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of Churches of  
Christ in Australia

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# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

## *Second Century Missionaries*

*Annual Offering Issue*



**A**ustralian Churches of Christ are now in their second century of mission overseas. A lot has changed since Mary Thompson left Australia for India on 23 May 1891. One thing that has not changed is the fact that God calls people to serve across cultural and geographical boundaries.

Pam and Gary Hine come from the Margaret Street church in Toowoomba and are presently students at Kenmore Christian College in Brisbane. In December they will take up the position of mechanic with the Churches of Christ Mission in Papua New Guinea. Gary has had over twenty years experience in the mechanical field and Pam has run her own beauty therapy business.

The Overseas Mission Board is pleased to announce their appointment as the first of the second century missionaries serving Christ and the Australian churches overseas.

*1891 Celebrating a Centenary of Overseas Mission 1991*



# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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## Guest Editorial

• *Real contentment is only possible by being constantly in the presence of the Lord Jesus. Through his word and daily prayer times we can have rich fellowship and oneness with him*

## Contentment versus Discontentment

by Joan Furlonger

I feel sure that on the issue of contentment most people feel the same. We all desire and long for it. Why is it then that we so often experience and feel discontentment?

Recently I had reason to look into this subject as I spent time with someone who appeared to be suffering from severe discontentment. The problem, it seems to me, arises from disobedience. I well remember the unrest I felt as a young person when I disobeyed my parents. There was even a feeling of fear. Then, in contrast to that, the feeling of peace when I had obeyed and done the right thing. But we don't stay children, we grow up, and, hopefully, find that there is one even greater who requires our obedience, God our Father.

We now find that disobedience to God brings the greatest discontentment of all. So why do we do it? I guess it comes down to two things, a lack of trust and our pride. Can God really do what he says in his word, and do I really want to surrender my will to his?

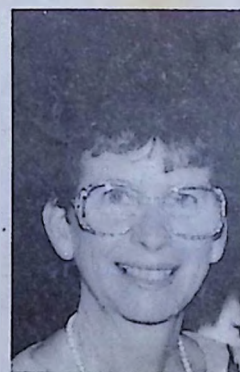
The Bible teaches that God can supply all our needs. Our source is God and we need to put our trust in him if we are to be really contented. We may put our trust in material things but that won't prevent them being taken away. We could put our trust in friends but that won't prevent them deserting us. We should not even be surprised that people change and fail us or that circumstances are sometimes against us. They are not our source and they are not meant to be. We may live on this earth, but our life is in God. Our supply line is between him and us, not between us and people and things.

Now let us turn our attention to contentment. God alone is able to reverse the trend and turn discontentment into contentment, which is the product of a heart resting in God. It is the soul's enjoyment of that peace "that passes all understanding". It is the outcome of my will brought into subjection to his will. It is the blessed assurance that God does all things well and is, even now, making all things work together for our ultimate good. It is accepting the will of a Father who loves us too much to cause us needless tears.

Real contentment is only possible by being constantly in the presence of the Lord Jesus. Through his word and daily prayer times we can have rich fellowship and oneness with him. God has written his law of love in our hearts and love will govern the lives of those who are devoted to him.

We will find it easy to keep his commandments when he controls our thoughts and actions and when his love is shed abroad in our hearts. We will find it easy to obey his "Greatest Command" to love one another and forgive one another.

We can find rest, peace and contentment and through the power of the Holy Spirit we will love and serve God and our fellow man. Let us therefore be contented Christians, showing everyone we meet that God is the answer to a discontented world.



• *Joan Furlonger was born in Brisbane and since the age of nine attended the Sunnybank church, first in the Sunday school and then in the youth group. At the age of 15 she met her husband Jim, who was from the Albion church. She was baptised*

*when she was 16. She and Jim were married when she was 19, by Keith Horne. Through the years she has served as Sunday school teacher and superintendent, youth group leader, CWF president and on various committees. The family has been involved in emergency childcare and has cared for 72 children over a period of about 10 years. Jim and Joan have also cooked for church, family and department camps. Joan has a deep interest in Brotherhood activities and attends many department meetings. The women's work in Queensland is a vital interest and it is her privilege to be serving this year as Women's Conference President in Queensland. The Furlongers have four daughters, four sons-in-law and seven grandchildren.*



## People

### ◦ Carrying on the work

## When Country Meets City



Steve Warwick, Alison Orr and Allan Blyth

Like all country churches Geeveston, Tas, a small rural church, has to see its young people move out of the area for education and work. Our local school only goes to Grade 10 and so to complete Matriculation students either have to travel to Hobart or board in town. Then, when schooling has been completed there are few, if any, jobs, available to them locally.

Alison Orr, one of our young teens, who is now in Grade 12 at Rosny Matriculation College, has left the church here because she has a part-time job on the weekends to see her through college. We no longer have her as part of our congregation, for she has become part of the Howrah church.

Recently she made a commitment of her life to Jesus and desired to be baptised. As a church at Geeveston we are sad to lose her but delighted that she has joined the Howrah church and that, under the ministry of Allan Blyth, she had given her life to Christ. It is important for us as a church to know that there are city churches available to carry on the work that the rural churches have commenced.

And so, for her baptism, a contingent of 27 from Geeveston and Huonville trav-

elled up to Howrah. Long delays were experienced because the Tasman Bridge was closed for repairs. The air of expectancy for the baptism grew as car loads of people came in by dribs and drabs after spending half an hour or more on the alternate crossing of the Derwent River. Finally, after the service had been going for 45 minutes, Steve Warwick (minister with the Geeveston church), who was to baptise Alison, arrived. We were able to share with the people at Howrah how much we appreciate their involvement in Alison's life and for accepting her and loving her. We are encouraged that the church is one body in different locations and that our sadness at losing our young ones can bring joy to churches in the city. Without city churches to provide the care needed we would be frustrated at the loss of our young ones. Thanks to the people of the Howrah church for the encouragement you have given to one of the smaller rural churches. We appreciate you!

Our plea is that all city churches are welcoming of and open to receiving the country kids and that country churches let the city churches know when people move.

—Steve Warwick

### ◦ Queen's Birthday Honours

## Awards to WA Ministers

In the Queen's Birthday Honours list this year there were two members of Churches of Christ who were awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM): Ken Patterson and Ray Vincent, both ministers from WA. Kenneth John Patterson was awarded the

OAM for service to religion, particularly through the Churches of Christ and Ivan Leonard Ray Vincent was awarded the OAM for service to the Churches of Christ and to social welfare. Fuller details of their service to Churches of Christ will appear later.

### ◦ Special service

## Lamb Island Baptism

On 9 June, Philip James Carey was baptised into Christ at his home on Lamb Island near Brisbane, Qld.

An enriching and encouraging message was delivered by Noel Baxter (minister of the Kedron church). The service was held in the local inter-denominational church hall on the island. During the service

several duets were played by flautists Karen Sibbald and Philip's wife Lisa-Ann Carey. Lisa and Philip's friend Malcolm Starkey assisted in communion with Malcolm's wife Carolyn reading a passage from God's word.

A larger number than usual were present for this special service. —Lisa-Ann Carey

### ◦ Urban ministry lecturer

## Ray Bakke's Australian Visit

During his Australian visit Dr Ray Bakke will be in Melbourne during July as the guest lecturer of the School of World Mission. A degree-level course will be held 1-19 July at Whitley College, Parkville, titled "Faith in the City; Ministry to the Cities of the World".

The Melbourne Lausanne Committee on Evangelism is also sponsoring a three-day seminar on ministries to the cities of Australia 4-6 July at the Collins Street Baptist Church in Melbourne, with Dr Bakke as the keynote speaker.

A luncheon is planned with Dr Bakke on 10 July to provide opportunities for church leaders to meet and discuss the issue of urban ministry together.

In Sydney, Dr Bakke will be holding a one-day seminar on 13 July sponsored by Scaffolding, Scripture Union, Anglican Innercity Mission, Uniting Church Board of Missions

and Baptist Inner City Ministries.

For information phone for Melbourne details John U'Ren or Mary Palmer at (03) 347 8388 or for Sydney details Rowena Curtis at (02) 746 2144.



Ray Bakke



## ◦ Important survey to be conducted throughout Australia

### Comprehensive National Church Life Survey Planned

Perhaps the most comprehensive survey of Protestant church life ever carried out is to be conducted in Australia in August.

More than 600,000 attenders from around 7,000 Protestant congregations and 15 Protestant denominations across the country have committed themselves to be involved in the survey. It will be conducted 25-31 August and has gained the support of church leaders throughout the country. Respondents will complete the survey during their Sunday services or mid-week meetings.

The National Church Life Survey will examine how different styles of church life influence a congregation's openness to the wider community. It will also investigate how this openness can vary given ethnic, cultural, socio-economic and attitudinal factors.

In 1986 a Joint Church Census covered the main Protestant denominations in NSW and examined factors shaping a local church, including con-

gregational size, Bible-reading habits and levels of newcomers, denominational switchers and visitors to church.

It revealed the need for further examination of the relationship between a church and its community. The 1991 survey will take this analysis a step further by examining how different styles of church life affect a congregation's openness to the wider community. It will include such factors as congregational style, attender attitudes and orientations, worship life, mission and service activities, church buildings, leadership patterns, congregational heritage, organisational structure and nurture/group life patterns.

Survey questions will also probe the congregation's perceptions of the local and wider community. Survey co-ordinator, Peter Kaldor, highlights the changing shape of church life in this country as a major reason for the survey:

Churches of Christ are participating in this important survey. At a national level the work is being co-ordinated by the Australian Board of Church Development and Education, with each state and territory responsible for local implementation through state departments of church development or equivalent. The survey data will progressively become available during 1992. Enquiries can be directed to Don Smith, Executive Director of the Australian Board of Church Development and Education, 52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne, 3000, or state department directors.

#### Visiting Melbourne?

You are welcome at the Richmond Church of Christ cnr Coppin and Murphy Streets  
Services: 11 am and 7 pm  
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## ◦ Advice for leaders

### Prayer Breakfast

At the Victorian State Prayer Breakfast, organised by the Victorian State Parliamentary Christian Fellowship, held on 5 June at Queen's Hall, Parliament House, the speaker was Dr Keith Rayner, the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne.

His address to some 270 attenders was on the standards of leadership that should be expected in society today.

He commented that the type of leadership he was espousing was costly.

A temptation he saw that needed to be avoided, especially by those in the church, was the temptation to be too sure that God is on our side.

He was insistent that even more so in today's society there is a need for a distinction between good and evil and between truth and error.

He quoted Solzhenitsyn in observing that "good and evil course through the heart of every human being".

Dr Rayner called for Australia to be the "wise" country rather than the current call for us to be the "clever" country. He outlined wisdom as that sought by Solomon from God in 1 Kings 3.

He looked at the example that Christ is to us all and how Christ is the pattern for life that we should be leading.

This is just as applicable to leaders in society; leaders should exhibit the characteristics of Christ—humility, love (in the sense of wanting good for others) and integrity.

He finished his address with the question: Can we grow these types of leaders?

This State Prayer Breakfast was the sixth held in Victoria. Many parliamentarians participated, with the Alan Hunt, President of the Legislative Council, presiding and Joan Kirner, Premier, and Phillip Gude, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, bringing the readings.

## ◦ Great day in the South East

### District Conference

The Annual SA South East District Conference was held on 1 June in the Keith church. Over 60 came for the opening devotional session led by Grant Simpson from Naracoorte, taking the conference theme "Out of Weakness, Strength".

John Aitchison from Keith was chairman for the day.

Jim Keatch, Associate State Minister, gave an interesting report on State directions and future plans, in line with State Conference theme, "There's a Fresh Wind Blowing".

Deane Woods, Principal of Adelaide College of Ministries (attached to Prospect Baptist), was guest speaker.

