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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Australia's Rural Concerns— Telling the World



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Guest Editorial

• Fresh change brought about by the Spirit of God to a new people is the most positive and liberating experience the church can ever hope for and pray for. Change must be ongoing and continuous. We need change now

To Change or Not To Change? That Is the Question

by Andrew Ball



My computer has just told me the word "change" appears 25 times in the Bible. Why did I bother to search for change in the scriptures? For the simple reason that many churches and church leaders regard change at best to be treated with suspicion, at worst to be sinful and abhorred. I was hoping that I might be able to use one of those references on change to state my case (as we all like to do with scripture). Not so this time!

It seems many are threatened or unprepared for change within the church today. Changes in leadership models, worship styles, church buildings and church philosophies are creating conflict and stress within clergy and laity alike. The debate is not unique to this particular Christian journal. It runs rampant through the many local churches I have the privilege to visit.

It's such a big issue I believe it demands our attention. I would like to briefly offer some insightful and perhaps controversial comments on the topic of "change".

We all know that anything that's alive changes. Behavioural modification and biological ageing are two such examples. Surely if the church is to be the living body of Christ it should change! Change is inevitable. I firmly believe it is now time to view change as a positive opportunity rather than as a threat to our position. Fresh change brought about by the Spirit of God to a new people is the most positive and liberating experience the church can ever hope for and pray for. Change must be ongoing and continuous. We need change now.

Since the commencement of the industrial revolution in the late 18th century, change has dominated and dramatically

altered our world. The rate of change has been increasing exponentially over the last 50 years at a staggering pace. It will continue to do so. Change within the church has not!

Scientists are now changing their thoughts and looking for the all-embracing theory that will describe the formation of the universe. They call it "The Theory of Everything". This theory is an attempt to bring together the disparate theories of rela-

tivity and quantum physics to explain everything. Perhaps I'm rather naive, but is sure sounds like they're looking for God!

Often we don't understand change, but there are many things in life we may never understand. Consider this short mathematical problem:

$$a = 1 \text{ and } b = 1$$

$$ab = b^2$$

$$a^2 - ab = a^2 - b^2$$

$$a(a - b) = (a + b)(a - b)$$

$$a = a + b \text{ and by implication } 1 = 2 (?)$$

So what can we do about change?

Perhaps we should spend less time arguing with each other in the columns of this journal and expend our energies into something more productive. How about a "National Change Column"? This could provide a forum within *The Australian Christian* to share new and positive "change ideas" for churches. The parameters for allowing ideas into the column should exclude negative, cynical and sceptical comments. This way the column becomes an affirming and encouraging model.

Here are three ideas to start the column.

• Permanently place the word "Changes" as an agenda item at every

• Plea of Churches of Christ farmers taken to world forums

Telling the World



Ian Allsop

The plight of people in rural areas has been raised in a number of world forums by the secretary of our national conference, Ian Allsop.

The issue has been promoted following a letter from the Kaniva, Vic, church, supported by other country church members, in which a direct request was made for the Vic-Tas Con-

ference Executive to express concern about the injustices in the international trade relationships that are disadvantaging Australian farmers. The issue was accepted by the Executive and also by the National Conference Council and considerable action has been taken.

A letter was sent to President Bush expressing concern at United States-subsidised wheat sales, which have undermined traditional Australian wheat markets. Support on this issue came from Dr John Humbert, the outgoing president of the Christian Church (Disciples) in the United States in his presidential address to the recently held national Assembly.

At the Central Committee meeting of the World Council of Churches, held in Geneva last month, Ian Allsop spoke directly to the leaders of Euro-

pean and United States churches and appealed for their support in working for trading agreements that will enable access to markets for small export- and primary-product dependent nations such as Australia. To work for such economic justice is an essential aspect of our Christian mission of creating a more just and fairer world community. A number of churches responded and expressed support, calling on the economically strong European Community not to isolate itself from the rest of the world.

In Australia's difficult economic circumstances, to work for economic justice globally as well as locally becomes a mission priority. Along with other expressions of our evangelistic concern the efforts are part of giving a credibility to our faith in the light of economic hardship. —Ian Allsop

• Serving God in the open air

100 Years of Christian Service

1992 marks the centenary of a vital parachurch organisation that commenced in Sydney, now has branches in five Australian states and has spread overseas, with branches in 16 countries and outreach to many others. This organisation, for many years known as Open Air Campaigners, now operates as OAC Ministries. In conjunction with churches, OAC takes the Christian message to those who do not attend church.

The work was commenced in 1882 when a Sydney barrister, Edward P. Field (the son of General Sir John Field) began preaching in Martin Place, with large crowds gathering to hear this well-known Sydney identity tell of God's work in his life and the lives of countless others.

The centenary celebrations will have the theme "Praise God for the Past! Trust God for the Future!" and will be titled "Celebration 92".

"Celebration 92" will commence with a gathering of national and international staff evangelists in conference, thanksgiving and planning for the future.

The main activities of "Celebration 92" will be: 15 February—a prayer breakfast at which Gordon Moyes will be the speaker, 29 March—a "Celebration 92" thanksgiving service at Sydney's St Andrew's Cathedral at which Archbishop Donald Robinson will be the speaker, 29 March–5 April—a major evangelistic outreach in the Greater Penrith area (it is anticipated this will involve 10 or more local churches reaching across the whole spectrum of the city of Penrith) and 1 April—a Sydney city outreach and celebration in the open air from 12 noon to 2 pm in the Martin Place amphitheatre. There will also be open-air meetings in Sydney Square near St

Andrew's Cathedral, where many such meetings were conducted early this century, and throughout the city when evangelists are available and opportunities are presented. On 8 April there will be a dinner for all who involved with OAC in the past or at present.

Correction

In the 19 October issue of *The Australian Christian* on page 16 we carried an advertisement for a series of special meetings being held by the Lyons, ACT, church to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

There are special services on each Sunday during November at 9.30 am and 7 pm. Please note that the correct date of the evening service with the minister Kevin Caulton is 24 November.

board meeting in your church. Allow members to contribute ideas to this item every month. Make sure 10 minutes of discussion is allocated to this priority.

- Start "Church Replanting". When a congregation has a membership of less than, say, 20, we need to be bold, take some hard decisions and suggest that the congregation be replanted into another congregation or community hall. The church is the people, not the property—believe this and we are not destroying the church but moving it! If they own property, sell it! (Read Matthew 6:19–21). Money gained from property sales can then be used to fund changing (growing) ministries (not in worship of buildings).

- Appoint someone at the church to a position of "Research Co-ordinator". This person's prime task is to encourage all church members to save useful social, community and leadership articles out of magazines, e.g. *Time*, *Bulletin*, newspapers and other journals. This material should be filed for access by all interested leaders and members in a church library.

Finally, for those of you who think this young author is not open to change himself, I suggest that if I've upset you then you write to me personally c/o *The Australian Christian*, rather than airing your negative comments in public. Our denomination is too small to spend time arguing over small issues. We desperately need affirmation and co-operation! I'd be happy to talk to you, listen and even change!

- Andrew Ball is currently field director with the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development. He is responsible for camping and youth ministry both in Vic-Tas and nationally. Andrew has an honours degree in science and is currently studying towards a Bachelor of Divinity. At the end of this year he moves to the Berwick Regional church as associate minister, working with Tim Hanna.

• Stage 2 completed

Bethesda Hospital's New Dress



The completion of four years of planning and redevelopment of Bethesda Hospital, in Queenslea Drive, Claremont, WA, was marked by the dedication of its beautiful new chapel on 5 July. The opportunity was also taken to recognise the long and faithful services of the two former matrons of the hospital, Beryl Hill and Joyce Brand. The new boardroom has been named after Beryl Hill and the Joyce Brand Seminar Room recognises Joyce's 20 years of service.

The official opening of the major (Stage 1) extensions to the hospital took place last year. These extensions comprise the new 29-bed "Riviera" ward, which also accommodates a four-bed special nursing unit. The three-level building houses a new operating suite with three modern theatres and a new ra-

diology unit. The basement level includes a new laundry and linen service and other service units.

The recently completed Stage 2 involved the conversion of the lower ground floor river ward into administration offices and seven consulting suites. The 29-bed "Bayview" ward above has been completely refurbished and now provides five-star accommodation for inpatients. A new main entrance building contains the new chapel, reception, business offices and medical records storage. The old east wing now includes a purpose-built day surgery suite, which incorporates the newly established Bethesda Endoscopy Service. The remaining space in the old ward has been refitted to provide a small pathology facility and staff amenities.

In June 1994 Bethesda will celebrate its 50th year of service. Much is owed to all those who have loyally served so faithfully during these many years.

Since the completion of the new buildings there has been an overwhelmingly favourable response from patients, medical staff and the wider medical community and nursing, administrative and domestic staffs. The future for Bethesda Hospital is very positive.

You don't need to become a patient to help Bethesda. To find how you can assist the "Friends of Bethesda"—our voluntary workers, whose scope of activities we are keen to develop—ring the Director of Nursing Services, Wendy Cowie, on (09) 384 6311 ext. 290.

—The Western Christian

• Handbook now out

Equipping to Serve

The 1992 CCTC Handbook reveals the many opportunities available to people in Melbourne, Vic, churches to gain help in learning to serve God.

First semester units (March-June) for those enrolling for the first time include "Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling", "Youth Ministry", "Old Testament Survey" and "The Mission of the People of God" (all evening courses). The basic course, "Interpreting the New Testament", is scheduled for Wednesday mornings. All these and more can be taken as single subjects. During three weeks in February two intensive units will be taught: "Introduction to Ministerial Studies" (11 days) and "The World of the New Testament" (13 nights). On Thursday evenings during first semester a half unit will be offered as Malcolm Gray and Alan Niven introduce people to public speaking/preaching.

Details and a handbook can be gained by ringing the Registrar, Graeme Wigney, on (03) 790 1000. To date, 11 people have been admitted to CCTC for 1992 to undertake such courses as the Diploma in Ministry, the Associate Diploma in Pastoral Care and the combined BA/BTheol linked with Monash University. More applications are being processed.

• Planting appeal

CROP Plans for Finance

In 1988 the Church Reach Out Plan (CROP) was launched at the Vic-Tas Conference by the Department of Mission, Education and Development and the Properties Corporation as a joint initiative in new church development. The establishment in September of that year of the Mornington church under the leadership of Ian

Cartmel was the first CROP initiative.

Since then, 13 new churches have either been established or linked with the Conference.

A basic part of the strategy was to seek financial support for the program through an appeal to churches to build a capital fund to be invested with the Properties Corporation. The appeal was approved by the Conference Finance Coordinating Committee in 1988. However, immediate action was deferred to allow the appeal for funds for the Churches

of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave, to continue. With the rate of development of the church planting program, the need for funds has become increasingly urgent. Following a series of discussions in late 1990 and 1991, the Properties Corporation and the Department of Mission, Education and Development, at their respective meetings in August and September, agreed to proceed with planning an appeal from 1992 onwards on the basis of planning and recommendations prepared by Ian Tippet. Ian

will have an important role in organising the program.

Income generated from the capital fund will be used to initiate new projects, support recent developments and be available for assistance to existing churches located in areas of new and special development. Information will be progressively made available to churches on the project.

—Cliff Warmbrunn
(Chairman, Dept of Mission, Education and Development)
and Ralph Lee (Chairman, Properties Corporation)

People

• A warning

Do Not Have John Bond at Your Church

Unless you are prepared to clean out the baptistry, have a follow-up team on hand to nurture new converts and have your people involved, as never before, in evangelistic outreach, do not have John Bond at your church.

The Marion, SA, church has just experienced, for the second time in three years, a John Bond Mission and the results were spectacular. The primary thrust of the mission strategy was two-fold: big services over two Sundays and a series of house meetings during the week, to which fringe people and contacts were invited. The latter proved incredibly effective, with John fielding questions on any topic and answering them from a Christian perspective. Statistics don't tell the whole story, but they do give an indication of the extent to which people's lives were touched by the powerful and unique ministry that John offers: 11 people made initial commitments to Christ; a further nine indicated a desire to be baptised; there were 37 re-dedications and a further 17 contact people said they wanted to become members of the church.

In addition to all of this, the big youth spectacular on the Friday night saw more

than 40 young people make responses for Christ on the cards that were provided. Prior to the visit by John Bond, Marion was having a tremendous year, in terms of its outreach, with 20 baptisms having already taken place. Now, as a result of the intensive follow-up being undertaken by the ministry team and Marion's highly effective follow-up program, the number of baptisms "booked in" for this year now totals 40! Further responses are expected and the ministry team believes that the church is on course for a record year in the area of outreach and evangelism.



