

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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## Department of Christian Union

**W**riting about AD 250 the  
Cyprian Bishop of Carthage  
wrote about the unity of the  
church in this way:

The Church is likewise one, though  
she be spread abroad, and multiplies  
with the increase of her progeny:  
even as the sun has rays many, yet  
one light; and the tree, boughs many,  
yet its strength is one, seated in the  
deep-lodged root; and as when many  
streams flow down from one source,  
though a multiplicity of waters seems  
to be diffused from the bountiful-  
ness of the overflowing abundance,  
unity is preserved in the source itself.  
Part a ray of the sun from its orb, and  
its unity forbids this division of light;  
break a branch from the tree, once  
broken it can bud no more; cut the  
stream from its fountain, the remnant  
will be dried up. Thus the Church,  
flooded with the light of the Lord,  
puts forth her rays through the whole  
world, with yet one light which is  
spread upon all places, where 'the  
unity of orb' is not infringed.

—A New Eusebius: J. Stevenson

the Federal Literature Department raised  
the idea of developing a statement ex-  
pressing a vision for Churches of Christ.

Thirdly, recent correspondence in *The Australian Christian* confirmed to the De-  
partment of Christian Union that an explo-  
ration of our destiny was timely.

The future of our churches is important,  
but can only be worked by the present  
membership seeking to know God's will  
for Churches of Christ now.

## Strategy for Department of Chris- tian Union

As set out in the report to the 43rd Fed-  
eral Conference of Churches of Christ, the  
Department of Christian Union has been  
endeavouring to implement the following  
strategy in 1989-90.

### Strategy

Early attention was given to re-  
examining the working of the com-  
mittee and the main areas were seen  
as follows:

- To pursue the reformation of the  
church whether separate or when  
seeking unity with another—in ac-  
cordance with New Testament  
principles.

- To continue active membership  
in councils of churches at the local,  
state, national and world levels but  
always remaining true to the prayer  
of Christ.

- To strengthen the efforts in each  
state and territory to educate our  
church members on what it means  
to be Churches of Christ. (As one  
aspect of this the three colleges would  
be asked to seek agreement to their  
curriculum's content.)

- To aim to have one paid officer,  
initially part time.

- To seek to get a unified consti-  
tution for federal and state Christian  
Union committees and establish close  
working relationships with them.

- To work for the establishment of  
such committees in every state and  
territory.

## Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council to Meet in Canberra

Plans are underway for the World Ecu-  
menical Forum of the Campbell-Stone  
movement to meet in Canberra immedi-  
ately before the 7th Assembly of the World  
Council of Churches. Representatives from  
countries with churches in the Disciples  
tradition will consider the proposed theme  
of the meeting "Vulnerability—the Con-  
tribution of Small Churches". The Mod-  
erator of this organisation is Dr Trevor  
Banks of the Belmont, Vic, church and the  
General Secretary is Dr Paul A. Crow of  
Indianapolis, USA. Dr Bill Tabbernee is  
the Australian representative. People reg-  
istered for the WCC Assembly are asked to  
contact Dr Banks with regard to attending  
the DECC meeting.

## Vision "2000"

21 people met at the invitation of the  
Department of Christian Union and Ecu-  
menical Affairs (Vic-Tas) on 17 September  
1990 to discuss future initiatives for  
Churches of Christ.

The meeting was a bringing together of  
three streams of thought.

Bill Tabbernee's address to the World  
Convention of Churches of Christ on "A  
Contemporary Reformation" led to dis-  
cussions on how to use his address.

A meeting with representatives of the  
Federal Board of Christian Education and

To enable the Department to implement  
this strategy and carry out its routine ac-  
tivities:

- We request your financial contribu-  
tions.

- We ask for the knowledge of your  
support in this task.

- We need your prayers so that we may  
be guided by God's Spirit in the work we  
seek to do for Christ and his church.

—Trevor Banks, Chairman



## Stanwell Tops Comes Alive

41 attended the launch of the Stanwell Tops, NSW, church's evening service. With the addition of 14 members this year, there was a need for a permanent evening service. Mainly attended by youth, this service

has a band, there is drama and items are performed during the service.

There is an excitement at the church as it looks forward to 1991 serving the community on a larger scale.

## Building Bridges with New Zealand



David Busch, ARPA executive member, presents the Gutenberg Award to Peter Philp

The Australasian Religious Press Association held its convention recently in Auckland, New Zealand. This is the first time the convention has been held outside Australia, and over 60 attended. The theme of the convention was "Building Bridges".

One of the important decisions made at the convention was to change the name of the association. It is now "Australasian", to incorporate the New Zealand membership.

At the annual awards dinner the prestigious "Gutenberg Award", which is usually decided and awarded solely by the president, had been "hijacked" by the executive and awarded to the president himself. Peter Philp, who is held in high esteem by his colleagues, was, until recently, the editor of *The Advocate*, the Catholic paper in Melbourne. This paper was closed just before the convention by the Archbishop with just one week's notice.

## Oh What a Feeling!



Morwell's new bus

A dream was realised when the new Toyota Hi-ace Commuter van was commissioned by the Morwell, Vic, church a short while ago.

So many involved in the programs of the church have no transport of their own, but now the church is able to pick up and drop off with no fuss those who want to be part of the activities.

Many have been involved in getting a good cheap buy that

was roadworthy.

John White, Mac Walker, Merv Little, Jim McLachlan, Katie Ellingham, Tim White, Don Wakefield and others have put a new motor in with working bees to repair and paint to achieve a terrific-looking finish.

Now the van does its rounds of Morwell with the slogan "Morwell Church of Christ—Caring in the Community" proudly displayed.

## From Oragami to Bonsai

From oragami to bonsai, the fascinating assortment of crafts and collections decorated the building. Where else would one find such an odd arrangement of crafts, interests and hobbies as were seen at the Greensborough, Vic, church's hobby/craft display?

Rachael Ferris's rubber collection came tumbling out of a miniature garbage bin. A paper chicken crawled from a broken eggshell, a creation of Debbie Sleeth. Judy Sherriff sat in one corner of the cryroom spinning wool onto reels. A collection of bells from all over the world provided harmonious music, thanks to Rachael Watt's care and attention.

There were over thirty displays, demonstrating the gifts, skills and interests of our congregation. Model railways, a

Lego display, a schnauzer showdog—as well as cats, quilts and cross stitch.

These were all displayed for two sessions of one hour in which people could buy and sell. Between the two sessions a meal was shared at which Sue and Alan Page sang and Alan Niven encouraged us to keep using our skills and gifts, even if sometimes we do not feel like it, for the sake of the joy of creating, the pleasure of giving to others and the delight of praising God.

Fun prizes were awarded to the most creative display, the children's display with the most thought and work, the most harmonious display, the most popular display and the most reluctant exhibitor.

The whole evening was a marvellous time of fellowship and discovery.

We are trying to work out how to make the next one just as meaningful.

—George Warren

Ironically, *The Advocate* received the award for the most improved newspaper.



## Football Club Goes to Church

Over recent times within our churches and in Christian publications we have heard plenty about "building bridges" to the community. It has been said that many church attenders and churches have lost all contact with the secular world. We are not in tune with what is happening outside of our own cosy buildings. I heard a member from my church say the other day, "All of my friends are Christians and associated with the church." Many Christians do not know any "pagans". How sad! I'm not quite sure why, but many of my very good friends are outside of the church—my mates from the local football club. I enjoy their company, appreciate their humour, and have a real sense of affiliation with them as we rub shoulders running out onto the football field. The players even seem to appreciate the fact that I'm prepared to stand up for them while they scuffle on the field. There was a real sense of bonding that took place between myself and my teammates when I copped a deliber-

ate knee from an opposition player to the groin. They realised I was prepared to go into battle for them when they were in need. Maybe my involvement for justice was one of the reasons that 37 footballers from the Boronia Football Club recently attended a three-course dinner that we gave them at the Boronia, Vic, church.

I admit I was apprehensive about the boys coming to the church because at times they can be a little coarse—some might say vulgar, and their boyish games are sometimes not what we consider "Christian". But there was a feeling of pride within my being because these rough, macho Australian men should be coming along to my church.

The boys were also a bit apprehensive. Would they be preached at, Bible bashed and made to feel uncomfortable? The ladies at the church did the dinner well, and the guys really appreciated the warmth and acceptance they felt. In fact they are still talking about the night. Following our eating,

Paul Burnham, the Melbourne Football Club's chaplain, entertained and enthralled the players as he shared with us his experiences as chaplain in his scene. As we moved into the finals series, Paul motivated us as players "to fix our sights upon the ultimate prize!"

It was a successful night with Paul receiving a warm ovation. The cooks and organisers were graciously thanked and I was acknowledged by the coach and committee for initiating such a program.

It was a tremendous bridge-building exercise. A coming together of two extreme subcultures—a night that really positively enhanced the image of the local church and, who knows, it may have sown a seed for later days.

—Andrew Henley

*(Andrew is one of two ministers at the Boronia church. He is a keen player with the Boronia Football Club, which plays in the Eastern District Football League first division.)*

## From Humble Beginnings

The Traralgon, Vic, church has been without an employed minister for the last four years. This has encouraged every member of the church to search out talents and use them for God. A recent half-day retreat involved 20 of the members to nurture this aspect of the church. During the retreat community needs were identified and plans were made to meet these needs.

The Traralgon church has now been meeting in its chapel for 25 years. Prior to that meetings were held in homes and halls. The inaugural meeting in 1961 was attended by 15, and by the next year 20 were meeting in the Cumberland Park Hall. The first service was held in their own building on 7 November 1965. From that day the church has maintained a steady development and in 1990 is experiencing growth. With a membership of over 50 the church is involved in childrens and youth work, Bible study and home fellowship, a playgroup and a program for homeless youth.

Traralgon is looking forward to the next 25 years.

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## "Celebrating 125 Years"

Over the Weekend of  
19-20-21 October

**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.)



## Ministry for Logan City



Ben and Kathy Bird

Ben and Kathy Bird have accepted a half-time ministry with the Logan City/Brisbane Aboriginal Community Centre. Ben and Kathy will continue to serve half-time in their present ministry at the Inala Aboriginal Community Church.

Ben Bird was born at Cherbourg, Qld. He trained for three years at the Singleton Bible College, which is operated by Aborigines Inland Mission. Following their marriage Ben and Kathy had ministries with Aboriginal churches at Griffith, Gilgandra, Sydney, Coota-

mundra, Moree and Brisbane.

Kathy is from Gilgandra, NSW. As a child she attended Sunday School conducted by the Gilgandra Church of Christ at "The Pines". Later she trained at Singleton Bible College. She served with the Aborigines Inland Mission at Condobolin, Darwin, Palm Island and Sydney prior to her marriage to Ben in 1966.

The Queensland Aborigines and Islanders Christian Fellowship is looking for churches and individuals to become involved in this ministry with regular commitments.

## Aircraft Accident in PNG

The crash of a Missionary Aviation 206 aircraft in Papua New Guinea on 19 September claimed the lives of all five people on board.

The aircraft took off for a 10-minute flight in the West Sepik Province, but failed to arrive at its destination, Telefomin. Other aircraft commenced a search and located the wreckage by homing in on the survival beacon.

The aircraft was under the command of Bob Peaker, MAF's operations manager in PNG. The passengers were returning from the Sepik Bible College, operated by the Baptist church, to their home villages. The cause of the accident was not known at the date of writing. It is clear that weather was not a factor.

Jim Charlesworth (General Director), Ken Stockton (Director of Flying Operations) and Ian Stacy (Director of Safety) flew to Mt Hagen to share with the Peaker family and assist in the investigation of the accident. Mark Emerson also flew to PNG with them. Mark, from the Swanston St, Melbourne, Vic, church, is Chief Pilot in PNG, and had been on leave in Melbourne.

The Peakers are from Hervey Bay, Qld, church and are well known and loved by many Churches of Christ missionaries and others connected with the Overseas Mission Board. Bob leaves a wife, Sharon, and teenage sons, Michael and



Bob Peaker

Tony. Bob trained as a pilot and he and Sharon completed a two-year diploma at the Bible College of Queensland in preparation for further ministry with the Missionary Aviation Fellowship. During their time in Brisbane they worshipped at the Sunnybank church.

The Peakers commenced work in PNG in 1982. They served at Mt Hagen, Madang, Goroka and Port Moresby. In 1988 Bob was appointed Operations Manager, part of the MAF leadership team in PNG. The Peakers have served the church, local communities, missionaries and visitors in the name of Jesus Christ.

Bob Peaker was buried at Kranket Island, Madang. Memorial services were held in the Church of Christ at Madang and the Church of the Nazarene at Mt Hagen.

