

National Journal
of Churches of
Christ in Australia

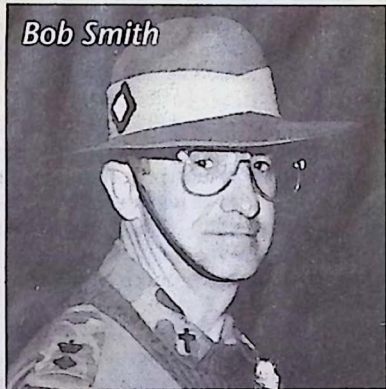
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21 September 1991

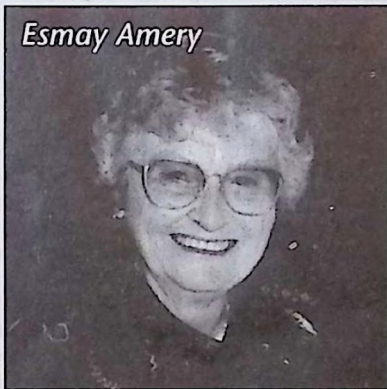
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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Bob Smith



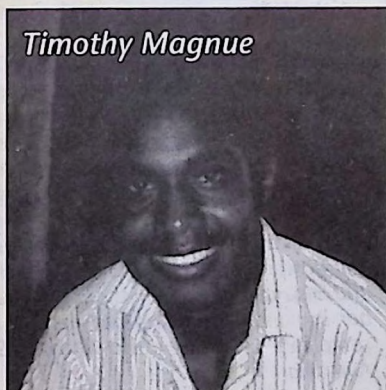
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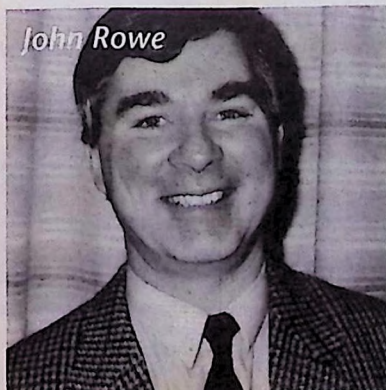


**Good
News
People**

Dianne Whiteside



John Rowe



Diane Lucas



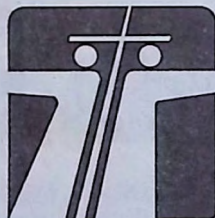
Mike Esbensen





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Guest Editorial

• *Is this the diversity our forefathers spoke about?*

Vive La Différence

by Ron Hewitt

The last 10 years have seen a multiplicity of change in every facet of our life and the Churches of Christ in New South Wales are no exception.

So far this year I have shared with 35 churches and am astounded at the differences in attitude and expectation both of ministers and people at the local congregational level.

There is a real awareness of the need to make the church relevant to all sections of the community, including the disillusioned church member as well as the unchurched Australian.

Some felt the Restoration Movement of the 80s was trying to restore the status quo and have moved quite rapidly upon the path of renewal and acceptance of spiritual truths that are being expressed in contemporary or charismatic styles of worship.

It is in worship that the ethos of the local church displays its many and diverse aspects.

The morning and evening services are usually quite different in style and are often composed of separate congregations. Some of the evening communion services have been outstanding.

Music has become a very important part of the worship experience, with many churches using a variety of instruments in all services, and the leading is undertaken by gifted and trained leaders. Where have all the presidents gone?

Women are emerging in places of leadership in the church and bringing a quality to whatever tasks they undertake, be it as preacher, elder or deacon.

The worship experience of children is being enhanced by excellent children's

segments; in one case a 10-minute animated biblical video, in another a miming clown.

The local church in some areas is under challenge as mobile people are travelling to find a church that will give to them the spiritual experience that they are seeking. Just because the church is close does not guarantee it will be supported.

Many of the new attenders are not interested in the name on the notice board but rather what goes on inside. This is a challenge to those who try to run on past reputation.

The emergence of the ethnic churches is a great encouragement and we would expect to see more and more of these churches grow in the next few years to meet this increasing section of the community.

How and why did this come about? Is this the diversity our forefathers spoke about?

It appears to me that a "holy dissatisfaction" has arisen among many of our people and this has led to a spiritual awakening.

If this is the end result—*vive la différence*.

• Ron Hewitt is currently the Executive Director of the Church Development and Education Department of NSW. He is married to Shirley and they have six grandchildren. In 1971, Ron came out of industry into the ministry as the first full-time Conference Secretary in NSW and has served as Conference President and Conference Treasurer. He has had pastoral ministries in NSW at Telopea and Epping, in Victoria in the Eastern Suburban Regional Church and, at the end of 1990 completed a ministry at Hawthorn in South Australia.

Townsville Church of Christ

A developing church, in renewal, with a heart for mission, is seeking a person to establish a Ministry to the Poor

centred in a State Housing area. This would be an extension of an established program to shelter and support families in need.

Applications are invited from people who—

- have either experience in ministry to the poor or a proven ability to communicate with them;
- are able to network with other agencies who support these people;
- are self-motivated and able to work productively with minimal supervision;
- have proven counselling/pastoral skills;
- have the spiritual development, maturity and gifting to plant a church;

Initially this position is part time (20 hours per week) with a further offer of 20 hours per week in a church-sponsored employment opportunity.

Resumes, applications and enquiries can be directed to:
Greg Muller, Townsville Church of Christ, PO Box 382, Hermit Park, Qld 4812
Phone (077) 79 8432

• Grote Street acquires historic instrument

Hindmarsh Pipe Organ at Founding Church

Grote Street, Adelaide, SA, church is moving fast towards its sesquicentennial celebrations. The Adelaide city church, with its almost 150 years of restoration history, has been a centre of magnificent preaching, outreach, establishing churches, a focal point of great Brotherhood Conference sessions, commissioning of missionaries and many other noteworthies.

Historic Hindmarsh church, an offspring church of Grote Street, pioneered by Grote Street's founder Thomas Magarey, who started the church with his wife, the former Elizabeth Verco, in their home when they bought John Ridley's flour mill at Hindmarsh, is now part of history. The interior of the chapel has been stripped of its furnishings. One of the last relics, the pipe organ, came into Grote Street's possession almost miraculously. At the moment the organ fills one of the Grote Street Sunday School classrooms, all bits and pieces.

For years it had been said that Grote Street lacked a pipe organ, but now it has the Hindmarsh instrument for the sesquicentennial. With a deadline set for the removal of the organ from Hindmarsh, members of the Historical Trust of

Australia, South Australian Committee, amazingly sprang into action and dismantled the organ, stored it at Grote Street, and has offered to install it at cost. An essential replacement part will be the pumping apparatus (the bellows).

Heading the team members of the Pipe Organ Heritage in South Australia are David Shield, of the Uniting Church, and consultant John Stiller, of the Lutheran Church. David Shield writes: "The instrument currently in storage at Grote Street is of major significance to South Australia's pipe organ heritage. Evidence indicates that it was built by Johann Wilhelm Wolff, 1873, the last commercially produced instrument prior to Wolff's retirement and, with only three others, remains substantially in original condition."

As the founding church of Churches of Christ in Australia, Grote Street invites donations towards the installation of the organ and the sesquicentennial celebrations. Contributions of \$25 or more will receive a memento of polished wood from the original church, the craftsmanship of David Kruger. Please send gifts to Treasurer, Tom Arcus, 2/89 Penzance Street, Glenelg South 5045.

—Arnold Caldicott



The Grote Street, Adelaide, chapel

• An Italian evening

Lasagne on the Menu



Enjoying the Italian meal



Over 60 residents, staff and friends of the Christian Guest Home, Oakleigh, Vic, recently went Italian! For one evening they enjoyed the atmosphere, food and music of Italy.

The dining room looked stunning, decorated in the Italian colours of red, white and green, and the walls were covered in posters, maps, scarves and ornaments from Italy. Even the tablecloths and settings followed the colour scheme. Of course, lasagne featured as the

main course, and all other food and beverages had an Italian flavour.

A number of residents dressed up and in the ladies' section the prize was won by Lil Chiffey, with Tom Cuddy winning the men's section. The singer for the evening was Peter "Pedro" Bradley and he entertained with melodious Italian songs. By the favourable comments heard after the event, it was an evening enjoyed by all. —Sally Bunston

Correction

Milton Oliver's article on the leadership debate ("AC" 17 August) could be read to indicate that Bruce McIntosh is involved in the union movement and is pushing a unionist position. Bruce is not a unionist and a close examination of his credentials ("AC" 3 August) will show that he has been involved in human resources from a management position. This was one point in a letter that Bruce submitted for publication. I have decided not to print this letter, however I have discussed the possibility of Bruce sharing his understanding of the Biblical position on leadership in a later issue.

—Editor

• Weekend of training and inspiration

Winter Conference a Winner!

Winter in Ballarat, Vic, can be cold, bleak and uninspiring—but not when you conduct an enthralling weekend of training and inspiration. In early August the Mount Clear church held its inaugural Winter Conference with guest speaker Graham Agnew, senior minister at Marion, SA.

The first phase of the program was leadership training. Graham spoke on issues relating to leadership, ministry and church growth, encouraging those present to develop a vision and strategy for further outreach and growth. His theme was "Build a Dream—And the Dream Will Build You!"

On Saturday night over 80 adults, many of whom were not regular churchgoers, gathered for an informal coffee and sweets cabaret. The evening included entertainment from

"The In-Voices", a relevant message from Graham Agnew and plenty of time for people to enhance friendships or get to know new people.

Highlights of the weekend were the Sunday worship services. The messages, musical quality and worshipful atmosphere gave us something to aim for in future months. Attendances at these services were at record levels, with 150 gathering in the morning and nearly 100 in the evening.

Most people came out of the Winter Conference weekend with a renewed sense of vision and purpose, inspired to serve God and others in new and exciting ways. The Winter Conference was a winner!

—Dale White



Past **Bayswater** members are invited to come home for our special

120th Anniversary—20 October

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giving the family name and number coming



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as from 16 September 1991

77-79 Capel Street, West Melbourne 3003

Telephone Numbers

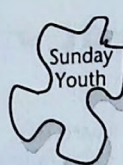
Conference Executive and Other Departments (03) 326 8900

Department of Community Care (03) 326 8977

National Conference Council (03) 326 8900

Australian Board of Church Development and Education (03) 326 8900

• A day of thanksgiving



It All Came Together on the Day!

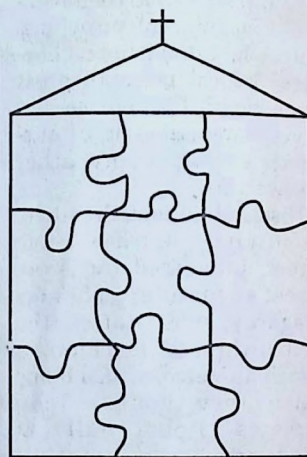
Saturday, 27 July—Volunteer workers everywhere! Last-minute polishing, choir practising to the accompaniment of hammers and drills, laying of floor covering, lighting adjustments, catering and floral jobs, etc.

Sunday, 28 July—The Goolwa, SA, chapel reopened for worship after five months of alterations and additions.

The minister, Graeme Ritchie, welcomed about 300 who helped celebrate at the morning communion service, lunch and afternoon program. Ron and Alice Saunders and Ralph and Heather Oke (past ministers at the church) were able to be present. Jill Hunt and Graeme led the morning service. Children's groups from the church gave items at both services as did the local ecumenical choir and "all-age" singing group from the church family.