John Bond

• Operation in London vital

Introducing Murray Millard



Murray Millard, with Andrew Longhurst, from Bathurst

Murray Millard, now 19, suffers from osteogenesis imperfecta, or brittle bone disease. This has already led to 18 operations in his life so far, to straighten and support bones. He now faces the sudden need for major surgery to his head and neck, which can only be performed in London. The operation date has been set for 10 December.

Murray is a much-loved member of the Wyoming, NSW, church and is quite ill at present.

Although confined to a wheelchair, Murray completed his HSC at Henry Kendall High and maintains a broad range of teenage interests. He is captain and player in the B grade wheelchair team "The Swamprats" and his other interests include reading, table tennis, being a TV sport-a-holic, chess, backgammon and looking after his home aquarium. He is a committed Christian and is very involved in the church youth group.

In recent months the bones in Murray's upper body have rapidly deteriorated. At present the top of his spine is pushing up into his brain. Unless corrected soon by removing the top of the spine and fusing the vertebra, Murray faces blind-

ness, paralysis and eventually death. He is presently in constant pain. A team of Australian specialists have agreed that this operation, known as a clivectomy, must be performed as soon as possible.

Because of the urgency of the need there is little time to mount a large-scale public campaign to raise the \$100,000 necessary.

We therefore feel you can help in three ways:

- Pray. We know that God will provide. He may choose to heal Murray, provide funds, or do something else according to his design.

- A friend said "\$100,000? No problems! 1,000 people with \$100 each and you're there!" Seems easy, doesn't it? We are hoping you may be able to approach businesses or welfare groups for a \$100 donation.

- Make a donation yourself.

Cheques can be made payable to Murray Millard's Operation Trust Account, c/o Wyoming Church of Christ, 299 Henry Parry Drive, Wyoming 2250. —David Peters

Stop Press: We have now learned that the bulk of the medical expenses will be paid by the Federal Government by an "act of grace". However there will still be a shortfall.



SWANSTON STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Melbourne

(cnr Swanston & Little Lonsdale Streets)

Sunday

9.00 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Worship & Communion Services

7.00 p.m.

Gospel Celebration

Wednesday

1.15-1.45 p.m.

Lunchtime Service

For further enquiries, please ring (03) 663 3884

• Pacific Conference of Churches Assembly

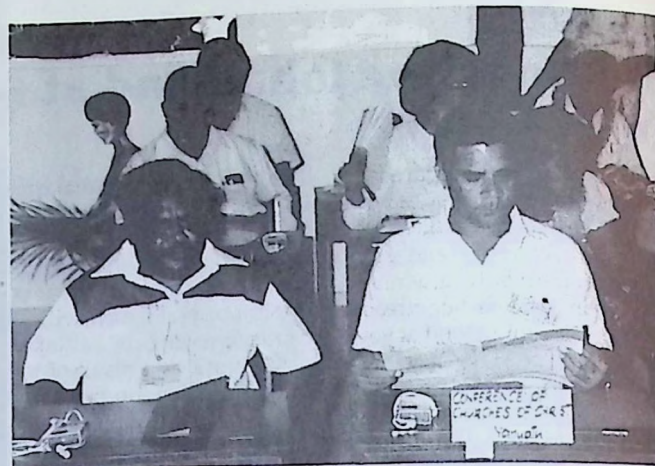
Proclaiming a Living Hope

The sixth Assembly of the Pacific Conference of Churches was held at Mele, Vanuatu. Mele is the country's largest village and is sometimes called the bedroom of Vila. It is just outside the capital and many commute from there to town for work. The Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu was the official host of this ecumenical assembly.

I felt honoured to be asked to attend the Assembly as an official delegate of the Conference of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu. John Liu, Conference President, Bill Bule, Executive Director, and Samuel Vusi, Principal of Banmatmat, made up our quota of four delegates allowed to the small churches. Maybe they will need a new way of counting delegates soon as the Lutheran Church of PNG and the Catholic Bishops Con-

ference of PNG with 800,000 and 1.2 million adherents respectively were admitted to the Conference along with five other new members making a total of around 40 member churches and national Christian councils.

For me the whole experience was a first. I went with much apprehension but came away with a great appreciation for the experience. I sensed a real oneness in Christ with the delegates whom I met. It seems that true ecumenism at the grass roots level is not hard. We all know the same Lord and Saviour and through him are "Born into the Living Hope—Proclaiming the Living Hope" as the theme for the Assembly acknowledged. I wondered if it was those who so eloquently used all the ecumenical jargon that were the



Bill Bule and John Liu

ones who were the obstruction. I sensed that most of us there could have sat down to the Lord's Supper together without hesitation.

I was enriched by meeting many people in whom I recognised Christ in a very real way. Bishop Leslie Boseto (United Church, Solomons), who was the assembly chairman, was notable in many ways. He was the darkest-skinned person there. He had just chaired a meeting between the PNG government and the Bougainvillians. He enlivened the assembly with a brilliant ability to get the business moving and a vital faith often expressed by spontaneously bursting out in a lively action chorus. Bishop Finau (Catholic, Tonga) was vice-chairman of PCC and as he co-chaired the assembly he was the obvious choice to become the new PCC chairman for the next five years. His humility and wisdom in leading through two controversial sessions (dealing with money and women's issues as you might have guessed) brought great admiration from all.

There were 150 official delegates present and as many observers. Groups represented

included the oppressed from Bougainville and West Papua. Also aid donors and ecumenical leaders from Europe and America were there to gain a better understanding of the Pacific.

They went home with a giant task of trying to awaken the giants of the West to the aspirations and concerns of the island peoples dotted over the vast Pacific.

I came home with a better understanding of the church and a greater desire to proclaim the Living Hope to all people. This will include some things I have never preached about before in the areas of social concerns and stewardship of the environment. There were so many activities, studies and papers in the 10-day event that it is impossible to tell it all. I am glad I have been born into the Living Hope and that the Lord has given that same hope to so many sisters and brothers with so many experiences, gifts and viewpoints who can share the task of proclaiming hope to the needy world today.

—E. Lyall Muller

• When war came to Addis Ababa

Hope for the Homeless

More than 80,000 street kids in a city half the size of Melbourne. This horror statistic from Addis Ababa is one of the tragic consequences of Ethiopia's famine and civil war.

Hope Enterprises, an Ethiopian Christian agency, is literally bringing hope to more than 400 children in its home and school, as well as providing emergency meals to many others in the Ethiopian capital.

Until recently the achievements of Hope Enterprises have been remarkable. The sale of their farm products, together with goods manufactured by the students in their vocational training program, has resulted in an average annual income of \$195,000 in recent years.

By the end of May the civil warfare reached Addis Ababa. Dr Hiruy, Director of Hope Enterprises, writes: "By the grace of God, we lost no life or limb, though our main campus was under heavy fire. Our children experienced the trauma

of war with its sound and smell. The army, digging in the hills behind our property with tanks and heavy artillery, did not care to calculate that the children could have been victims. Though lives were spared, our water tank, with a capacity of 95,000 litres, was blasted to pieces, and two of our dormitories and the store withstood some bullet holes."

However, the escalation of conflict in and around the capital, caused a dramatic slump in sales of the children's products. Also, in response to the turmoil and insecurity in Addis Ababa, there was a significant reduction in overseas support.

TEAR Australia has already sent an interim emergency grant of \$10,000 but hopes to send the full \$60,000 requested by this valued Ethiopian partner. Further information or donations to this project can be sent to TEAR Australia, PO Box 289, Hawthorn 3122. Phone (03) 819 1900.

Visiting Melbourne?

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

ON YOUR OWN, YOU'RE NOT ALONE

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

Letter from Chungribu Area Churches of Christ, PNG

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the sweet name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the entire membership of the Chungribu Area and especially the local congregation at Chungribu, would like, with great joy to express our sincere thanks to the Conference of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu, the Overseas Mission Board, and the Wujumwel village church for the excellent work and co-operation of the Buli family in the work with the men and women of God here in Chungribu and area. Also to thank you all for enabling him to be available for the work in this area and the wider work of Conference of Churches of Christ in Papua New Guinea. Thank you for all his work among us in the work of the Gospel here.

Thank you for your prayers and concern for us in this way as we work together in the work

of Christ and his Kingdom. Be assured that the Churches of Christ in Papua New Guinea are often in prayer for your churches also.

True! In the body we may be separated, in spirit we are united in Christ. We meet in the spirit around the table of the Lord and eat his body and drink his blood together in communion each week.

We believe the Conference of Churches of Christ in Papua New Guinea has already requested we continue this close co-operation for the work of mission in Papua New Guinea. We in the Chungribu Area fully affirm and repeat this request for continued help.

Hosea Buli and his family left Papua New Guinea and went back to their village, but this does not mean the end of mission work in Papua New Guinea, no way! The work of mission in Papua New Guinea



Nathan, Hosea, Helen and Jehu Buli

continues, but now there is a strongly felt vacancy in the field here.

Sincerely yours, and may

God richly bless you all,

Till we meet in Heaven,
Stevin Fransis (On behalf of the
Chungribu Area Churches)

• Able to do more than we dare to ask or dream of

Mullers Surprising Move to Santo



The Muller family in the doorway of their Santo house

The new Vanuatu Department of Church and Leadership Development came into being on 1 July. With its inception my work area was limited to the islands of Santo, Malo and Malekula. Previously being based at Nduindui, I had responsibilities to the churches throughout the country. But Nduindui is on Ambae and I wanted to be where my work is even though Ambae, Michener's Bali Hai, has its attractions.

The problem is that housing in Santo is almost impossible to get. And the prices are crazy. The rent of a reasonable two-bedroom house costs more than the salary of local primary school teachers. The only suitable house "available" was to be renovated sometime soon, which meant it might be ready by Christmas. In desperation we agreed to move into the one-bedroom transit house im-

mediately after Jill's parents' visit and a series of meetings were over.

While in Vila at a workshop I was advised a house had come available and to ring Dorothy Dewar of the Bible Translators for details. Dorothy did a good job of describing the house of four bedrooms with en suite centrally located etc. and I wondered why she was wasting my time. How could we afford that? The lessee was going for four months' leave and wanted somebody to look after the house and contribute a little help. They were going in one week's time and wanted to see me before they went.

It seemed too good to be true—twice the house we were expecting after Christmas for half the money. I saw the house, met the people and said a big thank you for their generosity. With Jill not too well, her parents arriving the same day that the house came available, and me only having one week be-

tween two important meetings in Vila, I was not sure how soon we could be there. On return to Ambae we decided to give Jill's parents a big surprise and meet them in Santo in four days' time. We made it and Mum and Dad were surprised!

Transport was going to be a hassle in Santo. The couple who rent this house had been in Santo for eight months with no vehicle. But we felt we needed something more than my work motorbike to get the family around town. Two days before going to Australia for four months this couple bought a car. They asked me to take them to the airport on the day they left and there offered me the use of their car around the town while they were away. As I considered it all my eyes were a bit watery coming back to the house.

Our God is so good. Thanks to John and Joan Gosbel, whom we had never met before. Thanks be to our God who still gives us surprises even though we have known and loved him for all our lives.

—E. Lyall Muller

Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Encouraged

To the Editor,

I was very encouraged to read of the Rock Nightclub run by the Cheltenham, Vic, church ("AC" 5 October). I praise God for this safe place for young people to meet each other. May many come to know and trust in Jesus through this ministry.

—E. Morgan
(Coburg, Vic)

Kenmore's Missionary List

To the Editor,

Since receiving *The Australian Christian* dated 21 September, two things have been on my mind.

The first is that for the sake of historical accuracy I must correct details in the list of Kenmore graduates who have served in overseas missions. My wife and I, while being ap-

pointed as missionaries to Indonesia, never did so, as the list indicated we had. Sadly visas were never available. The list also failed to indicate that my wife, Jeanette Soentpiet, was a student from Indonesia in 1973. She returned to work for the Indonesian Council of Churches for a short time in 1975.

My second concern is to respond to H. Colin Wheat's letter. In 1987 I joined the Regular Army as a Chaplain, and since that time it has been a rare occasion indeed when I have received any visible sign of encouragement or show of interest from folk in our Brotherhood, other than from fellow Church of Christ chaplains or my own local church. Rather it has been the close, Christian fellowship of chaplains from other denominations that has been most encouraging and supportive. Personally, in a ministry where denominations

usually blur into insignificance, I must say I have found these folk to be faithful, Christ-loving people.