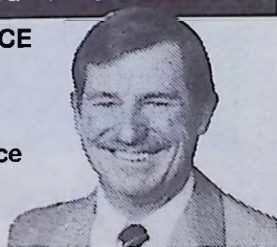
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## Dandenong Church of Christ

Official opening of the new complex  
at 139-151 David St, Dandenong  
4 November 1990  
at 2.30 pm

We would like to share this occasion with you  
All welcome

For information contact

Shirley Briggs  
(03) 795 4906

or Vicki Foster  
(03) 791 7640



## "Come to the Mountains"

The second Tuesday in September has become something of a tradition in Northern Tasmania in recent years. That is the day when the ladies from the Launceston, Devonport and Ulverstone churches travel to the Caveside church for a time of fellowship. This year was no exception, although the Caveside ladies looked forward to the day with some nervousness as they were asked to conduct the meeting for the first time.

As the landscape at Caveside is dominated by the craggy heights of the Great Western Tiers, the ladies chose for their theme "Come to the Mountains". 55 gathered for a shared lunch, just fitting in to the tiny, 80-year-old Caveside church hall. The after-lunch meeting began with a devotional slide presentation by Shirley Sinfield showing various Tasmanian mountain scenes. The program included songs, a poem, prayers, readings and items to fit in with the theme. Margaret Head gave a personal account of the way the mountains have affected her life during the past eight years, and the many lessons she has learnt—both for daily living and in her walk with God. Colleen Harrison spoke about how mountains are portrayed in the Bible and about two incidents that happened on mountains—the covenant on Mt Sinai and the transfiguration. The meeting concluded with the singing of "How Great Thou Art", a moving experience for many.

—Colleen Harrison

**L. C. F. Higgins**

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## God's Squad at Pentridge Prison Bike Show

The sky was black and overcast and as the rain pelted down, God's Squad secretary Steve Duck and I rode from Boronia, Vic, to the prison, some 25 km. As we approached we could see the sky over the prison clearing.

The Governor addressed the Squad and the representatives of the six Outlaw Clubs attending: The Road Rebels, Iron Horsemen, Outlaws, Satans Soldiers, Freedoms Shadows and the Immortals.

We entered through the gate four bikes at a time, security books were signed, photos taken, sniffer dogs vetted the bikes and both men and machine underwent a friendly but thorough search. We then went up to a display area where the bikes were set up.

The band "The Giants" had also set up and were providing some much-appreciated rock'n'roll. The prisoners came and went at regular intervals and great interest and enthusiasm was shown in the bikes and the club members.

Glynn Nicholas from the "Big Gig" was a great hit with his comedy routine.

As we watched the sky throughout the day and saw the masses of black clouds come toward us, slide around the prison wall and continue on, we were reminded how much we depend on the power of prayer.

Let me mention the work and commitment in the prison ministry by Kevin Maddock over many years. His tireless efforts really did provide a real platform for relationships. Steve Barrington, who is also committed to the prison work, did a marvellous job in organising the day.

At 1.30 pm the press arrived and numerous photos were taken. John Smith gave a major address, which the prisoners listened to intently. It was a timely, relevant and hard-hitting message, which I'm sure affected many hearts and minds.

The representative of Oz Bike, the prison Governor and I named the trophy winners and the band gave a final bracket.

A "first" for Australia had come to an end but we will be seeing the beneficial results for

many a day yet. Afterwards we continued our contact and outreach at the "Red House" Hotel.

—Norm Briddock  
(Vice-President,  
God's Squad)

## CHURCHES OF CHRIST THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

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## Farewell to Doncaster

Dr Lewis and Mrs Betty Born concluded their five-year term with the Doncaster, Vic, church on 29 July. Lew and Betty Born were invited to minister at Doncaster for a period of five years. Dr Born had been a Uniting Church Moderator, whose previous role was Director of Christian Education, Uniting Church, Qld. It is significant that the Doncaster board had the courage to take this step and for Lew and Betty Born to accept such an invitation showed a tremendous pioneering spirit and a willingness to take up a new challenge.

A farewell service was held, followed by a luncheon. Presentations were made at the conclusion of the afternoon's program.

Dr Born was interviewed and the following summarises his views on his ministry at Doncaster.

### Highlights

- Induction service—"most memorable—the people were welcoming and wanted us to come. Many continued to express this during our five years."
- Welcoming Keith Horne back as a special speaker at an

anniversary. "I wish to pay tribute to Keith and Gwen's ministry and other past ministers as well."

- Church family camp where theme was "Looking at Year 2000".

- Talent scheme where \$10,000 was raised—the working together by the congregation was a joy.

- Invitations to speak at State Conferences and at an Ordination service were privileges.

- Working as *Bulletin* editor and involvement with Rotary.

- Betty enjoyed the development of "Meeting Place" and ministering to the elderly and shut-ins.

- Both appreciated acceptance and care by the congregation and participation in the pastoral care team.

### Achievements

- Growing closer together as a church family in the sense of an extended family caring for each other.

- Ministry within the Rotary community and their acceptance.

- Board meetings—Introduction of a segment during the first hour where "policy issues" were discussed. Deci-

sions on such policy issues were made after full consideration at a later time. Membership and rules of procedure have been more clearly defined.

- Elders and Board members have worked together and taken respective responsibilities where required. Good relationship exists.

- Sunday night forum—held in hall—very high number of young people participate in worship and musical leadership training.

### Differences between Uniting Church and Churches of Christ

- An obvious theological difference is baptism: "Personally I haven't found any problems and I didn't baptise anyone who had been previously baptised. I was delighted to participate in new baptisms and undoubtedly full immersion of believers is the most valid baptism from the New Testament perspective."

- The participation by lay members of Churches of Christ, which Dr Born said he would endeavour to incorporate into his next Uniting Church ministry.

### Skills/Talents Acquired

- "I was concerned about my

pastoral care role but over the time I have 'grown in grace' and I have learned to love the unlovely."

### Changes at Doncaster

- Congregation was more inclined to value past history and tradition rather than looking forward to the year 2000 and the future challenge. Now that trend is reversing, but balance between the two is being maintained.

### Summing Up

- Tremendous period of personal growth.

- Skill growth, particularly preaching a sermon every Sunday. Dr Born was in the Uniting Church Department for 27 years and was required to be more a "guest speaker" than a regular preacher.

- Fulfilled his best expectations in the pastoral team and personal relationship area and believes this was reciprocated by the congregation.

- "It has been a privilege to be exposed to the traditions, theology and practices of another denomination. We have received so much love, support and acceptance during our time of ministry at Doncaster and wish to thank the congregation."

Lew and Betty Born returned to Queensland to minister at the Redcliffe, Qld, Uniting Church parish, where 11 congregations have rationalised their properties and combined resources into one. A new complex on a hectare of land was opened in April 1990.

### Balook

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Left to right: N. Farmer (Secretary), R. Millership (Deputy Chairperson), Lew Born, Betty Born and M. Rogerson (Elder)



## Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

### USA Ministry Exchange

To the Editor,

We have had a letter from one of our ministers in the USA suggesting an Australia-USA pulpit swap.

While we were overseas for a month, Terry Carlson filled our pulpit and entertained with magic and ventriloquism, music and teaching.

The church really appreciated his "interim ministry" and I can recommend him.

Terry Carlson wrote to us: "I want you to know that our stay in Australia and working with your church (Beverly Hills, NSW) was a fantastic experience. It is one of the highlights of our life. To be able to travel and at the same time be involved in a ministry was such a blessing. We picked up many positive experiences as we shared with your congregation."

Terry and his wife minister with the King Hill Christian Church in St Joseph, Missouri, and are interested in coming to Australia again on a similar arrangement.

Anybody interested in swapping pulpits could contact me and I will forward on details.

—Ron Kennedy  
(8 Beresford Ave, Beverly Hills 2209. Phone (02) 580 8165 (Manse))

### The Book Far Less Travelled!

To the Editor,

Jay Bacik will understand me getting revved up about this one!

It's really a library, has an incredible print run of over 12 million yearly and in 1986 was issued in a record 16 new languages. It contains a magnetic "scratch where it itches" ideology and has a matchless philosophy of love through grace in relationships and leadership.

But its genius is the big "P". A "Person." Perfect Father, Brother and filling, healing Spirit of all mankind. One who hugs us when we have a "fa-

voured son" day, and even more when we have a "prodigal son" one.

Its message? We fret and cajole for a "first day resurrection". We demand one on the second day. But the promise is to faith, unimagined newness in the father's miraculous "third day" timing. The prerequisite? Painstakingly read, understand, believe and practice, and thus never fear our sonship and daughtership again.

Finally, it takes us back to the peace garden beginning. This time an evening prayer in perfect harmony; "Come in person Brother Christ...if I have walked in my own wilful way, forgive. O guard me, guide me and my keeper be. Praise the Lord. Amen."

—Doug F. Smith  
(Camp Hill, Qld)

### Israel and God

To the Editor,

I believe your "Comment" article by G.L. Butler ("AC" 8 September) requires a response.

It is true we acknowledge the Jews are special in God's eyes, but to say that we should take their side however wrong they may be is amazing.

I have read Philip Hunt's statement about the West Bank and the Gaza Strip ("AC" 21 July).

Mrs Butler has taken the article out of context. World Vision is not taking sides against Israel, it is concerned about injustice and the abuse of human rights by Israel against Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, as it is about any other place where human rights are violated.

Nowhere have I read in the Bible that the Jews are that special that they can behave as they like without reproach.

God's love is for all people of all races.

—G. Clarke  
(Ringwood, Vic)

### Youth—Church of Today or Tomorrow?

To the Editor,

There is a sentiment that our youth are important because

they are the church of tomorrow. I find this notion to be ridiculous. If youth are part of the church it must be the church as it is now—today.

Greg Shaw in his response ("AC" 4 August) to Andrew Ball's article on Youth Vision ("AC" 7 July), says that "the long-term future of our churches depends on reaching and converting adults who are the church today". Adults provide an amount of stability and experience to a church. Youth have vital energy, a desire to question and are going through significant changes in life. Thus, they are generally the ones to provide vitality and challenge to a church (if we let them). Adults and young people complement each other and both are vital to today's church.

In my experience, adult Christians do not always provide the nourishment and relevant encouragement that youth need. I have seen many youth depart from a number of our churches, partly, I believe,

because the adults do not understand their needs. Recognition of this is the first important step. This is explanation, not accusation.

Secondly, will youth find "a viable and effective Christian community" amongst newly converted adults? Surely they also are not adult in their Christianity yet. By the time they are so will the youth.

The complete church of today will have children, youth, adults and older people worshipping God together and each learning from each other equally.

—Peter Meihuizen  
(Ormond, Vic)

### Youth Ministry

To the Editor,

First let me say thank you to those who responded to my letter regarding youth ministry ("AC" 8 September).

I am glad that so many are taking youth ministry seriously though I think those who responded have misconstrued

## Letters from Tertius

### What to Wear

To the Editor,

The Bible says, "Take no thought for what you shall wear." There was a time when I obeyed that to the letter.

I had a suit for Sunday. When I got a new one the former one became my office suit. Down the line my suits were passed—Sunday, office, knockabout at home, garden—and finally into the bin. Under the guidance and insistent pressure of my family, all that has changed.

At our church we dress informally. Not in bad taste, but not navy serge double breasted any more. So I have half a dozen outfits of varying combinations of trousers and jackets for all occasions.

The problem is that the handing-down process no longer goes on and nothing is ready for the garden yet. So I am wearing a former Sunday suit and look better dressed in the garden than elsewhere—from a distance!

So each Sunday I am forced into disobeying the verse that says, "Take no thought what you shall wear." I can never make up my mind.

However I don't think that Jesus had people like me in mind when he said those words. He was probably talking to people who were worrying about whether or not they would have anything to wear at all.

And I must confess that sometimes when I view my sartorial array I am aware that there are still people like that in the world today. Millions of them.

—Tertius



# Letters to the Editor

my letter as a criticism of youth ministry. This is not so. Currently I am serving on the Youth Ministry Committee of our South Australian Conference.

However, I am interested that the responders are mostly young people. It is to my generation and older in the church that I am wanting to sound the warning about pinning all our future on youth ministry rather than working together in ministry and mission today.

—Greg Shaw  
(Brooklyn Park, SA)

## Youth Ministry

To the Editor,

How long will we in Churches of Christ settle for youth work plans such as that presented by Andrew Ball a few issues earlier?

It is no wonder that many of our churches have few young people. We cannot continue to regurgitate the models of the 1970s with new graphics and hope that this will solve our problems.

Andrew referred to his model as reflecting current management trends, hence specialists in distinct areas are needed. Did someone forget to tell you that specialisation was discarded in the 1980s because it was a relational nightmare? The current management trend is for multi-skilling.