Speakers were Brian Phelps and Brian Ricketts. Rob Leane, Dawn Chivell and Keith Aird represented the State Conference.

The "happy family" clowns mimed an act to piece together



a giant jigsaw, representing all aspects of the church's outreach and led in singing the happy family chorus.

One of the items expressed it well: "May this be a place where everyone can feel at home; where God can make his presence known!"

—Kay Neighbour



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People

◦ Leadership of the highest standard

Kevin Crawford to Retire

Kevin Crawford has exercised the responsibility of leadership within Churches of Christ and throughout Australia since he entered Woolwich Bible College in 1955. As a student in his first year he ministered with E. C. Hinrichsen at Caringbah and then spent 18 months at Holroyd before returning to Caringbah for the second half of 1957. He graduated with the College Diploma at the close of that year.

Called to the Caringbah, NSW, church in 1958, he ministered there until 1961. During those four years he also served as Treasurer of the Woolwich Bible College. Already his kindly tact and concern for detail marked him out as a person headed for a wider Brotherhood ministry.

Between 1962 and 1978 Kevin served as the full-time Director of the Department of Home Missions and Evangelism. They were busy and fruitful years. His coming to the directorship of the Department in 1962 was the beginning of a new era for the Churches of Christ in New South Wales. Kevin was always on the lookout for new ways to promote the evangelistic ideal. He sought to gain the most from such organisations as Navigators and the Lay Institute for Evangelism, taking particular

care to tie them into the work of the local church. Kevin was also responsible for bringing the Church Growth Movement to Australian Churches of Christ by his sponsoring of the tours of Win Arn in 1974 and 1976, where the focus was on "How to Grow an Australian Church". As a result of his interest in evangelism Kevin participated in the South East Asian Congress on Evangelism (1968) and the International Congress on World Evangelisation at Lausanne (1974). On another occasion he spent three months in the USA studying the latest methods in evangelism. In 1969 he served on the Executive Committee of the Billy Graham Crusade functioning as Chairman of the Visitation Committee.

In all of this he was not remote from the local church scene. 1968 saw him also functioning as minister of the Mosman church supported by a team of college students whom he supervised.

The years as Home Mission Director saw Kevin exercise a wider influence and ministry. From 1963 to 1968 he was Conference Secretary in a part-time capacity; he served as lecturer in evangelism at the Woolwich Bible College (and maintained that connection until recently); from October 1978 to October 1980 he was Federal Conference President.

His vision was responsible for the acquisition in 1970 of the campsite (which was enlarged by the acquisition of the Zionist Centre in 1977) now known as the Stanwell Tops Christian Conference Centre. This valuable asset has been of great worth to the Churches of Christ in New South Wales and Kevin continues to have a major role in the administration of the site. In all of this the Christian concern of the man has shone out above the administrative prowess.

Since 1979 he has been Conference Secretary. As an administrator he has brought to

◦ Chaplain Bob Smith receives award

Military Decoration



Photo by Major Craig Youll

Bob Smith presented with the Reserve Force Decoration by Colonel Chris Prickett

Over 15 years of effective service in the Army Reserve was rewarded when Chaplain Bob Smith was presented with the Reserve Force Decoration by the Chief of Staff Headquarters 2nd Division, Colonel Chris Prickett.

Colonel Prickett took the opportunity to present the decoration to Chaplain Smith during the unit's annual field exercise at the Army's Gan Gan training area recently.

Chaplain Smith enlisted in the Army Reserve on 15 June 1975 and has served with Headquarters 2 Cadet Brigade, Headquarters 5 Engineer Group and Headquarters 2nd Military District.

He is now the Senior Chaplain at Headquarters 2nd Division, the Army Reserve's largest formation.

In civilian life Bob is the minister at the Hurstville, NSW, church.

Visiting Brisbane?

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the task many of the same qualities and methods that marked his other ministries—attention to detail, careful analysis, looking at both sides of contentious issues, "seeing the wood from the trees" and drawing conclusions as clearly and equitably as possible. He is conspicuously courteous and considerate; and it is not a little because of his kindly wisdom that the divergent elements of the Conference have worked together so amicably. It needs to be recognised that Kevin has always maintained that the Conference is the servant of the churches and that the key work is in the local church. Coupled with his integrity are the qualities of a genuine humility and Christian sanity. There is the balance that

can see another point of view.

It can with justice be claimed that Kevin Crawford's years as minister, department head and Conference Secretary set the highest standard. We gratefully seize this opportunity, as those who have experienced the warmth of his loyal friendship, to join in a gesture that "overflows in a flood of thanksgiving to God". (2 Corinthians 9:12) At his stepping down we gratefully acknowledge our debt and salute him at the close of this ministry.

Kevin will retire from his position at the end of 1991. There will be some public recognition of his role in both NSW and the Australian scene. This will be advertised at a latter date.

—Dennis Nutt

• Serving the Lord in Queensland

Caring for People

With the Queensland Annual Conference approaching, the Social Service Department has been assessing its caring work over the past year.

During the year the Social Service Department provided care for 6,537 people in nursing homes, aged care hostels and units, in licensed residential care of children and youth, in residential assistance for the homeless, in the Branch-out program and in child day care.

The largest number of people to receive care were homeless families, where 3,100 received residential assistance. The second largest area in which care was given was the aged care field, where 1,756 received care. Child day care provided 1,205 children with care and in licensed residential care of children and youth 244 were given care. Branch-out, our alcohol and drug residential recovery maintenance program, provided care for 51 persons. This latter program is still in a developmental phase. Other programs run by the Department provided care for

a further 181 people.

Overall the Social Service Department had an expenditure on the operation of its programs (excluding capital costs) of \$17.7 million for the year.

Across the whole of the Department's work 60% went into assistance for financially disadvantaged people, which keeps an emphasis upon assistance for those least able financially to provide care for themselves.

For the coming year the Queensland Social Service Department is looking forward to the completion of Buckingham Gardens 50-bed aged care hostel and the completion of major refurbishing of Golden Age Retirement Village Hostel and the Lady Small Haven Hostel, both on the Gold Coast. Another important project is the rebuilding of the Fassifern Hostel and the addition of an additional 30 hostel beds, 10 of which are to be located in the nearby town of Kalbar. The Social Service Department's motto is "Serving the Lord—through service to people."

• Highly successful

Ladies' Retreat

"Lord Change Me" was the theme for the WA Women's Auxiliary Ladies' Retreat held at Lake Coolingup Christian Youth Campsite on 16-18 August.

With 102 campers and 17 visitors on the Saturday representing 21 churches both country and metropolitan, the retreat was highly successful.

Spiritually it was wonderful too. Lyn Bridge from Kelmscott church led a chal-

lenging series of studies on Psalm 23.

The music ministry was led by Beth Hart with Joan Barnett on the piano. Soloists included Julie Fraser, Christine Price and Jan Wallis.

The Friday evening social time and the hilarious Giggle and Grin Show on Saturday evening offered light-hearted entertainment under the guidance of MC Marian Hall.

Saturday afternoon we had Dr Jequier from the Pivot Medical Centre as our guest speaker.

The communion service on Sunday morning was beautifully prepared and presented by Shirley Smyth. An offering was received for the pastors' resource equipment at Yamen, PNG.

We were thrilled to have so many of our younger women participating this year.

—B. McIlwraith (Secretary)

• Good things come in threes

Northern Ladies' Camp

The weekend of 2-4 August was a special one for the ladies who attended the Northern Ladies' Camp at Camp Irwin on Magnetic Island, Qld. A record number of 44 shared in the studies presented by Vivienne Campbell on the theme "Secret of Discipleship".

An encouraging number of "first timers" fitted in to the warm bond of togetherness and Christian love that underlies not only the worship and studies but also the times of frivolity and sharing in all aspects of camp life.

The number three played a significant part of the weekend. There were three disciples studies, the three denials, the three "Andrews Sisters", the "Three Amigos" (not to men-

tion the three great meals each day). Campers were also grouped in prayer triplets.

For the first time electives were included in the program. There was a choice of discussion on "Talking to a Gatepost", "Life in the Single Lane" and "Thermometer or Thermostat". This inclusion was very well received.

The theme of "Weekend at the Movies" was woven throughout the weekend with the special feature being the Saturday night concert.

The highlight of the weekend was the communion service on Sunday morning led by QCWF President Joan Furlonger and President-Elect Julia Flood.

—Jill Cummins

• More beds

Funding for the Brisbane Plan

The Social Service Department in Queensland has a major project involving the redevelopment of Burdeu House, Brig-o-doon Nursing Home and Hillcrest Nursing Home.

The total project, known as the Brisbane Plan, is expected to cost about \$6 million.

The Minister for the Aged, Family and Health Services, the Hon Peter Staples, has announced government funding for the plan—\$1,279,000 for the replacement of Brig-o-doon as a 40-bed nursing home at a new location at Acacia Ridge, \$936,000 for a new 30-bed nursing home at New Farm beside Gleneagles and a further \$954,800 for the rebuilding of Burdeu House as a 30-bed hostel for the aged.

Burdeu House is where the Social Service Department began its residential care work in Queensland and presently comprises a 13-bed nursing home and a 30-bed hostel. The 13 beds from Burdeu House are to be added to 17 beds from

Hillcrest Nursing Home to give a 30-bed nursing home for New Farm. Four beds from Hillcrest Nursing Home are to be added to the present 36-bed Brig-o-doon Nursing Home and will mean that a 40-bed nursing home can be built at Acacia Ridge, a southern Brisbane suburb.

Hillcrest Nursing Home will then be upgraded as a 61-bed nursing home. The new arrangements will mean more recreational and administrative space for residents at Hillcrest.

It is planned to commence building the Nursing Home at New Farm in June 1992, to commence building the new Brig-o-doon Nursing Home in February 1993 and the replacement of Burdeu House in February 1994. It is planned to sell the old Brig-o-doon site.

"This will mean the complete upgrading and renewal of the Department's work in the Brisbane area," Dr Don Stewart, the Executive Director of the Department said.

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News

Our families to a fellowship of 110 Bathurst's Tenth Anniversary



The founding families gather outside the church to commemorate the anniversary

The Bathurst, NSW, church celebrated its 10th anniversary on 11 August 1991. The guest speaker was Kevin Crawford, Secretary of the NSW Conference.

A special sense of thanks and praise to God was evident within the congregation, some of whom had been founding members 10 years ago. The fellowship started in a house with four families attending. Some of the congregation from the Orange church would attend the meetings to support the small group. The church has grown from these small beginnings to a fellowship of about 70 members and a regular Sunday worship service of about 110.

Kevin Crawford spoke to the congregation on "Encouragement", in the church, family and work environments. The biblical character Barnabas was shown to be an encourager to the early church.

Following the service a church luncheon was supplied by families, where a special birthday cake was presented for cutting by two ladies, Esmay Amery representing the older Christian generation and their responsibility to pass God's message onto the younger generation, and Rachel Fletcher, who had been baptised into Christ the previous week, representing the younger generation who received God's message.

An interesting display of the last 10 years of the church's history was presented for visitors to peruse.

Some of the highlights of the past 10 years are as follows:

- 9 August 1981: First meeting held at the family home of Warwick and Jenny Gil-

bertson.

- 7 February 1982: Church services commenced in the staff room of the West Bathurst School.

- 30 May 1982: Sunday School commenced with 10-12 children.

- 13 February 1983: Induc-



Esmay Amery and Rachel Fletcher cutting the cake

• Plans underway

Spring Fair

The Bundamba, Qld, church is holding its annual Spring Fair again on 19 October. Plans are well in hand and many churches in the West Morton Region will be taking part.

