

National Journal  
of Churches of  
Christ in Australia

Vol. 94 • No. 14

17 August 1991

Registered for Australia Post  
Publication No. VAR 0761

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

## Wollongong Opens New Complex



**T**he Wollongong, NSW, church held an open day to allow the community to view its spectacular new complex on a 3.25 ha hillside site in Figtree and over 1,700 turned up. The church is also celebrating its 50th anniversary. —story page 3

(left) The church in 1941

**Another Church Fire**

—page 5



# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Vol. 94

No. 14

17 August 1991

Managing Editor: Chris Ambrose  
Assistant: Geoff Alves

Issue	Deadline
7 September	30 August
21 September	13 September
5 October	27 September

Address for All Correspondence  
(including all subscription payments)  
PO Box 101

North Essendon 3041

Telephone (03) 379 1219

After Hours (03) 337 8349



Member  
publication of the  
Australasian  
Religious Press  
Association



National logo of  
Churches of Christ  
in Australia

"The Australian Christian" is published  
by the Board of Management of the  
Australian Christian, a Department of  
the National Conference of  
Churches of Christ in Australia.

Keith Aird, Chairman (SA)  
Don Burdett, Secretary (ACT)  
Lindsay Mott, Treasurer (Vic)  
John Batchler (Tas)  
Steve Downie (NSW)  
John Sheriff (Qld)  
Allen Smyth (WA)

Printing by New Litho Pty Ltd,  
63 Sunbury Cres,  
Surrey Hills 3127

Responsibility for electoral material is  
accepted by Chris Ambrose,  
3 Hamlyn St, Essendon 3040

This publication is indexed in the  
Australasian Religion Index

ISSN 0004-8852

## Advertising Rates

Displayed: \$4.80 per column  
centimetre

Classifieds: \$10 for the first 25 words  
and 10c for each additional word

## Youth Ministry

**• Unless we set up serious faith challenges for our youth, we will be in danger of creating another generation of "theological theoreticians"—knowing about Christ, but not knowing how to live him out in experience**

## Discipling Young People

by Martin Burgess

**Y**outh ministry in Australia has certainly begun to have a strong profile in recent years. Up until the late 60s and 70s, it seemed that the thinking of the church was that young people needed to be humoured and entertained until they grew into adulthood, when finally they could then become responsible members and contributors to the church. The assumption was that if we train up children when they are young, then they will not depart from the church. The reality was that the young people did just that—departed! This is not to suggest laying any guilt trips on a previous generation of church leadership. We too will probably be targeted by our successors for areas of ministry that we failed to emphasise. I am simply saying that young people—in this instance teenagers—are not the "church of tomorrow". They are an integral part of the church today, and should be treated as such. If we continue to treat our young people without integrity and Christ's love, we may be in danger of losing many of them and, worse still, failing to reach those who God longs for (2 Peter 3:9).

It's about time we realised that young people have incredibly high expectations placed upon them—from school, sporting commitments and part-time work situations. These high expectations may be a point of debate as to their good, but the reality is that they exist! Youth understand that if they don't put in, they get left behind. Yet when it comes to the church, we rarely give our young people significant life challenges. It's ironic that often the world understands more about the discipleship principles of Jesus than the church.

"Discipleship" is an often misunderstood word. Many people mistake it as having a small-group Bible study. Bible studies are fine, but by themselves are not a description of discipling. It seems that if we look to the "Master Teacher", he was able to take a group of young men, initially having little cohesion between themselves, and bring them through to a point where he could eventually say to them, "You will do greater works than I have done." (John 14:12)

Luke's Gospel reveals in chapter 8 how Jesus ministered to the crowds (teaching, miracles, casting out demons, healing, rais-

ing the dead) while his disciples observed. The next chapter has Jesus commissioning the twelve to do just as he had shown them (Luke 9:1-6, 10, cf Matthew 10:1-15, 11:1). Then in Luke 10, we have the account where Jesus goes on to commission the 70 in similar fashion (Luke 10:1-20). The Book of Acts is full of accounts of the apostles and the disciples continuing to do and teach the things revealed by the Master.

Did you catch the process? First he modelled it and taught it to them. Next he commissioned them to do what they had observed. Third, they reported back for accountability and encouragement. Then finally, they themselves passed on these things to others (cf 1 Timothy 4:11, 12).

The principle of passing on is the very essence of discipleship. This is what Paul meant when he wrote, "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:2)

I am not convinced that young people need more teaching (although I accept that our churches have many "Christians" who are ignorant of Biblical truth), nor am I sure that we need more exciting programs (although we can always keep on improving). I think that if we are serious about discipling young people, we get serious about the modelling and the doing of faith. Unless we set up serious faith challenges for our youth, we will be in danger of creating another generation of "theological theoreticians"—knowing about Christ, but not knowing how to live him out in experience.

Discipling isn't telling them what to do. It's taking them, showing them, equipping them and holding them to accountability, while all the while encouraging them. Forget about dashing off to the local Christian bookstore for the manual—you and I are the text! (1 Corinthians 4:16, 11:1, 2 Corinthians 3:2, 3)

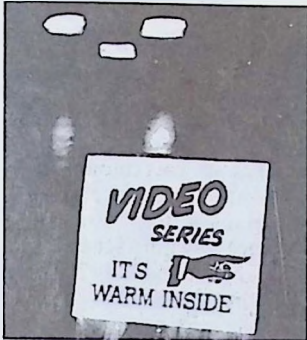
• Martin Burgess is the minister at the Croydon, Vic, church.

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



## • The warmth of Christian fellowship on winter evenings

### Videos at Black Forest



At the beginning of winter, the Black Forest, SA, church in Adelaide encouraged its members to brave the elements and continue evening services—but with a change in format. The service (or friendship hour)

begins at 5 pm with a half-hour video on a Christian theme. This is followed at 5.30 by a meal of home-made soup etc. Many have invited friends, and some people resident in the area and from further afield have been persuaded by the advertising to attend and have commented most favourably on the programs and the warmth of Christian fellowship.

At a time when many neighbouring churches have closed their doors in the evenings, this service with a difference, which still proclaims the Gospel message while emphasising friendship and fellowship, is most encouraging. Already, a number of new faces are being



Advertising attracts people to the video service

seen in the morning services. These include people who have not been to a regular church service for many years.

The church is now looking for a new format for the summer gospel services.

—Allan Lochhead



Fellowship and home-made soup afterwards

## • Vision now a spectacular \$3.5 m reality

### Wollongong Opens Its New Complex

The new complex of the Wollongong, NSW, church has been finished. 1,700 attended the open day, mostly young families from the community driven by their curiosity to have a look at this new major complex on their skyline.

Those who came were entertained by Humphrey B. Bear and shown around the property. Around 600 shared in a free barbecue lunch.

The following day Sunday services of dedication were held and 2,000 attended. Special guests, Lord Mayor Frank Arkell, Ron Hewitt, represent-

ing Churches of Christ in NSW, Don Smith representing Churches of Christ in Australia, and Dr Stuart Piggin, representing the wider church community, assisted in the dedication.

Dr Robert Schuller sent a personalised video greeting and congratulated the church on its achievement for the Kingdom of God.

The church complex features a 4 m wide video screen enabling playback of video items.

The media interest in the new complex was overwhelming. Television stations ran exten-

sive news coverage and the newspaper ran an eight-page supplement.

It was a joy to see the church's 1,200-seat auditorium filled with people happy to be associated with this magnificent church.

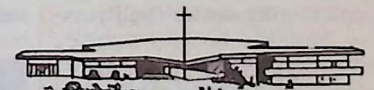
As a part of the opening celebrations Australian jazz legend James Morrison gave a 90-minute performance in the evening service.

In October the Institute for Contemporary Church Leadership hosts the National Spring Ministers Conference. Roy Wheeler from USA, Sir

Alan Walker, Phil Pringle, and Barry McMurtrie will be inspiring ministers and key church leaders. It will be a great time for ministers from around Australia to be encouraged by the facilities as they meet together.

The conference is called "What will the church of the 21st century look like?"

The vision of the Wollongong church is that other Churches of Christ around Australia will be inspired to dream on a grander scale what can be accomplished for Christ through the ministry of the local church.





## • New church initiative

### Lynch's Bridge



Kim Thoday and Mike Esbensen

The inner city of Melbourne, Vic, is in a continuing state of change, with considerable redevelopment taking place. Lynch's Bridge is an area undergoing considerable housing redevelopment, with both private and public sectors contributing to the changes. The Kensington Christian Network, under the leadership of Kim Thoday and Mike Esbensen has commenced morning worship services in the local Kensington High School. The new group has a fine meeting hall and has been invited to occupy administrative offices in the community centre facility as-

sociated with the school. The offer reflects the high community regard for the work of the Kensington Christian Network.

A meeting for Kensington Christian Network supporters and interested friends will be held at the school, cnr Racecourse and Smithfield Roads, Kensington, on 15 September at 2.30 pm. Kim, Mike and local leaders will report on progress of the various network initiatives.

The Kensington Christian Network is directly sponsored by the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development.

## • Upper Yarra region

### Montrose Sponsors Second Initiative

In 1989 the Montrose, Vic, church was responsible for the establishment of a new Korean congregation.

The church leaders, with minister Neil Galbraith, encouraged a young Korean minister, Won Joon Park, to develop his vision for a new Korean church in Melbourne. The church is now well established, and operating from the Burwood church.

In June, Montrose leaders invited Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development executive director Don Smith to confer on devel-

opmental opportunities in the Upper Yarra region.

A decision was made by the group to commence a series of meetings at Woori Yallock in September. This community is well located to service the area. Meetings will commence in the local primary school.

The Montrose church would welcome information on likely contacts. Information should be forwarded to Neil Galbraith on (03) 728 1726.

Alan Rackemann, an elder of the church, has spent considerable time researching the opportunities.



Alan Rackemann, Don Smith and Allan Emmett, Properties Corporation, discussing the new initiative in the Upper Yarra region

### SPRINGVALE Church of Christ

6 Windsor Avenue  
50th Anniversary

**Saturday, 14 September**

8 pm Reunion Social

**Sunday, 15 September**

10 am Worship

Speaker—

Reg Combridge

12 Noon Lunch

2.30 pm Thanksgiving

6 pm Speaker—

Morrie Munyard

Former worshippers

welcome

RSVP to

(03) 546 4853

### Visiting Brisbane?

Come and worship in the  
Ewers Chapel at Kenmore  
Christian College with  
Kenmore Church of Christ  
at 41 Brookfield Road,  
Kenmore

10 am Sundays

8 am Good Friday and  
Christmas Day

Telephone Pastor Grant  
Spangenberg  
(07) 378 9033  
or home (07) 378 8817

### UPPER YARRA OUTREACH

The Montrose Church of Christ  
is sponsoring a series of worship services at the  
Community Hall

Woori Yallock Primary School

Healesville Road, Woori Yallock

These services will be held at 2 pm commencing  
on 15 September 1991.

People with past or present associations with Churches of Christ living throughout the Upper Yarra or surrounding regions are invited to share in these services, which will be conducted in a relaxed atmosphere with features for the whole family.

This project has the enthusiastic support of the Department of Mission, Education and Development and we would ask for your prayers for the Montrose Church in this outreach program.

Please send details of any contacts who may be interested to  
Neil Galbraith, c/o PO Box 108, Montrose 3765.  
Phone (03) 728 1726 or (03) 728 2504.



## • New Connexions joined by Power Point Double Adaption's Double Attraction



Rehearsing for the big double bill

The New Connexions are not new to many of our readers. For 12 years now they have been presenting Gospel musicals and have been an integral part of the Magill, SA, church, making a major contribution to its children's ministry.

Over 150 have been part of this young enthusiastic singing group—some for short periods and others who began as young children 12 years ago who are still part of the group as young adults. New Connexions has been a great training ground to develop their musical, dramatic and leadership skills.

The group are popular guests at churches around Adelaide.

Every second year the New Connexions have thrilled their audiences with full stage presentations of two Gospel musicals. This year they look forward to an equally exciting presentation of "Save Colby's

Clubhouse", featuring Colby (Damien Hooper); Colbette (Michelle Smith), Inspector Persnickety (Fiona Lawrie) and the Clubhouse kids.

But this year they have an electric new group—"Power Point"—who will present their second musical "People Need the Lord". Some of the older young people are supplementing the Connexions on this occasion. The music is modern and vibrant and the choreography dramatic. It will be a first-class presentation.

So the New Connexions and Power Point together form "Double Adaption", and Adelaide readers will not want to miss this double attraction: "Save Colby's Clubhouse" and "People Need the Lord" at the Royalty Theatre (Angas St, Adelaide) on 24, 25 and 26 October. (Information has been sent to churches regarding tickets.)

## • Another fire at a Melbourne eastern suburbs church

### Fire at Knoxfield

On Sunday morning, 11 August, at 2 am the Knoxfield, Vic, youth minister Craig Allan was woken by neighbours with the news that the church halls were on fire. The police and fire brigade had been informed and were just arriving at the church complex as Craig got there. By 6 am the fire had been extinguished, but the two wooden halls and the kitchen area were extensively damaged and will have to be demolished. The brick chapel was damaged by smoke and water. The roof will have to be replaced and the entire chapel refurbished. The kindergarten area is affected by smoke but will need no major building work.

The damage bill of approximately \$250,000 could be covered by insurance. There are suspicious circumstances.

