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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Outreach Dinners a Good Idea



One—Invite contacts to a formal dinner at the church

Two—Provide entertainment



Three—Have a good speaker



- Nunawading has women's dinner for community contacts
- Murray Bridge has dinner for couples married at the church

—page 3

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Guest Editorial

• Satisfaction in a job well done

by Allan Orr

Building God's Church

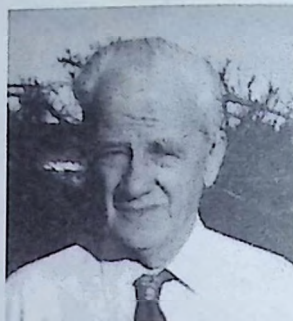
As one studies the history of building in Australia it is evident that the designs and practices brought out by the early builders from their homeland were not entirely suited to the local environment and climate. The changes that were needed were slow in being implemented, but eventually they occurred and buildings more suitable for local conditions were built. During my fifty years in the building industry I have seen that change accelerate with new designs, materials and methods of construction being implemented.

A parallel with the building trade is to be found with the church. Our forebears brought out their established ways of worship, and we saw little change in that form of worship for many years. But today we are witnessing acceleration in change, with many of the old forms of worship being exchanged for new. Some of these changes are necessary to meet the changing demands of society, some for quality of worship, but others seem to have been introduced for the sake of change.

As changes in building practices occurred, we saw along with these changes a rapid alteration in the face of our cities. Buildings, irrespective of their aesthetic or historical value, were torn down, and in many cases replaced by ones that were unacceptable by the community. As people saw their heritage being destroyed, they voiced their opposition, and so today where practicable we are seeing facades of old buildings being incorporated in the new, and many new buildings being designed to fit into the total environment, which is resulting in a blending of the old with the new, each complementing, not opposing, each other.

Our churches have suffered in somewhat the same way with the old, irrespective of its value, being replaced in many cases by the new. Much of this change is being tolerated rather than accepted, and we are seeing that there are those who, although knowing that change is inevitable, would like to see more consultation taking place, and a better blending of the old with the new, the two working harmoniously together.

Many buildings are erected under the direction of an architect who has been commissioned by a client to design and supervise the erection of a building that is



functional, aesthetically appealing and pleasing to the client. To do this the architect first inspects the site, determining what type of foundations can be laid, and designs the building to suit. The architect then engages a builder, who, having worked out the costs involved, undertakes to build as the architect has specified. The builder has

freedom of choice in the use of tools and equipment, some of which may need to be replaced or renewed to help the builder build more efficiently and true to the architect's plans.

I think of God as the client who has commissioned his Son Jesus Christ as his architect to build his church, and Jesus has specified in his word what kind of church he wishes to have built. He has engaged us as his builders and we, having counted the cost, have undertaken to build as he specifies. Like the builder we have the freedom of choice in the methods we use and these may change as different methods are found, but any change implemented must result in the more efficient building of his church.

A builder's ultimate satisfaction, as the completed building is viewed, is in getting the client's and architect's commendation for a job well done. But what greater reward will be ours as Christ's builders to hear the words, "Well done good and faithful servant," as he views the results of our labour.

Allan Orr was born in Launceston in 1925 and is a third-generation member of the church. He attended the Sandhill Bible School and church, being baptised in 1937, and was Sunday School superintendent and church secretary, as well as assisting in local preaching.

On the closing of the Sandhill church he attended the Launceston church, where he is a deacon. He has served on several state conference committees, including a term as state president. He is now Tasmanian Vice-President of the National Conference, Tasmanian representative of the Historical Society and CFA, and a director of the Launceston City Mission.

Allan is a member of the Master Builders Association, and has been connected with the building trade all his working life. He married Elva Morffew of Hartwell in 1950. They have two sons, Malcolm, an elder at Howrah, and Trevor, Launceston.

• Move to new premises

Berwick's Opening Celebrations

The month of November is being used by the Berwick, Vic, church as a celebration of the opening of their new building.

Some of the activities are:

- A brief farewell service at 32 Enterprise Avenue, at 9 am on 3 November followed by a march to the new site in Centre Road, where all will share in a special time of praise and thanksgiving at 10 am for completion of the journey commenced in April 1989. At 7 pm that evening a "Thanksgiving Party" will be held with guests The Covenant Players.

- On 10 November at 10 am the morning worship will include various invited guests and at 7 pm guest musician and singer will be Doug McFarlane.

- For services on 17 November the guest speaker will be Barry McMurtrie (former minister at Berwick and senior minister at Wollongong, NSW, which has also recently opened a new building). At the evening service drama/musical presentations will also be a part of the program.

- On 24 November the 10 am guests will be the City of Berwick Children's Choir, while the 7 pm guests will be Yurana Singers.

There will be barbecue lunches available each Sunday. The first one will be free and for the other weeks a charge of \$3 for adults and \$2 for children (under 12) will be made to help cover costs.

A special seminar with Barry McMurtrie on 14-15 November, 7.45-10 pm, "Feeling Good about Your Church" is also part of the celebrations. Registration forms will be out in the next two weeks. The cost is \$10 (\$15 per couple), which includes the workbook.

Details on these celebrations are available from the church office on (03) 707 1868.

• Cover stories



• Nunawading

Women's Dinner

How do you jump the fence between church life and the playgroups and other community organisations that church sponsors? How do you expose the non-church families to the Gospel in a helpful, non-offensive way?

One of the answers to that question was the women's dinner organised by the Nunawading, Vic, church in August. With Elizabeth Jones,

family counsellor, as guest speaker, more than 100 women attended a well-run, professionally organised dinner. As with an earlier dinner held in May, more than a third who attended were community contacts. They heard fine music and a helpful address on "Sustaining Relationships". Hostesses were designated to each table to make sure all visitors felt at home.

As a part of the general outreach program of the church, the occasional women's dinner is a winner. Details about the evening can be obtained from Glenda de Jager, the co-ordinator of the program, on (03) 873 2138.

- The cover photos show (top) some of the 110 women at the dinner, (bottom left) guest soloist, Gemma Aribi from the Philippines, and (bottom right) guest speaker Elizabeth Jones, family counsellor with the El Kanah counselling organisation.

• Murray Bridge

Let's Celebrate

As I sat in the church office, for a few weeks I was constantly drawn to the marriage register records that were on the shelf. I had read somewhere that these books were a very good source for reaching people in the community. As a result a plan was devised:

We divided the years of marriage in the books into three groups, 0-10 years, 10-20 years and 20-30 years. The premise was this. These people may have a nostalgic feeling about the church, it being the one they were married in.

We didn't know what their current relationship with God was. We didn't know what their current relationship with each other was. What we did know was that God loves and is interested in them and we wanted to know if we could be available to help them worship him.

Our plan was to invite each group to a separate dinner as our guests to help them cel-

brate their wedding anniversary.

We purchased copies of the current electoral roll for our area. These records showed us who from our marriage register were still together and still living in our area. We devised a special invitation with a covering letter and posted it to one group at a time.

The evening provided hors d'oeuvre and drinks on arrival and the meal consisted of entrée, main course (baked dinner), sweets, tea/coffee and after-dinner mints. The meal was interspersed with items from quality artists.

To the dinners we invited church members, who we called "minglers"—their basic responsibility was to be friendly and interested and to make conversation at both the dinner table and the "mingling time" built into the program. The evening was rounded off with a 10-minute talk highlight-

ing an area of marriage that needs to be managed by couples and the encouragement that God, when invited into a marriage, becomes the pivotal point for all relationships.

Approximately one month following the dinner a special "marriage remembrance" service was conducted to which those attending the dinner were invited. The minglers followed up the invitation to the service by making personal contact with those invited.

There was also established a group of pray-ers who were enlisted to pray for invitations as they were sent out, the attendance of invitees and the minglers.

The project of providing dinners and special church services could be expanded to cover parents of children's work in the church and to special groups in the community. Another advantage is the working together by church members, knowing something of the work of evangelism.

—Morrie Munyard

• The story of a church

Loxton's 40th Anniversary

The Loxton, SA, church recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. The celebrations were held over a weekend beginning with a prayer service on the Friday evening. On the Saturday morning a men's breakfast was held at which **Sonny Pillay** spoke. On that night a reunion dinner was held at the Loxton Hotel and more than 100 attended, including over 50 former members. The speaker was Loxton's first minister **Jack McCormick**.

Sunday involved a communion and baptismal service prior to a barbecue lunch at Lion's Park. **Sonny Pillay** spoke at the morning service, which 200 attended. This celebration preceded a mission in the district with **Sonny**.

Recently **Sonny Pillay** has accepted a call to join a team ministry at Loxton in 1993 with its current minister **John Kenway** and administrator **Peter May**.

Loxton's History

The extension of the irrigation area and the prospect of a large population settling in the district encouraged a few families to organise themselves into a church on 22 July 1951.

The first meeting was held in the home of Mr and Mrs L.B. Swanbury at Loxton North. **Fred Higgins** was elected temporary secretary and was a driving force in the commencement of the new cause. He personally contacted 18 members in the growing community and

with the planning help of the Berri church under the leadership of the pastor **Jack Manallack** and the Berri board, commenced the church.

The first service was held in the reading room of the Loxton Institute. The preacher was **Charles Schwab**, and 53 adults and 25 children, including visitors, attended.

Application for the lease of building sites for a place of worship and a house block for a manse was made immediately. In 1954 a vacant chapel, in fact the first Lutheran church on the main Berri Road and Noora Road junction, was obtained. The first minister appointed to serve Loxton and Moorook was **John McCormick**, who, apart from his ministry, was a great cricketer.

It was soon evident that the position of the chapel did not permit the church to meet the needs of the townspeople, and two blocks of land were purchased in Anzac Crescent. When **Phil Woolford** replaced **John McCormick** the following year, plans were formulated for the new church and hall. The architect was **Lance Brune** and the builder was **Harold Radomi**. **Phil Woolford** took his coat off and worked every day for the builder. The people in the community held him in high esteem for his efforts and dedication.

The building was opened on 15 March 1959. Church membership in 1959 was 37. The Sunday School had 30 students and four teachers.

Throughout the 1960s the work prospered through the Sunday School, youth group, morning worship and evening Gospel meetings. An early minister, **Owen Clark**, began a tennis club, which continues to compete in the local competition to the present day, winning a number of premierships.

The Girls' Brigade began in the early 1960s and under the leadership of **Necia Higgins** reached a membership of over 30. The church also had a bas-

ketball team in the town competition. By 1968 the Sunday School reached a membership of 99.

Largely through death and transfer of members to other centres membership declined in the 1970s to a low of 11 in 1975. However a focus on Bible studies and fellowship activities saw the church grow to 30 members by 1985 with over 50 in regular fellowship. Loxton was served by **Brian Hill**, who lived in **Barmera** and ministered to five Riverland churches from 1978 to 1985.

John Kenway joined **Brian** in ministry to the five Riverland Churches from 1984 to 1985.

With a renewed vision to reach out the Loxton church purchased a new manse in Second Street, selling the old manse in Acacia Avenue in 1985 and appointed **John Kenway** to commence a full-time ministry in Loxton from 1986. The loans for the new manse were paid off in just over two years, allowing the church to be debt free from 1988. The late 80s saw a period of growth, especially in young adult families and

currently there is an active membership of 111 made up of 82 adults and 29 children, with an average worship attendance around 120. In January 1991 the church appointed its first part-time staff as **Peter May** became church administrator. The church recently moved its office to a rented shop in Drabsch Street. It is proposed to turn the front of the shop into a Christian video lending centre and bookshop.