Apart from the usual stalls at such an occasion entertainment is being provided by the Ipswich Boys Grammar School Band, the Gatton School Jump Rope Team, a couple of puppet shows and a clown with balloons.

The Queensland Overseas Mission Committee is putting on a display on the work being done overseas. On the Sunday afternoon (20 October at 6 pm) a thanksgiving service will be held, followed by a basket tea.

tion service held for David Gurney and family (guest speaker Kevin Crawford).

- February 1983: Negotiations to purchase land in the West Bathurst area.

- 4 March 1984: First baptism held, Lisa Manyweathers.

- 1 February 1987: Church officially approved the purchase of the land.

- September 1987: Foundation laid.

- 25 December 1988: Christmas Day, first service held in the new building.

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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Treasurer's Reports

To the Editor,

On reading the recent publication issued by the Vic-Tas Department of MED entitled "Thirty Years of Planned Giving", I take umbrage concerning the paragraph "As the Treasurer...So the Church".

It is the treasurer's duty to faithfully present the financial position of the church to the members—with no cover up. The report should be available fully for intelligent comment, and not just briefly as suggested.

We as a nation, and Victoria in particular, are in the financial "mess" today largely because financial statements have not been looked at properly and questioning has been stifled. Open discussion is essential. Today the thinking is mainly mortgage the future and don't worry how we are to pay.

Surely God has given us intelligence and requires us to be faithful stewards. If we overspend the income with very little if any capital reserves to call upon we are courting disaster.

With unemployment and retired people's investments income reduced, how can a church service loan commitments?

It's truly the Victorian mentality—obtain credit and don't worry about the future.

I agree that mission and ministry are the first priority but surely only in the light of sensible planning in today's economic climate.

—Alice Allison
(Hampton St, Vic)

World Convention

To the Editor

In 1988 I travelled with the Australian contingent to New Zealand to attend the 12th World Convention of Churches of Christ.

I still marvel at the wonderful opportunity we had to share with the world-wide church family the fellowship through pre- and post-convention tours

and convention sessions, not forgetting the times shared while having morning/afternoon teas, breakfast, lunch and dinners.

The fellowship was not limited to the church family, for the locals throughout New Zealand on noticing our convention badges would enquire why we were there. What an opportunity to share the message. One evening while talking with our two coach drivers (not church attenders) both mentioned how they enjoyed the daily devotions and hymn singing, which brought back memories of their early years when they attended Sunday school. As you can imagine the conversation continued as we shared together, with them both expressing how much they were enjoying the fellowship.

We have yet another opportunity to share our faith by attending the 13th Assembly at Long Beach, California, USA, in August 1992, only 10 months away. Plan today to see and share more of "This Is Our Father's World" by first attending one of the free information meetings (see advert and article on page 16 of 7 September issue) and then registering to attend.

—Wallace Fordham
(Camberwell, Vic)

Divine Right of Leaders

To the Editor,

In the debate over leadership ("AC" 7 September), there has been a tendency to confuse ministry with leadership. Leadership is an important aspect of ministry but can be distinguished from it. Being appointed to ministry does not make one a leader. Leadership is essentially a group phenomenon and is conferred by the group. There can be no leader if there are no followers.

Leaders can suggest and sell visions, but they cannot impose them.

My understanding of theology and my Christian experience persuade me that there is a wide variety of talent and a diversity of gifts within the church. Depending upon the

situation, leadership can come from any member and in a healthy congregation that's what would happen.

—H.E. Hayward
(Berowra, NSW)

Plea for Return to New Testament Christianity

To the Editor,

I am concerned at trends within some of our churches as illustrated in recent issues of *The Australian Christian*. Reports of innovations in church services involving the use of such terms as "outrageous worship" are unwise and may cause misunderstanding.

In a rush towards ecumenicity, many are combining with denominational churches for services, and are in danger of losing sight of the great principles that made us a people. Some who are regarded as our ministers are working as ministers in churches whose denominational beliefs and practices are far removed from the New Testament position. Diff-

iculties must arise or compromise prevail. (Don't tell me you don't preach on the examples in Acts showing how people become Christians!)

The trend toward Rome is even becoming evident in our churches. Have we lost sight altogether of the Reformation that we should ignore the martyrs who died to bring us the Bible which had been banned by a deviant church? Although in recent times Rome has become more ecumenically minded and now reaches out to her separated brethren, she has never changed one of her fundamental doctrines. The blasphemous Mass, Mariolatry, prayers and masses for the dead, infant baptism, auricular confession, Purgatory and Limbo, the priesthood and papacy are all still part of the system.

The need for the plea for a return to New Testament Christianity has never been greater—than now!

—H. Colin Wheat
(Manning, WA)

Letters from Tertius

Leadership Models

To the Editor,

I've been very interested in the "church leadership" discussions in *The Australian Christian*. All sides argue impressively and back up their arguments with scripture and they all seem to be so right. But I wonder where it's all getting us. So I've kept my mind in suspense on the subject.

Then last night our reading was from 1 Corinthians 1 and I couldn't help wondering what Paul might have thought about the leadership debate. I wonder if he might have written something like this:

"It has been reported to me by Ambrose's people that there is quarrelling among you. What I mean is that each one of you says, 'I belong to the democratic model,' or, 'I belong to the entrepreneurial model,' or, 'I belong to the New Testament model,' and all of you saying, 'Ours is the Christ model.' Is Christ divided? Was he crucified for the entrepreneurial model? Or were you baptised into the democratic model? I am thankful that I baptised none of you into any model. Christ did not send me to establish models but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent procedural wisdom, lest the cross be emptied of its power."

Or maybe Paul might have said, "Forget about models and get in there and do the best job you can with what you've got, using the best of whatever models you can, totally unafraid of change, and trust God to give you the increase."

Who knows?

Yours wondering,
Tertius

Church that cares in Sydney's western suburbs Church and Department in Crisis

stranger and you took me in." Jesus' words have been taken literally by the NSW Church of Christ Community Care Department and the local church at Pendle Hill, in Sydney's western suburbs.

Hundreds of women and children, victims of family violence, have found refuge over the past few years at the two crisis centres located at Pendle Hill. And now, due to a unique arrangement between the department and the church, these hurting families are finding professional care as well as warm love and practical assistance while they stay in the refuge.

Senior minister at Pendle Hill and worker at the crisis centres, Graham Long, said recently, "The joint project between the department and Pendle Hill church is the most exciting ministry I've ever been involved with. We are in such an early stage of the process that I feel it would be premature to form many conclusions except to say that so far it has been so good, and that it looks to be promising very good things for both church and department". What exactly is happening here?

Well, first, the department, under Executive Director Charles Wilson, agreed late in 1990 to share an office near the crisis centres with church workers. This team now provides counselling for women and their families and runs the two centres, as well as looking after the church's needs. Workers include Graham Long, Dianne Murdoch, Diane Lucas, Wendy Parish, Allan Rae and Chris Rubie. These people work hard to assist the women and eventually arrange for them to go into more permanent accommodation, typically provided by the NSW Housing Department.

But it is the lay involvement of the church that is unusual. The crisis centres have become a project of the church and more than 25 of the 200 attending the church have become involved.

Some of the activities of the church include:

- Housewarmings, when members come to the "new" house provided for a ex-refuge family and help them move in, including the supply and hanging of curtains to give a feeling of security and privacy to the mother, and generally make her feel at home.

- Training for volunteers, given in special classes, which commenced on 21 July. The classes concentrate on the questions and needs of the volunteers, so that they can minister effectively and sensitively.

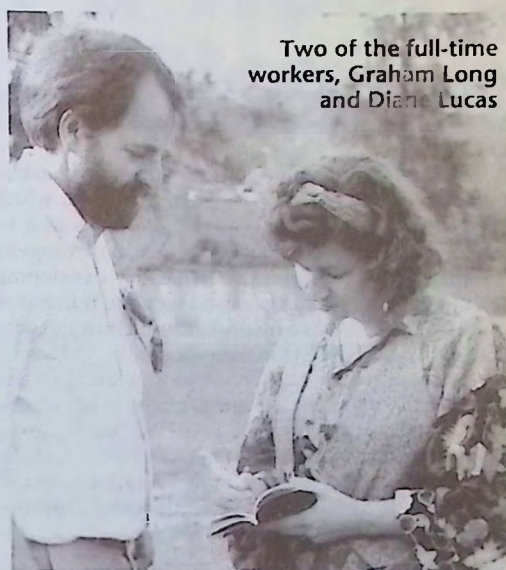
- Prayer, held every Monday in the office with church members attending. Often the people who come spend the rest of the morning visiting residents in the centres. Another group meets for prayer on Tuesday afternoons, with very specific prayer for each resident and her needs. This is backed up by a prayer chain and a regular prayer letter given to the 75 who are specially interested.

- Maintenance of the properties, assisted by the voluntary help of some retired men, who change light bulbs, fix cupboards and mend broken toys for the crisis centres. This is vital as there is a good deal of wear and tear with 3 to 4 young families in each of the houses, not to mention the impact of caring men on women and children who have seen a different side of male strength.

- Pastoral care of the full-time workers. This is a concern of the church as there is a high burnout rate generally in this emotionally demanding work. The church provides one of its elders to run sessions to encourage and re-equip the workers. These sessions include training videos and pastoral work.

- Babysitting for residents, child minding and friendly follow-up of residents after they settle into their new homes. This has brought many wonderful experiences to the volunteers,

Two of the full-time workers, Graham Long and Diane Lucas



with some seeing changed lives as a result.

Graham is particularly impressed by the church's impact on the spiritual quality of the work. He feels that it is easy for this type of work to become secularised and lose its flavour of Christianity in action, but the local church's involvement "calls the staff to regularly reconsider the Gospel", as he says.

The church has not been the loser, either. There are now an overwhelming number of opportunities for all ages in the church to contribute in practical and other ways. The challenge is to live the Gospel, not just to proclaim it, and to get personally involved with people's problems, just as Jesus did.

The friendship with the full-time workers, who are involved in the church's work in other ways, has also been enriching.

Perhaps the last word should be reserved for one of the women who spent six months in the centre last year and now says, "It was a frightening experience to be in such a helpless position so quickly but at the crisis centre I found people who understood and loved me and a church family that believes in me and is helping me to find myself and enjoy life again."

Enquiries and donations can be directed to Graham Long on (02) 636 7400.



Single-parent families are recipients of the ministry

Books

Your Church Can Come Alive

by Rowland Croucher (Joint Board of Christian Education) \$12.95

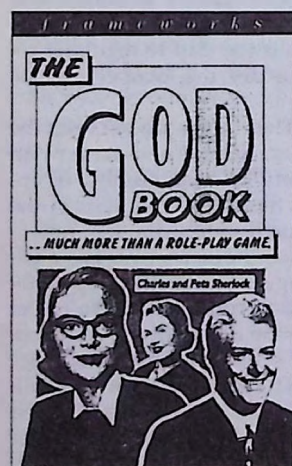
Rowland Croucher is well known among Australian churches in his role with World Vision. In this book, which is subtitled "Strategies for Church Leaders", he looks at a wide range of issues, including the theology of mission, evangelistic lifestyles, holiness, gifts, team ministries, leader development, worship, fasting, prayer, social justice, finance and numerous others. Each of the 34 sections has a helpful introduction, questions for discussion and guides to further reading.

As a resource for local churches Rowland Croucher gathers up many of the issues he has encountered in his sessions for leaders and contact with churches. This book joins a growing range of similar resources such as Callahan's *Twelve Keys*. Its low price of \$12.95 is a strong selling point. Available from the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development, 77-79 Capel St, West Melbourne 3003 —D.H. Smith.