—Russell Mutzelburg
(Chaplain, Holdsworth
Army Base, Sydney
and member at Padstow,
NSW)

Study Tour Thanks

To the Editor,

I am not sure if you have heard of the youth study tour that I led to some of the Queensland churches 14-30 August. We visited nine different churches. The main purposes for this visit were to look at—

- the youth work in some Churches of Christ in Queensland;
- the historical connection between Queensland and Vanuatu Christian communities; and
- agriculture and industries in south-east Queensland.

The group comprised of 16

young people, eight female and eight male.

Sincere gratitude to the Overseas Mission Board, the Queensland Overseas Mission committee and all the churches visited for allowing this visit. Not forgetting our tour guide, Ken Warne, our hosts and those who donated money, time, buses, cars, food, beds and other help towards making this tour possible.

We appreciated the warmest of love shared in the churches, around the meal tables, at barbecues etc.

The 16 returned in acknowledging your help and with a lot of memories, experiences and knowledge which hopefully will give better perspectives to the youth ministry in our churches in Vanuatu.

—Shem Tema
(Director of Youth and
Christian Education,
Churches of Christ
Conference in Vanuatu)

A Letter to Tertius

Dear Tertius,

I am sorry to say that I suspect that you have been employing your cousin Turgidus to ghost write some of your recent letters. In particular I'm concerned about your (his?) comments about clapping during worship services, even ones with a syncopated clap!

I am interested to note that a recent letter from Brother Paul seems to indicate that culturally acceptable behaviour which looks as though it might just help people feel that church is a rather positive exciting place and that worship can be an expression of the whole person is to be welcomed as a means of spreading the impact of the Gospel.

It seemed to me a bit sad that you had to dig about for some pretty obscure Old Testament verses to give "some authority" to your poor song leader. I am sure that Brother Paul will have no trouble in 1991 justifying the use of flouro lights, or electronic organs, or tape recorders. I know that my concordance doesn't help much in these areas. Nor does it help much in areas like whether we should have three hymns or four, or if we should use itsy little glasses for communion wine, or whether people might wear name tags. The facts are that people enjoy these things. They help us become involved in worship and not be spectators to a passing parade.

And what's wrong with a bit of innovation which (shock! horror!) may become something of a ritual so long as it adds meaning and relevance to what is happening and does not commemorate some long dead elder's biases about how things must be done.

We at Magillus enjoy an occasional clap—particularly when someone has helped us in our worship.

Wish you were here!

—Saltus Phlepeus (Brian Phelps, Magill, SA)

Letters from Tertius

Watch!

To the Editor,

A visiting preacher had us on the edge of our seats with his vivid descriptions of the Second Coming. That night there was a sudden clap of thunder and I woke up in a cold sweat. For a moment I thought it had happened.

The preacher made me feel guilty. He said that we should be watching for the Lord's coming all the time. I'm afraid that I don't. I seem to have so much else to do.

He didn't say what he meant by watching. But he seemed to imply that if we weren't watching it could come and go without us knowing. But the way he described it there could be no possibility of that!

He kept quoting from Matthew 25:13, "Watch, for you know neither the day nor the hour." I still didn't get what he meant by watching. So when I got home I read Matthew 25.

It seems that the wise maidens watched, not by looking out the window all the time, but by keeping their lamps trimmed and burning.

In the next parable the servant who was obsessed with his master's return was the one who hid his talent in a hole. The others were too busy on the master's business to stop to look around.

And in the third parable the idea seems to be that we get ready for the Coming by feeding and clothing the deprived, visiting the sick and the shut-ins and looking after foreigners.

I felt quite guilty about not searching the heavens to watch for the Return. But now I've discovered what Jesus really meant by watching, I think I feel even more guilty.

Hoping you are the same,

Tertius

Letters

Co-Operating Churches

To the Editor,

My husband and I have just spent three weeks holiday in New Zealand, the land of the Long White Cloud. The churches there are alive and well, doing a variety of interesting things and are in the forefront of social justice issues. Of particular interest to us was the effective ministry of women and the full participation of Churches of Christ in union and co-operating churches.

The question I am now asking is why are Australian Churches of Christ not looking seriously with other churches here at the possibility of being an integral part of union or co-operating parishes in Australia? —Lucy Ellen Griffiths (Brighton, Vic)

Work Required

To the Editor,

Several of the students at the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave, Vic, are interested in obtaining work over the holiday period. They need the income to help them continue with their courses at college.

If any reader knows of work or has a job available could they contact me or another student at the college on (03) 795 6267.

We would be interested in



**Kenmore
Christian
College**

*"Training Servants
for Ministry"*

R.W. Tippet
Principal

41 Brookfield Road
Kenmore 4069
Phone (07) 378
7633

any type of work. It would be preferable if the work were close to the Mulgrave area, however that is not essential.

—Paul Bouer
(CCTC, Mulgrave)

Thank You

To the Editor,

Will you grant me a little space to say "thank you" to all who subscribed funds to enable the NSW Community Care Department to purchase the Gopher electric chair of which I am the first occupant. It is a great invention and gives me liberty and freedom I haven't had for some years. It has caught the interest of a great number of folk in the village and at church who have expressed a desire to be the inheritor of the vehicle when I have finished with it. Only one accident thus far, when I put it into "fast forward" instead of "reverse" and cracked a window at the side of the front door.

Thanks again to everybody.

—Eric Hart

(Pendle Hill, NSW)

Thank You

To the Editor,

Thank you to those people whose names and addresses I do not know who sent money to me when I rode from Adelaide to Broken Hill and back to Adelaide with Bikes for Bibles.

Thank you for helping people in Brazil to receive Scripture portions through the Bible Society.

—Kenton Hill

(Henley Beach, SA)

**CHURCH OF CHRIST
Matilda Street
PORT LINCOLN**

**50th
Anniversary**

Sunday, 24 November 1991
10.45 am Sing-along
11 am Worship and Communion
Speaker:
RON ROBERTS
2 pm Musical Celebration

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

News

• Vic-Tas camps news

Developments at Camp Waterman, Monbulk

Renovations and new development projects are a central part of camping centre life. Major extension work on the residence for the assistant managers at Camp Waterman, Monbulk, Vic, Geoff and Kendra Caldwell, has just been completed.

The work includes new bedroom accommodation, new carpeting throughout and other minor alterations. Other work recently completed includes toilet facilities for disabled people and improvements and additions to sleeping accommodation. The construction work was planned by Ray Drayton, architect, and Frank and John Richards, builder and site works.



Paul Fry and Geoff Caldwell

Paul Fry (senior manager) and Geoff Caldwell welcome inspections and enquiries about the facilities. The centre is in constant use on weekdays and weekends and the site is also available for picnics, weddings and group activities.

Camp Site Managers Meet

Managers from Victorian Department of Mission, Education and Development camp sites met together at Camp Waterman on 20 September. Paul Fry, recently appointed senior manager, led the event, which was used for training, general discussion and forward planning. Don Smith and Margaret Mehegan of the department's Melbourne office

and Frank Richards also met with the managers.

Recently appointed staff include Geoff and Kendra Caldwell at Camp Waterman and Colin and Jennie Winter at Camp Acacia.

Each of the managers welcome inspection of their camps.

Booking enquiries should be directed to Margaret at the department office on (03) 326 8900.



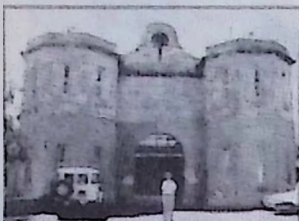
Russell and Thelma Pearce, Paul and Linda Fry, Colin and Jennie Winter and Geoff and Kendra Caldwell

Media Review

Papers

Prison Reform and Christian Responsibility

by Ray Whitrod



Zadok

Series 1 Paper 554

(ISBN 0186-7472)

Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society promotes the study of biblical truth to everyday life in Australia. Part of its work is directed at providing specific materials dealing with issues of importance to Christians in Australia, including Christian perspectives on politics, economics and public life. Further information and a complete list of Zadok publications can be obtained from the Zadok Institute, 2600 Barton Street, Barton, ACT, 2600. (06) 273 1634.

Series 1 contains the most discussions of the contemporary matters affecting life in Australia. Series 2 contains more specifically theological or biblical papers, papers of general interest, occasional letters, etc. Zadok also publishes a quarterly journal, *Zadok Perspectives*.

Prison Reform and Christian Responsibility

by Ray Whitrod

Ray Whitrod, former Queensland Police Commissioner, is well known for his forthright stance against corruption in the police force. He presents this call for prison reform with humanity and realism. His paper is informed by his professional experience, his deep concern for both prisoners and the victims of crime and his strong Christian convictions.

"Prison Reform and Christian Responsibility" is published by the Zadok Institute for Christianity

and Society and is available from Zadok, Blackall Street, Barton 2600, Phone (06) 273 1634 for \$4 plus 90c postage.

Books

The SACRED Diary of Adrian Plass

(aged 37 1/4)



Adrian Plass

Illustrated by Dan Donovan

The Sacred Diary of Adrian Plass (Aged 37 1/4)

by Adrian Plass (The Canterbury Press)

This book has been around since 1987 and has been a very good seller. Adrian Plass is visiting Australia early next year for various seminars and this book should be readily available.

This is a humorous look at some of the things that Christians do and say. It is not recommended to anyone who lacks a sense of humour, but anyone interested in puns and acronyms will enjoy this book very much. Some of the people mentioned are prominent in the British church scene and

not well known in Australia, however the ridiculous aspects of living as a Christian are excellent.

—CRA

Cry Pain, Cry Hope

Thresholds to Purpose

by Elizabeth O'Connor (Word Books)

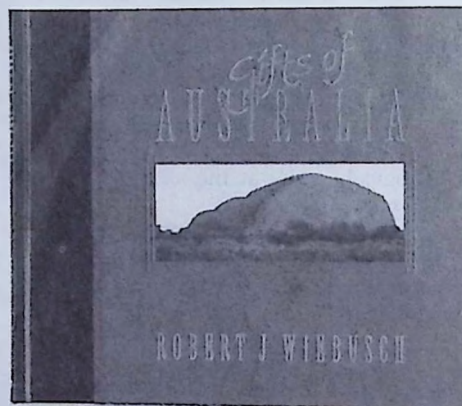
We are human. This uncomfortable, yet undeniable, assertion confronts us daily. Our only possible defence is a wry smile, not far removed from joyous laughter or tears of despair. Though we would reach for the stars, one of life's banana skins waits—invariably—around the corner. To recognise, and respond to our own humanity and that of others is to see ourselves as God sees us.

"We must open ourselves to our pain if we are to discover our true vocations in life," writes Elizabeth O'Connor and as teacher, consultant and counsellor to the six faith communities of the Church of the Saviour, Washington, DC (where she has served since 1953), she appears well qualified to share her thoughts on the understanding and identification of our particular areas of Christian service and stewardship.

The topics covered include wisdom, money, fear, small growth groups, ill health, pain, prayer, God's dependence on us, and personal satisfaction—all contained within the story of the establishment of Sarah's Circle—a residential community, planned by Washington residents and the Church of the Saviour to "meet the needs and call out the potential of older persons, with a special focus on the elderly poor".

These topics are discussed with the intimacy of journal entries and the clarity of thought of essays. There is both narrative and reflection, as the author draws on the writings of Ken Kesey, Thomas Merton, Simone Weil, Julian of Norwich and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, among others, to illuminate her own thoughts. This is a book for all mature Christians who care about their personal spiritual growth.

—Graeme Addicott



Gifts of Australia

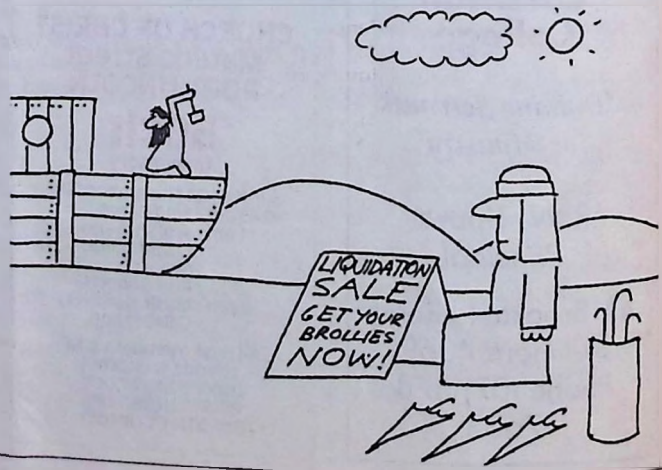
Symbols from God's Creation by Robert J. Wiebusch (Lutheran Publishing House) \$29.95

This is a delightful book of devotions and meditations that would make an excellent gift. Robert

Wiebusch has written meditations on the Australian landscape, illustrated with colour photographs, many of which he has taken himself. He has attempted to use symbols of the Australian landscape to represent aspects of the Australian faith. The Lutheran Publishing House should be very proud of this book, printed in Australia. It would be ideal to give to a Christian overseas.