I believe that by the grace of God people have far more skills than we can possibly imagine. Jesus came so that we didn't have to be stuck in one area but to liberate us from the belief that we couldn't try new things.

If you wish to use the Bible to support your model then please use it in context. Jesus collected fishermen to help spread the gospel, not specialised music directors or specialised camping directors.

How can any group of people function on a sound relational basis when they only meet four times a year? The biblical principle saw Jesus spend three years with his disciples and still they did not understand.

Churches of Christ need to break out and not merely appease guilt by running pro-

grams but to develop new models of youth ministry that foster significant long-term relationships that see that young people have a valuable contribution to make without needing to be a specialist that fits into a nice hierarchical flow chart.

This is a personal opinion from my perspective as someone who has worked as a youth worker for four years and not necessarily the common voice of the SA Committee.

—Alistair Cranney  
(Youth Ministry Committee member, SA)

## Minister Required

To the Editor,

Mildenhall Church of Christ is looking for a man to live in Mildenhall and work full time with the church. My relationship with Mildenhall has been an extremely good and happy one, but now the time has come to begin a church in the town of Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, where we actually live.

Mildenhall's new minister must be strong in Christian doctrine and Christian living. But, more than this, he must be able to facilitate the continuing growth of the church. The church members have been prepared to do whatever it takes to grow. They need a self-starting, dynamic individual who can plan programs and execute growth-style visitation, not just a church maintenance worker. This person will need to be able to work in an English culture with Americans working alongside him, as the church sees itself becoming increasingly English in membership, worship style and organisation.

The church is four years old and meets in a community centre in the market town of Mildenhall (population 10,000 and growing). Many of the people who attend live in surrounding towns and villages like Newmarket, Brandon, Lakenheath and Beck Row. The congregation is made up of both working-class English people and American servicemen from Mildenhall and Lakenheath bases. The current membership is 19, but average attendance in

1990 so far is 37. Virtually everyone who attends is under the age of 40 and, without exception, whole families come. In fact, many of the recent baptisms have been adult men.

Unfortunately, like most of our other English churches, Mildenhall is unable to pay all the expenses of a full-time minister. Raising support for salary would be necessary, but the church aims at providing housing as well as paying upkeep and outreach costs.

We see this as a tremendous challenge and a very fulfilling mission on the cutting edge of the Kingdom.

If you are interested at all in this position please contact me.

—Ross Wissmann  
(2 Elmwood,  
Sawbridgeworth, Herts CM21  
9NL, England)

## Authority of Scripture

To the Editor,

In responding to my Guest Editorial, Ken Stothard ("AC" 23 June) asked why I was not inspired by 1 Timothy 2:14a. Verse 14a should have been 12a. He was also disappointed with it because it was (1) "antisupernaturalistic" (2) "rationalistic" and (3) it assumed that "the Bible is very much the product of men".

In response:

(1) God is above and beyond the perceived natural order, but God sustains the world and guarantees natural law. God interacts with nature and history rather than intervenes in nature and invades history.

(2) I am a person of faith who seeks to offer God "reasonable service" (Romans 12:1). It is no compliment to the God who gave me a mind to leave it behind when I study the Scripture.

(3) The Bible is "the Word of God in the words of men". The two need to be held together and distinguished. The Bible does not designate this verse as the Word of God and that as the words of humans.

Every word in the Bible might be the word of God. But that would place an awful responsibility on God and ignore the process by which the Bible came into being. It would make

every word infallible and demand infallible interpreters. It would be a grave oversight for God to provide the former without benefit of the latter.

—Ronald Graham  
(Johnston, Iowa, USA)

## Burial Services

To the Editor,

I was fascinated to read "Thanksgiving Service v. Funeral" by Allan Anderson ("AC" 8 September) as I have thought at length and discussed with my wife the form any burial service should take when we die and also talked with friends who were happy to discuss the matter.

I have also attended and observed many burial services, from persons from different religious faiths and cultures. Further, I have helped bereaved ones, not by presuming to advise or counsel, but by listening sympathetically while they voiced the thoughts milling through their minds.

It seems to me the form of a burial service is best determined by the expectations of family (if any), friends (if any) and/or acquaintances, keeping in mind any prior wishes of the one who has died.

Personally I would be happy to think my burial service will be simple and of the lowest possible cost, with the body not at any open service and with only the immediate family at the cremation. But then the final decision will be made by those I leave behind.

—Stan Allison  
(Tootgarook, Vic)

## Ivanhoe Church of Christ 73rd Anniversary

Sunday, 28 October 1990  
at 10.30 am

Guest Speaker:

Gerald Rose

Soloist: Graham Price

Childrens Talk:

John Cairns

All former members are invited to attend  
Light luncheon will be provided

Ring G. Harman (03) 458  
2677 for further details



## Books

### Effective Assimilation

by Ian Tippet (Vital Publications) \$8.50

This new publication from the Federal Board of Christian Education should meet special needs among our churches. Ian Tippet's *Effective Assimilation* is a workbook for church leaders. The five sessions in the book enable leaders to study their new member assimilation processes. The book helps a congregation look at the different expectations of new and older members and ways to minister to both groups. Ian Tippet is a Field Director with the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development and has a major role in launching the "Australia Grow" evangelism initiative for the Federal Board of Christian Education. *Effective Assimilation* is the second in the new "Effective" series. The first publication, *Effective Eldership* by Jeff Deuble, has had an outstanding response and is in its second printing. Jeff has been invited to New Zealand in 1991 to lead a national seminar for leaders on the issue of eldership.

—Don Smith

### Entering God's Kingdom

by Alan Hirsch (Vital Publications) \$2.50

Alan Hirsch, minister of the South Melbourne, Vic, church, has written the sixth in the National Study series produced by the Federal Board of Christian Education. This is a study on conversion and would be useful both for those contemplating becoming a Christian, or for people wishing to review the implications of their conversion and faith. Alan Hirsch is himself a recent convert from Judaism and writes with a sense of real understanding about the issues relating to conversion and Christian experience.



In early September Cath Greatbatch's second study *Possessing Life*, on 1 John, became available. It is already selling well at \$2. The above three publications are available from the Board's office, 52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne 3000. Phone (03) 662 2377.

—Don Smith

### Poor is No Excuse

The Story of Jun Vencer

by Jun Vencer with John Allan (Baker Book House)

Jun Vencer grew up in poverty in the Philippines. In his early teens he went to live with his father, a Protestant doctor working among the poor. Jun's parents' marriage had broken up when he was eight. This was when he began to appreciate the benefits of reading and learning.

He eventually became a lawyer and an evangelical pastor involved in the direction of aid programs.

The title of the book comes from a comment made by Jun's uncle while Jun was still living with his mother. He told Jun that poverty is no excuse for not doing your best, no excuse for failure. The author uses the phrase "poor is no excuse" to indicate the thinking behind Vencer's encouragement of the evangelical churches to become more involved in aid and evangelism.

In fact it might be more to the point to suggest "Third World is no excuse". The emphasis of Vencer was on awakening the church to its responsibility to its own people. When overseas organisations approached Vencer about becoming involved in aid programs he was adamant that while its funding was welcome the work should be done by the local churches.

Vencer helped to return social action to the agenda of the evangelical churches, seeing that the role of the church is to affirm the wholeness of God's plan. This brief book is a factual account of the involvement of Jun Vencer in the development of the evangelical churches in the Philippines. The challenge of the book comes through considering the way Vencer and his family committed themselves to Christian service despite the availability of other, more-well-paid work.

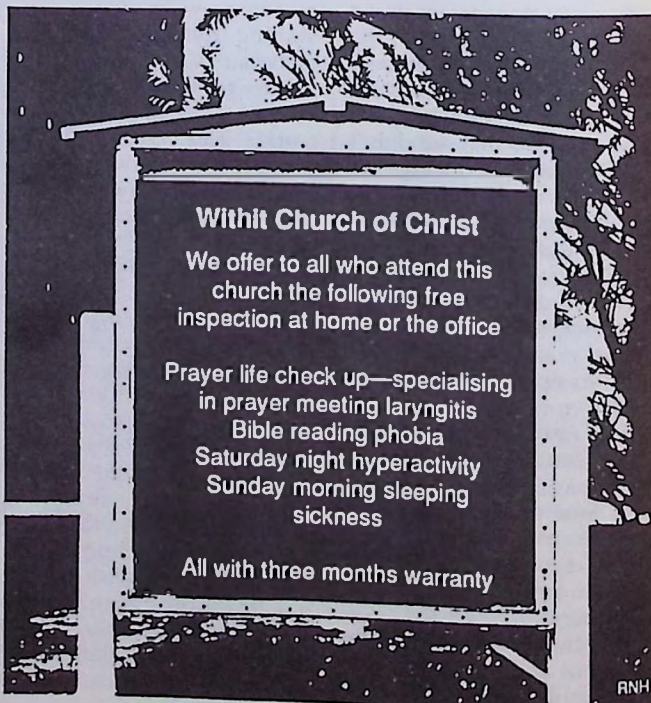
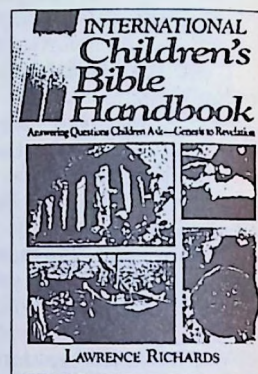
—Julie Trinnick

### International Children's Bible Handbook

by Lawrence Richards (Worthy Publishing) \$28

Designed to be used with the new International Children's Bible, New Century Version, this colourful, well-illustrated and planned book looks at some of the questions children ask about the Bible. Starting with two general chapters about the Bible and its transmission to us today the book then examines the Bible in chronological order. In some of the more questionable areas of thought this book is balanced in its presentation. Each chapter is fairly short, well written and has a series of questions and things to do at the end. There is a handy small dictionary and index. I used some of the material on heaven and hell at a youth group recently and they found the presentation understandable and helped answer the questions they were asking. It is ideal for Sunday school and youth group leaders and would be good for church libraries. It could also be used in homes for family devotions.

—CRA





## That's What Rehabilitation Is All About

During the past five years Christian Blind Mission International has been rehabilitating blind people at its training farm for the blind in Lusambo, Zaire.

Daniel Kosten conducts a three-month training course that provides young men with basic instruction in training blind people to become productive and self-sufficient farmers. Much of the effectiveness of CBMI's work depends on these monitors.

Recently a blind man, who had been trained by a CBMI monitor, approached Daniel. He explained that his first bush knife, given to him by a CBMI monitor, was old and no longer very useful. He wondered if he could have a new knife in exchange for a large basin of corn, which his wife placed at Daniel's feet.

Daniel was pleasantly surprised and somewhat speechless, especially when the blind man added, "Oh—this is nothing—I have a whole lot more corn like this back home. I planted a large field and had a good harvest this year."

"That's what rehabilitation is all about," says Daniel Kosten.

CBMI is grateful to supporters in Australia whose gifts help make this work possible.

## Thanks for the Welcome

Garlands of flowers and posies, words of greeting and gratitude, friendly handshakes and smiles, happy children (some frightened), opportunities to speak and hospitality. What a welcome!

"Why did the Churches of Christ in Western India give me such a warm reception?" I asked myself after my visit in August. It wasn't because they were happy to see an old friend returning, because I'd never been to India before. However, I felt that in a way I was representative of the many "old friends" from Australia who had been involved with the churches in Western India in the past.

Many people asked me about former missionaries. Some I hadn't heard of, some I'd never met. When I shared a meal with the staff and boys at the Baramati Boys' Home I saw the following verse, which Vinayak Thorat, the Superintendent of the home, felt described his situation: "I have sent you to reap a harvest in a field where you did not work; others worked there, and you profit from their work." (John 4:38, GNB)

Although I was not "reaping a harvest" I felt that this verse did help to explain the warmth of my welcome amongst the churches.

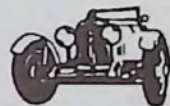
So to all those who "worked in the field" and are still remembered fondly by many: "Thanks for the welcome."

—Julie Trinnick



Welcome at the Bombay Christian Centre kindergarten

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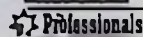
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7.00 p.m. Gospel Celebration

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# Happenings

4 Australian women die of domestic violence every week and 4 out of 5 women who were sexually assaulted know their attacker.

Brisbane's Christian broadcaster, Family radio, is holding its 21st temporary transmission 1-14 October on 92.1 FM. Family Radio has also just increased its weekly airtime on 4EB (1053 AM) to 21 hours. Open days at their broadcasting facilities in Toowong are being held 6 and 13 October.

