the wake of the Iraqi invasion, though this is difficult to confirm because of the disruption of communications. The 3 main church buildings in overwhelmingly Islamic Kuwait are Anglican, Roman Catholic and Reformed (Evangelical). There are dozens of other congregations worshipping, mainly in Asian languages.

After 128 years of publication *The Advocate*, the

weekly paper of the Roman Catholic Church in Victoria, has been closed down. Financial difficulties were given as the reason for the sudden and unexpected closure.

"Island Breeze", a 17-member Polynesian group that features national dances and music of the Pacific islands, is touring Western Australia and Adelaide during September, October and November. The professional group is based with WYAM and details of performances can be obtained from WYAM offices in the relevant states. One purpose of the tour is to share the gospel with Aborigines. The final part of the tour involves taking part in the official entertainment for the Grand Prix in Adelaide.

The demand for weddings at St John's Anglican Church in Toorak, Melbourne, Vic, is so high that the parish has installed an assistant priest solely for marriage ministry, including running marriage preparation and enrichment courses.

The next Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rt Rev. George Carey, says that he is "going for growth" as he takes up his new appointment.

A Baptist evangelist has reportedly been beheaded after a mission in Bangladesh. The Baptist World Alliance has written to Baptists in India asking for more details on the death of Rev. Paravastu in order to make a protest to the authorities.

There are one-third fewer Christians in East Germany than official church statistics show, according to a sociological institute in East Berlin. A poll reveals that 21% of the adult population of the GDR consider themselves Protestant, and just 3.6% Catholics. According to statistics for 1986, published by the two churches last December, the percentages were 30.7% and 6.3% respectively.



Kenmore Christian College

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN QUEENSLAND

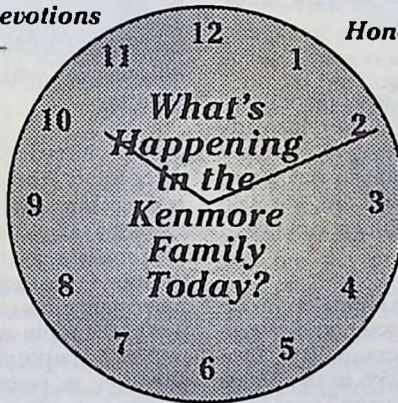


Community Praise ↑

A Vital Community



10 am: College Devotions



Honorary Lecturers ↑

Afternoon Tea ↓



8 am: Lectures Commence ↓

Community Activities ↓

Students Relax with Their Families ↓



Equipping God's Servants for Ministry
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Enquiries: The Principal, PO Box 55, Kenmore 4069 (phone (07) 378 1988)

Bill Newman Crusade

The Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Walter Lini, warmly welcomed Bill Newman and his team to the islands. His concern for his people was obvious. His heartfelt desire to have God's Word preached to the people of Vanuatu was very encouraging. The crusade was part of the 10th anniversary of independence celebrations.

"Please pray for us," was a request from a man who believes. "In God We Stand." This is not just a convenient motto for Vanuatu but a declared expression of intention and "way of life" in this Pacific country.

In Vila

"I am very pleased that you have come to speak to the men in my command." The Commander of the Vanuatu Mobile Force, Lieutenant Colonel Takal, was a witness to his men. His special unit has the responsibility of protecting the government and keeping the peace.

The meeting with the officers and men resulted in many of them accepting Christ as Lord and Saviour.

"We realise that without the preaching of the Gospel over the last 150 years we would not be where we are today," said the Minister for Home Affairs, Mr Ulol Abil, recognising the vital work of the early missionaries who came from many nations—Samoa, Canada, England, Australia and New Zealand.

On the small island of Aneityum there stands a monument to the ministry of one of the first missionaries, John Geddie: "When he landed here in 1848 there were no Christians; when he left in 1872 there were no heathen."

On Ambae

Jackson, a custom chief from a hill village on Ambae Island welcomed us to Nduindui with the words: "Just as the first missionary came and he was welcomed and protected by our customs and able to move around and preach the Gospel to the people, so this has continued up until this time when you are visiting us."

Jackson was one of the first men to walk forward in the Crusade meeting.

In Santo

The Shire Clerk of Santo town stood quietly in the rain to proclaim his desire to confess Christ. "I want to put things right with the Lord," he said with dignity and assurance.

On Tanna

Chief Tom Numake is a colourful character and warm Christian personality. Tom said: "Only 25% of the 22,000 people who live on Tanna have accepted Christ. Jesus is the answer to the thousands on this island who have rejected Christianity and chosen 'custom'. We need to reach our



Bill Newman with father Walter Lini, Vanuatu's Prime Minister

people with evangelistic teams in the future. You challenge us and encourage us by coming to share the Gospel."

Tanna Island is the home of the John Frum cargo cult. This movement grew out of a rejection of the white man and "his religion". The people fixed their attention on certain physical objects as symbols of the new way. As a traveller passing through the jungle of Tanna you might come unexpectedly upon a clearing in the trees, where you might find a roughly

carved and brightly painted aeroplane and a little painted gate. These symbolise the planes that were to bring cargo and gates leading out to a new way. But the planes could not fly and no cargo came from the outside world. And the little gates opened on no paths.

They led nowhere. The prophets of John Frum had led the people away from the truth to a false trail.

As Tom Numake testified clearly to the hundreds who gathered on the Lenakel Sports



Church of Christ Choir at Port Vila meeting

The Odd Couple

It was a bit embarrassing. All the people of the area were there to collect firewood and other necessary things for a feast and now they were enjoying a great laugh at me. They were calling out: "The whiteman is carrying firewood, he whiteman is carrying firewood." It was a bit of a joke too. Old Abel would not let me carry one of the big pieces that the other men and women were carrying. He picked out a small branch for me and one for himself. I picked up a second one and followed him to the area where they would do the cooking for the forthcoming marriage.

So that is how they welcomed us. Although I had sent two messages to say I was coming to Wujumwel on Central Pentecost that day, my arrival was a surprise to all. However Abel looked after me well. I heard a lot of the history of the church as we walked around the area. But what an odd couple we were!

Abel is a 74-year-old ni-Vanuatu who is not much over 5 ft. I am 37 and just short of 6 ft. Going down the steep slippery paths between the villages, Abel stops to cut me a stick to support me. He tells me he is all right as he has his bush knife.

Field: "When Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life; no man comes to the Father but by me,' he was speaking the truth."

Response

Over 2,000 men, women and children responded to the invitation to come to Christ in the three weeks of meetings, beginning at Nduindui on Ambae Island, then on Santo in Luganville Township, after which a week was spent in Port Vila concluding at Lenakel on Tanna Island.

It was estimated that 30,000 came to the meetings. They represented a cross section of the Vanuatu people.

On Santo men and women gathered from the islands of Maewo, Ambae, Pentecost, Malo, Mavea, Tutuba, Aore, Paama and Malekula.



Man from Tanna Island at the Crusade

In Port Vila, the capital of Vanuatu, men and women from the northern and southern islands of this archipelago of 83 islands came to hear the Gospel. One of those who was actively involved in the outreach in Vila was Tom Avelvel from the southern island of Erromango (also called the Martyrs Island), unique in Pacific history as a place of violence and death for the early Christian workers. In 1839 John Williams and James Harris were murdered at Dillon's Bay on Erromango. James Gordon, missionary to Erromango, who himself was also murdered, wrote: "Every beach on this ill-fated island has been stained with the blood of foreigners."

The parable of the sower teaches us that after faithfully proclaiming God's Word, there will be various reactions, due to ignorance, the work of enemy persecution, the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth—but what was sown on good "heart soil" is the person who hears the word, believes and understands it.

In preparing for the Crusade 550 men and women were trained as counsellors. These people, along with the follow-up program, will encourage and nurture the spiritual growth of these new Christians to a better understanding of God's Word.

—David Eagling

He still has to wait for me as he sure-footedly leads the way down while I slither and slide and squelch through the mud. Going up the other side is a bit different. He has to stop often to catch his breath and I say a little prayer asking the Lord not to let him have a heart attack or something just because I said I would like to have a look around.

We went past the first place where they built a chapel in the area and several other places where there used to be villages. All the people from some of those places have died out now. Abel talks about how God is faithful but sometimes men are not faithful. He was a speaker at the recent 10th Celebration of Independence in this area and he told me he warned the people there then of the result of unfaithfulness. He talked of some of these villages that had accepted the Gospel but were not faithful and today they are extinct.

He talked of his own life too. In 1966 after Old Seth could no longer do the work, Abel was made an elder. At that time he was the only one in the area who presided at the Lord's Table on Sunday but he quickly taught others to do it and passed on the work. Earlier he had volunteered to go and work

among the heathen on South Pentecost. It was supposed to be a three-month stint but no one came to take his place so he stayed for six months. He went home for a little while and then went back for nine months.

While I was with him, Dorothy Smith was visiting South Pentecost. Abel told me how they used to help Sister Smith and that there were no roads for trucks in the area then. He wanted her to come and see the roads.

I suggested that at 80 years she may not be up to the trip. (It took me two hours to go the 20 km to get there in a four-wheel-drive vehicle and I had quite a headache after it.) Instead I arranged for him and a couple of other older men to come back south with me to meet her. He was glad to do that.