The Loxton church has embraced many changes to accommodate God's move of the Holy Spirit, such as its music and worship style, and is currently seeking a new worship venue as the Anzac Crescent chapel is overcrowded. The growth of the church continues into the 90s as the vision includes appointing an associate full-time ministry.

The church currently is assisting in the support of three missionary families—the Schoemakers (Africa Indian Mission) in Zaire, the Whittams (WEC) in Ghana and Pastor T.T. Abraham (Christ for India) in Bombay.

Christmas in Bethlehem



15-day Group Tour to Israel
Departing: Saturday, 21 December 1991
Tour Price: \$3490 per person twin share

The same itinerary is also available for three other departure dates:

Departing Saturday, 16 November	\$2750 p.p. twln share
Departing Saturday, 7 December	\$3380 p.p. twln share
Departing Saturday, 4 January 1992	\$3290 p.p. twln share

Each departure date is based on a minimum of 10 participants. Prices include: return flights, first class accommodation in Israel with breakfast and dinner daily, sightseeing, entrance fees and all transfers plus possibility to extend time away. The above tour is also available on a private car driver/guide basis for 2-7 people per car for other departure dates.

For further information and a detailed itinerary please contact:
Dani at Jetset Travel Balaclava (Group Dept.)
 300 Carlisle Street, East St Kilda 3182
 Tel (03) 527 6119 Fax (03) 527 2394

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Low tariff. Small groups and schools welcome.

Self-contained cottage available for hire.

For more information contact **Ian Crowe (057) 29 8258**

News

• Overseas Mission centenary

Big Rally

The Vic-Tas Overseas Mission Committee has arranged a centenary celebration for Sunday, 27 October, at 2.45 pm at the Lygon Street Church of Christ in Carlton.

It is hoped that most Victorian churches will be represented and also as many returned missionaries and their families as possible. If you know any of these people they could be invited to the program.

The organisers hope to feature the missionaries of the past as well as celebrate with groups of Indian, African, Pacific Island and Chinese singers and musicians. Julie Trinnick (representing OMB) and David Harmer (on furlough from PNG) will share in the celebration.

Parkdale Church of Christ Homecoming

Celebrating 70 Years
Sunday, 24 November,
at 10.15 am

Guest Speaker:
Chris Ambrose, Editor,
"The Australian
Christian"

Enjoy fellowship and
luncheon afterward.
Enquiries
(03) 580 6224

• Juan Carlos Ortiz

Preaching Tour

The Mackay, Qld, church is looking to organise a preaching tour for Juan Carlos Ortiz for 1993. Juan Carlos Ortiz has written a number of books dealing with Christian discipleship. He is also well known for the prophetic yet humorous way he communicates God's word to people. Although coming from a Pentecostal background, Ortiz is renowned for being able to speak to all Christians, irrespective of denominational background. A pastor, teacher and writer, Juan Carlos is now involved in the Hispanic ministry of the Crystal Cathedral.

Churches interested in having Juan Carlos come and share with them or their region are asked to contact Gabriel Babare, Mackay Church of Christ, PO Box 37, Mackay 4740.

Church of Christ SOUTHPORT

now meets in
Parklands Drive
8.55 am

Worship and Communion
6.30 pm

Gospel Celebration
Minister: Noel Newton
(075) 94 6154, 94 6633
31 4353 (AH)

• Richard and Shirley Pearce

Music Duo Return Home



Shirley and Richard Pearce

Richard and Shirley Pearce are back from two and a half years in New Zealand and have settled back in Brisbane. Over the years the Pearces have become well known to hundreds of people as they have travelled around Australia presenting Gospel concerts and working with churches as well as secular community programs.

Their last overseas tour was through six states of the USA in October 1990, where they were well received. Since returning to Australia they have been busy performing in NSW and Southeast Queensland, promoting the latest of their six recordings, "Gentle Hands". Although they are now involved in pastoral ministry at the Annerley church in Bris-

bane they are still available for interstate concert tours as well as local outreach and special programs.

These days Sovereign Sound is the umbrella that is used by Richard and Shirley to co-ordinate the music side of their ministry. Also involved with Sovereign Sound is 19-year-old Jacqueline Pearce, who has developed her own contemporary style of music specialising in guest spots at church services, youth specials and weddings.

If you would like more information from Richard and Shirley or Jacqueline they can be contacted through Sovereign Sound, PO Box 555, Rochedale 4123. Phone (07) 848 3318.

DOUG macfarlane



Doug Macfarlane's debut album "INNOCENCE" has been enthusiastically received throughout Australia & New Zealand.

His heart for the lost is shared through powerful music that confronts issues but always offers hope - hope in salvation through JESUS CHRIST!

Thursday, 31 October
Doors open at 7 pm
\$5 adult, \$10 family, \$3 pensioner

Bendigo Church of Christ
125th Anniversary

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

• Move to Capel Street

New Centre Reflects Personality

Organisations, like people, have personalities. They're often perceived to be how they present.

Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania now present with a contemporary, efficient, open, co-operative and energetic personality, if the new Conference Centre at 77 Capel Street, West Melbourne, reflects its personality.

This new centre, located near the Flagstaff Gardens and the Victoria Market, is adjacent to the central business district and public transport. An added bonus is that excellent parking is available at all times of the day.

The centre is modern and an investment in the future. It provides slightly more room for the office accommodation, with excellent facilities for depart-

mental, board and committee meetings.

The Conference Executive has been highly appreciative of Allan Emmett for his outstanding work in organising the move, and earlier the work of the Properties Corporation and Clive Ward as the previous Conference Secretary in enabling the sale of 52 La Trobe Street and the purchase of this excellent property.

A substantial capital sum from the profit of the transaction has been invested to ensure the adequate ongoing of the building maintenance and executive work. This new centre and the investment money will be used to energetically further our mission as we affirm and witness to our faith in contemporary and relevant ways.

—Ian Allsop

• A wonderful day

Henley Beach Centenary Celebrations

The Henley Beach, SA, church celebrated 100 years of service on 8 September. After many months of planning, God blessed us with a wonderful day, not only in fellowship but also the weather.

At the morning service there were over 200 communicants. The church building was packed to capacity and the overflow shared the service through the aid of a video camera and three TV sets placed in one of the Sunday School rooms.

The President for the service was our present minister, Brian Hill. The readers were Harold Norris (an ex-Henley boy) and Roma Maxted (widow of the late Jack Maxted, ex-minister). The prayers were ably said by Albert Jones (ex-minister) and the message, titled "Vessels", was brought to us by Hazel Suke, who was back in her

home church after 42 years in India.

The singing and music added a special atmosphere and the pupils and teachers of the Bible School shared a puppet pagentry during the service.

The catering for the day was left in the hands of Peg Thomas, who with her band of helpers, provided lunch for approximately 250. The afternoon was presided over by Murray Thomas, and was spent in a great time of fellowship, reminiscing and meeting up with old friends. Slides provided light-hearted relief, especially some very old Sunday School slides. Entertainment was given by John and Barbara Turner, who really added a touch of class with their singing, and the Women's Fellowship laid a scriptural table as a dedication to all women who have served at Henley over the

• Malaysian visitor

Church Planters Meet



Dexter Low (right) discusses his work with Chek Chia, minister of Grace church

Ministers associated with Victorian church planting initiatives met together at the Conference Centre on 28 August to share with Dexter Low of Malaysia. Dexter has a distinguished record of new church development in Malaysia and has been a consultant to the Lausanne Conference. He is in demand for seminar and other training programs. At the seminar he led discussions on a

range of church planting themes and issues and encouraged the multiplication of initiatives from new house church fellowships to larger projects. In this message there is a challenge for every congregation to look at some form of church planting. The event was arranged by the Department of Mission, Education and Development and Conference Secretary Ian Allsop.

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Sunday, 24 November
at 10.30 am

Guest Speaker: Ian Allsop
Hospitality Provided

Enquiries: Joy Bromley
(052) 43 6716

• Swanston Street's mission

Pastoral Visit to Asia

Over the period 24 July–21 August, Allan and Val Webb, senior minister of the Swanston St, Melbourne, Vic, church, made a pastoral visit to Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore to visit Christians who have returned to their home cultures following studies in Melbourne and who during their stay in Australia attended the Swanston Street church.

In the 28 days that the Webbs were away they visited 216 returnees: Hong Kong 37, Peninsular Malaysia 79, Singapore 83 and East Malaysia 17.

Allan preached on 17 different occasions and shared with over 50 pastors and/or church leaders. For Allan two things particularly stood out. First, the number of returnees (16) who are now in full-time ministry either as missionaries, pastors or Bible college students, most of whom became Christians at Swanston Street. In addition to those in full-time ministry many others are exercising strategic positions of leadership, e.g. the Chairman of the Malaysia Bible Seminary in Klang, the Chairman of the Malaysia Evangelical College in Miri and the Vice-Chairman of the SIB Church in East Malaysia. Secondly were the number of parents who have recently come to the Lord.

Hong Kong: It is obvious that 1997 looms very large in the minds of Hong Kong returnees. Many have decided to emigrate, while others have chosen to stay. All returnees stress the imperative of being thoroughly grounded in the Word of God. Bible teaching and preaching have a high priority.

Malaysia: Allan's overall impression of Malaysia is that churches are growing, although much of the growth is inward. There is still an urgent need for graduate pastors. Many of the pastors have only received a very basic secondary education.

Singapore: The pace of life is still very pressurised and returnees are working long hours six days a week. Vocational pressures are very strong. The churches are very strong (numerically) but the level of commitment is sometimes fairly superficial. The Charismatic influence has been very pronounced, particularly that of John Wimber and his Third Wave influence. There is some uncertainty as to how long Singapore will be able to maintain its present affluent lifestyle. Even now there is an almost total dependence upon immigrant workers to do many of the manual and menial tasks. Many Filipino maids are being exploited in Singapore. Allan noted possibly less religious freedom in Singapore than on previous visits. Christians are under surveillance and several charismatic churches have been instructed to scale down their evangelistic activities.

The Webb's final six days were spent in Miri visiting Ray and Shamini Haverfield, two members of the Swanston Street missionary family. Ray is presently the Academic Dean and lecturer at the Malaysia Evangelical College (MEC), which is under the auspices of the SIB church. There are now over 500 SIB churches throughout Sarawak and Sabah but at present there are only 19 students in training at MEC. The need for more pastors is critical. Even existing pastors tend to change churches every three years and so there tends to be a crisis of leadership within the SIB church. The SIB churches tend to be very charismatic and we sensed an urgent need for sound expository Bible teaching.

• Worship in the tropics

Sunday in Mackay

A typically balmy spring morning has again spread itself abroad and the fronds of crimson bougainvillea crown an array of lush green shrubbery. The gardens colourfully greet all those who meet in there. The people enter quietly now, small groups of twos, fours and fives—adults, children, babies, teenagers—all small parts of a much larger whole, having a common bond and purpose for gathering.