Romania was not supposed to have any leprosy, but on a recent visit, two executives of the Leprosy Mission discovered a remote village, not on any maps, where 54 leprosy sufferers had been hidden away, some for more than 50 years. Even more remarkably, they found that they were all committed Christians, sustained by their faith during decades of suffering and isolation.

Rita Roberts, BEM, affectionately known as "Auntie Rita", for many years Chief Good Companion of Victoria, died at the Nursing Home, Murrumbidgee, on 24 September. A thanksgiving service to honour her life and ministry will be held at the South Yarra church on 7 October at 2.45 pm.

Soviet officials have refused to hand over 135,000 New Testaments to unregistered churches in Moscow. The shipment is the first of 600,000 New Testaments produced by the Friedensstimme Mission. The government refused permission on the basis that this group of evangelical churches is unofficial and is not under state control.

A pilgrimage for human rights and an ecumenical service will launch Amnesty International Week in Melbourne, Vic, on 14 October. The theme of the week is "The Different Faces of Repression". The ecumenical service is being held at St Paul's Cathedral at 3 pm

and the speaker will be John Smith of God's Squad.

Eremos Institute is being launched in Melbourne at St James Old Cathedral, cnr Batman and King Sts, West Melbourne, Vic, on 12 October at 7.30 pm, with Professor Charles Birch giving the inaugural address, "The Ecological Nature of God". Cost of the evening is \$5.

AFES Graduates and Friends are holding a seminar on 13 October at 7.45 pm at 7 Carrick St, Mont Albert, Vic. The seminar "The Relevance of Archaeology for Reading the Bible" is being presented by Dr Geoffrey Jenkins, a lecturer in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies, University of Melbourne.

Song Tianying, daughter of famed evangelist John Sung (Song Shangjie) who won thousands to Christ in China and throughout South East Asia 50 years ago, has been arrested. Miss Song, who is in her 70s, was holding training sessions for house church Christians in Zhangzhou in southern Fujian province.

Wesley Central Mission in Sydney has bought a 15% stake in Sydney radio station 2GB, at a cost of \$3 million. The share purchase gives the mission a permanent place in Sunday evening broadcasting, as well as daily access to the station for free "corporate image and fund-raising commercials" valued at \$165,000 per year.

The World Health Organization forecasts that at least 15-20 million will be affected by AIDS by the turn of the century. Up to 80% of those infected will be in developing countries, and by the year 2010 this could increase to as much as 90%. In central and east Africa, where as many as 20% of young adults are infected, the mortality rate for adults could double or triple over the next decade and the death rate

among children could rise 50% according to WHO projections.

The Bible Society in England was astonished when a cheque for \$15,826 arrived in the mail from the Soviet Union. Apparently the money is an interim compensation payment for property seized during the Russian Revolution in 1917. The money returned to the USSR in the form of Bibles.

In a surprise move, the Cambodian government released a consignment of 7,000 pieces of religious literature in August that had been confiscated several months ago. It is believed to be the first shipment to safely reach Christians inside Cambodia in 15 years of Communist rule.

A draft Nepali constitution will recommend Hinduism as the official state religion, defining the country as a Hindu state. The concern has not only affected the harassed Christian minority, but also Buddhists, who claim nearly 7% of the population and would like Nepal to be declared a secular state.

Protestant denominations in Bulgaria petitioned the government this July for the re-establishment of the Christian newspaper *Zornitza* ("Morning Star") after 42 years of banishment. Publication of *Zornitza*, founded in 1876, was banned by Bulgarian Communist officials in 1948.

A church specially for the disabled has been started in New Jersey, USA. Bethesda Christian Centre's new building is designed for the needs of the disabled. The glass entrance slides open electronically and the corridors are wide. The sanctuary seats 500 with room for 250 wheelchairs. Outside, handicapped parking spaces outnumber regular ones.

The Inaugural Kyrle Christian Art Awards are

being established. The aim is to promote the use of visual art in Christian worship by encouraging artists, craftsmen and artisans to express their faith in visual terms. This can be through paintings, textiles, sculpture, mixed media etc. The deadline for entries is in March 1991. Details and entry forms from the Kyrle Christian Art Award, c/o Luther College, Plymouth Rd, Croydon 3136. Phone (03) 723 6155.

Fr Alexander Men, a well-known and popular Moscow Orthodox priest, has been murdered, according to reports reaching Keston College. He was apparently attacked with an axe and died almost immediately of his injuries.

When the BBC's "Good Morning Sunday" program asked listeners to nominate their favourite hymns they received sackfuls of mail. The top 10 favourites were: 1. "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind", 2. "How Great Thou Art", 3. "The Old Rugged Cross", 4. "The Day Thou Gavest", 5. "When I Survey", 6. "Love Divine", 7. "What a Friend We Have in Jesus", 8. "Oh Love That Will Not Let Me Go", 9. "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" and 10. "Abide with Me".

Father Verzan, head of the Bucharest publishing department of the Romanian Orthodox Church, says Romania needs 5 million more Bibles. This is in order to fulfil the Romanian Patriarch's wish to supply every believer in Romania with a Bible. Father Verzan has appealed for help to buy a new printing press to replace the Orthodox Church's existing one, which cannot cope with the demand.

All over Latin America Roman Catholic officials have been attacking what they call "fundamentalist sects", evidently in response to the explosive growth of the Pentecostals and other "popu-

lar Protestants". Some Protestant leaders have made "unwise statements" about the Roman Catholics and pamphlets attacking the Roman Catholic Church have been sourced to evangelicals.

The first female full-time chaplain to South Australian prisons wants to give inmates a sense of freedom. That's the aim of Heather Hubert, who was recently appointed the chaplain to correctional services by the Joint Committee on Chaplaincy of the Baptist, Churches of Christ and Uniting Churches.

A Bible correspondence course organised by the Protestant theological seminary in Nanking, China, has attracted 16,000 applicants for 1,000 places.

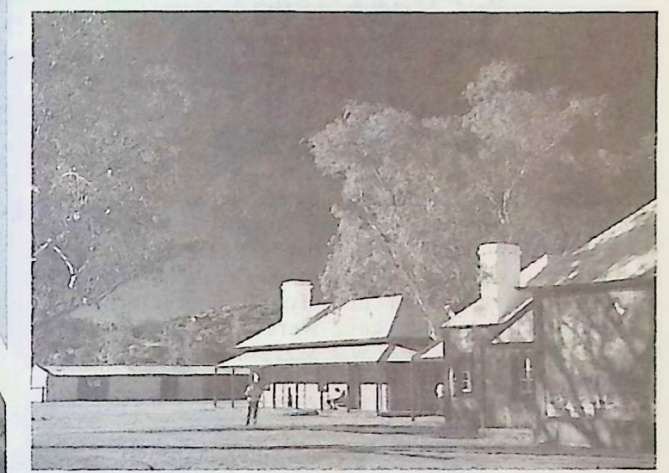
According to the government Religious Affairs Bureau, cited by the New China News Agency, China has 100 million Buddhists, 20 million Muslims, 5 million Protestants and 4 million Catholics. The 5th most popular religion, Taoism, was not mentioned. 40,000 places of worship are served by 800,000 clergy. However, Catholic sources place the Catholic population at 6 million. Unofficial Protestant estimates are of up to 50 million Christians, mostly in house churches.

The Department of Christian Union held a workshop in Melbourne on 17 September to look at a vision for Churches of Christ in the 21st century. 23 attended the session, which was led by Ian Allsop.

The South Australian Christian Endeavour Union is holding a CE Merit Awards night on 16 November at the Brooklyn Park Uniting Church at 7.45 pm. Guest artists will be Alyson Lyons, an elocutionist, and Wayne Colebatch. Awards are being presented to those who have given years of service to the Christian Endeavour movement.



# 1991 Churches of Christ Calendar now available



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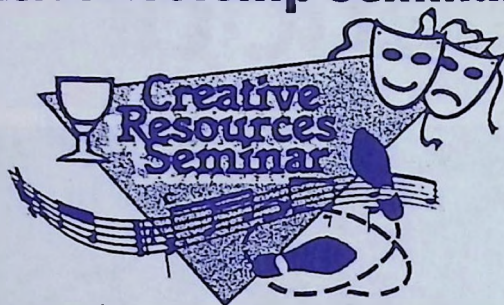
Copies are also available for \$4 (including postage and packaging) from Mrs E.M. Rankine, Secretary, Federal Literature Department of Churches of Christ, 5 Atkins Avenue, Glen Iris 3146.

(Note that we are unable to forward calendars overseas.)

**See your  
church secretary  
for a copy now.**



## Creative Worship Seminar in Ballarat



Thesedays a lot of people are talking about relevance, involvement and professionalism in services of worship. These are seen to be major factors in the lives of growing congregations. There are very few training opportunities, however, for those in rural districts who want (or need) to broaden their experience of worship and develop their talents for involvement within their local churches.

Bearing this in mind, the Ballarat, Vic, churches planned a Creative Worship Seminar,

which was held at York Street in August. The full-day seminar was attended by over 80, most of whom were from three of our Ballarat churches. There were others from Maryborough, Portland, Creswick, Castlemaine and Ararat, giving the event a regional flavour.

The fellowship was great and the program provided for a diversity of workshops and input sessions, drawing not only on local talent but on the resources of Youth Vision and the Dept of MED. There were

sessions dealing with Leading a Communion Service (Ian Tippet), Contemporary Worship (Dale White), Youth and Worship (Doug Fitzpatrick and Scott White), Performing in Worship (Phil Johnson) and Drama (Andrew Barr). The day

was a huge success. People went home saying, "Hey, we ought to hear and do more of this stuff!" Some churches are already reaping the benefits of the seminar, as they see their members using and developing their gifts in the context of their own worshipping congregation. —Dale White

## WA Churches Have a Ball

It took them 100 years to do it but the WA churches finally did celebrate with a ball. At the Government House Ballroom, 436 crowded in to enjoy an excellent night out together, the biggest event so far for the WA Churches of Christ centenary year. All the tickets were sold out two weeks before the date and it was a night to remember for young and old.

There was a spectacular beginning with a fanfare of trumpets. Craig Colvin welcomed everyone and Peter

Blewett was the compere. The decorations and displays were co-ordinated by Thelma Pyne and Ailsa Maxwell. Ballroom dancing demonstrations and musical items were also featured.

An excellent supper was provided and enjoyed by country and city people.

The night was sponsored by the Warwick church, and any surplus funds will be given to missions projects.

Thanks to Lyn Devlin and her team for a job well done.

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25th Chapel  
Anniversary**

Sunday,  
14 October  
Family Worship,  
Barbecue, and  
Afternoon Program  
10 am-2.15 pm  
Speaker—  
Malcolm Gray

**Harcourt**

**Church of Christ**  
Building Centenary

1890                      1990  
Celebration Service  
10.45 am Sunday  
21 October 1990  
Followed by Luncheon  
All ex-members and friends  
welcome to share  
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towards land purchase will be  
launched in Tasmanian churches.

Join the team and help  
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# Classifieds

## BIRTHS

**GUERIN (BALDRY)** Helen and John are pleased to announce the safe arrival of Emma Fay on 18 September at Wangaratta Hospital. First grandchild for Muriel and the late Richard. Address: c/o Mount Beauty Post Office, Lakeside Ave, Mount Beauty 3699.

## APPROACHING MARRIAGES

**FORDHAM—CLARK** Mrs Ruby Fordham (Oakleigh) and Dr Gordon Clark (Wantirna) plan to be married in the Oakleigh Church of Christ at 3 pm on Saturday, 27 October. We invite our friends to share this occasion with us. Afternoon tea will be served in the church hall. No gifts, please.

## RUBY WEDDINGS

**WARDLE—PARSONS** Royce and Lola, 40 Stuart St, North Bayswater, married Church of Christ Warracknabeal 14.10.50, give thanks for 40 years of happiness and much blessing.

## GOLDEN WEDDINGS

**PROCTOR—SHARPLES** The members of the Richmond, Vic, church congratulate Jessie and Bernie on their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 5 October. "The Lord bless you and keep you and make his face shine upon you."

## DEATHS

**CLARE** George William, on 7 September 1990. Beloved husband of Vera, loving father of Robert, Corral (dec.) and Barbara, father-in-law of Val and Robert. Much loved grandad of Denis and Karen, Geoffrey and Jennifer, Bronwyn, Fiona and Colleen. Sadly missed, but at rest with his Lord.

**GILBERTSON** Albert William, on his 75th birthday, 20 August 1990, in Launceston, Tasmania. Loved husband of Dorothy and father and grandfather of Ian and Pamela, Warwick and Jennifer, Trevor and Elizabeth and their families.

## FOR SALE

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## Chess after Church



Members of the Richmond, Vic, Vietnamese congregation gather for worship each Sunday afternoon.