I came home to Ambae feeling satisfied that I had made it possible for him to have that privilege and that all was arranged for him to get a ride back home. I found out later that he had decided not to wait the extra day for the ride but walked home.

It is an education and I count it a great privilege to have spent two days in his company even though we made such an odd couple.

—Lyll Muller



Lyll with Abel and his grandchildren

Exciting Changes for Carlingford

The winds of change are blowing and they promise some exciting times for Carlingford. For nearly fifty years the College has trained men and women for ministry both in Australia and overseas. The College has always sought to train in a way that is relevant and practical. The changes will continue this commitment.

Certificate Course for Retirees

There are many retirees throughout Australian Churches of Christ who are strongly committed to Christ and his service and who can contribute much to the ministry of their local church or another church.

We believe that with some additional training in biblical, theological and specific skills areas these people would have the confidence and capacity to be ministry assistants in a voluntary capacity.

From 1991 we will be offering a one-year certificate course, which can be taken full time or part time. The course includes a semester of basic courses in Old and New Testament, theology and other resources courses. Emphasis is also placed on faith development. The second semester allows students to choose specialist courses for development of particular skills.

Diploma Changes

For some time the College has been considering a closer integration of theory, practice and spiritual formation in the Diploma of Ministry. The result is a major alteration in the Diploma of Ministry, which will mean less time spent in the classroom and more time in supervised field work. The prospects are very exciting.

The course will contain eight semesters, the first of which is spent entirely in the College and the last entirely in the field. The other six semesters are spent half and half. Many of the practical subjects will be taught in a "hands on" fashion.

We believe that this will result in better trained, more practical and more aware graduates.

Director of Ministry and Development

Tim Hanna, who for the last two years has been Field Director, will be concluding his ministry at the end of this year. He has brought flair and imagination to the task. Finding a replacement has not been easy.

We are delighted that Brian White will take up the role of Director of Ministry and Development at the beginning of 1992. Brian will concentrate on field education and some public relations work for the College. Together with his wife Joan he will lead marriage enrichment and family seminars. This is an area in which Brian and Joan have great expertise.

Joan will also have a ministry to graduates as well as sharing in some public relations work.

New Building

To alleviate accommodation problems and to facilitate worship we are undertaking an extensive building program. A new chapel is to be built and extra accommodation for both single and married students is to be provided. The cost will be \$350,000.

These measures have become necessary because of the growth of the College in recent years.

Modules

In 1991 the College will be offering three modules. The first, "The Holy Spirit and the Christian Life", will be offered in February. The other two, "The Pastor and Change" and "Biblical Perspectives on Women" will be offered in June.

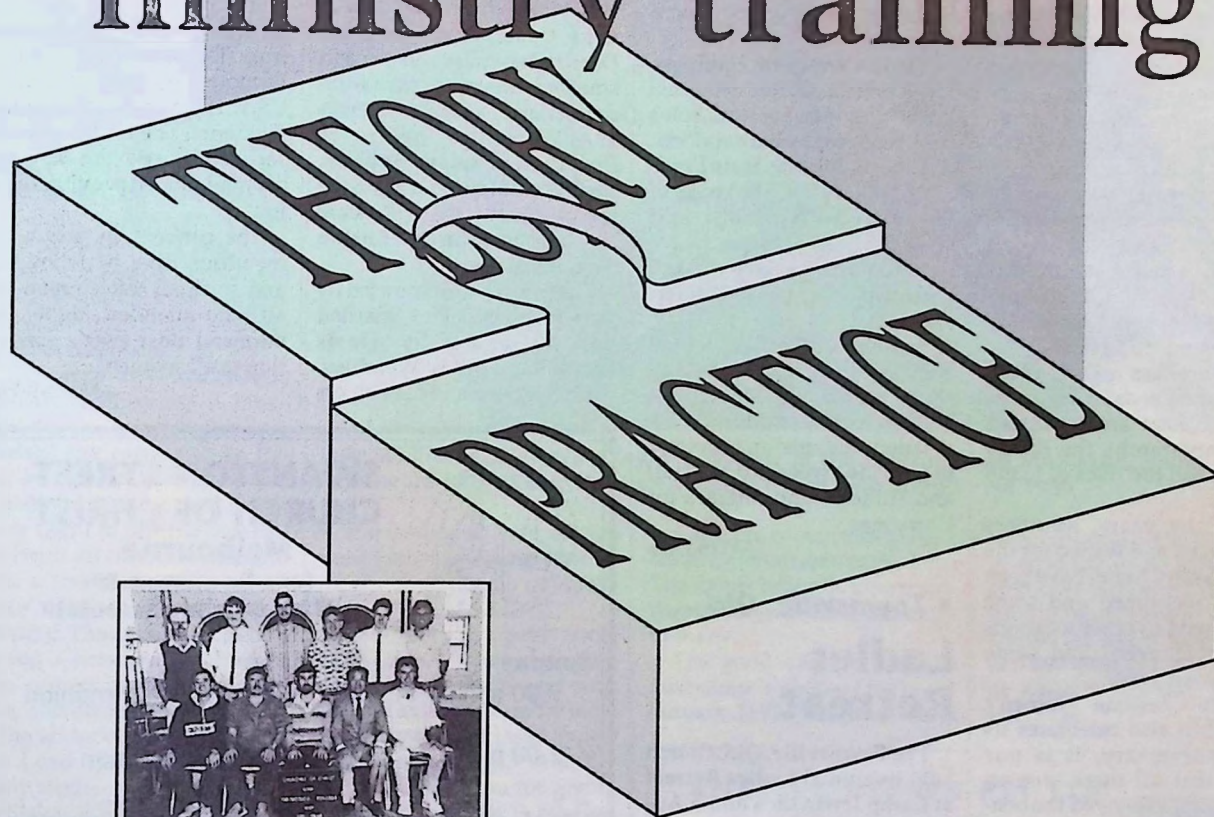
These courses are open to anyone who might care to participate.

Conversion Course

As part of Carlingford's involvement with the Sydney College of Divinity we are able to teach a conversion course for students who have a recognised diploma. This enables them to upgrade the diploma to a Bachelor of Theology degree.

There are currently graduates from both the Churches of Christ Theological College at Mulgrave and Kenmore Christian College undertaking the conversion course.

We're taking a new approach to ministry training



The expression 'He is so heavenly minded he is of no earthly use' suggests a person suffering from an inability to translate theory into practice.

At Carlingford college we believe theory must be put into practice to be relevant. From 1991 our course structure will involve 50% theory and 50% supervised practical ministry content. Why? because Jesus taught his disciples by word and deed.

This initiative is one of several new developments at the college and reflects a contemporary approach to ministry training, while maintaining the fundamental principles of Biblical teaching.

Would you like to know more about the college or the courses available? Our principle Keith Farmer would welcome the opportunity of having a chat with you. Keith can be contacted at the college weekdays on (02) 630 7533.



Churches of Christ (in NSW) Theological College

Carlingford NSW 2118

• North Turramurra, NSW

The 25-Year Thread

For 25 years the North Turramurra, NSW, church has been weaving a tapestry. The reverse side of this tapestry is a mass of threads and knots, but one thread is unbroken, continuous—the thread of the Christian Women's Fellowship.

The thread was woven around thought-provoking, educational and challenging meetings, around social occasions for fun and fellowship with the whole church family and around fundraising for many Christian organisations and for the needs of Churches of Christ here and overseas. Most importantly, the thread has touched the lives of many women.

Over the years, numbers have waxed and waned for the usual reasons. Many have been warmly welcomed and some have moved to other locations or other churches and some have passed away.

As the Christian Women's Fellowship also celebrates its 25th anniversary, it is our prayer that all these women have not only enjoyed the benefits—already mentioned—but have also experienced the aims and purpose of CWF. That is the development of Christian character through worship and study, stewardship, service and responsibility and the growth and co-ordination of women's work and outreach. Our present CWF is looking forward with pleasure to the young women of the church, many in similar positions now to us 25 years ago, becoming the CWF of the future, looking toward the challenges the years will bring and the 50th anniversary.

—Presented by Lorraine Hensby for the 25th anniversary of the North Turramurra CWF and forwarded to us by Lyla Beckingham, Secretary of the NSW Christian Women's Fellowship.

• Southern Bayside, Victoria

Conference

The CWF Southern Bayside Conference was held at Hampton St, Vic, church on 29 August with an attendance of 50 ladies representing seven churches.

Lorna Cooper of Hampton Street presided. The devotional leader was Jean Preston. Solos were rendered by Barbara Pitts.

The speaker was State President, Helen Hall. She spoke of her visit to Vanuatu and showed slides of places where our missionaries have worked and many other places of interest.

Support of the Banmatmat Bible College continues and this year \$500 is being forwarded for screen doors for the married students' quarters and to provide sweets for the staff and students and families for Christmas.

—Win Lees

• Townsville, Qld

Ladies Retreat

The Townsville, Qld, church held its annual Ladies Retreat at Camp Irwin on 4 and 5 August on the theme "Towards 2000—The Woman's Role"

27 attended. A group came from Charters Towers and some even came from Melbourne.

Study leader this year was Elke Benz from Gatton. Her three studies were "God's Liberated Woman", "God's Woman Married" and "God's Career Woman". Her talks ranged from the single and married woman through to wives of non-Christian husbands.

