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Guest Editorial

• It's often the little blokes like Alan Langer who help the big blokes win footy games

The Value of "Little People" in God's Church

by Ross Wakeley

Australia had its backs to the wall. The Kiwi Rugby League team had beaten, many would say "thrashed", the Aussies in the First Test. Around Australia and New Zealand, millions of people watched that memorable Second Test in late July.

What a game we saw! The final scoreline: Australia 44, New Zealand 0. During the game, the big men, Meninga, Bella and the rest, performed well. One man shone out—Alan Langer. Awarded Man of the Match, Langer had a key role in all seven tries scored. Amazingly, Langer is about five foot nothing, on a field with blokes built like mobile tanks of 15 or 16 stone! My point: Little people are of immense value—in footy teams and in God's church.

In God's churches, I'm constantly encouraged by the wonderful ministry of the "little people". People like Roma, whose husband died suddenly last year, has a beautiful ministry with her puppets, sharing God's truth with Sunday school children and folk in the local nursing home. Cam is another "little person"—into his 70s, yet he teaches six scripture classes each week and his love for Jesus shines out. Lois uses her craft skills in a ministry to women that builds bridges into her local community, while John's a successful businessman who gave up a week's holiday to help in his church's VBS outreach.

These people, so often put down as just "little people" in this world's scale of values, are precious to God and touching many lives with God's truth and love. Throughout scripture, we find "little people"—think of the role people like Hannah, Gideon, Ruth and Boaz, Esther, Simeon and the prophetess Anna at Jesus' birth, or those noted in the "honour roll" of He-

brews 11. Note how these "little people" are used of God in a big ministry!

Each of these special folk, found both in God's Word and in God's church today, are far more than just "little people". We do well to affirm, encourage and recognise the excellent ministry each person is involved in. Spend a moment reflecting on all the human hurts and hopes touched by "little people" from your church family.

It's often little blokes like Alan Langer who help the big blokes to win footy games. "Little people" in our churches often have the same role in helping God's Kingdom move ahead.

• Ross Wakeley's family has long been actively involved within Churches of Christ in NSW. His early years were at Burwood church, with teenage years at Epping church under the ministry of Harold Long and Keith Farmer. Ross trained as a social sciences teacher and taught for two years in Sydney's western suburbs and then moved to teach in Tamworth for five years.

Throughout these years, Ross and his wife Jan had a strong involvement in the local church in youth work, Boys' Brigade and church leadership.

It's no surprise with this background that in 1982 Ross began the four-year course at Carlingford. During training, Ross and his family were involved in the Northside Community church ministry team. The final year of college saw Ross begin a three-year ministry at Mt Druitt, then in 1988 the family moved to Nowra for a ministry in that growing church. Ross then accepted an offer to join the team with NSW Church Development and Education as a Field Director. Ross and Jan have two wonderful girls—Kylie (13) and Belinda (11) and worship at the Castle Hill church.

The Australian Council for Overseas Aid has described the 1% real increase in the 1992 budget for overseas aid as "very modest but useful".

The story of Keith and Ruth Skillicorn, whose missionary endeavour with the British Churches of Christ spanned 25 years in India, was told in their book *The Making of a Miracle* (Vital Publications) published in 1982. The audio version for people with

print disabilities is now available on cassette, for loan or sale from the Librarian, Christian Blind Mission International, PO Box 5, Kew 3101, phone (03) 817 4566. The narrating of this book over a 4-month period by Canberra member, Roy Stephens, was a small miracle of patience in itself! It is available for sale from CBMI at \$30 or for borrowing by becoming a member of CBMI's free library service for people with print disabilities.

• *Temperance hall and tent missions will be recalled in a "fantastic fortnight of faith"*

Bendigo Church To Celebrate 125 Years of Service

The Bendigo, Vic, church, which has been situated in Short Street for the past 65 years, is planning to celebrate its origin in 1866.

The 125th anniversary will be celebrated in what has been described as a "fantastic fortnight of faith", starting on 22 October and finishing with an old-time picnic on 5 November.

The saga of the Church of Christ in Bendigo opened its first chapter in 1866. One historical report claims five men: James White, H. Corder, David Buchanan, a Mr Campbell and a Mr Milke, dissatisfied with sectarian treatment of the Scriptures and convinced that a church founded on the pure Bible was necessary, met at the Temperance Hall and started worship and preaching according to the New Testament teaching.

Another report claims that a group, known to each other as "Disciples of Christ" moved to Bendigo and initially observed the Lord's Supper each Sunday in private homes. On 21 August 1866 they hired the Temperance Hall and started services according to New Testament teaching.

As time passed the group increased in numbers, additions being obtained by faith

and obedience, by letter and from the body commonly referred to as "Brethren".

Whatever the origins what is now the Bendigo Church of Christ grew and prospered and at one stage was the largest church of this denomination outside Melbourne.

At the turn of the century, with Dr James Cook (a medical practitioner whose descendants still live in Bendigo) as the evangelist, membership had reached 420.

The Temperance Hall was the church's home for about 60 years.

In 1901, the H.G.

Harward tent mission was sited on a large vacant block of land at the corner of High and Short Streets. Fired with enthusiasm from this tent mission, church members decided it was time to have their own "house of worship".

Late that year, a block of land was bought in Short Street. However, it was not until December 1926 that the official opening of the chapel took place.

Another tent mission of note was held in March 1927 on vacant land adjacent to the new chapel. This mission resolved



Opening of the new chapel in Short Street, 1984

that the Bendigo group would become a self-supportive unit and this desire became a reality in April 1927.

Early this century the Bendigo church supported outreach meetings at Kangaroo Flat, Golden Square, Eaglehawk and Derby.

A new chapel and foyer, adjacent to the chapel opened in 1926, was officially opened in 1984.

Two men, John Sherriff and a Mr Buckley, who were stonemasons working on the foundations of the Bendigo Law Courts, installed the stone work of the baptistry still located under the floor of the Temperance Hall platform. Sherriff later became a pioneering missionary for the New Zealand Churches of Christ in Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe.

Another Bendigo church member and official of long standing, Alfred Streader, assisted Sherriff in his work in Southern Rhodesia in 1902 and 1903.

Past members of the Bendigo church who served as Presidents of the Victorian Churches of Christ State Conference were Dr James Cook (1905), H.G. Harward (1909), A.W. Connor (1928), B.J. Combridge (1947), A.E. Hurren (1949) and F.J. Funston (1966).

Present minister to the church is John Sweetman, who has just completed a five-year term, and has been invited to serve for a further term.

Today's membership is around 150, and the oldest worshipper is Dorothy Jones, 91, who joined the church in 1917.

The principal guest speaker during the 125th anniversary celebrations will be Dr Gordon Moyes, superintendent of the Wesley Mission, Sydney. He will preach at both anniversary communion services, at 9.30 am and 10.45 am on 3 November. He will also officiate at the official opening of the building extensions at 6.30 pm on 2 November.

The leader for the celebration service at 7 pm on 3 November will be the Conference President of the Churches of Christ for Victoria and Tasmania, Max Carter.

Names and addresses of former members are needed as are photographs and other memorabilia.

Further particulars of the celebrations, together with program details, are available from David Murphy, 10 Castle Cres, Kyneton 3444, phone (054) 22 2547, or Ron Lacy, 9 Tomlins St, Bendigo 3550, phone (054) 43 1150.



Bendigo Sunday School anniversary tableau, "March of All Nations for Christ", 1910

• Ecumenical wedding

"Water into Wine"



Joseph and Jucinta Gatto with Peter Overton and Tony Hallam

On 25 May, at Clayfield Uniting Church, Jucinta Finger, a nursing sister at the Royal Brisbane Hospital, from a strong Churches of Christ missionary family, and Dr Joseph Gatto, from a devout Brisbane Roman Catholic family, both committed Christians, tied the matrimonial knot in an ecumenical service conducted by Peter Overton, minister of Albion, Qld, Church of Christ and Tony Hallam, priest from St Flannan's Catholic Church, Zillmere, Qld.

The "water" of ecumenicity was brought by Jucinta and Joseph and their families, and our Lord turned it into the "wine" of Christian love and unity. The Roman Catholic authorities gave permission for an ecumenical nuptial eucharist, the consecration on this occasion being delivered by the Churches of Christ minister from the words of scripture about the Lord's supper in 1 Corinthians 11. The priest simply assisted in the distribution, the minister and priest serving each other.

The Restoration Movement and ecumenicity are making good progress in this area of Brisbane. The seven local churches have eight combined Gospel celebrations each year, join in Bible studies in ecumenical home groups, and help each

other to run three welfare organisations in the community. They are also united in Christian education in primary and secondary schools, R.V. Holt being the ecumenical chaplain at Hendry High School. Albion Church of Christ and Clayfield-Hamilton Uniting Parish are running a combined Sunday evening Gospel Celebration every Sunday. Peter Overton is Vice-President of the Inter-Church Council.

Ron Holt was ordained in 1963 after training at Woolwich 1960-63. His home church was Bexley North, NSW. His ministries have been at Zillmere, Boondall, and Crown St, Toowoomba, Churches of Christ in Qld, and presently he is minister at the Clayfield-Hamilton Uniting Church Parish. He has had school chaplaincies at Bairnsdale, Vic, and Brisbane Boys' College. He has also worked in street ministry, prison chaplaincy and childrens court ministry. He is married to Lorna (nee Kickbusch) from Marburg, Qld, Church of Christ.

Peter Overton, from Nunawading, Vic, trained at Glen Iris and was ordained in 1986. He is the minister at Albion Church of Christ and is married to Anna.

—Ron V. Holt and Peter Overton

• Preserving the past

Church Records: Where Are They?

I write as a long-standing member of Churches of Christ and also as a keen genealogist. Those who have been involved in Churches of Christ over many years will, of course, be aware of the impact that the first churches had in family life and the community; this influence spread also into country areas. One only has to read the *Jubilee History of Churches of Christ* to be impressed by the enthusiasm and sense of mission in some of those early churches. It was not unusual for an evening service to number hundreds.

While I recognise that the church's mission lies in the present, not the past, I believe it to be appropriate to honour those who have gone before, keeping the name of Churches of Christ, not as an almost forgotten entity, but in its rightful place in the history of this nation.

In Victoria records are currently being compiled by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages with the help of the Genealogical Society of Victoria for a Victorian Pioneers Index (1837-88). Part of this project has already been completed. Parish records are being added to and checked against civil records.

One wonders where past records and marriage registers of Churches of Christ are hiding. They could be lost forever if the present generation does not see that they are preserved for posterity. Of special concern are records of closed churches. I am aware that the committee of the Churches of Christ Historical Society and the Victorian State Historian have some such material, but they are anxious to add to it.

Should you know the whereabouts of old Church of Christ rolls, records, marriage registers or the like, I would be pleased to hear from you. From there, the whereabouts could be registered. It may then be possible, with help available, to either transcribe or photocopy valuable information, which may, with your permission (or that of the church concerned), be included in formal registers where they can for all time be held against loss, deterioration or fire damage. **Do it now!** Perhaps other states might also take up the challenge. —Margaret Gilbert (102 Dominion Road, Mount Martha 3934, phone (059) 74 2775, or contact the Secretary, Churches of Christ Historical Society, Freda Morris, on (03) 571 2982)

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.

Swanston Street, Melbourne, at it again

Renovations to City Church Office Building



Eric Brabham co-ordinating renovation works

It was only last October that Melbourne's multinational city church completed \$600,000 of renovation work as new halls and a commercial kitchen were opened up under the 120-year-old chapel buildings. The operation involved the underpinning of much of the chapel building without interruption to services and gave direct dual stair access between the chapel and the hall below.

Before drawing breath, it seems, the church has now commenced \$300,000 worth of work on essential renovations to their adjacent office building in Little Lonsdale Street. This building was purchased by the church in 1985 for \$330,000—a bargain considering that the developers of the Melbourne Central project were most anxious to obtain the property. They had planned to incorporate it into their now soon-to-be-completed tourist and shopping complex, but the owners (Melbourne City Council) stood by an undertaking given in the early 1980s to give the church first option to purchase.

Now the old building is being renovated to bring it into conformity with current building regulations. The basement will be used by the growing Sunday School and the ground floor will be modern standard

offices for the four ministers and their secretarial staff. The top floor will be meeting rooms.