They come from suburbs throughout the metropolitan

area. After the worship service time is spent in fellowship and social contact.

Chinese chess is one of the activities enjoyed by group members. Pictured, left to right, are Minh Tuan Tran, Li Huan Zhong, Ky Lan Nhan, and Minh Hoang Dinh. Huan is in Melbourne from China as a student. He was recently converted and baptised through the church's outreach to Chinese students. He is now the treasurer of the new Chinese fellowship associated with the church.

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## 21st Anniversary of Adventure Activities



John McDonald, Les Stewart, former chairmen of the Adventure Committee, Peter Hillary and Mike Folland, the present chairman

Peter Hillary was guest speaker at the Anniversary Dinner of the Adventure Committee, Vic, held at Chaucer's Restaurant on 14 September. Peter challenged his audience on issues relating to adventure activities and the personal reflections that come from such experiences. He has recently returned from a successful ascent on Mount Ever-

est. People involved with the activities came from as far afield as Kaniva and Tasmania. Denis Maxwell, who has assisted in organisation of Tasmanian treks and provided road transport, was also present.

The compere, Malcolm Wilton, interviewed participants of various events. The evening concluded with an outstanding audio-visual by David Tatnall, an ex-trekker and now a professional photographer of national repute in the areas of wilderness and wildlife.

The committee currently sponsors activities in bushwalking, canoeing, rafting, skiing, rock-climbing, surfing, cycling, and trail bike riding.

## Legacies Keep Counting



A legacy will keep counting in the future. Your commitment to evangelism, church planting and areas such as youth work and camping will be sustained. You are invited to discuss these matters with Department Treasurer, Terry McCredden, or your solicitor.

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## Kensington Network Report



Team members Kim and Heather Thoday, Mike Esbensen and Julie Mitchell, with Department of Mission, Education and Development deputy chairman Doug Adam

Spiritual and welfare needs were recurrent themes in a public presentation of the work of the Kensington Christian Network held at the Nunawading, Vic, church on 16 September.

Kim Thoday and Mike Esbensen presented reports of their work and shared their vision for the future to a group of over 50.

There is an increasing need for welfare assistance. Churches and individuals able to help are invited to contact team members at 2 Bangalore Street, Kensington 3031, telephone (03) 376 0306.

A van to assist with the distribution of furniture and general welfare assistance has been purchased for \$1,300. This expenditure represents a draw on ministry funds. Gifts would be valued to assist with the purchase.

Baptisms and the discipling process continue to give encouragement about the growth of the group. House church meetings have now reached a point where it is necessary to consider developing further groups.

Mike and Kim are available to speak at services on their ministry.

## A Change of Taste

"What does it taste like?" the hesitant ones asked the braver ones as they eyed the food that had been set out on leaves in the church hall. At an evening with a Vanuatu theme it was time to taste the indigenous food—but not everyone was enthusiastic!

The Owen, SA, Combined Congregation's Sunday School project for this year is to raise funds for books and other equipment at the school at Isla, on the island of Tanna, Vanuatu. A trading table and the social evening on raised about \$300, which superintendent, Don Bubner, said was a great effort for a small group.

Julie and Doug Walladge, who returned from Vanuatu to minister at Owen at the beginning of the year, showed slides of life on the island of Pentecost, displayed a number of artifacts and confused the audience with a conversation in Bislama, the pidgin language.

Then it was time for the food—laplap made into two dishes, kumala and simboro, were complemented with rice cooked in the traditional way, a chicken dish and tinned beef, which is often offered to white visitors. And for the unadventurous an Aussie supper of sandwiches, cakes and biscuits was close at hand!

## Trans-Tasman Contact



Betty Benjamin with Ian Tippett

During a recent private visit to Australia, Betty Benjamin met with Ian Tippett and Don Smith of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development and the Federal Board of Christian Education to discuss evangelism and church growth issues.

Betty is the chairperson of the Church Growth Section, a committee of New Zealand

Associated Churches of Christ. She is the past president of the New Zealand Conference and is a regular contributor to *The New Zealand Christian* and resources for ministers.

The discussions centred on matters of common interest and opened the way for continuing discussion and resource sharing.

## Explorer Leaders' Dinner



Andrew Hargreaves (Parkdale), Russell Croxford (Explorer Chief) and Craig Handasyde (Bayswater) at the Explorer leaders' dinner

Explorer leaders from Melbourne metropolitan clubs met for dinner at Surrey Hills church on 22 August for a review of the year's work and to discuss plans for the 1991 program.

A breakfast at the commencement of the year and a mid-year dinner are annual fixtures for leaders.

Explorers are now a part of

the newly formed Kidsmin (Vic) Committee, which oversees the Department of Mission, Education and Development's children's work.

The Anglican Church in SA is in the red and will sell the \$3 million Archbishop's residence in North Adelaide to help make ends meet.



## Audio Book of the Year

The Christian Blind Mission International 1990 Audio Book of the Year was announced on 1 September.

*The Soweto Legacy* by Lorry Lutz, and narrated by Joy Westmore, was judged by 90 participants as being the winning entry.

Judges, regular print-handicapped readers of CBMI Library Services books, visited four countries in their reading during the course of their assessment of the four nominated books. *The Soweto Legacy* is a novel set in South Africa. Other nominations were: *Life Out of Death in Mozambique* by Phyllis Thompson, *From Phnom Penh to Paradise* by Var Hong Ashe and *Sunrise over Sanayeh* by Mariti Sinclair.

Each of the books nominated were narrated in the field or in the studio of CBMI early in 1990 and the Book of the Year judging is a means of creating reader interest.

CBMI Library Services have over 900 print-handicapped borrowers of all ages throughout Australia receiving a wide variety of Christian literature. Books are supplied through a free mail service. They are inviting people other than present borrowers, other visually impaired people, social workers or ministers to help in a survey to discover particular needs in the community for Christian literature in audio format. Interested enquiries can be directed to the Librarian, CBMI, PO Box 5, Kew 3101. Phone (03) 817 4566.

## Rosevale's Centenary

The Rosevale, Qld, church will be celebrating its centenary in 1991.

Rosevale is a small farming community about 80 km east of Brisbane.

The church had its beginning in 1891 when the late J.J.F. Hinrichsen travelled from Mt Walker to conduct meetings in the home of Mr and Mrs Christen Christensen.

At the second meeting, Mrs Christensen confessed her Lord and was baptised that night in the nearby Bremer River.

J. Park was the first minister.

Since then several young men have gone from the Rosevale church into the ministry. One of these was the world-famed evangelist, E.C. (Ern) Hinrichsen.

Rosevale church has always placed a great emphasis on evangelism and many churches have been helped financially in their establishment through the generosity of Rosevale members. Much support, both by attendance and financially, has been given over the years to gospel missions in surrounding areas.

Since its beginning, Kenmore Christian College has received financial support and many hours of voluntary labour have been undertaken to assist in the development of the property. Monthly offerings are taken for the College.

A reunion of past preachers, members and friends is planned for New Year's Day 1991. This will be preceded by special meetings during the weekend of 29 and 30 December with guest speaker Denby

Holmes. Accommodation will be available for anyone wishing to attend.

A Centenary Booklet is being published and a video of the day's proceedings will be available for sale.

The celebrations will continue through the year and should anyone want further information please contact Trevor Christensen, Tarome, MS 461, Kalbar 4309, or phone (075) 63 8204.

The theme for the year is "To God Be the Glory".

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• **Malachi 3:6-12**

## Robbing God

**T**he main theme that Malachi tackles in this segment of his prophecy is the relationship between God and God's people.

Malachi starts with God commenting on his unchangeability: "I the Lord do not change." (verse 6) God states that Israel has owed its continued existence to the fact that his character is unchanging. Throughout the Old Testament the call by God had been to the people of Israel to remain true to the covenant they had established with him. The people however had continually turned away from him. Many times Israel had turned to the other gods of the peoples surrounding them and had not fulfilled the ritual demands of their own God. Yet through all of this God had remained faithful to them. Once again a prophet is calling to the people to remain true to the covenant they had with God.

The people then ask how they have broken the agreement. "How are we to return?" they request.

God accuses the people of robbing him. Is it possible to rob God? Alan Nichols comments: "When you turn back to Malachi 1:6 you find that the only thing of which we can really rob God is his honour and glory, i.e. we can withhold the honour we should be giving to him. We should be showing that honour by obedience." The people are accused of robbing God by stinting on their tithes and offerings.

Tithes are an obligation that is placed on Jews. Deuteronomy 14:22 gives one example of the obligations of the giving of the tithe. The tithe was one tenth of all the produce and it was given to enable the priests and the Levites to survive, as they had to give all of their time to serving God in the Temple and the rituals and thus could not provide for themselves.

Should the same rules apply to Christians? Romans 12:1-2 calls on Christians to be totally committed to God. This also applies to our money and incomes. We should be giving all to God and then all from what we earn for our commitments. We should also be aware that what we regard as essentials in a community like Australia would be regarded as a luxury in many other communities. Christians are not obliged to give one tenth of their incomes—this is not explicitly set out in the new covenant that we have with God. However we are all called to give generously to God as an expression of our gratitude to him for saving us and in honour and glory to him. Many Christians do attempt to give a tithe of their incomes; others give more.

In Malachi 3:9 God tells the people that they are under a curse because they have been cheating him in their giving. From the text it is apparent that at this time Israel is suffering from a drought and crop failure. God is saying that this has occurred because they have not been faithful. If they repent and do the right thing then God will restore nature to its true state. "Pour out so much blessing" (verse 10) is taken by many to mean that God will allow the rain to come. He follows this by saying that he will prevent the locust plagues and allow the vines to grow properly.

The people must return to God by bringing their compulsory contributions to the Temple and in turn God will provide them with material blessings. Philippians 4:19 makes a similar comment about God's commitment to us as the people who are not part of God's covenant but who through Christ are a part of the Kingdom of God. Throughout the Old Testament the emphasis on blessings for those truthful to the covenant is that God will bless

## Man in White

by Mark Barnett

**I**'ve only recently achieved an ambition in umpiring my first SANFL league game [South Australian "Australian Rules" Football] and not only did it excite me, but it was a pleasing moment for both of my parents.

Mum was never a great follower of football, but, due to the occasion, ventured with Dad to see me in my first four league matches. After a particularly close game, one, I might add, that wasn't supposed to be close at all—my fellow umpire and I left the arena to the boos and jeers of over 9,000 spectators.

This shocked my mother, who, I found when I got home that evening, was quite upset at the "treatment" I received. She now has more of an understanding of the life of an umpire!

Being an umpire, especially at league level in front of our mad football crowds, is not always easy, but it was the sport I chose. Being as skinny as a rake, my body just couldn't match my enthusiasm to be a footballer and so, to remain a part of the game I loved, I chose to become a man in white.

As an umpire, each weekend I am expected to cover between 15 and 20 km, stop every now and then to thrust the ball into the ground, hoping it bounces up straight, and make in the

vicinity of 250 decisions. Making two decisions a minute requires a great deal of mental calmness and an even greater need for God's guidance. Although I can't stop, it is great reassurance in the quiet moments of the match to realise that, with all the pressure, I am not alone. God is with me. His serenity, calmness and love are helping and guiding me.

As I mentioned earlier, mum's not a great football fan, but dad is. Often have to defend my colleagues if dad's team is involved! However, my father, to me, is a direct reflection of God the Father. My job is not a popular one, but dad has always attended as many of my matches as he can.

It's not the most interesting thing to do, watching an umpire in a junior game involving teams you don't support; but dad did. He didn't say much. He supported me. He consoled me when I was down. He praised me when I succeeded and, although I didn't acknowledge him often enough, he was always there, lovingly.

Thanks for dads—both kinds!

• *Mark Barnett is a member of the Magill, SA, church. This article first appeared in The Athletes' Chronicle, the magazine of the Sports and Leisure Ministry.*

them in earthly material ways, not just in unseen ways such as peace and joy. The New Testament is not as strong in this emphasis but it is still there. However we are also told throughout the New Testament that life as a Christian is not always going to be easy.

How do we look at passages like this? We can spiritualise them and claim that we will be blessed in a spiritual way and not just materially. However this is not the way the Hebrews would have read it. God promised his people material

well-being if they were to return to him. Does this then mean that if we are truly Christian then we will be healthy and prosperous? A superficial reading of this passage might support this view but not there are many passages in the New Testament that state that those who become Christians will face persecution and will lack material goods. Christianity is not meant to be an easy way to prosperity. It is a call to discipleship. We are called to follow Christ no matter what the cost.

—CRA



**T**he Darwin church is located in Malak, a northern suburb of the Northern Territory's capital, a quarter of an hour's drive from the city centre. Darwin sees itself as a regional church—its members come from a wide area—and its main strengths are its friendliness, its family orientation and its injection of stability into a transient population.