From a personal point of view and as a first-timer, the sharing and prayer time were immensely encouraging. The topics were practical and enlightening. I came away with a renewal of faith, new friends and a lot of practical help.

—Jenny Faulkener

• Western Australia

Women's Convention

55 ladies from 17 churches came together on the weekend of 17–19 August for the 1990 WA Women's Convention at Lake Cooloongup campsite. Despite the wintry weather and smaller numbers, it was a wonderful time. Camp director was WA Women's Conference President, Lesley Hogben, from Wembley. Studies on the theme "New Things" were brought by Shirley Burton from Busselton.

The praise times were led by Jane Hogben from -, assisted on the piano by Doris McClelland from Wembley. Ruth Bergsma and her helpers

in the kitchen provided the meals. The Saturday afternoon program included Chris Hammer, Helen Maiden, Nola Springett and Dawn Townsend, who all spoke briefly, prompting a time of questions and sharing to help understand the situations and points of view of others. On Saturday evening Betty Wood from Thornlie shared her reflections on church life in the USA. The camp had its lighter moments. The Friday evening social time and the Saturday evening concert provided great fun.

The convention was a tremendous time of fellowship and spiritual refreshment and all who attended highly recommend next year's convention to all women.

—Marian Hall



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Up in the Air

Aviation camps for young people are rapidly becoming an integral part of the MAF (Missionary Aviation Fellowship) tradition. In January this year the camp conducted by staff of MAF-AIR Services in Ballarat, Vic, attracted 22 enthusiastic young people from the four eastern states. All were in the age range 16 to 18 years and some complained at the imbalance of the sexes. (There were four girls in the program.)

This camp is significantly subsidised by Missionary Aviation Fellowship as the fees paid by those attending cover accommodation and food and hire of the aircraft but not provision of instructors or other staff participation.

The camp was structured to provide a meaningful introduction to flying, with each student completing three flying lessons for a total of two hours each. Many paid for an extra flight to sample aerobatics (with an instructor). Up to five aircraft and instructors were used to complete this training. The camp aims to give young Christians an insight into careers available in aviation, and also introduces them to the wider options of serving the Lord through missions. Daily studies were lead by Peter Elshaug, who normally runs the engine overhaul facility of MAF-AIR.



Luke Whiteside, Glen Waverley, Vic, church, at the controls of an MAF-AIR training aircraft. Luke heard of the camp through a school friend who attended in 1989

The emphasis was on the need for continuing growth in personal spiritual development.

One of the participants wrote afterwards, "I was expecting talks on sex, drugs and rock and roll as is the norm for most youth camps, but I was unprepared for growth." Another wrote, "Thank you for giving me the opportunity to ask God what he wanted me to do with my life."

Campers come from at least seven different denominations. The camp brought a new understanding of Christian unity to many.

The good news is that the next camp is planned for 16-23 January 1991. The other news

is that the cost of the 1991 camp is expected to be \$280. Initial enquiries regarding the camp should be directed to Winston Ussher at MAF Box Hill on (03) 890 4009, fax (03) 899 6063 or write to PO Box 211, Box Hill 3128.

Christian Projects Introduces Buyer's Guide

Christian Projects will introduce its buyer's guide at Federal Conference.

Many new items have been added to the product list. You can now buy items from A to Z (even items in the Q and X categories).

See the range of items at the CP exhibit at Federal Conference. If you can't be there, you can phone for your personal copy of the guide on 008 242 904 toll free (Sydney 417 7830).

Some of the new lines introduced in the past few months

include Kawai musical instruments, telephone answering machines, fax machines, photocopying machines, overhead projectors, motor vehicles, packaging materials, greeting cards and Jozzie (Australian-made) animals and hand puppets.

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The Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department is the largest care organisation operated by Churches of Christ in Australia.

Employing over 800 staff it does more than half of all the residential care ministry done by Churches of Christ in Australia.

Beginnings

At the 28th Queensland Conference at Toowoomba in 1911 the major issue was temperance. The emphasis appears to have been the work of a temperance committee that must have been formed at an earlier stage. It would appear that one night of each Conference in the early 1900s was devoted to grand temperance demonstrations. However the first Temperance Committee Report to appear in the Conference records is in 1918.

In 1921 the name of the committee was changed to the "Prohibition and Social Questions Committee" and in 1925 the name was shortened to "Social Questions Committee."

In 1925 the Queensland Churches gave support to a Baptist Home for the Aged called "Sunsetholme", there being one room known as the "Churches of Christ Room".

In 1930 the Queensland Conference accepted a motion "that the committee be organised along the lines of the Victorian Social Service Department and that it be known as the Social Service Department".

With this decision the new Department began to work out its tasks in a way similar to the Victorian department, under the secretaryship of Charles Young. The first year was a struggle, but, as the impact of the Great Depression of the 1930s began to have its effect, the churches rallied to the cause of pro-

*In as much as
you have done
it unto one of
the least of
these my
brothers you
have done it
unto me."*

*—Jesus
Matthew 25:40*

viding assistance to those in need. Goods were sent free by rail to a central depot at the Ann Street Church, from which 400 parcels were distributed to needy families during that first year.

In the forefront of the action was Charles Young and the Annerley church, where he was ministering. 4,000 meals were provided on Sundays to the hungry and weary travellers transiting through Yeronga Park. As physical needs were catered for, the Gospel was presented.

Sixty Years On

Since those humble committed beginnings in very difficult times the Queensland Social Service Department has grown to become the largest such agency operated by Churches of Christ in Australia.

The Social Service Department now operates 393 nursing home beds through 9 nursing homes, 359 aged care hostel beds through 10 hostels and 416 self-care units in 11 different locations in its Division of Aged Care.

The Division of Child Care has 7 homes for youth and children and a range of supportive programs, which include the Independent Living Training, Activities Support, Adolescent Support and the Alternative Placement Support Program.

Early Childhood Includes Family Day Care Scheme work at Hervey Bay and Maryborough and there are Children's Day Care Centres at Kallangur and Redlands as well as a Children's Occasional Day Care Centre at Jamboree Heights.

The Welfare and Family Care Division incorporates a range of services from the Mutual Aid Plan (MAP), which gives help to those in financial need through local churches to the bigger programs offering family emergency accommodation and a program of recovery maintenance from the effects of addiction with the Branch-out Community.

Chaplains work in the Brisbane hospitals and throughout our aged care homes, in industry through the Interchurch Trade and Industry Mission and at the University of Queensland. Some chaplaincy services are also provided to prisons.

This forms part of the work of the Division of Pastoral Care.

As some of the earliest beginnings were in the area of social questions so the Division of Social and Community Issues is concerned with those issues that arise in our community that have a detrimental effect upon people. Our concerns at the health and social effects of tobacco,

alcohol and gambling remain unchanged. It is only now, it seems, that the community is beginning to realise the high social cost of these vices.

Administration of the Department with a staff of 811 persons located from Mackay in the north to the Gold Coast in the south and west to St George is a large, demanding task. The Department spends about \$16 m per year on the operation of the work. While much comes by way of fees and Government subsidies some of the program areas are stretched for finance. We need help to extend the compassionate care of the churches.

Why Has This Work Grown So Successfully?

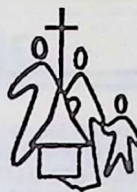
There are several factors that have been important in the development of the Social Service Department. There was a strong commitment by the churches to the concept of practical Christian love. Giving of prayer, time, ability and money has been generous. There have been a series of strong able leaders—Charles Young, Clive Burdue, Stan Chalmers, David Baker, Eric Hart and Don Stewart.

There Have Been Three Important Policies:

1. Service to the community rather than just to Churches of Christ members.
2. While the Department works with certain matters centrally its operations are clearly decentralised.
3. Encouragement of innovative individuals to develop programs creatively.



**Churches of Christ in Queensland
Social Service Department
Diamond Jubilee Year: 1930-1990
60 Years of Service in Queensland**



**September
Is
Social Service
Month**

Welfare

Christian Fellowship Association
Ministers' Car Fund
Mutual Aid Plan
Welfare assistance through the
local church

Early Childhood Care

Hervey Bay-Maryborough
Family Day Care Scheme
Kallangur Child Care
Centre
Redlands Child Care
Centre
Kiah Occasional Child
Care Centre

Care for the Aged

Fairhaven Retirement Village
Bribie Island Retirement Village
Golden Age Retirement Village
Lady Small Haven
Fassifern Retirement Village
Mylo House
Nubeena Retirement Village
Shiloh
Amaroo Retirement Village
Hillcrest Nursing Home
Brig-o-doon Nursing Home
Burdeu House
Kedron Hostel
Gleneagles
Warrawee Retirement Village
Warrawee Home Nursing Service
Marana Gardens*
Alexandra Gardens*
*being developed

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Branch-out Community Services

Branch-out Therapeutic Community
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Alcohol and drug recovery-maintenance

Send your gift to:

**Churches of Christ in Queensland
Social Service Department
PO Box 508, Kenmore 4069**

*Join us in...
Serving the Lord...
Through Service
to People*

September Is Social Service Month

We need your help to assist the work to continue to go forward in the name of Christ.