Quiet music is playing in the background, as I casually watch those filling the room. I'm reminded of the many activities undertaken and the talents possessed by that part of God's family that is the church in Mackay, Qld. Coming to worship are those responsible for the youth ministry, and scattered around are familiar faces from KYB. The busy sounds of children settling for worship time bring to mind those who serve in the Sunday School—a steadily expanding area of ministry—and also those involved in the Boys' Brigade and Playgroup ministry. Midweek activities provide great sources of fellowship and potential ministry for the church. Five home groups meet on a regular weekly basis for prayer, study and fellowship.

Another mid-week activity providing vast potential for evangelism is the "Come and Do" program—a series of craft sessions organised from within the church, but catering for anyone wishing to attend. Of the 70–80 ladies in regular attendance, only a small number (about 10%) are Christian. So therein lies great potential!

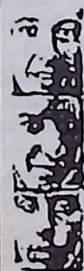
As with many churches the congregation is greatly varied, and the faces I watch in worship around me range from wrinkled tiny babies through to those faces that show deeper lines. Great emphasis this year has been placed on building relationships within the church body—taking time to get to know more fully a brother or sister, whether one of long-

standing acquaintance, or one of the many new members among us.

Congregational growth has been consistent in our group this year. Our morning attendance is now usually in the vicinity of 150. Several have been welcomed into the family by transfer or relocation, and we have experienced the joy of sharing in 10 baptisms so far this year. In February, Terry Paris, along with his wife Fay and their family, joined us as an associate minister, with the particular area of youth and young adult ministry as his role. This facet of the ministry is also one with great growth potential, not only within the present church composition, but also considering the population make-up of Mackay as a whole.

The worship and communion time continues around me, as the rays of tropical spring sunshine stream in and creep further across the floor. Outside, past the gardens and fences, lies the city of Mackay. Surely our overriding aim as a church, as the Lord leads us into 1992, must be to continue to reach as many individuals in that city as we can, bringing with us the good news of Jesus.

—Sally Haynes



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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Leadership Style at Glen Waverley

To the Editor,

As an elder at Glen Waverley where Ron Elbourne is the senior minister, I must respond to some misconceptions and innuendoes about the style of church government and ministry here. Yes! We do expect Ron to provide visionary leadership, but we do not expect him to make all decisions—only autocrats do that.

In fact, we have five working groups, set up to develop, promote, administer and make decisions concerning their ministry areas: Church Growth, Pastoral, Christian Education, Youth and Administration. Each group meets monthly or bimonthly and comprises a minister, at least one elder and one deacon and co-opted members. Group numbers range from 6 to 10 and total 30 members overall. Under the umbrella of these ministry groups are fellowship, education, cell, youth, church school, interest and point of entry groups for which over 80 leaders are responsible. Many others serve as co-ordinators, counsellors, worship assistants, book-room/coffee-shop helpers, musicians and singers etc. Our members exercise their own ministries but function together as a body should.

The eldership comprises the ministry team and lay elders. It is responsible for the care, development and operation of the whole body. The relationship between the senior minister, his ministry colleagues and the lay elders is one of mutual trust, love and respect. This does not imply "perpetual agreement" as some critics impute. For some matters, months of prayer and discussion are required before a decision is made. Most importantly, the direction of this church is firmly based on Christ's "Great Commission". This provides a unity of purpose, which every church needs.

—David Patterson
(Glen Waverley, Vic)

Reconciliation

To the Editor,

Today we have distressing situations of separated Christians, husbands and wives with no thought of reconciliations taking place, no forgiveness, no-one prepared to talk, no-one prepared to say, "I'm sorry."

We Christians, the body of Christ, know that Christ died for us that we all might have peace with God.

Does the sacrifice mean nothing to us that Christ died for us? Reconciliation, forgiveness, compassion and the love of God are needed in our society and church today.

Paul's preaching and teaching of the Gospel had, I believe a thrust to stem the continuing broken marriage vows of his day which today is affecting our families and the life of our churches.

Radio and TV present current affairs, the church presents the gospel of Christ, i.e. reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18,19: God has given to us ministry of reconciliation.

Colossians 1:20: Communion is the forgiveness-reconciliation through the blood of his Cross and verse 22 in the body of his flesh through death to present us holy to God.

Ephesians 2:16: Both Jew and Gentile reconciled unto God in one body by the cross (the death of Christ).

Romans 5:10: We were enemies reconciled to God by the death of his Son being saved by his life.

Ezekiel 45:15: To make reconciliation for Israel. One lamb out of the flock out of the fat pastures of Israel as a meat-burnt-peace offering.

—H.L. Pietzsch
(Hurstbridge, Vic)

Our Organ

To the Editor,

It was good news to read ("AC 1 September) that the Hindmarsh folk are pleased that their pipe organ is to be installed at Grote Street. As a former member of Norwood Tabernacle I know that former Norwood members will share

with me in saying "our organ", and going back through its earlier home it was purchased from the Norwood Wesley Church during the ministry of the late A.C. Rankine.

—Howard Folland
(Bassendean, WA)

Historic Instrument

To the Editor,

Readers of the article, "Grote Street Acquires Historic Instrument" ("AC, 21 September 1991), would gain the impression that the pipe organ had always been in the Hindmarsh church.

That particular pipe organ was acquired by the Norwood Church of Christ in 1912 from the Norwood Wesley Church. The Norwood church later installed an electrical pumping system, but retained the manual pump for use in the event of a power failure.

When the Norwood church sold its chapel building in 1956

the Hindmarsh church was glad to purchase the pipe organ for a nominal sum.

The Grote Street church could have had its "miracle" in 1956, but when the availability of the pipe organ was mentioned to the choirmaster at the time he was interested only in a modern instrument.

—Murray Parker
(Rosslyn Park, SA)

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Letters from Tertius

When Did You Last Invite Someone to Church?

To the Editor,

The speaker at our evangelism seminar was a well-turned-out, enthusiastic young man. He wasn't afraid of asking a few hard questions. The one that hit me was, "When did you last invite someone to church?" I simply couldn't remember and was overcome with guilt.

But I've been thinking since. I've read the Book of Acts through a few times and I don't remember the early Christian expecting people to come to church to be evangelised. It appears that the Christians went out to get people where they were and having won them to Christ then brought them to church. I don't think I'd be so good at that either. But I'm sure I would have a go at it if someone gave me a few lessons. We always seem to be urged to go out and witness but no one tells us how, not even the well-turned-out, enthusiastic young man at the seminar.

Then I began thinking of the few friends and acquaintances I have outside the church. Why don't I invite them? I came to the conclusion that what goes on at our services suits us fine but wouldn't mean a thing to them.

But if we are going to invite outsiders to church there's going to have to be a lot of changes in our services. Or maybe before inviting them to church services we should invite them first to church things that they can cope with.

That thought made me recall that my wife and I invited next-doors to our carols by candlelight. So I don't feel quite so guilty after all.

Hoping you are the same.

—Tertius

News

• New work commenced

Upper Yarra Valley Off to Good Start



Some of the people meeting at Woori Yallock

On 15 September at 2 pm the first of a series of four services were held at the **Woori Yallock Primary School** to test the waters regarding the commencing of a church in the **Upper Yarra Valley, Vic.**

Over 60 adults and eight children attended the first service. The services have been organised by the **Montrose, Vic.** church as an outreach in the area.

At the end of the first four weeks leaders of the **Montrose** church met with people from the area who have been involved in the services to discuss the next step in the possible formation of a new church. **Neil Galbraith**, the minister at **Montrose**, says there is great potential in the area, and services will now continue each Sunday at 9 am.

At the first service there were

over 10 members of the local community in attendance. There are also several members of the **Montrose** church who live in the area and regularly travel about 30 km to **Montrose** for worship.

The speakers at the first series of services were **Neil Galbraith** and **John Sharpe**. On the first day the music was provided by the **Young People's Band** from **Montrose**.

• Celebrating with song

Oakleigh 75

200 filled the **Oakleigh, Vic.** church at the morning service on 22 September to celebrate the church's 75th anniversary.

With **Alison Walpole** on the organ and **Hilda Brown** on the piano, **Horrie Walpole** led a pre-service sing-a-long.

A quartette from **Box Hill** (**Julie Waterhouse**, **Carolyn Hunt**, **Ann Salisbury** and **Martina Osswald**) with **Jennie Clare** on piano added much to the worship.

David Fraser read the scriptures and **C.H.J. (Jim) Wright** spoke on "Inspiring Company", with the minister, **Jack Edwards**, presiding over the service.

185 remained for the luncheon at which **Jim Wright** reminisced on 50 years in the ministry. —**Jack Edwards**



Christian Women Communicating International 25th Birthday Celebrations Speaker: Miss Jean Raddon

1966-1991 (Vic)

Bendigo

Day Convention, Thursday, 24 October 1991,
9.45 am-2.45 pm

St Andrew's Uniting Church, Myer Street, Bendigo.

Enquiries: Mrs J. Bailey (054) 46 1704

Melbourne

Coffee and Dessert Evening, Friday, 25 October 1991,
7.30 pm

Blackburn Baptist Church, Holland Road, Blackburn

RSVP: Mrs M. Galbraith (03) 898 3800

All Ladies Most Welcome



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Correction

In the article "Pilgrimage to Bundaberg" ("AC", 5 October) the person who visited Bundaberg was **Bill Bule** (not **John Buli**). **Bill's** position then, as now, was Executive Director of the Conference of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu.

• Sent to Yokohama

In Japan

About 18 months ago we saw a small ad in *The Australian Christian* calling for volunteers to go to **Singapore** as **SPOT** workers for **OMF**. As the job was to care for children of **OMF** candidates while they attended lectures, it was thought that it would only be suitable for young people. However, as grandparents, we were privileged to be able to go and share in this program for eight weeks last year and it was a very rewarding experience.

We had understood this to be a "one-off" assignment but, following our return, early this year we were again approached by **OMF** from **Singapore** to ask if we would consider going to **Japan** for one year to take the place of missionaries who were going on home assignment. The job was to work in an English centre attached to the local **OMF** church to conduct conversational English classes. Not being qualified teachers, we were a little dubious, but after prayerful consideration we were accepted and are now here in **Yokohama**, having completed eight weeks of "teaching". The centre is part of the outreach program of the church and there are about 100 students involved, both children and adults, in 17 classes from Tuesday to Friday each week. We are enjoying the work, the people are extremely friendly and helpful and we pray that the Lord will open up avenues of witness through this area.

Please pray for us that the Lord will continue to guide us and strengthen us in the day ahead.

—**Graham and**

Val Underhill

(Kingsley, WA, church)

Media Review

Papers

Hope and Despair: The Human Condition in Environmental Issues

by Peter Newman



Zadok Institute for
Christianity and Society

Series 1 Paper \$53

ISSN 0158-7478

Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society promotes the study of biblical truth to everyday life in Australia. Part of its work is directed to providing scientific information relating to issues of importance to Christians in Australia, including Christian perspectives on natural, economic and political issues. Further information and a complete list of Zadok publications can be obtained from the Zadok Institute, Shadish Street, Barton, ACT, 2600, (06) 273 1634.

Series 1 contains the main discussions of the contemporary matters affecting life in Australia. Series 2 contains more specific theological or biblical papers, issues of general interest, commentaries, etc. Zadok also publishes a quarterly journal, Zadok Perspectives.

Hope and Despair: The Human Condition in Environmental Issues

by Peter Newman

Rain forest deterioration, land degradation, water pollution, Bhopal and Chernobyl, urban sprawl, ozone depletion, poverty and war.