The 9.30 am service is a great time of celebration. Attendances range from the mid 50s to the 80s but can be much higher. The music ministry is strong, with a musical director and instrumentalists. The average age of members is 43.

The friendly family atmosphere is very important in Darwin, where many people are a long way from their extended families. The church therefore fills important social needs. For example, 27 had Christmas dinner together under the manse last year and "gospel grills"—barbecues on Sunday evenings—are a regular feature.

Work with children and youth is very important. A very vibrant Sunday school is a feature of the church. After the children's talk in the service about 45 meet to study a theme for four or five weeks, which is then presented at a family

service. Last week the theme was "the church" and the entire service (including the message) was presented by the Sunday school and the youth

This the Darwin church is doing successfully. Recently Brian White conducted a number of seminars on family relationships. They were well

apprehensive about their first church that he is having "a ball". Tony has been asked to be master of ceremonies at the Darwin Carols by Candlelight and he is secretary of the interchurch council.

One of Tony's ministries is a talkback radio program on 8DN on Sunday nights from 10 pm to midnight.

This has very high ratings that indicate perhaps 12,000 may be listening. This ministry has been supported very well by record importers Word Australia and Alpha and Omega Australia, who supply material on artists and compact discs.

One of Tony's private visions is to see Malak House, the youth prison next door to the church, which is moving to new premises, become a medium-term youth hostel and training centre run by the church.

The Darwin church is supported by the Federal Conference through Federal Home Evangelism. The church is also very appreciative of the assistance given by the Queensland Social Service Department, which has provided helpful support to the director of the day care centre.

The Darwin church is on the move and is growing. Its future seems assured and exciting.

## Focus on Darwin

group. Also for children there is a day care centre operating five days a week for about 40 children. The director of this work for the past 4½ years has been Sally Hudson.

The church has also just finalised negotiations with the territory and federal governments to commence a 30-place ment outside school hours care program to provide after-school activities to children at the local Malak Primary School. The church also works together with the Anglican church to provide religious education courses for three days each term for 400 children at the school.

The climate in Darwin can be very oppressive, especially in the wet season, when temperatures are invariably in the thirties and the humidity can be 80 to 90%. The change of the seasons from dry to wet and back again can be very draining and the work of the church needs to adapt to this and to meet people's very real needs.

advertised on 8DN, Darwin's only AM commercial station, who produced commercials free of charge.

The minister at Darwin is Tony Ochse, who has just celebrated his 40th birthday (with typical NT humour—"Happy Birthday" being played on a mock up version of an armalite rifle acting like a trombone). Born in Melbourne, Tony has lived much of his life in Sydney, where he was a mechanic and auto electrician with his own business, before purchasing a vineyard in South Australia.

Tony had already spent some time in the Northern Territory—from 1972–75 he worked at the Nabalco mine at Gove. He and his wife Gail have a son, Phillip, who is an apprentice screen printer, and a daughter, Michelle, who both live in Sydney. Tony studied at Carlingford, and Darwin is his first church. He wishes to tell ministry students who may be

## Growing Spiritually

### Times of Difficulty

by Arthur Pigdon

**I** am grateful for the times of difficulty I have experienced in life for I believe that these were the times of my greatest spiritual growth. Our muscles only grow when they are pushed beyond their present capability; our minds only grow when they are extended beyond their present knowledge; and our spirits only grow towards goodness when we are put to the test in new and often difficult situations with the possibility of choosing to serve self rather than our Lord. Jesus grew from a carpenter to a prophet in forty days of terrible temptation. We are told that he learned obedience

through what he suffered (Hebrews 5:8). God uses life's experiences as a means of our spiritual growth. We are tested in areas of faith in an unseen and silent God; in our capacity for obedience and self-discipline; in our lack of, and use of, money; in our capacity to love those who annoy and irritate us; in our loyalty in marriage; in our ability to forgive those who hurt us and our loved ones; and in many other ways. In all these areas and many more we are constantly presented with

alternative choices and the decisions we make decide whether we will grow towards God or away from him. We grow by decisions and default rather than by contemplation and meditation. Faith is strengthened and commitment to Christ is made and renewed in times of worship in the company of other believers. But our faith and commitment is tested daily in the home, at school, at work and in the market-place of life. Dedication and daily decisions are factors that both

establish the pattern of our lives and contribute to our spiritual growth.

We are told that the Lord disciplines those whom he loves. "For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant; later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." (Hebrews 12:11) When we experience times in the spiritual wilderness it is encouraging to know that even our Lord walked this path to spiritual maturity.

• Arthur Pigdon is a retired minister, and member of the Red Hill, Vic, church.



# Planning with Your Board for the Future

by Ian Tippet

**T**here are three steps to effective planning for the future. First, know where you are now. If you don't know where you are now, it really doesn't matter which way you go. Secondly, know where you want to be. A clear picture of your aims will help you to go a long way in achieving them. Thirdly, discover how to get there. Determine the process by which your dreams can become a reality.

These three steps can be well applied to a planning conference with a church board. Why not try them in the following way?

- Friday evening—Spend some time as a church board in worship and Bible study. Reflect upon your congregation. What is it that God is calling you to as a leader? What does he want for his church?

Then ask the question: "Where are we now?" Jot down on an overhead transparency or a whiteboard what you see as the strengths of the congregation and the things you do well. Then list the weaknesses and the things you would be better not doing. List the leaders of the church and the roles they assume. Who are the key workers, who has untapped gifts and abilities?

Pray together, have some fellowship and turn in for the night. Allow God to work on what has happened so far.

- Saturday morning—Use breakfast to discover new things about each other and pray together. Then, in the context of the issues raised the night before, ask the question: "Where do we want to be?" List your dreams for ministry, worship, outreach, group life, pastoral care and any other areas that are significant in the life of your church.

Review this list of dreams. You won't be able to do everything, so determine your goals or priorities in all or some of the categories. Have a break before lunch and go for a walk.

- Saturday afternoon—After lunch is a sleepy time, but try to keep alert by asking the question: "How do we get there?" We know where we are. We know where we want to be. What then is the process to get there?

Take your first goal or priority and establish a strategy for its achievement. What are the progressive steps needed? When is action to be taken? What finance is required? Who has responsibility for the ac-

tion? When will this action be reviewed? At what point will the goal itself be reviewed to assess whether or not it has been achieved? When will future goals be established? Repeat this process for each of your goals or priorities.

- Close the planning weekend with worship and a commitment to the task ahead.

- Report back to the congregation the key outcomes of the conference and begin to enlist the personnel allotted to the tasks.

Variations on the theme will occur according to the size of the group and congregation, and what previous planning has occurred. No church is too small or too large to plan for the future. Your group may wish to commit a longer period of time to the process. Build in extra input on the importance of planning, ministry opportunities, outreach strategies, growing from one size to another, responsibilities of elders and board members. Try to be together overnight and get away from your home base. Being together will build new relationships. Getting away from your home base will make it more difficult for people to

"duck in and out" as they feel like it.

As you plan for the future, build into your planning some longer-range goals as well as immediate plans. You could be looking two to five years down the track to leadership issues, property development, changes in population groups and additional ministry support, alongside plans for lifting the quality of worship, new groups, outreach programs and assimilation of new members or visitors.

In your planning, keep acknowledging God's guidance and the presence of the Holy Spirit. As I heard again recently, we need to pray as if it all depends upon God and work as if it all depends upon us.

- Ian Tippet is Field Director responsible for church growth with the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development, and author of "Effective Assimilation".

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

## The Hodos Program Begins

The Vic-Tas Department of Community Care is developing a new community orientated program under the umbrella of Hodos. The concept is to help a local church and its community to develop its spiritual life and the people grow in their whole being. The word "hodos" means life's journey.

The concept is that a local church will organise a series of activities that last for three or four weeks and that counselling and other services will be operating in the church. It is hoped that there will be several programs operating at the one time to allow people a choice.

The Gardiner, Vic, church has agreed to host the initial program. The buildings suit the program, with visibility, office space and access to a functional building. The area surrounding the church has been letterboxed and 20,000 leaflets offering the three courses have been distributed. Local print media have been used to advertise the program.

On four Tuesday nights in October (starting on 9 October) the following courses will be offered:

"Growing through Grief" is designed to help those who are bereaved to come to terms with and explore their under-

standings of grief, and the need to face the reality of loss and how to integrate this loss into life-enhancing ways. Allan Anderson, the manager of the Death and Bereavement Educational Services of Tobin Brothers Training and Educational Division, will be presenting this course.

"Wisdom for Life's Journey" is the second course being offered. This course is designed to explore Biblical principles in a creative way to encourage personal growth. Helen Chapman will be presenting this course.

Greg Ayers will present the course on "Caring for the Earth", which will look at some of the major environmental is-

ssues facing the world today. Readers interested in attending any of these courses should contact the Gardiner church on (03) 885 5282.

Programs for November through to February 1991 have already been developed.

It is hoped that this type of program will develop both the spiritual life of the church and act as an outreach into the community.

There will be a need for people to assist in practical ways to ensure that the program works and that the community people involved will feel welcome.

Those wishing to assist should also contact the number given above.



## Preaching Is Frustrating!

by Ray Hawkins

**Y**ou spend time in preparation, research, review and prayer and then you walk into the pulpit and give it your "best shot" and...and...and that is it! Well, outwardly at least.

In your wiser moments you appreciate the fact that preaching is being a herald for the Lord. But how often are you wise? To read, "We preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God," (1 Corinthians 1: 23-24) and, "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain," (1 Corinthians 15:58) makes us feel good until we face the congregation. From the pulpit we behold the scribblers and dribblers, the sleepers and weepers, the eaters and the "beaters" and other dramas of the pews.

Then it is you wonder.

The soul can in such moment rise up within and demand that you "get stuck into them". The enemy of the Lord's people sneaks behind the pulpit and whispers, "You're wasting your breath. Give them the 'Amen' and get home to the video or the garden." It can take a lot of moral courage to continue in the midst of such temptation.

### Preaching is frustrating because it is so intangible

After you have presented the sermon, given the benediction and the people have filed out what is left for you to grasp? Maybe this is why some resort to the theatrical or the manipulative. The soul needs to be satisfied with something tangible. The spirit may rest easy, but not the soul. This is why it is so easy for the preacher of the faith to turn the pulpit into a

stage and make holy ground a parade ground.

### Preaching is frustrating because it is beyond your control

Week follows week and nothing seems to happen. Doubt can easily arise as to whether or not God is active in and through the message you give. People remain unmoved, unchanged, unconcerned. When doubt continues unchallenged a bigger relative arrives. Its name is despair. It is this "thug" of the soul that causes many a preacher to leave the pulpit for the more manageable scenes of welfare or counselling.

### Preaching is frustrating because it demands faith

When you preach the word of the Lord you have to learn to leave it to the Spirit and his timing to produce results. Biblical preaching is not quoting Bible verses. It is the conviction that God is standing in the pulpit giving life to your words prepared from his word in his presence. It is believing that he is walking in and out of the pews touching those he has prepared for blessing or otherwise. It is the conviction that God is the stone remover from the heart, the ploughman, the sower, the waterer and the reaper and that in his time he will achieve that in and through your ministry.

The preacher's sanity clause is found in Isaiah 55:10 and 11. It declares that God's word never goes forth or returns without achieving his purpose. No-one, repeat, no-one, goes away from hearing the word of the Lord the same as they came to it. What is accomplished depends upon God's intentions.

The answer to the frustration of preaching is not resignation or fatalism but dependency upon the integrity of God and his word. It is the unshakeable awareness that his

## Laughing Waters

by Garry Hills

**O**ur lives are shaped by the choices we make.

An old Mashona proverb says, "Cast a stone into a pool and the water goes on laughing." Every time we make choices, we cast stones into the pool. The nature of the choices will determine the condition of the waters.

Even small choices will have all manner of consequences. A choice to lie to a marriage partner over something trivial, a choice to be selfish instead of giving, a choice to be hurtful instead of kind, a choice to act without thinking. All such choices produce "ripples" (sometimes waves!) that form the shape of our lives. The waters can "laugh" as a result of our actions and priorities. The waters can also be troubled and

chaotic. It is a subtle deception that convinces us that small daily decisions have little impact on things that matter.

C.S. Lewis said, "Every time we make a choice we turn the inmost part of ourselves into either a more heavenly or a more hellish creature."

What decisions are you making today? What choices are following you? What stones are you casting into the pool?

God calls us to choose him and his Kingdom. This is done in the major choices of life as well as the small, day-to-day experiences. Choose him; choose life and the waters will go on laughing.

• Garry Hills is a minister at the Margaret Street, Toowoomba, Qld, church.