He spoke three times during the day, developing the theme, looking at the topics based on 2 Corinthians 12:9-10—ministering spiritually in a critical world

(serving effectually so that fruit remains), equipping strategically in a complex world (strategising one's ministry) and living victoriously in a corruptible world (turning stumbling blocks into stepping stones). (Copies of Deane's notes are available.)

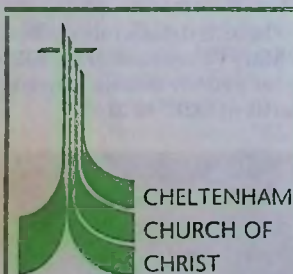
Will Philp from Fullarton was guest soloist and reinforced the messages with his items.

Reports were presented from each of the conference churches (Bordertown, Keith, Mt Gambier, Mundulla, Tarpeena and Naracoorte).

Over 90 met for the afternoon sessions, which concluded with a basket tea.

Fellowship, teaching, music, meals and rain all contributed to make SEDC for 1991 a great day.

—Ken Wray



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## • Drawing attention to a massive problem

### Alcohol Awareness Week



Major John Henderson

The Chairman of the "Alcohol Awareness Week" Committee, Major John Henderson, has announced that the 1991 media promotion will be held 1-9 September.

Alcohol Awareness Week is an attempt to draw attention to the massive problems being experienced by Australians related to their consumption of alcohol.

Once the facts are collated, pressure will be applied to state and federal governments for more resources to be made available.

The focus of the 1991 week is a telephone "Hotline". Members of the public will be invited to phone the number and discuss various problems they or their friends are experiencing through alcohol abuse.

The political interest in the prevention of drug abuse can be summarised as "making the most noise about the drugs that cause the least harm".

As far as it is possible to determine, some 200 young people under the age of 35 will die in Australia from the use of opiates. While each of these deaths is a tragedy, they cannot be compared to the damage related to alcohol consumption. In the Commonwealth Health Department's own figures over 1,000 under-35-year-

olds will die from alcohol intoxication-related deaths. It is of further concern that the alcohol-related mortality figures may well be substantially under-reported.

Why, asks the committee, is there a reluctance on the part of governments to focus on the real Australian drug problem? After all, in only one state of Australia, the number of convictions associated with illegal substances is approximately 2,000, while the number of convictions for drunkenness and drink driving is approximately 40,000.

Alcohol Awareness Week will be held for the first time on a national basis and will feature a number of activities.

The South Australian Brewing Company have agreed to include some publicity regarding Alcohol Awareness Week in their monthly newsletter, which is distributed to all hotels.

A number of celebrities have agreed to support the campaign through television and radio ads that will encourage people to phone a 008 number should they have any queries involving an alcohol-related subject.

A news-sheet is being produced on a regular basis, *Alcohol Awareness Week Supporter*, and this can be sent to anyone interested by contacting the Public Relations Director, Richard Berry, at the Alcohol Awareness Week office, 11-13 White Rd, Gepps Cross 5094, or by phoning (08) 349 7277.

Other activities planned include a national competition in a feature magazine to improve the knowledge of alcohol and its effect on health and welfare, a telephone survey of households regarding alcohol use, colour posters and leaflets that will feature the identities used in the TV ads and youth activities.

## • Grote Street happenings

### Adelaide Meetings

Grote Street, SA, was the venue for State Conference Reunion Day (45 years and over in membership with Churches of Christ). The Women's Ministry Committee convened the afternoon program and afternoon tea for over 190 guests. The program commenced with favourite-hymn singing, with excellent musical items presented by John and Barbara Turner of the Brooklyn Park church.

Jeff May spoke on the Conference theme of a fresh wind blowing in mission in the church. Shirley Burger, as Women's Ministry Committee Chair, led in devotions.

Thursday was Women's Day at Grote Street. The morning session, led by Shirley Burger, welcomed invited guests. A ladies choir, led by Audrey Fletcher, was a highlight at both morning and afternoon sessions.

A week prior to Conference, the Grote Street CWF celebrated its 40th birthday with a luncheon arranged by Julie Adams and key workers. 52 ladies enjoyed a three-course meal and shared a birthday cake made by Miriam Brearley and cut by Eileen Blackeby. The musical program was presented by several artists; a quiz and devotions by Shirley Purger.

On 18-19 May Grote Street invited other churches to celebrate 100 years of Overseas Missions together. The Saturday evening was hosted by Jeff May, Executive Director of Overseas Missions Board, and featured the Adelaide Male Voice Choir. The retiring offering of \$200 was presented to Jeff.

Pentecost Sunday, 19 May, Ian Adams's message was "Coming of the Holy Spirit". Luncheon followed and a 2.30 pm meeting with Jeff. May featured "Doing Mission Together". Several groups then took up the challenge and delivered literature and invited folk to the services while several stayed and prayed for the Holy Spirit's leading and guidance.

At the 7 pm service, the Twigle family rendered items, which were appreciated by all.

At the Sunday morning service on 26 May, "New Life" was Ian Adams's morning message and at the gospel service at 7 pm representatives from the United Church Netball Association were present. Ian inducted leaders to their commitment for the coming year. New Connexions, from Magill church, led by Colin Rawlings, presented an excellent selection of musical items to a capacity-filled chapel. —Lucy Kruger

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# Music in Worship

## • Band

### Danger UXB

Danger UXB is a four-piece rock band made up of full-time professional musicians who are all Christians. Their six-year history has seen them cover most of Australia east of Darwin and Adelaide.

While they play occasional Christian gigs and have appeared at the last two Blackstump festivals, over 90% of their work is in the club and pub scene. With ten different instruments used in the show and all four contributing different lead vocals, variety is a feature of a Danger UXB show.

Their original compositions accentuate strong lyrics, which

are intended to provoke thought at least as much as dance-floor action. The band feels strongly that their faith should be as obvious in their music as in their lives, but are making every effort to attain a level of excellence in their music that will appeal to all—Christian and non-Christian alike.

Danger UXB hope to record some of their material soon and would appreciate your prayers as they try to achieve what God has called them to do.

(Members of Danger UXB are a part of the Caringbah, NSW, church.)

## • Review

### Surprise: "Reformation"

Jeff Todd and Dave Simpson's great engineering talent has gone on display in this album. They have produced a great mix on this production from Sydney-based band "Surprise".

This album, like their previous album "Fish", was recorded at Windwood Studios in Lawson, NSW. The album is being distributed by DTS Records in Australia and Refuge in America.

Alexander Macdonald is the lead vocalist as well as the guitarist/songwriter.

Alexander formed the band over eight years ago and has lead the band to the high profile it has today. Each song on *Reformation* is unique in style and presentation. Songs like "Jack the Ripper" and "Madder Than Me" are strong songs

with gutsy guitars and great vocals.

Lisa Parsons impresses with her backing vocals throughout the album and her lead performance in "Victim of Love". Drums, bass and keyboards add variation and style to each of the 12 well-produced tracks. Do yourself a favour...

Surprise comprises Alexander Macdonald (voices/guitars), David Welch (keyboards), Allan Dowthwaite (drums), Malcolm Kiely (bass) and Lisa Parsons (voices).

*"Music in Worship" is written by Brett White. If you would like to talk about anything he has written you can write to him at PO Box 664, Miranda 2228.*

## Martine Locke

Martine Locke is a talented, enthusiastic singer/songwriter whose self-compositions consist of meaningful lyrics accompanied with a raw innovative guitar style. She has warmed, encouraged and thrilled the hearts of audiences Australia wide. Her songs deliver a clear message of urgency and hope and cut straight to the heart of the matter, challenging all who listen. Quite simply, there is nothing like Martine in the

Christian music scene. She has a vision, perspective, and awareness, which is balanced by her Christian values. Martine is more than just a talented musician, she has a ministry that promises to endure well into the 90s. Martine is an exceptional performer who has something to say to us all. Martine is based in Adelaide but is often seen playing her high-energy music in Sydney and Melbourne.

## The Music Team

### The Worship Leader

Worship leaders have a position of great responsibility. They are to lead the congregation into an attitude of praise and worship to our Lord. They are not just a song leader leading a singalong; they are responsible to create an atmosphere of unity and freedom in worship.

Here are some suggestions for worship leader selection criteria:

- Gifted in music.
- Appropriate level of Christian maturity for the position.
- Rapport with the specific congregation.
- Appropriate leadership qualities.

It is important to get your church leadership's approval for positions with such high responsibilities. Here are some basic guidelines on worship leading:

#### To Seek

Always seek God's guidance and support when leading. Commit the worship into the hands of God, asking him to work through you in a special way.

#### To Lead

It is your job to lead the congregation into an attitude of worship and praise to our Lord. This is not always easy when you have a congregation of 50 made up of many different types and age groups. Always

be sensitive to the needs of the people and always be loving and encouraging in your approach. There is no real need to say too much so it is important to choose songs carefully. Develop a theme through the worship time and use the music creatively to enhance the worship.

#### Freedom

Sometimes I feel that freedom in worship is the hardest goal to achieve. Although it's the hardest I also feel it's the most fruitful; creating an atmosphere where people feel free to worship our Lord in the way that they feel our Lord wants them to. Freedom in worship makes it possible for everyone to get the most out of worship. How do you achieve this freedom? Every church is different so it is a little difficult to give you a recipe for achieving this freedom. I feel the most important ingredient is desire. You and your church leadership must desire (wish or long) to achieve this goal of freedom. Pray regularly about it and work at it as a team. Other things that will help are choice of songs and a relaxed environment. Unity is very important. "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!...For there the Lord bestows his blessing..." (Psalm 133:1,3)

(Next month: "The Musician")



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## World News

### • Help for Bangladesh

## COCOA Responds to Needs

On the evening of 30 April Bangladesh was lashed by one of the most powerful cyclones in 20 years. Winds of up to 235 km/h, driving a wall of water in front of them that sometimes topped 5.5 m, crashed into the east coast and outlying islands of the disaster-prone nation. For the rural and fishing families who have survived, the urgent needs have been drinking water, dry and cooked food, clothing and financial assistance to repair ravaged homes.

Gifts to assist with Bangladesh's needs have been received by the Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) fund as individuals and churches have responded with compassion.

The Overseas Mission Board, which administers COCOA, decided to contribute \$10,000 for relief work in Bangladesh, knowing that money would continue to be received to enable the donation to be made. The funds were forwarded to World Concern, a Christian aid agency involved in ongoing projects in Bangladesh with HEED (also a Christian aid organisation). Some of the project workers for HEED in Bangladesh were among those who suffered loss.

Eversince HEED's establishment of a Disaster Preparedness Unit in 1986 it has taken a number of measures in preparation for just such a disaster as this one. As a result HEED had immediate access to emergency food supplies, water purification tablets and stocks of clothing.

House repair materials consisting of local green bamboo and bamboo woven mats have been purchased locally to avoid transportation costs and to provide much-needed cash in the affected communities.

The teams involved in the relief work are led by individuals who received training from the Disaster Preparedness Unit earlier this year. Advisers have been employed from the local communities. HEED is known in Bangladesh as a Christian, non-government organisation. During times of emergency when the small and struggling Christian churches in the area cannot possibly respond to all the needs, HEED can truly facilitate the understanding that Christians of the world are willing to reach out in a Christ-like compassion to all.

Thank you to those who have assisted with this ministry through gifts to COCOA.

### • Time to move to development in Ethiopia

## Maintain Spotlight

The international spotlight on Ethiopia must be maintained to ensure the new regime was not merely a carbon copy of the old. Says World Vision Australia chief executive, Philip Hunt. He said the impoverished and war-torn nation desperately needs a government with the interests of the people at heart. It was important that the new government knew of the international expectations of change for the better.

He also said the reaction to a major meeting of aid agency representatives in Addis Ababa recently was positive. But

Ethiopia needed development much more than it needed relief: "We have been giving relief to Ethiopia for years. Now it's time to move to development, so those years of relief will not have been wasted."