These issues may lead us to despair, but Dr Newman calls us to hope. This paper explores environmental theology and offers alternative visions to those of despair. In the context of the sustainable development debate this author dis-

cusses global stories of hope, encouraging local case studies and the role of the individual. Peter Newman is Associate Professor in Environmental Science and Director of the Institute for Science and Technology Policy at Murdoch University in Perth.

Hope and Despair: The Human Condition in Environmental Issues is published by the Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society and is available from Zadok, Blackall St, Barton 2600. Phone (06) 273 1634 for \$4 plus 90c postage.

Books

A Yearbook for Australian Churches 1992

The Christian Research Association will release the second edition of *A Yearbook for Australian Churches—1992* in November of this year at a cost of \$18 post paid.

The 1991 Yearbook was received extremely well. It provided clergy, church workers and other interested people with a wide range of information. The Yearbook is becoming established as a standard reference work for those involved in church and Christian work in Australia.

A special feature in the 1992 Yearbook is a section listing religious periodicals published in Australia. Over 200 publications are listed in this section in two categories: denominational and religious bodies (alphabetical) and non-denominational and specialist (this category is further subdivided into 27 other categories).

Other special features are articles reflecting on church life in Australia from the Baptist Church, Churches of Christ (written by Ian Allsop), Coptic Orthodox Church, Presbyterian Church and the Salvation Army, articles about the multicultural church in Australia from the Anglican Church, Baptist Church, Catholic Church and Uniting Church and research articles from sociologists of religion.

For orders contact either Peter Bentley or Tricia Blombery at the Christian Research Association, 6 Balfour St, Wollstonecraft 2065. Phone (02) 438 2837.

The Man Who Claimed To Be God

by David Hewitson (Albatross Books) \$9.95

"Who do you say that I am?" Jesus' question has confronted each generation, and each individual who has heard of him, for the past 2,000 years.

Contending that, over the centuries, disjointed or incomplete understandings of Jesus have developed—"the pale Galilean", "the revolutionary"—David Hewitson attempts, in this slim volume, to present to us the Biblical Jesus. Many people see Jesus as a significant historical figure, a great and good man, an important philosopher and ethical teacher; but unless we accept his ultimate claim—to be the Son of God—he must be, as C.S. Lewis puts it, "either a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell". Hewitson plainly places before us the evidence for the acceptance of Jesus' claim.

To those who would try to make Jesus in their own image—to support a particular point of view—the author says, "Jesus must be allowed to be himself. We must let the New Testament speak to us about him without any alterations or amendments." He places Jesus in his historical, social and cultural context, but stresses his direct relevance to each of us today; noting, "He liked to give his hearers the opportunity to make their own responses to what he said about himself."

Miracles are described as the "speeding up" of the natural processes of creation—doing quickly what God does constantly "in a more leisurely way". They are seen as living parables—the meeting of a physical need mirrors Jesus' ability to fulfil a parallel spiritual need. Other topics include the kingdom of God, life in the kingdom, the titles of Jesus and his death and resurrection.

David Hewitson concludes, "With an open mind and open heart, we can look into the Gospels and see Jesus risen from the dead and alive forever more. We see him set free from time and space so that he may make himself known to us. And he does—when in genuine humility we reach out to him."

This book could be easily read at one sitting; it tells the Gospel story clearly and directly.

—Graeme Addicott



People

• Dennis and Wilma Jetta

Induction at Mooroopna

Over 100 adults and children said "Gawaimbanna", "Welcome", to Dennis and Wilma Jetta at the induction of Dennis as minister to the Mooroopna, Vic, church on Sunday, 29 September.

Greetings were extended to visitors from Bimbadeen, Echuca, Albury, Shepparton and Melbourne from Vic-Tas secretary Harold Taylor, who also read out a letter of encouragement to the Jettas from Avon Moyle. The Mooroopna ladies gave an item, and the music for the 11 am service was provided by Arthur Duke and May Taylor on the organ, John (Sandy) Atkinson on steel guitar and Dennis Jetta, guitar.

President for the induction service was former minister of the church and now Dean at Bimbadeen College, Dennis Atkinson. Cecil Grant of Albury gave the address. The service was followed by a basket lunch down the road at Rumbalara Aboriginal Centre and a rally in the fine hall there. The grand old hymns and cho-

ruses rang out to the guitar music with accompaniment at times of Darren Whighton on his didgeridoo and Cec and Laurel Grant's little grandson, Dallas, on his smaller version. Testimonies were given and Dennis Jetta addressed his new congregation and the visitors.

The Mooroopna church had its beginnings forty years ago when Roy Clydesdale from the Shepparton church became "elder-overseer" of a group of people who had originated down river at Cummeragunja and were then living on the riverbank at Mooroopna. Five years and a lot of dedicated work later the church was formed and received into the Vic-Tas Conference. Sonny Graham came to the ministry there from the College of the Bible and Max and Naomi Wright served from 1979 to 1984.

Dennis and Maureen Atkinson were inducted into the ministry at Mooroopna early in 1987 and continued to build up and encourage the



Dennis and Wilma Jetta

church. At the beginning of 1990, however, they resigned from the Federal Aborigines Board as Denis took the position of Dean of Bimbadeen College (AEF) at Cootamundra in NSW.

Another well-known name connected with the Mooroopna Church is that of the late Sir Douglas Nichols.

Peter Rama Rua conducted an interim ministry with the Mooroopna Church while they sought a full-time minister.

Dennis Jetta is a West Australian from the Harvey church who became a Christian in the early days of the Bunbury Noongar Fellowship, which is now affiliated with the WA Conference and is known as the Bunbury Christian Fellowship.

Dennis was a Field Officer with the Department of Education, Employment and Training in WA and resigned from that well-paid job to become a pastor to his people. He held the voluntary position of Regional Councillor with the newly established Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Commission (ATSIC) but has had to relinquish that position with the move to Mooroopna.

Wilma has studied maths, English and Aboriginal studies as a mature age student and is the mother of six children and grandmother of thirteen. To prepare for ministry Dennis has completed the Sight and Sound course through the Adelaide College of Ministries. He has also had a weekly ministry

for some years at the Bunbury Regional Prison.

Dennis was an elder of the Bunbury Christian Fellowship for eight years and also provided full-time leadership there for a period before beginning a ministry at Pingelly. They come to Mooroopna Church from an eighteen-month period of ministry at Pingelly, WA.—Betty Bantow



Darren Whighton and Dallas on didgeridoos

• Special function at Marion

Keith Horne Moves Further into "Retirement"

After more than four decades of outstanding ministry to our churches, Keith Horne will be honoured at a special function



Keith Horne

to be held at the Marion, SA, church on Saturday, 16 November, commencing at 7.30 pm. A large crowd is expected to be on hand to pay tribute to a man who has given leadership at the local church level, as well as both state and national levels.

Billeting can be arranged for interstate visitors by phoning the Marion Church on (08) 277 7388 or writing to the church, cnr Marion Road and Alawoona Avenue, Mitchell Park 5043. Sunday, 17 November will also be a special day, with Keith preaching at both the 8.45 and 10.30 am services, followed by an informal "Open House" at the church between 2 and 4 pm.

Christian Fellowship Association Annual Meeting of Subscribers and Agents

Tuesday, 26 November 1991, 6.30-9 pm
Surrey Hills Church of Christ
1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills

Guest speaker: Hazel Williams
Development Officer, Churches AIDS
Pastoral Care and Education program—
an interchurch activity to recruit people to
become carers for persons with HIV/AIDS.

RSVP (to assist with catering) Friday, 15
November, to Val Bush on (03) 326 8977

Happenings

After nearly 15 years of heated debate, 2 Lutheran church bodies in India ordained women pastors for the first time in their history on 8 September. India is the 5th Asian country that has ordained Lutheran women, after Hong Kong (in 1989), Indonesia (1986), Malaysia (Sabah, 1986) and Japan (1976).

The 27-year-old Revesby Presbyterian Church in Sydney's south-western suburbs was burnt to the ground on 22 September. One loss was a \$20,000 organ, which was only installed 12 months ago. Arson was suspected, together with vandalism.

At the 44th General Council of the Assemblies of God in the US delegates soundly defeated a resolution that would have allowed credentialing of divorced and remarried ministers if the divorce and remarriage took place prior to the person's salvation.

No-comment Dept! Bob Haifley says God spoke to him 5 years ago, telling him to build, using toothpicks, a life-size figure of Jesus. Using tweezers, Super Glue, and boxes of various toothpicks, Haifley began the task. After 2,500 hours and 65,000 toothpicks, the Californian finished the sculpture he calls "The Gift".

Evangelist Billy Graham on 23 September at a rally on the Great Lawn in Central Park, New York, spoke to a crowd of 250,000, his largest North American audience. This rally was the 2nd largest he has ever held during his 40 years of ministry, behind an audience of 1 million in Seoul, South Korea, in 1984.

On 14 September at Yirrkala, on the north-western corner of the Gulf of Carpentaria, Rev Liyapidiny Marika was ordained to the Uniting Church ministry. Liyapidiny is the first Aboriginal woman to be ordained in the Uniting Church and will be min-

istering to a community of 1,000 of Aboriginal, European and Pacific Island origins.

World Vision opened its first office in the Soviet Union on 1 October. It will be headed by Serge Duss, a Russian-born American. One project the new office will manage is the Children of Chernobyl project, which provides medical care for children affected by radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster of 5 years ago. Last year World Vision responded to a request from the Soviet government to provide 1,000 mini-libraries for public schools.

On 6 August 23 Christian dalits or people of "untouchable" caste were massacred by caste-Hindus in the Indian village of Tsundur near the city of Guntur in the state of Andhra Pradesh. About half of the 16 million Christians in India (about 2.4% of the total population of 830 million) are of scheduled caste origin.

The Episcopal Church (Anglican) in the Philippines ordained Julieta Lumaguey-Taclobao as its first woman priest at a ceremony held in the National Cathedral in Manila during August.

Wrestling with God, the dramatic film about Alexander Campbell, the "founder" of our Movement in America, filmed in 1989 in America, has recently received several motion picture awards. It has received the CINE Golden Eagle from the Council of Non-Theatrical Events. It has also received two Crown awards from the Christian Media Association and has been recognised by the Association of Family Films.

Travel overseas for about 3 months, with airfares paid, a living allowance and fee allowance can be yours as a Churchill Fellow. The average Churchill Fellowship is worth about \$12,000. To date nearly 1,600 Australians have taken this oppor-

tunity to bring back knowledge and skills for the enrichment of Australian society. Apply now for a 1993 Fellowship. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope (24 x 12 cm) to: Application Forms, The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 218 Northbourne Ave, Braddon 2601. Applications close on 28 February 1992.

Bethlehem can no longer be called a Christian city following migration caused by political unrest and the drop in tourism because of the Gulf War. 6 of the town's hostels and 80 of its 84 restaurants have closed and 400 of the small workshops that once made olive wood souvenirs have gone out of business, lifting unemployment to 50%. Two-thirds of the population is now Muslim. Christians in the area say they are treated by Israelis as "Arabs" while the Muslims see themselves as the only true Arabs.

The United Nations has chosen 1994 as the International Year of the Family and is planning world conferences on the family's social, economic, cultural and political rights.

The National Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Australia reversed its 1974 decision to ordain female ministers. The 5 women ordained since then will retain their present standing.