1. Pray for the work of Social Service.
 2. Give to the work of Social Service. (Remember personal gifts of \$2 and over are tax deductible.)
 3. Become involved in the work of Social Service. (811 people are employed and about 500 work as volunteers.)
 4. Remember the work of Social Service in your will.
- Please find enclosed my gift of \$..... to the Churches of Christ in Queensland Social Service Department Development Fund

Name.....

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WARMBRUNN—WEARNE Doug and Frances of Donvale are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter Shelley to David, son of James and Patricia of Templestowe. God's blessing and love and happiness to you both.

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GOLDEN WEDDINGS

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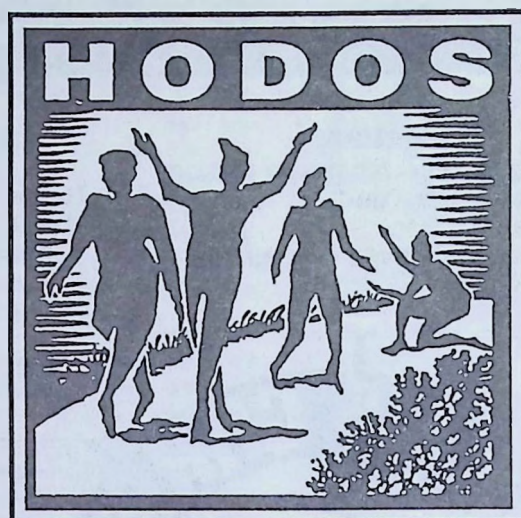
The Swanston Street Church of Christ in Melbourne
Will Be Celebrating 125 Years of Ministry

Anniversary Celebrations Include:

1. A Celebration Dinner on Friday, 19 October.
2. The Official Opening of the Lower Church Hall Renovations on Saturday, 20 October, at 2 pm.
3. A Thanksgiving Worship Service at Pharmacy College on Sunday, 21 October, at 10 am.
4. A Celebration Praise Service at the Church on Sunday, 21 October, at 7 pm.

The special guest preacher at all services will be Stuart Robinson.

(Souvenir brochures outlining further details of all services are available through the church office, 194 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000. Phone (03) 663 3884/5.)



Enjoy Life's Journey

What Is HODOS?

HODOS is a community orientated project initiated and implemented by the Department of Community Care (Vic-Tas) to assist persons to—

- develop personal well-being,
- engage in positive relationships,
- participate within the community.

What Does HODOS Offer?

The launch of the HODOS program offers three four-week group activities

• Wisdom for Life

This course is designed to explore Biblical principles and passages in a creative way, to encourage personal growth and provide a basis for discovering self-awareness and meaning.

Presented by Helen Chapman, a counsellor in private practice.

• Growing Through Grief

This course is designed to help the bereaved person come to terms with grief and explore understandings of grief, facing the reality of the loss and assisting to develop ways to integrate the loss into life-enhancing, rather than destructive ways.

Presented by Allan Anderson, manager of the Death and Bereavement Educational Services of Tobin Brothers Training and Education Division.

• Caring for the Earth

This course will focus on such current topics as the ozone hole, the greenhouse effect, global change as well as a closer-to-home look at urban air—including indoor air pollution.

Presented by Greg Ayers, principal research scientist with the CSIRO's Division of Atmospheric Research.

When and Where will the Courses Be Held?

These activities will run concurrently on four Tuesday nights, 9, 16, 23 and 30 October, from 7.30-9 pm, at the Glen Iris Centre, Gardiner Church of Christ, cnr Malvern Road and Scott Grove, Glen Iris 2146 (phone (03) 885 52820).

A Church ABC

Chinchilla, Qld, is located in the west of the Darling Downs, 300 km north-west of Brisbane on the Warrego Highway. The major primary industries are grain, cattle, sheep, timber milling, grapes and rock melons. Its population of 3,000 is fairly static and includes a fairly high proportion of older people. This is reflected in the church, where half the members are over 65. There are 11 other churches in the town.

The Church of Christ chapel was built in 1951 and extended in 1969. It is of timber with a

brick front and there is an adjoining hall and kitchen. The church began in 1924 with a mission by a blind evangelist, Mr Ball. Keith Horne was the first full-time minister, in 1947-53. The membership of the church is 50, and 47 (including

youth group of 20. However, a problem for Chinchilla, one that it shares with many country towns, is that the young people often have to leave the area for higher education or work. Religious education is taken in the primary and high schools

December each year, and help support two living links, Muriel Holt, with the Aborigines Mission in WA, and William Vuti, a pastor in Vanuatu. They also support the Overseas Mission Board, the Federal Aborigines Board, Kenmore Christian College and MAF.

Chinchilla is a member of the seven-church Western Districts Fellowship, with the emphasis on the fel-

lowship, which meets twice a year, in March and September. The church has co-operated with other churches in the town in Bill Newman crusades, one in 1984 and another in 1989. These saw many conversions, benefited the church and brought much fellowship with the other churches.

Chinchilla is in circuit with Hopeland. This means that Rod preaches alternate Sundays at each church, giving much opportunity to lay preachers.

Chinchilla may be a small church, but it extends its fellowship outwards to its community and to the wider work of the church here and overseas.

Focus on Chinchilla

40 communicants) attend on average the morning service at 10.30 am. The weekly gospel service at 7 pm is combined with Hopeland and attracts 58.

The activities of the church include a Sunday School—18, with 6 teachers—a monthly CWF, a fortnightly ladies Bible study and a weekly open Bible study. There is also a senior

in co-operation with the Baptists. A family camp and a family picnic are held each year.

The minister at Chinchilla is Rodney Feldhahn. Rod lived in Mt Walker on a farm before studying at Kenmore in 1966-69. He then spent eight years in Papua New Guinea with our Overseas Mission. He is married to Marion, and they have one girl, Melissa, 12, and two boys, Daniel, 10, and Jeremy, 6. Rod came to Chinchilla in April 1985, and plans to stay at least to the end of 1992.

Not surprisingly, Chinchilla has a strong interest in overseas mission. They have a missionary harvest thanksgiving weekend the first weekend in

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Growing Spiritually

Aiding Education

by Allan Male

Recently, I was privileged to officially open the 75th anniversary celebrations of my primary school at Kulpi, Qld, about 70 km northwest of Toowoomba.

I remember very little of any formal learning, but I do remember my teacher in this formerly one-teacher school. It was a salutary experience for me to give him a spontaneous hug on the day.

Through my schooling I learned to read and via that facility, I have walked with Hannibal and his elephants across the Alps, climbed Everest with Hillary and flown with the Wright brothers on 17 December 1903. Their first flight of 120 feet (coincidentally the

exact wing span of a Jumbo 747) lasted 12 seconds.

I am convinced that by reading one learns more than all the formal teaching! It is only natural because you are learning by doing, by actively participating.

Of course, comprehension is necessary for reading. I love the story about the man who had been taught to read and was asked why he was standing out in his paddock. He replied that he was waiting for his Nobel Peace Prize, because he had read on the application

form that it would be awarded to "those outstanding in their fields".

This is the international literacy year. This emphasis is essential because 1 in 15 Australians are illiterate. Through my contact with antisocial youth and the prison population I note the inability to read is a common factor.

When Hillary descended to the first base camp after conquering Mt Everest, the inevitable reporter drew aside his guide, Sherpa Tensing Norgay, and asked him, "Did you get

there first or did that European?" Tensing was equal to the task and replied, "Only a small person would ask a question like that. No one climbs to the top of the world by himself."

Our spiritual growth, climbing the heights and coping with the depths of discouragement, is dependent upon so many who shared with us through life.

Thank you for those teachers at primary, secondary, tertiary, Sunday school, Bible college and others in the "university of adversity" who aided my education.

• *Allan Male is a well-known Queensland minister.*

A recent Alban Institute study in the USA indicates that 70% of new members take more than three months to join a church. 30% of that group take more than a year. Many congregations give up on prospects too early. Not all church members enter a congregation like a speedy hare. Some crawl in slowly like a tortoise. Here are some suggestions about helping long-term prospects become official members or how to help the tortoise to the finish line.

- **Understand the process from the mind of the prospect.** Most church members, and almost all ministers, forget what it is like not to go to church. Our lives revolve around church activities. We have expectations about church-going behavior. People seeking congregations have different expectations. Besides looking for specific needs to be met, persons looking for a new church home may be testing the water at a number of congregations, have competing priorities for time and money, be scared of joining or becoming involved and/or miss a number of weeks and still be very interested.

An inviting, open congregation gives permission for people to enter the congregation at their own pace. It is better to allow a prospect to be a tortoise

than to give up on someone because they don't look like a hare.

- **Give people room to make a decision.** We are evangelists for the church of Jesus Christ, not for the local church. Contacts should be made with a commitment to help individuals find the right church.

Inviting prospects to "shop" around is an excellent way to encourage commitment. It says, "Find a church home; your spiritual growth is more important than our membership rolls." While they are shopping around, tell them to call on the church if they have a pastoral need. If they say, "Thank you, I'll do that," the tortoise has likely taken another step towards the finish line.

- **Continue to offer invitations.** Assume the prospect will join your church until told otherwise. Put visitors on your newsletter mailing list after their first visit. Invite them to special events and services. Keep calling until they tell you to stop or that they have found a new church home. Invite them to participate in small groups and fellowship activities. Also,

invite them to join. Keep inviting them until they join. People enter churches at different paces. Don't be judgemental about their pace.