Philip Hunt said World Vision had proved that good development work was possible in Ethiopia, with several project areas defying the current famine conditions. He added that contact with World Vision staff in most projects had not yet been restored and the flow of relief food to northern areas was still disrupted.

### • Visit of Albert Nyoni

## Interest in Zimbabwe



Albert Nyoni and Barry Jenkins

In August 1990 Barry Jenkins (Ringwood, Vic) and Garry Hills (Margaret St, Toowoomba, Qld) visited churches in Zimbabwe where Barry set up a Project Development Committee to handle COCOA funds for development projects around the Zvisharane area.

In April 1991 Pastor Albert Nyoni was welcomed to Australia in a visit sponsored by the Margaret St, Toowoomba, church.

Albert participated in missionary focus programs and youth camping and attended Kenmore Christian College to audit classes for several days.

The Victorian Overseas Missions Committee brought Albert down south for five days in April. Albert met with the

State Committee, audited classes at Whitley College and CCTC and spoke at the district conference in Wangaratta.

One highlight of Albert's visit to Victorian was a reunion with Bill and Ria Keddie (Yarrawonga) who had been in Zimbabwe at Dadaya High School in 1989.

Barry and Maureen Jenkins are planning to visit Zimbabwe in July this year and will be able to see first hand the new projects being developed. News has come recently of a matching grant from ADAB (Australian Development Assistance Bureau), so this year's COCOA's \$25,000 donation to the Zimbabwe projects will be increased to \$50,000.

—Barry Jenkins



**El kanah**

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# Letters to the Editor

## Letters are limited to 200 words

### The Motherhood of God

To the Editor,

Regarding "The Motherhood of God" by Marj Buckingham ("AC" 27 April) do I agree that "God, our great creator, the gender role transcends"? Do I agree that God has mother attributes?

In a search of my Bible I found these references:

Isaiah 66:12a-13—"For thus says the Lord—as one whom his mother comforts, so will I comfort you."

Matthew 23:37—Jesus speaking to the crowd: "I would have gathered your children as a hen gathers her brood under her wings."

Genesis 1:27—"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female created he them."

Out of this Genesis statement a host of questions crowd my mind—how can "female" be "in the image of God" if God has no female characteristics? Does it follow that all females, made in the image of God, can have some "maleness"? Can all males have some "female" attributes? Have we, in the past, gone overboard in strictly defining male and female roles? Are we starting to get it right?

Are we starting to see God as the total personhood? Are we starting to see each individual person as being made not in half of God's image, but in the whole of it?

Think about Galatians 3:26 and 28. Because of this, there is in all of us, both male and female, that ability, which is the very heart of God's nature, to be loving and caring.

—Madge Bird  
(Albion, Qld)

### Inner-Link

To the Editor,

In this technological era, when communication is rapid and information widespread, many people are expressing an interest in not only their own religion but also those of other individuals and cultures. We now have the opportunity to find out about spiritual ideas formerly unknown to us, and to exchange religious ideas and insights quite freely.

In order to help people who are interested in such matters, especially those keen to explore the "common ground" of the various faiths, I have set up an informal postal communication network called "Inner-Link". The network functions as a system of pen friends who can exchange ideas and increase their understanding of what religion means to people of both their own faith and others. I hope

that, in a small way, it helps to promote religious tolerance and harmony.

Full details of the network can be obtained by writing to me at the address below. No fees are involved but all enquiries should include an International Reply Coupon to cover the cost of mailing information back.

—Chris North  
(Inner-Link Co-ordinator,  
19 Rockingham Close,  
Shephed, Loughborough,  
Leicestershire, LE12 9PR,  
England)

### "Traditional" versus "Contemporary"

To the Editor,

I couldn't agree more with the article written by Ronald W. Graham entitled "'Traditional' versus 'Contemporary'" in the 25 May issue of *The Australian Christian*.

It is true tragic situations arise when one is made to feel "irrelevant", because one is not able

to accept either the "contemporary" or the "traditional" music.

The latter section of the article under "Criteria" sums up what would be most helpful to the spectrum of worshippers, and brings a practical perspective into church worship. It would be a challenge and encouragement to Christians to embrace motives Dr Graham espouses.

—Mavis Price  
(Albion, Qld)

### Worship Styles

To the Editor,

After reading the letter by A.E. Boettcher ("AC" 8 June) I feel compelled to write to express what I believe to be the views of many young people within our churches today.

While I don't deny that some of the best songs available for use during services are hymns it is important that we don't discount other styles as well. As a church we need to reach

## Letters from Tertius

### One Wise Monkey

To the Editor,

In pride of place on our "whatnot" are three little figurines of the three wise monkeys, with hands over eyes, ears and mouth respectively, busily seeing, hearing and speaking no evil.

I have often wondered about them. Does the one who won't look at evil sometimes listen to it? And is the one who has closed ears to evil prone to say a few evil things now and then? And do the closed ears and mouth monkeys sometimes do a little peeping?

I have come to the conclusion that we could simplify the figurines by getting rid of the traditional three and replacing them with one—"Think no evil".

I'm sure that what we talk about and listen to and become curious about depends on what is in our minds in the first place.

Last Sunday our minister preached on a text that I had never heard about before—"As he thinks in his mind, so is he." That really got me thinking again about having one wise monkey to remind us that thinking right gets us seeing and hearing and saying right.

My wife remembered the text, chapter and verse and all. She has a very useful memory. I have a very useful concordance. But there's one verse that I can find without its help, because I look for it so often. It's in Philippians 4 and gives us a list of the things to keep thinking about if we want to live well.

I read it frequently because that's how often my soul needs a spring clean.

Yours thoughtfully,  
Tertius.

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## Letters to the Editor

out to non-Christians using a language and style they understand just as Jesus did with parables.

Some of the best services I've attended in my 17 or so years in Churches of Christ have involved choruses, rock 'n' roll and dancing. I believe these are justified expressions of worship and they can be incorporated into traditional service formats.

Not all choruses available are as repetitive and meaningless as Mr Boettcher suggests.

—Nahum Hall  
(Ringwood, Vic)

### Total Abstinence

To the Editor,

Where are we going as Churches of Christ when we have to discuss at a conference a motion in relation to total abstinence from alcohol and drugs?

As one who has witnessed first hand the results of alcohol, e.g. broken homes, bashed-up wives, smashed furniture, children locked in bedrooms when a drunken father arrives home etc., surely we do not need to vote on the pros and cons of this evil. Our social service departments have their crisis centres to assist people in these circumstances—where is our sincerity?

Scripture tells us we are to be in the world—not of the world. It appears we are allowing the world to come into the church. Surely as Churches of Christ we are not losing our stand on these issues altogether.

No, A.B. Withers, I join you, we have not all believed in vain.

—Alf Bourne  
(Epping, NSW)

### Abstinence Debate

To the Editor,

I find it necessary to react to R. Tagg's letter ("AC" 8 June). He adopts precisely the attitude of spiritual superiority (pride) that the Bible so conclusively rejects. (Romans 14:3, 4, 10, 13, Colossians 2:16 etc.)

To follow his logic through to its end, the celibate state is superior to that of the married (cf Matthew 19:4–6, 10–12), the vegetarian (Romans 14:2) is on a higher spiritual plane than

one who eats meat and the total abstainer (John the Baptist) is more committed than Jesus himself. (Matthew 11:18ff, but note John 3:30ff etc.)

It is the total abstainer who is inferior (Romans 14:2) unless, and only unless, he is in principle a strong man who feels personally called to abstain for the sake of the weak consciences of those around him (Romans 14:13b, 15, 21). Not all of us find our conduct permanently governed by weak consciences (e.g. Jews who don't eat pork) and temptation comes whether we abstain or not (Matthew 18:7, cf 11:18ff).

In any case consciences vary greatly especially in a multicultural society. Some find our legalism our greatest offence. "Gentiles" still blaspheme because of "Jews" in our midst (Romans 2:24; 14:1–23). Romans 14, for example, cuts both ways and underscores both our freedom and responsibility.

The tragedy of the church is that historically speaking so many who have imagined themselves strong by submitting to rules and regulations are adjudged weak in the NT (especially Colossians 2:16–23), but their strong social position (cf the Pharisees) has made them a formidable stumbling block in evangelism and normal church life. Finally, our obsession with symptoms is hiding from us the nature of the real disease—sin and alienation from God. If only we would learn to love the Lord Jesus and accept him as teacher and Lord (John 13:13), we would advance far in solving our ethical problems and our ecclesiastical disunity.

—Ken Stothard  
(Essendon, Vic)

PS: I am afraid that in trying to defend and clarify the gospel of grace I am projecting the wrong image. My position in opposing the motion at Conference was and is this: While I wholly support anyone who challenges us to adopt total abstinence believing that a case can indeed be made for it, I wholly oppose the slightest suggestion of coercion. Once

Conference votes in favour of total abstinence it becomes an expectation in our churches. This, I contend, is out of accord with the clear teaching of the New Testament.

### AIDS

To the Editor,

Ten years ago, last month, AIDS was discovered.

Experts still dispute what AIDS is, how it spreads, how to prevent it...

One thing's for sure—if everybody observed the Christian principles of pre-marriage chastity and in-marriage fidelity, the AIDS virus would become extinct—or, at least, an endangered species.

—Arnold Jago  
(Mildura, Vic)

### Convention on the Rights of the Child

To the Editor,

God is at work in our world, and sometimes in places we might least expect. And God has never hesitated to use the ungodly to show his people what their responsibilities are.

The origin of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is irrelevant if it is a means by which our legislators in our country are forced to face up to their responsibilities. The Convention is simply a set of minimum standards for legislation about children, and I fail to see any standard in the 40 main articles that exceeds standards already met by state and federal law. The Convention even affirms the right of parents to be the primary care-givers and spiritual guides.

Tom Fraser ("AC" 8 June) and apparently others seem to have confused their conservative politics and conservative Christianity. Federal Government ratification of international conventions is seen by some as an infringement of "state rights", and indeed when the laws of certain states have given less protection than deemed necessary in an international community, the democratically elected Federal Government has sought to bring those states into line with these internationally agreed stand-

ards. The UN exercises no authority over the sovereignty of our nation. The constitutional right of the Federal Government to make international agreements has been upheld by the High Court. So what is there to fear?

Jesus once said that it was unforgivable to claim that something which was God inspired was in fact devil inspired (Mark 3:29–30). Let us not be so blinded by the absurdities of politics that we are unable to see God at work in our world.

—John Clapp  
(Wembley Downs, WA)

### US House Exchange

To the Editor,

I'm a member of the Bethany Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in El Paso, Texas. Another member and I are hoping you may be able to put us in touch with persons who might be interested in trading houses for two or three months. We would like to visit Australia in September, October or November of 1992. This is our fall (autumn), the very best time of the year in El Paso, and will be turning spring in your part of the hemisphere.

El Paso is a city of 600,000 on the Rio Grande River, and we have direct air and rail connections to all parts of the US. We are within 100 miles of green mountain resorts, and 200 miles from Carlsbad caverns, one of our national parks.

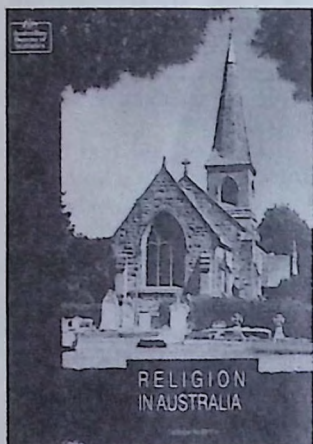
We are interested in visiting several regions in Australia, and feel we would have greater opportunities for sightseeing than on a regular tour. I was stationed in New Caledonia, so even hope I may be able to get up there.

Robert Hawley, our minister, will proffer references on our behalf, and we are looking forward to encouraging correspondence!