30 Baptist families in the Soviet Union are rebuilding a 16th century village 400 km south-west of Moscow into a Christian community, called "Baptist Garden". 2 years ago, members of the Central Baptist Church in Moscow began visiting prisoners and realised that ex-prisoners had nowhere to work. The government gave them 5.5 acres of land and the rebuilding project began. To finance it, the community is printing 10,000 copies of a collection of poetry, plus raising a 10-year loan and encouraging tourism.

Youth With A Mission have claimed a mission "record". When the team from the mercy ship *Pacific Ruby* docked recently in Pitcairn Island (home of the descendants of the mutiny on the *Bounty*) it meant that YWAM had probably become the first missionary group to have served in every country in the world.

A survey of service stations in the southern outskirts of Sydney is to be conducted by the Social Action Group of the Gympie Baptist Church. The survey's aim is to compile a list of "Clean Service Stations" where people will not be confronted by X-rated or R-rated videos and magazines.

At least 5 evangelical churches have been destroyed in Ethiopia as Muslims and Orthodox Christians try to restrict the rapid growth of evangelical churches. Muslims make up 35% of Ethiopia's 48 million population and, backed by Arab funding, are trying to make Islam the state religion.

A Californian research library, the Huntington Library in Los Angeles, will give scholars access to photographs of all the Dead Sea Scrolls, ending the virtual monopoly by a select few who have controlled the archaeological treasures for 40 years. Until now, access to 500 scrolls was limited to a small group of scholar-editors with exclusive authorisation from Israel to assemble the jigsaw puzzle of fragments, and to translate and publish them. Other academics long complained that access was too limited and publication slow. Other groups published the other 300 scrolls discovered.

About 15,000 attended evangelist Bill Newman's crusade in Melitopol in the USSR with between 5,000 and 6,000 making first-time decisions for Christ. Bill Newman and his team have also been on televi-

sion and attended civic receptions.

The Bible Society in the UK has made 23 of its staff (15% of its workforce) redundant. They blame a slump in sales in the UK market, currently 15% below target.

Barnardo's, the leading child-care charity in Britain, which was founded on Victorian evangelistic zeal, is dropping its Christian mission. After 125 years the organisation says it is updating its image to meet the needs of Britain's multi-faith society. The top management have to be committed in their Christian faith, however with the new basis and values the organisation aims to employ people from a wider background.

During the last 12 years an indigenous reformed congregation in San Salvador, capital of war-torn El Salvador, has grown to 47,000 members and now employs 25 full-time ministers. The congregation's annual evangelistic rally attracts 90,000.

Israel's airlift of 14,000 Falashas, or black Jews, from Ethiopia before rebels took control has resulted in many broken families. The Israeli Supreme Court ruling that Jewish converts to Christianity are no longer Jewish, or at least deserving Israeli citizenship, has meant as many as 3,000 were left behind.

WEC (Worldwide Evangelization for Christ) missionaries are temporarily evacuating Zaire because of deteriorating security in their area. Many cities in the country have been looted and then burned by angry soldiers, who have not been paid for over two months. It is also believed that Missionary Aviation Fellowship have lost valuable equipment and tools, essential for aircraft maintenance, during the crisis in the country, grounding six of their nine planes for lack of maintenance.

Veronica Brady

Well-known Christian speaker on social issues and values will speak at the

Breaking Free—Women and Men Reaching Their Potential within the Church

gathering on 10 November 1991, 3-7:20 pm
Gardiner Church of Christ

Five workshops will provide the chance to examine more closely an area of interest. Special activities for the children will keep them happy. Meal included.

Enquiries: Louis or Joy on (03) 326 8977

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Study Leader: Neale Meredith

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Banksia Family Holiday 2

11-18 January 1992

Camp Directors: Neil & Jan Galbraith

Banksia Family Holiday 3

19-26 January 1992

Camp Directors: Bruce & Chris McKenzie and Malcolm & Jill Gray

Halls Gap One-Parent/Singles Family Holiday

27 December 1991-1 January 1992

Camp Director: Cheryl Johnson

Halls Gap Family Holiday

2-8 January 1992

Camp Directors: Ian & Glenys Cartmel

KIDSMIN CAMPS

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4-11 January 1992

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54 Lygon Street, Carlton

• Julie Trinnick

• David Harmer

• Items from Overseas Groups

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Details: Dorothy Geyer (03) 861 8558

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If you are over 14 and under 100 and reasonably fit then you can do it. Experienced leaders will advise on equipment and hike preparation, organise "training" walks and guarantee a great experience.

Cost: \$140 (subject to review)

Registration closes 8 November 1991

Contact Andrew Twining (03) 470 3462

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• **Hardship, suffering, martyrdom**

The Church in Iraq

by Ted Bjorem

In the last days, it is said, a piece of bread will buy a bag of gold. For our Christian brothers and sisters in Iraq this is no prophecy. It is daily life and a matter for our intercessory prayer.

Visiting in the home of an Iraqi brother and sister I innocently asked how things were in Iraq. I expected to hear that it was tough, but that people were getting on. What I received were tears and many reports of great hardship, suffering and even martyrdom.

In Baghdad, law and order has broken down. Letters report of a few Christians becoming the target of reprisal. Other reports share how many Christians are refused food with the words, "Go to Bush," or something similar.

A recent visitor from Baghdad mentioned that while most seem to be employed, the average wage of approximately \$360 a week doesn't go far. House rental averages \$360 a week, a kilo of meat is \$120, a kilo of flour \$78! Most fruit is too expensive—plums, which are relatively cheap, were \$210 a kilo. Many Christian villages in the north were destroyed by

Kurds and the Christians forced to flee along with the Kurdish rebels. But once in the refugee columns, these Christians report that they are denied the same access to relief. For those who exited to Turkey the reports my brother shared are even more depressing.

Before the war it was reported that between 600,000 and 1,000,000 Iraqis were "Christian". With few exceptions, these people are Assyrian and mostly Orthodox. Presbyterians, who began evangelising in the mid 1800s, constitute the largest evangelical body.

Not until moving to Australia and meeting some Assyrians did I become aware that this "nation" still exists and that their church is of considerable size in Iraq and Iran.

The Persian/Assyrian church, in what is today the border area of Iraq and Iran, south from Turkey, claims the gospel first came to them through the ministry of the Apostle Thomas. Growing rapidly, the church suffered its first major persecution in AD 33 when a revived Persian empire defeated the Roman army. The revived empire had adopted

Zoroastrianism as its state religion and proclaimed adherence a test of patriotism.

Nestorians and other Christian groups, not loyal to the church in Rome, found acceptance in the new empire and though some persecution persisted the church grew rapidly and expanded east and north (eventually even into China in the seventh century).

Islam came in AD 652. Its evangelism was primarily by the sword—convert or pay tribute. The surviving remnant were allowed to evangelise among non-Muslims. Ironically, one of the groups they attempted to evangelise were the Kurds.

• *Ted Bjorem is a minister at the Fairfield, NSW, church.*

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Exorcising the Dodo

Excuse the computer-age jargon but it seems most appropriate to a topic that is near and dear to my heart.

Which is building a congregation that is sensitive to the needs of all those that sit in the pews already, those that I would like to see there and even the leader out front. Having three children and two sons-in-law as well as myself who are no strangers to platform ministry, and having read the debate on ministers that has been pursued over recent editions of *The Australian Christian* it seems that a lot of ministers don't feel there is very much friendliness towards them out there in "pewland".

What I want to address over the next few issues is the state of our congregations, and what we can do to improve their image—to make them more user friendly. Friendliness, openness, is the foundation of making a congregation responsive to newcomers.

Just think, only the other Sunday some people arrived at one of our larger churches. They were not inconspicuous, he was over six feet tall, she was beautiful by any criterion and they had with them two children. As it was, they were allowed to enter, engage in the service and depart without anyone saying at least, "G'day." And this is not an isolated incident, and it's not restricted to larger churches.

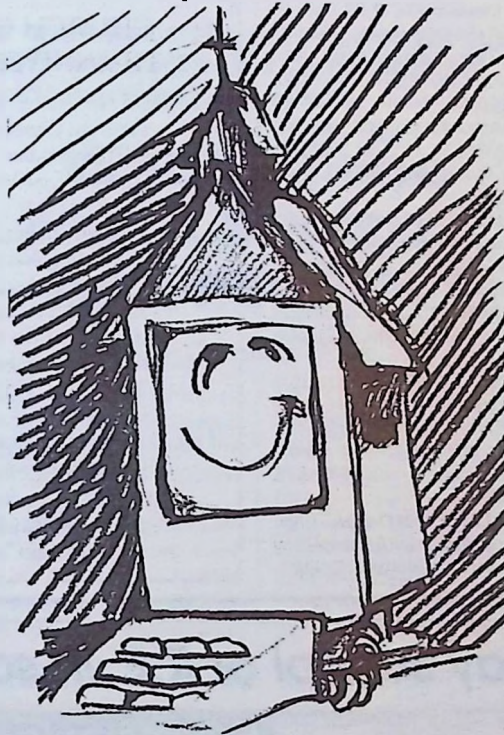
A few years ago my daughter Cathy and I entered a church, stayed for the service, left, then re-entered and left again and we still didn't rate a smile let alone a handshake.

Is it any wonder that the folks out there, the non-church attenders, find it difficult to break through. They get ignored, while the regulars fall all over each other with hugs and kisses, well, maybe a handshake. On the other hand, if they go to the pub, they can feel assured of a warm welcome, and familiar surroundings. There's always someone prepared to make conversation, as we found recently while attending a conference in the UK, and of course the food is usually

• **You've got to be kidding!**

The User Friendly Church

by Brian Mee



cheaper there than elsewhere. But what diet do we offer them in church? Hard wooden pews or plastic chairs that are terrible on the haemorrhoids for openers, followed by music/hymns that were possibly ancient when Wesley was a twinkle in his father's eye. Then of course the main course—when you can expect anything from 15 to 45 minutes of pure jargon. Let's face it, we Christians have a language all of our own. But then to top it all off we expect people to pay for the privilege.

How would you react to an advertisement in one large church (not Churches of Christ) with a larger number than usual baptisms expected: "Babies can be baptised at either end." (Of the church that is.)

So what do we do? Shorten the time? Exchange our wooden pews for more plastic ones and then make a circle? Introduce a more recent translation of the Bible than that

authorised in 1611? No—these are only bits of sticking plaster, they do not deal with the real sickness.

Christians have to change their mind set. They have got to want their church, their congregation, to actively reach out and accept the people that God gives them.

This means, first get rid of the exclusive attitude that we have and become inclusive. Don't see yourselves having a monopoly on the truth. Other denominations (I know we're supposed to be a movement) can be just as right or just as wrong as we are. Remember the people coming into your church for the first time are not interested in the name above the door—but the nature of the people and preacher inside.

Next, get rid of that judgemental attitude, and don't kid yourself—we've all got one. Don't set pre-conditions on what has got to be worn (or not

worn) or on what length of hair a person has or question who they are living with. One local church in our vicinity prints a clothing code and considering it includes the non-wearing of shorts (don't forget this is Queensland) I'm surprised they have anything left but grease spots. Shock! Horror! But we even have people in our congregation that smoke and who enjoy their occasional glass that isn't non-alcoholic. I may deplore the nicotine habit from the health perspective but not the pastoral one. Let God sort out these things. He will—just give him time!