For the Love of Sang

by Rachel Anderson (Albatross Books)

When Rachel and David Anderson decided to adopt a Vietnamese war orphan named Sang, approximately nine years old, they didn't realise just how many difficulties they would encounter. Not just with government agencies but with Sang himself. He was profoundly traumatised, irrevocably brain damaged and, at times, quite violent, but in such need of love and security. A most moving and readable true story. —GA



The God Book

Much More than a Role-Play Game by Charles and Peta Sherlock (Frameworks)

After reading this book and pondering the value of it for some time I came up with the conclusion that it was of no value—if it was used incorrectly. As the title suggests it encourages the reader to use their imagination and enter into the story themselves, however once you as the reader have done this you are forced to make decisions to keep the story going.

The story itself talks about how God fitted into one person's life and how he might fit into yours. It is of course left up to you to decide whether he does or doesn't.

I mentioned earlier that this book has no value unless it is used correctly. I have not been able to come up with the name of one person that I could give this book to to read. However my mind reels at the possibilities this book has as a study guide, with all the different areas that it touches.

I would award it 5.5 points. —Craig Allan
(Our subeditor, however, thinks this book is great fun, and rates it at 7.5—Editor)

The Applause of Heaven

by Max Lucado (Word Publishing) \$10.95

This is not a book you expect. It's based on the Beatitudes, so it's a book about being blessed by God and knowing real joy. But it's unusual in its style and commentary.

Lucado says that "Matthew 5 describes God's radical reconstruction of the heart" and the chapters follow that simple thought.

The book is not exegetical, but rather a personal encounter and reflection on verses we know so well and love so much. Lucado has learnt what many Christians never find out, that is, "His is a joy which circumstances cannot steal." We need to know and be reminded of that fact. Chapter Three is titled "The Affluent Poor" and should be compulsory reading for all Christians (and non-Christians too!).

Sarah is "...the first lady in town to pay her pediatrician with a Social Security check". Paul was the man who "...never took a course in missions. He never sat in on a committee meeting. He never read a book on church growth. He was just inspired by the Holy Spirit." Chapters 16 and 17 are about doubt and suffering and Lucado finds answers in a dramatic way. The book is full of illustrations retold in unusual ways to bring the point home.

Buy this book for someone you love and then borrow it back. You can read it quickly, but you will want to read it again.

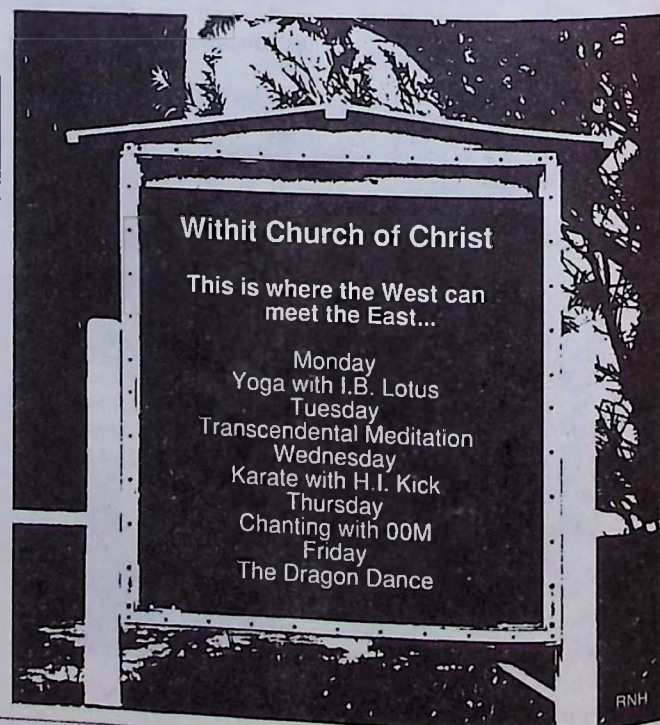
It's a call to the mountain top with the Master and how we all need that. —Ken Laffer

Mentor and Friend

by Timothy K. Jones (Lion) \$12.95

This new publication from Lion is a practical discussion on the issue of giving and receiving spiritual guidance and building friendships that point to God. The author discusses his theme under the headings of cultivating the possibilities, developing the relationship and sharing the benefits. It helpfully discusses how we may find help through relationship with other people, and looks at the experience of people both past and present. The writing is free of religious jargon and assumptions that may deter people from within our own tradition in looking at this area of spirituality. The book could be helpful wherever the issue of spiritual experience is under consideration.

Available from the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development, 77-79 Capel St, West Melbourne 3003. —D.H. Smith



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Slavery is the latest war weapon used by the Sudanese Government against the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army, according to eyewitnesses. Arab slavers from northern Sudan, armed by the Islamic Sudanese Government, were kidnapping black African children from Christian and animist southern Sudan. The slave-raiding was combined with murder, rape, house-burning, and cattle-killing in a strategy of atrocity designed to weaken the SPLA's power base—the 4 million strong Dinka people.

The theology faculty of Sofia University, Bulgaria, has been re-incorporated into the university after a 40-year separation imposed by the former communist regime. Founded in 1923, the faculty's degrees were not recognised within Bulgaria but were acknowledged abroad. In a separate development, the Bulgarian Council of Ministers has announced that theological training will, from this year on, be subsidised from the national budget.

Saudi Arabian religious police raided a church in Riyadh on 2 August, with 4 of the leaders being detained. Although around 80 members of the Filipino Mustard Seed Church, meeting in a private home, were arrested, most were released.

Baptists in Yugoslavia have lost their "God's Valley" camp facilities to mounting violence in Croatia. The two buildings at the camp, located on the Adriatic Sea about 40 miles from Zagreb, were reported burnt in mid-August, but fighting in the area has made it impossible to assess the damage firsthand.

Jim Irwin, one of the dozen astronauts who have walked on the moon, who devoted some of his later years to a search for Noah's Ark, died on 8 August.

During the past year Bap-

tists around the world baptised more than 1 million new members and established 7,000 new churches.

The Australian Christian Literature Society's 11th annual awards for original books written by Australians and published by Australian publishing houses were announced recently. The 1991 Australian Book of the Year was *One Blood* by John Harris (Albatross Books). This book is a comprehensive and significant account of 200 years of Aboriginal encounter with Christianity. The Children's Award for 1991 went to *Yonder Beyond* by Thyra Davey (Hodder & Stoughton) while the Design Award went to *The Tangled Web* by Therese, designed by Graeme Cogdell and illustrated by Donna Gynell (Lutheran Publishing House).

The Melbourne City mission has released a radical new housing policy. It calls for a united operation to tackle homelessness by federal, state and local governments, welfare agencies, the churches and the community. In Victoria 10,000 sleep rough every night while another 100,000 households are poor after paying their housing costs.

A new prison outreach, "Here Is Freedom", aims to bring the scriptures to 2.5 million prison inmates in India. The effort is a joint project of the India offices of Living Bibles International, Prison Fellowship International, Corrections India and India Prison Ministries. The project aims to place an evangelistic booklet in the hands of every prisoner in the 32 states of India during the next 3 years.

Trans World Radio will air a daily 30-minute program in Hebrew to Israel beginning 29 September. The weekday format will be Bible teaching, while on Saturdays and Sundays interviews and music will be broadcast.

In the midst of the highly charged and tense atmosphere in Moscow on 20 August, Russian members of the Bible Society in the Soviet Union distributed 6,000 New Testaments to Soviet troops. The New Testaments were given to those troops who were supporting the coup. One group went to the Parliament Building of the Russian Federation while another took 4,500 New Testaments to Red Square.

Following the recent grenade attack on the crew of the MV *Doulos* in the Philippines, the itinerary of the ship has been rearranged and will now include 5 Australian ports. The schedule, subject to port authorities, will be: Geraldton 18–30 September, Albany 2–21 October, Bunbury 22 October–4 November, Fremantle 5–26 November and Darwin 4–17 December. There will be special programs on board the floating Christian and educational bookshop, when the general public as well as groups from churches and schools will be welcome. Details from Don Cameron on (09) 470 2725 or Gilbert Bertram on (07) 277 9008.

The public image of the clergy has suffered a severe setback in Germany. For the first time ministers do not appear in the Top 10 professions with the highest reputation. The clergy plunged from 5th to 12th position among 25 professions in West Germany. They now have the same status as computer specialists. In East Germany the image is even lower: they hold 19th position.

500,000 Australian biscuits left Melbourne for Africa in early September to feed civilian survivors of war-torn Mozambique. The special high-energy biscuits, made by Arnott's, will be used in emergency feeding centres run by World Vision in areas liberated from Renamo rebels. Crop burnings, atrocities and sabotage by

MNR rebels has crippled Mozambican food production, sparking famine and obliging the government to ask for emergency help. Australian funding now supports World Vision emergency feeding and farm rehabilitation kits with seeds, tools and fertiliser.

Typhoon-inflicted heavy rain, rising rivers and a Pol Pot legacy have combined to leave Cambodia helpless in the face of its worst floods in living memory. The flooding destroyed most of the recently planted rice crop, which had been the best crop in the country for many years. This will leave Cambodia with a severe food shortage.

PTL founder Jim Bakker was resented on 23 August to 18 years in prison, a reduction from his original 45-year prison sentence. A \$500,000 fine was also waived. With his new sentence he will now be eligible for parole in 1995.

For the first time since 1950 a foreigner has been ordained in China. He is American Phillip Wickeri. The ordination was performed by the minister of the Chinese Christian Council, Bishop K.H. Ting. As a minister of the official Chinese church, Wickeri will be co-ordinating the work of the American Amity Foundation responsible for different church projects, such as Bible printing, and the Chinese Christian Council.

Muslims have received permission from the Bulgarian government to build "Europe's largest Islamic Centre" in Sofia, Bulgaria. It will cost \$17 million and contain an "Islamic cultural centre" and a large mosque.

The Dulwich-Rose Park church in Adelaide has arranged a special outreach service for Grand Prix race day on 3 November. James Morrison, one of Australia's foremost jazz performers, will lead in well-known

hymns and gospel singing with his band. The service will be in the Gartrell Memorial Church 8.30–9.20 am. Notable personalities from the Grand Prix will be participating.

Rev Michael Kinnamon has been confirmed as the nominee for General Minister and President of the US Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). His appointment will be voted on at the General Assembly being held in Tulsa, Oklahoma 25–30 October.

At the beginning of 1991 the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) had 1,043,943 members in 4,105 congregations in the US and Canada. Total membership is down less than 1% over the preceding year. Participating membership dropped 1.6% from 692,621 to 681,246.

A Christian music writing competition is being staged as part of the Ryde, NSW, Bicentenary celebrations in 1992. There are 4 categories in the competition: a hymn featuring a new melody and lyrics, lyrics to a well-known hymn tune, a Christian song and a children's hymn. Amateurs and professionals may enter and entry is not restricted to residents of the Ryde municipality. Entries close 25 October 1991. Prizes include \$150 cash plus a \$50 gift voucher. Details from the Ryde Bicentenary Resource Centre, Mondays to Fridays on (008) 02 1992 between 9.30 am and 2 pm.

Mrs Una Snow, wife of the late Les Snow, died in Melbourne on 9 September. Mrs Snow was a gifted teacher and musician. They were married in 1933 and the rest of her life was spent caring for her family. Les was a graduate of the College of the Bible and had ministries in Victoria at Carnegie, Chelsea, Mildura, Maidstone and Warragul. He was also highly regarded as a high school English teacher.