It is exciting to see this church, one of the oldest in our Conference, meeting fresh challenges. Obviously Melbourne Central's shops, offices and tourist facilities will be used by thousands of people every day. The population of a medium-sized country town on one city block—the same city block Swanston Street Church of Christ has been sited on since 1865.

Negotiations are also underway with Melbourne Central and Melbourne Churches in Action regarding the design and operation of a non-denominational chapel in the new shopping complex itself.

John's and Lyng are the contractors, Paul Vincent, foreman in charge. Donald Walker & Associates are the architects. The renovations are due to be completed in late October, ready for the opening of the whole Melbourne Central. We'll keep you posted.

—Donald Walker

The cover photo shows the former St John Ambulance building, now being renovated. Behind is the glass tower of Melbourne Central and a glass and steel cone encloses the old shot tower.

• Heartening response from subscribers

The Friends of the Australian Christian Capital Fund

At the beginning of August we mailed out an appeal to all our subscribers to raise funds for a capital fund for *The Australian Christian*.

The purpose of the fund is to enable us to furnish and upgrade a larger area of the North Essendon church complex for a new office. This will give us more space than the current very cramped office. At the same time we will be upgrading our telephone system to provide more lines. New numbers will be necessary, and these will be announced when they are allocated. Call diversion will be included to handle after-hours calls.

The provision of a separate line for faxes and a modem will mean that material can be sent more quickly and easily between our computers and fax machines or other computers.

It is hoped the capital fund will also be a size sufficient to enable us to improve the current computer equipment. We are constantly seeking to improve the quality of *The Australian Christian*, especially the photographs.

The staff and I have been very pleased with the response to the appeal to date. The goodwill that *The Australian Christian* holds with its subscribers is very heartening. We believe that we have an important role to play in the future of Churches of Christ in Australia and that we have your support in this. In the first three weeks 258 subscribers and churches (several churches have made donations to the fund although we did not make a specific request to churches) donated \$10,280.

Initial work in setting up the new office will commence within the next four weeks. We will report on the progress of this work. Thank you all for your support.

Perhaps you are a reader who receives a copy handed on to you by a subscriber, and would like to support the capital fund. Donations or requests for information can be sent to "The Friends of the Australian Christian Capital Fund", PO Box 101, North Essendon 3041. Our telephone number, at present, is (03) 379 1219.

—Chris Ambrose (Editor)

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• Practical and beneficial help for athletes

National Sports Conference

Dav Whatmore, former Australian cricketer and Victorian captain, opened the SLM Christians in Sport National Sports Conference at the North Melbourne Football Club on 29 July.

Being a winter conference it was largely summer sport athletes who attended, such as Australian walker Natalie Camplin (Qld), Australian sprinter Anne Minns (ACT), professional cricketer Andrew Bennett (NSW), Wollongong Wolves NSL player Pat Brodnick (NSW), Qld discus champ Matthew Draper, Australian under-22 women's volleyball coach Rob George (SA), King of the Mountain David Lloyd (Vic), National Rodeo champions Brian Bernays and Les Sillis (NSW), Col Leisergang (Qld), Qld Rugby rep Steve Philpotts, Ocean yachtsman Clive O'Connor (NSW), International PGA tour golfer Craig Warren, and Australian motor racing driver Tom Watkinson (NSW). 85 attended the whole conference, while others attended various sessions.

Conference speakers were Graeme and Julie Cann (relationships), Phil and Rosemary

Skinner (finances), Ron Ross (Australian culture), Darryl Sampson (parish sports ministry), and Dr Mark Tronson (understanding ministry).

Rev Garry Coleman, the National Co-Ordinator of SLM's motor racing ministries, was guest speaker at the conference banquet on the Tuesday evening, where three tables represented the highest echelon of Australian motor racing management and drivers.

He spoke of his now-fulfilled dream of acquiring a coach as a hospitality unit for drivers and pit crews.

Conference athletes were as one in their praise for the organiser, Noel Mitaxa (Vic SLM Co-Ordinator).

Cricketer Andrew Bennett said, "I thought it would be a holy-huddle-type conference, rather it gave the most practical and beneficial help to athletes."

"I heartily recommend it to all athletes—Christian or not. I'm coming again next year."

Interested persons may contact the SLM National Office, "The Study", 3 Shelley Rd, Wallacia 2745. Phone/Fax (047) 73 8594.



Conference banquet MC, Ron Ross (right) congratulates Mark Tronson on his doctorate in sports ministry

• Churches of Christ seen as a caring group

Clothing Bins Overflowing



Eileen Rissman and Marie Brown sorting clothing

The clothing bins placed in a local community by the Vic-Tas Department of Community Care get filled quickly. Their locations next to our churches clearly identifies Churches of Christ as a caring group. Local residents respond generously with their no-longer-wanted clothing. After

sorting and cleaning the items are sold through our opportunity shops, benefiting the purchasers as well as the Department.

Melbourne churches interested in having a bin on their property can contact Ron Mill on (03) 478 3561 for further information.

• At the cinema in the morning and a party at night

Sunday with a Difference

The normal venue for the Sunday program of the Thornleigh, NSW, church on 4 August was not available so alternatives were used.

The morning service was held at the Hornsby Cinema, featuring a special family service with a very special children's segment. The worship was led by Stuart Wesley, the children's segment was presented by Greg Hawkins, who was dressed as a clown, captivating not only the children but also the parents. The message was brought by Franklyn Elliott. About 250 shared in this service.

The evening service was held back at the Ministry Centre at Thornleigh orientated for young people featuring a party—a giant celebration of Jesus. Outrageous worship, special effects, drama, dance

and powerful Gospel message brought by Franklyn Elliott the senior minister. The MC was Stuart Wesley, the youth minister and the attendance was about 150.

It was great day for the Lord, with a difference.

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• Bike for Bibles

Cyclists across Australia



John Chomel

John Chomel

Imagine driving across the Nullabor Plain at 25 kph for three weeks. Sound boring? John Chomel will be doing it when he is a roadie in the Bible Society's Cycross Australia in September.

The Cycross leaves Fremantle Harbour on 10 September and arrives in Coffs Harbour on 10 October. John will be supporting the Fremantle-Broken Hill leg of the trip.

John, 44, an RAA patrolman and mechanic, is a member of the Noarlunga Centre, SA, church. He is the only South Australian Churches of Christ representative in the Cycross.

John's duties on the ride will include driving the support vehicle, helping to repair bikes and waking and preparing the 28 riders at 5 am each morning. He is aiming to raise \$4,500 for Bike for Bibles. The money raised will buy Bibles for peo-

ple in Brazil. Donations can be sent to John at his home, 20 Kym Street, Port Noarlunga 5167.

Kenton Hill

SA's only Churches of Christ representative in the Bible Society's Barrier-Riverland Bash is Kenton Hill.

Kenton, 15, is training four times a week, up to 100 km per day, to prepare for the ride.

Kenton, the son of Henley Beach minister Brian Hill, leaves Adelaide for Broken Hill on 28 September and arrives back in Adelaide on 7 October—a round trip of 1,230 km.

Why does he want to do it? "I wanted to raise money for Bibles for people who can't afford them," he said.

He is aiming to raise \$1,500 for Bike for Bibles. Donations can be sent to Kenton at 271 Military Road, Henley Beach 5022.

• Phillip Bradley accepts invitation

Frankston Appointments

Recently the Frankston, Vic, church voted to invite Phillip Bradley of the Bull Creek, WA, church to become senior minister of the church.

Phillip has accepted the invitation and will commence duties in January 1992.

The church also voted to invite David Perkin to accept the

position of pastoral minister of the church to the end of 1991. David joins the present team of Allan Avery, present senior minister, Russell Croxford, youth minister, and Harold Bischoff, pastoral minister to the elderly. Allan Avery will complete 19 years as senior minister of the church this year.

• Ray and Peggy Schmitt

35 Years of Service

Ray and Peggy Schmitt are a unique couple. They celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on 30 August and at the same time completed 35 years of service together with the Federal Aborigines Board.

Ray met Peggy when he went to the Carnarvon Mission on a building drive in 1954. He stayed on as a temporary cook and his prowess at boiling rice is legend among those still able to remember.

The Schmitts began their service caring for children in the Norseman Mission. They subsequently served in Carnarvon and, for several years, in Perth. Officially they are involved in a liaison and outreach ministry among Aborigines who need to come to the city. This involves them in visits to hospitals, prisons, welfare institutions, hostels and nursing homes, where a friendly face means such a lot

to people often a long way from home. Ray and Peggy enjoy a great acceptance by the people. They are known by Aborigines the length and breadth of WA.

Ray has a phenomenal memory for names. He is able to recall the family relationships that are all important to Aboriginal people and this makes getting alongside people so much easier.

The Schmitts have four adult sons. Their home is ever open to Aboriginal visitors, many of whom have enjoyed its refuge when they visit Perth from distant places. (There can be few more daunting places to a tribal Aborigine than the bustle and loneliness of a city.)

Peggy has had indifferent health for several years. She spent almost all of 1987 in hospital, but is now able to join Ray working among the people in a way very few can.

—AWM



Peggy and Ray Schmitt

Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Praise for Ray Hawkins

To the Editor,

I have rarely read anything that I could agree with so wholeheartedly, word for word and even wish I could have written myself as Ray Hawkins' "Open-hearted Ministry" in Ministry Meditations in the 3 August issue of *The Australian Christian*.

The same principles that apply in successful marriages without a doubt apply just as necessarily in Christian churches.

Thank you Ray for sharing these truths with us, and I thank God for giving you the insights.

—Kay Graham
(Magill, SA)

Leadership

To the Editor,

Thanks to Bruce McIntosh for raising the issue of models of church leadership in the 3 August issue.

However, I query the either/or situation which Bruce claims is pressing itself upon the Australian Churches of Christ or, indeed, any of the Australian churches. Such absolutism rarely helps build communities of compassion and hope.

Both models of church leadership named in the article, "autocratic" and "democratic", offer more than Bruce suggests. To claim that they are incompatible is to oversimplify each model.

I recommend a book called *Effective Church Leadership*, by Kennon Callahan, to any church person interested in understanding the models of leadership in churches and the ways that leaders, in a missional team, can build church communities of effective, caring witness, in their particular situation. It is one of the most realistic, and thus motivating, books I have read in a long time.

This book, and Callahan's previous *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*, are inspiring tremendous excitement right now in the Uniting Church. The evidence of renewal and outreach

is working itself out even now.

We are at a point of decision, as Bruce McIntosh rightly knows. But we have a wider decision to make than he proposes.

—Andrew Irvine
(Uniting Church,
Leichhardt, NSW)

Leadership

To the Editor,

The wisest comment I've ever heard on the subject is: "Lead, follow or get out of the way!"

The second wisest comment is on page 225 of *In Search of Excellence*. Peter Drucker observes: "Whenever anything is being accomplished, it is being done, I have learned, by a monomaniac with a mission."

Let's have less leadership and more monomaniacs.

—Malcom Gray
(Upwey, Vic)

Greetings from Zimbabwe

To the Editor,

In July I was able to revisit the churches in the Zvishavane area of Zimbabwe, this time with my wife as part of our annual holidays. The churches send their greetings to the Australian churches.

Garfield and Grace Todd are both well. Garfield turned 83 while we were there. He is actively involved in the reconstruction of Dadaya High School which was damaged severely by student riots last November.

Over half of the estimated \$500,000 (Australian) needed to rebuild the school has been received. Further gifts from Australia would be appreciated.

The Overseas Mission Board has now a 30-minute videotape interview where Garfield Todd reviews his life and ministry in Africa.

Dadaya High School students always ask for penfriends and I have a dozen names and addresses of high school students who would like to write to an Australian penfriend. My address is 1 Hilary Grove, Ringwood East 3135.

—Barry Jenkins
(Ringwood, Vic)

True Growth

To the Editor,

I wish to respond to Doug Ferguson's article on baptism ("AC" 17 August) and thank Doug for his article which reminds us of the importance of faith expressed through believers baptism. I for one believe that God wants his church to grow but the growth that really counts must come by winning souls to Christ.

May we continue to preach the eternal gospel and continue to baptise those who accept this gospel in the same way as the early church. Let us never fall into the trap of seeking growth for numbers sake but instead growth that comes as people come face to face with the living and eternal God.