Lastly, well for this epistle anyway, get rid of that pious attitude, which when mixed with a miserable face is guaranteed to kill any prospective visitor's enthusiasm. We don't have to hit them with the four spiritual laws, or why the Churches of Christ is (or should that be "are"?), right, or why they should ignore that person, or that place or that whatever.

Don't you realise what a daunting person a sober, 60-year-old male in a black suit can be, especially when his conversation is salted with thees and thous? (Slight exaggeration.)

User friendly—you've got to be kidding! The name of the game is discipleship and believe me—at the rate we're going—we're lost.

• *Brian Mee is the minister at the Nerang, Qld, church. Brian writes: "This series is not meant to be a criticism of any other person's ministry but my own. For me it has been part of the practice of self-assessment on the basis that we should always be looking at what we are doing, why we are doing it and, if we are going to continue the practice, how we can improve. As one tinned milk brand once advertised, 'Our milk comes from contented cows,' only to be followed by one of their competitors saying, 'Our milk does not come from contented cows—they are trying to do better.' As a Christian and a minister, I hope I am trying to do better!"*

Classifieds

MARRIAGES

WHITE—BARNETT The marriage of Vi White to Roy Barnett of Cheltenham church was celebrated at Doncaster church by Ron White of Noble Park church on 12 October. Present address 6 Viola Crescent, Highett 3190.

DEATHS

REES (PETTIGROVE) May. Passed away 26 August. Loved wife of Arthur Reed (dec) and Fred Rees (dec). Loving and much loved Mum and Nana May to Bev and Ian, Geoff and Rosslyn, Ken and Robyn, and their families. A very special lady!

STALEY (JONES) Elsie May. On 2 October at Emmaus, Murrumbidgee. Loving wife of Ted (dec). Loved mother of Les, Ken, Noel, Cliff, Geoff and Bruce. Nanna of 20 and Great Gran of 14.

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9.30 am, 10 November, Graham Garrett, Senior Lecturer in Theology, St Mark's National Theological Centre, Canberra

9.30 am, 17 November, Jill Mendham, Chaplain to the Australian National University

9.30 am, 24 November, Gordon Stirling, Minister of the Bellarine Peninsula Church of Christ and pioneer minister of the Churches of Christ in the ACT

7 pm, 3, 10, 17 November, Dennis Nutt, Lecturer in New Testament, NSW Churches of Christ Theological College

7 pm, 4 November, Kevin Caulton, Minister of the Church of Christ at Lyons

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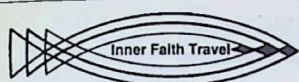
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Youth Ministry

The over-simplified answer to this question is of course—yes. In a variety of situations and in a number of churches I see the question, however, as not, “Do worship and youth ministry mix?” but rather, “How do they mix?”

Historically, the church in Australia across denominational lines tried to enforce a pattern of worship upon a generation of young people, of which I was a part, where there was no thought of relevance. In response, youth work was defiant in its “let’s sing some recent choruses and pick some favourites” approach. Even sadder than this, it was often the case that our youth programs were the place to sing contemporary songs of worship because they hardly ever happened in the context of our church services and anything that appeared on overhead projection was to be treated with theological caution. An obvious tension would grow between young people and older people in the church to the detriment of the family.

The thing that concerns me greatly is that the problems in our churches with relation to the balance of hymns and choruses are still as real today as

• ***The most successful activity for the growth of youth ministry in the local church is relevant worship on a Sunday***

Worship and Youth Ministry: Do They Mix?

by Graeme Hush

ever. I am continually disheartened when this issue repeatedly rears its head when I’m conducting worship seminars across the country.

When are we going to learn? Just as our forefathers were moved by the revered hymns of the faith that were often rewritten tunes of the secular music world, so, too, this generation needs to be encouraged by the music of this era. No, not that we would just follow the world’s trend but that we would lead the world in a more excellent way of relevance and harmony as the church did in times one by. It seems to me that at depicted times in history, the church led the way in the arts and education—well it’s past time for that again.

I have read countless articles in *The Australian Christian* over

recent months that espouse one extreme or the other on this issue. Can’t we see that all we are doing is further polarising the protagonists, which ultimately grieves God when his way is one of balance, tolerance and support?

I’m speaking to young people and older people alike when I say that it matters not if we don’t like some things in our worship services. So what if we don’t? Taste has little to do with this argument and yet it seems to dominate it.

Why am I harping on this issue? It is because I am strongly convicted that the most successful activity for the growth of youth ministry in the local church is relevant worship on a Sunday. There is nothing like it! In this entertainment-orientated market of fast sell and ad saturation, I have found that relevant (and I don’t mean undignified) worship services

have a more lasting effect on young people’s lives than anything else I do in programming. Barry McMurtrie talks often about “worship as evangelism”. There is nothing in this world that meets certain needs in our lives like relevant worship and so it is unrivalled in the market place.

Over a number of years now, that is the thing that has anchored youth ministry in some (not enough) local churches and will effectively build up young people to be confident and excited about their faith and their church. The flow on from this can bring an amazing impact on the local community.

Relevant worship—it is not just about contemporary choruses or revered hymns. It’s about developing an atmosphere of life, energy and family. Family only happens when all ages can feel secure in their right to be different and can tolerate change.

Worship is the core of effective youth ministry in the local church. 1 Timothy 4:11–16

• *Graeme Hush is the youth minister at the Hobart, Tas, church.*

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



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Comment

Well, what an interesting exchange is this leadership debate.

Four months, six issues, twelve letters, six articles, a couple of editorials, and even Tertius!

There's been Models A and B, the Troeltsch-Niebuhr typology, "a unionist overlay" (be interesting to hear an exposition of that one, even the editor had to apologise for suggesting it!) and Peter Druker!

That last one prompted the thought: Do preachers' libraries contain more books on American theology and church administration than on Asian or Latin American theology? An intriguing question.

However back to leadership.

For all the heat and energy the debate is a diversion.

The question of leadership in localised communities, or the issue of "large" or "small" churches, or even whether or not we prefer "senior" ministers to "junior" ministers, are not the critical questions confronting our churches and our conferences.

The most fundamental question confronting us, at this point in our history, is one of identity.

Who Are We?

A few years ago the ambivalence of our movement and its identity was summed up by a conference president (and senior minister) who confessed that he saw little meaning in preaching about our history.

In the midst of the leadership debate there appeared a letter from Bruce Burn ("AC" 20 July) raising a fundamental question of who we are and where we are going. The editor invited comment. There was no response—not from the department concerned, the Victorian Conference, the Depart-

• Who are we? Are we going anywhere?

Leadership: A Diversion?

by Alan Matheson

ment of Christian Union, a senior minister or anyone. The letter was an anguished plea for an explanation as to why Conference had rejected co-operative and formal joint ministries with other churches. Why in the mission and education ministry of Conference were there no strategies or resources committed to strategies "to work for the unity of Christians" (Constitution of the Victorian Conference).

A similar anguish was experienced by members of the Department of Christian Union. The Department had approached all the "larger" churches of the Victorian Conference to share their ministry. Without exception it was made very clear that the ministry of the Department had no place in their program.

Are we not as Bruce points out "a people who would ultimately be those who, for the sake of the larger body of Christ, would make their witness and die, thus becoming part of Christ's larger body of people"?

A Question of Name

A second and related question concerns names. It no longer seems important to be called a "Church of Christ".

Apparently it is now possible to belong to Churches of Christ yet not be called a Church of Christ. (For followers of real football, a little like being an "Eagle" but playing for the Hawks!)

Currently in Victoria, and it would be interesting to know what happens in other states, there is a "Grace Church", a "Christian Network", a "House and Flat Church", "All People's Church of Christ", the "Christian Church of All Nations", "Faith Church", and an "Indonesian Praise Church".

On top of all this there are groups called "ethnic

churches". It appears to refer to "Vietnamese" and "Koreans" but not to the "ethnic" Anglo-Saxon-Celts at Camberwell! Are we not all Australians?

Is there no one who can answer Bruce's question as well as few others? For example:

Who and how is it decided when a group need not call themselves Churches of Christ to be a member of Conference of Churches of Christ?

What is the process of affiliation? Given the requirements

of the constitution can it be assumed that it (or the relevant parts of it) as well as education and training material on the history and what Churches of Christ stand for, are made available for study in Korean, Vietnamese or Mandarin?

What are the criteria by which it is judged that a group understands the objectives of Conference? Who or what Department(s) are involved in setting this criteria?

Debate about leadership is a diversion for I suspect as a movement we are in more significant trouble than whether or not we are Models A or B.

• Alan Matheson is a member of the Camberwell, Vic, church, and Ethnic Liaison Officer with the ACTU.

• A minister's prayer

Awesome

by Ray Hawkins

Awesome! The ministry is awesome! There you are, according to 2 Corinthians 5:20, standing before the congregation in the place of Jesus the Christ. As the Apostle Paul put it, "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God". That is why ministry is awesome. Surely it is enough to make the heart cry out words such as the following:

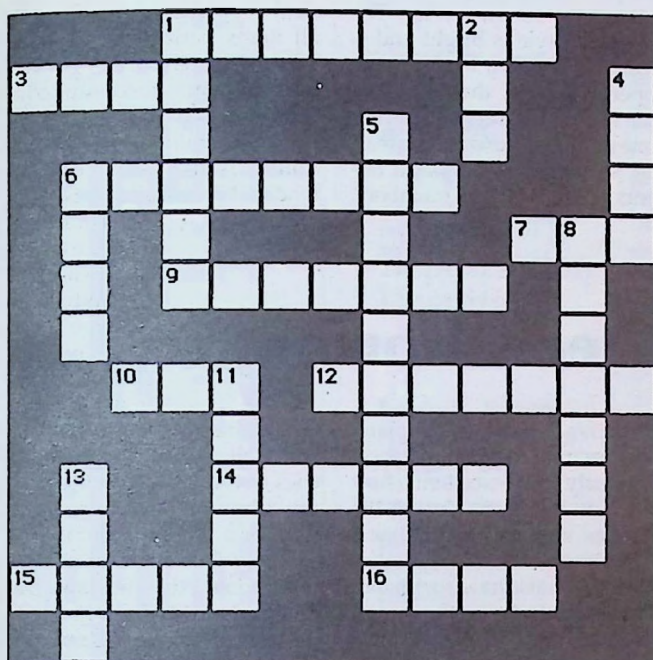
Lord, they look to me for counsel as though I am you.
O God, be my wisdom.
Enrich my heart with your word,
Flavour my perceptions by your Spirit.
Lord, they look to me as a model as though I am you.
O God, be my pattern.
Express your indwelling as I interact,
Impress your personality through mine.
Lord, they look to me for acceptance as though I am you.
O God, thank you for acceptance.
Empower me to love my "neighbours"
Encircling them with understanding grace.
Lord, they look to me for purpose as though I am you.
O God, be my goal.
Be the Alpha and Omega of ministry,
Leading from life's trivia to your high calling.
Lord, they look to me for courage as though I am you.
O God, be the hero.
Raise your ensign within the heart,
Grant the victor's song of praise.
Lord, you have called me to stand in Jesus' place.
O God, be my all in all.
Let the Risen Christ overshadow
And permeate the congregation's life.
Then and only then beloved Lord will I know
What I am called to be.