Allan Emmett of the Vic-Tas Properties Corporation is advising churches in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne to take a

look at the security of their buildings following this fire and the recent fire at Boronia. (See story below. In each fire a similar area of the church complex was burnt out and almost identical areas were damaged by smoke and water.)

On the Sunday morning, just hours after the fire, Knoxfield church held its morning service in the protection of the porch area. It was a very emotional service, with over 100 attending on a cold and dismal morning. The service was led by the ministry team, Rod Brown, Brian Tunks and Craig Allan.

The chapel will be refurbished and could be ready for use in 3-5 weeks time. At a later date the church halls will have to be rebuilt. The church has received tremendous support and goodwill from the other churches in the area and from the local council. Some of the clubs will operate at the local Anglican church.

## • Meanwhile...

### Boronia Chapel To Reopen

Following the disastrous fire on 15 March that caused so much damage to its building complex, the members of the Boronia, Vic, church are looking forward in excited anticipation to 1 September at 10 am, when the restored and refurbished chapel will again be ready for worship.

The building committee, under the leadership of John Masterton and greatly assisted by John Dow, has deeply appreciated the advice and expertise of Allan Emmett, architect Russell Croker (K.A. Read Group), and builders Johns and Lyng.

Improvements to the chapel-foyer area will include more adequate heating and cooling facilities, a hearing loop, more effective acoustics, new and improved lighting, seating, exterior signs and baptistry appointments.

A further service of celebration and commitment will be held at 7 pm. There will be a thanksgiving offering at the 10 am service and, as the day coincides with Boronia's annual Spring Festival, children are invited to bring flowers to place in a special display. Visitors will be most welcome.

The church has also agreed to a recommendation from the elders that Andrew Henley's ministry be extended for five years from the end of 1992.

Perhaps the most encouraging experience during this year has been the generosity of the Roman Catholic, Uniting, Anglican and Salvation Army churches in the area.

The practical expression of compassion and concern from churches enables us to report that ecumenism, not competition, is alive and well—at least in Boronia. —Keith Milne

## 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



## • New possibilities

### Russell Ritchie Resigns

Multiple sclerosis has affected the ministry of Russell Ritchie at Annerley, Qld.

Russ said, "I don't know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future. God has not deserted me. I am looking at the future as an adventure with God."

In 1986, Russell experienced mild tingling in his arms and legs, and some bouts of blurred vision. The symptoms went away without the cause ever being identified, and life went on as usual.

This was followed by a more serious attack in 1988, with temporary impairment of the use of his legs. Symptoms came and went from then onwards as doctors tried out various explanations and remedies. It was not until mid-1989, during an

attack when Russell temporarily lost the ability to walk, that the doctors finally diagnosed the complaint as multiple sclerosis. Since then his battle with the disease has been constant. He suffers from a range of disabilities—blurred vision, difficulty in walking, loss of control of his muscles and loss of feeling. The symptoms fluctuate, and there are treatments that can alleviate them to a certain extent, but to some degree they are always with him.

This may all sound like an unmitigated disaster, but Russell certainly doesn't see it that way. While having MS has limited him in some directions, it has opened up new possibilities for him in others. During most of his ministry, Russell placed a lot of importance on

programs of good music, inspiring sermons, use of artwork and creative programming. Through his illness God has opened up his understanding of people's needs. He now spends time building relationships, expressing love, praying with people and sharing God's love with them. He has rediscovered the joy and privilege of leading people to the Lord.

In spite of this, and in spite of all his efforts, he has found it impossible to keep up with the demands of ministry in a large suburban church. Russell reluctantly decided to cut short his term, and finished at the end of July 1991.

The Annerley church wish to assist Russell and Margaret Ritchie and their four teenage children. They have started a



Russell Ritchie

special appeal for funds to assist in the mortgage payments on their home at 324 Marshall Road, Tarragindi. Anyone wishing to contribute to this fund should send donations to the Treasurer, Annerley Church of Christ, 11 Sieben Street, Wishart 4122.

## • Donald Beiler

### Serving the Lord

On 10 July Donald Kingsley Beiler, a prominent member of Churches of Christ in South Australia, died at the age of 77. A thanksgiving service was held at the Glenelg church led by Jim Tilson, in the presence of 350 relatives and friends.

Don was the son of Will and Bertha Beiler and was born on 12 July 1914 at Collingwood, Vic. On Don's father's graduation from the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, six months

later, the family moved to Balaklava, SA, where Will Beiler commenced his first ministry. The family moved to a number of locations as he continued with his ministry.

Don made his confession of faith at the age of nine in November 1923 at the Kellems-Richards Mission in Adelaide. For most of his working life until the 1939-45 war, Don was a salesman. He married Ellmer McGlasson at the Glenelg church in March 1939, with his father and Dr Johnston officiating.

Don served in the RAAF for four years and was located at Headquarters in Melbourne. While there he and Ellmer attended the Lygon Street church. After the war he entered the real estate industry, where he served until his retirement.

Throughout his life Don was a vital, practising and consistent Christian, his chief aim in life being to serve the Lord, the local church and Churches of Christ on a wider plane. The

most cherished desires of Don, with Ellmer's support, was to do all he could to bring honour and glory to God and Jesus Christ. Service to God and people in need was more important to him than personal benefits. In personal, business and Christian life Don received many answers to prayer, which just increased his faith. He was an outstanding optimist and on his retirement from Jackman and Treloar he received a clock engraved with the words "The Perennial Optimist". He was an excellent family man and had the full support of Alan, daughter-in-law Roslyn, daughter Jillian, son-in-law Allan and grandchildren Scott, Felicity and Shannon.

At the Glenelg church Don was a Christian Endeavour leader, Sunday School superintendent, deacon, secretary and elder—the last few years as elder emeritus. In 1987 he was the author of the Glenelg church's centenary book, *Deep Roots and High Hopes*.

In State Conference activities, at 20 years of age Don was keen to see the commencement of youth camps at state level, so he attended a camp at

Dimboola, Vic, to gain some experience and in the following year he was responsible for the commencement of annual youth camps in South Australia, which still operate. Don was Chairman of the Christian Education Department, Secretary and then Chairman of the Preacher Placement and Advisory Board for a period of 25 years. He was a member of the Social Services Department for a number of years and a member of the Christian Rest Home Board for 20 years, including six years as Chairman. Don was President of State Conference in 1960-61 and was a member of the Australian World Convention Committee in planning for the World Convention in Adelaide in 1970.

In the wider area of Christian life, in partnership with Ellmer, he was part of a back-up team for the Leighton Ford Crusade in Brisbane in 1979. In 1978 he attended the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington. Two years later he was secretary of the team that introduced the first City of Adelaide Prayer Luncheon and he continued in this capacity for several years.

—S.R. Beck



Donald Beiler



## News

### • Beautiful gifts from Tasmania Always Appreciated



Deslee Moyle unpacking the gifts from Tasmania

For several years the Tasmanian ladies have provided beautiful knitted and crocheted baby clothes, baby singlets for use in the hot climates and other articles that are distributed by Federal Aborigines Board ministers and their wives in hospital visitation. These gifts have found their way around Australia for use in all FAB centres, and are very much appreciated. It gives an excellent opportunity to build a relationship and extend a friendly hand.

The residents at the Olive Laird Hostel in Carnarvon

have enjoyed the small gifts sent for use at Christmas and birthdays as well as some new clothing and linen, which is always useful. Shopping locally is very difficult for the residents, so these gifts are always appreciated. Once again we have received a large box from Laurel Arnot from Launceston on behalf of the Tasmanian ladies. The FAB acknowledges the provision of this lovely parcel along with the love that is obvious in the garments lovingly made and sent for the purpose of sharing God's love with others.

—A.W. Moyle

### • Helping World Vision and African Famine Relief

#### Progressive Dinner

On 29 June a progressive dinner organised by the Outreach Committee of the Cheltenham, Vic, church proved a huge success and a fun night for all who attended. 40 people, in three different circuits, participated, beginning with savouries at 6.30 pm, then soup and casseroles at homes in the Cheltenham, Dingley and Aspendale areas. A video was viewed by guests and a discussion took place when all met back at the

church hall for coffee and sweets.

It was a wonderful night and a great opportunity to mix and meet new and older members of the church, as well as raising over \$800 for such a worthy cause—World Vision and African Famine Relief.

The host families did a terrific job and are to be commended for their kind hospitality extended to all who were invited into their homes.



Progressing on with the dinner

### • Combined churches' crusade

#### Blessing on the Gold Coast

The Southport and Burleigh Heads, Qld, churches were actively involved on a Combined Churches Crusade with evangelist Bill Newman, 20–28 July. John Bradford, MP for MacPherson and a member of the Southport church, was Chairman of the Bill Newman Executive Committee, senior minister Noel Newton was Vice-Chairman, and Ken Tyas, a member at Southport, was Manager of the Crusade. A chorus of 180 voices had a strong contingent from the Southport church, under the baton of Carol McCallum, a member of Southport.

The Gold Coast Performing Arts Centre, which seats 1,600, was the venue.

On the ladies night, which featured a fashion parade, the building was filled to capacity and many, unable to get in, went home.

God poured out his Spirit in a mighty way. 359 decisions for Christ were recorded with 129 first-time decisions. 50 of these were from Southport church and therefore much nurture will be needed to see each person disciplined and built into the Body of Christ.

The budget of \$45,000 was raised before the crusade commenced and so no offerings were taken except for a box at the door.

Bill Newman's next Crusade will be in Russia from 24 August to 4 September.

**Would you like  
to live by the  
sea at  
VICTOR HARBOR**



**in South Australia?**

**HOME UNITS** to be available for  
**PRIVATE PURCHASE** (strata title ownership)  
**ADJOINING THE CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
and within easy walking distance of the  
town centre

**FOR INITIAL ENQUIRIES** Please write or phone  
the Church Secretary, Mrs Ruth May, PO Box  
687, Victor Harbor 5211. Phone (085) 52 1601  
or the Project Co-ordinator,  
John Butler. Phone (085) 52 2411



# Letters to the Editor

## Letters are limited to 200 words

### Hospital Visitation

To the Editor,

Could all Victorian country churches please let us know when anyone of their congregation has to go to Melbourne for hospitalisation.

We would like to make sure they are cared for regarding visitors, laundry etc., but cannot do this if we don't know they are in hospital.

Could patients please make sure they register as Church of Christ and/or could the church secretary please notify us.

Your co-operation would be greatly appreciated to ensure a little comfort for patients while away from home.

Contact Mrs June Andrews, Superintendent, CWF Hospital Visitation Committee, on (03) 878 5860.

—June Andrews

### Response

To the Editor,

In response to several correspondents ("AC" 6 July):

Firstly I wish to inform that I made no unbiblical or self-centred statements. Quoting from the Old Testament is useless, being only prophecy and not anything to do with the plan of salvation. Please turn to 1 Corinthians 14 where you may become more enlightened.

Regarding the question of my sight. I am 82 (plus) and am partly incapacitated with the loss of one eye when 12 years of age.

The church is a must in the world but we do not want the world in the church.

We as Churches of Christ have hymnals for the purpose of good singing.

—A.E. Boettcher  
(Ipswich, Qld)

### Sources of Good

To the Editor,

I would not be so naive as to believe that in the short term good can only come from God and that origins are irrelevant (John Clapp, "AC" 22 June).

Jesus taught that only a good tree produced good fruit and a bad tree bad fruit. Hitler came

to power by many good works, but in the end the fruit he produced was bitter and similarly will be the works of every anti-Christ movement.

The conservative politics, to which I adhere, has been influenced through bloodshed and strife for 900 years by the absolutes of God's law, and the Westminster system it has produced, though not perfect, is superior in the world of government.

The United Nations is man's humanistic effort for a New World Order and I detect some evidence of bad fruit already on the tree, as God's absolutes are being replaced by standards acceptable to society.

—T.A. Fraser  
(Maitland, NSW)

### Leadership Debate

To the Editor,

As a relative newcomer to the field of ministry and leadership in Churches of Christ, I have been reading with great appreciation the rising debate on models of leadership and church government within the movement.

Having been ordained in a more autocratic/theocratic movement prior to the move to Churches of Christ I can certainly appreciate the concerns indicated by both Bruce McIntosh and Allan Clark relating to centralised power. Allan's article in *The Pamphlet Club* ("AC" 3 August) was too big for me to attempt an editorial response, but I did feel that Bruce's article ("AC" 3 August) oversimplified the model A, which was more or less championed by Ron Elbourne, and over-glorified model B. Sir Alan Walker, on Sunday Night Talk with John Cleary (Radio 3LO 2 August) constructively criticised the Uniting Church for getting trapped in over-bureaucratisation. Perhaps Churches of Christ has become historically enmeshed in the energy sapping inertia of under-bureaucratisation?

With a national membership of around 35,000, it would seem we are a movement at the crossroads, but surely we have more than two choices facing us. In

many churches new modes are emerging at a pace, and one I and other leaders are pursuing is "team-ministry", which incorporates aspects of both choices offered by Bruce and adds a little of its own local flavour. I am very confident about it, but will close by commenting briefly on a pillar of Churches of Christ historical perspective which will undermine ultimately any approach to plot our future course, and this is anti-clericalism.

Philosophically and theologically, I would never argue that any human is of greater worth or status before God or humans, but I think we need to approach the situation from the perspective that in God's world there is no division between secular and sacred, and that recognised and rewarded lead-

ers in every walk of life inject tremendous energy and dedication and sacrifice into their work. Would I be saying too much if I constructively criticised our movement by saying that one of the reasons we have not "kicked on" as much as our many good points would indicate we should have done has been the clinging to the notion that lay people and clergy people within the church are basically indistinguishable, when the facts are that in terms of expectations and operation, they are not and never have been.