—Stephen Templeton
(Dawson St, Ballarat, Vic)

Leadership Debate

To the Editor,

I believe Bruce McIntosh ("AC" 3 August) has a misguided presumption that the so-called Model A is typically autocratic.

I have been a member of Churches of Christ for 28 years and transferred from a diminishing congregation 11 years ago because of board-driven leadership to one I saw as growing so my family could grow with it.

Enthusiasm is contagious and if you have a leader guiding a team this will rub off.

Marion, SA, could be categorised as Model A but I must point out that the senior minister leads a team effort where—

• team members work within specialised areas where they are able to use their gifts to the full;

Letters from Tertius

Hi!

To the Editor,

Hi!

I deplore "Americanisms" and for years have refused to use the greeting "Hi!", but now I have had second thoughts. It seems to be more honest and appropriate than the ones I have grown used to.

There's "How are you?" We even use this greeting for a casual acquaintances when we haven't the slightest interest in their health. And indeed this greeting needs to be used with great care or someone may take us seriously and launch off into a long and detailed description of woes that we would sooner not hear.

Another problem with "How are you?" is that you often get dismal replies that spoil your day. "Not bad," says someone gloomily.

Slightly more optimistic is the reply, "Not too bad!" Seldom do you hear "Terrific" or "Doing well" in spite of the fact that those concerned are obviously in the peak of condition. Then there are the brave souls who say "Fine" when they are dying on their feet and don't want to burden you with their problems.

"Good day" with its politer forms of "Good morning" and "Good evening" are commonly used. These sound more like a comment on the weather than a greeting, and often a most inaccurate one. Really they are a wish that we have a good day, about it. At our church we politely greet each other after the morning service with solemn good mornings although midday has long since passed before we get out of church.

"Hi!" is quite uncomplicated. It doesn't refer to the weather. It doesn't commit us to an interest in one another's well-being that we don't intend to act upon. It simply says, "I am pleased to recognise and to greet you." Any other commitment or comment may or may not follow, according to circumstances.

So, until next time, "Hi!"

—Tertius

Letters to the Editor

• gifted lay people are not "shut out", in fact their gifts grow and develop as they are given opportunity and encouraged to help in outreach and service ministries.

The key in Marion's success is leadership—not dictatorial or autocratic but one which inspires and motivates people to discover their gift(s) and to use and develop these to the full.

Recently the senior ministers of a number of larger churches met in Queensland. The combined membership of the nine churches represented 14.8% total constituent membership of the 450 Churches of Christ in Australia. 20 years ago not one of these churches would have had over 300 members. The range now is 300–900 members. Marion has 475.

Yes it is interesting to ask where we are going.

I know where I am going—to Marion.

—Barry Modra
(Marion, SA)

[While this letter is slightly longer than the allowed limit of 200 I have allowed it be printed because of its addition to the current debate on leadership within Churches of Christ—Editor]

College Magazines Wanted

To the Editor,

The CCTC library would like to have a full set of College magazines in whatever form or name they were given. They do have some of the magazines and they wish to complete the set.

Known names for the magazine include *Our Annual*, *The Swot*, *Magazine*, *Footsteps* and *COB—Glen Iris*. However there may be other titles for the missing years.

Copies of the following years magazines are needed for the library (if they were printed in these years): 1926–45, 1948–53, 1958, 1960, 1961, 1964, 1966, 1968, 1976, 1978 and 1982 onwards.

Any help you can give will be appreciated.

—L.L. Smith
(Librarian, CCTC, 40–60 Jacksons Rd, Mulgrave 3170)

"Ladies"

To the Editor,

I find it difficult to understand Rosslyn Reed's objection to the word "ladies" being an acceptable reference or form of address to women ("Women in the Church", "AC" 20 July).

The Macquarie Dictionary defines "ladies" as (a) "Women of good family or social position, or of good breeding, refinement etc. (correlative of 'gentleman')" and (b) "A polite term for any woman".

What, then, is there to object to in being called a lady or ladies?

Surely it is better than being called a woman or women with the connotations that those words carry in some circumstances, e.g., "The French Lieutenant's Woman".

With tongue in cheek, what about "woperson"?

—J.J. Collingwood
(Perth, WA)

Accommodation Wanted

To the Editor,

I am a young 61-year-old lady. I am writing to you because I wish to move back to Victoria as I have relatives living in Wangaratta.

I need somewhere to live, either a granny flat, a flat, a shared flat or a room.

Being a pensioner the maximum I could afford is \$70 per week.

I am looking for permanent accommodation.

I would prefer to live in the North East area of Victoria such as Seymour, Benalla or Shepparton, however I would consider places such as Geelong but I would prefer not to be in the inner suburbs of Melbourne.

Currently I attend the Church of Christ at Inglewood, WA.

I am arriving in Victoria on 6 December and would like to arrange permanent accommodation before I arrive. I have references available.

If anyone has suitable accommodation available could they contact me please.

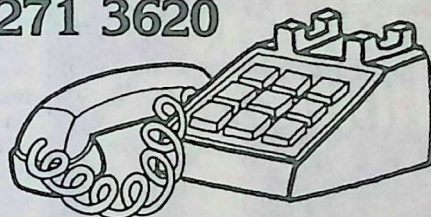
—Bessie Montgomery
Flat 1, 145 Seventh Ave,
Inglewood 6052

Overseas Mission

OMB
Overseas Mission Board

NEWS LINE

(08) 271 3620



Keep informed by ringing the News Line on weekends. Your prayer support is needed.

• Showers of blessing

God Still Answers Prayers

When Wayne Bienvenu, our administration director, asked for prayer points to go on the OMB News Line, we told him we needed rain here at Momonup, Papua New Guinea. At Momonup it has been a dry, dry season. Everywhere else seemed to be getting rain but for some reason the rain would bypass us. Hence we had resorted to water rationing, only using our tank water for drinking and cooking. The Bible school students and two mission families happily complied with the rationing as we waited for rain to come. But still it did not come. So the prayer point was issued and we again waited.

Friday was a dry, hot day and Saturday was much the same. However on Sunday afternoon the clouds began to gather. By afternoon worship time it looked like rain might come. Then as worship came to a close, a few raindrops were falling. By the time we were all in our houses the rain was bucketing down. It rained solidly for over an hour and our guttering and downpipes could not cope with the volume of water. The tank openings couldn't cope either and so water was going everywhere. We filled as many containers as we could and still the rain came.

Eventually we just sat and watched and listened as the rain fell. Our hearts were singing with praise to our God, who knew our need and had met it. We also praised God for those in Australia who had prayed for the rain to come. This morning our tanks are both two-thirds full and water rationing for the present time has eased. Thank you OMB for setting up the News Line so that churches can get up-to-date prayer points each weekend. Thank you too to all of you fellow soldiers of the Lord who prayed. God has truly answered your prayers.

—Hazel Bassett (PNG)

Camberwell Church of Christ 75th Anniversary Service

- Sunday, 10 November 1991, at 10 a.m.
 - Guest speaker: Dr Rowland Croucher of World Vision Fellowship and refreshments to follow.
- A warm welcome is assured to all visitors.

Books



What We Need As Home

Cohesion of Home As Perceived by Homeless Youth
A Report from the Homelessness Research Team, Scripture Union, Victoria

edited by Cara Breed (Scripture Union Victoria) \$20

If you are looking for some facts about homelessness and want to be challenged as to how the community can respond you will discover some "thinking material" here. You will also learn

from the direct input from some homeless young people.

The priority placed on restoring "family" without a comprehensive discussion as to what that means for society today was disappointing. However, the document does also emphasise that to follow through on some issues further reading will be required.

With the energy currently being expended educating churches and communities on the facts of family violence it was disappointing to read a statement placing the blame for the disintegrating family on the victim. It was stated the victim has the ability to destroy the family and cause hurt. Let's be clear here—it is the perpetrator who inflicts hurt and it is the perpetrator who destroys the family unit. Any ongoing disruption in that family unit is a result of the perpetrator's actions—not the victim's.

There are other definitions I would question and statements I would classify as idealistic—however I also acknowledge the document got me thinking! It is clearly presented and contains some valuable material. If used as a resource, which is how it is intended to be used, it will be a useful document. —Joy Butler

High Mountains, Deep Valleys

edited by Rowland Croucher and Grace Thomlinson (Albion Books) \$22.95

Don't buy this book for the church library! It's place is not on a bookshelf but on the bedside table.

There are 52 chapters (one for each week of the year?) each commencing with a selection of readings gathered together to form a scriptural introduction. This is followed by a comment from one of the 40 contributors, some of whom are sure to be known to you. The literary excerpts that follow the comments are pithy, thought-provoking and entirely enjoyable.

This is not a study book, and the eclectic nature of the contributions could even annoy the purist who prefers their scripture in large slabs with learned commentary. This is a book intended to channel the thoughts along a particular theme, to get the reader thinking; it could also be invaluable to those who find themselves called on to present a devotional segment at a meeting.

The editors describe this book as "meditations and prayers for the down times". It is more than that, it is a book for the up times and the in-between times too.

—JWP

Planning Strategies for World Evangelisation

Revised Edition

by Edward R. Dayton and David A. Fraser (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company)

Don't judge a book by its title! This book certainly is about the mission of the church wherever the church is placed.

It is the result of more than two decades of research, discussion and debate by the Missions Advanced Research and Communications Centre. It is a mission-strategy book that covers the complete cycle of the mission task, from thinking and planning to implementing and evaluating.

It is presented in a very readable form with plenty of illustrations. It is very relevant to anyone interested in the theology, planning, practice and assessment of Christian mission. Hopefully that would mean that everyone who reads this review would be off to buy a copy!

This revised edition upgrades the original work done in 1980.
—Jeff May

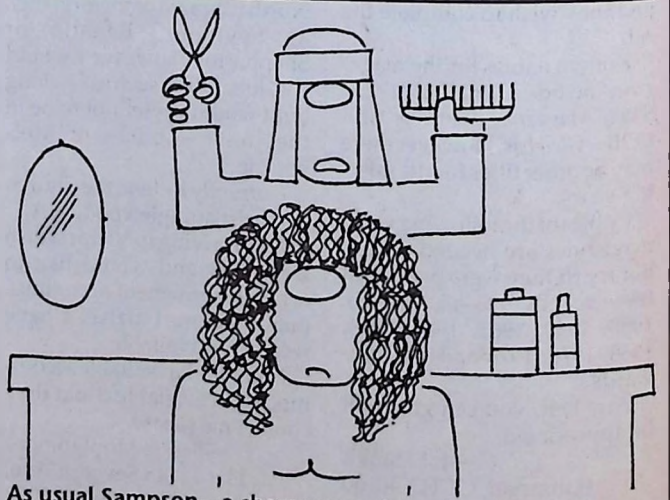
International Children's Story Bible (Word) \$16.95

This is a delightful book. It contains over 100 stories from the Bible, each one illustrated with a full-page drawing by a child. The text is "reader friendly"—the language is uncomplicated and true to the Biblical narrative, the print is large and bold and the format is simple, with one story to each page and clear headings and Bible references. The most appealing feature of the book is its illustrations. Drawn by children from around the world (North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and more) the pictures use the images and styles with which children are familiar. Reproduction of the drawings is excellent, and they provide great visual support for the text. At the back of the book are blank pages on which children are encouraged to draw their own illustrations of their favourite Bible stories. The only disappointment was the absence of any drawings from children in Australia!

The cover of the book gives a recommended age range of 3-7 years. I'm sure this could be expanded to include children up to the age of 10 years. It would be very appropriate for family devotions, for use with children's clubs and for personal reading by children themselves. This book is well recommended.

—David Brooker

The Angelic Voices—Daniel Changer



As usual Sampson—a shampoo and comb only?

Happenings

The South Australian Heads of Churches have called upon the Premier, Mr Bannon, to hold an inquiry into the social effects of gambling before moving to introduce gaming machines into licensed clubs and hotels. The State Government plans to introduce the legislation after a conscience vote by members.

The Oakleigh, Vic, church are looking for any photographs that would be available from readers. Later this year (22 September) they will be celebrating their 75th anniversary. The photos could be sent to Ian Gillespie at 23 Wild Cherry Road, Carnegie 3163, or phone him on (03) 578 1879. All material supplied will be safeguarded and returned after the celebration.

Pregnancy rates among Minnesota's minors apparently dropped under a law that requires teens to notify parents when seeking an abortion, a new study shows.