—CRA

The Angelic Verses—Daniel Changer



Happenings

A crowd of enraged Muslim extremists in Cairo burned a Christian church to the ground and damaged scores of nearby homes and shops owned by Christians during a 2-day rampage in late September. The Free Methodist Church of Imbaba, located in what one Protestant church leader described as a "miserably poor" district was totally destroyed. A nearby Apostolic Church remained intact, although the church's Bibles and hymnbooks were removed and burnt.

Membership of Anglican Churches in the British Isles has dipped below the 2 million mark. The number of Anglicans on electoral rolls in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales stood at 1,840,000 at the end of 1990, down 7% or nearly 150,000 on the same time in 1985. The UK Christian Handbook claims that Christian churches in Britain have lost one in 10 active members in the last decade—the equivalent of 1,500 a week.

A Kenyan Government minister has accused church leaders there of giving protection to anti-government elements and receiving foreign aid intended to destabilise the government. This is the latest development in the long-running battle between church and state in the one-party African state.

The issue of environmental destruction should be one of the primary ethical issues for Baptists in our day, according to the Christian Ethics Commission of the Baptist World Alliance. The Commission's discussions centred on the document "Environment and Theology", which stated that the world's deteriorating environment is linked to an inadequate Christian understanding of the creation story in Genesis.

The Evangelist Association Conference, which incorporates Consultants for

Evangelism, is holding a "Stepping Out" Conference in Sydney 3-6 December. The guest speaker is Tommy Tyson, an evangelist in the United Methodist Church from North Carolina, USA. Much of his time is devoted to discipleship development and church renewal. Other speakers include Gordon Gibbs, Dan Armstrong, Greg Furrage, Stuart Gramenz and Bill Newman. Registration is \$60 for non-members and accommodation can also be arranged. Details from Evangelist Association Conference, c/o Kairos Ministries, PO Box 42, Lyneham 2602. Phone (06) 257 3367.

Marriage Education Week was celebrated 21-25 October. As one aspect of the week the Anglican Marriage Guidance Council released details of their 1992 Pre-Marriage and Re-Marriage Courses for Victoria. They have scheduled some 30 courses for 1992 primarily in the Melbourne metropolitan area. Similar courses should be available in most Australian states. Further details of the courses can be obtained from the Anglican Marriage Guidance Council, 5th Floor, 252 Collins St, Melbourne 3000. Phone (03) 654 7360.

It is estimated that it costs \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year to keep a prisoner in jail. This figure does not include the hidden costs of social welfare for a prisoner's family, or the cost to the community of repeated offences—additional policing, medical expenses and insurance claims.

News of recent outbreaks of religious persecution in 3 Mexican states has included the beating of a number of evangelicals, the murder of another and the arson of homes and a church building.

New Zealand's Congregational Union has ended its annual assembly with a resolution excluding anyone in a homosexual or

adulterous relationship from pastoral ministry. The union also challenged other denominations to affirm the principles of marriage and family.

The Salvation Army at its New Zealand territory congress (which includes Fiji and Tonga) has set goals to increase its membership by 3,500 and to add 15 new churches by the end of the decade.

Bern Watson, secretary and treasurer of the Enmore, NSW, church has been awarded a Senior Citizen of the Year Award by the Marrickville Council and Rotary. He received the award for his services to Meals on Wheels, driving senior citizens from nursing homes and retirement homes to pensioner clubs on bus outings and also entertaining folk with his concert party "Bern and Friends". Bern Watson is conducting a Christmas Concert at the Bexley North Church of Christ on 23 November at 2 pm with the theme "Broadway Melody" (1900-1940). The concert is to raise food and toys for the needy for Christmas. Donations or information from Bern Watson, 11 Salisbury Rd, Stanmore 2048. Phone (02) 560 6261.

55 North American Protestant mission agencies with more than 100 staff members overseas were surveyed and the problems that missionaries face were ranked in the following order: relationships with other missionaries, cultural adjustments, managing general stress, raising children, marriage difficulties, financial pressures and loneliness.

Ross and Cheryl Wissmann have been living in England now for 5 years. Ross is a graduate of Kenmore Christian College and had ministries in Queensland before moving to England to minister with the Churches of Christ that did not join the United Reformed Church. In a recent newsletter he

writes: "After 5 years of living in Shawbridgeworth, our dream is beginning to happen! On 15 September, the Herts and Essex Christian Church was launched with 44 attending. Out of that number, 7 families are "with us". Thus we can count on their attendance and assistance, for which we thank God. We feel very fortunate to begin with this many people. The largest of our churches in this country only averages 60 people per week."

Rock musicians and church choristers from opposite ends of the world are to join together for an international Christian arts festival in St Petersburg, Russia. The event is being organised on behalf of the St Petersburg (formerly Leningrad) city authorities by Youth With A Mission. The event will coincide with a special evangelistic mission to the city which is widely recognised as Russia's cultural capital. Money raised by ticket sales will go towards needy orphanages in the city.

In the UK the United Reformed and Methodist Churches are considering their future relationship following results of a year-long consultation process on the prospects of a possible Methodist-URC union.

Following an escalation in violence and a growing state of chaos throughout Peru, the relief agency World Vision announced that they are to withdraw all of their child-focused development projects in that country.

A health clinic in the Palestinian village of Zababdeh, the site of the new Archbishop David Penman Centre, was stormed by Israeli troops and arbitrarily closed early in October. The clinic is the only health service in one of the poorest areas in the West Bank, providing crucial health and disability rehabilitation services to 22,000. The Penman Centre, which will provide com-

munity services in education and health, is due to be dedicated in January by the Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs Jean Penman.

A rampaging mob in Haiti, enraged by the recent army takeover, caught and killed Baptist minister Sylvio Claude by placing around his neck a blazing petrol-filled tyre. For many years a controversial figure in the country, Sylvio had been a presidential candidate and was the hero of the country's many dispossessed people. There seems to have been no reason why the mob picked on Sylvio.

Albania's first Protestant church has been established in Tirana following the conversion of 173 Albanians during a week-long evangelistic campaign mounted by 10 international missions during the first week of July. Of the new converts, 43 opted to be baptised.

During the past year Baptists around the world baptised more than 1 million new members and established 7,000 new churches.

"The Definitive Lecture on the Pella Excavations" is being given by Emeritus Professor J.B. Hennessy, Director of the University of Sydney excavations at Pella, Jordan, on 6 November at 8 pm at Lecture Theatre 1 at the Burwood Campus, Victoria College, 221 Burwood Highway, Burwood, Vic, jointly sponsored by the Australian Institute of Archaeology and the Archaeology Research Unit and Museum Studies of Victoria College. Free.

The Bible League in Australia continues to support Australian Wycliffe Bible Translators. The latest projects include the Wiru New Testament translated by Orland and Marie Kerr, the Ewage-Notu New Testament by Doug and Margaret Parrington, Mark's Gospel in the Billau language and Mark's Gospel in the Duke of York language.

• Australian Church Women

National Conference

Women representing all states and the Australian Capital Territory, plus three visitors from New Zealand, attended the National Conference of Australian Church Women held at the Collaroy Centre in Sydney 9-13 September. The theme of the conference was "We being many, are one in Christ". There were women present representing Anglican, Baptist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and Uniting churches and Churches of Christ and the Salvation Army. The National President was Marie McCann.

At the opening service the guest speaker was Jean Raddon.

The agenda was a very full one. Excellent Bible studies on various aspects of the theme, together with morning and evening devotions, were much appreciated. Reports were received from all state units, affiliated denominations and national interest groups, as well as specific areas of ACW work. The role of ACW as a member

of the Asian Church Women's Conference was discussed at some length.

Rachel Sobana, from India, current holder of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship awarded annually by Australian Church Women, was able to attend, enabling delegates to meet and share with her.

An open seminar was held on the Wednesday, when some 40-50 women from around Sydney shared the day, with guest speakers addressing the theme of the Asian Church Women's Conference—"In Christ, Freedom, Growth and Hope". The closing services saw the installation of the new national executive, under the leadership of Lorraine Davis of Tasmania, where the next conference will be held in 1993.

Churches of Christ women who attended the Conference were Eunice Reidy, National President of CWF, Helen Banks (Vic), Marjorie Baker (NSW) and Joan Smith (Tas).

—Eunice Reidy

• New South Wales Camp

Worshipping the Lord with Gladness

On the weekend 12-15 September at Stanwell Tops over 135 women, from country and metropolitan churches, shared an exciting and challenging time together at the annual CWF Camp. Day visitors on Saturday increased the numbers to 165.

The theme of the camp was "An Incredible Journey—into Relationships". Study leader was Denby Holmes, senior minister of the North Turramurra Church, who presented the studies on Psalm 23 in three sessions: "A Walk Which Demands a Rest", "The Walk of God's People" and "The Walk through Darkness".

It was a privilege to have the National CWF President, Eunice Reidy, share the weekend. During the afternoon session on Saturday Eunice spoke briefly on the national scene and her theme, "Christ—The Timeless Resource".

The camp had its lighter moments: a relaxing hour was

spent engaged in craft work under the expert tuition of the ladies of the Epping Church and Krazy Kapers, the Saturday night concert compered by Elaine Kemsley, was a time of fun and laughter.

A very special time was the communion service on Sunday morning. This time of celebration and reflection was beautifully prepared and presented by members of the Newcastle District CWF.

Each study session was preceded by a time of praise and worship. Led by Joan Touzel and accompanied by a group of musicians, this was a time when each one could "worship the Lord with gladness and come before him with joyful songs". Each evening concluded with a devotional segment. Speakers Wendy Hunter, on "We're Together Again" and Rea Saxby, on "Sister Let Me Be Your Servant", brought the day's activities to a fitting conclusion.

—Elaine Wilson

• Melbourne

Southern Bayside

This year the Frankston, Vic, church acted as host to the CWF Southern Bayside Conference on 30 August.

The program commenced with some bright singing and then prayer led by Muriel Bishoff. Jeanette Morey, Frankston CWF President, presided over the meeting.

\$500 is being sent to Banmatmat Bible College in Vanuatu for beds for the married students. Money from the retiring offering is also being sent for the purchase of sweets at Christmas for the students. Glenys Reaby brought greetings from the executive and Lois Tagg brought the devotional segment. We were entertained by Chris Sharp with her rendition of Moses.

Eunice Reidy, National President of CWF, was the guest speaker, telling of some of the highlights of the Asian Women's Conference held in November 1990.

—Jeanette Morey

• Tasmanian Camp

Study, Stitches and Skits

50 women of all ages gathered at the Tasmanian CWF Camp at Bicheno 4-6 October, under the leadership of State President Ruth Edge and Camp Secretary Lyn Birtwistle. Everyone joined in activities from the Friday "getting to know you" to the Sunday communion led by Helen Hall. The music was provided by June Younger and Gwen Byard.

In between we participated in excellent studies prepared and presented by Colleen Harrison following Sarah, Abraham and Hagar through all their struggles to the eventual fulfilment of God's promise.

Evening meditations were led by Val Warwick and Laurel Arnot.

Saturday was a mixed bag with study, then Helen Hall's talk "Where We're from, Where We Are Now and Where We Are Going" and aerobics with Janet Kerrison. "Saturday Night in Stitches" produced some hilarious skits on "First Aid", but we redeemed ourselves by Julie Orr giving some vital first aid information.

The meals were marvellous, especially as Ida and Basil Marden did all the work. They will be missed as they leave shortly.

—D.A. Allen

• Victorian Country Council

God's Women in Action Meet at Mount Clear

At the invitation of the Mt Clear, Vic, CWF, 112 ladies from city and country churches shared together in the October

Victorian CWF Council meeting.

Worship was presented by Elaine Horne (Colac) and musical items by the Lorikeets and Bronwyn Booth. Marjan Beer, minister at Ararat, focused her address on the President's theme, "God's Women in Action".

Short reports were received from the Hospital, Community Care and Resource and Development Committees.

The afternoon session opened with a time of singing led by Sandra Gibson. Lucy Griffiths, Social Justice officer, encouraged involvement in social concerns.

President Stella Carter introduced a panel, three spoke on the women's ministry of their church and two highlighted activities of their CWF.

