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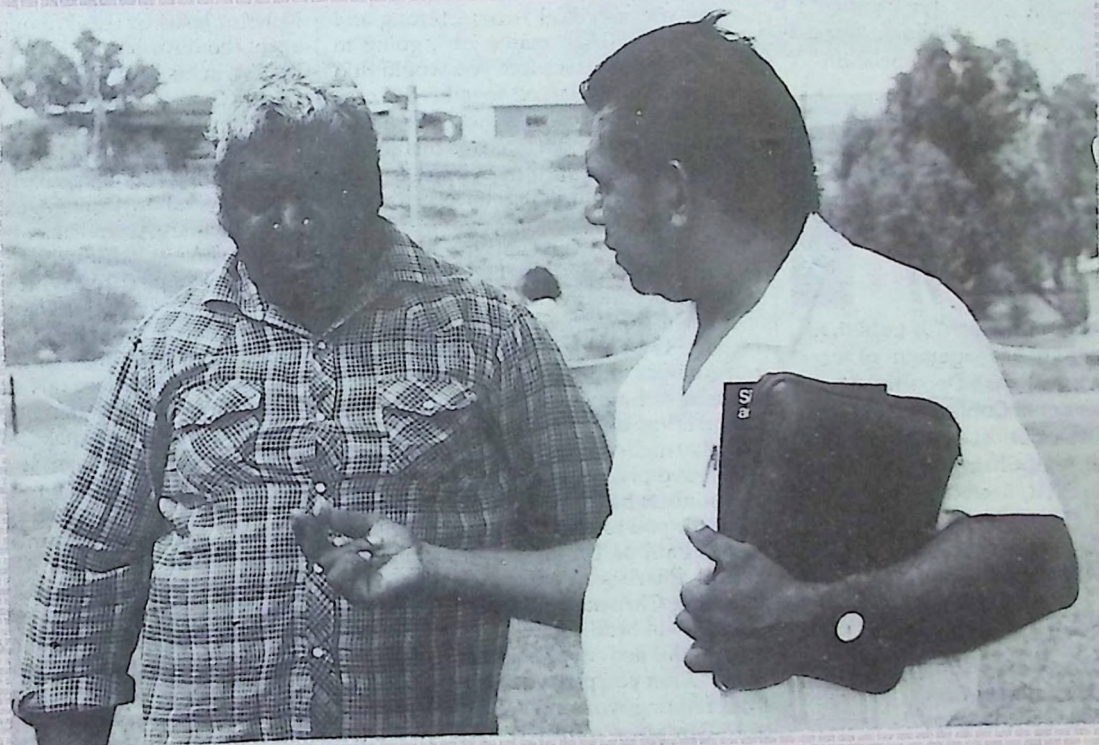
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Len Wallam

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2 March 1991

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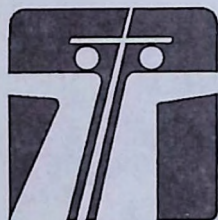
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Guest Editorial

• Witnessing to the Australian society

Staying Close and Being a Good Odour

by Geoffrey Risson

Several years ago now, my family and I went to a barbecue to share an evening meal with a family we had only recently met. The wife of this family had just become a Christian and I had very recently baptised her. We were just sharing a meal so we could get to know each other as families, and a barbecue was comfortable ground for the husband to meet us!

And I guess you could say he was a typical Aussie. Strong and muscular, with a "man's job", going to church was the last place you would find him. And as we talked together by ourselves over the cooking meat, for a moment I was amazed! Here was this strong bronzed Aussie, who didn't appear to have any religion in him, being concerned about his life and Christ coming again! To meet him initially one would not write him down as a good "prospect" to become a Christian (but eventually he did).

But we should expect such people to respond to becoming a Christian. Let me put Ananias and Paul from Acts 9 into a modern setting. Your church where you attend is into door-to-door witnessing. It's Tuesday night again and you are one of the five brave people who have fronted up. The minister hands you your two prospect cards for you to visit that night. Card one reads "Paul of Tarsus. Educated and fanatical Pharisee. Presently engaged in throwing Christians into prison. Last report of Paul heading for Damascus to engage in this activity. Rabid hater of Christians." After you pick yourself off the floor from fainting, you engage in violent protest with your minister! "Are you kidding!? This guy—you want me to go and speak to him!? You have got to be crazy!" And that is the last night you turn up to go door-to-door witnessing! But sometimes those we put into the too-hard basket are those who become strong followers of Christ.

Australians Are In the "Too-hard" Basket

At least that is what we typically think. I can still recall being at an evangelistic training seminar run by a national evangelistic association. There a national church



leader stated his belief that Australians were hard to win to being followers of Jesus Christ. There is some truth in that, but I wonder if part of the problem of the "hard-to-win syndrome" lies at the church's end. Maybe our way of doing things in church life, maybe the way we have built up institutions around the Good News of Jesus Christ and equate these with being Christian hinder our sharing in a successful way the Good

News of Jesus Christ. We ought to think again about Aussies and the Gospel. Peter Kaldor, in his book *Who Goes Where? Who Doesn't Care?* informs us that "one-third of the population were privately religious—considering themselves to be religious but not attending church regularly" (page 37). One observation from that comment is surely there are Australians who have some desire to know God, but they haven't gone to church as a place to have these religious desires actualised. Others have addressed this question at length in recent years, but by and large the church has failed to think and then move to close this gap.