4 Australians were among 32 injured during a grenade attack at a farewell function put on by the crew of the international missionary ship *MV Doulos* in the Southern Philippines on 10 August. 2 women were killed in the attack, one from New Zealand, the other from Sweden. The crew were putting on a cultural celebration in a wharf building several hundred metres from the ship when two grenades were thrown backstage by an unknown person.

Albania's first Protestant church has been established in Tirana following the conversion to Christianity of 173 Albanians during a week-long evangelistic campaign mounted by 10 international missions during the first week of July. Of the new converts, 43 opted to be baptised, mostly young men. 2 Bible teachers fluent in Albanian have remained in Tirana to minister to the new believers.

Ghana's National Commission on Culture has submitted a list of 205 religious bodies recommended for registration by the Religious Affairs Committee, 2 years after the government revoked official recognition of all religious bodies in a bid to rid the West African country of what it calls "bogus" sects. The committee so far has received 1,606 applications, of which 603 have been recommended for registration.

Australia's sponsorship of the forthcoming AIDEX arms fair ignores one of the lessons of the Gulf War, according to the Australian Council of Churches. In a letter to the Prime Minister, the Council's Executive Committee has called on the government to withdraw its support from AIDEX '91, an exhibition of military hardware scheduled to take place in Canberra during November. "The arms trade contributes to human suffering, fosters instability and distorts spending priorities," said the letter.

For the first time in Nepal's history, the government has declared special holidays for both Christian and Muslim employees.

Due to the volcanic eruption of Mt Pinatubo, and the combined effect of ash falling, a cyclone and an earthquake, the 4 Far Eastern Broadcasting Corporation (FEBC) transmitters at Iba, the Philippines, were off the air from 15 June. The power company for the Iba area was out of action due to extensive damage to electrical poles and lines.

Up to 5,000 young people are expected to gather in Spain next year for a youth congress organised to begin equipping tomorrow's missionaries today. A special education advice program will help teenagers and children who believe that God has called them to missionary service to begin to plan their steps through school

towards their future career. The junior "job guidance" is to be a feature of Target World 92, an international youth congress on world missions being organised by King's Kids International, in association with parent body Youth With A Mission.

The Camberwell Baptist Church are providing an "Oasis" in their building every Wednesday 12-2 pm commencing on 11 September. The "Oasis" offers a warm friendly atmosphere with relaxing background music and the opportunity for people to enjoy their lunch away from the hustle and bustle. Music, encouragement, refreshment and fellowship will occur between 12.45 and 1.30 pm. The church sees this as one way of more effectively communicating with the people who live and work in one of Melbourne's busier suburban areas.

An epidemic of cholera in Africa is killing more people and spreading faster than the current epidemic in Latin America. African nations are reporting up to 13% death rates compared to less than 1% in the worst-hit Latin American countries. The World Health Organisation had received reports of 45,159 cases and 3,488 deaths from 10 African countries so far this year. By comparison, only 1,618 of the 251,568 reported cases in Latin America were fatal. Zambia and Nigeria are the worst hit countries in Africa, with Peru, which has 223,564 cases but only 2,163 deaths, the worst hit in Latin America.

Lindsay Brown, former European regional secretary of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students, has been appointed IFES General Secretary. Lindsay follows Singaporean Chua Wee Hian, whose 19 years as General Secretary saw IFES double in size, increasing from 39 member movements in 1972 to nearly 80 today. IFES is an interdenominational evangelical student movement

which draws together student work in 130 countries and has over 275,000 members worldwide.

The Monash Medical Centre in Melbourne is sponsoring the "Cultural and Religious Issues in Health Care" Conference being held 9-12 September at the Monash Medical Centre in Clayton. Details from (03) 550 6111.

Josif Bondarenko, a leading Soviet evangelist and minister of the Independent Baptist Church in Riga, Latvia, is to visit Australia during March-April 1992.

Youth For Christ (Melbourne) on 12 August opened a new centre in Forest Hill. Apart from the new centre, YFC also has an office and counselling centre in Oakleigh and a recently established office in Dingley for the Crib Program. The new centre will be largely used as a training and education centre. YFC (Melbourne) now has a salaried staff of 14 and about 200 volunteers. It operates 6 accommodation houses for homeless young people, has developed a youth intervention program called the "Crib Program" and has recently commenced a family mediation and counselling service.

The South Australian Conference is organising a seminar on ethnic ministries, to be held in the Resource Centre, 263 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, on 24 September. Ron McLean is organising the seminar, which is to help people and churches eager to participate in an ethnic ministry. Details from the Conference Centre on (08) 239 0233.

Most missionary families experience "reverse" culture shock when they return to their home countries. The Evangelical Alliance Missions Commission in Victoria has arranged a Missionary Re-entry Weekend at Wycliffe Translators, Kangaroo Grounds for 13-15 Sep-

tember. Dr David Price (BCV) and his wife Margaret will focus on re-entry issues and there will be special programs for teenagers, children and adults to help in the process of adjusting back into Australian life. Details from Frank Hoskin, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Graham Road, Kangaroo Ground 3097, phone (03) 712 2777.

Over 100,000 Americans die each year because of alcohol—more than 20,000 as a result of automobile accidents and 80,000 more in homicides, suicides, drownings and from alcohol-related diseases such as cirrhosis of the liver and various kinds of cancer.

Christian Media is running a seminar and 2 workshops to help local churches meet the challenge of getting our message through the clutter of competing messages to people in society and helping in changing attitudes and behaviour. The seminar "How to Promote the Ministry of Your Local Church", is being led by Gordon Gray 9 am-12.30 pm on 18 September at the Caulfield South Uniting Church (cnr Kooyong Rd and Jupiter St). The workshops will be held at the same location from 7.30-9.30 pm on 2 and 16 October. The first is on writing press releases, advertising copy and direct mail and the second is on the design and preparation of posters, pewsheets and overhead projection transparencies. Registration is \$15 per session (\$36 for all sessions) with discounts for multiple registrations. To register phone (03) 571 0475.

Sales in US Christian bookstores increased about 270% during the 1980s according to a report in Business Week. Sales in 1990 were \$2.7 billion in the nation's 5,000 Christian bookstores, and the number of Christian titles published increased by 33% over the past 5 years.

Over the past few years there has been much debate in the pages of this journal on issues loosely related to "leadership" at all levels in the church.

Within the local church there is often a fear that the elders will become too powerful, or that ministers will assume a level of importance that accentuates the clergy-laity distinction. At brotherhood levels there is again a fear that individuals or committees will take upon themselves too much power over the "ordinary" members of the churches.

On the other hand there are those who seem to promote the need for a hierarchy such as is found in episcopal churches. In both these extremes there is a tendency to think in terms of personal status rather than functional roles.

It is time to put this debate into the correct perspective, and the foundational principle is that expressed by Paul in Galatians 3:28 (NRSV): "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Here Paul clearly and concisely

◦ *Within the unity we enjoy as members of the one body, there is a very definite need to acknowledge and even highlight the functional distinctions that God has established*

Hierarchy or Function?

by Neil Galbraith

puts an end to racial, social and sexual inequality in our relationship with God, thus any hierarchical distinctions between Christians is condemned.

There are however, clear indications in Scripture that there are to be "functional" distinctions amongst Christians and that such distinctions should be not only recognised but also emphasised.

Jesus himself was known to have at least 500 followers (1 Corinthians 15:6) yet he chose just 12 men to be known as apostles (Mark 3:14), and three of them were considered to be an even more select group. When Judas proved to be an unsatisfactory apostle he was

replaced by one selected on the basis of his credentials for the ministry (Acts 1:15-26). Throughout Acts we see individuals selected and appointed to undertake specific functions within the emerging church. Paul and Barnabas were ordained at the direction of the Holy Spirit to begin a special missionary work and as new churches were established they were encouraged to appoint elders and deacons to perform the functions of leadership and service. It is clear from Paul's writings to Timothy and Titus that these functions were very important to the development and continuance of the churches.

There is even more evidence of functional distinctions found in Paul's teaching on spiritual gifts in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4. And while we are on this subject, it seems that many of us have an almost irrational paranoia over the use of ecclesiastical titles, yet in Ephesians 4:11 Paul identifies five functional titles bestowed not by men but by the Holy Spirit.

So it is clear that within the unity we enjoy as members of the one body, under the headship of Christ, where there is no individual member with a claim to a higher position in

God's family than any other member, there is a very definite need to acknowledge and even highlight the functional distinctions that God has established.

If someone is gifted and takes on the function of an elder let us accept that this is not a claim of superiority or power, but a willingness to take on a work that God has called that person to undertake. If anyone is gifted to be a "senior minister" then let us accept that God has given that person the capabilities to lead in a special way and that it is not a pursuit for personal power or prestige. Of course such leaders in our churches must not allow the function to become a position of prominence over others. Peter makes it very clear that such leadership must be exercised carefully and humbly (1 Peter 5:1-4), but he also stresses (verse 5) the need for us all to accept the authority of those called to be leaders. Then there is the writer of Hebrews 13:17, who leaves us in no doubt about what our attitude should be to those in leadership functions, not because of the importance of their position, but because of the importance of the work they must do.

Finally, let us never forget the advice of Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13: "But we appeal to you brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves."

And so I would appeal to all to accept that God has established a divine order within his church. It is not an order that gives any person within the "body" prominence of status, but it is an order that if acknowledged humbly and without jealousy or fear will allow the work of the church to proceed beautifully and in turn bring glory to God.

"Be at peace among yourselves."

• Neil Galbraith is the minister at the Montrose, Vic. church.

I first need to say how disappointed I was that Milton Oliver's article ("AC" 17 August) on this theme was such a personal attack on Bruce McIntosh. I was surprised he wasn't asked to go away and rewrite it without the personal attack. The essence of Milton's article (and many letters on a similar line) is a rejection of democracy as applicable to church leadership. It is suggested that democracy is not biblical and is suited only to the secular realm. What is proposed is that gifted God-given leadership is the Christian way. What this is to mean in practice is that an individual or small group that decides they have a message or vision from God must then be followed by the congregation.

Surely the devastating negation of this concept is in the realities of life. Most of us will have been involved in situations where an individual has proclaimed that that individual has a word or vision from God about some plan or project for the church—and the plan has been patent foolishness.

Within the church we are given each other so that we can be saved from the stupidities we are capable of individually. Together with our fellow Christians we can test our ideas, modify our plans and submit to the wisdom and experience of ordinary members and friends. Recognition of the good sense and understanding of a whole body of people is a primary principle on which leadership works in all walks of life. If a person with a so-called vision can't convince the congregation of its authentic value then it is either not the place or the time for it, or it may simply

◦ *The supreme principle for Christian leadership was given by Jesus when he said that the greatest must be the servant of all*

Democratic Leadership

by Alan Cant

be a daft idea. Just because a person claiming to be a visionary leader has an idea, this is no guarantee that it is good for the church at that time, or any time. To claim to have prayed about it is no more guarantee of its "rightness". Two devout people often pray about the one issue and come up with opposite answers.

In my view the church is the community where democracy is most necessary, for it is the community where people can claim divine sanction for their ideas. Leaders who present an idea then say, "God gave me this vision," are attempting to put themselves into an unsailable position. The truth is that they do not know God gave them any idea, but many Christians are reluctant to directly challenge leaders who claim the idea is God-given. I would urge every Christian to be very sceptical of any leaders (or group of leaders) who try spiritual blackmail by asserting they know exactly what God wants. This is incredible arrogance and in the realities of life is clearly demonstrated to be such.

I have been a minister in Churches of Christ for both large and smaller churches, a board chairman for years both with and without paid minis-

try and an administrator in an educational institution with a staff of about thirty. Successful leadership in each of these areas required the same qualities and skills. In all spheres of leadership it is a matter of encouraging the widest possible discussion and input before decision making so that everyone feels they own the decision when it is made.

The supreme principle for Christian leadership was given

by Jesus when he said that the greatest must be the servant of all. The Christian leader is therefore the servant of the overall vision and good sense of the body of believers into which the leader has fed ideas, dreams, hopes, inspirations—and seen some of them gradually take shape and become plans for the whole church.

It is a historical fact that a democratic way for thinking was not present in New Testament times, when authoritarianism was dominant in families, communities and nations. The democratic way of thinking and living is one of the major ways of achieving freedom and responsibility, and is one of God's most precious gifts to humankind.