- **Give them the information to make a decision.** Denominational and institutional loyalty is no longer a given. Growing churches have people with a variety of church and religious backgrounds.

People join congregations, not denominations. They need to know what the church believes. Prospects need to know how the congregation functions and what opportunities are available. Most of all, they need to know what it means to be a member.

Information must be given that is understandable. Guard against using language that only "insiders" or church members can understand. Tortoises will not make a decision to join until they can visualise themselves in the congregation. Give them the information and encourage questioning. It is the way the tortoise runs.

- **Treat them as members; help them belong.** For most church shoppers, visiting a

church more than two or three times means the congregation has passed the first test. The prospect is interested. Once prospects are interested, make them members. Give them the rights and benefits of membership. Include them in the membership directory under a participant category. Find ways they can contribute to the church.

Include children of prospective families in every activity. Invite them to all children's events. Kids like to receive mail and they will like your church for it.

Invite prospects to join a committee. God doesn't require committee members to be church members. The church shouldn't either. If they agree to serve in some capacity, the tortoise is almost to the finish line.

Evangelism is not always easy. But people are looking for churches, for places where they can belong. The church must accept the responsibility of reaching out to people, encouraging them on their spiritual journey and, finally, receiving them into the community of our Lord.

• *Randall Updegraff-Spleth is pastor of Geist Christian Church, Indianapolis Indiana. This article first appeared in The Disciple and is used by permission.*

What is our priority?

The Mission of the Church or the Mission of God?

by Alan Page

Well, ideally we would say the first is included in God's overall mission, yet, in practice, we see immediate goals in the local church. Do we not at times carry out a program to boost our church without regard to its effect on other churches or on the wider scene? We are, or can become, petty in our attitudes, parochial in our visions or self-aggrandizing in our tasks.

In this reflection on my reading for and participation in the Assembly of the Christian Conference of Asia I want to summarise some views that expanded my thinking about mission.

A report said: "...the important question for us is not what God is doing with the church in Asia, but rather what God is doing in Asia, so that the church may discern where Jesus Christ is at work and respond to him as he acts making his presence and lordship known.

"Asia is the only region in the world where the adherents of other major living faiths far outnumber Christians. It is also the place of massive poverty and sociocultural and political upheavals."

This quote seems to bring out two points that arose several times:

• The search for identity of the worshipping community in Asia

The Asian churches, which grew as "colonial outposts of Western confessional churches", are learning what independence means, what being Asian means and how as confessing churches they live and witness in the Asian context. To be in mission is to move from being "church" centred to being "people" centred. This is true to the Biblical witness. God intervened in situations of bondage to give opportunity for a new life. God is "the defender of vulnerable groups—widows, orphans, aliens and the poor. So for prophets "to know God is to do justice" (Jeremiah). To worship God is to "seek justice, correct oppression, defend the fatherless and plead for the widow" (Isaiah). "Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, saying The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand." (Mark) The mission that God has given to the church is participation in the building of the Kingdom—the new humanity.

• The relationship to other faiths

Under the heading "Ecumenical Neighbourliness" Dr

Life. Be In It.

A few years ago the notorious agnostic writer Phillip Adams coined the phrase "Life. Be In It." The subsequent popularity of the slogan suggests it touched a real need and a deep subconscious longing in people's lives.

"Life. Be In It." That's what the gospel message is all about, isn't it? The Good News of a whole new quality of life we can have in Christ right now, a quality of life that is real life, God's life, eternal life. This life is not tied up with our society's usual indicators for "life", such as possessions, pleasure or even youth. Eternal life is a quality of life that is an inexhaustible source of love, joy, peace and wholeness, those qualities we all need in order to make life real living, in our families, our vocation, our relationships with others and in all of life itself.

This new life we have from God in Jesus Christ is so powerful, so vibrant, that it will last

forever. Our physical being will last 70, 80, 90 years, but our spiritual being—that part of us which loves, relates to others, experiences joy, aspires to great good and high ideals, and which has the capacity to relate to God—will last forever. That's the part of our being in which God wants us to experience and enjoy his very own eternal life right now. You don't have to wait until you die to experience eternal life. Eternal life is for now, for the office, school, home, factory, university and surgery.

Eternal life is that quality of life Jesus spoke about when he said, "I have come that you might have life, and have it more abundantly." Eternal life is what Gordon Stirling once referred to as "life with survival value". Nothing can touch it. It will survive anything, even death.

—Stephen Curkpatrick

Park Sang Jung said, "Christians are often referred to as a group of people who are in a minority in Asian society, yet who think and behave as though they were a majority. Relationships with people of other faiths is an existential day-to-day reality. Then he concludes: "The time has come for the Christian communities in Asia to realise once again that in order to make our contribution to build a new and just society we must co-operate with the people of other faiths and nurture a true and authentic sense of neighbourliness."

Inasmuch as adherents of other religious faiths share a yearning to know God and share a similar understanding of the brokenness of society and a desire to see a "new humanness" there is an endeavour "to foster a meaningful dialogue of life among Christians and people of other faiths." I have since learnt that these views being expressed by some theologians and church leaders in Asia are also being expressed by Christians in other regions of the world.

And so the question comes to us, who believe in the love relationship with God through the uniqueness of Christ—do we, while accepting the vast differences between our faiths, find enough commonality to co-operate in the goal of changing society? Sometime in the future, with the guidance of the spirit, we will need to answer this question.

• Alan Page was the Australian C of C delegate to the Christian Conference of Asia.

Pontius' Puddle



A Distinctive Future?

Comments and Questions by Rosslyn Reed

A call for consensus on "future directions" for the movement known in Australia as Churches of Christ is understandable. Some have called the current condition of Christianity a "crisis" calling for special action. It is out of crises that changes in direction come, but change is not inherently good or useful. Changes are only desirable and productive if based on thorough analysis. Visions refined through open, vigorous debate without rancour are more likely to lead to a desirable future than consensus that change is necessary and we should get on with it. I wish to set out here just six areas that I think require more investigation and further discussion. I hope others will feel similarly constrained to join an open debate about the future of our movement.

• The equation of "working class" and "the poor"

Male-dominated working-class occupations like trades are higher paid than some female-dominated professions like nursing and teaching. Occupational structures are dynamic and some occupations, like trades and crafts in the 19th and early 20th centuries, were more like technical and some contemporary professions now (e.g. engineering). Similarly, clerical work has been routinised and feminised and the administrative components built into accounting and management. Trades people (and some other experienced members of the working class) can only be deemed "relatively uneducated" by virtue of years of formal education. Having carried out research with the former and taught aspirants to the professions, I am cautious about the intellectual/knowledge gap while recognising a cultural one. Compared with the mainline Protestant churches, the 1986 Joint Church Census showed Congregational, Assembly of God and especially Churches of Christ to have predominantly "blue-collar" membership in the major urban areas (*National Out-*

look, 7/1990, page 3). It is important, therefore, not to overstate the upward social mobility and/or education status of our movement.

(There are also problems with "welfare class"; the term obscures more than it explains by conflating the circumstances of aged, unemployed, single parents with dependants etc.—social security beneficiaries. Similarly, any discussion of the Australian working class should take account of the diversity of its migrant components and their religious affiliations. All-embracing "ethnic" is inadequate.)

• Interpreting the Bible through middle-class eyes

This is an undoubted problem in communicating with self-conscious working class people. The influence of the media and dominant social values have frequently obscured the message of the gospel. Churches and ministers are quick to condemn trade unions and inconvenient strike action—and some working class people will agree—until it is their strike! Churches and ministers have often been strangely silent about abuses of power by employers, and more recently, self-seeking entrepreneurial activity. The suggestion of house-based or school-based church groups reveals a middle-class bias. Many working-class people would not feel comfortable with "strangers" in their homes; they feel the school system fails their children and devalues the knowledge they see as important to living. They would feel more comfortable with the church in the "pub" or the local club, but would we?

The working class has long been alienated from dominant—and middle class—Christianity, if not our move-

ment would not have emerged in England as it did. But this is not about education. In much the same way well-educated and theologically literate women are becoming alienated from male-centred interpretations of the Bible and their practice. Other well-educated people have considerable empathy with working class people and their aspirations for "a fair go". They see a strong strand of justice in the message of the gospel, and are increasingly referred to (disparagingly) as "left-wing" (or in US language, "bleeding-heart liberals").

• Organisational developments in the Australian branch of our movement cannot be explained by reference to US historical experience and context

We have not had to deal with US doctrinally based divisions, partly for geographic reasons and partly because of efforts to avoid division. European Australian settlement was established on the basis of commercial agriculture/grazing and, as the most urbanised society of the 19th century, cannot be understood from a perspective of "frontier society". An unromanticised appraisal of our own history as a movement, its strengths and weaknesses, is the appropriate basis of future planning. If we can be honest about lost opportunities, we may be more successful than our nation as a whole in assessing potential for development.