If the Churches of Christ are going to move as we should, I believe we must look to forms of team ministry, with a risk-taking (faith projecting) profile and great lump of trust invested in our pastors by teaching them

## Letters from Tertius

### Tithing

To the Editor,

Our church has the problem of overspending its takings and a meeting was called to see what could be done about it.

The usual cures for deficits were suggested such as sales of work, talent schemes, cake stalls and sermons on stewardship. One brand new Christian who hasn't learnt it all yet suggested a weekly bingo after the prayer meeting. He thought it would attract more people to the prayer meeting. (The pastoral care committee are helping him!)

One earnest member suggested that we might all consider tithing. She was supported by Henry, a permanent enthusiast, but a bit slow thinking. He said, "At the moment I don't think I can manage a tenth, but I'm willing to try a fifth."

Then came the objections from a solid phalanx of amateur theologians determined to use their Bibles to protect them from raids on their hip pockets. "Tithes belong to the Old Testament when they were under the law. We are under grace." "The tithe smacks of Old Testament legalism while the New Testament way is free will offering." "Jesus condemned the Pharisees for tithing while they neglected such things as justice and mercy." It seemed to me that the more willing they were to open their Bibles on the matter the more intent they were on closing their wallets.

On reflecting, it occurs to me that if people under the law gave a tenth, people under grace would be so amazed by that grace that they would give even more.

Well, the meeting came to no positive conclusions, so we sang a hymn, said a prayer and went home. The hymn was "All to Jesus I surrender".

My wife has been hinting for some time that we should review our budget. I think she has the housekeeping money in mind. But at the same time we'd better have another look at what we set aside for the church.

Yours cautiously,  
Tertius



## Letters to the Editor

how to lead such teams in college and authorising them to lead on the field.

—Stephen McElwee  
(Stawell, Vic)

*[This letter is longer than the 200 word limit on Letters to the Editor. However, I have allowed it as it raises a new perspective on the current debate—Editor]*

### Leadership

To the Editor,

I am writing on the discussion on leadership, particularly that by Bruce McIntosh ("AC" 3 August).

The debate on leadership seems to be continual and yet I see no other alternative being offered to strong leadership for the future of our churches. Bruce seems to be against strong leadership, yet I would like to put forward a number of points with regard to his article.

Firstly, surely a leader is given authority on the basis of his ability to lead. A strong leader who makes decisions is only in that position because those who follow him, allow him to be there and appreciate his leadership.

Secondly, true leadership is always looking for the chance to develop people with talents to enable the fulfilment of a goal. When Ron Elbourne is talking about a leader as a philosophy generator, he is talk-

ing about a person who establishes that goal and helps the congregation to achieve it for their own mutual beneficial development. I believe this is very much the job of a leader.

I believe the problem with our churches today is that we have too many people in positions of leadership who cannot make decisions or establish goals. Hence, no one really knows where they are going and everyone muddles around doing their own thing and achieving nothing. I am all for strong leadership.

—Michael Adamson  
(Ormond, Vic)

### Leadership

To the Editor,

In response to Bruce McIntosh's article on Leadership ("AC" 3 August), I believe Bruce has sadly misunderstood the article by Ron Elbourne on senior ministry. In effect Max Carter was presenting similar principles ("AC" 6 July).

Max Carter's stated criterion for Christian leadership was, "How much service can I give?" Ron demonstrates this servanthood in his leadership serving God with all his being.

Our ministers are equals—it just so happens one is the senior minister—the one with the greatest load of responsibility.

This leadership actually "draws on and develops the energy of the whole congregation" (Bruce). At Glen Waverley there are relatively more people involved in ministry than previously. We are constantly challenged and encouraged to use our spiritual gifts and talents.

Our short- and long-term goals involve building bridges and witnessing to the community that all may ultimately know Jesus.

Maybe it's difficult to appreciate the outworkings of this visionary style, but those present at our annual meeting (4 August) saw proof of God's work and blessing in our church. "To him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus forever." (Ephesians 3:21)

—Jeanette Fewster  
(Glen Waverley, Vic)

## People

### • Stewart Spencer to Pendle Hill

## NSW Community Care Appointments

Stewart Spencer is the newly appointed Administrator of the Churches of Christ Community Care Retirement Village at Pendle Hill. Stewart will be responsible for the administration of the three levels of aged care that the Department provides within this complex.

Besides the 61-bed nursing home (operated jointly with the state CWF) and the 55-bed hostel, there are also 108 self-care units situated on five and a half acres of land in Sydney's north-west.

Stewart and his wife Anne have four children, and they have been active members of the Glen Waverley, Vic, church for many years. He is a certified practising accountant, chartered secretary and business administrator, whose wide experience will be an asset to this position.

Laurie Thomas, who has been the Administrator of the Pendle Hill Nursing Home for the past nine years, will be re-



Stewart Spencer

tiring in August, and Richard Powell, formerly the Sydney Homes Manager, located at Pendle Hill, has now relocated to the Community Care offices at Carlingford, and becomes the Aged Care Manager, responsible for the facilities at Cherrybrook, Forestville, Croydon, Hornsby and Thirroul.

### FRANKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST



**GREENWAYS  
RETIREMENT VILLAGE**  
330-356 FRANKSTON-  
DANDENONG ROAD,  
SEAFORD 3198

1 & 2 BR Villas  
Motel Type Lodge Suites  
PHONE (03) 786 8679  
Waiting List Now Open



**El Kanah**

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

### Christian Fellowship in a Family Atmosphere

We offer you guest house style accommodation from as low as \$42 a day, home-style cooking. Relax in the mountain playground of Marysville. Experience the comfort of our fully renovated, fire-proof guest house, including spa. Student and pensioner concessions available.

Phone or write to us: **CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**  
**El Kanah** Buxton Rd., Marysville, 3779. (059) 63 3229

L.M.C.T.  
6549

**Ken Geyer**

### SELECT USED CARS

49 Bond Street, Ringwood 3134

Telephone: (03) 879 4004

A.H. (03) 722 1780

**CONTACT KEN IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR  
A USED CAR OR NEED TO RENT ONE**



## Media Review

### Papers

#### Christian Spirituality and the "New Humanity"

by David A.J. Seargent (Eremos Magazine Supplement)

Eremos magazine is published for those who are interested in the development of spirituality within an Australian context. The Eremos Institute has also published a series of occasional papers of which this is the 13th in the series.

In this paper David Seargent attempts to examine the concept of Christian spirituality in the context of the current debate on the essence of human nature, especially given the failure of the Marxist system and its understanding of human nature. He is interested in examining the way the Christians can change capitalist society into something more humane and more spiritual.

This is an interesting paper and is available from the Eremos Institute, PO Box 131, Newtown 2042, at a cost of \$3 plus \$1 for postage and packaging. —CRA

### Books

#### The Weapons of Your Warfare

Equipping Yourself to Defeat the Enemy

by Larry Lea (Word Books) \$10.95

The Apostle Paul said, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers..."

This book by Larry Lea of Rockwall, Texas, is intended to help the believer do just that—fight the spiritual forces that are at work against us. Lea has obviously had good experience as his church is larger than the town's total population. Throughout the book he uses personal examples to enable the reader to understand that the principles are usable in daily life.

In chapter one he establishes the fact of the battle and its nature. In the following chapters he details the weapons available to the believer to fight the battle. Some of these weapons, such as prayer and the armour of God (Ephesians 6), may be of no surprise, but others, such as the blood of Jesus, praise and binding the strongman, may be new to some believers.

Each chapter ends with a practical exercise and a prayer to help the reader put into practice fighting the battle.

There are many books available about spiritual warfare, prayer and spiritual growth but this book is more "what to do" than being about. For those who want a practical handbook to overcoming the foe in their lives, this is the book. —Larry Gibb

#### Letters about the Cross

Answers to Six Questions about Being Christian

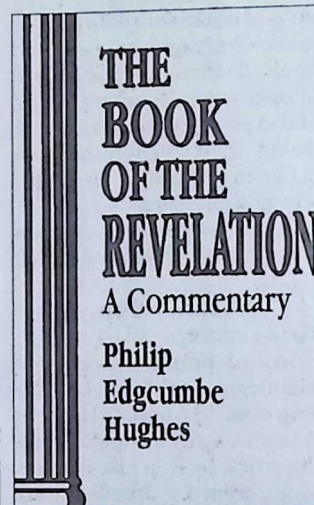
by Colville Crowe (Joint Board of Christian Education) \$4.95

In these brief studies Colville Crowe invites us to think through the meaning of the cross using as a starting point the New Testament letters. Each study begins with a thought-provoking question to consider, e.g. What is faith? Why is it so hard? One possible answer to the question is then given, beginning with an Old Testament event and leading into a section from one of the New Testament letters that relates this question to the events and implications of the cross. A number of discussion questions then probe the meaning and relevance of the Scripture. Finally there are a few quotes, poems etc. on the topic to which the participants are encouraged to add their own contribution.

This is an excellent set of light, enjoyable excursions into the meaning of the cross. They are not "deep" investigations of theological questions but rather encouraging and challenging exercises in allowing Biblical truth to actively engage us in our day-to-day Christian lives. The book is written in a relaxed,

conversational style, which is quite refreshing. The approach is relational and personal without being threatening. The truths of the cross are clearly presented as both relevant and vitally important.

The studies would nevertheless be beneficial to any small group where the members know each other reasonably well. —Alan Hermann



#### The Book of the Revelation

A Commentary

by Philip Edgcumbe Hughes  
(Inter-Varsity Press and William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company)

This commentary has been designed to "make the contents of this fascinating work relevant and applicable to the church in every age". Dr Hughes has made his own translation of Revelation and has based his commentary upon this translation. He has deliberately kept the exposition free of technicalities and footnotes in order to make this commentary accessible to the ordinary reader.

The book of Revelation is often ignored by many Christians. They are put off reading it because of the strange imagery and the weird and unusual interpretations that have circulated down through the years.

While needing careful reading, this is an excellent explanation of the symbolism in Revelation without going over the top in interpretation. Dr Hughes gives only a short (five pages) introduction and the rest of the book is devoted to a passage-by-passage commentary on the text.

An excellent commentary. —CRA





## News

### • Helping Christian surfies

## Southport Walk-a-thon



The 55 walkers prior to setting out on the Southport walk-a-thon

On 1 June the Christian Women's Fellowship of the Southport, Qld, church held a walk-a-thon in aid of the Gold Coast Christian Surfers' Association. It was a great pleasure on 21 July during the morning service for Lae Gorrie, President of the CWF, to be able to present a cheque for about \$1,600 to Des Janetski of Christian Surfers.

Christian Surfers are an evangelistic group who build bridges on a one-to-one basis to people who frequent the beaches to introduce them to the Lord Jesus Christ and a church family. They are interdenominational, but many of the Gold Coast members be-

long to the Church of Christ, and these young people are a real blessing to Southport, especially in leadership. Over the years seven or eight people won to Christ through the witness of the Christian surfers have gone to Bible college or into full-time ministry.

Gold Coast Christian Surfers is part of a network of 50 other Christian surf clubs worldwide—in Australia, New Zealand, England, California and South Africa—but though affiliated to a national body, each is autonomous and has to generate its own funds. Each has freedom to function in line with local needs. The national body runs conferences and pro-

vides leadership training. On the Gold Coast, surf club activities are organised that are directed to surfers or beachgoers, and prizes, such as surf boards etc. are awarded. Each year, a big contest, the "Jesus Surf Classic" is held, which attracts interstate, and sometimes international, competitors who are world-class surfers. These people come because the event is professionally run, and because good prizes are given.

Not only will the money be a great help in the work of evangelism, but also a lovely time of fellowship was enjoyed by the walkers, both old and young.

—Nancy Evans

### • Where Jesus walked

## Easter in Jerusalem

The senior minister of the Southport, Qld, church and his wife, Noel and Tricia Newton, will personally escort a tour to the Holy Land to celebrate the Easter story in the very place it all happened some 2,000 years ago.

Good Friday will start at the Garden of Gethsemane and will progress to Caiaphas' house and to the place Jesus was scourged and given the Cross. Participants will follow the Via Dolorosa out to Golgotha where Jesus was crucified in our place. On Easter Sunday there will be a service at the empty tomb and a visit to Emmaus.

Included in the tour are 13 days in Israel, Greece (including Greek islands such as Patmos) and visiting the seven churches of Asia Minor in Turkey. The tour concludes in London.

If you would like further information contact Noel and Tricia Newton, 23 Harran St, Bellevue Park 4215, or phone (075) 31 4353.

### Don Milne

#### Exterior & interior painting service



35 years experience  
Free quote and competent reliable service  
Phone (03) 859 6560 (AH)

### Pontius' Puddle



### BICHENO, TASMANIA Seaview Camp

Units for hire  
Powered sites  
Group camping  
Tennis court  
An area of great scenic attraction

#### Manager:

Phone (003) 75 1247  
Vic-Tas Department of  
Mission, Education and  
Development



# Happenings

The Christian and Missionary Alliance, which now has 1,000 active members in 30 churches in Australia, has a goal of 200 churches by the year 2000. Since a "decade of harvest" was launched last year 6 church planting projects have been initiated.

In Cuba, after 3 years of revival, thousands have become Christians and church attendance may be as high as 1 million. With 70% of the Communist country's church membership under 30 years of age, there is an urgent need for Bibles, Christian literature and musical equipment.