Thanks to Ken Geyer and other drivers who assisted with transport.

—Eleanor Roberts

• Victoria

Women Take Flight at Camp Waterman

76 women from as far away as Pyramid Hill, Colac and Koondrook attended camp in beautiful weather.

The Missionary Committee took us on "The Encounter" flight 2 for a "Mission Safari" to all the mission fields, where we met the "missionaries" and learnt all about each field.

Margaret Fletcher was our flight attendant for the evening.

Eleanor Roberts led the praise and prayer time on Saturday morning.

Julie Trinnick, Assistant Director of the Overseas Mission Board, led the studies on "God's Women in Action".

Saturday afternoon the campers were able to wander around Mary Nesbitt's garden at Sherbrooke.

The Patch ladies provided Devonshire tea in the garden.

On Saturday they were entertained in song by Brenda Hocking during the evening meal.

Janet Thompson wrote the closing worship, with some of the ladies taking part in a moving creative worship.

Sunday morning, in the chapel, campers gathered for communion, led by Stella Carter, CWF President.

Julie continued the studies challenging all to be able to not only hear the Word of God but to put it into practice.

Several ladies shared their experiences. Jan Hutton, shared her five years in leading camp and the victory that she had experienced in learning to depend on God.

—Jan Hutton
(Camp Convener)



Helen Banks, Eunice Reidy, Joan Smith and Marj Baker at the ACW National Conference held at the Collaroy Centre in Sydney



Churches of Christ CWF delegates at the National Conference of Australian Church Women, Joan Smith (Tas), Eunice Reidy (National President, CWF), Marj Baker (NSW) and Helen Banks (Vic)

"We being many are one in Christ"

• A disturbing time at Queensland Conference

Conference Was a Rotten Time This Year...

Queensland Conference was a rotten time this year—so I've been told by a number of people who then proceeded to tell me about all the negative things that happened. Well I happen to know about those negative things and they concern me too but I would like to share some of the things that were positive for me.

My Conference started early as I had to write a report of the work of the Social Service Department. That is an important opportunity to review what has been done and more importantly what still needs to be done.

The result of the compilation of the material and the writing of the report was that I felt sure that God was indeed in our midst achieving what we had thought was impossible. Imagine—6,500 received substantial care from Churches of Christ during the year. That is more people than we have in our active membership.

For me the Conference week began with the ministers' and spouses' seminar that was also open to elders (no need to worry about male or female with that

term). Fairly quickly we were introduced to Pekene Zaratta and John Liu. Pekene is the Chairman of the Papua New Guinea Conference of Churches of Christ and John the President of the Conference of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu. Jeff May, Pekene and John spoke to us about the revival of the churches in New Guinea and Vanuatu. As I listened I was reminded of the things that I had read in my own studies of revival—of extended prayer, of confession of sin, of restitution, of people transparent before God. Oh, if only there could be revival in the church in Australia! The question and discussion time with the ministers was moving. It seemed to me that some of those very things that accompanied revival were happening in our midst. Ministers were confessing their yearning for God to touch the lives of people in their congregations, were confessing the false trails they had followed as they sought for growth in the church, were breaking down in tears. God can we have a revival?

My next contact with Con-

ference was the Ministers' Dinner. There was a fine reminder from Jeff May of the work of God throughout the world with encouragement because of the expansion of the Christian faith in Asia, South America and Africa. He also carried an important message that we in the churches in Australia have to move from our missionary emphasis to an emphasis on the mission.

Saturday was the business session. What a joy to welcome in the church at Mt Warren Park, started as a church-planting exercise by DCDE, the church at Kingsthorpe, started by the church in Toowoomba, and that exciting venture, the Church of the Outback, an interesting meeting in small groups across western Queensland to worship God together via the telephone. Three new churches in one year! The reports to Conference were predictably positive but there were few questions and there was little debate about the real issues.

I felt good about going to the Brisbane City Hall for worship. As I was led through the doors

I was surprised by the artwork suspended on either side of the platform. It drew my eyes to it. What was God saying to me?

I saw the anguish on the searching faces. I was fascinated by the man, the distorted man in the wheelchair shielding his face, distressed in his private pain. The misshapen woman—but the faces...

Recognition dawned slowly for me, it was the face of Christ! They were all the faces of Christ—"inasmuch as you have done it, or not done it, cared for or ignored, assisted or not assisted you have done it, or not done it unto me." I wondered if we as a church could see the faces of Christ about us in their wretchedness, in their despair, in their searching, ever searching—and where was I to show the way? Those faces of Christ disturbed me. They go on disturbing me. They tell me it was a long service, it certainly meant a late lunch, but I had been through a deep experience of being in the presence of my God, I had taken that which signifies the "body" of Christ and the "blood" of Christ and I was learning afresh to look for the face of Christ.

I agree it was a rotten conference. I don't think I can be quite the same. —Donald Stewart

• On the Gold Coast

Church of the Good Shepherd

What is the Church of the Good Shepherd?

It is really three things:

- It is the name given to the church building on the Plaza in Cotlew St, Ashmore, part of the Gold Coast in Queensland.

- It is the name of two congregations who share that building—one a Uniting Church congregation, the other a Church of Christ.

- It is a mission statement—that two congregations belonging to two different denominations can work together and in so doing demonstrate to the secular society something of the unity of the church that we so often talk about but so seldom practice.

It came about for three reasons:

- The Nerang Church of Christ needed to find alternate accommodation after more than five years in a dirty, smelly, cold-in-winter-hot-in-summer hall.

- The ministers of the two congregations had known each other for over 20 years.

- The two men and their congregations were prepared to give the concept a go.

In practical terms it means:

- The running expenses are shared. For the Church of Christ this means the use of a facility for seven days a week for the same price as one in the old hall.

- The opportunity to co-operate in a variety of activities including youth groups, a Passover Meal and Christmas services to name some.

- The public at large has the opportunity to see that the church has a sense of stewardship and common sense in not trying to duplicate expensive, under-used buildings.

Lastly, the nature of the congregation has changed. While it never had a strong sense of "Church of Christ" identity it is now even less so with people with a largely liturgical background or no Christian background at all becoming part of the body.

—Brian Mee

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• Ministers' and elders' seminar

Ministering in Revival

"Go to the brothel and tell them, 'God loves you.'" As a young man, he had obeyed the voice of God. They called two churches to prayer. He and a Christian friend knocked on the door. Holding up their Bibles, they said, "God loves you." Within three minutes of being invited inside all 18 people were on the floor weeping. God added them to his church. With tears streaming down his face, this now senior elder confessed, "I've been a coward ever since."

"I've tried every program I know. I've been to Bible college. Gone as far as I can go in clinical pastoral education. I've nearly completed two degrees but I can't get the church to grow." The pastor sobbed as he retold the story.

"I'd like to ask you to do something. To stand as a promise to allow God to do his work. Revival is the moving of God through the Holy Spirit anointing the lives of his people to bring about his plans. Will you be a person of repentance, prayer, obedience and forgiveness? Will you allow revival to start with you? Will you seek to be revived pastor, elder, wife, Christian worker." As John Liu quietly and unemotionally gave the invitation, the whole camp of over 100 church leaders and spouses rose to their feet.

These were just a few of the moving episodes that occurred during the ministers' and elders' seminar of the Queensland 108th State Conference.

Ministering Revival

Isn't revival the same thing as emotionalism, Pentecostalism or charisma? Aren't you promoting the weird and the bizarre? Jeff May at the outset of the three-day seminar set the stage. The answer is no. He invited us not to label nor to suspend our logic or theology but instead be open to what God is saying and doing. Recognise what is a power encounter and what is a counter attack to what God would do.

Jeff, Australian Overseas Mission Board Executive Director, led a team of John Liu, Conference Chairman of Vanuatu, and Pekene Zarata, Conference Chairman of Papua New Guinea. Together they shared as a witness and first-hand participant respectively to the experience of revival. The 1980s have witnessed an explosion of Churches of Christ in both these countries.

Jeff May

"Revival is God at work. It must happen in us before it happens with us. Revival occurs at the impetus of God. There are prerequisites without which revival won't happen: faithfulness to the Word of God and the God of the Word, prayer that recognises we do what we can do and God does what we can't do, unquestioning obedience, risking what we are and where we are and being prepared to change. In God's time revival comes: kairos not chronos, right time not our time."

John Liu

"Pastors are too intellectual, too efficient. We don't need God and see no need for revival. We are OK. Yet only as we reach the point of our own incompetency and face our own anxiety, lust, fear and masks can God help us. Then we call prayer meetings, not business meetings. We read the Bible first not books or seminars. We go to God, not other people. We don't make revival. It's

God's job. We simply distribute heavenly blessing."

Pekene Zarata

"You don't water your flowers in the wet season. God knows your dryness. God will water you. Revival brings different problems, problems you wouldn't want. The power encounter between God and Satan, the Holy Spirit and sorcery is real. So count the cost. Be willing to learn. Humble yourselves, become like the Master and experience his power. Discover indigenous worship."

Revival

As President of the Minister's Fraternal, the issues were clearly confirmed for me. First, revival is sovereign yet scary. As disciples, we must face our disapproval and disbelief at how God chooses to work. Next, revival is rediscovering the obvious: prayer, repentance, brokenness, forgiveness, obedience and faithfulness. We need a priority on a living dialogue with God that transcends our quest for letters and degrees. Lastly, revival is being a people of faith. Seeing the unseen. Is the best wine being kept till last? Is an Australian revival on the way?

The diminutive Pekene and soft articulations of John remind me of another person. Unlike the lawyers, teachers and religious orthodoxy, Jesus taught with authority and the ordinary people heard him gladly. Pekene, John and Jeff ministered with an authority, power and laughter that was unmistakable. At last partnership in mission is a reality.

—Geoff Charles

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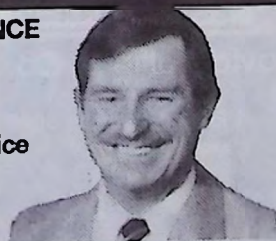
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Friebels at Chungribu

John and Evelyn Friebel, after completing the six-month administration course in Teacher Training in Pt. Moresby are settling into the work on our mission station at Chungribu. John is a graduate of Kenmore Christian College and Evelyn is a nurse.

In a recent letter the Friebels give some of their first impressions: "We made it. Our trip was uneventful although the start was very hot as the Fokker had been waiting in the sun all morning with no air conditioning until the engines start. It was almost unbearable and we wondered how Helen, the baby, would take it. But things soon cooled down and Helen slept.

At Lae we went on across the rich Markham River valley to Madang...

We spent Wednesday in Madang shopping and opening accounts under the guidance of Geoff and Marie [Harrison]. On Thursday lunch-time Geoff took us out to the airport again where we boarded our M.A.F. Cessna 205. My size (6' 4½") made things difficult, but I managed to twist around and sit down beside the pilot.

In about half an hour we surveyed the Ramu and Chungribu after a good flight which revealed even more of the ruggedness and jungle of New Guinea. This ruggedness has to be seen to be comprehended as 60 to 80 degree slopes abound.

Back at Chungribu on the Ramu lowlands our M.A.F. plane landed. Flies and heat abounded as we met our fellow workers, Noela Mobbs and Diana Catts...

As anticipated, mosquitoes were bad but will be worse in the wet season — this is still the dry. During the dry it rains about once a week as a rule. I spent the first week unpacking and getting organised and commenced teaching on Sept. 7.

Diana Catts has Standards 5 and 6 in the class room next door...

We have had quite a few visitors so far...The field chairman, Aileen Draney, spent a week with us to discuss the work and problems we might encounter. Margaret Horne, a nurse from N.S.W. and new missionary, came with her. Bett, Graeme and John Sonsie...have also paid a visit.

So far we have been very busy. There is so much to learn, so many new things to learn about, customs, culture, and language...

—*The Australian Christian*, 14 November 1970

OMB
Overseas Mission Board

Classifieds

BIRTHS

BALL (BATCHELOR) Wendy and Andrew are happy to announce the birth of their daughter (Madeleine Eve) on 14 October at the Moorabbin Birthing Centre.

JONES (WARMBRUNN) Ray and Jenny are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Emily Frances at Knox Private Hospital on Saturday, 19 October. Both very well. Sister to Daniel and Evan.

MARRIAGES

MARSH—KING On 2 November 1991 at 4 pm at the Nunawading Church of Christ, Mitcham, Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Jean King of Mitcham and Tom King, Kyneton, to Andrew, elder son of Wendy and Kevin Marsh, Donvale.