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10.30 am Worship—Speaker:
Max Carter, Conf. Pres.

12.15 pm Lunch—Interviews
with Conf. Pres. and Stella
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2.30 pm Musical Program—
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69th Church Anniversary

Sunday, 13 October

Worship and

Communion Service—

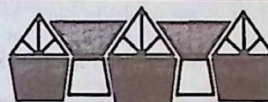
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Speaker—Gerald Rose

Theme—"Staying Sane

in a Crazy World"

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6 October 1991

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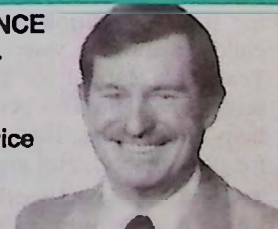
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MARSHALL—HARPER Bill and Kathleen, married at Chown Memorial Chapel 20 September 1941 by A.E. White. Our thanks to God for many blessings. Present address 24 Glendinning St, Ballarat 3350. **SMITH (KETTNER)** Frank and Marguerita announce with pleasure the 50th anniversary of their marriage by Padre Leslie on 30 September 1941 at Christ Church, Darwin. Continued praise to God for our five daughters, sons-in-law and 16 grandchildren. Present address RMB 6299, Wodonga 3691.

DEATHS

CURRIE (BERLIN) Essie Isobel passed away suddenly at Nambour, Qld, 11 September 1991. Loved sister and sister-in-law of Edie (dec), Bill and Hope (both dec), Mabel and Frank (dec) Bassett (Dalby, Qld), Eleanor and Alan Watson (Glen Waverley, Vic). Dear Aunt of Reed, Pedler, Roberts and their families. Remembered with love. **MOWSAR** Mabel. Loved sister of Elsie, Rosie, Adelaide, Alice, Myrtle (all deceased), William and Ivy. Passed away peacefully at Wagga on 17 June 1991, aged 95.

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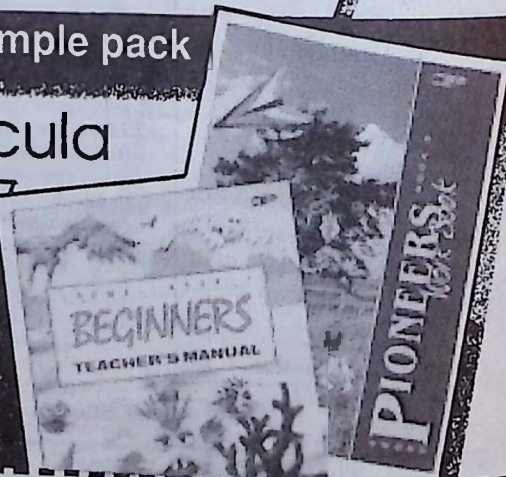
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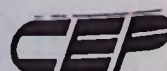
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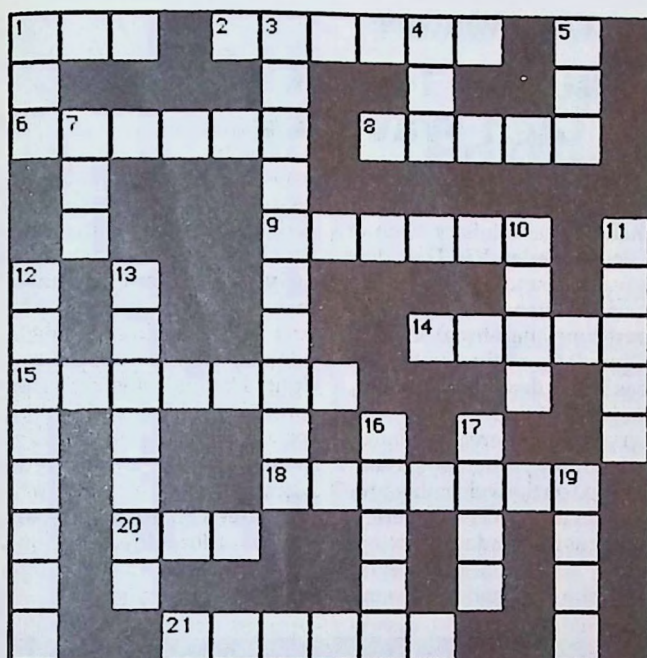
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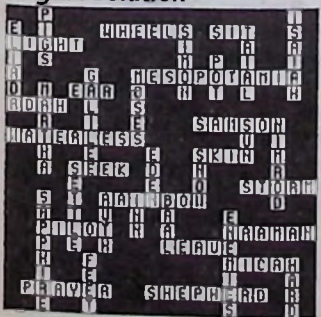
Across

1. To whom has the --- of the Lord been revealed? (Isaiah 53:1)
2. Court official
6. Old Testament prophet
8. Musical instrument (Matthew 11:17)
9. Coin of Old Testament (1 Kings 10:22)
14. A Psalm of the Sons of --- (Psalm 48)
15. A patriarch
18. Killed for his faith (Acts 6)
20. Son of Noah
21. Golden ----- of Revelation (chapter 8)

Down

1. Riding on a --- (Zechariah 9:9)
3. New Testament letter
4. God of Babylon (Jeremiah 51:44)
5. Israel is to worship --- God
7. David danced before the ---
10. The great day of the --- is near (Zephaniah 1:14)

August Solution



11. Valley of --- (Isaiah 65:10)
12. Solomon banished the High Priest to ----- (1 Kings 2:26-27)
13. Jerusalem to ----- road was the setting for one of the parables
16. Father of David
17. Judge of Israel (Judges 3)
19. Birds have them

DEATH

WARNE Millicent Elsie (Woodbridge) on 14 September at Mount Eliza in her 92nd year. Loving wife of Tom (deceased). Loved mother of Beryl (Mrs J. Giddings, and Ron. Grandmother of six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Loved sister of Elizabeth (Mrs C.C. Dawson), Stan and Marjorie (Mrs J. Wright). In the Father's house.

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Vic-Tas Department of
Mission, Education and
Development

News

• Epping expanding

Korean Congregation

The Epping, NSW, church has commenced a Korean congregation and outreach under the capable leadership of **Joseph Han**, a Churches of Christ minister from Korea, and an exit student from Carlingford Theological College. Joseph graduated from the Korean Christian College and ministered at the Kae-Wha Church of Christ before coming to Australia.

Earlier this year, Joseph, along with his wife Jun, commenced a Korean home church. Due to expansion of their congregation, and subsequent negotiation, the congregation has commenced a Korean worship service at Epping, and become part of a wider church family, ministry team and mission outreach.

This opportunity has come at a highly appropriate time, when, after the recent Callahan program, ethnic ministry was identified as a significant mission objective for the future, having several existing expressions of this ministry already occurring in the church.



Joseph Han

Having recently moved into expanded building renovations, our Korean congregation will bring an added depth to ministry and missional objectives, which will take the church significantly beyond the current level of high morale and momentum that have precipitated recent ministry and property developments.

This opportune venture has also been made possible with the assistance of Ron Hewitt, and future funding from the Department for Church Development and Education.

—Stephen Curkpatrick

EASTER IN THE BIBLE LANDS



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• Sports for evangelism

South Pacific Games Sports Conference



Lae representative Timothy Magnue with Noel Mitaxa

Dr Mark Tronson, National Ministry Co-Ordinator of SLM (Specialised Life-oriented Ministries, which includes Sports & Leisure Ministry) and Australian cricket team chaplain, along with Noel Mitaxa, Victorian Sports & Leisure Ministry Co-ordinator, were guest speakers at the South Pacific Games Sports Conference in Papua New Guinea 1-6 September.

The purpose of the conference was to illustrate how "sports" (the lingua franca) might be utilised in evangelism to win people to Jesus Christ. Games events were

shared between Port Moresby and Lae.

Billy Maha, the Executive Director of the South Pacific Games Organising Committee, an active Christian, spoke at the opening worship service.

Three US sports ministry personnel, Eddie Waxer, Vice President of the International Sports Coalition, Rev Rodger Oswald and Pastor Darren Beck led the southern conference. Dr Tronson and Noel Mitaxa led the northern conference. 18 language groups attended in Lae. David Tabor of YWAM taught on "Godly Relationships".

• John Rowe

Baptist Appointed at Nunawading

The Nunawading, Vic, church made history when it issued a call to John Rowe, the senior minister of the Belmont-



John Rowe

Highton Baptist Church, to take on the newly formed position of Pastoral Director. This is the first person appointed to a ministry position at Nunawading who has not trained at a Churches of Christ college.

John Rowe will be given the responsibility of organising pastoral care both within the church and the community and will be working alongside Ted Keating, Tracey Carr (Director of Small Groups), Lynda Smith (Youth Director), and Anne Spoelder (Singles Ministry Director). John trained at Whitley College and has been the min-

• Dianne Whiteside

Ministry Team Expansion at Glen Waverley

A further exciting stage has been reached in the development of the ministry team at Glen Waverley, Vic. The elders have announced the appointment of Dianne Whiteside as part-time (half-time) Church Growth Co-ordinator. Dianne has been a deacon for 10 years, and in that period of time has served in the area of church growth. In particular she has focused on the welcoming procedures used at Glen Waverley, acting as the Sunday receptionist for all visitors to the services. She has conducted semi-

nars for other churches on this focus. Dianne is married to Neil, and they have three teenage children, Luke, Rachel and Sally. With the addition of more than 50 new members in the past year, the church growth ministry needs specific oversight. Dianne joins the team consisting of Lindsay Croxford (pastoral minister), Howard Sanders (youth minister), John Marshall (music director) and Margaret Croxford and Pam Steele (office administration). Ron Elbourne is the senior minister of the team.



Ron Elbourne interviewing Dianne Whiteside

Visiting Canberra?

Stay with a Church Family

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

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

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

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

Advance bookings appreciated

ister of the Belmont-Highton Baptist Church for the past 12 years. Nunawading loses from the ministry team Dean Hamilton, who takes up an appointment at Modbury, SA, in 1992,

and Jim Wright whose resignation will take effect at the end of this year. Jim will then have completed 50 years of continuous ministry with Churches of Christ.

Youth Ministry

It used to be said that "the youth of today form the church of tomorrow". Most of us now see that statement as a fallacy. The youth of today are an integral part of the church of today.

As with other age groups in a congregation, young people have special needs and require focused attention as they relate to Christ and come to terms with Christian faith.

To ignore or play down the importance of youth is to the detriment of the church. Young people add considerably to the power bills and damages to buildings! They also contribute enthusiasm and vitality to worship services and cause older members to rethink their own faith in terms of relevance.

Edward Kennedy once remarked, "A generation without a cause in its youth has no legacy in its old age." If young people are not encouraged to be an integral part of today's church then there will be a dearth of leadership in tomorrow's church. We who are to-

• Youth in the life and witness of the church

Power Bills, Enthusiasm and Vitality!

by Ron Elbourne

day's "older" leaders need to recall that we are also yesterday's young people. Someone nurtured and encouraged us—we cannot fail to do the same.

In recent years in our larger churches with multiple specialised staff we have seen the emergency of the specialist youth minister. This is an investment of money, time, energy and spiritual resources in a very crucial group of people. It is also a recognition of the worth of young people in the general congregation.

An effective senior minister will ensure that the youth minister is protected from the often unrealistic demands of adults

and from the danger of burn-out in responding to the incessant needs of young people. The senior minister should also be the great champion of young people, believing in them as persons and genuinely desiring that they reach their full potential in Christ.