According to a report by the Bureau of Immigration Research, the proportion of people aged over 65 in Australia will grow from 1.9 million or 11% of the population in 1990 to 5.2 million or 20% of the population by 2031.

Over 600 students at the Universidad San Simon made commitments to Christ during a recent 6-week mission in Cochabamba, Bolivia. A team of 8 evangelists from IFES and several South American member movements lead the mission's intensive program of preaching and multi-media presentations using film, drama, music, debate, literature and personal testimony. By the end of the mission over 400 of the new Christians were meeting in functioning Bible study discipline groups.

One of the fastest-growing churches in the world is the

Reformed Church of Sumatra, Indonesia. Out of the 400,000 living on the island, 45,000 are currently waiting to be baptised. Since 1987 the church has increased by 150,000 members and has 57 new full-time staff. Some 34,000 have already been baptised and the church has 300 theologians and 65 evangelists.

After nearly 10 months in a Cairo prison, 3 Egyptians who converted to Christianity from Islam have finally regained their freedom. Arrested by the Mubahith (the state security organisation) the 3 were accused of intending to foment sectarian strife, derogating Islam and threatening national unity. Although they were never formally charged with any crimes, Amnesty International reported they were tortured and held in solitary confinement. Twice previously their release was ordered by a panel of 3 different state security justices but the orders were overturned by the Mubahith.

After 70 years of official atheism Christians in the USSR outnumber members of the Communist Party by 5 to 1, making up 36% of the population.

While 82% of Americans say they believe the Bible is either the literal or inspired word of God, only 21% study it, and half of the US population cannot name any of the four Gospels.

Confirmed membership in the Uniting Church of Australia has fallen 19% from

228,096 in 1978 to 185,176 today.

More than 100 million children work and live on the streets of Latin America and nearly 200 die every day from the effects of poverty and hunger. About 7% of Latin America's children between the ages of 10 and 14 work in the streets. But governments frequently "underestimate" the situation and figures are also inaccurate because they do not count younger children.

On 28 July veteran Chinese pastor Wang Mingdao died at his home in Shanghai, China, aged 91 years. Wang Mingdao was a fighter for truth and righteousness throughout his life. Before 1950 he was well known all over China because of his ministry of teaching and writing. He spent 23 years in prison for his faith. Since his release in 1980 Wang Mingdao had an important role in prayer and exhortation to his many visitors.

The average Australian spends 3 hours a day listening to radio, 25 minutes a day reading newspapers and 13 minutes a day reading magazines reported Bruce Upton, General Manager of Triple Seven Communications. Triple Seven Communications' vision for Melbourne is to reach a broken and hurting generation with a message of hope and to communicate Christian values through quality of life radio programs. A second test broadcast of 10 days is planned for February

1992. Meanwhile they are holding a special communications training seminar "BroadCASTING THE Network Widely" seminar 23 and 24 August with two experienced trainers, David Cummings and Roger Alder. Cost for the seminar is \$45, which includes meals and accommodation. Details from Triple Seven, PO Box 117, Glen Waverley 3150. Phone (03) 560 1700.

Tentmakers Youth Ministry (Australia) is hosting a series of seminars with Dick and Londa Amundson from the US in early September. These seminars will be held at the Blackburn North Baptist Church in Melbourne, 10-14 September. On 15 September Dick and Londa will be preaching at the Swanston St Church of Christ morning services. Tentmakers Youth Ministry has developed a successful strategy for selecting, training and developing youth leaders for an ongoing church-based youth ministry. The first intensive 7-week training course will commence on 30 December in Melbourne. Details on Tentmakers Youth Ministry (Australia) write to Sue Polmear, PO Box 464, Doncaster 3108. Phone (03) 438 3508 (AH) or Martin Boutros at Blackburn North Baptist Church on (03) 890 7999 (business hours).

One of the most effective ways of presenting the gospel to the ordinary Soviet citizen is through street libraries. A number of Christians set up a table in the main street and freely lend Christian literature to passers by.

The Uniting Church in South Australia is facing falling church membership and "grave financial difficulties". Church membership in the state has dropped 25.8% in the past 12 years from 34,534 in 1978 to 25,608 in 1990. The trend could force the church to cut staff and slash programs. Only Tasmania recorded a faster rate of decline in membership with a 27.8% drop. Nationally, church membership has fallen by 18.9%.

Controversial homosexual youth worker Simon Moglia is seeking admission to the Uniting Church's ordained ministry. His admission of homosexuality when revealed last year sparked a bitter debate within the South Australian Uniting Church.

Melbourne Citymission has launched an unusual library. It is a toy library with each item specially crafted for children with disabilities—limited hearing, vision or muscular problems. Each toy is planned to encourage the child to interact.

Crossroads Victoria (Christian Fellowship with Disabled Persons) will hold a state conference "Crossroads at the Crossroads—A Challenge to the Church in the Nineties" on 21 September at Burwood Heights Uniting Church from 9.30 am to 4 pm, followed by a dinner at 7 pm. Guest speakers will be Rev Bill McMillan and Brian Marchmont plus workshops and an open forum. For further details contact (03) 808 3677 or 873 1829 (AH).

## Treasurer Says Thanks



Terry McCredden says thanks to church, group and personal donors who financially support the Department. Gifts are strategic because in the end they strengthen the whole Conference work. Right now gifts are needed for new churches, evangelism, education and youth services.

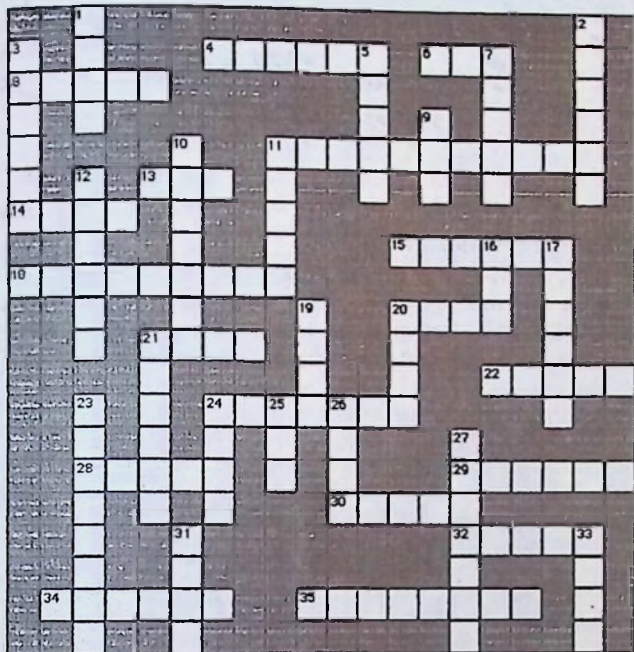
**Department of Mission, Education and Development**  
52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000

## Epping is Expanding

and celebrating the dedication of recent building renovations for mission and ministry on  
20 October, 2.30 pm.  
Guest speaker:  
Dr Keith Farmer



## Crossword



### Across

4. Part of Ezekiel's vision
6. Deborah used to --- under a palm tree (Judges 4:8)
8. God said: Let there be ----
11. Land of the Tigris and Euphrates
13. Cut off at the arrest of Jesus
14. Wife of Lamech (Genesis 4:9)
15. His final performance brought the house down!
18. Babylon will become a dry and ----- desert (Jer 50:12)
20. Job's hung loose on his bones (Job 19:20)
21. ---- and you shall find
22. Jesus slept through one
24. Sign of the covenant between God and Noah (Genesis 9:16)
28. Washed his hands of Jesus' death
29. Leprous Syrian soldier (2 Kings)
30. Ruth said: "Don't ask me to ---- you."
32. Minor prophet

### Down

34. Communication with God
35. The good one is willing to die for his charges (John 10:11)
1. Drowned on account of evil spirits (Matt 5:13)
2. Great prophet
3. A son of David (2 Sam 5:16)
5. Andrew's brother
7. The Jews handed Jesus over to Pilot for?
9. Jeremiah saw one boiling (Jer 1:13)
10. Area of much of Jesus' work
11. Great leader of the Hebrew people
12. A busy disciple
16. It stood still while Joshua won a battle
17. World's first great conqueror (Gen 10:8)
19. First garden
20. I will wash you as clean as ---- (Is 1:15)
21. What neighbours should do with a difference (Proverbs 25:9)
23. Colour for a breastplate (Rev 9:17)
24. She would not leave her mother-in-law
25. No room there for Mary and Joseph
26. False god (Judges 2:11)
27. The Lord prepares a banquet in their presence (Psalm 23)
31. Washed by Jesus
33. I know that you are a ---- man (Matt 25:24)

K H M  
V I N E Y A R D  
N A N  
G V P  
D E A R L Y  
C O I N A  
M O N C E  
H U E  
W E N T

July Solution

## • Growing through the barriers

### Larger Churches Conference

The Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development held a larger churches conference in July at St Hilary's Anglican Church in Kew, and the guest presenter for the day was Archdeacon Peter Corney, who has been in ministry with that congregation for over 15 years.

Peter shared his insights into his own ministry philosophy and what helps larger churches keep growing.

25 ministers and church leaders listened with interest when Peter shared his successes and failures as the church has grown through the barriers towards 1,000.

St Hilary's conducts four Paul Cameron (Doncaster) and Tim Hanna services on (Berwick) chat together at the conference



Sundays and one on Thursdays catering for a wide variety of groups, interests and worship styles.

Alongside this extensive worship program is a complex network of pastoral care and group work to ensure adequate assimilation of new people. Ken Clinton, Minister to Ministers, also shared in the occasion.

### L. C. F. Higgins

#### Chartered Accountant

7 The Parade  
Norwood SA 5067  
Phones (08) 362 1665  
& (08) 362 8619

- Accountancy Services
- Business Management
- Financial Planning
- Taxation Returns

### Living to Melbourne?

You are welcome at the Richmond Church of Christ cnr Coppin and Murphy Streets Services: 11 am and 7 pm (03) 428 4844

### Balook

is a tiny unspoilt hamlet surrounded by the unique Tarra-Bulga National Park, two and a half hours from Melbourne  
Central heating  
Log fires  
Transport from Traralgon station by arrangement  
Fern Valley  
Guest House  
RMB 7565, Balook 3971  
Phone (051) 96 6141

### ON YOUR OWN, YOU'RE NOT ALONE

Christian Singles Fellowship offers friendship through correspondence with other born-again Christian singles and single-again people  
Write enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:  
CSF, PO Box 411, Mayfield 2304



## World News

### • Significant milestone at Banmatmat Pastors Refresher



Seven of the original graduates of Banmatmat Bible College, with wives, at the first Banmatmat refresher course

During July I was privileged to visit Vanuatu at the invitation of their Conference to speak at a pastors and wives refresher course at Banmatmat.

The theme of the six-day refresher was "Pastoral Ministry to the Whole Person". It was designed to help the 80 pastors and wives who attended to develop their capacities in the area of pastoral care. This was the first refresher held and was a significant event not only for being the first but also because seven of the original graduating class of nine were present, including Samuel Vusi (Prin-

cipal, Banmatmat Bible College) and John Lieu (Conference President, Churches of Christ in Vanuatu). Several of these men had not been back to Banmatmat in the 23½ years since their graduation. At the Sunday service on the final day of the refresher these men were honoured by being asked to sit at the front of the meeting.

I found the pastors and their wives to be very keen to gain further knowledge and skills for their ministries, to which they bring great commitment and enthusiasm.

—Keith Farmer



**SWANSTON STREET  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Melbourne**  
(cnr Swanston &  
Little Lonsdale Streets)

#### Sunday

9.00 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Worship & Communion  
Services  
Gospel Celebration

7.00 p.m.

#### Wednesday

1.15-1.45 p.m.

Lunchtime Service

For further enquiries, please ring (03) 663 3884

## Celebrating a Centenary of Overseas Mission 1891-1991

1945

### Reinforcements

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Smith, of Cheltenham, Victoria, have been appointed and expect to leave about November. Mr. Smith is a No. 1 grade engineer, had extensive St. John's Ambulance and first aid work, and was attached to the



Mr. J. Smith.



Mrs. J. Smith.

Royal Australian Navy for medical services until recalled for special engineering tasks. Mrs. Smith is a double certificated nurse, and has had wide experience in hospital and private nursing. Thus these new workers will be able to give much practical assistance in many departments of the work. Mr. Smith's experience as an engineer will be invaluable for the effective running of the mission launch.

### Medical Student

If permission is granted, one of our own young men from Aoba will go to Fiji Medical School for training. This will be a new venture, but one which we hope will prove of lasting benefit to our Island peoples. Plans are also under way to give some of our young men more adequate Bible training and for some of our capable girls to have some nursing experience. The present work of Mrs. Finger and Mrs. Waterman is building up to this end.

### Building Projects

Two huts have arrived from Sydney, and will be a blessing to give better accommodation for our expanding work. Plans are well under way for a new house for Pentecost, and hospital-dispensaries for both Aoba and Pentecost. Mr. and Mrs. Finger are due in Australia about September, and after furlough it is planned that all building requisites will be shipped on the same steamer.

—The Australian Christian, 15 August 1945.