• Populist managerial theory like Peters and Waterman's *In Search of Excellence* is theoretically and methodologically flawed and is no basis for organisational design and change

Thomas Peters has now claimed that there are no longer any excellent companies. Let us not become slaves to defunct theories! More complex organisational theories point to links between more formalisation of procedures and relationships as organisations grow if good (and improving) performance is to be achieved. Others point to the extent to which organisational structures are likely to reflect the preferences of dominant coalitions (or cliques). This is so in many churches, but the solution is not to seek (or attempt to construct) charismatic leadership. In its high form, it is a rare quality, most being hard pressed to name any other than Jesus and Mahatma Gandhi. But charisma has its downside. One European political theorist, disillusioned with the oligarchic tendencies of democratic organisation, pinned his hopes on one so-called "charismatic" leader. He backed Mussolini! Our movement cannot afford another Jonestown.

Democracy has served us well and is one of our contributions to mainline Christianity. Unfortunately, there has been a tendency to dismantle some of the "checks and balances" in recent years in the name of efficiency. We need to examine the criteria against which we measure "efficiency". We should seek to refine our democratic structures to make them work more effectively, rather than dismantle or reject them.

• What is meant by "back to basics" and why is this slogan appropriate for today?

What about "Christians only but not the only Christians" and/or "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things love"? "Back to basics" as a call to re-examine Christian origins has considerable merit and is another of our gifts to Christianity as a whole, if we are to judge by the work of contemporary theologians like Schussler Fiorenza. As it is presented, however, it seems to

Student Profile

Paul Douglas

Although only 24, I have had a variety of life experiences that have aided in my growth, both as a person and as a Christian. Commencing full-time studies in 1990 at the Churches of Christ Theological College has been one such experience, with its challenges and difficulties both in the faith realm and the practicalities involved.

I moved to Melbourne from Launceston in June 1988 with a promotion in the company for which I worked as an accountant. In the back of my mind I knew full well that this would aid in my desire to do some theological training and so had jumped at the opportunity to move. In 1989 I was able to start part-time studies, completing four subjects towards a Bachelor of Theology.

In October of that year I was challenged by a close friend and employer to go to college full time in 1990. This would mean

giving up my rewarding job, a recently purchased new car and possibly my flat. Each one of these issues was resolved in a short period of time—my employers taking over the lease on the car and providing part-time employment to enable me to keep the flat, which was close to work and my home church.

The first six months of college were hectic and frustrating as I tried to balance work demands, lectures, study time and some social relaxation. I'm a person who likes absolutes but there were so

many unknowns that I was forced to learn a new dimension of faith. Yet despite this period of turmoil, I had a peace of mind about being a full-time student and still maintain the call to be studying at CCTC.

The lectures have been challenging and stimulating and the new friendships that have been made are a great source of encouragement as well as providing a sounding board for new ideas and ways of thinking. Many of the lectures have opened up my past and paved the way for



healing and renewal. Having spent most of my life as a student, both part time and full time, I really value the gaining of knowledge. The difference in studying at CCTC is that you don't just learn with your head, you have to apply your heart as well. Not only is the intellect engaged at a deep level but so too are the emotions, as much of the material has to do with one's own personal beliefs and values.

Theology is grounded in experience, and studying at CCTC is a great way to enjoy the experience of learning and of making some lifelong friendships but, most importantly, it helps equip oneself for serving the Lord.

My reason for being at college is to develop the gifts and talents I have been blessed with and to use them not only in my local church but also in the wider church sphere wherever I am called.

refer to the contemporary attraction of simplistic answers to complex problems inherent in the resurgence of fundamentalism. It seems that this attraction is particularly evident among those who perceive their position as "marginal", who fear loss of status and position. These fears in an uncertain economic and political context make these groups susceptible to the escapism of privatised and instrumental religion—and manipulation through anaesthetising approaches to worship. Perhaps it is one way to "grow a church", but it could not be considered a vision for the future.

Many non-Christians find the divisions among Christians a major obstacle to belief. A thoroughgoing ecumenism is likely to say more to them than so-called "naive ecumenism", which is another name for "denominational switching". This is a two-way process—we "win" and we "lose". We need to recognise that not all people will seek to join our movement through "conversion". We may have to countenance dialogue around matters of common

concern, and wait until untached "fellow travellers" feel ready to become members. Vigorous verbal proclamation through evangelical preaching served us well in the early days. Dare we question whether it is appropriate today? For some migrant groups, it could be seen as very offensive. And even if this does not appeal to all our members, is there not room for a broad interpretation of "outreach"? A degree of diversity used to be one of our strengths. Perhaps we could look to recover diversity instead of marginalising those who come from different strands in our movement so that they feel it necessary to "shop around" for a church where they find a community of interest. It might also produce the "qualitative" growth we heard about not so long ago.

• The "middle" strata are falling out of the occupational spectrum and a polarisation between "rich" and "poor" is taking place

Strategically, then, it does not make sense to shift the focus to any one group or section of the

population. Much publicity is given to the growth of "fringe" religious groups, partly because it is newsworthy. This is where the growth has been in recent years, but from a small base. There is also a suggestion that there is a very high turnover rate. There is a tendency to "write off" mainline Christianity. This is due in part to reliance on census data rather than church rolls to assess membership changes. The latter suggests stagnation rather than total failure. But the dynamics of change and growth are at work here also. For those who look, there are exciting developments, from new forms of worship liturgies, dance and music to the struggle around women's ordination. Formal ecumenical links are becoming more truly representative, as everyone grapples with the same sorts of crises (see for example Paul Collins "Catholics at the Crossroads" in *National Outlook*, July 1990, pages 6–11). February 1991 will see the World Council of Churches Assembly in Canberra with an emphasis on the Holy Spirit. Representatives of social jus-

tice committees/commissions came together in Sydney this year to organise a Christian Conference on the Environment, which saw every state and territory and the full spectrum of traditions/denominations represented, from Anglicans and Roman Catholics to Christian Brethren and Seventh Day Adventists. A similar representation attended the Christian Feminist Conference of over 500 women and men at Collaroy last year. These are significant signs of hope.

It is time to reappraise our historical witness. For this to be effective, we need to remember our traditional beliefs and practices. A recognition that middle-class bias (and worse) has diluted our witness to the gospel is overdue. Like all other Christians, we need a vision for the future. The opportunity to contribute to that vision through discussion and open debate should be open to all who can contribute from their experience and expertise.

• Rosslyn Reed is a member of the Castle Hill, NSW, church.

Adolescent Culture

"They hate politics, they worry about the environment, they're volatile in their tastes and short in their attention spans, and, they rarely read. That's what the latest research shows." At least that's how *The Bulletin* put it last December.

When we come to look at adolescent culture we begin to realise how diverse a 12-25-year-old age can be. Many young people are still at school, some are working, some are unemployed, some are involved in tertiary study, some at home, some not, some on the streets and some married.

All of these people will have quite different backgrounds. Adolescent culture is quite varied and so we can only make some generalised observations.

It is a fact that adolescent culture in the 90s is vastly different to that of the 50s, 60s or 70s.

The opening quote is no longer just descriptive of the fringe of society but of a growing number of young people right across the spectrum.

Drawing together some information from the Commission for the Future paper "Casualties of Change" and the Mackay study "Young Australians" we can begin to see what is happening.

There is an alarming escalation of social and psychological problems facing young people, to a point where youth suicide rates have doubled over the past 20 years to be at one per day.

This may stem in part from the fact that the family unit is breaking down. An Adelaide Sociologist, Dr Riaz Hassan, says: "There is now a close link between suicidal behaviour in children and parental relationships." This is not just in extreme family situations as a recent survey shows that the average Australian father spends seven minutes a week in conversation with his children.

Statistics show that drug use among young people is continuing to rise and that parents were often more lenient about alcohol and tobacco because of a fear of harder drugs.

There has been an increase in youth homelessness and unemployment, both of which have a negative psychological impact.

Suicide, drugs, homelessness and unemployment may seem like extreme things that only happen in the western suburbs of major cities, but the truth is that they are not that isolated. There are also some less dramatic trends that are still some cause for concern.

Only 8% of young people think that the government understands them and they are generally politically disinterested. Their major preoccupation is with money, material possessions and getting a good job.

These are our future leaders! Young people are also becoming prematurely middle aged.

There has also been a change in youth-associated industries, e.g. the rock music industry. These industries no longer signify freedom from the materialistic greed of Western culture but rather have some of the worst perpetrators.

TV is turning young people into passive observers who no longer have the courage to do anything. It also sells us a life-style well beyond our means.

Research shows that school work is listed as one of the major reasons for young people "feeling down or low".

This information may help us gain a picture of adolescent culture in the 90s.

In the church we have some positive things to offer.

• We have a great model for family relationships in God's love for the church.

• We have people who can care! Young people need adult people to form significant meaningful relationships with them. Not just the youth leader but everyone. As families break down young people need older people to care for them.

• Young people need to be given a sense of purpose, e.g. meaningful tasks, not just games to play and the occasional youth service. Churches have the resources to do this.

As Christians we need to stop pointing the finger with intent to lay blame. Stop blaming young people for who they are and start caring for them. We need to stop trying to change young people's moral agendas and trust that if we care for them, God is in control of the rest!

• Alistair Cranney is a member of the Churches of Christ Youth Ministry Committee in South Australia.

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

Evening Star

We are come again to the dark place of pain
Whence in times past, separately,
We have been by caring hands restored
To family, and world's familiar ways.