—Mary Jane Nix Rinker  
3303 Limerick Road,  
El Paso, Texas 79925, USA  
*[Trevor Banks received this letter at the Christian Union Department and thought that our pages would be the best way of letting people know about this request.—Editor]*



## Books



### Religion in Australia

by Ian Castles (Australian Bureau of Statistics) \$12.50

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has released this handy booklet, which looks at the nation's religious composition as recorded at the last census in 1986. In it there is a wealth of interesting information regarding the religious make-up of our society, valuable data for those examining the social profile of Australia and to give clues in the areas of church planting and the style of people attracted to Christianity.

After a brief survey of the history of census material regard-

ing religious beliefs there is an examination of the geographical distribution of faith and denominations. Interestingly, the question regarding religion has always been optional in the census, but in earlier years this was not always specified. The largest section in the booklet deals with birthplace and ancestry and religious affiliation. Other sections deal with religious affiliation and age, sex and marital status, education, employment and income.

Some material is obvious, e.g. the Orthodox are primarily of Greek ancestry and Lutherans are primarily of German ancestry. However, there are some fascinating insights that would not have been imagined by many.

Churches of Christ do not get many mentions as our numbers are not large enough for them to be statistically significant.

*Religion in Australia* (Cat. No. 2510.0) is available for \$12.50 including postage and handling from ABS bookshops in each capital city.

—CRA

### Exploring the World of the Jew

Revised edition by John Phillips (Moody Press) \$16.49

In this book Phillips attempts, and to a large extent succeeds, in describing the history and development of the highly complex culture of the Jewish people from earliest times (the Old Testament) to the modern state of Israel. This he does in 250 pages and the feat lies not only in the sparkling brevity but in its sheer readability. Phillips is not a Jew and as such he writes as an outsider, but as an outsider who writes with compassion and understanding and who has attempted with great sincerity to understand the Jew and his history.

Most Christians have some sort of understanding of Jewish history and faith as it developed in the Scriptures but after that it is a rare individual who can relate anything regarding the subsequent history of the Jewish people. This book goes some way in filling that glaring gap in Christian knowledge.

Phillips's description of the development of Talmudic/Rabbinic Judaism (chapters 5-9) alone will justify the purchase of this book. It is written for the layperson but is both accurate and highly informative. Jewish history is a complex interweaving between culture and religion and the way these have both influenced each other; anyone seeking to comprehend the Jew must therefore have at least an outline of Jewish national and personal identity as it is informed by its religion. I believe that you will not find a more readable description of Judaism from a non-technical and Christian perspective.

Phillips's eschatology is dispensational and he devotes a chapter in setting forth his understanding of how world history is inexorably linked with the future of the Jewish people. Whether one agrees with him or not does not in the least detract from the value of this book.

This is a good book and its purchase at the recommended retail price of \$16.49 will be money well spent.

—Alan Hirsch

### The Family-Friendly Church

A Caring Church in a Broken World

by Richard D. Dobbins (Creation House Publishers) \$15.90

"The first crisis in the early church," says Dobbins, "centred in family care. Christian widows and orphans were being neglected." Christians ever since have had to maintain vigorous evangelism and outreach, and at the same time be careful not to fall into the trap of being uncaring towards those who are hurting, and failing to give assistance to the poor of our communities.

Aware of the increase of family breakdown, Dobbins challenges the church to become a "surrogate family" for those suffering brokenness and neglect, and yet at the same time be a "strong source of spiritual support for those whose families are still intact".

Fortunately he is strong on ideas as to how to achieve this. Some of the chapters deal with the family-friendly pastor, family-friendly worship and ordinances, redemptive ministries for those in deep need—single parents, divorced families, blended families and the lonely older members of our community. He also offers the church ideas for improved preventive programs.

I enjoyed the book, and would encourage ministers and board members to read it. It's not heavy reading, and comes from an evangelical theological perspective. Dobbins is committed to evangelism but with real passion encourages us to communicate a sense of loving acceptance, support and healing to those who are hurting and struggling.

The book is full of practical ways and helpful ideas for improving our ball game in this area, and hopefully transforming traditional organised churches into loving communities.

—Brian White





## News



Keith Bowes

### • Keith Bowes to continue

## Principal Appointment

The Board of Management of CCTC is delighted to announce that Dr Keith Bowes has accepted its invitation to become the Principal of the college until December 1993.

The board has very much appreciated Keith's contribution over the last five months and believes that during the

next two years he will assist the college to consolidate its position and set a firm foundation for future management.

In consultation with the faculty, the board at its annual policy conference 31 May-2 June set a number of priorities for the next two years. These include:

- ensuring that Greg Elsdon and Harvey Miller have time to complete their doctorates;
- arranging for faculty to

develop their teaching expertise in their area of specialisation;

- cutting back the present overwhelming load of teaching and pastoral care that faculty has been carrying (with one less faculty member than in 1990); and

- finding new ways to administer the college so that the principal's job is manageable.

The board is grateful for the continued prayer and financial support of the churches in the crucial ministry the college undertakes.

## Visiting Canberra? Stay with a Church Family

A number of Canberra church families offer accommodation in their homes at basic bed and breakfast rates to help raise funds for "Home Mission" extensions in the ACT

If you would like to enjoy friendly "one of the family" hospitality in Canberra write for particulars to:

Lyn Swift  
34 Yiman Street,  
Waramanga 2611  
Phone (062) 88 2050

Barbara Kennedy  
6 Sharp Place,  
Melba 2615  
Phone (062) 58 1360

Advance bookings appreciated

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Invest fourteen evenings or Saturday mornings to help you appreciate more your Christian faith and gain confidence in serving God.

Second semester subjects begin 22 July  
and new students are welcome.

### At CCTC, Mulgrave—

*Ideal for those in the eastern and southern suburbs.*

- |         |            |  |
|---------|------------|--|
| 7.30 pm | Tuesdays   | New Testament Survey—Greg Elsdon               |
| 6.30 pm | Wednesdays | Camping & Recreational Activities—Mike Folland |
| 9.00 am | Saturdays  | Introduction to Pauline Studies—Greg Elsdon    |

### At Whitley College, Parkville—

*Ideal for those in the western and northern suburbs.*

- |         |            |  |
|---------|------------|--|
| 6.45 pm | Tuesdays   | Christianity from Reformation to Modern Times—Ken Manley |
| 6.45 pm | Tuesdays   | Theology and Practice of Christian Mission—Keith Bowes   |
| 6.45 pm | Wednesdays | Pastoral Care in Crisis and Growth—Harvey Miller         |
| 6.45 pm | Thursdays  | Introduction to Theological Studies—Frank Rees           |

Other subjects are available during normal working hours on weekdays.

Registration Day 2.00 pm-8.00 pm Monday, 15 July 1991

Information day for prospective students for next year:  
14 September 1991

Applications and enquiries to Graeme Wigney, Phone (03) 790 1000

**Churches of Christ Theological College**

## Short Courses

Now is the time to register for the final two courses for 1991.  
Six nights of practical help.

### At CCTC, Mulgrave

7.30 pm, Thursdays, 25 July, 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 August  
**Public Speaking Skills for All Situations**  
led by Alan Niven and Malcolm Gray

### At Footscray Church of Christ, 252 Gordon Street, Footscray

7.30 pm, Tuesdays, 13, 20, 27 August, 3, 10, 17 September  
**Light and Life—Studies in John's Gospel**  
led by Greg Elsdon

Applications and Enquiries:

Graeme Wigney, Phone (03) 790 1000

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## New Zealand Tour—1992—20 Days Departing 4 March Returning 23 March 1992

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## Continue?

As long as there are dedicated men and women who will respond to the Call of the Lord, mission will continue. It may not be in the same format. The outlook in the world today is different to what it was 100 to 200 years ago. We are moving into the 21st century, with all of its technological changes. Today, the countries that were the receiving countries for foreign missionaries are, in many cases, the sending countries. India has her mission societies such as "Indian Evangelical Mission", "Friends Missionary Band" and others, who are wholly supported from within India. Two young men from Baramati are working on the mission field. Keram is working amongst the tribals, and Sanjoy has begun working in a village which has no Christian witness.

In India I see three aspects of mission strategy with which we are vitally involved. The first is medical care because there will always be sick among us who will need our love and care. There will always be a special place in the hearts of people for mission hospitals that are not motivated by quick gains but by the love of Christ to reach out to those in distress.

The radio ministry will continue to be an arm of evangelism reaching into homes where Christian workers cannot go. The Australian churches provide \$US250 per month to make sure that the Marathi program aired through Trans World Radio takes place. The Way of Truth Bible Correspondence Course also benefits from this radio ministry and in these days, when open-air preaching seems to have come to an end, the Bible Correspondence Courses are a new door God has opened.

Personal evangelism is one of the most effective ways, whether it is at a village, urban or city level. In many cases it is an individual rather than a church group that has a desire for people to come to Christ and through their witness many do and new churches are planted.

Continue? While we have dedicated young people and prayer support, the witness of the Gospel in India will continue into the 21st century.

Hazel Skuce,  
Baramati, India

## Until the End

The mission will continue in Papua New Guinea because there are open doors. There are open doors to new villages where people have not heard the Good News. There are other villages where people have heard but not responded to the truth. There are established churches and newcomers come to them and the mission continues.

100 years seems to some people to be talking about something very old but because it is the Mission of Christ it will ever continue and will ever be new.

There is always a new beginning. Every minute, and hour are new beginnings for someone in different parts of the world. As the mission continues there will be new beginnings for the people of Papua New Guinea also.

There is a phrase that goes like this, "Iron sharpens iron." People from Australia sharpen people here and they in turn continue the mission themselves. Praise the Lord, because already there are National Christians who are becoming the missionaries within their own country and people because of the hard work done by others.

I believe this mission will continue until the end of time.

Hosea Bule, Papua New Guinea

# The Mission Continues

## The First Hundred Years

The first are not the last!

We celebrate with thanksgiving to God the ministry of over 270 Australians who, together, have given some 2,400 years of service overseas.

We celebrate the involvement with and the establishment of churches in five countries.

Our partnership with other Christians and the privilege of ministry alongside them has enriched the life of the Australian churches.

These hundred years tell a wonderful story but the story has not ended.

We anticipate new involvement in the future alongside present responsibilities. The Board is considering applications for service in Fiji and also requests for increasing the level of partnership in Zimbabwe.

Opportunities exist for trained secondary teachers in Vanuatu and experienced pastors in Papua New Guinea. Is God calling you to be part of the second-century mission force?

The face of mission has changed. The way of mission has changed. The mission has not changed! God still calls us to love the world as he does and declare the wonderful deeds of him who has called us out of darkness into his own marvellous light.

When Jesus commissioned his disciples, he promised to be with them until the end of the age. Unless I missed something somewhere the commission still stands and we are still sent to all peoples everywhere to make disciples. These first one hundred years cannot be our last.

Jeff May  
Executive Director  
Overseas Mission Board



Nathan, Hosea, Helen and Jehu Bule

Hosea and Helen Bule have spent six years in mission service in Papua New Guinea coming from their home country in Vanuatu. They will conclude this service in August of this year and will take their two youngest children, Jehu and Nathan, and be reunited with Malinda and Dayrall who are having their schooling in Vanuatu.

## Getting to Banmatmat

It's not easy but here's how you do it. You will need permits to enter and work in Vanuatu. You will need to be patient as you anxiously await their arrival and cancel bookings when they don't come. Then the great day will come. You have a plane booking and a permit waiting for you at the Vila airport.

At four o'clock on the Sunday morning you and your family are on your way to the Brisbane airport. You're too sleepy to know if you're excited or anxious about it. You get your seat allocation at the airport, find to your pleasant surprise that your luggage is not much overweight, and say good-bye to all the lovely people who've lost sleep to farewell you.

A short flight across the ocean and you're at Vila airport—but the permit isn't. Deportation? No, there is a member of the Vila Church of Christ working in customs. He arranges hotel accommodation for the stay you weren't expecting, a ride to town and a quick trip through customs leaving envious tourists still opening suitcases for inspection.