RUBY WEDDINGS

LACY—BULLER Keith and Bette praise God for 40 wonderful years together. Married Bendigo Church of Christ, 17 November 1951. Congratulations Mum and Dad. Love Jeanette and Paul, Graeme and Francine.

THANK YOU

WATERS Thank you to everyone who sent flowers, cards, telephone calls and good wishes on the occasion of my 90th birthday. They were greatly appreciated. Em Waters, Footscray.

IN MEMORIAM

SAUNDERS Kathleen Estelle, dearly loved wife of Dick (W.W.), devoted mother of Valerie and Brian (both deceased 1.6.52); received the "crown of life" 29.10.90. "There is no death"—she lives with God, in glad reunion with Val and Brian, and in the hearts of all who knew and loved her. Greatly missed.

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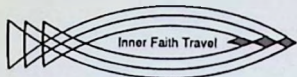
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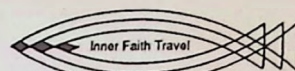
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Comment

The recent discussions concerning such issues as—

- our historical roots and their relevance for today and tomorrow,

- the need for us to be an Australian church and thus communicate and present in ways that are heard in our society,

- the relative merits of different styles of worship,

- the place of "church growth" principles,

- the merits of various leadership styles

are mostly very constructive. It is important that we continue to consider these issues.

I want to raise another area for discussion. It relates to the work that is done by conferences on behalf of groups of co-operating churches, i.e. in states, territories and the nation. As Churches of Christ in Australia we have organised ourselves on the basis that there are some ministries that are most efficiently and effectively operated by a conference of churches rather than an individual local church. These structures also enable us to express the reality and authenticity of the Christian church that is beyond our own local church.

We have a "federation"-type organisational pattern, with a National Conference and state/territory conferences. The National Conference as defined by its stated aims is a conference of churches and of state/territory conferences. As indicated specifically by most of the constitutions (National, state and territory) these conferences are primarily groups of voluntarily co-operating local churches. They are networks that are loosely organised to enhance specific areas of ministry. The primary unit of operation is the local church.

• *Is the present system appropriate?*

Which Way Conference?

by Keith Farmer

May I suggest that there are two specific areas that we should be questioning?

- Is the federal system the most appropriate for now and for the future? As a nation we are wrestling with these issues. We realise that it is not efficient to have state-defined education systems, railway systems etc. The great increase in communication and travel capacity with the resultant lessening of the strategic importance of boundaries, e.g. state, may mean that the previously practicable organisation pattern needs to be superseded. We may be able to leave some of the less positive parts of our history (both nationally and as Churches of Christ) behind if we accept that the best way for us to think for the future is in national terms. It appears to me that there has not been a time in our church's recent history (the last 30 years) when the interstate/territory differences have been less or when the mutual respect for those working in other states/territories has been higher. Already there are several nationwide or near-nationwide networks that have arisen or are arising because of the above factors, e.g. networking of youth ministry resources, "senior ministers" network, regular consultation between the three theological colleges.

- Do we need to re-establish that the essential nature of conference structures should be as loosely organised networks of co-operating churches? The

normal tendency is for organisations to become gradually more centralist and bureaucratic. I believe that to some extent this has happened within Churches of Christ conferences. It appears that with these tendencies there is also the likelihood that a hierarchical idea will be inherent, i.e. those who work within the conference structures call the shots, they and their committees devise programs or emphases which are then to be implemented in the local churches. In recent months, within New South Wales those of us who work with conference structures have had reflected to us by representatives of a sample of local churches that conference departments are seen to be out of touch. We have needed to reaffirm that the local church is central to our emphasis. This does not deny the need for us to work together by accepting some responsibility for one another, particularly for the smaller and weaker churches. It accepts that within Churches of Christ effectiveness and viability of local congregations is the key factor and that this depends mostly on the resources within the local church.

In case you feel that some or all of the above is rather naive, I believe historically it is the ethos of our movement. It also is, coincidentally, in harmony with quite a strong school of modern management theory, e.g. Tom Peters *Thriving on Chaos, Handbook for a Management Revolution*, which es-

pouses flatter organisational charts with people who are "local" having considerable responsibility, thus allowing flexibility and less lag time before reacting to change.

It may appear that there is a contradiction between my responses to the two questions. I am not advocating a centralist system: rather one that networks on the most constructive basis. I am advocating that the local church is the place where what is effective is most clearly seen and that there should be networking structures for the facilitation of those effective ministries to other relevant situations. Thus conference structures would have a co-ordination and facilitation emphasis with those people who have something to offer to the wider church being encouraged and maybe even "contracted" to communicate and facilitate that ministry elsewhere.

The capacity to recapture the nature of a "movement" depends to some extent on us structuring ourselves in the most efficient and flexible way.

• *Keith Farmer is the Principal of the Churches of Christ in NSW Theological College.*

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• Leadership from a Biblical perspective

Collective Leadership

by Bruce McIntosh

Because the Bible was written over hundreds of years by persons of differing value systems and in differing socio-religious environments, it contains differing leadership styles, including the two principal styles: autocratic (single-person driven) and democratic (people-driven—*demos* meaning people). Sometimes both styles are attributed to the same person, e.g. Moses, by different writers.

Democratic values which can be traced back to ancient Mesopotamia¹ are expressed in the Bible in such terms as justice, equality, freedom, fellowship and community. All these words are found in ancient secular writings on the rule of the people.² The most important term is the assembly of the people (*edah/kahal*—Hebrew and *ekklesia*—Greek), which expresses the collective (consensus) decision making of the people with their appointed leaders (judges/elders).³

God and His People

The covenants are agreements between God and his people. The Old Covenant, according to one writer, "was made, not with the leaders or Moses, or the royal family, but direct with the people. The people chose their leaders and empowered them, and no priest, leader or king could claim permanent status over God's people."⁴ One of the most moving scenes in the Old Testament is that of the "great assembly" responding to the renewal of the Covenant. (Nehemiah 8-10)

When the people finally decide they want a king "like other nations", even against the advice of Samuel and the warning of God about the oppressive and dictatorial ways of autocrats, God accepts their decision. (1 Samuel 8) (It was not unknown for Greek democracies to retain the office of king (*baseus*) elected by the people.)

The prophets fiercely opposed oppressive rulers, and they supported the people's struggle for freedom and justice. (Micah 3)

Democracies, ancient and modern are born out of the struggle of the people for justice and equity.

Jesus and the People

Jesus' declaration in the synagogue at Nazareth at the beginning of his ministry identifies his cause with that of the people (Luke 4), and his very public act of clearing the Temple of the money changers at the close of his ministry places him in conflict with the rules of his day. In the eyes of one modern writer, this was "the high-water mark of his democratic appeal"⁵

Jesus even appears to question the restoration of the kingdom of David (Matthew 22:35-45). The Good News Version has Jesus declaring that no one is to be "called leader". (Matthew 23:10) On one occasion, Jesus makes reference to the people's assembly (translated "church") being involved in settling disputes (Matthew 18:17). Jesus reversed the whole hierarchical order, and called on his disciples to lead by serving, setting the example himself (Luke 22:26-27), and thus the future role of Christian ministry as service rather than organisational leadership. (Romans 12)

The Early Church as Collective Decision Makers

Collectivism and commonality were hallmarks of the early Christian community (Acts 2:43-47), and its choice of the title *ekklesia* (people's assembly), over other possible titles, clearly shows the intent of the believers to establish a community of equals. They chose Judas' successor, Matthias, by casting lots (Acts 1:12-26), which was the normal method of selecting spokespersons in the people's assemblies. At the first "great assembly" of the

early church, the question of the status of the Gentile converts was settled by a decision of the whole assembly (Acts 15:22), having already used this process in selecting the seven deacons (Acts 6:5), the apostles acting in both cases as facilitators.

Ministry in the early church was collective. There was no single ministry. All the church were ministers (servants/*diakonoi*)⁶, but there were special ministries, which Paul also regarded as equals (1 Corinthians 12). Both men and women shared in these ministries.⁷ These special ministries he regarded as existing to support the ministry of the whole church (Ephesians 4:11-13). While some assemblies appointed overseers (*presbuteroi/episcopoi*), and writers called on their readers to "submit" to their overseers' authority on doctrinal matters (due to growing heresies), assemblies founded by Paul were almost free of oversight, relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit.⁸

Towards the end of the first century a more definitive localised ministry began to emerge (deacons and elders), and a more conservative attitude was adopted concerning charismatic leaders, and women in leadership roles.⁹ It was not until late in the second century that monarchical bishops emerged, and the all-male hierarchical leadership finally took shape in the form of bishops (*episcopoi*), priests (*presbuteroi*) and deacons (*diakonoi*).

The Vision of a Non-Hierarchical Future

However, the vision of the new Jerusalem in Revelation remains non-hierarchical. The writer emphasises the great theme in the Bible: that of the direct relationship between

God and his people (Revelation 21). The writer of the letter to the Hebrews, and the writer of 1 Peter maintain the same theme. (Hebrews 10:1; Peter 2)

This theme was taken up, in part, by the Reformers, and more fully by the founders of Churches of Christ in their concept of mutual ministry, and the priesthood of all believers.

This is our history, our ethos, and with the world turning back to democratic values, our real contribution to the future ecumenical church.

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• Bruce McIntosh graduated from the College of the Bible in 1957 and after ministries with Chadstone and Shepparton congregations, became a Personnel Officer. He is currently the Manager, Human Resources, with the Shire of Lillydale. His membership is with the Boronia, Vic church.

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Comment

Churches of Christ came into being with the proclaimed intention of being an agent for uniting a divided Christendom. Campbell's words that the church of Jesus Christ on earth is essentially, intentionally and institutionally one have been one of our motivating forces. Our "raison d'être" has been to make visible the unity of the church.

In talking about Christian unity we need to remind ourselves that it is not our task to unite the church; it is already one; it is the body of Christ. That the given unity has been disrupted and hidden does not alter the fact that Christ has given to us but one Church. It follows that as Christians committed to Christian unity it is our responsibility to take every opportunity we can to express that unity in visible form.

Such unity can be seen when Christians share in a common confession of the faith of the New Testament church, an acceptance of baptism as witness to that confession, a celebration of the Lord's Supper as an expression of fellowship with the sufferings of Christ and our Christian sisters and brothers, a common life in which our gifts and ministries are recog-

• ***"The purpose of the church is to unite people with Christ in the power of the Spirit, to manifest communion in prayer and action and thus to point to the fullness of communion with God, humanity and the whole creation."***
(WCC 7th Assembly)

Unity Made Visible

by Trevor Banks

nised and brought together, a common mission of witness to all people concerning God's grace and a common service to a world in need.

The unity so expressed will be made visible in number of ways. One of the visible signs of unity is seen in joint parishes, as exist at Churchill, Vic, Dareton, NSW, Dulwich-Rose Park, SA, and other places. People who are committed to Christian unity rejoice in these ventures, while recognising that they are incomplete expressions of unity. Fragile and defective they may be, but as signs of the unity that one day will be complete they are invaluable.

Other signs of visible unity are seen in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, dialogues between denominations and inter-church councils. Such

signs, along with joint parishes, challenge our concept of church. Ecclesiology has not had a high profile in Churches of Christ. While we have fought strongly for "the autonomy of the local congregation" we have done so with little thought to the theology involved. The result is that our conferences have become free associations of independent congregations rather than expressions of the Body of Christ. Our emphasis on the local congregation has weakened our concept of the church. If the church is essentially, intentionally and constitutionally one, where is this church to be found? It is to be found wherever there are those who have responded to God's saving act in Christ Jesus. The church is therefore universal, and the Great Commission is

not only a call to evangelism but also a theological statement of Christ's intention to have a universal church.

Churches of Christ have expressed and celebrated their place in the universal church by their ready involvement in joint parishes, inter-church councils etc. It is true that some of our people have rejected such involvement but it is important that we resist the position of those who oppose and speak against these activities. Our integrity as a Christian movement is at stake in these matters. To deny us our participation in various joint ventures is to deny our heritage. More than that, it tests our obedience to Christ, for he who has called us to salvation is the same one who prays for unity "that the world might believe".

Let us therefore reaffirm the witness which visible expressions of unity make to the Gospel and at all times be open to the Spirit who would lead us into new ventures in Christian unity.

• *Trevor Banks is the chairman of the Department of Christian Union. He wrote this article in response to the letter by Bruce Burn in the 20 July issue, "Rampant Denominationalism".*

I find I grow spiritually in inverse proportion to the growth of my ego. When I am proud of myself and what I have done, I am less aware of God; when I know how much I need his grace and power, then I am closer to him.