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

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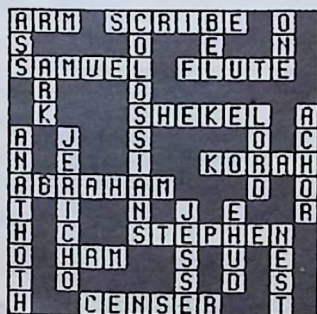
Crossword



Across

1. Son of Saul
3. A prophetess
6. Old Testament prophet
7. Past tense or word in saying "Eat, drink and make merry" (Luke 12:19)

September Solution



9. First day of Jewish week
10. The --- of the Lord
12. We pray for the arrival of God's ---
14. New Testament letter to the ---
15. A gentle answer turns away --- (Proverbs 15:1)
16. Christ died for our ---

Down

1. Jesus healed this synagogue ruler's daughter
2. Stand in --- of God
4. A fruit of the Spirit
5. Close neighbours of the Jews in Jesus' time
6. One of the Gospel writers
8. Who did Paul call his son?
11. A Psalm of the Sons of --- (Psalm 42)
13. Jesus used the home of --- and Martha

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1965

RANWADI NEWS By JACK and BARBARA EDWARDS.

Second term at school is nearly finished. Our new double classroom, furnished with good desks, is now so much taken for granted that it is hard to believe we have only been using it this year and the desks only for this middle term. Ranwadi is our mission Senior Primary Girls' School, and this year welcomed the first girls to attend from Maewo and Aoba, our neighbouring islands. We have two Aoban girls and one Maewo girl in Grade 7.

Our sewing room is now no longer used as a class room, and it is set up for sewing. The girls are happily settled in their new dormitory, and we plan to build a new dormitory for the boys before June, 1966. Very few students walk daily to school now. Fifteen boys and girls who previously walked 3-4 miles to school each day now live in and go home for weekends.

Fifteen of our older school children were baptized in July, when our Overseas Mission Secretary, R. S. A. McLean, visited us. They received weekly instruction for three months prior to their baptism.

Village visitation is an important part of our programme. We do our best to spend one weekend in every three in distant villages. In this work the dinghy and outboard continue to give good service.

We thank all those who have sent clothing, secondhand and new, to help our people. We encourage you to continue to help us in this way. As well as summer clothing — woollen cardigans, pullovers, etc. are most acceptable, as at times it feels really cold when the wind is blowing. It may seem funny, but whenever the temperature drops to 76 degrees, or a little lower, I myself feel cold, especially if there is a howling wind as well, so you can imagine how some of our people who live in the hills feel. Don't laugh, but I'm sitting at the table writing this letter draped in a travelling rug. It's 8 p.m. — the wind is howling outside, and frankly, I'm cold. It's 76 degrees.

—The Australian Christian, 16 October 1965

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A Church ABC

Greensborough is a north-eastern suburb of Melbourne, Vic, on the fringe of suburbia, less than five minutes drive to hobby farms and the greenbelt and 30 minutes drive from the centre of Melbourne. Up until last year and the recession, the area was experiencing significant growth with many new housing estates. The Church of Christ is located in the Shire of Eltham, but very close to the border of the Diamond Valley Shire.

The church was planted by a number of churches in the northern Melbourne suburbs, with the greatest initiative coming from Ivanhoe, and the work commenced in 1965. Land was soon purchased in Briar Hill and a multipurpose hall was built. There have since been two extensions to the original building, so now in addition to the

hall there are a worship centre, kitchen and other rooms. A feature of the building is a wonderful glass mural in the foyer, illuminated from behind. However the building is once again inadequate for the needs of the church, so much thought is

attend the 10 am service. The worship style is bright and is led by a worship leader in co-operation with the communion leader. The services feature one of Greensborough's greatest strengths: the musical talents of many of its members.

sical concert (of course), with all items performed by local talent. This is always packed out: this year's successful concert was called "Down Memory Lane". A family camp is held at Phillip Island each year, attended by more than 50% of the church.

Greensborough's minister is George Warren. George is a former primary teacher



Focus on Greensborough

going into planning for the future. Twelve months ago a property was purchased next to the manse, which itself adjoins the church.

Two years ago the church at Briar Hill changed its name to the Regional Church of Christ, Greensborough, a change linked with its vision to minister to the wider community, and to include such areas as Eltham, Warrandyte, Yallambie and Bundoora. The current membership is 90 and over 100

There is a band as well as piano and organ, and soloists perform regularly. An excellent choir sings on occasions during the year as well as performing a Christmas cantata annually. The church also has a rock band. The musical talent at the church includes a student at the Victorian College of the Arts and a teacher of music in the defence forces. Almost every instrument can be played by somebody.

Outreach groups at Greensborough Regional include a playgroup, a kids club, an aerobics group, "Mothers and Others", a tennis club, a "T Group" for older young people as well as a younger youth group, and two study groups. These groups, which meet weekly, look at Bible studies prepared by the minister that follow the theme of the service for the following Sunday. An active CWF is also a valued working group in the church. There is a wide range of ages in the church, but young families are in abundance, ensuring a growing Sunday school.

Highlights of the year at Greensborough include a mu-

and trained at the College of the Bible. He has had ministries in Canberra and the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, and was for a time a field director with the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development. He and his wife Lesley have three children, two of whom are at secondary school and one is a tertiary student.

The future looks bright for Greensborough, and the church is looking seriously at making decisions for its continued development. These could include, true to its vision as a regional church, the planting of new churches in the developing suburbs of the area.

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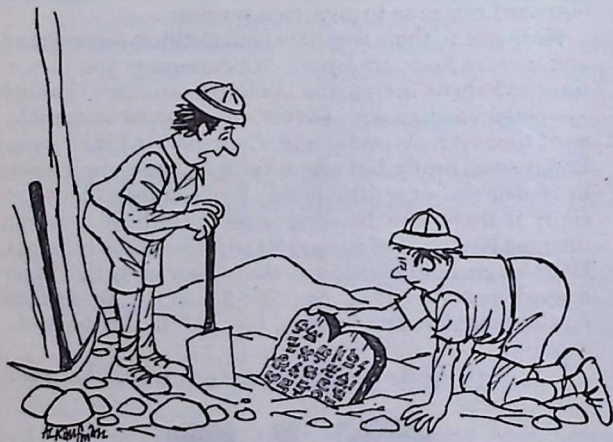
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Mature young adult Christian to assist with ministry primarily to youth at the **Church of Christ Nailsworth**

Enquiries:
42 Derlanger Ave
Nailsworth SA 5083
or phone Daryll Telfer
(08) 344 1099

Marriages

• Hui Chen to Robert Bush, Lyons ACT

Deaths

• Marjorie Gillespie, Oakleigh, Vic
• Jim Clelland, Barbara Clelland,

Goldie Harvey, Nowra, NSW • Kelvin Searle, Ararat, Vic



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Written applications giving details of qualifications, experience and names of two professional referees should be forwarded to the Recruitment Officer by 25 October 1991.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

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Applications are now being received from Christians called by God to a practical ministry.

Mobile Mission Maintenance provides support by relieving fulltime Christian workers of their building and maintenance needs.

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Write or phone:

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* Youth Work *

Part-time worker required for two-day-per-week appointment. Duties include camping administration, group contact, field services and resource preparation. Experience required.

Contact: Don Smith

Department of Mission, Education & Development

77 Capel Street, West Melbourne Vic. 3003

Telephone: (03) 326 8900

CHURCHES OF CHRIST COMMUNITY CARE

DIRECTOR OF NURSING

Owing to retirement of our current DoN, we are seeking applications from suitably qualified persons for the position of Director of Nursing at our Woodlands Nursing

Home. This is a 62-bed nursing home located at Cherrybrook and is about to undergo upgrading. Salary and allowances will be in accordance with the Nursing Homes &c. Nurses' (State) Award. It is envisaged that the position will commence in January 1992. Due to the nature of the position applicants should be Christians actively involved in their local church. Applications in writing should be forwarded prior to 31 October 1991 to:

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Papua New Guinea

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- Bible Lecturer
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- Business Manager

Contact Ade Rickard for more details (03) 735 0011

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Berryman, Ettie Elizabeth (4.9.91) Following a short illness Ettie died in the Cabrini Hospital. Her funeral service was conducted at the Hartwell, Vic, church. Born Ettie Chipperfield, Ettie was baptised 24.11.26. She had a strong commitment to the church, expressed primarily at North Richmond, Gardiner and Hartwell. Loyal attendance and participation in worship, CWF, Sunday School teaching, singing—soloist and choirs—and music (piano and organ playing) were the ways Ettie contributed. A highlight was to sing in the 1956 Olympic Games choir. Through the Northcote Choral Society Ettie met Melrose Berryman. They were married for just seven years before Melrose died. Family and friends will remember Ettie as one devoted to her parents, as reliable and loyal and meticulous, as one who was bright and had a sense of humour and as one who used her voice both to please others and to the glory of God.
—Graeme Rogerson

Harding, Stella Hilda (6.10.91) Stella Harding was born to an Adelaide Hills family, the Oinns, in 1913 on their orchard at Longwood (which through her generosity became the Churches of Christ youth camp). The family attended Aldgate Valley church and a short-lived cause at Echunga, where Stella met Howard Harding, visiting lay preacher. For a great part of their 53 years of marriage they attended Dulwich church with their four children. Stella was a BS teacher, Girls' Brigade lieutenant and music assistant. She was one of

the first Lavender Ladies at RAH. Brian Ricketts, John Main (C of C) and Robert Isles (UC) officiated at thanksgiving and graveside services.
—JL

Pitkin, Irene Hilda May (10.9.91) Born 9.10.96 at Riverton, SA, Rene was one of a family of 12. She married Roy Pitkin and they had one son, Ron. Rene was committed to her home and family. She was well known for her community interest as a member of the local Progress Assoc, Prisoners Aid, visiting sick and shut-in people. In her early days she attended the Argent St Methodist Church, but became a member in 1938 at Maylands during G.T. Fitzgerald's ministry. Although Rene was a tiny lady she had a great heart and a love to match; one to be reckoned with, strong in purpose leaving her mark on family circles and community.
—T. Lawrie

Warne, Millicent Elsie (Woodbridge) (14.9.91) Born North Melbourne 17.6.1900, Millie committed her life to Christ at Scoville Mission in 1912. Became church organist at 12 and Kindergarten Superintendent. After marriage to Tom Warne in 1923 lived at Newmarket and Chelsea, where Millie again became organist. Later they attended East Kew and Blackburn churches, and finally Chelsea church. Millie served on CWF State Executive as Secretary and Treasurer. During war represented Churches of Christ in establishing Women's Services Club. She was a faithful wife and loving mother. She is survived by two children, Beryl (Mrs J. Giddings, England) and Ron, 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.
—J. Wright

SA

BORDERTOWN (S. Pillay) Successful youth camp held at Halls Gap ... Women's Fellowship combining quarterly with Mundulla ... Rhonda Jenkins back from Birmingham Mission ... Church family quiz night very well supported ... Church members involved in new pastoral care program for needy & underprivileged ... Sonny involved in reachout meetings with Loxton church ... Elders seeking replacement minister (Jan. 1993) ... Bible Club & 13 Plus being well received. **BROOKLYN PARK (P. Webber)** 93% church vote to pursue combining with other Churches of Christ to form one church ... Club 25 started (ages 20-30) ... Blue bowls

team lost final ... Basketball—three of eight teams in finals. E grade won. Church voted best club ... Minister made chaplain Adelaide 36ers basketball team ... Recent averages 108 attendance, 92 communicants ... Three new members. **OWEN COMBINED CONGREGATION (D. Walladge)** Weekend seminar on leadership led by Lorna Martin, UC Synod. Almost 20 members involved during three sessions ... SS students and parents enjoyed bikeathon and raised about \$200 for Bible Society. Ages ranged from toddlers on three wheelers to grandparents. Day ended with sausage sizzle at Stockyard Creek ... Jim Keatch recent guest preacher and following luncheon spoke informally about his work.