Next morning you prepare to visit Vanuatu Immigration but there's not much for you to do. The Vila Church of Christ members have done it all for you. You have tea, cake and bananas at Pastor Wilson's house and later are taken back out to the airport. A smaller plane takes you on to Santo, only one day late, to be greeted by the smiling faces of Bill and Janet Bule. Next day you learn what can and can't be ordered from Santo, where your supplies will come from. You do a lot of talking (it's called orientation) and you get a stomach upset from the Santo water supply!

Next day an even smaller plane takes you to Ambae to meet up with the Mullers. Officially this is called orientation and unofficially it's called visiting friends. A few days on Ambae and you're back at the airstrip waiting to go to Pentecost island. The plane doesn't come. You spend a few more days visiting on Ambae.

It's now Monday and you've been in Vanuatu over a week. You catch the plane once more and enjoy some excellent scenery on your way to Pentecost. You wonder where the pig is in relation to your luggage in the cargo hold.

At Lonorore you get out, look around, and wonder who out of all these people knows what should happen next. Someone does know and a short bumpy truck ride to the creek mouth brings you to the motor boat. It's now pouring rain and the sea is very rough. You smile and try and look like you do this every day.

Out on the ocean the waves are giving you a good shake up. You hold your laptop computer on your knees trying to make sure it doesn't get the same treatment. Someone is holding an umbrella over you, trying to keep the rain off. The sun comes out, there is a bit more sun and a bit more rain as you bounce through the sea. Now you are wet and sunburnt.

You turn towards land. It's pretty interesting getting in through the waves but finally the boat hits bottom on the sand. You get out of the boat, slipping a bit on the wet sea. Your feet are on dry land again, and you are involved in a round of handshakes.

It's Banmatmat! You knew all the time you'd get there!

Jan Christensen, Banmatmat, Vanuatu

## Our Plans

Here we are,  
here we'll be  
For another year  
or three.  
We'll be back at  
Chungribu  
In the mossies,  
mush and goo.  
On patrol we'll  
travel 'round  
In the air, the river  
and ground.  
During our second  
term  
I'll go to Ukarumpa  
to learn,  
Matthew and Cath-  
erine here will stay  
And do correspon-  
dence every day.  
Why? You ask, what is the reason,  
It's not nice here in the wet season,  
But it's what this country needs,  
And our God we want to please.



Sarah Harmer

Sarah Harmer, Chungribu, PNG

## Partnership

The presence of Australian missionaries in Vanuatu is no longer a major factor in the continuing of God's mission in this country. The past contributions from Australia are greatly appreciated. The future partnership between Vanuatu and Australian churches is vital. A labourer's wage is less than \$200 per month. A village pastor gets even less. Secondary school fees are \$120 a term. It is hard for the individual to make ends meet. As yet the nation and church face the same financial struggle. The Australian Government is providing considerable aid to help the nation develop. Will the Australian church do its share to help God's mission continue?

Lyall Muller, Vanuatu

## Partners

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1891-1991

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**OMB**  
Overseas Mission Board

1891 Celebrating a Centenary of Overseas Mission 1991



# Happenings

Almost 40% of Australians move house every 5 years, and 17% of them move every year, so outreach into the community must be continuous.

Australians donated \$1.1 billion to charities in 1991 with churches receiving the biggest share, according to a national survey by fundraising consultants O'Keefe, Panus and Partners. Religious organisations received \$278 million, over 25% of total charity giving.

A "prayer mountain" has been established on a hill overlooking the Tasmanian city of Launceston, to encourage local Christians to pray for their region. The project, an initiative of the city's ministers' fraternal, is based on similar mountains in South Korea, where thousands of Christians gather daily to pray for their cities. A simple altar of 12 boulders and a wooden cross was dedicated at a dawn service, attended by Mayor Graeme Beams, a Baptist layman.

Refugee Week is being celebrated in Australia 8-23 June. Currently 90% of refugees are from the third world. Most seek asylum in a third-world country, 33% are Afghans, 32% are in Africa and 75% are women and children. Millions of refugee children are of primary-school age. The leading causes of death in refugee camps are malnutrition, measles, diarrhoeal diseases, malaria and acute respiratory infections—all preventable. 2% resettle in countries like America, Australia and Canada and 12% achieve self-sufficiency in the country of first asylum.

The ISCAST symposium for 1991 is being held 23 and 24 August at Ridley College, Melbourne, with Professor Gareth Jones of New Zealand speaking on "Bio-medical Technology: Saviour or Destroyer?", "Human Embryos: Sacred or Disposable?" and "Valuing Human Life: Consistency or

Diversity?" The symposium costs \$20. Details from Jilian Quartel, 641 Whitehorse Road, Mont Albert 3127. Tapes of the three sessions will also be available. The symposium is being sponsored by ISCAST (Institute for the Study of Christianity in an Age of Science and Technology), the AFES Graduates and Friends Group, the Christian Medical Fellowship of Victoria, Ridley Theological College and the Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society.

Researchers have revealed that Islam is America's fastest-growing religion. With an estimated 4 million members, American Muslims outnumber Episcopalians (Anglicans). If the trend continues within the next 10 years Muslims will outnumber Jews.

The Anglican Church of Australia will reconsider its membership of the World Council of Churches in the wake of the Assembly held in Canberra in February. Two General Synod commissions—Missionary and Ecumenical, and Social Responsibilities—have recommended an evaluation following trenchant criticisms of the decision-making processes of the Assembly.

The Jewish Museum of Australia, situated in Melbourne, has a new exhibition. Titled "Blessed is the Fruit of the Earth: Plants of the Bible", the exhibition contains an interpretation of what the "Garden of Eden" may have looked like, with live plants and shrubs mentioned in the Old Testament making up the "garden". The exhibition explores the role of plants in the Old Testament from a theological, ritual, horticultural and sociological perspective.

Thodore (Ted) Hsueh and Larry Chok, who work with Christian Communications Ltd in Hong Kong, are in Australia to assist Australian Christians to take the opportunity to witness to mainland Chinese nation-

als. Six separate seminars will take place in both Melbourne (21-27 June) and Sydney (28 June-2 July) and are being organised by CCL, the Far East Broadcasting Co., Open Doors and the Overseas Missionary Fellowship. Some of the seminars in each city will be in the Chinese language. Details from Colin Johnson, OMF Sydney, on (02) 868 4777 or Colin Sutherland, OMF Melbourne, on (03) 899 1166.

Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) has recently made a grant of \$10,000 towards relief from the recent disasters in Bangladesh and \$20,000 for famine relief in Burkino Faso, Sudan and Ethiopia. Readers are reminded that donations to COCOA attract a taxation deduction and can be made to the Overseas Mission Board, PO Box 320, Unley 5061, or to the treasurers of state overseas mission committees.

Two World Vision field workers were murdered by gunmen in the Peruvian capital of Lima on 17 May. Norm Tattersall, acting field director for World Vision Peru, and Jose Chuquin, field director for Colombia, were shot outside the aid agency's office in Lima as they arrived by car.

Persistent reports circulating in Brazil and abroad that poor children are being bought or stolen, then killed so their organs can be used for transplants and medical research, have led to police investigations. The going price for a kidney is supposed to be \$46,000, while a heart or liver costs around \$105,000.

Two recent surveys of New Zealanders have revealed that 85% of the population believe in God, though half of them have some doubts. A survey revealed that 16% attend church weekly, 7% attend church at least fortnightly, a further 26% attend at least once a year and 51% never or hardly ever attend church.

The Christian Federation of Malaysia has appealed to the Malaysian government education authorities to allow the teaching of religions other than Islam in government-funded schools. Islam, the religion of the majority of Malaysia's 17 million population, is the only one taught in schools. The teaching of other religions is forbidden by the government's Department of Education.

The German-based Society for Threatened Peoples reports that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's regime has killed more than 20,000 Christians, expelled 75,000 and destroyed nearly 100 churches. The STP says since 1968 the Iraqi government has targeted the Kurds and Assyrian Christians for persecution and extermination.

Soviet Union authorities have given the go-ahead to the Seventh-Day Adventist Church to launch a program on state-owned television. The contract allows Adventist programming for up to 7 years.

The Japanese Catholic News reports that 40 members of the Unification Church have filed a suit against their church for allegedly being deceived and coerced into engaging in dubious business activities. They further allege that the church promised they would only be engaged in non-religious activities, but discovered later that they were to undergo indoctrination that, they said, deprived them of rational judgement.

The 4th John Wimber Conference in Australia is being held at the Hordern Pavilion, Sydney 22-25 October, titled "Holiness unto the Lord". The attendance at the previous conference, also held in Sydney, was 5,250, with 14,000 at an open-air evening rally. Speakers at the conference will include John Wimber, Dr Jack Deere, Paul Cain and John White. Australian

musicians will be involved in leading worship. Details and brochures from Kairos Ministries Inc, Vineyard Ministries Ltd, PO Box 42, Lyneham 2602. Phone (06) 257 3367.

According to the *Catholic Herald*, the government of the City of Rome may ask Vatican Radio to reduce the power of its radio transmissions because it believes that "electromagnetic wave pollution" could be a health hazard. Residents and corporations complain that programs can be heard through intercoms, cause watches to "go mad" and "burn out" stereos.

Over 100 papers and workshops covering a variety of topics will be presented at the Third International Conference on Grief and Bereavement to be held at the University of Sydney 30 June-4 July. Keynote addresses will be given by Professor Selby Jacobs (Yale University), Dr William Worden (Harvard University), Sr Robert Pynooos (University of California) and Dr Colin Murray Parkes (London Hospital Medical Centre). Professor Beverley Raphael, University of Queensland, Australia's pioneer in the field, will deliver a major memorial lecture. It is not likely that this conference will return to Australia for another 15 years. Full registration costs \$450, day registrations \$120 and per-session costs are \$30. Details from PO Box 79, Turramurra 2074. Phone (02) 988 3376.

For the first time in many years during a crusade meeting Billy Graham issued a call for young Christians to commit their lives to full-time Christian ministry and service. In his current Mission Scotland 1991 crusade over 250,000 attended the series of 10 stadium meetings in 3 major cities across Scotland. An average of 1,860 per night (7.2% of the audience) came forward to make a commitment to Christ.



## A Church ABC

**T**he Upper Blue Mountains church is situated in the north of Katoomba, NSW. Katoomba is the tourist capital of the Blue Mountains, about two hours drive west of Sydney, and 1,060 m in elevation. The area contains some of the most spectacular country in Australia, with breathtaking views, magnificent forests, waterfalls and cliffs.

The church is the only church in the northern area of Katoomba and is located on two acres in one of four areas of the Blue Mountains that has been designated as a major growth area. A 30% increase in population is estimated in the next ten years. The church's excellent position, set amid bushland with beautiful views, provides ample room for growth.

The tiny chapel on the site was built about 1920 as an Anglican church. Churches of Christ bought the land about ten years ago and since then have maintained the work there. However about two and a half years ago Judy Gordon and the NSW Department of Church Development became

involved and sought to build up the congregation. Then in March 1990 the Wentworth Falls Church of Christ sold up and moved to Upper Blue Mountains to also help develop the work there. This year the church called a full-time minister,

Queenslander, with an Army background, Doug is Kenmore trained and had ministries at Maryborough, Qld, and Glen Waverley, Vic, before going to the mountains. It was a challenge to come to a small church from much larger ones. He is married

The Upper Blue Mountains church is situated in a unique and challenging area. There are people with alternate lifestyles and subcultures, e.g. there is a strong feminist representation in the area, and a high proportion of single-parent families—four times the Sydney average. However, the population mix is changing with development.

The socio-economic level is quite high, and there is a large proportion of

white-collar as well as blue-collar residents. Some members of the community (and the church) even commute all the way to the city each day.

The future of the Upper Blue Mountains church looks very promising indeed. At present the church is in the process of considering building a new building next year. At the moment if 45 people come to church there is no room left. The members are looking to God to empower them to move out to the community. What was once a small and older-aged congregation, this loving and caring group with a vision has become very excited about its future.