• Alan Cant, a retired minister, is from Bindoon, WA.

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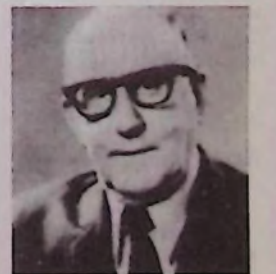
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• Vic-Tas Aborigines news

Touring, Transferring and Training



Melissa, Maria (with Paul), Simon, Ivan and Tamara Lee Williams

The Vic-Tas Aborigines Department was happy to welcome Avon Moyle, Executive Director of the Federal Aborigines Board, to its meeting in July when Avon was on a visit to the eastern states.

Before Avon left for NSW he spent a Sunday at the Mooroopna, Vic, church, where Harold Taylor presided and Avon gave the message.

Interim Ministry

The 18-month interim ministry of Peter Rama Rau at Mooroopna has come to an end with the September appointment of Dennis Jetta as full-time spiritual leader of the church there.

One of Peter's last services at Mooroopna was a seminar pre-

sented by him to the congregation to prepare them for the incoming ministry of Dennis and Wilma Jetta. Meanwhile necessary maintenance is being carried out by the department on the manse at Mooroopna in preparation for the Jetta's arrival from Western Australia in September.

Peter Ram Rau is, in turn, to take up the full-time ministry in Charlestown, near Newcastle, NSW.

The Vic-Tas Department has presented Peter with a copy of Betty Sewell's book on Carnarvon in appreciation of his work and time as a member of the department.

Wiradjuri Bible College

Reg and Marceil Lawrence, Karnege McDonald and Darren Whighton from the Albury North, Vic, church are currently doing their Christian service training with Wiradjuri Christian Development Ministries at Wagga Wagga.

The Lawrences are very grateful to the CWF for their recent grant of \$500 towards their training costs. Ivan and Maria Williams of Wagga Wagga are lecturers with WCDM. Maria is the eldest daughter of Cec and Laurel Grant of the Albury North church.

• Welcome into fellowship

21 New Members for Wyoming



Some of the new members welcomed into fellowship at Wyoming

It was a day of celebration for the Wyoming, NSW, church in July, as 21 new members were welcomed into fellowship. During the morning worship, time was set aside to welcome each person individually, and to share in a baptism.

This time of welcoming was in response to a membership drive conducted over the previous month.

It was noticed that there were many attenders of the church who had not been officially welcomed as members.

A printed booklet on the requirements and responsibilities of being a church member was circulated and advertised in the church newsletter.

The elders and pastors set aside some time to explain from the pulpit our reasons for encouraging some formal commitment to membership.

This was followed up by approaching different people with a personal invitation to consider this move.

It has been exceptionally pleasing to see the benefits of this exercise.

Many expressed how much they have appreciated the fact that the church cared enough to want to have them as part of the church family.

It has given many a renewed desire to serve the Lord in lay ministry within the church. The

celebration service was a special and beautiful time of being bonded together with the ties of family love.

The whole church feels it is stronger and closer as a family since this time, and can truly identify with Paul's assertion, that we can "thank God upon every remembrance of you".

Copies of the membership information booklet can be obtained from the Wyoming Church of Christ, 299A Henry Parry Drive, Wyoming 2250, or by phoning (043) 23 3327.

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• A commitment to the ongoing ministry to young people in our churches and local communities

National Youth Summit

The 1991 National Youth Summit was held at Camp Waterman, Monbulk, 12-14 July. The challenge for the weekend was investment—for the future of youth ministry within our churches. Through keynote sessions and workshops, participants from all states were asked to provide specific directions and input on education, evangelism and effectiveness; to set in place strategies and recommendations that would take national, state and local youth ministry into the next decade.

Peter Burnham, Chaplain of Toorak College, used the example of John the Baptist as a teacher. "It is the teacher's own revelation of who Jesus is that's important". Peter recommended that the Australian Board of Church Development and Education (ABCDE) accept a resourcing responsibility in providing training, advocacy and youth publications.

Randy Edwards, former principal of Kenmore Christian College, described evangelism as "enabling individuals to be transferred from the Kingdom of Satan to the Kingdom of God". He identified the Kingdom of Satan as our world values and belief systems and gave directions as to how to enable individuals to be transferred to the Kingdom of God.

Andrew Ball, of the ABCDE, highlighted the need to evalu-

ate our present ministries to ensure their effectiveness. He included evaluation of our strategies, questioning our culture, the training of youth leaders, the structure of our ministry and the use of support systems to ensure effective youth ministry.

Recommendations were made in each key area and have been tabled at the Annual Conference of the ABCDE. In summary, these include:

Education

- A strong commitment to ongoing training of youth workers, including networking between theological colleges.

- Providing resources for leadership development, including a national resource register.

- Affirming the priority of discipleship and pastoral care of our young people in every dimension.

- Using more effectively the entry points into local schools, including mobilising young people to mission.

Evangelism

- A commitment to study guides on evangelism for young people and providing training for one-to-one evangelism.

- Providing resources that will enable bridge-building between subcultures and strategies for implementation.

- Encouragement of local churches to identify and use entry points to youth within schools and the wider community.

Development in the area of apologetics for young people.

Effectiveness

- The formation of mission statements by each church.

- Encouraging local churches to identify youth cultures within their communities and modify their ministry accordingly, including the issue of country-to-city transition.

- Encouraging local churches to provide teaching on "disciple-based ministry", modelling lifestyles and relationships.

- Recognising the priority of spiritual growth for both young people and youth leaders.

These recommendations are a commitment by the ABCDE to the ongoing ministry to young people in our churches



Peter Burnham, Andrew Ball and Randy Edwards at the National Youth Summit

and local communities. Without evangelism we will not reach young people. Unless we evaluate our effectiveness we can never be honest enough to change. Without education, we cannot hope to provide truth and answers to young people and churches.

—Paul Douglas
(Vic-Tas DMED Youth Ministry intern)

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Classifieds

BIRTHS

MARCHANT (SANDY) Daryl and Tina are happy to announce the arrival of Courtney Jane. Born on 16 August, Edmonton, Canada.
WIGNEY (TIVENDALE) Geoff and Lynice announce with joy the safe arrival of a daughter, Janelle Emma, on 6 August at Gippsland Base Hospital

ENGAGEMENTS

ADAMS—DAVIDSON Ian and Julie Adams have much pleasure in announcing the engagement of Ruth Louise Adams to Wesley Graham Davidson, son of Leith and Barbara Davidson, on 18 August. (26 Caulfield Ave, Cumberland Park SA 5041)

DEATHS

ARMSTRONG Leslie. Passed peacefully away on 14 August 1991 aged 93 years at a private nursing home, Hobart. Loved and loving husband of Dorothy (deceased). Beloved father and father-in-law of Dorothy and Darrell (deceased), Hartam and Les and Dorothy Armstrong. Dearly loved Pop of his seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.
FITCH Harold Richard. 1 August 1991. Edith, Lionel, Thelma, Ruth and families thank friends and loved ones for their love and support during the loss of our beloved husband and father. Please accept this as a personal expression of gratitude for condolences as there are too many to answer individually.
HOUGH Florence M. (Faye). 25.7.91. Loved Mother of Robert, Walter and Sylvia; Sylvia, Byril and Alan and six grandchildren. Aged 73 years. Now present with Jesus.

AT HOME

WILSON Betty and Brian Wilson invite their friends to an "At Home" on Sunday, 8 September (2-8 pm), at their new address—25 Centaur Grove, Doncaster East 3109 (telephone (03) 842 6054). Their son Ashley invites his friends at this time also to share in the celebration of his forthcoming 21st birthday.

WANTED

BY THE CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES OF WA. Executive Officer to serve from January 1992. Full-time salaried position. Contact (09) 221 1732 or (09) 341 5086. Applications close 23 September 1991.

CHRISTIAN SINGLES

CUCKOO RESTAURANT, Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, Olinda. Friday, 13 September, 7 pm. "Island Breeze" band. Friday, 18 Oc-

tober, 7 pm, Eddy James & Jeff Wood. \$25 per head. Bookings direct to Cuckoo on (03) 751 1003. Enquiries Lynne on (03) 703 1021 or Liz (03) 801 3747.

FOR SALE

CARAVAN 4-berth "Roma", 15 x 7, white aluminium, good condition, carpeted, 2 gas bottles, over-ride brakes, 2-way fridge, also full-size annex, TV antenna. Burwood, Vic, area. Phone (03) 889 2245.

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Moving 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

News

• Be a part of an international event

World Convention of Churches of Christ

There are only 11 months to go before the next World Convention of Churches of Christ, which is being held 5-9 August 1992 at Long Beach, California.

We need a further 100 registrations from Australians to achieve our targeted representation of Australians at the convention.

You will want to share in this Christian fellowship and holiday time—on the waterfront—at the marina—in the shadow of the Queen Mary and Spruce Goose—close to Disneyland and Universal Studios.

Be one of 4,000 to worship and witness under the theme "God's Dominion—From Sea to Sea" (Psalm 72:8).

Hear the Bader Lecturer, Dr Fred Craddock of the Candler School of Theology. Hear also, among many distinguished

preachers, our own Dr Keith Farmer, Principal of the NSW Theological College.

Music at convention will include the Impact Brass and Singers of Ozark College, plus many instrumentalists, vocal groups and bell choirs.

Study breakfasts will be held at our hotels. Dr Leroy Garrett of Denton, Texas, is writing the text for these studies.

Pre- and post-convention tours have been arranged offering a range from convention only through to four-, 14- and 28-day tours.

Full details can be obtained by attending one of the meetings advertised below or by contacting the Secretary, ACWCCC, Ron Brooker, St Helier Road, The Gurdies 3984. Phone (059) 97 6227. Fax (059) 97 6404.

World Convention of Churches of Christ —Information Meetings—

are being held as detailed hereunder to provide full information re:

- Special fares and first-class accommodation
- World-wide Christian fellowship
- Excellent worship and speakers
- Special pre- and post-convention tours

If you would like to know more about World Convention, or ask any questions on a specific area of convention, come to one of our meetings.

Victoria

7.45 pm, Tuesday, 1 October

Surrey Hills C of C

7.45 pm, Thursday, 3 October

Footscray C of C

Queensland

7.45 pm, Tuesday, 8 October

Kenmore College

New South Wales

7.45 pm, Friday, 11 October

Epping C of C

Western Australia

7.45 pm, Monday, 14 October

Dalkeith Road C of C

South Australia

7.45 pm, Wednesday, 16 October

Flinders Park C of C

Tasmania

7.45 pm, Tuesday, 5 November

Hobart C of C

7.45 pm, Thursday, 7 November

Launceston C of C

K. Masterton—Chairman
R. Brooker—Secretary

Irony in the Parables

The people of Jesus' day were, like most people today, content with life within their own scale of values. They were busy eking out a living, bringing up families, building their security for the future. But they had forgotten one thing—God. The world of the parables, of the daily concerns of ordinary life, is the same world with which we easily become preoccupied. But the parables are loaded with ironic potential that can subvert our little world and shock us into seeing the truth about ourselves and God.

In Jesus' parables of reversal, irony is poised, hidden in a seemingly innocent narrative plot. Those participants that think, act and live by the established order and perceptions of their day experience an ironic twist in the parable's denouement, in which the very foundations of their little world are subverted and ripped out from under them. Consider the shocking subversion of normality for the elder son, who was obedient to his father for so many years, but who didn't get to kill the fatted calf; the labourers who worked all day in the vineyard and were paid the same as those who worked one hour; and the enemy who was a paradigm of compassion. What ironic twists! What devastating implications for ourselves—if we take such shocking subversion seriously.

Whether the person listening to the parables is prepared to accept the world revealed in their ironic denouement or not is another matter. Spiritual awakening to the life of the Kingdom is contingent on recognising the subversion of one's own accepted world, which occurs in the parables of reversal, in which two modes of perception are unexpectedly brought head on, and clash. One, the way we usually think, the other the way of the Kingdom. In this collision of perceptions, sufficient paradox or incongruence is created in our own secure world to begin asking, "What is this all about? How can the first be last, and the last be first? Why does the prodigal, not the good, son get to kill the fatted calf? How can the goodness of good men be subverted by a compassionate enemy? What kind of logic is this?"