Church News

MILANG (Dick Hayman) Kids Klub involving many schoolchildren of the town ... Friendship Group caters for needs of elderly residents, & those interested in crafts ... New women's prayer & study fellowship ... Church looks prayerfully at future, as ministry needs explored ... Isolated member, Ruby Howard, now in hostel in Strathalbyn, donated piano ... Ann South moving back to district, Helen and Ted Oatley from Blackwood now in membership.

VICTOR HARBOR (Don Wesley) Church centre, incorporating minister's office & dealing with paperwork and newsletters, operating in house next to church. Valuable as point of contact and outreach ... 60 min Bible studies ran in August ... Quiz night raised \$197 for Caring Fund ... Junior Choir started ... House behind church demolished for church units ... SS junior classes presented songs and play on Noah's Ark.

Vic

OAKLEIGH (W.J. Edwards) Successful 75th church anniversary held 22 Sept. Speaker Jim Wright. Anniversary offerings totalled \$2,450 ... Marjorie Gillespie, member for more than 60 years, died. Sympathy felt for Ian, Betty & Linda Gillespie ... CWF celebrated CWF World Day ... Saturday night youth activities continuing ... Ladies conducted charity stall Chadstone Centre raising \$1,027 ... Ken Masterton prepared short history of church life 1966-91.

WARRAGUL (David & Debbie Buesnel) Successful Sunday School anniversary held ... Byron Waring baptised at evening service ... Combined churches evening service held at our chapel. These services with 125-150 attending ... Musicians workshop held ... Church camp organised ... Minister to attend seminar at Wollongong ... School holiday program popular ... Church team pedalled 300 km in static bikathon for Bible Society ... Speakers G. Elsdon (CCTC), Peter Breen (CBM) **BENDIGO (John Sweetman)** Fantastic Fortnight of Faith to celebrate 125th anniversary to begin 22 Oct. 700-800 invitations sent out. For further information phone (054) 43 5245 ... Building renovations almost complete, with new creche/playgroup room, communion preparation and baptistry change room and toilet for handicapped. **ARARAT (Rod & Marjan Beer)** Kids Club, CWF Craft Afternoons and men's breakfast reach unchurched

... Another successful outreach, "Veggie-Tec" teaches production of home-grown vegetables ... "Let It Begin with Me" course challenges and encourages two study groups ... Denise MacKenzie baptised in obedience to Christ; result of challenge and growth following "Christianity Explained" sessions ... Rod and Marjan Beer's ministry concludes end of 1991.

BELLARINE PENINSULA (Gordon Stirling) Church has completed four months in the Wallington-Ocean Grove UCA chapel with increasing attendances. The two congregations have had their first combined Sunday night service and southern Peninsula communities have been "letter-box dropped" with service times. Combined Christmas Celebrations are being planned.

COBURG-PASCOEVALE (L. Clun) Regional 10 am monthly morning worship service proving significant ... Welcome to baby Joseph John Clun, Rachel's new brother. Congratulations to Cathy & Lou ... Jenny Mee visited from Nerang, Qld ... Opportunity taken to say au revoir and thank you to Dorothy Grenfell as she takes up residence at "Wilandra", Judge Book Hostel, Eltham ... Five weekly Bible Study and Prayer Groups providing growth.

MOUNT CLEAR (Dale White) 55 attended recent church family camp, first such camp for over 10 years ... New illuminated sign completed & erected on property ... 3 young people committed their lives to Christ ... Covenant Players drama group shared in both services recently ... 3 new elders elected: Lyn Edwards, Bill and Bev Sutcliffe. Dorothy Hughes elected deacon ... Luncheon for new attenders held at the manse.

Visiting Brisbane?

*Come and worship in the Ewers Chapel at Kenmore Christian College with Kenmore Church of Christ at 41 Brookfield Road, Kenmore
10 am Sundays
8 am Good Friday and Christmas Day*

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

Church News

NSW

GILGANDRA (P. Anderson) Well-attended family camp at Warrumbungle National Park recently. Campers were challenged by Max Hall's studies on Jonah ... Members commenced painting of manse exterior ... Sunday School attendance improving ... Sympathy extended to Dorothy Butler on the home call of her sister.

NOWRA (Peter DeWildt, Clinton Wardle) Church saddened by the deaths of Jim Clelland (19.9.91), Goldie Harvey (22.9.91) & Barbara Clelland (suddenly on 28.9.91). Even though we mourn these deaths we rejoice that they are all with their Lord. Jim & Barbara partners again in paradise ... Sunday School booming with children & teachers. Older children meeting in manse ... Excellent worship leaders training weekend with Robyn Moses as instructor.

THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) During school holidays number in Years 3-6 attended the Mini Midget DCE camp & some of the senior age group attended the Black Stump camp over the October long weekend ... As part of the prayer ministry a healing service is being held each Friday night. Well supported ... Stall conducted at Community Care Department Fete at Pendle Hill. \$700 raised.

Qld

GATTON (Barry Benz) Russell Ritchie speaker at 32nd anniversary. Message & outstanding musical program enjoyed by capacity audience ... Lyn Elphick's Worship Movement group adding to services ... Sue, Tracey & Misty Hearne with guitars providing country flavour regularly ... Gatton Fraternal, Shire Council & local transport company co-operating to provide free water to drought-stricken families in Lockyer Valley ... Jean Dallinger new CWF President ... Allan Wegner resigned from Amaroo Hostel management after many years service. Alan Dallinger co-opted to committee.

WA

BRIDGETOWN (Errol Kirk) Youth group very active. Travelled to Bunbury for Doug MacFarlane concert ... Young people from Foothills church visited for weekend when Leroy Randall was guest speaker ... Speakers at gospel meetings have been Andrew Lansdowne & Bill Gaunson ... Kel Willis & Hans Bohm

speakers at Bible study ... Austin & Boorman families returned to live in the town ... Clements family now living in Donnybrook.

MAYLANDS (David Jolly) Combined churches men's breakfast held 14 Sept. Peter Adamson, Scripture Union, guest speaker ... Ladies Caring Ministry presented spring dinner. Three octogenarians recognised with congratulations & bouquets ... CWF visited Parliament House. Enjoyed morning tea & tour ... 27 members & friends, with tour director Trevor Streeton, spent three days touring Wheatbelt ar-

eas. David Jolly & George Peddey drove minibuses & covered some 1,100 km. Enjoyed country hospitality at Narembeen & Quairading churches during trip.

WEMBLEY DOWNS (Eira & John Clapp) Greg, Lucette & Callum Cant farewelled in August for working holiday in Canada & Scotland ... Church celebrated 26th anniversary (15 August) with special thanksgiving service & lunch shared by 50+ members & friends ... Over 100 at successful quiz night run by Peanuts Girls Club. Proceeds to church building fund ... Many en-

joyed spring picnic at Bindoon farm of Alan & Dot Cant.

CARNARVON (Don Bone) Guest speakers Peter Moses, Armadale, on prophecy, John Timms, Indian Village Evangelism, & WA Conf Pres Barry Ryall & wife Sherryl ... Pahula & Enid Maea had serious accident near Wiluna while transferring resident of Olive Laird Hostel to Kalgoorlie. Recovering well ... Aileen Bone brought devotions at CWF meeting. Theme "Favourites" ... Dolly Bidgemia, believed to have been 120, passed away at Olive Laird Hostel.

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The Kingdom of Shocking Surprises

The parable of the Good Samaritan is a complete reversal of traditional Jewish expectations. The target of this reversal, initially, is the orthodox status quo, the priest and Levite, whose righteousness is parodied in the unfolding narrative—when they pass by the helpless victim on the other side of the road. The audience would have delighted in the subtle barb, which implied that those who professed godliness, were, in this story, not so godly after all.

However, this subversive parable goes further when it introduces the incongruous ideas of "compassion" and "Samaritan", which to Jewish listeners, with their deeply entrenched hatred for Samaritans, would have been most disturbing. It is precisely in the parable's surprising combination of "contradictory" ideas that Jesus reveals to his listeners the nature of the Kingdom.

The listeners, who are Jews, are forced to recognise two completely incompatible ideas have been brought together in the parable, that is "compassion" and "Samaritan". This would come as a shock, a reversal of expectation. But it is through such shocking association of dissonant ideas the Kingdom impinges on human perception.

The presence of the Kingdom today is equally able to shock, with the combination of apparent incongruities, such as women and ministry, divorce and the church, ecumenism and spirituality, environmental conservation and God. To traditional Christian thinking these combina-

tions are illegitimate, even shocking, but in fact, the "incongruous combinations" of such traditionally polarised motifs are revealing the essence and presence of the Kingdom among us.

What Jesus was doing when he told parables like the Good Samaritan—which brought together completely discordant concepts, and shocked his listeners, showing them the nature and reality of the Kingdom—is also occurring today. The Kingdom is present today, in the fusion of "incongruous" ideas, which were once considered irreconcilable motifs. For example, women are deniably demonstrating the presence of God in ministry; thankfully, divorcees are finding empathic support, not judgement, in church communities; and new, vibrant dimensions of Christian spirituality are being explored in ecumenical dialogue and compassionate ventures.

Even the environment is of concern for Christians who recognise that our opulent destruction of God's world impinges significantly on the human dignity and wholeness, the *imago Dei*, of millions of people living in the emerging world.

However, like those who heard the parables of Jesus with their surprising combination of "dissonant" ideas, all that may be a little disturbing. In fact, according to one theologian, there is a direct link between the disclosure of the Kingdom through shocking parables of reversal, like the Good Samaritan, and the cross. That is not surprising.

—Stephen Curkpatrick

The Last Word

Some people have just enough religion to make them uncomfortable. —John Wesley

When I was at primary school they told me to study hard so I could be sure of getting a good job. At secondary school they told me the same thing. At university, they told me that a Bachelor's degree was not enough for the top jobs, so I did a Master's and they told me to go for a PhD in order to land the really plum jobs. Eventually I got my doctorate—and then everywhere I went they said they wanted a younger person.

The young person applied at a farm for a job as a strawberry picker. The farmer asked about the prospective worker's experience. "Sure," said the young person. "I'll soon show you how good I am—just give me a ladder."

An artist was sitting painting, painstakingly capturing on canvas the brilliant colours of the sun setting over Ayers Rock. A couple of tourists came up behind him and stood watching for a while. One turned to the other and said, "See what trouble that poor person is having getting a picture of the rock. Now aren't you glad I bought you that camera for your birthday?"

Where do you get most flat tyres?
Where there's a fork in the road.

Why are bowling alleys so quiet?
So that you can hear a pin drop.

Why did the teacher have to wear sunglasses?
The pupils were so bright.

Why did the tailor leave work?
Not suited to it.

What kind of lighting did Noah use in the ark?
Flood lighting.



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