But this time?
Next?

Certain our atoms will dance again
In flower, bird, laughing child.
But shall spirit uplift
To light?

Certain was Christ on cross. "This day
Shall you be with me in Paradise!"

Certain the disciples, when
Spirit flamed faith to front the mighty;
Certain that neither sword nor fire nor any form
Of suffering should separate them from
The Love of God,
Whose waves wash the wide world.

Certain was I when, sure of doom, boyhood nerve
Strained to the break at battle's brink,
Through the bellow of engines I heard clear, calm,
"Courage! I am with you—Always!"

Now hope for God!
Stretch soul to Him!

—Don Neale

This poem was written by Don during the last days of the life of his wife. Don had been a pilot in the Pacific war and faced death often. Don's wife had asked that her body be cremated and the ashes scattered around the heathlands of Sandringham, where they had toiled together out of their love of nature, God's creation. Nance Neale faced death with assurance of Christ's love for her.

Discipleship

•Betty Smith, Trish Noonan, Raelene Voigt, Darren Wickes, Horsham, Vic •Cliff Harvey, Mrs Anne Harvey, Jeff Harvey, Mrs Julie Harvey, Rachael Hutchins, Mrs Shirley Keating, Mayfield, NSW •Jenny Rowe, Cherie Ford, Belinda Porter, Aaron Burr, Kimberley Bland, Lismore, NSW •Jenny Cox, Gary Butler, Annette Waring, Ian Martin, Nunawading, Vic •Robert Brisbane, Thornleigh, NSW •Andrew Turner, Helen Lane, Brooklyn Park, SA •Stella Phillips, Maldstone, Vic

Marriages

•Kerry Walter to Craig Chequer, Horsham, Vic •Mary Atkins to Milton Caine, Mayfield, NSW •Sandra Walker to David Mudford, Gilgandra, NSW •Pauline McIntyre and Warren Elvery, Lismore, NSW •Robyn Gribble to Dion Marinis, Northam, WA

Deaths

•Mrs Bobbie Anderson, Mayfield, NSW •Mrs Lilian Bale, Lismore, NSW •Phillis Gillespie, Gwen Childs, Ken Stanford, Elizabeth Grey, Brooklyn Park, SA •Elizabeth Harrison, Northam, WA

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time with light refreshments

South Australian Council of Churches

seeks the services of an

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Applications are invited from suitably qualified lay persons, religious or ministers to commence early in 1991.

The successful applicant will be a person committed to Christ, and informed about and committed to ecumenism, social justice and development. It will be desirable for the person to have skills in theology, communication and administration.

Further details may be obtained from

Mr C.G. Dredge, President, SACC,
GPO Box 2106, Adelaide 5001.

Phone (08) 232 0070.

Written applications are required no later than
16 November 1990.

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Well over 30 churches are Grow Partners in this Vic-Tas evangelism initiative under field director Ian Tippet's leadership. Partnership involves churches in definite evangelism planning and activity in 1990-91. Further enquiries for 1991 involvement are welcomed until 31 October.

Department of Mission, Education
and Development
52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne 3000



Refuge Co-ordinator

The Churches of Christ Community Care Department (NSW) is seeking an applicant for this position for its two crisis centres, for women and children, located at Pendle Hill.

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

Hours of work will be 40 per week in broken shifts. Some weekend work will be expected.

Salary will be negotiated, depending on experience, and a motor vehicle will be supplied.

The nature of the position requires a committed Christian.

Applications, in writing, to—

Mr C. Wilson

Executive Director

Churches of Christ Community Care Dept

PO Box 140

Carlingford 2118

Phone (02) 630 7533

Applications close Monday, 8 October.

LIFE IN FOCUS INCORPORATED

(formerly the "Christian
Welfare Centre")

invites applications for the
position of



Living With Compassion

DIRECTOR

The successful applicant will need to have suitable experience in administration, staff management and public relations. Experience in welfare and some theological education would be preferable.

The salary will be negotiable according to age and experience.

Applications close on 5 October 1990, and should be forwarded to:

The Chairman, Governing Council, Life in Focus,
142-146 Beaufort Street Perth, WA 6000.

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Dunkerton, Harold (28.8.90) Harold Dunkerton died aged 90. He had neither children nor nephews or nieces, but he had some firm friends. Harold grew up in the inner suburbs of Melbourne, but in his late teens migrated to Adelaide, and worked all his life at the pharmaceutical company, Fauldings. He was Sunday school superintendent at Cowandilla, an elder at Fullerton, active in worship leadership at Blackwood, and founding president of the Friendship Centre at Maylands. He was one of nature's gentleman, and it was a privilege to know him.

—Richard Lawton

Graham, Cecil R.M. (Bill) (31.5.90) For most of his life Bill Graham was a member of Chatswood, NSW, church, to which the family, from his parents on, gave devoted service. Bill gave valued leadership as long-serving chairman of the NSW Overseas Mission Committee and as member of the Campbell Edwards Trust. A leading businessman, he was equally successful, with loved wife Mavis, in giving a strong Christian lead to four sons, their wives and families, and unfailing help to his sisters. The writer, one of his many friends and a former Chatswood minister, shared in the packed thanksgiving service at Killara Uniting Church, paying tribute to a man of strong conviction, high principles and deeply loving spirit.

—C.G. Taylor



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Vic

CHELSEA (I. Whitelock) CWF cake stall Chelsea Shopping Centre raised \$246 to assist purchase photocopier ... Hot scones with jam & cream, Devonshire tea raised funds for extensions church hall ... Chelsea joined Mornington for basket tea & evening service at Frankston ... Minister studying History & Doctrine of Churches of Christ at CCTC ... Church praying for 13 "associates" not yet members ... Morning service featured reports from WCC studies on Holy Spirit.

HORSHAM (Harvey Clark, Ian Hunt) "Family Five" winter series of 5 pm services has concluded with a mystery family tea ... Church missionary links, Graeme & Marian Batley, shared at all services ... CWF celebrated 40th birthday at home of Jean Sherriff ... At over 65s dinner Elspeth Ampt entertained with a varied musical presentation ... Two new Care & Share groups have been added to the existing three.

COBURG, PASCOEVALE (L. Clun) Christian celebration arranged by Coburg & supported by two Anglican & three Uniting churches. Sam Saltar, American evangelist & professional trombone player, on first visit to Australia, provided powerful program of testimony & music Hadfield College Theatre. Positive response ... North Essendon youth group assisted in morning worship ... Three Bible study groups active, one Italian ... Guest speakers at regional service Abdou & Judy Grace (Middle Eastern Christian Outreach).

OAKLEIGH (L.S. Dewberry) Minister on holidays. Speakers Dr Gordon Clark, A. Augustine ... Local branch of Country Women's Association presented 23 rugs for our church homes, received by Jean Witt ... Nell Stephenson back at church after serious illness ... Ken Masterton recent speaker at CWF meeting ... Church ladies pleased to receive four cartons of soft toys made by Marj Voysey for Children's Hospital.

NUNAWADING (E. Keating, D. Hamilton, J. Wright, L. Smith, A. Spoelder) 44 attended Children's Workers' seminar led by Jennie Flack ... Children's concert presented by Jennie Flack ... Tom Chapman & David Wells elected elders ... Renovations to hall in progress ... 115 attended netball presentation dinner ... Kids & Co workshop on grief with Allan Anderson ... Interviews with Graeme Batley (PNG), Max Wright (Aboriginal pastor) ... Guest speakers Dale White (Mt Clear), Dr Ken Manley (Principal Whitley College).

Church News

SWANSTON ST (Allan Webb) Communicant attendances exceeded 400 recent weeks ... 34 baptisms this year at Mandarin-speaking Sunday afternoon service ... Renovations to lower church hall almost complete. Total cost will be \$500,000, of which almost \$350,000 has already been received ... Preparations well in hand for celebration of 125th anniversary 19-21 October ... Joy-Anne & Renee Baker were recently married in double ceremony conducted by their father.

MAIDSTONE (Wes Rodgers) Recent visit by Batley family enjoyed ... AGM held. Thanks to Tom Hampton for 38 years dedicated service. Now deacon emeritus. Also Dorothy Johns six years faithful service as secretary. Ida Phillips new secretary. Six deacons elected ... Edna Gray welcomed as baptised believer ... At united service with Footscray Stella Phillips baptised on her 11th birthday ... Flora Harold in hospital for hip surgery.

SA

MT GAMBIER (A. Boucher) AGM held August. Largest attendance ever. Church has agreed on "Vision" of growth for future ... League of 2000 call received ... Offerings up ... House church growing. 30 regulars ... Church invited part-time minister to commence full-time 30 September ... Great church celebration & revival.

SALISBURY EAST (Graham Wade) We have witnessed a tremendous growth in the youth group with five young people dedicating their lives to Christ through baptism ... The youth group had a pancake evening as a fundraiser, raising \$62 ... Our Number Two Section Boys' Brigade spent a stimulating weekend at Hoyleton going on a 16 km hike to gain their Naturalist & Expedition Badge.