The ironic twists of Jesus' parables of reversal, which constantly and unexpectedly subvert our "normal" expectations of the way things should be, also create the context for grace. Irony is often thought of as being cruel. It sometimes is. That irony might wound, and as one theologian has put it, "wound from behind", is not a bad thing. In their ironic denouement, the parables of reversal can begin to prise open the shell of our secure world of "normality", to show us the astonishing, unexpected world of the Kingdom, which in reversal of all our expectations, is truly normal and full of serendipitous joy.

—Stephen Curkpatrick

Celebrating a Centenary of Overseas Mission 1891-1991

1950

College of the Bible In Overseas Work

ALMOST from the inception of our work overseas the college has been a great missionary agency, and has taken a worthy place in our brotherhood programme. When we remember the number of cultured and consecrated young men and women who have gone forth to regions beyond, we are able to assess something of the magnificent work of the college. We never could have equipped the fields with workers had it not been for the college. So closely is the work of the college related to overseas missions that its expansion and effectiveness largely depends upon our support of the former. When we give to the college—we give to the work overseas. The well-being and development of our brotherhood missionary fields rest upon our brotherhood missionary training centre. By its fruits Glen Iris can be judged abundantly worthy.

Within the last two years no less than eight new workers have gone out from the college to fields overseas, in the persons of—

Mr. E. W. Heard, India.
Mrs. Dorothy Heard, India.
Miss Hazel Skuse [sic], India.
Mr. Ron. McLean, New Hebrides.
Mr. Hariba Waghmodi, India.
Miss Gwen Batterham, India.
Mr. Roy Dixon, India.
Mrs. Joy Dixon, India.

At the close of this year Mr. Keith Skillicorn will go to India to work in association with our British churches.

This company of consecrated young people is an inspiration to all the churches, and constitutes a splendid contribution to overseas missions. Further, we realise that there is a group of missionary volunteers in college preparing, so that when the door opens for service they will be equipped and ready.

—*The Australian Christian*, 12 September 1950

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On 17 August the National Council of Churches of Christ was presented with a paper that suggested that we need to further define our identity, and that we need to communicate this identity better with the people in the churches so that they fully endorse this identity and help share it with our society. The National Council is hoping that readers will comment (through letters or articles) on the four issues raised below. *The Australian Christian* will be asking people from around Australia to address various aspects of the four issues over the next 12 months to stimulate that debate.

Churches of Christ in Australia are in the process of re-discovering and redefining an identity within the Australian church and wider community. During the 1960s and 1970s we were a part of the general decline in mainstream Protestantism within Australia. A number of factors led to that decline but one was a tendency to lose our specific purpose and identity. Now in the 1990s there is growth and the re-emergence of an identity and a number of issues emerge as a result.

Cultural Relevance

Churches of Christ, like all other organisations, have to be culturally relevant to maintain a membership base and to survive. The cultural captivity of many Churches of Christ to the values, beliefs and faith expressions of an earlier era highlighted our irrelevance. We did not have the large membership to disguise our decline.

In recent years worship, buildings and styles of ministry have changed so that they reflect the cultural norms of the Australian community in which the congregation is located. Our autonomy for local congregations allows them to determine the culturally relevant mission responses and patterns of worship that will attract and sustain local membership. The other side of this is that in search of cultural relevance some Churches of Christ congregations could be-

• Defining our identity

Issues Facing Churches of Christ

come culturally captive to the values, beliefs and behaviours of a predominantly secular, affluent and consumerist Australian society. In grappling with this issue we are seeking to maintain a balance between cultural relevance in worship and ministry and obedience to the gospel and the valued traditions of the past.

Leadership

Within Churches of Christ the traditional model of leadership has been one of mutual ministry between the minister and congregation. Leadership has been from within the congregation and expressed through and by the minister. Currently, leadership and the minister's role as leader is widely debated within our churches. Leadership is defined by some ministers as being firmly their responsibility. For them there is a clear vision of the future and their role is to articulate that vision and mobilise the membership to move towards that goal. Some have been very successful and have enabled significant growth in their churches. Such leadership has been necessary because many local churches became captive to the limited vision and capabilities of a few key lay people who controlled and maintained congregational power.

On the other hand, there are congregations where the membership is able, creative and open, and eager to participate with a minister to create a new future. Genuine mutual leadership is possible. Over time the minister emerges as the key leader. Such leadership is earned and given willingly by the congregation. Leadership style compatible with our local congregational government is the issue. Leaders who are insensitive and too demanding or directive will be rejected, along with those who are too

passive or who lack energy and vision.

Location of Churches

In most cities the greatest number of Churches of Christ congregations are located in areas where there is an ageing or declining population. We have fewer congregations in developing areas. Having a flexibility so that we can use financial and building resources to serve evangelism and mission needs in new, developing and redeveloping areas is a crucial issue. Congregations tend to become institutionalised and potentially overcapitalised when in decline. They are generally undercapitalised when undergoing growth. Development and redevelopment of congregations and facilities into areas of

need is being addressed but we have considerable work to do before we use our resources well as good stewards.

Ministry

Another issue is the style of ministerial training and the type of ministry best suited for the mission priorities of the future in Churches of Christ. Ministry tends to be evaluated by congregations on the basis of performance rather than qualifications or theological depth. Performance is measured by a variety of part-defined subjective measures, such as preaching, pastoral care, membership growth and program effectiveness. Performance is also related to personality and relational skills.

The balance between developing the skills of ministry with the theological content of the faith is of relevance to theological colleges and local churches. Both are needed for long-term effective ministry. Creating that balance to the satisfaction of all concerned is not easy.

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A Church ABC

Dandenong is situated 30 km southeast of Melbourne, Vic. Once an agricultural market town it has grown in size in the past 30 years to an industrial and commercial suburb with a multicultural population. Many of the members of the church grew up in a very different Dandenong to what it has now become.

The Dandenong church of Christ began in 1892 and last year occupied its third building. The first two chapels were in the city centre, but the latest, at 139 David Street, is further out. However it could end up being situated in the centre of the district as the state government continues its development of Dandenong as a regional administrative and commercial centre. Situated on 2 ha of land the new building was completed last October, the cost being covered by the sale of the previous property. The building is contemporary and painted in warm colours. The beautiful chapel has seating for 200 in individual padded chairs and a feature of the chapel is the inclusion of stained glass

windows from the old building. The complex also includes a multipurpose hall, a large modern kitchen and numerous other rooms.

The new building has proved to be a blessing for all the groups who use it. Since the opening

An interdenominational Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) has doubled its numbers since using the building and 85 women now meet each Tuesday morning.

The pastor at the Dandenong church is Graeme Foon. He and

the young mothers of the district. The Christian Women's Fellowship this year celebrated its 65th consecutive year of activity.

The church also has a Friday night youth group reaching out to young people in the area, and a young adults group for those in this age group in the life of the church. The church also supports an outreach to children in North Dandenong, "Jesus



Focus on Dandenong

on 4 November 1990 (when 400 attended) there have been many new people joining the fellowship. At present there are over 130 members, mainly in the middle and older age groups. An average of over 110 attend the weekly 10 am service and there is also a 7 pm service.

The chapel is also used by a Spanish-speaking Baptist church. This fellowship has grown to 120 people, mainly from Central and South America, and includes many new arrivals and young families with children. This church has a real mission to Spanish-speaking people and is experiencing growth.

his wife Julie have two children, Matthew and Rebecca. Graeme came from Queensland and trained at Kenmore. Graeme was a motor mechanic who taught in secondary schools and TAFE colleges before receiving a call to mission. Dandenong is his first church, and he has been there since 1989.

Graeme is more than ably assisted for the past two years by Mark Butler, a student at the Churches of Christ Theological College.

Dandenong is an active church. Activities include six home groups, an art group and a Wednesday morning playgroup that aims to reach out to

Gang".

The Dandenong church has had a faithful witness for a long time. In September 1992 it will celebrate its centenary, and the church is planning a number of outreach events next year leading up to the anniversary.

The vision of the Dandenong church is "to serve our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, by being a dynamic community and mission-orientated church in the Dandenong district".

Of course, the difficulty is to know how this can be carried out. The task for the members at Dandenong is to work together as a local congregation to fulfil this vision in the years ahead.

This is the confidence that we have in him: that, if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us! And if we know that he hears us, we know that we have the petition we desired of him. 1 John 5:14, 15 is telling us that it's good for Christians to know and believe that nothing "happens by chance". The Bible teaches us that God has his hand upon us for good, his guardian angels about us, his Holy Spirit within us to guide us as we "ask" and "do" according to his will.

The Bible certainly backs this up with many matter-of-fact examples. 2 Kings 6 records the fear in the heart of the servant of the man of God. He woke one morning to find the town surrounded by enemy forces. "Don't be afraid," said Elisha. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Verse 17 says, "And

Growing Spiritually

• In all things God works for the good of those who love him

"No Chance" Faith

by Bill Flett

Elisha prayed, 'O Lord, open his eyes so he may see.' Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." Skip chapter 7 and read the gem that follows. The king "just happened" to be discussing the case of the widow whose son Elisha had brought back from death, when the woman and son came in with an urgent request—what a coincidence! Then there's Zacchaeus

(Luke 19), forever cursing his size—too small to stand up to bullies, too short to ever be impressive or in command or even to see in a crowd. Yet, like all of us, just right for Jesus to walk by, bringing eternal salvation! And Saul of Tarsus, exposed to the radiance on the face of dying, triumphant Stephen. (Acts 6, 7) Later, now the messenger of Jesus, Paul was to write words of comfort, hope and enduring beauty: "And we...are being trans-

formed into his likeness with ever increasing glory." (2 Corinthians 3)

Yes! "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8) Lucky, lucky us!

• Bill Flett is the minister at the Hamilton, NSW, 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)

Ministers' Workshop

There it was. One of those posters. Some are funny. Some are clever. Others beautiful. A few, thought-provoking. This one? Convicting. God really wanted me to get the message. He nudged me at a Christian conference centre recently when I first read it in an administrator's office. A few weeks and many miles later he shot me the signal again—I practically ran into the same poster in a friend's office. Then just last week, while moving faster than a speeding bullet through a Portland publishing firm, I came face to face with it again. But this time the message broke through my defences and wrestled me to the mat for the full count.

"My son, slow down. Ease back. Admit your needs."

Such good counsel. But so tough to carry out. Why is that? Why in the world is it such a struggle for us to cry out for assistance?

- Ants do it all the time and look at all they achieve.
- In my whole life I have never seen a football game won without substitutions.
- Even the finest of surgeons will arrange for help in extensive or delicate operations.
- Highway patrolmen travel in pairs.
- Throughout my whole career in the Marine Corps I was drilled to dig a foxhole for two in the event of battle.

Asking for help is smart. It's also the answer to fatigue and the "I'm indispensable" image. But something keeps us from this wise course of action, and that something is **pride**. Plain, stubborn unwillingness to admit need. The greatest battle many believers fight today is not with inefficiency, but with **superefficiency**. It's been bred into us by high-achieving parents, through years of high-pressure competition in school, and by that unyielding inner voice that keeps urging us to "Prove it to 'em! Show 'em you can do it without anyone's help!"

The result, painful though it is to admit, is a lifestyle of impatience. We become easily irritated—often angry. We work

• There is no way you can keep pushing your life at that pace and expect to stay effective

Call for Help!

by Charles Swindoll

A prayer to be said
When the world has gotten you down,
And you feel rotten,
And you're too doggone tired to pray,
And you're in a big hurry,
And besides, you're mad at everybody...
help.

longer hours. Take less time off. Forget how to laugh. Cancel vacations. Allow longer and longer gaps between meaningful times in God's Word. Enjoy fewer and fewer moments in prayer and meditation. And all the while the spectre of discouragement looms across our horizon like a dark storm front—threatening to choke out any remaining sunshine.

Say, my friend, it's time to declare it. You are not the Messiah of the twentieth century! There is no way you can keep pushing your life at that pace and expect to stay effective. Analyse yourself any way you please, you are H-U-M-A-N... nothing more. So? So slow down. So give yourself a break. So stop trying to cover all the bases and sell popcorn in the stands at the same time. So relax for a change!