**OMB**  
Overseas Mission Board



# Music in Worship

## The Music Team

### The Music

The music you choose can make or break your worship but before you decide what music is going to be the best for your church's worship you need to know where your church wants to go. **Does your church want to develop a modern, contemporary-style worship?** This is not a question I expect you to be able to answer off the top of your head. I believe that the church leadership together with the music director need to discuss your church's needs and direction. Maybe your church doesn't even want a music team and is quite happy to plod along with just the organ. Maybe your church is really excited about music ministry and the benefits it can bring to ministering to those around. Maybe your church hasn't really thought about a music team before. Whatever your situation you need to work out where you are heading before you can try and head there. What is going to benefit your church family the most and, more importantly, what is going to be more effective in reaching and communicating to non-Christians? How would Joe Bloggs off the street feel about your worship? Wow...Some pretty heavy questions but questions that need to be discussed and questions where decisions need to be made. Now that you know where you are heading we can take a closer look at the song selection. As I stated earlier the songs can really make or break your worship. It is a good idea to develop a theme through the service and this can help in focusing on certain issues, e.g. love, forgiveness, celebration, encouragement etc. This theme could carry on through communion, guest singers and the message. Make sure that you choose songs people know, unless of course you are planning to teach a new

song. If you are teaching a new song it is important to learn it with the team first and then teach it to the congregation. This will make the learning of new songs much easier and more effective. Make sure that the songs are easy to understand. By that I mean that you should be careful not to use songs that a non-Christian would not understand, but by no means compromise the message. Use songs to create an atmosphere of freedom in worship where people feel comfortable to worship. Maybe you could start off with a couple of fun celebration songs to get people in a good cheery mood. You may then like to pray, committing the time of worship to God. Remember that worship is for God so use songs that focus on him and his love. I guess another question you might ask is where do you get new good material. I have one main suggestion and this particular company provides music books, overhead projector sheets and cassettes with the songs on them to help in learning. They also have music in B $\flat$  and B $\natural$  for saxophone etc. I can give you more details if you write to PO Box 664, Miranda 2228.

Over the last few months we have looked at many different aspects of the music team. It has been a little difficult to write down all my ideas and thoughts in such short space but I hope I have helped someone out there. I have gathered all this information from my own experiences and everything I say will not suit everybody. I am the music director of a Sydney Church of Christ and have built up our music team over the past couple of years and now have 35 people involved. These included drummers, guitarists, piano players, flute, sax, clarinet and violin players, backing singers, worship leaders and so on. The growth has been very exciting with the product and benefits even greater. We still

have a long way to go and we are still learning but be encouraged because three years ago our music team was only one-third this. Size is not what we are trying to achieve—it's quality and effectiveness of music in worship. Over coming months I will look at "Percussion—A Help or Hindrance to Worship?" and "Practice Makes Perfect" If you have any questions you can write to me and I will respond to all letters. (I have received a couple of letters and I haven't forgotten.) Also if you know of any Christian bands, groups or solo acts that you think are worth writing about send me some information and I will try and give them a mention. Thanks for shopping. —Brett White

### Naked Flame

Naked Flame have been described as a voice calling from beneath the subculture of our society. Their music has developed over the past three years into an original sound, style and performance. They released an eight-song cassette in October last year called "Lost in Space", which received some great reviews: "...driving bass, sax that snakes around the powerful voice. It's a great cassette

because you've captured what sounds like a great band—lots of energy, style and performance." (*Sonics Magazine*) Influenced by bands like "Hunters and Collectors", "The Cure" and "The Pixies", but adding their own original touch, they have captivated audiences at many Sydney and Central Coast venues. They have appeared at Black Stump music and arts festival for the past

two years and will feature on the main stage this year. They are a five-piece band based at Caringbah Church of Christ and each member is dedicated to challenging young people about strong social issues and where they are at with God. One venue organiser wrote this about Naked Flame: "Their alternative style, enthusiasm and commitment to Jesus is refreshing in the current lacklustre sameness of the Christian music scene."

Naked Flame





## Classifieds

### BIRTHS

**BROWN (HEIDTMANN)** Richard and Sheryle joyously announce the safe arrival of a daughter, Darielle Sinclair, born 2.6.91.

**WILLIS** Praise God for the arrival of Tahlia Stephanie, a precious blessing for Yolande and the late Pastor Stephen James Willis (who rejoices in heaven). Born 10.50 pm at Westmead Hospital (Sydney) on Wednesday August 7 (8 lb 1 oz). Yolande and family give thanks to the Lord for this gift of new life.

### ENGAGEMENTS

**MILLS-MILNE** Peter and Hilda Mills of Wantima happily announce the engagement of their elder daughter Rona to Peter, elder son of Keith and Laurel Milne, now of Boronia. (PO Box 245).

### GOLDEN WEDDINGS

**DALLINGER-JUDGE** Vic and Dorothy celebrate 50 years of marriage 9.8.91. Dorothy also celebrated her 80th birthday on 6.8.91.

**EWERS-ELLIOTT** Gordon and Elma give thanks to God for 50 wonderful years together, and join in celebration with their family Shirley and Ross Burton, Marian and Colin Hall, grandchildren Carolie, David, Peter, and Mark, Richard, Jennifer. Married 6 September 1941 at Lake St, Perth, Church of Christ by the late J. Wiltshire.

**OAKES-SAVILL** Percy and Lois celebrating 50 years of marriage together. Married by Pastor Roy Acland at Lismore on 30.8.41. Love and thanks to God from your family. Living in retirement at 44 Careen St, Caloundra 4551.

### DEATHS

**PETERSON** Stanley Charles (Stan). Peacefully at WGH, Warragul, on 30 July 30. Much loved husband of Joan. Dearly loved father of Lyn and Ray (Earl), Stuart and Sylvia, Noel and Patsy. Loved Grandpa of Karen, Wendy, Stephen and Colin, Mark, Jamie, Craig and Michelle, Rachelle and Jason, and great grandpa of Aidan. Forever in our hearts.

### IN MEMORIAM

**COLE** Henry Edward. "Uncle Harry" passed away 5 August 1990, aged 90 years. He loved God. Lovingly remembered by his youngest sister Louisa (Clark), Allan and all the family.

**PARKER** Gordon. 26 August 1983. Eight years ago we had to part: When you were taken it broke my heart. Other husbands are taken, I know, but you were mine and I loved you so much. I miss your

loving, thoughtful and caring ways. I miss the little things you did for me: you had a heart of gold. Life is so different now without you. God bless you darling, always in my thoughts. —Gwendolyne.

### BUILDERS

**IAN & L.A. McDONALD** Carpenters and builders. Renovations—kitchens and bathrooms. All jobs large and small. For free quotes please ring (03) 557 1257. 41 Somers St, Bentleigh.

### HOLIDAYS

**GRAMPIANS SUNRISE HOLIDAY UNITS** Modern FSC 2-BR units at Pomonal. Superb views, peaceful farm setting. Bertram family resident owners. Phone (053) 56 6300. **HOUSEBOAT** "White Heron" 8-berth. Moored at Blanchetown, SA. Phone (08) 365 1153 or (085) 40 5100 or write 7 Gameau Rd, Paradise 5075.

**POINT LONSDALE** Holiday house. Excellent position, close to front and back beaches. 3 bedrooms. Modernised. \$200 p.w., \$250 school holidays (not Christmas-January). C.R. Brough (03) 808 2815.

**QUEENSLAND GOLD COAST** Absolute waterfront unit Runaway Bay Broadwater. Peaceful area. Delightful views. Very reasonable rates. Enquiries: Len Brooks, 118 Wilgaming Street, Stafford Heights 4053. Telephone (07) 359 7227.

**SURFERS PARADISE, GOLD COAST** High rise. Ocean and river views. 2 bedrooms with ensuite. Casual Dec 91-Easter 92. Lease Winter 92. Telephone (07) 206 3001.

**THE BUNKHOUSE AT DUNKELD** Southern gateway to the Grampians. Accommodation for 24 people in 5 bedrooms, with kitchen, 2 bathrooms, lounge-recreation area with wood fire. Beautiful quiet surroundings on 2 acres close to town. Suitable for families and groups. \$7 per person per night. Phone (03) 561 6863.

### Campaigners for Christ Family and Youth Camp Cheshunt

Self-catering camp site at Lake William Hovell Road, Cheshunt. Accommodation for 55.

Low tariff. Small groups and schools welcome.

Self-contained cottage available for hire.

For more information contact Ian Crowe (057) 29 8258

Past Bayswater members are invited to come home for our special

**120th Anniversary—20 October**

11 am Service (Luncheon provided for those staying to afternoon meeting)

A **thanksgiving offering** will be received for the **chapel building fund**

To prepare for you, please **phone:**

Fay (03) 720 3397 or

Coralie (03) 729 7744

giving the family name and number coming

### DOUBLE ADAPTION'S DOUBLE ATTRACTION

Gospel musicals

**SAVE COLBY'S CLUBHOUSE**

and

**PEOPLE NEED THE LORD**

Thursday, Friday, Saturday—24, 25, 26 October  
8 pm at the Royalty Theatre, Angas St, Adelaide  
Tickets (\$10 adults, \$6 children) available through BASS  
or Glenise Lawrie—phone (08) 332 0189 (business)  
(08) 337 0140 (home)

"The New Connexions" and "Power Point", Magill Church of Christ

### CHURCHES OF CHRIST THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

### INFORMATION DAY

10.30 am–6 pm  
14 SEPTEMBER 1991

CCTC, 40–60 Jacksons Rd, Mulgrave  
(Melway Map 80 K3)

CCTC offers

- education for ministry
- training in pastoral care
- in-depth Bible study for personal growth

The teaching is

- visionary yet practical
- applicable in many settings
- arising out of the Gospel of Christ

Come at no cost and without obligation

Register your interest with Graeme Wigney

Phone (03) 790 1000

Fax (03) 795 1688



## Growing Spiritually

• Putting others first and seeking less of self

### Jesus and Power

by Tom Edge

**B**oth within the world and within the church there have always been those who have sought power. The fulfilment of personal goals and desires has often been linked with the accumulation of influence and authority and we all have either observed in others or in ourselves how difficult it is to relinquish power and position. I'm sure we have all seen this in the recent struggles over leadership in the national political scene.

How different it was with Jesus. Paul, writing to the Philippians, claims that it should also be different with us.

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus; who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing."

At a time when many are urging that we seek power-filled lives, perhaps we ought to ponder about the gospel of powerlessness that Jesus demonstrated in his life.

There is, of course, no doubting the strength of his life. He was in such a relationship with God that it ought not surprise us that he was able to accom-

plish things that amazed and sometimes shocked those who saw them. But his "powers" were always used to benefit someone else, someone in need. And I guess that's the clue to "powerlessness".

Whenever we use power to develop and advance our own interests, it will in reality diminish us as persons. Selfish, self-seeking people are in reality, "little" people. "Big" people, those who are universally respected and admired, are those who always use their power to help others. The Schweitzers, the Mother Teresas, are those who have heard Jesus' words, "Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me, will find it."

When Paul asked the Philippians to imitate Christ's attitude, he also instructed them, "Each one of you should look not only to his own interests, but to the interests of others." Growing spiritually, then, is to move towards the maturity of acting in love, putting others first and seeking less of self.

• Tom Edge is a minister at the Ulverstone, Tas, church.

## Curkpatrick

### The Humour of Jesus

**P**opular images of Jesus that prevail in the church today mostly ignore the humour of Jesus, and tend towards seriousness. But should this be? The abundant festive similes Jesus used in his teaching indicate he frequented those celebratory occasions that are imbued with wit, humour and laughter. This is an image that pervades the Gospels, but with which serious mindedness has been uncomfortable, and even ignored.

Jesus' humour is full of devastating wit and irony. In continuity with the Hebrew prophets, he parodied the blind traditions of his contemporaries and reduced them to caricatures of pretence. He made their relevance redundant to the very traditions they assumed they were upholding. He parodied the Pharisees' intense observance of piety (remember, they were the good people). They tithe their garden herbs, he said, and yet neglect the essence of the Mosaic law—justice, mercy and good faith. They are blind guides who strain an insect out of their food, only to gulp down a camel. They clean the outside of a dish only to leave the inside filthy. They are like whitewashed tombs full of stinking corpses. One image is built on another in a humorous portrayal.

The irony and hyperbole goes on—children are the model of entry into the Kingdom, the meagre gift of a widow is deemed greater than the ostentatious giving of the rich. He heaped incongruous ideas on each other to create humorous images—of grapes from a thorn bush, the blind leading the blind, wolves in sheep's clothing, feeding pearls to swine, and "prophets" who can read the weather but not the signs of the times. And there is more—camels passing through the eye of a needle, critics who try to extract splinters from other's eyes—with a log in their own—and people whose opinion is like children playing in the market place, squabbling over whether they will play weddings or funerals.

His humour was not primarily concerned with being funny, even if that might be a common perception of comedy. Rather, through humour, he subverted the conventions of his day and unmasked their inherent, but not obvious, contradictions. He called us to question the very certainties and values we are afraid to examine, and exposed the doubts we thought were concealed. His perception of life was a comic reversal of everything we take seriously—he denounced as doubtful what was deemed indisputable and rock solid, exposed the contradictions in what appeared incontestable and satirised "common sense" by making sense of the "absurd".

The humour of Jesus is both prophetic and redemptive, and to the degree his lucid wit is able to bring the prophetic and redemptive to bear on life, it demonstrates a comedy that is intrinsic to the Biblical narrative.

—Stephen Curkpatrick

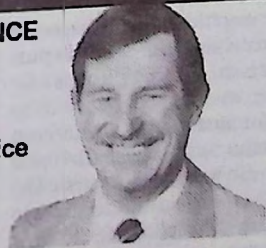
### FOR A NEW HOLDEN SEE MURRAY ECKERT

OVER 16 YEARS EXPERIENCE  
as a master sales consultant.