BARMERA, MOOROOK (A. Chapple) Ron Roberts, State Minister, was guest speaker at Barmera 36th church anniversary. A luncheon was provided after service ... Weekly prayer meeting well attended ... Janet Brooke was appointed to the board at AGM ... Members have arranged to sing to the patients at the Nursing Home on 9 Sept. This may occur once a month ... Stroke has put Nellie Swanbury in hospital.

OWEN COMBINED (Doug Walladge) 13 attended services at Dulwich-Rose Park 9 September as part of city-country link. After lunch John Marshman presented history of combining as presented earlier

at WCC School of Evangelism ... Sunday School raised \$200 from trading table towards project assisting Isla School, Vanuatu ... Fellowship's friendship luncheon attended by 45, many ladies with no church ties ... Church studying material from Kennon Callaghan seminar.

BROOKLYN PARK (G. Shaw) \$5,209 profit from melodrama. Project for CCTC completed. \$16,000 donated ... Groups studying *Come Holy Spirit* ... Basketball teams finish successful season ... Church dinners held at homes ... Prayer teams in action ... Interact group to be formed for mums & dads ... 50 plus Fellowship continues ... Callahan planning committee appointed. Jim Keatch as consultant ... Ministry committee searches for minister, start Feb 91.

WA

CARNARVON (D.S. Bone) Conference President David Pyne & wife welcomed at evening service & church challenged by his message ... Church families enjoyed barbecue & social evening ... Ladies blessed by visit of CWCI safari team & speaker Laurel Lee ... Donella Schwab & Lana Ridley farewelled. Deep appreciation of both in their ministry at Olive Laird Memorial Hostel. Donella to commence nursing training.

NORTHAM (Graham Butler) Bible study group started in Wundowie on Wednesday nights at Ian & Julie Fraser's home ... Two weddings in August—Robyn Gribble to Dion Marinis & Linda Kohlman to Laurence Carslake ... Mission weekend with Dave Stanford as guest speaker ... Mrs Harrison passed away 5 September ... Congratulations to Katie & Derek Wilson on the arrival of Daniel Andrew on 1 September.

Qld

CROWN ST, TOOWOOMBA (Graham Hack) Annual meeting held. Graham Hack will minister for next three years. Norma Hass secretary & husband Neil treasurer ... "Cuppa" following morning service second & fourth Sundays good fellowship ... Fellowship tea followed by family service first Sunday of month with special speaker & guest artists popular ... CWF travelled to Dalby for annual rally ... 40 ladies attended annual Devonshire morning tea with Margaret Nowitski guest speaker.

Church News

NSW

FAIRFIELD (Ted Bjorem) Eight members of Team Expansion USA educated about 40 ethnics in English & proclaiming the gospel. Consequently Spanish families are attending services & Bible studies ... Play & Craft groups influencing the community raising \$3,000 to line the hall ... Two young men conducting Bible study groups ... D. McPherson, assistant minister, giving inspiring lead to about 25 young people ... Talented musician guiding church music team.

MARRICKVILLE (T. Paris, R. Quinlivan, R. Howarth) Recent participation of Carlingford College students in successful high school seminars, evangelistic visitation of church contacts & street witnessing. The students involved found it a challenging & rewarding time as they saw God working in very concrete ways ... Congregation looking forward to the ministry of Peter & Karen Dixon with a team of students from the college.

MAYFIELD (Stephen Downle) George Anderson appointed hon. associate pastor ... Housing Dept units in area visited. Some residents have attended services ... Judy Gordon & board discussed possibilities of conducting church & Bible School at same time ... Allan Anderson conducted "Good Grief" seminar ... Recent activities—Cell Group dinner, bush dance, Sunday lunches ... Plans for kitchen renovations with council ... Elder, John McCosker, able to attend services after 13 weeks hospital.

GILGANDRA Sandra & David Mudford welcomed home after wedding & Tom Quayle after surgery ... Church appreciates visits of many speakers who travel long distances to bring helpful messages each Sunday.

LISMORE (I. Phillips) Prayer chain commenced ... Day prayer time also started ... 11 ladies attended Bangalow Mission day with Bess Wylie speaker ... Five young people baptised ... Phonelink now available for isolated members, also tapes of services ... Breakfast & night meal being served to needy in church basement ... Big crowd attended "Shoot the Minister" night (difficult questions tackled) ... "Guess Who's Coming to Lunch" enjoyable occasion.

THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) In August Robert Brisbane was baptised at pm service by Franklyn Elliott ... Kids Club for the grades 3-6 age group held very successful fete on 8 September raising \$600 for their activities ... One of the strengths of the

Thornleigh church is its cell groups. Currently there are about 20 cell groups catering for all age groups from teenagers up.

ACT

LYONS (Kevin Caulton) AGM held 19 August ... Six elders & three deacons elected ... Prime Timers group (ex-Over 50s) meets monthly, sharing in variety of activities ... Youth group raised \$130 for Force Ten at African night during Simply Sharing Week ... Weekly English conversation group for

migrants begun with volunteer tutors from congregation ... Kevin Caulton active trying to prevent closure of Lyons Primary School. **AINSLIE** (P. Nelson) Good winter attendances at services ... Series of videos by Tony Campolo at evening services ... Series of sermons on "Sermon on the Mount" at morning services ... Spring breakfast for everyone run by CWF. Speaker Canberra of the Year ... A choir is practising for Christmas cantata ... Peter Nelson agrees to serve another term ... Upgrading of premises to aid disabled commenced.

Tas

LAUNCESTON (R. Foster, C. Spaulding) Brian White seminars on pastoral care & depression 23-27 August well attended. He spoke at services on 26 Aug ... C. Spaulding spoke at fathers & sons night Father's Day & W. Howard on 9 September when Rod Foster at Caveside ... "Discovery Time" being led by June Younger during school holidays when Bible School in recess ... Linden Martin chairman of newly formed Youth Council of Bible Society.

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• Ephesians 6:16

The Shield of Faith

by Greg Murphy

With great concern and patience a father was stressing to his three-year-old daughter the undesirability of her continual use of "I want" in initiating sentences. Pointing to the present object of desire, an apple, the father urged her to use the words, "Please may I have," in framing her request. Quick as a flash the little girl asked, "Please may I have what I want?" Had she learned the lesson? I suppose you really had to be there to see whether the emphasis lay on the please or on the want. The New Testament frequently uses the father-child metaphor to illustrate the relationship between God and the Christian. Over and over again we are urged to call upon God for the provision of our physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Our Lord in teaching his disciples to pray directed them to approach God as a loving father (the Greek "abba" meaning "daddy") and ask for the provision of "daily bread".

It is true that we often want for things that we really can do without, and that sometimes the thing we need most is the last thing we want. Knowing this, there can be some hesitation in deciding what is legitimate to ask of God.

Some Christians approach the throne of God with boldness and find themselves very disillusioned when God doesn't accede to their requests. Others never bother to ask for fear that they might be too bold.

Perhaps the metaphor of the child can be helpful in this matter. What parent wants a child to have anxiety attacks pending the response to every request? None, I would hope! A loving parent wants a child to be able to ask with anticipation that there will be a positive response. Yet what parent wants a child to treat requests as mere formalities? Such presumption would also stretch the friendship. There is then a formula for framing requests:

Request
+ Anticipation
- Presumption
= Trust

This same formula also applies to our relationship with God. When we are unfraid to present our felt needs to God in anticipation that he will provide for them, at the same time being prepared to accept his parental judgement should he choose to deny that provision, then we are truly showing both sides of trust in our heavenly father. Such trust the Bible calls faith—and God is rapt in it.

Matthew tells the story (15:21-28) of a gentile woman who approached Jesus with a need to have a daughter dispossessed. Jesus points out to her that as a non-Jew she has no cause to anticipate a positive response.

The woman responds by identifying herself with the dogs at a table who have no right to the children's food but eagerly anticipate the crumbs that fall. She says in other words, "Please can I have what I want." Jesus is impressed by her faith consisting of anticipation without presumption.

In our spiritual battle it is extremely important that we develop a sense of trust in God so that when the fiery darts of the enemy approach, we can hold up a shield of the sort of faith which calls on but does not depend on the intervention of our loving Father.



The Last Word

God is infinitely more concerned about your happiness than you could possibly be.

—Billy Graham

The father was in the habit of lying down on the bed with his four-year-old son, Tommy, when it was time for the boy to go to sleep at night. Then, after Tommy was sound asleep, his father would quietly get up and go back into the living room. One evening the father failed to return to the living room. His anxious wife was about to go and investigate when Tommy appeared. Rubbing his eyes, he said, "Mummy, can you come and wake Dad? I can't get to sleep because he's snoring so loud."

★★★★★

"But I must have a rise," pleaded the young clerk. "Three other companies are after me." "Oh, yes?" said the boss. "Which companies?"

"The electricity company, the finance company and the gas company."

★★★★★

Holidays are time off given to employees to remind them that the company can get along without them.

★★★★★

A person phoned the zoo and asked to have a snake identified over the phone. Although told it was against policy to attempt the tricky business of identification from a distance the person kept insisting on an answer, and at last plaintively asked, "Can't you make an exception in my case?"

"Why?"

"Because I'm calling from a construction shed, and that thing is right here between me and the door!"

★★★★★

Oh, Mum—you know that old vase that's been handed down from generation to generation? Well, this generation just dropped it!



I don't care who you are. Everybody gets a pair of wings.

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