Once you've put it in neutral, crack open your Bible to Exodus 18 and read aloud verses 18–27. It's the account of a visit Jethro made to the workplace of his son-in-law. A fella by the name of Moses. Old Jethro frowned as he watched

Moses flash from one need to another, from one person to another. From early morning until late at night the harried leader of the Israelites was neck-deep in decisions and activities. He must have looked very impressive—eating on the run, ripping from one end of camp to the other, planning appointments, meeting deadlines.

But Jethro wasn't impressed. "What is this thing that you are doing for the people?" he asked. Moses was somewhat defensive (most too-busy people are) as he attempted to justify his ridiculous schedule. Jethro didn't buy the story. Instead, he advised his son-in-law against trying to do everything alone. He reproved him with strong words: "The thing that you are doing is not good. You will surely wear out... The Hebrew term means 'to become old, exhausted'. In three words, he told Moses to...

Call for Help

The benefits of shifting and sharing the load? Read verses 22–23 for yourself. "It will be easier for you... you will be able

to endure." That's interesting, isn't it? God wants our lifestyle to be easier than most of us realise. We seem to think it's more commendable and "spiritual" to have that tired-blood, overworked-underpaid, I've-really-got-it-tough look. You know, the martyr complex. That strained expression that conveys "I'm working so hard for Jesus" to the public. Maybe they're fooled, but he isn't. The truth of the matter is quite the contrary. That hurried, harried appearance usually means "I'm too stubborn to slow down" or "I'm too insecure to say 'no'" or "I'm too proud to ask for help".

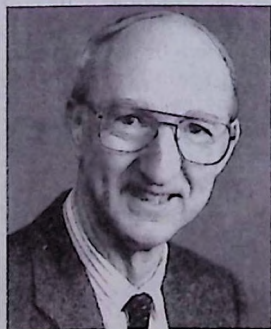
Since when is a bleeding ulcer a sign of spirituality? Or no time off and a 70-hour week a mark of efficiency? When will we learn that efficiency is enhanced not by what we accomplish but more often by what we relinquish?

The world beginning to get you down? Feeling rotten? Too tired to pray... in too big a hurry? Ticked off at a lot of folks? Let me suggest one of the few four-letter words God loves to hear us shout when we're angry or discouraged:

Help!

• This article is taken from Charles Swindoll's book, *Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life* (Anzea, 1983) and is used by permission.

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



Church Plants Continuing

Since 1988, ten new projects have commenced in Victoria under the CROP initiative with more to follow in 1992–93. Department finance and practical support are basic to the program. Gifts are urgently needed for current and proposed projects.

Don Smith

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

Personal

Baptisms

•Kellie Jo Woodhart, Chris Morey, Frankston, Vic •Brian Steain, Knoxfield, Vic •Renee Gordon-Smith, Doris Brokenshire, Liverpool, NSW •Belynda Jones, Sarah Hudson, Rowena Wyatt, Warwick, WA •Sally Whiteside, Michael Waite, Glen Waverley, Vic •Tony & Lorraine Bingley, Jasan Barnett, Mount Clear, Vic •Matthew Habermann, Andrea Trebbin, Angela Glass, Kim Bignill, Cameron Johnson, Jessica Foster, Kellie Bignill, Gregory Redmond, Darren Large, Bundaberg, Qld •Robert Drury, Glad Fernley, Nell James, Nita Cross, Jonathon Norling, Naomi Norling Jason Reed, Melanie Reed, Luke Reed, Adam Albury, Kathi Murphy, Ron Button, Michelle Button, Phillip & Georgina Lawson, Robyn Smith, Manning Valley, NSW •Karl Barker, Dianne Robinson, Elissa Lawrence, Werribee, Vic •Niel Gravenal, Ballina District, NSW

Marriages

•Maria Caspar to Shayne Naismith, Oakleigh, Vic •Yang Chew to Kenneth Ho, Thornleigh, NSW

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All past members and
friends welcome
Luncheon 12 noon
RSVP 8 November
Box 517, Pt Lincoln

Deaths

•Mrs Iva Miller, Frankston, Vic
•Melba Hall, Marion Smith,
Oakleigh, Vic •Bob Brown,
Knoxfield, Vic •Bill Lassig,
Wilhelmina Matilda Pohle,
Bundaberg, Qld •Mrs Lily Bow-
man, Carnegie, Vic •Susan Taylor,
York, WA •Mrs Marj Wilson,
Dianella, WA •Aubrey Vincent
Kunoth, Allan George Chapple,
Herbert James Solly, Alice Mabel
Ahrens, Berri, SA •Charles Jelbart,
Werribee, Vic •Jim Follett, Les
Mullan, Hampstead Gardens, SA

Changes

FAB Perth Metropolitan Out-
reach: Peggy and Ray Schmitt, 26
Gladstone Avenue, Swan View, WA
6056. Phone (09) 294 1758.

North Haven: Secretary—Alan
Davy, 7 John Phillip Drive, Bonny
Hills, NSW 2445.

Ainslie: Secretary—Graeme Butler,
9 Fred Johns Crescent, McKellar,
ACT 2617. Phone (06) 258 5900.

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**75th ANNIVERSARY
OAKLEIGH CHURCH
22 SEPTEMBER**

10.30 am Guest
Preacher:
C.H.J. Wright

Luncheon to follow
service

Post-Luncheon Session:
C.H.J. Wright

Musical and vocal items
(03) 568 1825

Church News

NSW

TWEED HEADS (Richard Oakes)
Maurie Pieper brought interesting
audio-visual on Christian Blind In-
ternational. Joy to share fellowship
with Maurie & Deidre ... Trash 'n'
Treasure raised over \$2,700 for
mission support & youth car wash
\$80+ for support of World Vision
orphan ... Four young people com-
mitted lives at Bill Newman Cru-
sade & 10 commitments were
made in morning service on first
Sunday of "Decision Month" in
August.

LIVERPOOL (Peter Raymond)
Church encouraged by two bap-
tisms & eight welcomed into church
family recently ... New worship fa-
cilities almost complete. Having
"Open Day" 7 September to allow
local community to inspect build-
ing & have some refreshments.
Dedication & thanksgiving service
8 Sept with Dr Keith Farmer as
speaker. All past members invited
to the thanksgiving service.

MANNING VALLEY (Barry Rice,
Ross Norling) Fourth church anni-
versary. Keith Farmer speaker ...
Membership 200 ... Weekend with
Engadine YP ... Elders now ap-
pointed ... Barry Rice's ministry
extended for further five years ...
Singles & couples dinners held with
Gavin Williams ... Youth minister to
be appointed ... Regular youth ser-
vices being held ... Three men's
prayer groups on Monday morn-
ings ... "Bible Based Praying" vi-
deos being used in home groups.

BALLINA DISTRICT (Roger
Foletta) We have been working
hard on outreach through spon-
sored social events ... A fun concert
held at Lennox Head. We were
surprised at the amount of talent in
our group. Great supper ... Richard
& Shirley Pearce show was well
attended ... 8 September Noel
Newton, Southport church, anni-
versary guest speaker. Morning tea
& lunch provided.

Qld

BUNDABERG (Alan Leane) Suc-
cess of Winter Festival of Gospel
Films featuring Billy Graham evi-
denced by 16 public responses over
five consecutive nights. Faithful
Christian nurturing of children by
parents, Sunday School teachers &
youth leaders bore fruit. Nine al-
ready baptised. Attendances rose
to 130 ... 40 extra chairs purchased
... Party of 22 from Vanuatu arriv-
ing August to trace missionary ac-
tivities of John Thompson amongst
their people working in cane fields
from 1883.

MAROOCHYDORE (Geoff Risson)
18 August 16 young people from
Vanuatu joined us in combined af-
ternoon missionary rally celebrat-
ing 100 years of Overseas Mission
work. They brought special songs
& told of church life in Vanuatu ...
In July one of our church families,
the Staceys & their two daughters,
left for West New Britain as mis-
sionaries with New Tribes Mission.
Church is committed towards their
support.

SA

HAMPSTEAD GARDENS (Keith
Ridge) Successful youth camp held
at Mt Barker. Youth group contin-
ues to grow ... Personal Growth &
Development course being con-
ducted by minister for church lead-
ership development ... Celebrated
OMB Centenary over two Sundays
with Jeff May, Julie Trinnick, Max &
Rae Thompson, Doug Walladge &
Ron McLean. Also a function sup-
porting CBMI, Leprosy & HCJB
missions ... Capacity crowd for
evening service featuring Austral-
ian Youth Choir.

WA

WARWICK (G.B. Carslake, B.A.
Eagles, R.L. Mason) Youth rallies
have featured Doug MacFarlane,
Rob Coyle, Murray Arnold (Wild-
cat's coach) ... 40 basketball &
netball teams being sponsored by
church ... Members attended
Kennon Callahan seminar "Keys to
an Effective Church" ... Offices &
administration of church building
being extended plus more parking
provided. Excellent response to-
wards raising \$250,000 for cost ...
John Sharpe from CCTC, Mulgrave,
preached ... Graham attended sen-
ior ministers conference at
Southport, Qld.

DIANELLA (John Spencer) Church
celebrated 27th anniversary with
inspiring musical "Saints Alive" pre-
sented by choir & Sunday School
... Young (and not so young) raised
well in excess of \$2,000 in recent
40 Hour Famine ... Church sad-
dened by passing of Marj Wilson.



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Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Ahrens, Alice Mabel

(4.8.91) At home in Berri, SA, aged 84. Alice was born to William and Alice Strother at Angaston, SA, in 1907, one of seven children. Married Charles Ahrens in 1927 and moved to Berri. Children Don, Shirley, Rodney and Elaine. Theirs was a happy and caring home. In 1962, following their two daughters, Alice and Charles accepted Jesus Christ during the ministry of Harold Greenwood. Charles died in 1971. Mrs Ahrens was a lady of deep faith and a great example to all who knew her. A gentle, loving and kind lady who expressed her faith to all about her.

—R.H. Patterson

Bowman, Lily (nee Corsan)

Born in Bristol, England, Lil came to Australia with husband, Phil, and young family. They became associated with Dandenong, Vic, church during the ministry of F.A. Youens. She later attended Black Rock, Hampton and, after moving to Emmaus Lodge, Carnegie churches. She had five children: Alan (dec. WW II), Betty (Whitehead), Mavis (Pitcher), Judy (Braybrook) and David; 13 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. The funeral at Carnegie paid tribute to a lovely lady who, on reaching her 90th birthday, seemed to have satisfied her restless spirit, and was now content to take her final rest in her Lord.

—Norma Hall

Chapple, Allan George

(31.7.91) Born at Berri, SA, in 1922 to Les and Rose Chapple. Returned from service in Air Force. Married June Evans in 1948 at Berri church. Children Brian, Rosalie and Trevor and eight grandchildren. Involved in community and fruit-growing industry. Chairman of Winkie School, Australian Dried Fruits Association, Berri Agricultural Bureau. In church Allan served in Christian Endeavour, was elder for 30 years, treasurer, Sunday School Superintendent 27 years, representative for Riverland on State Board. At different times served as minister at Loxton, Moorook, Waikerie, Berri and Barmera. A tower of strength to all and tireless worker for Jesus Christ.

—R.H. Patterson

Cole, Violet May (Dollie)

(1.7.91) A highly-respected Bundaberg, Qld, nursing identity died, aged 89. "Her life was one of dedication to her Lord and to the nursing profession," nephew Myles Chappel said. "She was a very effi-

cient, compassionate and caring nurse." Dolly Cole was born at Ma Ma Creek, near Gatton, Qld, 15 September 1901, and was one of a family of 10. She trained at and graduated from Ipswich General Hospital, nursed at Cherbourg Aboriginal Mission and came to Bundaberg in 1927. She joined the staff of St Vincent's Private Hospital as a nursing sister soon after it was opened. She was appointed matron—a position she held for about 20 years. She retired in 1966 and devoted much of her time to the Churches of Christ and helping people in need.

Kunoth, Aubrey Vincent

(23.7.91) Born at Freeling, SA, 1911. His parents moved to Berri when he was eight. Aub followed his father as a builder and has left his mark on Berri. He married Audrey Jean Winters in 1940 and joined the church at Berri in 1961. He was treasurer for many years and a deacon at the time of his death. A respected and greatly loved member of the church. In the community Aub's activities included serving as Commodore of the Barmera Yacht Club. Aub excelled as a skulling champion of SA and enjoyed many other sports. To wife Audrey, to Francene and Bronte Thomas, Ken and Annette Kunoth and six grandchildren we express sympathy.