## Advertisements

**W**ith the advent of television our society has been subtly educated that the things of this world can give meaning and purpose to life. Images of happiness, success and fulfilment are constantly thrust at us by the media, especially by advertising. Advertising appeals to people's deepest desires and needs, such as the need for love, acceptance, personal wholeness and meaning in life. Every advertisement has at least one of the following components associated with its product: a happy family, smiling faces, good-looking people full of life and energy or highly articulate successful men and women.

The age of high-powered advertising has brought about a headlong pursuit of things, in the hope that these things will give meaning and purpose to

life. But the advertisements never keep their promises. They promise so much, but give so little. They only widen the gap between people's deepest desires and their possible fulfilment, especially for the people who have experienced failure, are not articulate or confident, have an unhappy home or think they are unattractive.

Over many years people have had instilled within them through associated images the idea that the products are somehow related to and will bring meaning and fulfilment, attractiveness and confidence to their lives. But it never actually happens, and so their deepest desires for fulfilment and meaning remain a dilemma, which they are not sure how, or if, they will ever be met. —Stephen Curkpatrick

word is alive and active and by the Spirit of God a man or woman is brought in to a confrontation with the eternal

creator and redeemer.

• Ray Hawkins is the minister at the Maitland, NSW, church.



# Caring Nutritionally for Older People

by Anita Wilton

**A** new caterer was appointed to a Melbourne hospital that treated a large number of elderly people. Being a "go-ahead" young man and wanting to impress the board of management with his innovations, he devised a new menu for the hospital. Many new dishes appeared on the menu. Gone was the roast lamb—in its place "glazed racks of lamb". Similarly, egg and bacon pie was replaced with "pumpkin flan". He was surprised by the meal orders—many of the patients had ordered soup and sandwiches rather than he innovative new dishes. In his planning of the new menu, he had not realised that many of the patients were unwilling to eat any unfamiliar foods.

Food is not just for nourishment. It is an important symbol of certain psychological aspects of life, including social exchange, evidence of love and pleasure. In caring for elderly people in a residential situation some of their needs may be overlooked. These needs include choice in what they eat, who they eat with and where they eat. An American study examined the diets of nursing-home residents and found that, whether the residents had their meals in the dining room or in their rooms, there was little difference in their nutrient intake. It was noted, however, that both groups ate less than expected. This suggests that attention should be paid to what is eaten and maximising the nutritional quality of the food provided. Providing a choice or an opportunity to choose may also help to improve the residents' food intakes. Loneliness may exist within an aged care community. This can result in depression and apathy. An environment where food is served in both familiar and comforting ways can assist to overcome

these difficulties. Additionally, taking the opportunity to celebrate special events helps to maintain a lively interest of the residents in their food. These events may be familiar ones such as birthdays, Christmas and Easter, or novel ones such as the change of seasons, national holidays or international days, with food planned accordingly to suit the occasion.

A set of dietary guidelines has been devised for Australians by the Commonwealth Department of Health:

- Choose a nutritious diet from a variety of foods.
- Control your weight.
- Avoid eating too much fat.
- Avoid eating too much sugar.
- Eat more breads and cereals (preferably whole grain) and vegetables and fruits.
- Use less salt.
- Limit alcohol consumption.
- Promote breastfeeding.

While the last of these guidelines may have little relevance to the elderly (except to suggest they encourage their young relatives to breastfeed) the other guidelines are relevant to the preparation and planning of their meals. Unlike the keen young caterer described in our anecdote, it is unnecessary to completely revise current menus. Instead, modifications can be made to existing meals and recipes to comply with the dietary guidelines.

The disabilities of the residents should also be considered. Apart from obvious physical handicaps, research has noted a change in the taste system with age. This change may be related to nutrient intake, which in turn can be influenced by taste. Residents requiring meals that are chopped or pureed are often those who are most unhappy with their meals. Foods can be served individually, not all mixed together. Foods that require little alteration from their usual form, for example cus-

# "Come, Holy Spirit"

by Ronald Graham

**F**or some of my generation, the Christian faith came alive in those moments that led to the formation of the World Council of Churches in Amsterdam on 23 August 1948. Against the background of war's devastation and dislocation, we were captivated by the Assembly's theme, "Man's Disorder and God's Design".

The Council is a fellowship of churches that confess "the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures". Subsequent Assemblies have been held in Evanston (USA), New Delhi, Uppsala, Nairobi and Vancouver, with themes that have centred on Christ.

The Canberra assembly in February 1991 will have the theme "Come, Holy Spirit—Renew Your Whole Creation".

Thomas and Alexander Campbell and Barton Stone made four emphases: freedom, restoration, unity and evangelism, with the second and third as a means to the fourth. It is the Campbellian conviction that "the Church of Christ upon earth is essentially, intentionally and constitutionally one" that has led their descendants, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to be at home in that ecumenical expression of Christian mission, faith and life and work that is housed in the World Council.

At the Canberra assembly, the Disciples will have three delegates and 14 accredited visitors, of whom I am privileged to be one. (See the "AC" 7 July, page 4.) Some 150 US delegates and visitors (about

half of them women) met in Chicago 22–24 August to prepare for the Assembly.

The Church of Christ upon earth is multi-faith (that is, it manifests great variety in its confession of the faith), multi-cultural, multi-lingual and multi-people. In four ways, the Chicago Conference was a little Canberra.

Worship was a major feature. The Canberra Assembly will begin daily with worship. Our song leaders were a black Methodist laywoman and a Serbian Orthodox priest.

Our daily Bible studies sought to relate God the creator to God the redeemer, one God in both Testaments. (Canberra's six Bible studies were reviewed by Ian Allsop in the "AC", 7 April.)

Presiding was a black woman minister from the Virgin Islands.

There were the leaders in the studies on the assembly's sub-themes: "Giver of Life—Sustain Your Creation!"—Wes, an American; "Spirit of Truth—Set Us Free!"—Barney, a South African; "Spirit of Unity—Reconcile Your People!"—Ofelia, a Cuban; and "Holy Spirit—Transform and Sanctify Us!"—Wesley, a Sri Lankan.

Among the Canberra concerns will be these two: justice for indigenous people, such as Australian Aborigines and the Indians of North and South America; and the role of women in church and society.

• Ronald Graham trained at the COB and had ministries in Australia and the USA. He now lives in Johnston, Iowa.

tards, soups and salmon mornay can be given.

In our caring for the elderly, remember that "man does not live by bread alone". We need to consider the many roles that food plays in the living of our lives. As attitudes about food and eating are emotionally

charged, food service staff must give special consideration to the feelings of their residents.

• Anita Wilton is a qualified dietitian who has worked in geriatric institutions. She is a member of the Greensborough, Vic, church.



## Discipleship

•Natalie Woodward, Boronia, Vic  
•Glen Douglas, Lisa Douglas, Becky Mullen, Vicki Ratcliffe, David Knight, Knoxfield, Vic •Betty Sharman, Rhonda Fordham, Thomas Ting, Armidale, NSW •Doug Kennedy, Victor Harbor, SA •Kerry Hilliard, Bundaberg, Qld •Mrs Kerry Jones, The Patch, Vic •Andrew Knights, Northcote, Vic •Veronica Allison, Nyoli Baggs, Kerri Riessen, Happy Valley, SA •Kim Deutsher, Audrey Grove, Carolyn Grove, Christopher Siddel, Sharon Watson, Guy Mallaby, Berwick, Vic

## Marriages

•Samantha Gray to Craig Allan, Knoxfield, Vic •Shelley Spencer to Mark Robinson, Cathy Harle to Russell Dow, Glen Waverley, Vic •Trudy Armstrong to Kim Roberts, Thornleigh, NSW

## Deaths

•Mrs D. Owens, J. Steckelbruck, Camp Hill, Qld •Emily Adds, Boronia, Vic •Ern Wilkenson, Padstow, NSW •Carl Johnson, Victor Harbor, SA •Tom Butler, Peel St, Ballarat, Vic •Mrs Meg Peeler, Syd Symes, Berwick, Vic



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Information about the position and work of the college can be obtained from the Melbourne College of Divinity, 85 Studley Park Rd, Kew 3101. Phone (03) 862 3198, fax (03) 861 6695.

Applications close 31 October 1990.

## Craft Fete

Saturday, 27 October  
Ringwood Church of Christ  
9 am-2 pm

We are looking for people to "buy" a stall at our fete. The cost of each stall is \$10.

As Christmas is only eight weeks after the fete, this would be an ideal time to make some money for you or your group.

If you are interested please ring Ronda Clarke  
(03) 725 2733.

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The Chairman, Governing Council, Life in Focus,  
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## LIVE-IN ASSISTANTS NEEDED

L'Arche is a world wide family of Christian communities founded by Jean Vanier and living in the spirit of the Beatitudes. In Australia there are communities in Canberra, Sydney and Hobart. Assistants and people who have an intellectual disability share their lives as brothers and sisters.

Live-in Assistants are needed now.

If you are interested contact Helen Merrin,  
19 Victoria Street, Merrylands. NSW 2168



## Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

**Harridge, Ernest Edward** (28.6.90) Ern was born in Kerang, Vic. His early childhood was spent in the Kerang Baptist Church. Ern's childhood was severely affected by his father's death when he was 11. After World War II Ern married Ucella Saunders. In 1947 they moved to Kyneton. They became associated with the Church of Christ. To Ern attending worship was a pleasure and privilege rather than a duty. Ern was a member of the board for over 40 years and at various times he was secretary and treasurer. His particular love was the Bible Society and he was treasurer of the local group for over 30 years. Ern and Ucella were always prepared to provide hospitality to many of the student ministers who served at Kyneton over the years. Ern was a devoted husband and a loving father to Barry and Carol.

—Moss Annot

## WA

**HAMILTON HILL** Combined churches from district holding variety night 23 September to sponsor chaplain at Hamilton Hill Senior High. Friday afternoon club & young people doing an item each ... Garage sale proceeds also going to Lynton Smith, chaplain at High School. He is helping students at Hamilton Hill Senior High ... Three new families in congregation ... Allan Barron helping with sound system while Stan Barber and wife in Eastern States visiting relatives. **FREMANTLE** (D. Good) This year's fruit project resulted in Welfare Centre being given 1,136 L of cooked fruit & a cheque for \$743 being sent to FAB ... At a pm meal service guest speaker Hans Bohm of CBMI ... CWF visited Perth CWF, a craft group at Applecross & the home of Jack & Betty Sewell ... On 7 October evening service time reverts to 7 pm.

**ALEXANDER HEIGHTS** (John Caporn) Attendances up. More chairs needed for services ... Sunday School divided into two classes ... Creche plans underway ... Two babies—Kyara Jane Parmenter (Marie & Jeff), William Luke Bolton (Bev & Mark) welcomed. Dunning family dedication for Luke ... Basketball season successful. Three wins. 120 at barbecue presentation. Challenged about Christianity. One family sought counselling ... Group attended Jerusalem Passion ... Carl Carmody (*Challenge* newspaper) speaker.

## Vic

**BORONIA** (Keith Milne, Andrew Henley) Seminar "Developing Emotional & Spiritual Wholeness" with Brian White & Pat Greig ... "A Night for Children" Jeanette Drummond & puppets ... Marj Harvey new Good Companion leader. Liz Inches thanked for past leadership ... Andrew Henley playing football for Boronia ... Hosted dinner for football team, Paul Burnham speaker ... Spring Festival services addressed by Dr Bill Tabbernee, lunch, art & craft display followed ... CCTC team conducted evening service.

**KNOXFIELD** (Rod Brown, Craig Allan, Brian Tunks) With the arrival of Craig Allan a new emphasis has been put on youth ministry at Knoxfield ... There have been cell groups combined with camps & social activities. This has resulted in baptisms ... Play produced at Outer Eastern College of TAFE, called "Friends Forever" ... Rod Brown & Brian Tunks to attend Fed. Conf.

**YORK ST, BALLARAT** (Jim Cunningham, Gary Berry) Falcons Youth Group held "sound" scavenger hunt ... Combined Churches of Christ gospel service at York St Bronwyn Booth soloist & York St band participated ... Young Adults Cell group took gospel service with focus on youth. Guest speaker Dr Denis McCurdy (Co-ordinator of young adults at Mitcham Baptist & board member with Youth Dimension) ... 80 from throughout Western Victoria attended Creative Worship seminar.

**SURREY HILLS** (D. Brooker, J. Adam) Six new members added to roll ... Project Day & Gala Day resulted in \$2,373 divided between Youth Dimensions & Ministry to Ministers. Ken Clinton speaker both services Project Day ... After trip to Vanuatu Joy Lee brought greeting from Vila church ... Youth group FISH took evening service Emmaus ... Good Companions third, Explorers second at inter-church sports ... D. Brooker to lead studies at Halls Gap camp.