Self-esteem is important to mental health, we are constantly reminded. However, this should not mean that I ought to be so sure of myself, so confident of my rightness or ability that others find me intolerable. Rather, healthy self-esteem is the product of being "in Christ"—accepted as I am, yet motivated by his loving Spirit to become more like him.

For a long time I knew theoretically the truth of salvation by grace, but at the same time I was working like crazy to achieve things and to be some-

• Growing Spiritually

Childlike, Not Childish

by Neville Moore

thing for God. Now I realise that the secret is not to make something of myself, but to rejoice in what the Lord has done for me and to glorify him.

Now I see in a new light what the words of Jesus about children meant in Mark 10:13-17. Why does the Kingdom of God belong to children? Why is it that "whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it"?

I used to think that it meant cultivating the virtues of children, which I listed as humil-

ity, innocence, frankness, sincerity, love, trust and other qualities. Then I had a family of my own and discovered that children only display such virtues on rare occasions. Most of the time they are entirely self-centred, demanding, manipulating, argumentative and full of their own importance!

In fact Jesus was teaching the opposite of making something of ourselves, even by cultivating virtues!

Nothing we do or are can make us whole or better per-

sons. We are only acceptable to God because of the work he does in and for us. Children, especially the children of those days, were completely powerless, poor, utterly dependent and grateful for whatever gifts they received.

That's the point! We can only receive the Kingdom. We cannot force it or manipulate it by our power or authority. We are powerless but for the grace of God.

Of course we count for something great in the mind and mission of God, but not because of what we do or make of ourselves. We count only when he makes something of us! To realise this is to be a growing child of God.

• *Neville Moore is the minister at the Brighton, SA, church.*

A Church ABC

Hampstead Gardens is on the north-east side of Adelaide, SA, approximately 10 minutes drive from the city.

It is a beautiful and peaceful suburb, mainly settled in the post-war years. The church had

The tennis courts are also used as a carpark.

Currently there are about 130 members. Meaningful worship and effective community involvement combined with a caring ministry are the keys to growth at Hampstead Gardens

There are 70-80 communicants at this service. An evening service attracts 40-50 and presents a smorgasbord of formats and themes. All three services have proved to be avenues for growth in attendance.

On the community involve-

ment side of things, there always seems to be something happening at Hampstead Gardens. The church has become well known in the community for its two playgroup sessions (part of a community network that includes the government's Children and Family Health Service and the local primary school), its "Bright Spot" craft and activity centre that attracts over 100 participants every Wednesday morning (and includes a creche for the children of participants) and its weekly English-language classes for people with a non-English-speaking background. These activities are supported by others: a fortnightly men's indoor bowls group, a monthly friend-

ship centre, men's and women's fellowships and a small but growing youth group. On the spiritual and pastoral side there are a KYB group, a mission prayer group, a prayer circle, which meets in conjunction with "Bright Spot", a pas-



Focus on Hampstead Gardens

its beginnings then when a number of people met in the home of Neville and Glenda Coombe (who are still in membership) in neighbouring Broadview, under the guidance of Eric Hollard.

Shortly after a corner site was acquired on which the church now stands.

Hampstead Gardens Church of Christ has a modest and practical building that is multifunctional, comprising a chapel with seating for 160, a hall and a meeting room. In the 70s the house next door was purchased and this is used as a community centre, with space for the minister's office. The manse and two tennis courts are situated across the road.

as the members seek to minister to the northern and north-eastern suburbs of Adelaide.

Diversity in worship is a feature of the Sunday program. The chapel was carpeted recently and fitted with comfortable and flexible seating. This is ideal for the 9.30 am family service, a service linked to the Sunday School program and directed towards young families, who are now moving into the area. This service attracts 40-50 adults plus children, and offers informality, bright singing and group discussion. Because of the limited size of the chapel there are two morning services. The second service is held at 11 am and follows a traditional worship format.

ment side of things, there always seems to be something happening at Hampstead Gardens. The church has become well known in the community for its two playgroup sessions (part of a community network that includes the government's Children and Family Health Service and the local primary school), its "Bright Spot" craft and activity centre that attracts over 100 participants every Wednesday morning (and includes a creche for the children of participants) and its weekly English-language classes for people with a non-English-speaking background. These activities are supported by others: a fortnightly men's indoor bowls group, a monthly friend-

toral care team, a 40-member prayer network and the occasional series of Bible studies meeting in homes.

The church has worked hard to develop a sense of family, both within the church and in a range of fellowship activities—"bring and share" lunches, barbecues etc.—which has created a sense of friendship, warmth and grace among members and helps welcome new people.

The minister at Hampstead Gardens is Keith Ridge, a biased South Australian who "spent four years in exile at the College of the Bible" before graduating in 1983 and returning to SA to minister at Croydon.

Hampstead Gardens is his second church and he began there in 1989. Before going into the ministry from Port Pirie Keith spent 15 years as an insurance company representative. He is married to Wendy and they have three children. Keith is a member of the Effective Church Development Consultative Team, which assists in leading churches through the Callahan 12-keys planning process.

The future for Hampstead Gardens is quite optimistic. Within the next decade the government plans to release land in the Northfield area, approximately 5 km from the church, to house 15,000 people and has an urban renewal program in neighbouring Hillcrest. Recently the church used the 12-keys approach to gear itself up to take advantage of these developments and to be even more effective in its ministry and outreach.



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Personal

Baptisms

•Melinda Smith, Noel & Pam Abrahams, Ann St, Brisbane, Qld
•Wally Stevens, Daniel Xu, Perth City, WA •Mike Mallis, Brownyn Young, Barbara Harrison, Dianne Birch, Kate Simkovic, Stuart Dudfield, South Perth, WA
•Christopher Biden, Coral Witt, David Bust, Bundaberg, Qld
•Nicola Gregory, Raymond Barry, Pine Rivers, Qld •Jodie Dickfos, Miranda Mason, Ted Carlsson, Susan Pearce, Jason Pearce, Lyn Rogers, Harlaxton, Toowoomba, Qld •Heather Mackay, Rachel Coveney, Balaklava, SA •Erina Weil, Phyllis Hilton, Tammy Lockhart, Neville O'Neil, Kedron, Qld •Ian Rasmussen, Paul Stockwell, Annerley, Qld •Joel McElveney, Epping, NSW

Marriages

•Bronwyn Thane to John Vaughan, Carolyn Thane to David Vaughan, Dandenong, Vic

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Christian College with
Kenmore Church of Christ
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Kenmore
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8 am Good Friday and
Christmas Day*

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

Deaths

•Jean Lillicrap (nee Yelland), Perth City, WA •Sam Gordon, Ainslie, ACT •Ettie Berryman, Hartwell, Vic
•Mrs Elsie May Staley, Carnegie, Vic •Ruby Quinan, Margaret Willis, Epping, NSW

Changes

Nowitzke, B.M.—4 Etty Street, Dalby, Qld 4405. Phone (076) 62 2677.

Berwick Regional Church of Christ: Offices and administration will be located at 432 Centre Road, Berwick, Vic. Worship services in new complex will be at 10 am and 7 pm. Phone (03) 702 1011. Fax (03) 702 1217. Postal address (unchanged) PO Box 75, Berwick, Vic 3806.

Black Forest: Secretary—Rollo Teague, 44A East Avenue, Black Forest, SA 5035. Phone (08) 323 0021.

Dandenong: Secretary—Hazel Booth. Correspondence to Dandenong Church of Christ, 139-151 David Street, Dandenong, Vic 3175. Home phone (03) 704 7453.

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.
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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



CHURCHES OF CHRIST THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

GRADUATION & ORDINATION

SERVICES

FRIDAY
22 NOVEMBER 1991
7.30 PM

BLACKMAN HALL
HAWTHORN INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
442 AUBURN ROAD, HAWTHORN

There are two carparks, which are entered off Woodburn Road
An offering to help defray expenses will be taken



Uniting Church in Australia Parish of Bairnsdale (Vic) PART-TIME OUTREACH WORKER

Applications are invited for the position of a part-time Outreach Worker in the Parish. The main area of focus is in Paynesville and surrounding district on the Gippsland Lakes.

The position is open to a lay or ordained person for a period of three (3) years. Allowances include—salary, travel, phone, book and generous housing assistance. The appointed person will be a member of the Parish Ministry Team.

Further details can be obtained from
Mr John Butler (051) 56 9342 (H)
(051) 52 2602 (BH)

APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 29 November 1991

Wanted for Overseas Service

School Teacher/Administrator

The Overseas Mission Board
is seeking applicants for the positions of
Teacher

Ranwadi High School

Principal

Londua Training School

Both schools are co-educational boarding schools
with about 140 students. Both are in Vanuatu.

For more information:

Mr J. May, PO Box 320, Unley SA 5061
Phone (08) 271 3620

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Killmier, Ernest Raymond (16.10.91) Born 29.3.94 in Wolsley, SA, Dr Killmier followed Christ from childhood till he died. He attended the College of the Bible and the University of Melbourne from 1914 to 1923, qualifying as a medical missionary. In 1923 he married Gladys Mudford in Kunming, China, then established medical mission work in Hueli Chow, Sezechwan Province. War forced the missionaries home in 1928. There followed medical practices in Trentham for three years and Thornbury for 59 years, with a close association with the Thornbury, Vic, church as elder, organist and occasional preacher. He was Confer-

ence President in 1970. His stand on Biblical authority will long be remembered. —R. Killmier

Mclvor, Lillian Kate Lillian Tucker, the youngest of seven children born to Ambrose and Ellen Tucker, had a lifetime association with the church. Baptised and married in the Hawthorn, Vic, church, she also served her Lord at the Hartwell and Camberwell churches. An enthusiastic member of the church, the choir, the WCTU and the Orange Lodge, she is remembered for her practical faith and loyalty. After loss of memory, she died peacefully at Will H. Clay Nursing Home, aged 90. A memorial service was held at the Camberwell church on 14 October.

—Jack McCormick

NSW

BATEMANS BAY (John Inman) Since inaugural service (2 June) attendances have averaged 15 ... 22 Sept we moved service from 3 pm to 9.15 am. This will see an increase in attendance ... 29 Sept two rededicated their lives ... Sunday, 1 December, will see in the waters of Batemans Bay the first baptism for the Bay Church of Christ ... Mid-week Bible study studying Mark's Gospel. 10 attend.

MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins) PSA taken by Richard & Shirley Pearce ... David Porter, psychologist, spoke on submission ... Endless Praise gave great midweek concert ... Church represented on Newcastle Mattara festival grand parade along with 17 others ... Film "Bamboo in Winter" screened by Open Doors Ministry ... Rev Eustacio Enriques from the Philippines & Dr Hans Braun from Germany recent speakers.

EPHING (S. Curpatrick, D. Moyes, J. Lee, J. Han) Recent dedication of building renovations ... Cumarasamy family welcomed into membership ... Joel McElveney baptised ... Kevin Crawford & Lester Sutton to join team ministry after Stephen Curpatrick goes to Brighton, SA ... Ruby Quinan & Margaret Willis passed away recently.

Qld

ANN ST, BRISBANE (S.C. England) New minister, Bill Flett, appointed for next three years ... Children's talk regular aspect of morning service ... Bible School taking part during holiday services ... Stephanie Watson, daughter of David & Gillian, dedicated & congratulations to Greg, Roslyn &

Andrew McLane on the birth of Ashleigh Kate.

BUNDABERG (Alan Leane) End of 68th year reveals steady solid growth ... Three added Sept ... Grace Pohle appointed musical director ... Alan Leane gave devotions Bundaberg camp Bible Society Bikes for Bibles dinner ... "Bundaberg City for Christ" prayer seminar combined churches led by Allan Cunningham. Speaker opening session Alan Leane ... John Liu, Vanuatu, three days Bundaberg tracing footsteps forebears. Mother born Bundaberg ... Bright youth service 20 October.

PINE RIVERS (Neale Proellocks, Ian Todd) Redcliffe & Pine Rivers churches combined on bus trip to Toowoomba gardens ... Church saddened death of Harold Finger & Thelma Cornwell's mother ... Church involved in State Conference ... Two of our ladies on QCWF Executive. Julia Flood QCWF President, Robyn Heath Treasurer ... Ministers & Flood family shared in Spring Conference at Wollongong ... Teenagers Jodie, Paul & David Hatch baptised in evening service.

HARLAXTON (Daryl Thorpe) 47 enjoyed bus safari to Kakadu, sixth safari to be organised ... Kid's Choir commenced for children up to 13 years ... Concert given by musical group "Family" ... Barry Goode, author *Too Tough for Tears*, shared in week of meetings at church & Westbrook Training Centre. Many responded to challenge given ... David Lowe & Arthur Thurrowgood shared in music seminars in Vanuatu over two weeks ... Missionary weekend with Jill & Roger Bawden planned November.