—R.H. Patterson

McPherson, Dorothy Alma

Dorothy Pettit was born 13.8.05 at Warracknabeal, Vic. Mrs "Mac" worked as a domestic until her marriage to Robert McPherson on 26.5.26 at the Brim church. They bought a farm at Coleraine in 1938 where they continued to place before their neighbours the love of God in very real and practical terms. In 1944 the family home in Hamilton was burnt out. This created a realisation of the sovereignty of God and their dependence on him. The McPhersons served three times on Aboriginal Mission stations at Norseman and Camarvon before relocating back to Hamilton in 1960. In 1977 Mr McPherson died. Two years ago Mrs Mac retired to the Grange Hostel. Mrs McPherson remained a warm friendly person throughout her life and a loving directive mother. Her life was an example of Christ's love.

Mundy, Eleanor

(8.7.91) Affectionately known as Nell, aged 97 at her death. She was one of 12 children and she was born in at Bream Creek, Tas, in her parents' home. Nell left school at

13 and went to work as a homehelp but this included milking cows and farm work. Nell was never lazy and in latter days in the Tasman Nursing Home she kept herself busy. Her first marriage was to William Spaulding, who died of TB. Later in life she married Len Mundy. Nell had a firm commitment to the Lord. To each of her children, William, Ruth, Helene and Colin and your families, we say "God bless".

—Gordon Henderson

Nilsson, Roy

(10.8.91) Roy Nilsson spent his early years in Brunswick. During World War II he joined the Air Force and saw service in New Guinea and the Islands. He spent 31 years with Ansett Airways. Married Melba Heeps in 1945. Two sons, Graham and Bruce. Melba died in 1965. Roy married Myrtle Breen in 1967 and lived in Coburg. Over the last 15–20 years Roy and Myrtle shared in the Coburg church. In his own quiet way Roy supported the work of the church. In recent years neither enjoyed good health. Roy lovingly cared for Myrtle until she was admitted to a Nursing Home. Roy himself spent the last 18 months in hospice and nursing home care.

—Vic Quayle

Palmer, Harry

(2.8.91) One of the North Shore's last remaining Gallipoli veterans, Harry Palmer, died, aged 94, after a lifetime of contribution to his community. Harry was a doyen of the Northside Community Church, survived Gallipoli and the Western Front in France and served Australia again in World War II. His outstanding contribution to the Northside Community Church was honoured last year when the church named its Crows Nest refuge the Palmer Peace House. Minister Geoff Payne said Harry had a regular commitment to the church and had played a leading role in introducing new ideas. He was an elder emeritus of the church. He is survived by two children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Reed, Gwen

(23.7.91) Gwen was born at Goolwa, SA, near the beginning of the century, and lived there all her life. She was a true child of the parish—her parents being pioneers of the church. Starting as Kinders pianist she became (for 50 years) church organist, and her faith, expressed through music, helped many. She ran a business in Goolwa and at Point Elliott, and was a good worker for local charities. A good sportswoman, she represented her

town at tennis, bowls and Gwen's faith was great. W miss Gwen in our church but are richer for having shared love of God and people.

—Fay Neig

Solly, Herbert James

(2.8.91) Bert came to Berri, SA, to help his uncle on a fruit block at age 14. Good footballer winning Riverland best and fairest at 21. Married Gertrude Fisher 1933. Joined Berri church in 1939. As a builder Bert helped with youth camp at Barmera and hall and kitchen at Berri. As a lay preacher he often spoke at Berri, Loxton, Barmera, Moorook and Waikerie churches. He was board chairman for many years while an elder and deacon. Children Neil and Judy, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Funeral service taken by son-in-law Peter Richter. Bert was a kind, loving and generous man.

—Ray Patterson

Tatterson, Rae Alice

(22.7.91) Rae Fallon grew up at Lake Street church, Perth. She married Ray Fallon and attended Cottesloe church 1953–62. In 1962–76 Rae lived in Victoria near her son Kim and daughter Leonie and families. Rae and her husband attended Ivanhoe church 1962–64. In 1964–72 they attended Frankston church. In 1973 Rae was widowed and in 1976 she returned to WA to be near her daughter Glenn and grandchildren. In 1977 Rae married Eric Tatterson and for a time attended Warwick church. Her last years have been spent in Bullcreek in an Air Force Association Unit during which time she attended Bullcreek church. She was widowed again in 1990. Rae has always been active in church work and charity. She delighted to be on the stage. She was involved in variety concerts within the churches over the years.

—Deborah Blake



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Church News

Vic

FRANKSTON (Allan Avery, Russell Croxford, David Perkin, Harold Bischoff) Morning series "Holy Spirit at Work in the World"—guest speakers ... Film series "Making Right Choices" with presenter Harold Morris ... Many members ill, several on holidays ... Allan & Lianne Avery visiting Nauru & Fiji on holidays ... Phillip Bradley accepted call to be senior minister commencing January 1992 ... East Keilor members guests evening service ... May & Joe Shaw farewelled as they move to Donvale ... David Perkin part-time pastoral minister until December 1991.

OAKLEIGH (W.J. Edwards) Church regrets deaths of Melba Hall & Marion Smith. Sympathy extended to May Barton on death of her husband ... Barbara Edwards new President of CWAFF ... Preacher attended Overseas Mission Board meeting ... Andrew Brown resigned as secretary after many years excellent service ... Graeme Batley recent speaker ... CWF conducted stall at Chadstone "Charity Day" ... Tom Cuddy recuperating after surgery.

KNOXFIELD (Rod Brown, Craig Allan, Brian Tunks) Over last few months the church has engaged in some fundraising through a Winter Christmas dinner, a series of life seminars with a trained psychologist & an orchestral concert organised by the Australian Pops Orchestra ... At present Dr Geoff Whiting

conducting review of church life ... All have been times of enriched fellowship.

RED CLIFFS (G.R. Sharrad) CWAFF annual meeting commenced with a lovely four-course dinner to which some of the men were invited. Officers elected were Pres Mrs Sharrad, Vice Pres Mrs M. Milne, Sec Mrs Sprigg, Treas Mrs Connell. We report several new members in past year—our highest membership ever.

MOUNT CLEAR (Dale White) Record attendances during month of June ... Inspiring "Winter Conference" weekend with guest speaker Graham Agnew ... Cabaret evening attracted over 20 adults—one third of them unchurched ... Three baptisms recently ... New Speakers Club recently formed under leadership of Bill Sutcliffe & Ian Davis ... 40 Hour Faminers raised \$300 for World Vision ... Elder Howard Trezise & team conducting regular services at local Geriatric Centre.

HORSHAM (H.A.L. Clark, Ian Hunt) Monthly average attendances for July 234. Best ever ... YWAM enacted "A Tale of Two Kingdoms" at evening service ... Working bee to prepare home of Howard & Helen Andrews for their return from Rift Valley Academy, Kenya ... Young Mothers group has been established ... Wednesday Care & Share group held camp at Rocklands Reservoir ... Ministers & wives attended Western Victorian Ministers' meeting at Glenisla Homestead. Ken Clinton led program.

BRUNSWICK (Vic Quayle) Plans for 109th anniversary on 27 October in hand ... Health of Jess Brooks, Georgie Withers, Hilda du Blaquiére causing concern ... First Sunday of month regional worship service at Coburg commencing September ... Third Sunday outreach service Andrew Henley guest speaker for September ... MOH Flats outreach services going well ... Senior Citizens well attended ... Leisure Games progressing.

NORTH BALWYN (Paul Burnham) "Fun at 5, Soup at 6" successful. Special guests Phoenix, Mel Davison, Natalie Camlin (top Australian walker) ... Church celebrated 40th anniversary with Trevor Giles & Alan Hirsch guest speakers ... Visual childrens ministry attracting new families ... Chinese evangelist Esther Fan (Partners International) sang & preached ... New family residing in "stable" house—medium-term emergency accommodation.

EAST KEW (Ed Roffey) Sermons by minister & John Tudor much appreciated ... Several members up north on holidays ... Many attended North Eastern Synagogue to hear Rabbi Gutnick describe faith & practice of the Orthodox Jew. After presentation he was very open to questions, which flowed freely. The final part of session was drawing of curtain & unlocking the section sacred to the keeping of the Hebrew scrolls.

NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn) Annual meeting held 11 Aug after morning service & lunch. Report showed that church progressing. Two new deacons, Elva & Keith Faulkner, added to board ... Larry Holt (Thornbury church) was the speaker at Third Sunday at 5 pm ... Aust Church Women Fellowship day held in our chapel ... Shirley Donnison slowly improving after back surgery ... National church life survey held on 25 Aug.

MONTROSE (Neil Galbraith, John Sharpe) Plans continue for four services to be held in the Woori Yallock Primary School Community Hall in September ... 40 newcomers at "new attenders dinner" ... Second pastoral care training day successful ... Great youth activities—bowling, roller skating, Yarra cruise, disco ... Mission Awareness program held with Wycliffe ... John Sharpe to minister at Ringwood next year ... Recent guest speakers include Ian Allsop, Mike Folland, Peter & Cathy Bradley.

Tas

LAUNCESTON (R. Foster, C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) Dedication of six babies & their families held on 18 August ... Parade of Girls' Brigade & Boys' Club at 7 pm ... Mini-musical "Fruits of the Spirit" presented by Sunday School scholars ... CWF held profitable quiz night on 24 August ... Church participated in National Church Life Survey.

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Good Advice

• Ten tips on how to have a quiet church

Noisy Children

Here are some foolproof tips to ensure you don't have noisy children in church.

- Be sure always to turn and glare at parents and children at the slightest noise in church.
- Sit far from the front, and as close to the children as possible, so you don't miss a single sound.
- If you must have a children's area, ensure it is small, ill-equipped, uncomfortable and cold.
- Best of all, don't have one at all.
- Develop a strong expectation that children will sit quietly during at least one hour of adult worship.
- Never affirm the many good qualities children bring to worship.

• Never offer to assist in caring for children during worship.

• At the end of the service, be sure to emphasise to parents how you were distracted, in veiled comments, e.g. "My, weren't we noisy today!"

• Ensure young parents feel inadequate by comparing today's generation with the quiet, reverent children of the past.

• Be satisfied with a children's talk that is poorly prepared, badly presented and over their heads. Discourage the use of attractive props, handcrafts and activities for children.

By following these simple guidelines you can be assured of a quiet, uninterrupted hour in church.

If We Do Not...

"For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord." (1 Thessalonians 3:8)

If we do not care,
Some small child
On a distant shore
Will cry, "Come,"
And no-one will come to answer that call.

If we do not give,
Some searching young person
In another land
Will ask, "How?"
And no-one will go to answer that call.

If we do not pray,
Some burdened mother
In a foreign home
Will whisper, "Why?"

And no-one will reach out to answer that call.

If we do not share,
Some struggling man
In a far off place
Will say, "When?"
And no-one will seek to answer that call.

If we do not stand fast,
Someone who has answered and is there
In our place
Will falter and desperately plead, "Help,"
And only God will hear and weep for that call.

—Jill Nitschke (Nambour, Qld)

The Last Word

Your capacity to say "no" determines your capacity to say "yes" to greater things.

—E. Stanley Jones

The student was late for school for the third time in a week, and the teacher was not at all pleased.

"But I can't help it," the student pleaded. "There are nine of us in the family."

What's that got to do with it?" demanded the teacher.

"Well my mother only sets the alarm for eight."

The graduate started work with a big company and on the first day ended up in the stores. "Right," said the supervisor, "grab that broom and sweep up."

"Just a moment," said the graduate, "have you forgotten that I have an honours degree?"

"Oh, sorry," said the supervisor. "Look—you put your hands here, and you push like this..."

There's a new course at evening classes this year that teaches people how to get over the effects of a visit to the dentist. It's called "How to Transcend Dental Medication".

A mighty elephant looked down at the tiny mouse and said, "You are the tiniest, puniest, most insignificant thing I've ever seen." "Say that again so that I can write it down," said the mouse, "I want to say it to a flea."

If fishermen go home and lie about the size of "the one that got away", do fish go home and lie about the size of the worm?

A: "Did you hear that the astronauts found some bones on the moon?"

B: "Oh dear, I guess the cow didn't make it after all."



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I've typed your Sodom and Gomorrah sermon. Are you sure it doesn't need editing?