**GLEN WAVERLEY** (Ron Elbourne, Doug Fitzpatrick, Lindsay Croxford) Prayer Focus afternoon again led by leaders ... Fellowship group leaders meet regularly for breakfast, sharing & encouragement ... Church supporting Waverley Emergency Adolescent Care ... Singing in each service now enhanced by members of our singing group ... Youth minister led Cummeragunja Adventure Camp ... Guest at Senior Friends lunch was speaker from Guide Dog Association ... Recent artists: Paul

## Church News

Coleman, Connections Singers, Young Elders.

**NORTH BALWYN** (P.B. Burnham) Rosemary Renouf had photographs & haiku (Japanese poems) published in *Alive to God* (SU) ... Interserve speakers Madam Nina (Middle East), Bernie & Catherine Power (Pakistan), Howard Barclay (UMN) 18 August ... Playgroup enthusiastic attendance encouraging ... Brownies now using church premises ... David Russell (stunt rider) arena attraction Adelaide Royal Show ... Minister appointed chaplain to Melbourne Football Club. Has reported in newspapers, radio & speaking engagements.

**ASHBURTON** (K. Barton) Church has regretfully accepted Ken Barton's retirement after five and a half years much-appreciated ministry ... Iris Lawson has accepted invitation to part-time ministry for three years ... Visiting speakers Viney Longthorp & Harold Steele ... AGM re-elected board plus new member Elsie McCahey. R. Strongman & F. Morris re-elected as elders for three years ... Elizabeth & Clarrie Barks farewell as they moved to Queensland.

**MANIFOLD HEIGHTS** (Max Ball) 65th church anniversary guest speaker Laurie Barker, chaplain Oberon High School. Temple Day offering ... Max & Coral Ball return from holidays. Speakers during absence AIM—Norm Thomas, YFC—Richard Broheir, Graeme Barnett from Sydney, Endless Praise ... Car trial & barbecue tea for fellowship ... Combined Geelong CWF held with Vic President Helen Hall as speaker.

**THE PATCH** (Mike Folland) Series of Bible studies planned by minister ... Youth adventure camp held in school holidays ... CWF joined other groups at Warburton for luncheon & variety concert ... 16 September was a great day in the life of the church as extensions completed. 132 members & friends were welcomed into new chapel by pioneer member Cliff Davie ... Mike Folland baptised & welcomed into the fellowship Kerry Jones.

**PEEL ST, BALLARAT** (Vince Gibbs) 10 September combined Churches of Christ enjoyed fellowship with Max Wright, Aboriginal pastor, Port Lincoln church ... Friday night Fun Fare monthly ages 3-14. 45 attended ... 5 pm services concluded ... 7 pm family services led by church family each Sunday including Peter Elshaug & MAF ... Church preparing for planned giving to be led by Ian Tippet ... Ladies Live & Learn & Friendship Circle continue to operate.

**NORTHCOTE** (F.B. Alcorn) Church

rejoiced in another baptism when a middle-aged man baptised ... Dedication of church board during morning service ... Third Sunday at 5 pm speaker Louis van Laar (Community Care) ... G. Crossman morning speaker when minister in Adelaide for conference of Aust Drug Council ... Anne Graham returned from trip to Ireland ... Arrived at church 23 Sept to find building had been broken into. Some damage.

**RED CLIFFS** (G.R. Sharrad) Kids Club conducted service 26 Aug with Superintendent S. Griffen presiding. Kids did all but sermon. Items were given, every child having a part in the service. Good to see so many parents there too ... Delightful dedication service for two babies held on 16 Sept, daughters of Mansells and Mellbergs. Fellowship luncheon enjoyed afterwards. **SWAN HILL** (L.J. Mayes, S.J. Willis) Church blessed by four days of ministry with John Bond from WA during Sept. Ladies coffee morning, men's breakfast & three public rallies saw several commit their lives to Christ & there are others inquiring ... Over 50 attended Encouragement series ... Bible School numbers increasing as young families become involved in church fellowship.

**BERWICK** (Peter Holt, Gordon Stirling) Music students winter recital ... Youth camp studies led by Andrew Ball ... Stewardship campaign giving on target ... Doug McFarlane (No Limit) guest musician ... Company of singers formed ... Good Companions talent program & snowball sales raised \$460 towards relocation funds, also \$360 proceeds of poems by Lesley Stirling ... Delightful children's musical "We Like Sheep" presented twice ... Special Sunday School holiday program.

**WARRNAMBOOL** (Peter Broadbent) Praise God for many challenging meetings during Sonny Pillay Mission. Please pray as he continues at Portland & Hamilton that the South West Region will bear fruit from the mission ... Broadbent family at "The Ranch" in California as part of Vineyard Christian Fellowship Pastor's School.

**TRARALGON** Annual meeting elected E. Harding, P. Bryant, S. Staley, N. Hogg & R. Harrison as new board members for 1990-91 ... Half-day church family retreat led by John Bailey to focus on a long-term outreach plan attended by 20 ... 25th anniversary of the chapel opening planned for 14 October with a thanksgiving service, barbecue & afternoon program.



# Church News

## NSW

**PADSTOW** (Ed Holt) Over 200 attended dinner (lamb on spit) as means of outreach. Further contact being made with visitors ... Girl's Getaway was a huge success with women & high school girls enjoying fellowship & teaching. Judy Gordon was speaker ... Church again manned hamburger stall for Dept Community Care fete to raise funds for Crisis Centre ... Leigh Holt recovering after major surgery ... Foundation member, Ern Wilkensen, died recently.

**ARMIDALE** (D. Barber) Church has extended the term of its minister David Barber for another three years ... Recent baptismal service held for three people, Betty Sharman, Rhonda Fordham & Thomas Ting ... Church farewelled Rick & Sheila Newby to WA ... AM attendance 35-40 ... 70 at Father's Day family service ... Church ICA loan now fully paid off & church is debt free.

**SOUTH TAMWORTH** Our Lord has answered prayer for a man to minister with us. Graeme Barnett, at present with the Montrose fellowship, will begin in February ... Prayer for a bus was blessed & this will greatly benefit our work ... A weekend visit by members of the Belmore fellowship was a spiritual experience ... Approx 70 ladies attended CWF anniversary. Hennie de Wildt was speaker.

**THORNLEIGH** (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) Ladies conducted stall at Churches of Christ Com-

munity Care fete 15 September. Their contribution to total \$7,500 was \$525 ... Number attending DCE Mini-Midget camp at Stanwell Tops as leaders & campers ... Church called Keith Morgan (Carlingford College student & currently Thornleigh student) to become associate minister with responsibility for pastoral care at conclusion of his College course, which he has accepted.

**TWEED HEADS** (Richard Oakes, Guy Cooper) Excellent response to all meetings with John Bond. Breakfast, dinners, luncheon, morning & afternoon teas, barbecues & church services. 22 indicated some commitment, five already baptised & seven young men very soon. Ann & Don Bigelow & YP group gave excellent music for all gatherings. All expenses for mission covered. We praise God ... Some members going to Federal Conference ... Richard & Janet on well-earned holiday.

## Qld

**CAMP HILL** (J. Houston) Many changes this past year, both exciting & sad ... John, Jane & family are in manse & full-time ministry here ... Doug & Eleanor Smith concluded three-&-a-half-years ministry & moving to Sunshine Coast ... Women now taking part in worship services & administration ... Youth activities & early morning prayer times commenced Saturday

mornings ... Thanksgiving service held to celebrate 33 years of witness in district. Two rededications & dedication of Christopher Peters.

**BUNDABERG** (Alan G. Leane) Celebrations with Conference President Allan Wilson on Father's Day ... Mounted cane knife presented—symbol of major industry ... Sunday School anniversary highlight. Offering over \$450 ... New hymn and Bible reading boards donated & mounted in memory of Glenda & Kev Linderberg's son ... Film "Distinctively Human" screened ... Kerry Hilliard made his confession of faith followed by his baptism ... Ben Perfect farewelled as he left for Tamworth.

## SA

**VICTOR HARBOR** (R. Patterson) Working bees painted inside of chapel ... 100+ enjoyed Friendship Centre's fifth birthday lunch ... George & Joyce Cosgrove welcomed into membership ... Quiz night raised \$350 towards purchase of property & enjoyed by 80 participants ... Evening services taken by Youth Ministry Committee. Somerton Baptist & Blackwood youth much appreciated ... Favourite Bible story service led by Sunday School, followed with basket tea.

**NAILSWORTH** (Daryll Telfer) Times of sharing: 24 ladies at progressive dinner; evening fellowship

at Hampstead with Men's Society & wives' tea & meeting; combined evening service in Baptist chapel; day fellowship to Williamstown for annual lunch & program; Kid's Club camp, Longwood; Sunday lunches in six homes—59 adults & 21 children; with Prospect & Enfield Middle East prayer day at Prospect; gospel service Enfield.

**HAPPY VALLEY** (Russell Allison) Working bees to complete paving car park ... Phyl Pearce transferred from Flinders Park ... Kerri Riessen, Nyoli Baggs & Veronica Allison baptised. Very moving experience especially when Russell baptised his own daughter ... Marriage Enrichment program run over three nights ... Recent CWF meetings Emmanuelle & guide dog, Jill Bosanquet spoke on children with special needs.

## Tas

**CAVESIDE** (John & Colleen Harrison) Youth group led meaningful worship service 24 June ... Andrew George, final-year CCTC student, preached Bible Sunday ... Church combined with local Christians for "Blessing of the Plough" service at Old Wesley Dale property ... Rosalie Rofe shared at home fellowship meeting ... Church AGM held 12 August ... Father's Day featured ladies singing quartet & testimonies by Keith How & Vernon Byard regarding their faith helping them as fathers & grand-fathers.

## 43rd FEDERAL CONFERENCE

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

8-14 October 1990

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



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## Partnership Continues

**B**arry Jenkins and Garry Hills completed their one-month visit to the Churches of Christ (Dadaya), Zimbabwe, by taking part in the final communion service held in Zvishavane. They visited extensively and met most of the leaders of the churches and many of the members in very well-attended gatherings. Their base was at Hokonui Ranch with Sir Garfield and Lady Grace Todd but they moved out widely and on occasions were entertained in the villages. A week ago Garry Hills officially opened the new church building at Mbilashaba. The occasion brought 1,000 together and concluded a well-attended Conference of the local churches. The Australian ministers helped organise a Development Committee and intend to promote support for various projects by churches in Australia.

Many years ago, in fact earlier than 1906, the New Zealand churches sent all their



Sir Garfield Todd

"Foreign Mission" offerings to the Australian churches to support the work in India. It is encouraging that today the Australian churches are showing a practical interest in the work established in 1906 in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) by the Churches of Christ in New Zealand.

The communion service in Zvishavane was attended by 300 inside a church designed for 200, with the overflow listening outside doors and open

windows. The meeting was conducted by Pastor James Gumbo and a rousing challenge was made by Barry Jenkins in the address he delivered. The Australian visitors would have liked to stay on for months or years to see the development of suggestions they have made to the local church leaders but they now leave, with the great appreciation of the local churches and, I am sure, with a new enthusiasm on their part for the work of Christ in Zimbabwe.

—G. Todd

## The US Church Today

"Americans are increasingly willing to make religion a private issue, and remove it from the forum of public conversation," reports the Barna Research Group in "The Church Today: Insightful Statistics and Commentary".

According to the study, Americans:

- Believe they cannot be successful in sharing their faith.
- See ministry as the pastor's job alone,

and believe evangelism is best left to "professionals" like media preachers.

- Interpret "separation of church and state" to mean religious input and activity have no place in public forums.

- Spend a smaller proportion of free time on church activities and are not as involved in small groups.

- Allocate less of their church budgets on outreach.

—MARC Newsletter

## The Last Word

The love of liberty is the love of others; the love of power is the love of ourselves.

—William Hazlitt

Overheard at a church meeting: "I never pray for money. I figure that the Lord is my shepherd, not my banker."

\*\*\*\*\*

A woman got on a crowded bus and a man seated in front of her started to rise but she pushed him back.

"Please," she said. "You don't have to get up for me. I'm a liberated woman."

The man kept trying, but each time the woman pushed him back. Finally, on his fifth try, the man said firmly, "Look, you must let me up. I'm already two kilometres past my stop!"

\*\*\*\*\*

"It appears you are not telling the truth."

"How do you mean, your honour?"

"You told us you had only one brother, whereas your sister says she has two."

\*\*\*\*\*

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 quietly got up and went back into the living room.

One evening the father failed to return to the living room. His anxious wife was about to go to 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."

\*\*\*\*\*



I'm sorry you're moving. You've been excellent sermon material.



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