# Focus on Upper Blue Mountains

Doug Fitzpatrick, and built a magnificent four-bedroom manse.

Growth is occurring. The average attendance has gone from 20 to 28 at the weekly 10.15 am service. There are older people in the Blue Mountains and the church, but the area also includes essentially young families, who are now joining in the fellowship. The work is being heavily subsidised by the DCD through its Stanwell Tops Fund—the highest supported church in the state.

As the first full-time minister, Doug Fitzpatrick, who began this year, is enthusiastic about his appointment. A

with three children, and has a strong belief in the local church and pastoral ministry.

As a small church, Upper Blue Mountains is at present concentrating on doing one or two things well. The Blue Mountains people are interested in craft activities, so a very successful craft program has been developed for the women and many important contacts have been made through this activity. Another important area of outreach is the Sunday School, which has been fostering good family contacts. Numbers at the Sunday School vary widely, from 6 on a wet wintry long weekend such as a fortnight ago to over 20.

## Growing Spiritually

• *Life as a bed of roses*

### "I Beg Your Pardon"

by Howard J. Andrews

A beautiful rose garden does not just grow, it has to be planted, and worked at. It has to be weeded, cultivated, pruned, watered and sprayed for aphids. All these things need to be done to have a nice bed of roses.

To develop a good life, whether it be business, marriage or social, one has to work at it. There will always be temptations to cheat and steal, and these need to be constantly re-

sisted. They must not be allowed to grow in our lives.

Without constant work, a rose garden will become choked with weeds and thorns and become an eyesore. So it needs to be worked on, as our lives do. As the garden needs the rain, so our lives need the showers of God's blessings.

A garden of roses is a beautiful sight, but roses are most appreciated when picked and given to someone else. God's



love is like that. It is good to have in your heart, but it is so much better when it is passed on.

As I thank God for the roses, I thank him that life is a "bed of roses".

• Howard J. Andrews is a member of the Greensborough, Vic, church.

**O**ne of the most beautiful flowers in the world is the rose. It is England's floral emblem. In Melbourne, it has been chosen to make one of the most spectacular floral displays anywhere. The roses at the Flemington Racecourse are pruned, cultivated, watered, weeded and carefully watched over, to make sure that they are at their best for the big day in November.

Many songs have been written about roses. One says, "I beg your pardon, I never promised you a rose garden." There is also a very popular saying, "Life was not meant to be a bed of roses."

In 35 years of marriage I have always had roses. Recently while working in the garden I started thinking about these sayings.



## Classifieds

### BIRTHS

**GRAHAM—PYE** On 28 May to Ross and Gillian, a daughter, Alice Louise. A sister for Melinda, and a granddaughter for Bruce and Beryl Graham and John and Joan Pye.

### ENGAGEMENTS

**BLACKMORE—WHITE** Rod and Jan of Glen Waverley and Brian and Joan are delighted to announce the engagement of Lisa and Scott.

**BREDEN—HOLT** Edith and John of Chelsea together with Jan and Keith of Chelsea Heights announce with pleasure the engagement of Vanessa and Andrew.

### RUBY WEDDINGS

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### DEATHS

**CRICHTON** Joyce Marie. On 5 June at Long Jetty Hospital, NSW. Loved aunt of May and Geoff Barnett and Max and Betty McColl and their families.

**STURGESS** Kenneth William. On 29 May 1991. Dearest husband of Gwen, loved and respected Dad of Jon, Mark and Rosemary, wonderful Pa of Daniel, Lauren and Luke. Treasured memories.

**STURGESS** Kenneth William. Loved and devoted son of Bill (dec.) and Rita. Bill and Ken reunited. Forever with the Lord.

### IN MEMORIAM

**HARTNEY**, Jim 22.6.87. To me you were so special, /What more is there to say, /I only wish with all my heart, /That you were here today. Your Bet.

**JONES**, Dr Lloyd Edwin. Precious, loving memories of our dear husband, father and Grandy, who passed away to be with his Lord, 24 June 1986—Isabella, David, Wendy and family. Still missed, but the fruit of his labours continue—to God be the glory. With thanks to God for every remembrance of him.

**KERRISON**, Harold James. Years are quietly passing. /Memories are everlasting. /Often in my thoughts. /Always in our hearts. Loved forever. His loving girls. 3 July 1988.

### OPEN HOUSE

**LUCY GRIFFITHS AND DOUG DARGAVILLE** will be at home to welcome friends at 2 Tiuna Grove, Elwood, on Saturday, 29 June 1991, from 3 to 9 pm to celebrate Lucy's

60th birthday. Telephone (03) 531 6016.

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Since the translation and publication of the new Interconfessional Bible in Japanese in September 1987, approximately 555 Bibles or New Testaments have been sold in Japan every day. The diglot English and Japanese version is also proving popular abroad. There are about 1 million Christians in Japan.

## News

### • The challenge of the potential

## Christian Radio's Audience

Christian radio evangelism is more effective in sowing than either watering or harvesting, according to the program director of Melbourne's **Triple Seven Communications**.

Speaking at the annual general meeting of this aspiring broadcasting group, **Robert Buckingham** explained that the general thrust of Christian radio had been in the harvesting area, preaching to the converted. Rather than cultivate the Christian, Triple Seven saw a greater need to pre-evangelise the hundreds of thousands that hold apathetic and antagonistic views about Christianity. "A program of secular and Christian music and news is the first step in gaining this audience's respect, paving the way for spiritual challenges as the programming matures," he said.

Guest speaker, **Dr Rowland Croucher**, endorsed this view, adding that the potential radio audience is greater than all the people attending Melbourne's churches combined. He challenged the meeting to take the best from the various Christian mind-sets through the ages, not over-emphasising any one of them. By way of example, Dr Croucher noted the correctness

of the mystics who claimed that prayer changes things, but added that there is also a time when prayer should stop to make way for action. If Jesus emphasised the Kingdom values of justice, mercy and faith, we should surely do the same.

Triple Seven is appealing for subscribers and church representatives (for details, telephone (03) 560 1700) and plans are underway for a nine-day FM test broadcast early in 1992.

Christian American Indians and indigenous peoples of Alaska have formed a new Council of Native American Ministries. It will be affiliated with the US National Council of Churches. The group's aims include affirming indigenous American Christian perspectives through congregational development and legislative advocacy.

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## • Friends of Turkey

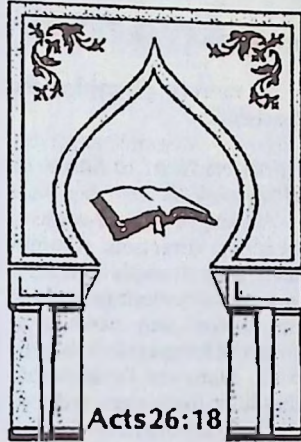
### Be a Missionary at Home

At present, Turkey does not allow open evangelism. Missionaries are not permitted and strong government controls hamper Christian activities. The population of 60 million is 99% Muslim. According to mission experts, Turkey is the world's largest unevangelised nation. A handful of Christian workers minister in five cities but hundreds of other cities and villages have virtually no resident Christian witness.

Evangelical Christians are a tiny, often persecuted minority, maybe 1,000 believers, and there are only a few struggling churches in the whole country. A deep-seated resistance in the general public to anything Christian makes any form of witness difficult. In the minds of the people, to be a Turk is to be a Muslim.

Significant Turkish communities also exist in other countries. There are 43 million Turks in the Soviet Union (15% of the population), 8 million in Iran, 7 million in China, 3 million in Eastern and Western Europe, 1 million in Afghanistan, 360,000 in Arab nations and 300,000 in Northern Cyprus. Almost all are Muslims, and know little, if anything, of the Gospel.

Gospel letters however can reach even the most remote areas of Turkey. They greatly enhance the work of Christians inside the country by sifting the population for persons most responsive to the Gospel message. A free Bible correspondence course is offered, and a list



of Gospel radio broadcasts is given. Those who respond are followed-up by dedicated Christian workers with a minimum of danger.

Gospel letters are mailed by volunteers in different locations in more than 20 countries. This makes mailings less noticeable in Turkey reducing interference from Turkish postal workers. Although the mailings are perfectly legal, they are most unpopular with extremist Muslims.

Friends of Turkey are inviting Australians to join this program. Participants can be missionaries from their own homes—to one of the least evangelised nations. Materials are provided at no charge. The only expense is to provide envelopes and postage, which in Australia is \$1.20 airmail or 90c surface mail.

Gospel letters are provided in packages of 10, with larger numbers available for groups. To join this outreach, send your name and address and why you wish to send the Gospel letters to Friends of Turkey, PO Box 263, Carina 4152.

More than 100 Turks are currently responding to letters each month.

Friends of Turkey in Australia have three emphases: gospel mailings, penpals and prayer mobilisation. They can also arrange for people to go to Turkey on short- or long-term missions.

## Celebrating a Centenary of Overseas Mission 1891-1991

1925

### Szechuan.

#### What has been done.

A footing has been gained on the southern edge of a tract of unevangelised territory, which, if cut into strips a mile wide, and arranged along the equator, would circle the earth, and leave over enough to stretch from Melbourne to Sydney. By the end of 1924, twenty-three souls had been added to the ten we found at Hueili (the city entered) on our arrival.

#### What is being done.

In this city your representatives are faithfully preaching—and exemplifying—the gospel, in street, market, chapel, schools and hospital.



Patients outside Dr. Killmier's Dispensary, Hueilichow, China.

#### What remains to be done.

Our territory supports unnumbered multitudes. There are half a dozen distinct peoples and languages. Every one here is to be won for Christ—with your help—W. Waterman.

—THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN, 18 JUNE 1925.

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# Ministry Meditation

**A**dam was created for ministry. The garden was merely a "theological college" with work skills to prepare him for a more intensive role. What lay before him he may not have grasped, but it was more than raking leaves. We can gain some insights into his task from a look at the role the Second Adam undertook. This, of course, is recorded in the Gospel accounts.

We too are created for ministry. We are born again so as to accomplish it.

Each believer has a special role to fulfil, maybe more than one role. Within the scope of ministry is that which is sometimes referred as full-time service and such people have a special brief. That is to help others discover their ministry roles, be equipped for it, exercise it and bring glory to the Lord Jesus and his church because of it. The ministers of and with ministers need to develop and maintain some fundamental qualities to achieve their purposes.

## Ministers Need to Know How to Kneel

## • Fundamental qualities required of ministers

# Created for Ministry

by Ray Hawkins

Prayer is recognised by all, at least in theory, as being essential to pastoral care. The difficulty is the discipline required to actually do it. For prayer is not an exercise of the mouth. It is the cry of the heart. It is the "blanket of compassion" by which pastors envelope those within their spheres of influence.

## Ministers Need to Know How to Stand

Gale-force winds are blowing against the Christian ministry and gaining in velocity. The hurricane of humanism, the cyclones of demonic activity and resurgent isms seek to sweep the Gospel's mouthpieces into oblivion.

Ministers of the cross are called upon to stand their ground, firmly "bolted" to the grace of God. How sad it is to see those who have lost conviction in the Word of God and are

now merely "tumbleweed teachers".

## Ministers Need to Know How to Walk

Walking implies a sense of purpose, direction, commitment and strength. The servants of the Saviour in walking the narrow way need to be watchful for enemies along the track. Many are the skeletons that litter the fringes, seduced by the forces of evil or compromise and unbelief.

There are tentative people watching the way the servant of the Lord walks. They desire hope, reality and strength to make the journey and if the one whom they perceive should know how to make it along the pilgrim way walks well, they are encouraged to travel.

## Ministers Need to Know How to Run

People talk about the loneliness of the long-distance runner. The truth of this is well

known to long serving pastors. They are always on the run with the torch of truth, something that requires a willingness to go alone.