Competitive Prices  
in a Competitive market.  
Guaranteeing Integrity, Service  
and Sound Advice.

Member of Blackwood  
Church of Christ.

CALL IN OR PHONE MURRAY ON (08) 272 1600  
FOR YOUR NEW OR QUALITY USED CAR



**Claridge Holden**

363 Unley Road, Malvern  
Phone (08) 272 1600 A.H (08) 278 4515

### All interested friends are invited to the Reopening of the Boronia Chapel

59 Boronia Road, Boronia  
Sunday, 1 September

#### 10 am Worship

Theme: Morning Has Broken

Leader: Andrew Henley

Preacher: Keith Milne

(A thanksgiving offering will be received)

#### 7 pm Celebration and Commitment

Enquiries: (03) 761 1132



• **The best test of leadership is to look at who is following and what fruit they are producing**

# The Leadership Debate

by Milton Oliver

I've read before Bruce McIntosh's arguments about pastoral leadership and feel compelled to put another view to balance the considerable forum he has been given in *The Australian Christian* (3 August). It's clear he is passionate about democracy in the church. I admire his energy of thinking, but he wrongly (or deliberately?) distorts Max Carter's comments ("AC" 6 July) on church body life into a debate with Ron Elbourne ("AC" 6 July) about senior pastoral leadership. He assumes that Max Carter's "model of leadership" is a New Testament equivalent to democracy—it isn't. Max clearly makes that point. He points out that everyone has a ministry and this is on the basis of giftedness with a view to mutual edification. Some obviously have the gift of "shepherding" others, which means that leadership is legitimate and God given. Such God-given leadership is recognised by the body because it is of God. Although Max's article and Ron Elbourne's article tackle different, although somewhat related, issues, I don't see their comments on leadership as necessarily contradictory. The structure is still flat in both so-called "models". In Ron's article, a larger flock necessarily needs more shepherds to exercise their gift of "pastoring", and with a larger group of shepherds someone must have ultimate responsibility for keeping the vision—the buck stops somewhere. Neither "model" is detrimental to a person's giftedness being recognised either. Ron is actually complementary to Max.

The task of a pastor is to equip people for ministry. Ron seems to argue, and rightly, that the bigger a church gets, the more "equippers" and carers you need, and that their role may need to become specialised to ensure proper, streamlined ministry gets done by everyone. Why must Bruce brand that as autocracy? Why does he see a paid, or full-time, ministry staff as a ministry "hierarchy"? Is this not the theocratic model of a growing church in the New Testament—where gifted people were set apart for specialist ministries by the leadership? Look at Acts 6! Ron addresses the "problem" of a growing church—it's a

"problem" every church needs to have

There are several New Testament analogies for how ministry should operate. We can learn much from Paul's "body" analogy as well as the "family/household" analogy and the "shepherd/sheep" analogy. In all of these descriptions of ministry someone has been placed in leadership to maintain God's vision and direction for that "family", "flock", "body" or church. Using the "family" analogy (Ephesians 2:19, 1 Timothy 5:1-2, Romans 12:4-6 and 1 Peter 3:8) would we allow democracy as the method by which our households operate? I don't think so. If we tried to introduce democracy into our little family, we'd all be eating chocolate ice-cream for breakfast, pizza for lunch and watching videos of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles in all our family recreation time! Democracy would not work without much disharmony. That's the point Max makes. Neither do our bodies function as a democracy—if they did, we would all have complete breakdowns.

Visionary leadership is necessary in all churches but especially in larger churches growing by conversions—as Ron Elbourne's is. The responsibility increases as do the needs of the members when churches grow. Far from being autocratic, the leadership is expanded and equipped to do better and better ministry. Mature Christian leaders are needed to guide those who are brand new or growing in the faith—democracy would be ridiculous in this situation and would allow a jaundiced minority to continually set the agenda.

Important in this discussion is the fact that neither Max nor Ron assume that no-one can have input or a place of ministry—they suggest just the opposite. Body life implies that everyone is to be helped to find their ministry and

contribute where they are specifically designed to fit in. Ron Elbourne simply addresses the relationship between effectiveness and larger scale. I'm glad he is in the position of having to do so by experience!

We must also understand that there is a big difference between pastoral leadership and the ministry of the church member. Neither competes with the other, but each fulfils its own God-given purpose.

Bruce denigrates the senior minister as autocratic, arguing that his method achieves only short-term gains. He is wrong on both counts—there are many Biblical examples of strong yet sensitive leadership that refute Bruce's unsubstantiated claim (Moses, Joshua, David and Jesus are some) as well as many modern-day examples (Rick Warren, Bill Hybels, Paul Yongi Cho etc.). The fact that some in the church may have turned pastoral leadership into autocracy does not mean we jettison Biblical principles and replace them with our prejudices. It is also condescending of Bruce to suggest that people in a large church, where there is visionary leadership, have been attracted because of their high dependency needs. A better explanation is that people are attracted to godly leaders who care for them well and have clear vision from God—they sense it innately and trust it! God's purpose is the attraction! This is a far better environment in which to learn mutual ministry than to have a "democracy" exploited by those who can best use the system. The best test of Biblical leadership is to look at who is following and what fruit they are producing.

I can't help wondering if Bruce's considerable vocational training and expertise is encroaching on his ability to properly discern the very nature of the organism that is the body of Christ. Sure, let us use our gifts and our abilities and ex-

periences to inform how we do ministry, but let us not allow the world's methods to replace God-given leadership. Is Bruce's real agenda a distaste of authority, I wonder? Or, possibly a desire for a unionist overlay on the church? I trust not.

It is disappointing that, often, prominence in our journal is given to some who seem to sow discord. Unfortunately, Bruce did not contribute helpfully and positively to a timely discussion. He offered no scriptural insights but chose instead to denigrate and cause confusion by distorting two other genuine contributions. Much of his argument was thoroughly unsubstantiated. Such spurious and divisive argument is one important reason we do have leadership in the church that is sensitive to the leading of the Spirit of God, and that can discern the many voices of false teaching that seem to prevail too often. (Not that Bruce is a false teacher, by any means!)

Regrettably, Bruce's comment comes dangerously close to an excuse to launch a veiled attack on one of our hardworking leaders. This sort of "chipping away" at others does immeasurable harm to the body of believers and lacks the humility of Christ.

In essence this is my real agenda in responding. There is far too much unhelpful, spurious, confusing, even vitriolic argument in our journal that is permitted in the name of "our right to free expression" without it ever being tempered with the sincere desire for another's good. Too many people take offence when none has been intended. Too many people are grinding their own axes for their own edification instead of building up the body of Christ. May I encourage everyone to stop and think, and leave these childish things aside and go on to maturity in Christ. My late father used to say, "If you haven't got something constructive to say—don't say it." Paul reminds us too: "Let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together." (Romans 14:19 [Phillips])

• Milton Oliver, who graduated from CCTC last year, is planting a church in Sunbury, Vic.



## Comment

**W**hile most Australians have been affected to some extent by the current economic recession, those in the rural sector in particular have suffered a severe and prolonged downturn.

In this they have largely been the victims, like farmers in other food-producing countries, of changing commodity prices. Australian farmers over the past decade or so have embraced new technology faster than other industries. They have, in many ways, shown their care for the earth. Yet like farmers in Asia, Africa and Latin America they are affected by powers outside their control. They are hurting.

At a personal level, Christians are called to care for fellow rural Christians who often are more isolated and find it harder to access government support than their city cousins. To care for means to listen, putting ourselves in their gumboots. It means a preparedness to share.

At a national level Australians have to acknowledge the extent to which primary producers' debt structures are largely a consequence of bank and government miscalcula-

### • *A call to Christians to care*

## Rural Crisis

by Malcolm McArthur

tion. Such misjudgements have particularly damaged the rural sector with its high costs of production and transport, and lack of capacity to diversify or to find alternate employment.

Mindful of the struggle of rural people and communities at this time, the South Australian Council of Churches has urged all member churches to show solidarity with rural Australians by responding to their needs in some or all of the following ways:

- Offering prayers and holding special worship and study programs.

- Arranging visits to rural communities to enable urban people to hear and see at first hand the difficulties faced by rural people. "Twinning" between country and city churches could be extended.

- Acknowledging the emotional pressures faced by indebted farmers forced to confront unknown futures and make choices about restructuring or a change of vocation.

- Suggesting assistance in practical ways—members could make gifts of money to rural relief funds or urban families could open their homes to rural families to enable some to have a low-cost holiday.

- Supporting farmers as they re-evaluate their traditional self-sufficiency and explore ways of greater co-operation, in exchanging and sharing of machinery, fodder, agistment rights and other share-farm arrangements.

- Organising ecumenical rural crisis seminars, counselling services and other support services, and by providing information about government and community support services.

- Encouraging members of churches to write to state and federal politicians expressing concern about the plight of rural communities and rural people, particularly those experiencing difficulties in dealing with banks.

The South Australian Council of Churches is also recom-

mending to governments the pursuance of policies that—

- provide a redirection of priorities to avoid the suspicion that rural constituencies (unless marginal) tend to be neglected;

- take greater account of the social and environmental consequences of the rundown in rural communities and towns and the long-term cost to Australia of urban aggregation;

- provide a predictable framework within which sound rural businesses can operate efficiently and with confidence;

- ensure that rural people are not excluded from educational and welfare services by state government removal of infrastructure or harsh federal government asset testing.

At its general meeting on 13 July the South Australian Council of Churches urged that its concerns be shared both with people of the churches and with government and endorsed the work of its Social Question Committee seeking to address these complex issues.

• *Malcolm McArthur is the Executive Officer of the South Australian Council of Churches.*

**T**he small car sped northwards along the highway that led to Selangor and Sembilan. Our object was to visit the small groups of scattered Christians and conduct evangelistic meetings in the kampongs.

Several hours out from Kuala Lumpur our driver suddenly turned off the highway and we began to climb a long and winding road. Our Malaysian friends wanted to show us something. And there it was, a magnificent view. We were looking over vast areas of palm and rubber plantations. In the distance a wide river could be seen with a large sampan making its way upstream.

We stopped at a convenient spot to admire the view. The wayside traders thought this was a good spot too. Our Malaysian friends wanted to

### • *Where a foreign power put criminals to death*

## A Malaysian Golgotha

by H. Colin Wheat

buy us something. There was starfruit tastefully cut and displayed in jars of water looking salubrious. ("But has that water been boiled?") Soon we were being handed a container each. We accepted the gift with gratitude and prayer, remembering 1 Timothy 4:4, 5.

Nearby there was a rough track leading up the hillside. There was something up there our friends wanted to show us. In a small clearing surrounded by trees we came across a blood-stained altar. The grooves where the blood had run were

very evident. This was a traditional place of execution, "A Malaysian Golgotha", a place where criminals had met their deaths. In the years of occupation during the war it had also been used. Many a good man had been slaughtered here by soldiers of a foreign power.

The view was forgotten, the fruit suddenly tasted sour as we contemplated this solemn place.

Heading northward again, we thought of what we had seen and were glad that our friends had led us there. We

pictured in our minds another place of execution. The Jews called it "Golgotha—The Place of a Skull". It was there that soldiers of a foreign power put criminals to death. This would be our message. We must tell how the Lord Jesus, holy, innocent and without sin was taken to such a place. There his blood was shed for us that we might be cleansed of all our sin. Soon we would be with new Malaysian friends. What a privilege it would be to tell them of Jesus and lead them to Calvary.

• *H. Colin Wheat is the minister at the Manning, WA, church.*

**DIAL FOR  
NEW HOPE  
(03) 11610**



## A Church ABC

**C**owandilla is an inner western suburb of Adelaide, SA, located 4 km from the city, near the airport. The population of the area is a mixture of those who settled there in the post-war building boom and those of ethnic origins.

The Church of Christ in Cowandilla began in 1922. Its origin may be attributed to the Mile End church. The church commenced on the present property in a small hall, and since then two major extensions have taken place. The church overlooks council parklands, which provide an idyllic setting.

Currently there are about 73 members, who, along with those of other denominations, meet regularly for worship. There is a 10 am service, and a 5.30 pm (during the winter months) service.

In recent years the church

has become increasingly aware of the diverse cultural background of the community and has sought to share its facilities with other Christian groups. For a time a Greek Evangelical

church has therefore placed itself well to build bridges with these new families. A kids club attracts an enthusiastic group each week and a high-school-aged youth group meets on a

mened a half-time ministry with the church this year. What little time he has left is taken up by continuing his studies through the off-campus program of the Churches of Christ Theological College.

Cowandilla actively works with the churches of other denominations in the western suburbs of Adelaide in a number of ways, to present a picture of ecumenical cohesion to the wider community.

The Cowandilla Church of Christ is presently assessing the future possibilities that exist in the inner-western suburbs of Adelaide and are looking forward with enthusiasm and hope to the challenges ahead.

They are continuing to reach out to their local community through various means to proclaim the reality of the Christian message.



## Focus on Cowandilla

church met at Cowandilla; now the Chinese Alliance Church meets on Sundays after the Church of Christ service. The Chinese church commenced two years ago with 20 people and it has now grown to almost 100. The Chinese church has enthusiastic leadership and caters for many students.

Another characteristic of the community that the church has noted is that while the population is predominantly over 60 there are signs of a new generation moving into the area. The

fortnightly basis. Most of these young people are from a non-church background. There is also a 18-30 group for those who have outgrown the youth group.