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (Brian Mee, Phil Kerr) Baptism in next-door neighbour's spa,

two baptised. 60 crammed into manse for tea & meeting led by student minister Phil Kerr ... Setting aside of three new elders, Norbert Lutje, Alan Buckingham & Peter Murphy, with Hilton Renison make eldership largest it has been ... Elders meet weekly Monday afternoons for prayer & discuss pastoral matters ... Father's Day eve dinner saw men cook & serve magnificent meal for ladies.

KEDRON (Noel Baxter) On 13 October Erina Weil baptised. Erina's mother & father were baptised at Kedron, her grandparents have been worshipping at Kedron for many, many years ... On 27 October Phyllis Hilton & granddaughter Tammy Lockhart with Tammy's friend Neville will also be baptised ... Youth group continues to grow thanks to Andrew Barnes, Noel Baxter & Graham Politsch.

ANNERLEY (Richard Pearce) A great evening service with John Liu (Vanuatu), Pekene Zarata (PNG) & David Rowe (New Tribes pilot PNG). Highlight was elder Bob Dewar & Pekene singing in Pidgin ... Andrew & Barbara Wojtas received into fellowship from Swanston St ... Women's World Community Day held at Annerley church with an excellent message from our own Glynthia Finger.

SA

MURRAY BRIDGE (Morrie Munyard) Marriage celebration program finalised with guest service ... New format of worship & evening services received with enthusiasm. Members given opportunity to use their musical talents ... CWF celebrated their 77th birthday. Clarice Wallage was guest speaker ... Contact is being made with parents of Kids Club & Sunday School children, these being invited to special showing & studies on video film "Jesus" ... Family tea meetings on alternate Sundays.

BALAKLAVA (Graham Lawrie) Church camp held at Tanunda over holiday weekend ... Bible Sunday celebrated with visit from Jeff Bond ... 90 adults had great fun, food & friendship at dinner organised by youth group ... Effective Church Development meetings held with Ron Roberts ... Dolly Bowden & Richard May recovering well from heart surgery ... Jeff May renewed old friendships when speaking at 114th church anniversary combined with our 100 year celebration of Overseas Mission.

MAGILL (John Gilmore, David Marr) Church celebrated with John & Robyn Gilmore in June with the safe arrival of Joseph ... Over \$1,200

of food provided to Churches of Christ Community Care as a result of a "Food for Others" focus during August ... New Connexions & Powerpoint in the final stages of rehearsal for their gospel musicals on 24-26 October at the Royalty Theatre.

GOOLWA (Graeme Ritchie) Folk worship service held with Leigh Newton as part of Goolwa's Folk Festival weekend ... Visit from Jim Keatch to help teachers plan youth work ... Saturday morning prayer meetings held at church ... To celebrate Sunday Youth anniversary 50 children paraded as Bible characters ... Women's Fellowship held two fundraising dinners, for under & over 50s ... Christian bookshop back in main street premises after renovations.

WA

PERTH CITY (George Powell) Minister's term extended by further five years ... Church rejoicing with Wally Stevens & Daniel Xu on their baptisms ... Wedding anniversaries honoured at social evening: Graham & Robyn Povey (silver), Jack & Thelma Bridge (gold), Gordon & Elma Ewers (gold) ... Special speakers included Jack & Betty Sewell sharing experiences in Zimbabwe & Zambia & Elaine Kitamura (nee Henderson of North Perth church), missionary to Japan. **SOUTH PERTH** (Bill Gausson, David Stanford) Six young people welcomed into church membership following their recent baptisms ... Colin Beavis farewelled after serving five years as church administrator ... Neville Roediger appointed church secretary ... CWF appreciated visit of Nola Lindsay, Women's Conf Rep for Life in Focus. Boxes of food supplied for welfare ... Ladies visited Joondanna Homes with program & afternoon tea ... Open House held successful garage sale for support of Indian orphans.

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Church News

Vic

WARRNAMBOOL (Peter Broadbent) Home fellowship group numbers increased this year & attendance at childrens program at Neighbourhood House ... Repairs & changes to complex begun, including three meeting rooms one end of hall & prayer room established ... Elders preaching regularly ... Praise night held for SW churches ... Sonny Pillay & Fred & Betty Anderson returned for special services ... Broadbents attended Vineyard Conference in Sydney.

RED CLIFFS (G.R. Sharrad) In September CWF Evening group successful fund-raising luncheon & cruise on Mansell's paddle steamer *Impulse* ... Afternoon group had best-ever luncheon, financially & socially, in Spriggs' extensive garden on 6 October ... Young Marrieds have painted interior of church hall. Same soft blue-grey as kitchen. Evening group providing new curtains.

HARTWELL (G. Rogerson) Service of thanksgiving marked 15th anniversary of the Friendship Group. Presentations to dedicated leaders Len & Thelma Butler. Group has ministered to more than 500 ... Church luncheon to welcome and introduce 26 newcomers ... In-As-Much Fund provides financial assistance to needy in the community ... Family service recognised 15th anniversary of the Playgroup. Past & present members attended.

Presentation to leader Enid Davidson.

DANDENONG (Graeme Foon) Christmas in July was held again with people bringing gifts of food which were given to the Salvation Army ... 24 men attended breakfast held in July ... Mike Esbensen came & spoke to CWF. Once again a large variety of food was given to Kensington Network ... Church has been collecting groceries for CCTC ... Praised God that David Christianson worshipped with us 13 October.

CARNEGIE (Norma Hall) Ronald Braun has accepted invitation to minister at Carnegie in a part-time capacity. Ronald with his wife Kathy will commence his service in February 1992 ... A farewell luncheon was held for Wayne, Cheryl & Jesse who had been meeting with us this year with Wayne as student minister ... Groceries for CCTC student families well supported by members of the CWF.

NORTHCOTE (F.B. Alcorn) 88th anniversary commenced with dinner on previous Saturday followed by old-time program. Sunday's special speaker Conference President Max Carter. His wife Stella (Pres CWF) brought greeting from CWF. There was also a dedication of two babies, Timothy Ratcliffe & Joshua McKee, during service. After lunch a PSA was spent with Greensborough C of C musical group providing the program.

SURREY HILLS (David Brooker, J. Adam) Special Projects fete & of-

fering resulted in \$2,880 to be given to SU Camp Coolamatong & upgrading airstrip at Momonup, PNG ... Frank & Beryl Langford welcomed into membership ... Many visitors at service of dedication & thanksgiving for Jessica & Hanna Wilson & their parents Katrina & Danny ... Following DMED consultation with church members Don Smith brought report & recommendations for consideration by congregation.

NORTH ESSENDON (Graham & Bev Burgan) Approximately 88,000 showbags packed in hall during August-September. Nearby Churches of Christ assisted ... Keilor Road Uniting Church visited for combined service on 6 October. Rev Rob Winter-Smith preached ... Young people conducted service 13 October ... Board meetings have been held regarding Callahan program. Congregational meeting 27 October passed motion on future initiatives.

BELLARINE PENINSULA (Gordon Stirling) The church has engaged Mark Butler, final-year CCTC student, for a student ministry in 1992. Mark & Nicola & their two boys will live in Ocean Grove, Mark travelling to CCTC for lectures. He will spend four weeks with the church from 17 November to 8 December & will continue from 26 January.

THE PATCH (Mike Folland) Robyn, Mark & Matthew Lobbe welcomed into fellowship & new son Thomas dedicated ... Local churches working together, holding general meet-

ing at The Patch for first time ... Minister involved in initiative for home accommodation for local young people ... 13 October lunch held. Church considered new Planned Giving program & is united & enthusiastic in vision for future. 20 Oct 42% increase in giving announced.

RED CLIFFS (G.R. Sharrad) Annual meeting moved from July to October. Officers elected: elders Ian Cook, Leigh Melberg, deacons (half of board) L. Chislett, B. Sprigg, Mrs Sprigg, K. Mansell. After about 20 years as secretary Ivan Cameron has resigned. New secretary Mrs Sprigg ... Super Kids Club Christine Cook. Super Youth Club Alan Dodd ... Bernice Dodd has commenced "Time Out" coffee mornings each Friday.

Tas

LAUNCESTON (R. Foster, C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) CWAFF honoured Lady Mollie Foot on her birthday with "This Is Your Life" program at home of Mr & Mrs J. Piper ... Mock wedding for Building Fund raised over \$780 ... Several decisions & reconsecrations in recent weeks ... Graham Agnew (Marion, SA) held special seminars & two afternoon coffee meetings over three days ... 40 Hour Famine raised over \$300 for World Vision, topped state ... CWAFF new officers C. Heier President, B. Masters Secretary & J. McMaster Treasurer.



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World News

• Learning communication skills

Giving a Kid a Chance

Finally, after years of waiting, 13 year-old Kgosiemang of Botswana has the chance to attend school.

One of 10 children living in a hut of scavenged blocks and corrugated iron, Kgosiemang has had a rough start in life. At two years of age he contracted an inflammation of the middle ear. As his parents were unable to get help for him, Kgosiemang lost his hearing and the ability to communicate freely with his family.

But now Kgosiemang is learning basic communication skills at the Francistown School for the Deaf, which is supported by Christian Blind Mission International. Soon he hopes to learn a trade by which he can support himself.

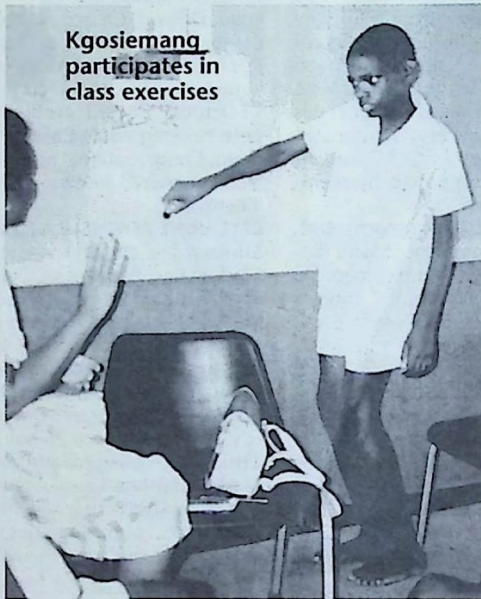
In the less-fortunate countries the general lack of education hits disabled children particularly hard. Only a few have the opportunity to attend a school that is specially geared for their disability.

CBMI supports 72 schools for the deaf in developing countries. Its aim is to teach people with hearing disabilities better communication. Towards this end, CBMI co-workers in Botswana teach students Total Communication—a system of education that incorporates lip reading, oral speech and sign language.

This way the deaf individual develops the means to communicate with hearing people, while learning to express him or herself more freely through sign language.

Christian Blind Mission International is an interdenominational fellowship of committed Christians dedicated to serving the blind and disabled in the developing world, irrespective of nationality, race, sex or religion.

Kgosiemang participates in class exercises



The Last Word

God's promises are like the stars: the darker the night, the brighter they shine.

—David Nicholas

Success doesn't always go to our head. More often it goes to our mouths instead!

The children insisted on serving the tea when their parents were entertaining friends. After a long, long delay the tea arrived, and as the children were handing the cups around they were asked: "What took you so long, dears?"

"Oh, we looked everywhere, but we couldn't find the tea strainer," they said.

"Well, it seems to be strained all right."

"Yes, we used the fly swat."

Kenneth Newton was the minister of the Villa Park, Illinois, Christian Church, a member church of the Disciples of Christ. He admits he has been called by a number of incorrect names through the years. He once received a mailing from a computerised fund raiser sent to "Mr Disciples O. Christ". The greeting read: "Dear Mr Christ".

Two millionaires were talking in their club. "You know," said one, "I bought myself a new Ferrari last week because the wind-screen on the old one was dirty."

"That's nothing," said the other, "I bought a new Rolls Royce the other day because the old one was facing the wrong way."

"Quick!" yelled the doctor. "My bag! A fellow just rang up and said he couldn't live without me!"

"Daddy," said his daughter, "I think that call was for me."

Boss: "Why did you leave your last job?"

Prospective employee: "Because of illness."

Boss: "Illness?"

Prospective employee: "Yes, everybody around the place said they were sick of me."

Two people were walking along a railway line in the dark. "Say," said one. "These stairs are a long way apart." "I don't know about the stairs," said the other, "But these bannisters sure are low."



All together now, "Rain, rain, go away, come again another day..."

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