The senior minister always will be a warm encourager of the youth minister, urging that person to take the long-term view. If youth ministers are effective in ministry then they are enhancing the future possibility of strong Christian leadership, strong Christian marriages and strong Christian homes. When young people are

in their "take-the-youth-minister-for-granted mode", youth ministers need to be encouraged to see the ultimate worth of their ministry and to adopt the long-term view. Rome wasn't built in a day, neither are young Christian lives or youth groups!

It is vitally important that church leaders and other Christian adults do not view young people as "nuisances to be endured". Rather, they should be seen as individuals of great worth, to be loved, nurtured, encouraged and, when necessary, disciplined as an expression of caring love.

In an age of ultra-specialisation I also think it is important that adults work at developing "cross-generational" experiences. This is the kind of positive Christian bridge-building that helps young people to feel accepted and gives them a fundamental sense of belonging within the wider congregation.

To this end, it is helpful to remember young people at times of school examinations and other highlights of their lives in the public prayers of the church. They should also be commended publicly wherever possible for the good things they do rather than to be condemned for the wrong things they might do.

Accepting young people as they are also means accepting things they do and like, and giving some expression to that in worship services. After all, say what you will about rock 'n' roll, you have to admit it has opened up a whole field of expression for kids who can't sing!

The youth of our churches form one of God's greatest resources. Let us not fail him or them as we integrate them into the life and witness of the church.

• Ron Elbourne is the senior minister at the Glen Waverley, Vic, church.

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

Pontius' Puddle



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Overseas Mission

• Outstanding record by Kenmore College Celebrating Mission

In the centenary year of the work of our Overseas Mission Board, Kenmore Christian College is proud to celebrate an outstanding record of involvement in Christian mission, both at home and abroad, and among Churches of Christ and other agencies.

During its 26-year history, Kenmore has been actively involved in the missionary enterprise, calling churches to an awareness of their responsibility

for mission, and training those who have been called of God to serve in this particular ministry.

Early in 1992 two couples will commence a period of missionary service in Papua New Guinea. Each of these persons, Gary and Pam Hine and Tony and Janese Williamson, is a graduate of KCC. They represent the continuance of a history of active participation in the church's missionary task.

Kenmore's Missionary Honour Roll

College personnel: Dr David Hammer (Ambae, Vanuatu 1939-43, Aboriginal Missions in WA 1945-1960), David Hammer Jr (honorary lecturer, Vanuatu and Aboriginal work), David Eagling (honorary lecturer, Banmatmat Bible College, Vanuatu), Colin McCosker (Principal Banmatmat Bible College 1970-72), Graham Warne (Principal Banmatmat Bible College and Santo, Vanuatu 1973-79), Jan Christensen (lecturer, Banmatmat Bible College 1991-), Pam Paddick (Aboriginal mission in WA and Queensland 1975-1987)

College students/graduates: John and Hazel Bassett (PNG 1986-), David Birrell (Eidsvold, Qld 1980), Robert Clancy (Aboriginal mission work in WA and Qld 1977-), Fay Christensen (PNG 1973-), Jan Christensen (Eidsvold 1976, Vanuatu 1991-), Ted and Grace Dinning (from Aboriginal mission work to KCC 1980), Jackie Dorman (Esperance, WA 1983), Trevor Dunshea (New Tribes Mission 1969), Dianne Feeney (Henry) (Vanuatu 1968-69), Rodney Feldhan (PNG 1969-70), Murray and Karen Fenner (Mobile Mission Maintenance 1983), Alanah Fisher (Aboriginal work in WA and Qld 1981), Carol Francis (from PNG to Kenmore 1972), John and Evelyn Friebe PNG 1969), Judy and Ian Flood (from PNG to Kenmore 1991), David Harmer (PNG 1979-), Bruce Heyworth (Thailand with OMF 1969), Gary and Pam Hine (PNG 1992), Muriel Holt (Aboriginal work Eidsvold and WA 1967-), Dorothy Howden (PNG to KCC 1972), Phillip Jackson (Aboriginal

mission work 1975), Colleen Jauncey (Bolivia 1976), Greg Kubler (Aboriginal mission work WA 1983), Bruce Marshall (Mobile Mission Maintenance 1988-), Pat McKee (Aboriginal work in WA and Qld 1976), Marilyn McLellan (lecturing SIL 1984), Lyall and Jillian Muller (Vanuatu 1981-), Russell and Jeanette Mutzelberg (from Indonesia 1978 to Vanuatu 1980), Alan and Gwen Pallett (from Aboriginal work, graduated 1983, back to Aboriginal work in WA), Carol Pink (Aboriginal work Qld 1985), Helen Solomon (Aboriginal work WA 1972), Jeff Strong (Aboriginal work WA), Graeme Sonsie (PNG to Kenmore 1975, to PNG 1976), James and Genevieve Stone (Irian Jaya 1984 to Zambia 1985-), Graham and Robyn Thomson (Aboriginal work Darwin), Barry Yesberg (Aboriginal Mission WA 1980), Dr Bruce Waters (Wycliffe Bible Translators and SIL), Tony and Janese Williamson (PNG 1992) and Ray and Rosina Wilson (Vanuatu)

Overseas students: Aprichart Branjerdporn (Thailand 1971), Hosea Buli (Vanuatu 1975), Ian Buli (Vanuatu 1978), Horishi Inada (Japan 1971), Bastian Kastanya (Indonesia 1979), Melly Kastanya (Indonesia), Woon Ja Kim (Korea 1991), Jeanette Kirk (nee Egmolesse) (Kenmore 1969-70 to Vanuatu), Yong Jae Lee (Korea 1979-80), Joses Sali (Vanuatu 1982), Meyer and Helena Siahaan (Indonesia 1972-73), Shem Tema (Vanuatu 1988 and briefly 1991), Than Tran (Vietnam 1988) and Victoria Whitnell (nee Pardede) (Indonesia 1972)

Celebrating a Centenary of Overseas Mission 1891-1991

1955

Local congregations must

Recapture the Zeal

and vision of the early Church. They were concerned with one thing: that of projecting the Incarnation into the world. Just as Christ had a body on earth and carried out his mission, they considered that they were the eyes, the ears, the hands and the feet of Christ.

A missionary recently released from behind the "bamboo curtain" made the statement not long ago at an Australian gathering that one thing that amazed her in coming back to her homeland was the easy lackadaisical way in which Christians accepted their allegiance to Christ, and she was appalled at the apathy of so many who had Christianity within easy reach and spurned it.

A deeper understanding of the Book of Acts would force Christians today to note how fearless the early Christians were, despite threats and opposition. The keynote of the Acts was "Witness." They were told to be witnesses unto the uttermost parts of the earth. They were not appalled at the task that confronted them because of their vision of the One who commanded them to carry out the task.

"The Christian gospel is by its very nature universal and therefore inescapably missionary." The fact that the gospel has barely touched the fringe of the non-Christian world should cause concern. It is stated that about one-third of the world is nominally Christian, but when we turn to Asia, Africa and Oceania, we find that less than three per cent of these masses are Christian. Thus there is no room for over-confidence or complacency. The evangelisation of the world, far from having been accomplished in this generation, has hardly begun.

—*The Australian Christian*, 27 September 1955

OMB
Overseas Mission Board

A Church ABC

Echuca, Vic, is situated 210 km north of Melbourne on the Murray River. In the last century this location, on the Murray River at its closest point to Melbourne, ensured that Echuca became the largest inland port in Australia, as the produce of a wide area was transported by riverboats to the town to be transferred to rail. This glorious past lives on in Echuca, which has now become a major tourist destination. It was the setting for the TV series, *All the Rivers Run*.

The Echuca Church of Christ celebrated its centenary last year. The church began in June-July 1890 with the visit of evangelist W.D. Little. The first building was erected in 1892 and held 120 people. The present weatherboard chapel, which holds a similar number, was built over 60 years ago. There is also a youth hall and various other rooms.

There are approximately 80

members of the Echuca church. There are two services each Sunday: a traditional service at 11 am, attended by 70-80 people, and an informal service at 7 pm, attended by 30-40. The church has been very heartened by half a dozen baptisms in the last year.



Focus on Echuca

there are four such groups. The men of the church are also active. They hold a monthly men's tea to which they have invited a variety of speakers.

The minister at Echuca is Arthur Symes. Originally from Harcourt (half-way between Echuca and Melbourne),

nity. A number of Aboriginal people are members of the church, and the church also has an outreach to Cumeragunja, 30 km to the north-east. Once a week church members travel to Cumeragunja and share in a ladies Bible study, a happy hour and a cottage meeting held in the evening in the community centre. There is also a "Sunday school on a Monday". There has been much encouragement in the last couple of years with many commitments and baptisms there, and two people have gone on to Bible college.

The members at the Echuca church are the typical ordinary people we have in Churches of Christ, doing a special job. They are community minded, participating in a simple, uncomplicated, down-to-earth Christianity, learning to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and listening to him to learn what he requires of them, and then sharing their faith with others.

Echuca has a kids club for primary-school-aged children after school on Thursday evenings. It is encouraging that many of 45 children on the roll are from non-church homes. On Friday nights there is a youth club with about 15 active members led by Margaret Hipwell.

Strong emphasis has been placed on the development of small groups meeting in homes on a weekly basis. Currently

Arthur is married to Rosemary and they have three children, one an apprentice and the other two at university. Arthur graduated from the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, and a month later, in December 1979, took up the position at Echuca. He has been there ever since at this his first and only church.

A feature of the Echuca church is its active involvement with the Aboriginal commu-

There are two things in life from which I gain much personal enjoyment: birthdays delight me and holidays I love! At 48 years young, it could be time for a change of emphasis as far as birthdays are concerned. But I think I'll just go on basking in that little extra attention—the family gifts and cards and the real blessing of adding one more year to those God has already given. In yearly terms, the goodness of the Lord always outlasts and outweighs bad days, poor health weeks and sad months. Psalm 27:13 asserts, "I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in

Growing Spiritually

• *Recipe for a well-balanced attitude to life*

Anticipation and Simplicity

by Bill Flett

the land of the living." And Psalm 65:11 addresses God in words we should all repeat: "You crown the year with your goodness."

Praise him!

Please don't misunderstand my love of holidays. It's more a sense of family tradition than an aversion to work! My dad really knew how to infuse us with a sense of excitement. The

wearying summer miles were forgotten as we strained for the first distinctive smell of the seaside and that first enthralling glimpse of the foaming breakers! Swims before breakfast, shell collecting, pink-iced finger buns and flavoured milk (the cows back home only produced white!) all added to each year's anticipation of another family holiday. I'm so thankful that the feeling remains.

Anticipation and simplicity—a good recipe for a well-balanced attitude to life. In terms that are easily understood, Jesus calls us to follow him. And, as we walk with him through the years, he invites us to look forward to a future beyond all imaginings. "Dear friends," writes John in his first letter, "now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, as he is pure."

• Bill Flett is the minister at the Hamilton, NSW, church.

Meetings at Lynchs Bridge

The Kensington Christian Network is making an evangelistic thrust into a new housing estate growing up in Kensington. Contacts are being made and meetings launched. Mike Esbensen as co-leader of the ministry team needs your prayer and financial support.

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



Commentary

From the outset the game was a dour struggle. Aquila with strong rebounding had his halfback position sewn up all day long. On the other flank there was some doubt about Thomas's fitness, but as his captain said this morning, "It always feels good to have an old hand back in the side." Meanwhile Herod was annihilating the younger members of the opposition.