Other groups in the church include two Bible study groups meeting in the church and in homes, and active men's and women's groups.

The present minister at Cowandilla is Russell Mountford. Russell graduated from the Bible College of South Australia last year, and com-

## Comment

**W**hile holidaying recently we renewed friendships with a variety of friends of long standing and we recalled our teenage experiences at our mother church. It was clear that we retained the same faith and understanding that was granted to us in our early years.

During discussions we found that values we had been taught in our youth had everywhere relaxed in a compromise with opportunism. The passion for souls had been replaced with a passion for figures, such as membership figures, which now included associated members, and baptism had been discounted as a necessary prerequisite for membership. Thus total figures were enlarged and attendances increased at the cost of basic Churches of Christ principles and standards. It seems there is an element of thinking in some churches that "christening" should be introduced to replace the inconven-

### • *Illegal entry into the Kingdom of God?*

## Slipping Standards on Baptism

by Doug Ferguson

ience of baptism by immersion.

I believe that the difficulties of some present churches have evolved from the lowering of standards over the years, because people who are unwilling to obey the Lord Jesus in baptism are trying to obtain illegal entry into the Kingdom of God.

Certain events in the life of Jesus are significant. To begin with, Jesus was dedicated (not sprinkled with water) in the Temple as a child (Luke 2:21-38) and it was not until he was 30 that he was baptised. It was baptism by immersion (Matthew 3:16). Then followed the "Spirit of God" descending like a dove. Thus he became an ex-

ample to us to follow in being born of water and the Spirit. In fulfilment of this we become eligible to the wonderful promise to be born again as declared by Jesus to Nicodemus (John 3:6 [NIV]).

Jesus told a story about the conditions of entering into the fold (John 10:1-18). The legal entry into the fold is through the gate which is Christ himself and although it is possible to enter by illegal means it is condemned as extremely dishonest.

If we are to be genuine Christians we should make it our business to follow the Lord Jesus in the way that he conducted his earthly life. He was

the first to show the example of baptism by immersion. There should be no compromise. We must not lower our standards.

To enter into the fold by the gate following his example in baptism will result in the gift of the Holy Spirit. To be Spirit motivated is the real strength of true Christian groups, which hopefully and prayerfully will be our churches in the future.

• Doug Ferguson is a member at the Frankston, Vic, church.

### Church of Christ SOUTHPORT

now meets in  
Parklands Drive

8.55 am

Worship and Communion  
6.30 pm

Gospel Celebration

Minister: Noel Newton

(075) 94 6154, 94 6633

31 4353 (AH)



## Personal

### Baptisms

•Les Myles, Joy Doran, Bendigo, Vic •Yvonne McGreevey, Simone Francis, Northam, WA •Ian Watson, Numurkah, Vic •Rita Vandenberg, Hartwell, Vic •Rick Clarke, Cameron McLachlan, Gary Reith, Albury, NSW •Norman Sly, Rohan Smith, Pyramid Hill, Vic •Ros Stiles, Naracoorte, SA

### Marriages

•Edna Chadwick to David Fry, Wembley Downs, WA •Debbie Martin to Geoff Drummond, Naracoorte, SA

### Deaths

•Alice Langford, Strathalbyn, SA •Lindsay Everett, Boronia, Vic •Mrs Finnerty, Northam, WA •Stan Peterson, Warragul, Vic •Florence (Faye) Hough, Padstow, NSW •Arthur Hollands, Naracoorte, SA

#### Needed Urgently CHRISTIAN HOUSE- KEEPER/NANNY

required for Christian couple with 4 children. This is a live-in position. Remuneration—living expenses plus wage. For further details contact Andrew on (03) 743 1818 or A/H Dawn on (03) 743 1559

### Changes

Vic-Tas Christian Men's Fellowship: Secretary—Ron Johnston, 20 Baxter Court, Forrest Hill, Vic 3131. Phone (03) 878 6289.

Charlestown: Minister—Peter Rama Rau, 5 Dudley Court, Charlestown, NSW 2290. Phone (049) 43 9007.

Northam: Minister—Graham Butler, 6 Quelquelling Road, Northam, WA 6401. Phone (096) 22 1447.

Busselton: All correspondence to—The Administrator, Busselton Church of Christ Inc, 10 Rosemary Drive, Busselton, WA 6280.

Shaw J. G. (Joe)—8 Donvale Village, 160-170 Springvale Road, Donvale, Vic 3111. Phone (03) 841 7410.

#### IDEAS FOR YOUTH LEADERS

Resources to widen your youth group's horizon  
Sunday, 8 September  
2.30 pm

at Hartwell Church of Christ  
Cnr Highfield Road  
& Milverton St  
Burwood

Arranged by the Vic-Tas  
Overseas Mission Committee  
For further details contact  
Dorothy Geyer on (03) 861 8558  
Make sure your youth leader  
attends

### CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION

The Pastoral Care Unit is offering the following educational grants for 9 months (39 weeks, 35 hours per week) Clinical Pastoral Education:

- 1 of \$5,400
- 1 of \$2,385
- 1 of \$2,160

plus special duties allowance for night and weekend duty.

Training commences in February 1992. The training program is an education experience, and the aim is to promote professional growth and greater effectiveness in ministry to people.

Applicants are expected to have a reasonable amount of experience in pastoral care.

Applications close on 13 September 1991.

Enquiries and requests for application forms should be directed to:

The Reverend David C. Stark  
Head, Pastoral Care Unit (03) 641 5367

#### PETER MacCALLUM CANCER INSTITUTE

481 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000  
The Institute promotes a smoke-free environment

## Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

#### Braid, Reginald Charles

(11.7.91) Reg, and wife, Marge, of nearly 49 years, had been in membership at Chadstone, Vic, for 35 years. Actively involved in boys club, tennis clubs, men's groups, working bees—a conscientious supporter of many church programs. Board member for 30 years and had been treasurer and secretary, church elder to the end. A practical man, handyman, gentleman, a gentle gracious man—all and more true of Reg. Reg's ever-ready smile and outstretched handshake will be sadly missed on Sundays. We mourn Reg's absence from our lives but this sorrow is overcome by gratitude in our hearts for the privilege to have known him.

—M.N. Patterson

#### Chiswell, Arthur Charles

(22.6.91) Arthur was born in Bet Bet, Vic, and later attended the Bet Bet church. He married Florrie in 1939 at Maryborough. He was transferred by the railways to St Arnaud in 1943. Arthur was secretary of the St Arnaud church from that time until his passing. He was a faithful member and wise friend, an indomitable sportsman. As Jim Cunningham eulogised, "Arthur was true to himself, his family, his community, his church, and, most of all, to his faith in Jesus Christ. He gave and he received. He gave service to others and reverence to his Master. It will be difficult to imagine St Arnaud Church of Christ without Arthur, where he served so faithfully for over 50 years." To Florrie, Mervyn, Colin, Norma and Janice, and Gary and John we extend our love and sympathy.

—Stephen Greenall

#### Drew, Dorothy

(24.5.91) Dorothy was born at Prahran, Vic, in October 1897, the youngest of five children. She was eight when her mother died. She married Norman Drew in 1922 and they had four children, Norman, Gwenda, Muriel and Raymond. She was famed for her cooking, gardening, needlework and her support of the Essendon Football Club. In 1944 she was baptised at Essendon where she remained in membership until she moved to Strathmore and joined the Strathmore church. Later she moved to Rosebud and joined the Tootgarook church. Her husband died in 1968 and some years later she moved to Lionsville in Essendon to be near her children. She died quietly and quickly at St Marks Nursing Home.

—JMP

#### Hollands, Arthur Vivian

(19.7.91) Born and grew up in Adelaide. Various clerical jobs while studying night school for accountancy and secretarial degrees. Joined Eudunda Farmers 1922 and rose from clerk to company director 1974-77. Converted at Grote St 1922. Member at Groote St, Hawthorn, Naracoorte. Audited SA Conference books for many years. Married Jane Bach 1927 and had three children: Geoff (died 1950), Judy and Pam. Keen footballer, cricketer, member of Toc-H since 1943, which he served as Federal Treasurer. Sponsored a number of migrants to Australia. Small of stature, big of heart, devoted to God, family, work and community interests.

—Grant Simpson

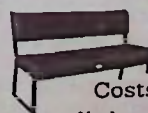
#### Hough, Florence (Faye) Maud

Born Florence Winton, 1917, at Alexandria, NSW, Faye spent most of her working life in the printing industry. In 1937 she married Walter Hough. She was devoted to her husband, children Robert (minister at Portland and married to Sylvia), Sylvia (married to Allan) and Walter (married to Beryl) and grandchildren. Faye's attitude to life was open heart, open home. Faye was a wise counsellor to many young people. She gave her life to the Lord, baptised 1969, served as Sunday School teacher, in CWF. Faye did voluntary work at Riverwood Community Centre. Her care given selflessly to others was outstanding. Over 100 joined in the thanksgiving service at Padstow.

—Ed Holt

#### FURNITURE RESTORATIONS French Polishing and Cabinet Making Fine Craftsmanship

Repairs, staining and refinishing of all types of furniture, specialising in antiques. Furniture made to order. M.A. Wing-Tang and B.J. Purdie. B.H. (03) 723 0363 A.H. (03) 720 1629  
**FREE QUOTES**  
(03) 723 0363



#### ConFORMity SEATING

Costs only from  
as little as \$72 per person

(6 seat, without bookrack, Java covering)  
Choice of Covering Materials,  
Bookrack Stains, Lengths

RING—

A.F. GASON PTY LTD  
ARARAT (053) 52 2151  
George Mathieson  
ADELAIDE (08) 271 9894



# Church News

## Qld

**CALOUNDRA** (J. Welden, G. Scott) On 28 July fellowship appreciation celebration in form of a recognition luncheon held in chapel to commemorate 6.5 years service by Jeffrey Welden as minister. While his time was shared with Bribie island Retirement Village as chaplain & Caloundra as minister, he led fellowship from a handful in 1985 meeting in hired premises to its own building at Dickey Beach with growing membership of 65. Bric agreement terminated. BIRV appointed own chaplain & Jeff taking up employment with family locksmith business.

**ALBION** (Peter Overton) Christians in Dialogue—The Faith We Confess was subject of series of studies & discussions with church groups in the Clayfield area ... CWF progressive dinner raised \$370 towards support of Living Link, Cathy Bird. Previous Living Link—Jill Bawden—was guest of honour ... After-school group being conducted by Family Emergency Accommodation program ... Maurie Pieper spoke representing Christian Blind Mission International.

## SA

**STRATHALBYN** (Dick Hayman) Cottage meeting at Ivy & George Dugmore's ... Child dedication at morning service ... Alice Langford died in Nursing Home aged 93 years. Member for 77 years ... Annual business meeting to follow luncheon to discuss future ministry.

**MODBURY** (Dennis Ryle, Maurice Keatch) Ministry team preparing church life for Dean Hamilton's ministry in new year. M. Keatch to assist changeover period Jan–April 1992 ... Caring seminar with Brighton church 10 Aug ... Marriage/Family Enrichment seminar with Brian & Joan White 13 & 14 Sept ... Stephen Wright sponsored in counselling training to assist youth outreach ... New helpers for Good News Gang Craig Kempster, Don & Verna Mortimer.

**NARACOORTE** (Grant Simpson) Many ROCK families enjoyed a hot dog fundraiser, raising \$100 for Bangladesh cyclone appeal ... CWF had successful cooking day with goodies going to older church members. Greatly appreciated ... Annual men's tea proved popular with 70+ attending. Alan Blaid spoke on "The Irish Question" ... Recent services featured Rob Leane (Conf Pres), Alan Bailey, Rob George (OAC) & film "Future Tense".

## Tas

**LAUNCESTON** (R. Foster, C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) Bill Howard (Bible Society) recovering after short spell in hospital ... Michael Thurlow accepted as a student at ICCL, Wollongong church ... Allan Blyth (Howrah) spoke at temple day & anniversary services on 4 August when over 270 present in the am & 170 at 7 pm ... Church planning group meetings to be at 6.30 am.

## Vic

**BENDIGO** (J. Sweetman) Minister & family returned from a week's holiday ... Goldminers Gang end of Term 2 parade ... Two recent confessions of faith ... Recent speakers Geoff Scott, Chaplain Whitehills Secondary College, Carolyn Tytzer, co-ordinator CRE in schools ... Project 91 125th anniversary offering 21 July \$1,500 ... Alterations commenced & well underway to be completed by celebrations in late October–November ... G. Moyes to be special speaker 3 Nov.

**NORTH ESSENDON** (Graham & Bev Burgan) CWF street stall raised \$214 ... Trivia evening raised \$92 for Indian children ... Members involved in Callahan planning meetings, culminating in Friday evening, all-day Saturday session 2 & 3 August ... 65th anniversary 21 July celebrated with luncheon. Afternoon guest speakers Heather Langford of local Uniting Church Community House & Ron Schepis, East Keilor minister ... George Rowlings & Flo Hutchinson ill.

**BORONIA** (Keith Milne, Andrew Henley) Keith Milne & others recovering from surgery ... Members involved in local projects—Drop In Centre for unemployed & community youth accommodation ... Anthea Parker new state treasurer CWF ... CYF held camp at Monbulk ... Harvey Miller awarded masters degree (arts) by Vanderbilt University, USA ... New Revised Standard Version to replace existing pew Bi-

bles ... Restoration of chapel progressing. Planning to use it 1 September.