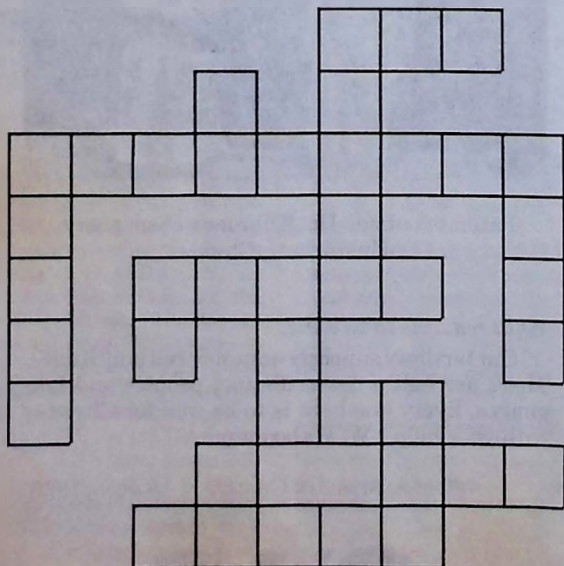
Linked to that, ministers are to flee the forces of ungodliness by running after the vibrancy of righteousness. To escape the debilitating power of sin requires not debate, not even duty, but the striding out after holiness and justice. Ministers who run towards the beauty of God and all that it embraces have no time to detour and be overtaken by the ways of the world.

From out of this realm of the pastors' pilgrimages will flow that power of God that challenges others to discover their personal sphere of ministry and pilgrimage. As creation declares the handiwork of God, so the expression of ministry, in all its variations, declares the re-creative power of God.

Is it any wonder that the Apostle Paul exclaimed, "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who...considered me faithful, appointing me to his service." (1 Timothy 1:12)

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

## Quick Words



All the words in the puzzle above can be found in John 3:1-3 in the New International Version.

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## Testimony

• Turn to the Lord and he will truly bless you

### God Uses Unemployment

by Elizabeth Roxburgh

**G**od calls us to love and obey him but so often in the fast, hectic lifestyles we lead we fall down on our commitment to him.

Long working hours, family commitments and extracurricular activities often drain us of time with or for God.

In my case, long working hours and a busy life generally meant that I often found that my prayer and quiet times were being sacrificed to achieve other goals. It was not that I loved the Lord any the less but rather I was just not taking the time to stop and listen.

It was in February that I found the Lord really calling me back to him and as I read testimonies of other Christians I found I identified with their needs to regain the closeness with God.

As I spent more time with the Lord and allowed the Holy Spirit to direct my life I began to feel things were back on track.

Just as my life began to reveal new dimensions and I had begun to ask for opportunities to share my faith (that was my

call to obedience) my downfall came—my employers retrenched their entire staff as they closed their business.

While this piece of news could have knocked me flat I felt strangely unaffected and almost at peace. I was confident that the Lord had something special for me.

But try explaining this feeling to friends and family when there is little or no likelihood of any income to pay the mortgage, rent or bills (my husband is in full-time study).

Surprisingly I felt no apprehension, no sadness and no anger.

Instead, I held fast to my belief that the Lord had called me back to him so that I would weather the storm.

Not knowing what to do with my new unemployed status I immediately began to seek work but I was always too old, too young, not experienced enough, too experienced or not trained in a particular way.

Realising I would not get through this on my own, I decided to commit time to reading the Word, praying for guidance and reading books on Christian discipleship. I also prayed for the Lord to use my unemployment.

The Bible says, "Ask and you shall receive," and the Lord has indeed been true to his word.

One of my former co-workers was somewhat perplexed as to why I had taken the retrenchment news so well and I suddenly found the long-awaited opportunity to share my faith. I know I had prayed for such an opening but I had certainly not anticipated that it would be in those circumstances.

But it was as I shared that I remembered that everything happens in his time and that the timing was perfect for this young girl to hear the gospel.

## Curkpatrick

### Helen

**I** was five years old when Helen, a girl my own age who lived on a neighbouring farm, was shot through the heart as she climbed over a gate on the top of a hill, while her older brother was shooting birds in the orchard below.

I distinctly remember my father telling me, the next morning, that Helen was dead. That was my first encounter with the death of someone I knew, and it had a profound impact on me. From that time, death was never an abstract idea. It meant the difference between a friend being there and not being there, in our local school, church and neighbouring farms. It meant that death was not something that just happens to old people, it can also happen randomly to any one of us at any age. As someone once said, "Death keeps no calendars, it doesn't care what size the graves are."

There is a certain necessity for us to be exposed to death to appreciate life. There are well-documented cases of people who, about to be executed, won a reprieve from execution and relate how powerfully their experience transformed their perception of life. Having come so close to death, their faculties for living were sharpened and intensified, and they were driven to savour each moment of life to the full. The same is true for people who have been rescued when it seemed they faced inevitable death.

The personal experience of imminent execution or mortal danger is rare, and not the same as one's friend being shot. Nevertheless, our awareness of death, at any age, in an age in which death has become the "unmentionable subject" should always be an apt reminder that our mortality presents us with the challenge to "live" as if each day might be our last.

—Stephen Curkpatrick

I have also had the privilege to share my faith with a young man in the Austin Hospital's spinal unit—this is something I would not have been able to do had I been in work.

There have been times in the past 12 weeks when we've wondered how we would cope financially and there have been so many question marks but the Lord has truly provided what we have needed (not necessarily what we have wanted).

My unemployment has been a turning point in my relationship with Christ. While it is sad that I had to lose my job to realise what I was missing out on with Christ I have found the freshness of recommitment and have realised the fruits of this new relationship.

It is now, as I prepare to finish this article that I discover I have been offered a newly created position—just as I would desire it.

Although 12 weeks seems such a short space of time I would encourage any Christian facing unemployment to

turn to the Lord and he will truly bless you.

• Elizabeth Roxburgh is a public relations/marketing consultant who was retrenched some 12 weeks ago and who found that God really used this time for his glory. She has written this article to share her experience in the hope that others may also come into a deeper relationship with Christ while they seek employment. Elizabeth is a member of the Greensborough, Vic, church.

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# Youth Ministry

• *Without the responsible participation of adults, youth ministry is going nowhere*

## Where Have All the Adult Leaders Gone?

by Gordon Buxton

**A**fter almost two decades of involvement in one form or another of youth ministry I recently sat back and reflected on the declining number of adults who are actively involved in youth ministry in the local church and also in broader church-administered activities. My question is: Where have all our adult leaders gone?

In developing an effective youth ministry to both young people and their families we need to recognise the significant contribution that adult leaders can make to the local church. From my own experience and observations over the past years I would believe that adult leaders provide key leadership in the following areas:

### *A Balanced Leadership Team*

As with any team there are many different responsibilities and contributions to be made by different team members. Young people provide enthusiasm, adventure and vital spontaneous energy in their endeavours. Adult (and parent) leaders will usually provide maturity and stability; a broader vision for taking young people past "today" and guiding their spiritual growth and establishing the longer-term development of youth ministry past the current group. Adults could either make a full-program or part-time commitment to youth ministry.

### *Adult Models*

Young people need to have adult friends who are neutral (because parents cannot be neutral). Adults are able to listen to their concerns and understand, able to give wise counsel and as a friend provide positive affirmation and ongoing support.

### *Broader Church Perspective*

Youth ministry must be a shared ministry within the context of the full ministry of the local church community rather than being "a lone ranger". Adult leaders bridge the generation gap by providing the link with the church leadership (e.g. the eldership) by communicating youth needs and issues and understanding their "views" within the broader church perspective.

### *Reaching Out to Unchurched Families*

Often in youth ministry the young peoples' home environment is counterproductive to what they learn at church. When parents do not understand (or are opposed to) our ministry, positive progress in a young person's life is undermined. An important key is developing bridge-building strategies to reach the whole family. Adult leaders provide the catalyst. Strategies could include parent training seminars, family/parent nights, family counselling and home-contact work.

When simply visiting the homes of young people we can learn a lot about youth and their families. Adult leaders are able to reach beyond the young people to the whole family by building a bridge with the church community through the youth ministry.

### *Developing Leadership in Young People*

How do you go about building a solid foundation for youth ministry? Jesus taught us an important lesson about foundations in the parable of the two builders (Matthew 7). Both builders had a vision to build a house. Each had his own blueprint and worked hard to complete it. But there was one critical difference—one built his house on a rock and the other built on sand.

We must take time to build a solid foundation by including adults in the leadership team who will provide an environment for the spiritual development of younger leaders as they grow to maturity. That maturity of faith, coupled with the experience of working with other young people, allows younger leaders to continue active leadership with the church on a consistent basis. My own church currently conducts an annual training course of six sessions on leadership and one term "in the field" under the guidance of an adult leader.

### *In Conclusion*

Without the responsible participation of adults, youth ministry is going nowhere. Local churches need to enthusiastically recognise the need for including adults (and parents) as central participants in the work of outreach, evangelism and guidance of young people toward Christian maturity. Adults who are involved in youth ministry must, however, be called of God—not reliant on feelings, but rather knowing that this is where God wants them to be, like being with young people and doing the things they like doing and be honest—acknowledge that they don't have all the answers. Young people also need to hear the truth even when they blow it. If they blow it, leaders need to be honest in their response and follow up with love and acceptance—and know when to retire.

• Gordon Buxton is youth deacon at the Glen Waverley, Vic, church.

Edited by Andrew Ball, Field Director of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development and the Australian Board of Church Development and Education

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## Personal

### Baptisms

•Natalie Baxter, Lyons, ACT •Brian Forwood, Albury, NSW •Christine O'Brien, Edinburgh St, Port Lincoln, SA •Tania Howard, Kristin Tonkin, Jordana Cooper, York St, Ballarat, Vic •Lauren Kirwood, Tara Smith, Daniel Smith, Kerry Sceney, LaTrobe Terr, Geelong, Vic •Esther Cheesman, Wembley, WA

### Deaths

•Kel Thompson, Tweed Heads, Qld  
•Grace Stevens, Maldstone, Vic

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The Administrator, Churches of Christ Retirement Services Inc.,  
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Further information can be obtained from the Administrator on (08) 239 0055.

Applications close on Friday, 5 July 1991.



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Resumes, applications and enquiries can be directed to:

Mr Bruce Graham, Nunawading Churches of Christ,  
184 Surrey Road, Blackburn, Vic 3130. Phone (03) 877 6077

All enquiries will be treated as confidential.



## Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

### Humphreys, Esther

(13.4.91) Esther was born in 1926 into one of the Wimmera's pioneer families, that of Bill and Alice Mackley, and spent her life in Churches of Christ, including Horsham, Preston, Hamilton, Cheltenham (where she was a foundation member of the Lowanna Singers) and Ocean Grove. George Mathieson (sen.) married Esther and Norman in 1948 and Norm writes, "She expressed life in loving and caring for her family and friends, her home, church, garden, music and crafts. Our 43 years of marriage were full of love and understanding and through the grace of God I see how fortunate I was to have so many years with such a wonderful person." It was early in the year that cancer was diagnosed. She accepted the verdict with grace and lived and retained her dignity and sense of humour until the end. She leaves children Don, Alison and Jenny and grandchildren Kelly, Ben, Adam and Daniel. —GRS

### Stevens, Grace Eleanor

(23.5.91) Grace was born, the fourth of 10 children, in 1912 at Kyneton, Vic. Grace contracted polio at the age of three but was determined not to allow this infirmity to reduce her quality of life. Grace committed her life to Jesus and as a teenager was baptised in the Drummond church. She was a member of both the Fairfield and Footscray churches before joining the Maidstone fellowship in its early days. She was very interested in the work of CWF and for 25 years was a faithful volunteer at the Brunswick Opportunity Shop. Grace will be sadly missed by the folk at Maidstone, who extend their love and sympathy to Barry, Colin and Glenys and grandchildren Sue, Sharon and Leigh. —Wes Rodgers

### Sturgess, Kenneth William

(29.5.91) Ken was born in Balwyn, Vic, 9.1.26, the only child of Bill (dec.) and Rita Sturgess. Educated at Camberwell State School, Mont Albert Central School and then Camberwell Grammar, where he excelled at cricket, football and table tennis. After schooling Ken started at the firm of Goldsbrough Mort, where he stayed for almost 25 years. There he formed a close friendship with Ian Thompson and they formed a formidable team in cricket administration in the eastern suburbs. He was manager of the Manchester Unity Building Society for 10 years and then was

Executive Officer of the Confectionery Manufacturers of Australia. Ken was nurtured in the Kingdom of God in the Balwyn church, having made his decision at a Hinrichsen tent mission at Balwyn. He was baptised with his parents and a young lady, Gwen Cairncross. A close relationship developed and they were married 22.1.49. From this union came two sons—Jon and Mark. Ken became very involved in church activities—Kappa Sigma Pi, Christian Endeavour and the Eastern Suburbs Youth Group commenced by Fred Elliot, Ken being its first President. He was elected board chairman at Balwyn at age 22. Ken and family came to live in Burwood in 1965 and joined the local fellowship and over the next 25 years at various times held positions as elder, board chairman and deacon as well as lay preacher, counsellor and other important roles of church leadership.