The three Wisemen played a wandering style of game across half-forward. At the other end of the ground Abel was given a caning by Lazarus who played like a dead man until given the hard word by his captain. Samson, as always, was strong and a pillar of defence, turning in a similarly crushing performance to the one he turned in last week against the Philistines. His new hairstyles suits him and he is playing better now that he's done away with his "kiss and tell"-type play.

Judging by his performance, it seems that Judas Iscariot's transfer fee of 30 pieces of silver from the Governor's team was a little high. If he keeps this

• New Testament wins

Match of the Day

The annual Australian Rules football match between the Old and New Testaments was once again an interesting battle. Luke, the famed biblical historian, has submitted the following report.

up he may Teams: NT kicking up— names well go and underneath

SOLOMON John	SATAN Barnabas	METHUSELAH Luke
ADAM James	SAMSON J. Iscariot	ABEL Lazarus
JOSEPH M. Archangel	NOAH Jesus (Capt.)	MOSES G. Archangel
WISEMAN (1) Aquila	WISEMAN (2) Herod	WISEMAN (3) Thomas
ESAU Mark	JOB Peter	JONAH Matthew
OT Ruck Goliath		NT Ruck Simon (of Cyrene)
David		Andrew
Absalom		Paul

across the forward line. His opponent, Satan, played like the very devil of course and gave him rather a hot time of it.

The Archangel brothers, Mike and Gabe, were on the wings, and played flighty games with some spectacular soaring above the packs. Joseph, resplendent in his new multi-coloured

guernsey, played well with his new team, having been "sold" up the river by his brothers' team. Methuselah, on the other hand must realise that he's getting

too old for the game. Noah displayed some skilful wet-weather tactics and doesn't ask about so much these days. Job was very patient at full forward against Peter "The Rock", who kept the "gates" tightly closed all day.

In the ruck Jonah had a whale of a time, while Simon (of Cyrene) carried the major burden for the opposition and was very "cross" about it. David gave away a stone or two but slung his weight around none the less. Esau plenty but not much was seen of him.

Solomon kept his eyes on the women and is coming back Gomorrah to play again. Lot, the trainer for the OT side, helped his boys with a constant supply of salt tablets. However, all was in vain, for as Jeremiah prophesied, the OT was doomed.

While ending up victors the NT side claimed that their captain was virtually crucified by the umpire, one P. Pilate, who kept his hands clean all day.

We wait until next year to see whether the OT side can avenge this year's loss.

Most churches think that they are terribly relevant to Australian society today. The fact is they're not!

To be relevant is to be meeting the needs of people in the community about the church. A lot of the time the words we use in church are a foreign language to the people who live around the church. There is little that they could relate to if they were to poke their heads inside the building.

Most shopping centres refurbish every five years at least; few churches have been refurbished in the last decade.

The Queensland Social Service Department runs the state's largest family emergency accommodation program and we hear an interesting term: "white collar churches", and it is not a compliment. These people feel rejected by most churches, except for a few churches where they have been made welcome. If we were really serious about

• Is your church relevant to Australian society?

Irrelevant Churches

by Donald Stewart

sharing the Gospel, because we believed people were without hope, then we would find ways to communicate the Gospel to them. It is hard to understand, if we are serious, why we stick rigidly to outdated service formats and do not develop some new strategies for reaching people.

Many people in the church can talk about their faith to friends but they don't feel confident about leading their friends to Christ.

How many churches are seriously thinking out a strategy to help these people by arranging a situation where the unchurched will feel comfortable enough to hear the Gospel? How many ministers in that situation could tell them

the Gospel in today's language?

The Gospel is not irrelevant for today; there are people in today's world who are finding it very relevant, the most relevant thing available. They are finding life in commitment to Jesus Christ in business, in sport, in relationships. Our problem is that the church has encased the Gospel in an irrelevant building, in an obscure language, in last century's customs (or is it the century before!) and in a group of people who really don't appear to be turned on by Jesus.

Being relevant is really not that difficult. We need to mix with non-churched people and listen to them, watch them and befriend them—see their concerns, hurts and loves—share

ourselves and give our love even if it is shunned.

Faith, hope and love are eternal said the Apostle Paul but the most important and enduring one is love. Now that's relevant.

Really, to be relevant is to make friendships with the people who live around the church, who work with us, who play with us. Relevance means that we talk to people about the things that matter to them and in that process of friendship they will want to know what makes us tick. Then in simple everyday language we can tell them the truth about what Jesus means to us. It is really no big deal! Why then is it a problem for 90% of Churches of Christ in Australia? Which means that it is a problem for your church. Well, what are we, you and I, going to do about it?

• Donald Stewart is the Executive Director of the Queensland Social Service Department.

Personal

Baptisms

•Sara Hughes, David Symons, Elizabeth, SA •Wendy McAllister, Boronia, Vic •Kathryn Hossack, Leigh Elsmore, Epping, NSW •Paula Cormack, Bowral, NSW

Deaths

•Wally Jones, Carnarvon, WA •Millie Barnett, Richmond, Vic •Dorothy Young, Fremantle, WA

Changes

Dredge: Colin and Marj—2 Gannet Ave, Glenalta, SA 5052. Phone (08) 278 7873.

Vic-Tas Aborigines Mission Department: Secretary—Harold Taylor, new phone no. (03) 776 0648.

Colless, Daryl, and Katsila, Fofey—324 Esplanade East, Port Melbourne, Vic 3207. Phone (03) 645 3357.

Nailsworth: Secretary—Wayne Maddox, c/o 40 Deranger Avenue, Nailsworth, SA 5083. Phone (08) 344 8468.

Oakleigh: Secretary—All correspondence c/o 109 Willesden Road, Oakleigh, Vic 3166.

Parker, H.—21 Smythe Crescent, Bunbury, WA 6230. Phone (097) 91 2610 (home) (097) 21 1833 (work).

WA

CARNARVON (Don Bone) Church held social & barbecue at Olive Laird Hostel ... CWF held fun fashion parade & speaker was Fawn Law Davis ... Cake stall held to help missionary project ... Bible Society team, John Richardson, Trevor Booth & Glennis Kent, held meetings ... Wayne Bell elected deacon. **FREMANTLE** (D. Good) Thanksgiving service for life of Dorothy Young held ... Visiting speakers during minister's vacation included Barry Ryall (Conf Pres) ... "Life in Focus" received 1,232 L of cooked fruit plus 14 boxes of fresh fruit from this year's fruit project. FAB recipient of \$795 donated for other fruit ... Revert to 7 pm services from 22 Sept.

Tas

ULVERSTONE (Tom & Ruth Edge) August service taped, Tom Edge interviewed for Coastal FM station ... Fortnightly craft days for outreach. Up to 20 attending ... Annual meeting well attended ... Tom and Ruth's ministry extended to 1995 ... Presentation to Tom Burt for over 25 years on board ... Working bee 24 August at "Seaview" campsite, Bicheno. Nine members present.

HOWRAH (Allan Blyth) Overwhelming faith offering response \$9,915 ... Encouraging attendances

Church News

at youth groups & Friendship Group ... Allan Blyth guest speaker at senior youth group on "Approaching Relationships" ... Albin Gray (Wycliffe Bible Translators), Max Viney (CCTC Mulgrave), Margaret Barton-Johnson (Bethany Family Home) guest speakers at worship services ... Sister Hartley (Mission Sisters of Service) conducted pastoral carer's workshop. **CAVESIDE** (John & Colleen Harrison) National Bible Sunday (21 July) involved members speaking about & displaying significant Bibles. Oldest Bible displayed published 1790 ... "Inspirational Weekend" 27 & 28 July led by Jeff Weston & team from Hobart City church. Worship seminar included topics: What Is Worship?, Creative Ideas for Worship & Preparing for Worship. Jeff preached Sunday am & led growth seminar pm ... Sunday School family service well attended end of second term.

SA

DULWICH-ROSE PARK UNITED (Rob Williams, Roger Brown) Over 50 members involved in Callahan 12 Keys program ... James Morrison Jazz Band to lead Grand Prix outreach service 3 November 8.30 am ... Donation to Federal Home

Evangelism forwarded ... Church supporting appointment of chaplain to local high school ... Concert in our building sponsored by Burnside District Inter-Church Council for Christmas Bowl & TEAR overseas aid relief fund.

ELIZABETH (R.L. Oke) 104 at youth service saw youth group present moving drama based on Keith Green's "Prodigal Son". Three rededications & one first decision at service ... Sara Hughes & David Symons baptised on separate occasions ... "Have a Go Show" drew over 100, including new contacts, \$220 raised shared by Norman Needy & Tuesday Kids Club ... Exciting plans being implemented as result Callahan consultation.

NAILSWORTH (Daryll Telfer) 105 attended Walk Through the Old Testament seminar ... Ed Wanguneen, Berean Christian Fellowship pastor, addressed combined service with Baptists ... Sunday School involvement in Father's Day service included item by four teenage girls & their fathers ... Minister supplies monthly article for suburban newspaper's "Good News" segment ... Wayne Maddox appointed secretary ... All services feature bright instrumental music ... Church luncheons attracted 100 in six homes.

WANTED TO SELL

Belmont, Vic, Church of Christ
20 x 12' (3.66 m) solid wood, maple-
coloured pews with book racks
\$225 each ONO
Contact Ross Allen on (052) 44 1411



Shepparton Church of Christ

PASTORAL MINISTER

Shepparton, a major regional centre of the Goulburn Valley in northern Victoria, is seeking to appoint a pastoral minister.

The person appointed is to be suitably qualified and have a sense of God's leading to consider ministry at Shepparton, demonstrated leadership skills and a commitment to church growth principles.

We invite resumes, applications and enquiries to be directed to

Phillip Collins
31 Skene Street
Shepparton 3630
Telephone (058) 21 1413 or (058) 31 1475 (AH)
(058) 21 6988 (BH)
All enquiries confidential



Caringbah Church of Christ

**We are praying for a senior pastor
to commence in early 1992**

The pastor will have leadership and visionary skills and abilities to capitalise on the opportunities open to this well-established church committed to growth. Proven communication skills are essential with the ability to motivate and encourage a strong leadership group into the 90s and beyond.

The church is well known in the community and has developed well-balanced and contemporary worship services. The church is well serviced through a strong music team, an innovative and talented group of people.

A generous remuneration package is coupled with a large and well-appointed manse.

Applications in writing, including resume, should be sent to:

Mr D. Bruce
12 Glen Ayr Ave
Yowie Bay NSW 2228

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Cole, Violet May

(1.7.91) Tribute must be paid to the life of Matron Cole (Auntie Dolly), who died after a short illness in the Pioneer Memorial Home, Bundaberg. Born at Ma Ma Creek, to the late Edward and Catherine Cole, the fifth child of a family of 10. This wonderful lady was a legend in her lifetime. She never married, but became a mother and aunt to so many as she carried out her chosen profession of nursing with diligence and excellence. She was actively involved in the life of the former Barolin St, Bundaberg, Qld, church and keenly interested in the whole Brotherhood, keeping informed in her later years, through reading *The Australian Christian*. She was especially proud of members of her family who were ministers of churches e.g. her beloved brother Charles, brother-in-law Allan Clark, his sons Harvey and Adrian, and nephew, Dr Donald Stewart. Many a young minister found a wise and listening ear when he discovered Auntie. So ends an earthly life filled with love, good works and encouragement to others. Her bright happy disposition will long be remembered by those who knew her.