**NUMURKAH** (D. Akesson) Church rejoicing witnessing the baptism of teenager, Ian Watson, at morning service 28 July. David Akesson (student minister) performed baptism, Arnold Farrar (elder) welcomed Ian into fellowship ... Church rejoices, along with parents of three families, at birth of their babies ... Church preparing for Op Shop 2 August ... We praise & thank God for our church family, fellowship we have at Numurkah.

**HARTWELL** (G. Rogerson) 70th anniversary. Church overflowed with past & present members including four past ministers. Choir & Verity Instrumental Trio led the singing. Challenging address by Gordon Stirling. Luncheon & display of memorabilia ... Rita Vendenberg baptised ... Andrew Ball shared with board his vision on church ministry to young people. Discussion to follow ... Members supported Children in Famine appeal ... Rowland Croucher videos screened at 5 pm services.

**SURREY HILLS** (D. Brooker, J. Adam) Special series "Faith in Everyday Life" had Margaret Ray, MLA, on politics, Paul Moritz on witnessing in Philippines, Ian Henry interviewed about faith & world of economics ... ICC service looked at role of church in community ... CWF day group had Stella Carter as speaker & Kim Thoday spoke to CWF ... Food parcel to KCN ... Over 70 at combined clubs night ... Many visitors for church anniversary & lunch ... Consultation with DMED. **WARRAGUL** (David & Debbie Buesnel) D. Best (FEBC) speaker at men's breakfast ... COUFF group visits Gardiner church ... Youth camp held ... Stan Peterson loses long battle with cancer ... 130 at evening service. AOG church joined us. Guest soloist Evie Hartland ... Church team wins local teenage Bible quiz ... 40 at "Mingles" murder mystery night ... Recent guest speakers G. Chapman (CCTC) &

A. Turner (Open Doors).

**BOORT-PYRAMID HILL** (Tom Frazer) Great rejoicing at two baptisms Pyramid Hill ... 25 in study groups "Discovering Jesus" ... Explorers & Adventurers each averaging 17 at meetings ... Minister presenting winter series on "The Message of Mark" at both morning services.

**KANIVA** (M. Goldup) Visit by Pam Bowers of Bible Society enjoyed by all. Pam ministered here 1980–84 ... Paul & Jenny West welcomed into church ... Cuppa after Sunday morning service proving beneficial ... Boys & girls clubs continue to be popular, thanks to leaders.

**THE PATCH** (Mike Folland) New mid-week kids club launched. Great success ... Topic for July "Fireside Church", dealing with grief, well attended ... Sermons for August focus on ethical questions—euthanasia, IVF program, abortion, marriage & divorce ... New house church program organised & commencing soon ... Great night enjoyed by combined Junior & Senior Youth clubs at Lilydale gymnasium. 40 attended ... Members brought gifts of food to assist college students.

**CASTLEMAINE** (P. Haylock) Youth ministry underway. Several YP camps held. New contacts ... New organ purchased. Real boost to music ministry ... Challenge of Christian Manhood classes being held ... Several mission-oriented services held in recent months ... Several new families regularly attending worship services.

**ASCOT VALE** (Ross Bourdon) Evangelism meetings held each Thursday evening ... Exciting ideas to be implemented in near future ... Don Smith, Alan Hirsch & Paul Andrews spoke at one meeting ... Max Grant gave testimony in morning service. Nine people made commitments. We experienced the power of the Spirit in a mighty way ... Markus Freiverts & Becky Laidlaw engaged ... Concert held ... Cubby erected for children.

## Les Lawlor says...

I stand behind every Lawlor Pest Control job personally—all types of buildings—anywhere. Everything unconditionally guaranteed! Weeds—birds on roofs—Argentina and all other ants—"white ants"—borers—carpet pests—lawn pests, in fact, any pest that grows, walks or flies.

**LAWLORS PTY. LTD.**  
THE PEST CONTROL PEOPLE  
6–10 Henley St., Torrensville  
Phone (08) 43 9636





## Church News

### WA

**NORTHAM** (C. Butler) Church preparing for Missionary Weekend with a difference ... New families welcomed into fellowship ... Increased numbers at both worship & gospel services ... An increase in all young peoples activities ... Seven different Bible study groups within fellowship ... Plans in hand for extension of church seating capacity by opening up two classrooms ... New toilet, showers, storeroom block built plus new amplification system installed ... Exciting things happening with high school chaplains.

**MAYLANDS** (David Jolly) Pastor Leroy Randall speaker mid-year missionary dinner. 55 attended ... Enjoyed sharing time with John Sharpe, Student President CCTC ... David Jolly & Ron Jones attended three-day live-in seminar Effective Church Growth ... Sharyn Jolly has commenced eight-week course Parent Effectiveness ... Congratulations Paula Dell & Glen Jones on engagement, Bob Maley on achieving Bachelor of Education, Andrew Tetlaw on overseas English teaching appointment.

**WEMBLEY DOWNS** (John & Eira Clapp) Enjoyable family camp, Baldivis, May ... Robyn Somerville farewelled to America ... Sons to Greg & Lucette Cant (Callum); Norm & Rosemary Booth (Matthew) ... Family sports night well attended by congregation, basketballers, netballers & families ... Simply Sharing Week—congregation living simply, savings donated to COCOA ... Regular healing services well received ... Guest speakers Jeff Ramsay (Life in Focus), John Sharpe (CCTC), George Powell.

**CARNARVON** (Don Bone) Several folk sent to Perth for medical treatment, including Don Bone, Stan Brabon & Elsie McGibbon ... Family barbecue & social enjoyed ... Doug & Hilda Dimer recommenced Aboriginal fellowship meetings ... Dolly Bidgebia of Olive Laird Hostel celebrated 121st birthday ... Film "Twice Pardonned" shown.

**BASSENDEN** (P. Moyle) P. Moyle plans to conclude ministry at Bassenden end of 1991. This 11-year ministry has been very much appreciated ... Leroy Randall will conduct an interim part-time ministry commencing Feb 1992 ... Self-help additions & chapel renovations continue. Church appreciative of donations of cash & materials ... Hospitality Sunday helped folk meet new contacts ... Testaments distributed to community during Red Cross doorknock.

### NSW

**SEVEN HILLS** (T.J. Beaman, Neil Dickinson) Dinner service 27 July success. Chapel set out like restaurant & three-course dinner given to 76. Number of contacts attended. Items presented by Ross Binkman & Wayne Lucas. Guest song leader Max Kingham. John Hanna played piano, Joyce Piper gave children's story & Tom Beaman spoke on friendship of Jesus ... John Hanna playing for services & singing group being formed ... Kerrie Dickinson assisting John Willis with Kid's Time during morning services.

**PADSTOW** (Ed Holt) Christmas in July, over 100 attending, was success. New faith promise launched for 1991-92 (\$5,000 given 1990-91). Bruce Dipple (SIM International) speaker ... Church saddened with death of Faye Hough ... Carmel Freeman recovering after "ballooning" procedure for her heart ... Trevor & Chris Pate celebrate the arrival of Joshua ... Square dance for outreach planned 7 Sept ... Visitation to contacts progressing.

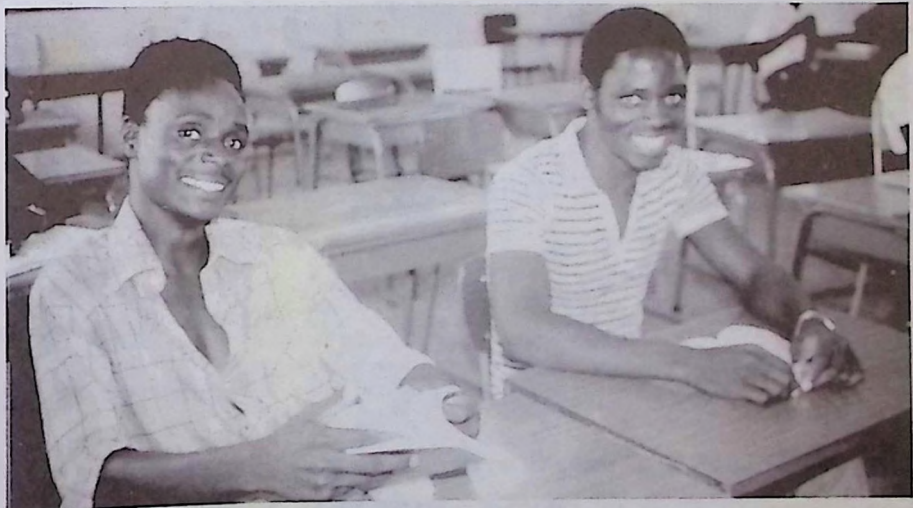
**ALBURY** (Alex Wilson) Musicians conducted August night service, which also featured a triple bap-

tism ... Home cell groups growing. New group in Wodonga. There are now five cell groups in the church, also lunchtime Bible study each Tuesday.

**THORNLEIGH** (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) Barry Barakat added to full-time staff for next six months in area of prayer ministry & counselling ... Special prayer meetings on two Wednesdays 12.30-1.30 pm & two Fridays at 6.30-7.30 pm & 10-11 pm culminating with half night of prayer 16 August ... God is blessing the work at Thornleigh & we seek direction for more suitable place of worship & activities.

## COCOA

is involved in education  
in countries overseas.  
Be a caring partner!



Send your cheque to Churches of Christ  
Overseas Aid, PO Box 320, Unley 5061.  
(Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.)

Name .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

Amount for COCOA \$ .....



## A Rhyme for the Times

### "Ah, Me—!"

I heave a deep sigh, as again comes the  
cry,  
"Too old—no use! Throw it out!"  
And I ponder (ah, me!) my turn will it be,  
When next they go on the "scout"?  
For they've been on a search, right  
through the old church,  
Throwing out what is old, for the new;  
And I feel so bereft—there's so little left,  
Not even my old wooden pew!  
They don't say very much, but a glance is  
enough,  
To tell me I'm on the list...  
And I wonder, ah—me! if that day should  
be,  
Yes, I wonder—would I be missed?

I've been there so long, that I feel I  
belong—  
(It's change that's confusing—ah,  
me!)  
Oh, they're quite debonair—I'm offered a  
chair  
In the newest upholstery!  
I don't get a book; they just tell me to  
look  
At the words to be thrown on the  
screen.  
Then the service begins, and they come  
trooping in—  
Ah, me!—such a sight never seen...  
In my young days—when for worship  
and praise,  
We would put on our Sunday best;  
And we'd pause at the door, to reflect  
and adore—  
And "church" was a haven of rest.  
Now it may sound strange, but I'm not  
against change—  
(How time marches on—ah, me!)

Though I sigh for the past, I know all  
things won't last,  
And that's how I think it should be.  
New fads come and go, in the churches—  
I know!  
I can take most of that with a smile,  
If the things that I cherish, are not left to  
perish,  
Out on the "discard" pile...  
With folks growing old, left out in the  
cold,  
As the tempo quickens—ah, me!  
When a brief breathing space, as a  
gesture of grace,  
Would restore perfect harmony!

For the Church Jesus built (for which his  
blood spilt)  
Has room for all who will come—  
Youth with its extremes, the old with their  
dreams—  
In Christ, we are all made one.  
So in bonds none can sever, let's worship  
together  
With songs of praise and prayer;  
No segregation, but filled with elation,  
Remembering the Lord is there—  
Who accepts our Hosannas, with bugles  
and banners,  
Yet sometimes, calls us aside,  
To whisper his peace, give the weary  
release—  
Especially at eventide...

May the voice of the voiceless in this  
rhyme be heard:  
Love one another, in deed as in word;  
Rejoicing together in Christian love—  
Foretaste of the joys that await us above!

—Marj Buckingham

## The Last Word

As Christians we are to be sensitive to God's leading in seeking to reach those who do not know him. If these means to keep moving elsewhere, we must obey. If it means to become a more effective witness and disciple where we are, we must obey. —David M. Howard

A dance was in full swing at the old peoples' home, and 82-year-old Tom was really going to town with a classic waltz, while his partner, 76-year-old Lisa, matched his style. Round and round they went, round and round. And then Lisa said: "Tom, you'd better reverse or something."

"What's the matter?" asked Tom. "Getting dizzy?"

"It's not that," said his partner. "You're unscrewing my wooden leg."

\*\*\*\*\*

Sales manager to sales representative: "How many calls today?"

Salesman: "Five."

Sales manager: "Not enough!"

Next day—Sales manager: "How many calls?"

Rep: "Nine."

Sales manager: "Not enough!"

Next day—Sales manager: "How many calls?"

Rep: "Twenty."

Sales manager: "That's better."

Rep: "I could have done more, but the last person asked me what I was selling."

\*\*\*\*\*

Player: Hey! I've just been kicked.

Referee: I know. It was a foul.

Player: A foul? I thought it was a mule!

\*\*\*\*\*

A farmer may talk of the birds.  
Of flowers the poets may sing.

But a tack upright

On the floor at night

Is the sign of an early spring.

\*\*\*\*\*



Snoring or nonsnoring?



## SUBSCRIPTION FORM

PO Box 101, North Essendon 3041

Name .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

Amount Enclosed: \$ ..... Church .....

☐ Renewal ☐ New Subscription

Donation: \$ .....

☐ \$23 Full Year ☐ \$10 Rest of Year

☐ \$7 Rest of year if recommended by a current subscriber

Subscriber: .....

Payment can be made by Bankcard, Visa or MasterCard

Please charge my—

☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card number

.....

Expiry date .....

Signature .....