—Peter Wing Tang

## ACT

**LYONS** (Kevin Caulton) Music group progressive dinner raised funds for new piano ... Young people held international night ... Divorce Recovery & Singleness seminars led by Cheryl Johnson who also spoke at Luminarias service ... Dessert & coffee fellowship evening enjoyed by ladies ... "Thank God for Music" worship & learning experience for all ages on 9 June ... Directory of goods & services provided by members of congregation being compiled.

## NSW

**PADSTOW** (Ed Holt) Young man baptised recently at family camp & three others have been welcomed into the church ... Russell Mutzelburg (army chaplain) was speaker 19 May ... Training in visitation & new Christian follow-up is progressing well ... Children's musical "Make a Joyful Noise" directed

by Jan & Leigh Holt was a huge success ... Thanks to Steve Edwards for providing & setting up PA for church in the car park.

**TWEED HEADS** (Richard Oakes, Guy Cooper) Encouraging response in attendance to trial move to Civic Centre for morning service ... Three baptised recently ... Richard represented church at Conference. Both ministers attended Refresher after Conference ... Church deeply saddened at passing of our dearly loved elder Kel Thompson ... Drop-in Fellowship still growing. Jean & Syd Creek giving dedicated leadership ... Southport Choir special guests at recent morning service ... Series of Tony Campolo films in evening service.

**ALBURY** (Alex Wilson) The monthly night service 2 June featured an interview with minister Alex Wilson, giving the congregation an insight into the workings of their pastor ... The feature of the May night service was that we took over the Manor House restaurant ... This year's church camp was held at Cheshunt when a brave Brian Forwood was baptised in the icy mountain stream.

**THORNLEIGH** (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) A number from the church shared in the Thornleigh-Pennant Hills combined churches Pentecost service on 19 May at 7.30 pm. Over 500 shared in this service ... Over the holiday weekend in June about 50 of our young people participated in the DCE State Youth Games at Wollongong. Overall our young people did very well coming third in the state.

## SA

**KENSINGTON PARK** (J. Fewster) Annual general meeting in May revealed 12-member growth & many worthwhile activities. Two evening services monthly. First Sunday follows letterbox drops of 1,500 pamphlets, has community emphasis. Third Sunday evening features praise, healing & teaching ... Joan Fewster concluding ministry with

church January 1992 ... Two home Bible studies weekly, also weekly prayer ministry at church Tuesdays seeking to involve everyone.

**GROTE STREET** (Ian Adams) 10.30 worship service well maintained. 6 pm commencing June–September ... Visiting artists for gospel services well received ... Illness in several families. Elder Finck & treasurer Arcus hospitalised after surgery ... Resignations of organist & board chairman received ... Tuesday 10.30 studies in Mark's Gospel led by Julie Adams ... Wednesday prayer group studying Bible characters, also hosted visit of FAB Avon Moyle, Frank & Rose Johnson & Max Wright.

**DULWICH-ROSE PARK UNITED PARISH** (Rob Williams, Roger Brown) While Barry McMurtrie was addressing Gartrell congregation 26 May during visit to SA, one of our young members, Cameron Hayton, visiting NSW, made chance visit to Wollongong church at same hour. On request for visitors to raise hand & name themselves, Cameron was greeted with astonishment: "Our senior minister is at your church right now."

## Tas

**LAUNCESTON** (Rod Foster, C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) CWAFL luncheon at G. Byard's raised nearly \$350 for furnishing fund ... Joy Robinson & Lee-Anne Bowman in hospital ... State Clothing for Aborigines Committee work on display on 9 June ... New letter box drop to 300 homes to be made this week ... Nearly 60 to participate in 40 Hour Famine.

## Vic

**NORTH BALWYN** (Paul Burnham) Change in worship times allows Sunday School & church to come together for Visual Children's Ministry—a happy time of family worship for all ... Sunday School expanding & requiring more teachers ... Numbers attending morning

## Recession Hits Kensington Christian Network

Kim Thoday reports that unemployment is hitting Kensington members and fringe contacts hard. Pastoral care and emergency needs are making heavy demands on team members. Your gifts and prayer are needed to retain a team in this social crisis situation.

**Department of Mission, Education and Development**  
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## Church News

worship encouraging ... Stable Association (formed by church) providing medium-term accommodation for homeless families. First family about to be relocated allowing for another family to move in ... Coffee Pot gives opportunity for local people to meet for companionship & creative activity.

**CARNEGIE** (N. Hall, W. Allen) Carnegie's 98th anniversary was celebrated with worship service led by Norma Hall. Guest speaker was Ian Allsop with music by Mez Evans. Following the service dinner was served to about 110 members & past members ... Wayne Allen led special family service ... Bryce Ferguson home after a stay in hospital ... Cradle Roll reintroduced with the addition of the names of three babies at a special service.

**MAIDSTONE** (Wes Rodgers) Sympathy to family of late Mr Brown ... CWF stall raised \$304 ... Connetts visited & spoke (Gospel Recordings) ... Children gave play ... Church saddened by homecall of Grace Stevens. She will be missed. Sympathy to family ... Samantha & Matthew Rodgers dedicated ... Fortnightly Friendship Club commenced as an outreach ... Three Bible study/prayer groups meet weekly, also Children's Club.

**OAKLEIGH** (J. Edwards) Church sympathises with Noni McLean in death of her husband ... Ruby Haskin received by transfer ... Ken Masterton returned from USA, where he was reappointed Vice-President of World Convention ... Chief Inspector Royce Weir spoke at CWF birthday ... Nell Stephenson's loyal service at organ for many years duly recognised ... Fran Usher & Dick Barton in hospital ... Barbara Edwards presided on Mother's Day.

**PORT FAIRY** (R. Hope) External painting & rockery garden have improved appearance of chapel ... "Grannies" hosted men's dinner on 11 May in appreciation ... CWF entertained Moyneyana Hostel guests with afternoon tea for June meeting ... Church Life Conference held 21 April. Board now considering recommendations from DMED ... Evening meetings take form of family service, prayer & praise & cottage meetings ... Thursday evening Bible study well supported.

**YORK ST, BALLARAT** (Jim Cunningham) "Island Breeze" presented dances & songs from the Pacific islands ... The Playgroup organised a second-hand sale & raised money for the Fusion Youth Cafe & TEAR ... Arthur Bolkas was a guest speaker at a Focus on Youth night—a real challenge! ... Ballarat Choral Society presented a Pleas-

ant Sunday Afternoon ... Carmel Christian School participated in an evening service "Kids in Witness". **LA TROBE TERR, GEELONG** (Dr C.J. Mackenzie) Valmai Claxton, Jenny Smith, Gail Young led CWF Camp Acacia. Gladys Mackenzie study leader ... Four children baptised at two services ... Russell Wesley, chaplain, spoke about student welfare work. Groceries to be donated ... Manifold Heights pupeteers told the way to heaven in song & drama ... Prayer covenant commenced ... Offering for college student Paul Bauer at CWF meeting led by men.

## WA

**CARNARVON** (Don Bone) Hans Bohm of Christian Blind Mission Int. addressed men's breakfast meeting ... Dwight Randall & Lucy Musgrave of Pregnancy Problem House held meeting ... CWF preparing for a stall in aid of their missionary project ... Baby shower for Mark & Maria Cox's baby Adam ... Don Bone gave gospel message on local radio ... Family picnic at river pool.

**FREMANTLE** (D. Good) Eira Clapp brought "update" on CCTC at Mulgrave ... Lynton Smith (chap-

lain) told of his opportunities for pastoral care in a local high school ... Ella Williams (retired UC deaconess) shared "highlights" of the most recent of her many experiences of sharing in Mother Theresa's work in Calcutta ... 16 ladies aged over 80 honoured at luncheon held by our CWF.

**WEMBLEY** (Kim Roberts) Fellowship luncheon held to farewell Bill & Rosemary Taylor & family prior to their return to Papua New Guinea ... 25 young people from Wembley participated in State Youth Games held Bunbury on Foundation Day weekend.

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## • Rebuilding under way

### Boronia Fire Update



The gutted Boronia chapel

Work has now commenced on the rebuilding of the Boronia, Vic, chapel, foyer and office area following the disastrous fire on 15 March. The Day Kindergarten has been restored and is now fully operational.

The chapel roof has been removed and cleaning of the fire-stained interior brickwork has commenced.

A building committee meets weekly under the leadership of John Masterton to make ongoing decisions and recommendations.

It is anticipated that the restored chapel will be ready for worship services again mid-to-late-August. New furniture, carpet etc. will be used throughout the complex. Individual seating, improved lighting and heating will create better facilities for both worship and midweek seminars. The kitchen and halls areas are being com-

pletely demolished and architect's suggestions for rebuilding are being considered. The church continues to worship in St Joseph's School Hall (Boronia Rd, 10 am) on Sundays, with good attendances. All clubs and auxiliaries are functioning well in various locations.

Under the enthusiastic leadership of co-ministers Keith Milne and Andrew Henley, the board is using some Sunday evenings to study *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church* by Kennon Callahan.

The community continues to take a great interest in the rebuilding progress and the local press has been very generous with publicity. Clearly, the events of 15 March, as devastating as they were, will lead to an exciting new phase in the development and growth of the Boronia church.

—KRM

## The Last Word

People change, fashions change, conditions and circumstances change, but God never changes.

—Billy Graham

Grandchild, to grandparent: "Were you with Noah in the ark?"

Grandparent: "I certainly was not."

Grandchild: "Then how come you didn't drown?"

\*\*\*\*\*

"How much is that doggie in the window?"

"That one? \$25."

"And how much is that one over there? It looks as if it's from the same litter."

"Yes, they're twins. That one's \$15."

"Why the difference in price?"

"The one in the window's just eaten a \$10 note."

\*\*\*\*\*

A driver was stopped by the police for going through a stop sign. "I did go through it, but I just oozed through."

The police officer looked at the driver for a moment, and then said, "Okay, I'll let you go this time. But the next time you see a sign that says 'OOZE', you ooze, but if it says 'STOP', you stop."

\*\*\*\*\*

Child, at breakfast, to parent: "All right, I'll finish this cereal. But after it makes me big and strong nobody's gonna make me eat it."

\*\*\*\*\*

An enterprising housekeeper was all set to start a major house-cleaning operation when the next-door neighbour came inside in a state of consternation.

"There are eight people outside with vacuum cleaners, and they all claim that they have an appointment for a demonstration!"

"That's right," the housekeeper replied blandly. "Now, you just direct them all to different rooms and let them start demonstrating."

\*\*\*\*\*

On a bus two passengers were overheard discussing the value of exercise. "I bought myself a bicycle," stated the first one.

"Do you use it much?" enquired the second.

"All the time. I move it from one side of the garage to the other."

\*\*\*\*\*



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