—Laurel Dewar

Fitch, Harold Richard

(1.8.91) Following his conversion in 1926, aged 19, in a Hinrichsen-Brooker mission, Harold became a member of the Harvey, WA, church. Within two years he was President of the South West Conference in WA. Following completion of his studies at the College of the Bible in 1936 he entered full-time ministry at Wudinna and surrounding districts on Eyre Peninsula, SA, with subsequent ministries at Gawler-Williamstown, SA, and Kalgoorlie, WA. After two years at North Palmerston, NZ, he returned to WA for ministries at Mukinbudin, Merredin-Bruce Rock, South Perth,

Wembley, Carnarvon Mission, Merredin (second term) and Fremantle. Harold served as a WA State Conference President and on state committees in various capacities, where he earned the respect of all who were privileged to work with him. The love and high esteem in which he and Edith and his family are held was seen in the large attendance at the memorial services conducted by Don Sonsee at the Scarborough church and at the Karakatta chapel.

—Frank Raymond

Humphries, Mona C.

(23.7.91) Mona Humphries was a gracious person committed to the Christian faith. Born in Casterton (6.11.97), attended an evangelistic mission April 1940 at Casterton Methodist Church and made a commitment of her life to Jesus Christ. Later in Melbourne attended Cidwood Hall fellowship where she was baptised by Wallace Jackel. At 80 years of age she came to Kaniwa. Her Christian life was evident in her daily living as reflected in a quiet, gracious nature, showing deep concern for the sick, aged and lonely through hospital visitation. Through prayer she learned the power of praise in every situation. She was "a grand Christian lady".

—Martin Goldup

Rees, May

(26.8.91) May died suddenly, aged 76. Long-time friend Tom Fraser conducted a thanksgiving service at Tootgarook, Vic, attended by her families and friends representing former churches at Ivanhoe, Frankston, The Patch and Tootgarook, as well as May's interests in state and local CWF. May Pettigrove married Arthur Reed in 1939, their children being Bev (Beazley), Geoff and Ken. There are eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. For five years May and Arthur ran the Monbulk Camp. Arthur died in 1982. May married Fred Rees in 1988. Fred died suddenly the next year. May accepted

fully Christ's gift of life and expressed it in tireless service for his people. Her family referred to her in the press notices as "a very special lady".

—Gordon Stirling

Waterman, Grace Ivy

(7.9.91) Born Grace Metzenthin in 1898 at Nelson, NZ, and died at the Christian Guest Home at Murrumbidgee aged 93. Grace made her Christian commitment at the age of nine and soon had the ambition to be a missionary. She came to the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, and in 1923 went to China, where she married Will Waterman. Will's health made it necessary for them to return to Australia in 1924. Then followed pastoral ministries in Vic, Tas and WA before returning to China in 1933. Further health problems caused Will's death that same year. In 1934 Grace returned to Melbourne with her two children Joan and Win. The churches subscribed to the purchase of a home in Glen Iris. Her aim in life was to serve the Lord. So over the years she was active in various fields of service—camp mother in youth camps, missionary service in Vanuatu and Carnarvon, housekeeper at the college and in later years wrote regularly to all missionaries. In 1987 she suffered a stroke and entered the nursing home and remained until her death. Her life was characterised by faith and devotion to Christ, by her biblical knowledge, her love for her family and her interest in the welfare of others.

—Harold Steele

Williams, Arthur F.

(2.9.91) Arthur (or AF as affectionately known) was a man of great determination and firm conviction in farming, community involvement and Christian principles exhibited through family and church. Married to Daisy Kennedy in 1923 they had four children: Murray and Jean (both deceased) and Valerie and Rex. He confessed Christ as his saviour in 1914 and served him

through both the Sandmere and Kaniwa churches as Sunday School Supt spanning 24 years. He was a deacon at Kaniwa for 18 years then an elder for 41 years, including 16 as secretary. A lay preacher throughout the circuit he was very well received for he practiced the message he preached in everyday life. He was an excellent counsellor. His surviving brother, E.L. (Lyal), sent this tribute, which was read by Martin Goldup, who led the funeral service: "We have always looked at Arthur as a four-square man of great quality."

—HCW

Young, Dorothy.

(23.8.91) After a short illness loved and respected member Dorothy passed away at age 75. She came to Fremantle church from Applecross and Wembley in 1970. Her hands were never idle with cooking, crochet and knitting and her flower arrangements in church were appreciated. With her late husband she endured years of hardship in the WA goldfields. She loved her gardens, which reflected her creative spirit. Her faith was important and she rarely missed a service. A practical woman in actions and outlook she is greatly missed. Sympathy to her family Judith (Mrs Guantlet), Grahame (Perth) and Jennifer (Mrs Mogridge), Canada.

—D. Good

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Church News

Vic

ASHBURTON (Iris Lawson) Board re-elected annual meeting ... Church looking "Towards 50" to be celebrated March 1992 ... Encouraged by three new regular attenders, result of letter-box drop, & increased attendances at worship ... Victoria Grow studies commenced ... Bible Sunday celebrated with visit from Pam Bowers & Glenda Hurst, Bible Society ... Sermon series on "Fruits of the Spirit" with children participating in making banners ... Working bee shared with Lutheran members.

SWAN HILL (L.J. Mayes) Tim Green, a 1991 exit student from CCTC, Mulgrave, has accepted a call to associate ministry here commencing early next year ... Young Adults shared snow trip to Falls Creek with Albury YP ... Church golf day held 7 Sept ... Home groups combined during August to begin study of John's Gospel ... Two members, Maren Chandler & John Forrest, on city council.

MAIDSTONE (Wes Rodgers) Much sickness recently. Some in hospital ... Sympathy to families recently bereaved ... AGM well attended. Len Stratton thanked for 8 years as dedicated treasurer. Pauline de Brevi new treasurer. Rol Colwell, Arthur Lewis, Stan Phillips & Faye Freiberg elected deacons ... Children's day Lorraine Kettles (CCES) speaker, Pastor Andrew, Robert Bradbury & puppets entertained.

BORONIA (Keith Milne, Andrew Henley) Church overwhelmingly endorsed board's recommendation to extend Andrew Henley's ministry by five years from end of 1992 ... Reopening of chapel a wonderful day 1 Sept. Crowded 10 am service conducted by ministers. Max & Stella Carter, President of Conference & CWF President respectively, & Ian & Jan Allsop, State & National Conference Secretary, in attendance. Baptism at evening service was fitting climax to great day.

GARDINER (Paul Creasey) Attendances being maintained ... Winter gloom lightened by Christmas dinner & carols ... Warragul church visited worship service & shared ideas for growth ... Several interstate & overseas visitors ... Minister

taking leave to visit USA to share urban ministry experiences & sport chaplaincy ... Pilot Hodos program of Gardiner church & Department of Community Care being planned in new year ... Church saddened by passing of Grace Waterman & former members Ettie Berryman & Les Coutts.

RICHMOND (J. Schulze) John & Raelene Schulze terminating ministry at the end of year ... Combined services with Chinese congregation continue monthly with increased Chinese input ... Recent guest speakers Marj Buckingham, Max Carter, Alan Page, Keith Bowes,

Jim Larkham ... Sunday School enrolment 21 ... With number of services held each Sunday lack of space becoming a problem ... Church was saddened by death of Millie Barnett.

THE PATCH (Mike Folland) August ethics series well received ... Successful fireside church concludes ... Five new house church groups commenced ... Sunday School presented abridged "Joseph & His Technicolour Dream Coat" ... Senior youth group under the direction of new leader Fharlene Ryan ... Casserole bank still serving the community.

NSW

EPPING (S. Curkpatrick, D. Moyes, J. Lee, J. Han) Renovations completed, worship resumed in chapel on Father's Day. Dedication on 20 October ... Joseph Han with his family welcomed into membership & team ministry ... Ron Hewitt recently ran the Callahan "Twelve Keys to an Effective Church" program with the church ... Steering group & elders have subsequently been working on a five-year plan for mission & ministry development ... Kathryn Hossack & Leigh Elsmore baptised.

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Comic Irony in Jonah

In the story we know so well, Jonah was told to go and preach to Ninevah, the capital of cruel, ruthless Assyria, who once devastated Israel and exiled most of its population. But the story was written centuries later when Jews who had returned from Babylonian exile developed an intense racial intolerance out of an exclusive narrow faith. They forced foreign wives to be divorced and deported with their children. They despised their neighbours with vitriolic litanies of hatred. So the author of Jonah subverts these trends with devastating irony, in a series of comic reversals of prevailing Jewish attitudes.

When Jonah was told to go to Ninevah, he was appalled. It was unheard of for a Hebrew prophet to go to the Gentiles, let alone the hated Assyrians. Ironically, the "obedient" prophet of God, had no inclination for such a "foolish" mission. The second irony was that Jonah's theology was so truncated he thought God only existed on Hebrew soil, and that he could escape his presence by fleeing to Spain. (Tarshish was the equivalent of "beyond the black stump".) On the journey, the ship was threatened by a violent storm, and when Jonah was found to be the cause of their nemesis, it was, ironically, "pagan" sailors who expressed sensitive reluctance to throw him overboard.

The fourth and most comic irony occurs when the reluctant prophet became fish vomit on a pagan shore, from where he had no choice but to take up his mission to Ninevah, the city of Nina, the fish god. The writer introduces a fifth irony when cruel, hard Ninevah listened to Jonah's preaching and turned to God in repentance. That

was enough to depress any preacher, so he sat down outside the city and sulked. He was so disappointed at the outcome, that he wanted to die, but he still hoped God would change his mind and destroy Ninevah, which brings a sixth irony. Jonah waited for God to change his mind, when he had already changed it and saved Ninevah. In the final scene, the gourd, which grew to shade Jonah from the hot sun, died and withered, which made Jonah angry. So in the ironic denouement, the writer leaves the last word with God: "You feel pity for the gourd. Should I not feel pity for Ninevah with its 120,000 people who cannot tell their right hand from their left?"

In a story imbued with irony, the author demonstrates the deep compassion God has for all people, and in a comic caricature of contemporary attitudes—embodied in the prophet Jonah—contrasts the people of God unfavourably with pagans in the narrative. The story subverts the popular assumption that God's compassion is an exclusive possession of anyone. It is a comic reversal of escalating racial intolerance, which assumed all pagans are callous, without spiritual sensitivities.

The story reverses the theologically naive expectation—that God, in his wrath, will undoubtedly destroy the ungodly. The writer shatters the moralistic bigotry of a people, who, though "called to mission", had become a self-centred enclave of the righteous.

The story of Jonah contains devastating irony in its comic reversal of theological narrowness and racial intolerance.

—Stephen Curkpatrick

The Last Word

Many Christians seem to understand the concept of being saved by grace, but they have missed the concept of being sustained by grace.

—James D. Mallory Jr

"G'day, how's your business coming along?"
"I'm looking for a new cashier."
"But you had a new one only last week."
"That's the one I'm looking for."

The class was taken to parliament to see and listen to the politicians. That night, a student was describing parliament to his parents. "A politician got up and spoke for half an hour but said nothing. Nobody listened, and when the politician had finished everybody disagreed with what was said."

"How are you getting on with your football?"

"Well, pretty good in fact. The coach said that I was one of the team's greatest drawbacks."

Two astronauts knocked at the Pearly Gates and St Peter said, "Come in, just sit down while I look up your files."

"We don't want to come in," said the first astronaut, "We just want to get our capsule back."

What will the members of today's younger generation tell their children they had to do without?

Patient: "Doctor, what I need is something to stir me up, and to put me in fighting form. Have you got anything like that in a prescription?"

Doctor: "No, but you'll find it in my bill."

Overheard at a camp: "We're going home tomorrow. Better rumple my pyjamas and squeeze out half my toothpaste."



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