And if we think that the national characteristics of Australians make them too hard to win to Christ, I suggest we need to rethink our theology in relation to the Aussie. For as I understand Paul's words in Acts 17, we are as we are in our character in this nation so we will reach out and know God! "From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each of us." (Acts 17:26,27)

Note what this is saying. One: God has determined in his sovereignty the place for a nation and its people (and this includes its own peculiar characteristics). Two: And the reason for this is so from what we are as a people/nation we might seek God. One question we ought to be asking is therefore this: "What is there about the characteristics of the Aussie that the Gospel is the answer for? What is the bridge from the Gospel of Christ to the people who live around us?"

So how do we bridge between what we are today, as a church and non-church people around us? There are several important principles I could mention but I shall emphasise one important Biblical principle that is relevant to my discussion here.

Perfume and the Good News

There is a Biblical principle in 2 Corinthians 2:15,16 that is relevant to evangelism in the Australian context. It excites me and relaxes me as I seek to share Christ with non-church people. "For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To one we are the smell of death, to the other, the fragrance of life." What is this saying about us as Christians? As we follow Christ and flesh out the Christian faith in the context of our society, some people will like us, some won't! Some will think our life "stinks", others will be attracted by the Christian lifestyle we are living. And it is as being a Christian in the context of our society, it is those who accept our social advances, those who like us around (at work, at the school mothers' club, at the sports club we belong to etc.), it is from such people we can bridge the gap and find someone who will listen to us about Jesus.

And maybe why this does not happen for some is because they are living in the institutions of the Christian faith rather than living as a Christian openly in the context of the Australian society we live in.

• *Geoffrey K. Risson is presently minister of the Maroochy Shore church on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. He has had ministries in New South Wales and Tasmania. Geoff is the Conference President for Queensland for the year 1990-91. He is promoting the theme (he hopes rather it is a goal) of "Win One! Build One! Send One!" He is married to Margaret and they have four children. He enjoys presenting lifestyle evangelism seminars.*

• Gathering near the old rugged cross

The Real Meaning of Easter in Mundulla

Each Easter the township of Mundulla, SA, has presented a timely reminder of the real meaning of Easter. The churches combine in an after-church gathering beside a rugged cross erected at the main intersection of the town.

In the previous fortnight families in the town are presented with an Encounter leaflet and an invitation to attend. 200 leaflets go out, and usually 100 attend. The cross is erected on the Thursday evening and spotlighted at night.

1991 will be the fourth year the churches of Mundulla have conducted this witness to the community.

Easter Sunday in Mundulla



• The hope for the people

An Aboriginal Christian Witness in the ACT

The Canberra Aboriginal Church, which meets in the Lyons chapel and has close links with the Canberra churches, plan to hold a week-long Gospel outreach 24-31 March at the Albert Hall, Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla, ACT.

Many people condemn Christianity for destroying Aboriginal culture. The Aboriginal Christians believe that the life-changing power of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is the power of hope not only for Aboriginal people but for all people of our great land. They have asked people to take up our Lord's great commission to "go into all the world and preach the gospel" (Mark 16:5) beginning in our capital city.

The week will give the opportunity to have an information program featuring the Aboriginal Christian Church and to focus on the achievements and contributions that the Aboriginal people have made to Australia. The Aboriginal people proclaim that their story, ancient and modern, is enhanced by his story as it is told through the Word of God.

The gospel outreach will begin on 24 March at 7 pm with a celebration rally on Palm Sunday evening and will finish on Easter Sunday, 31 March, with a celebration closing service at 7 pm. On 24 March at 12 noon participants have been invited to join with the Canberra churches at Glebe Park, Civic, to "Reclaim Easter"

Speakers will be Bob Brown, a well-known Aboriginal speaker, and the Rev Lindsay McDowell, an Anglican evangelist in Canberra. Gospel rallies will be held at the Hall each evening at 7 pm during the week.

Visiting Aboriginal ministers and musicians will be invited to speak at various churches for the Sunday morning services on 24 and 31 March and possibly on Good Friday morning. Morning services on Good Friday and Easter Sunday will also be held for visitors at the hall.

Women's day speakers will be Evvie Walker, well-known Aboriginal missionary from Brisbane, and Edith Mullins of Canberra. Lunch is planned, with a possible fashion parade

and discussions after lunch so bring ideas with your Bible and notebook.

Lunchtime seminars on two other days will discuss: Christ and culture, What is culture? How does it affect the life of Christians? What does the Bible say about social issues?

On the Saturday dawn prayer meeting on the lawns of Parliament House and breakfast at Albert Hall will be held with a youth meeting and concert in the evening.

Musicians, song leaders, counsellors and people who want to show Australia that Jesus Christ is indeed Lord of Lords are needed. Also needed are fundraisers and people who will talk about the outreach program to their church.

Please pray for this venture as this is probably the first major crusade by Aboriginal churches in the national capital.

For further information contact Doreen Hart (Secretary), 139 Nemerang Cres, Warramunga 2611 (Phone (06) 288 1964), or Flo Grant (Publicity), 2 Snowden Place, Wanniasa 2903 (Phone (06) 231 4504).

• Beauty and study on Magnetic Island

"Houseparty" Camp

It was 8 am on 8 December and once again I was running late. I made it to the boat terminal just in time, found Greg Muller (minister) and Phil Daughtery, our guest speaker, and we were off to Magnetic Island to meet up with the other young people at Camp Irwin for the Travelers Houseparty Camp of the Townsville, Qld, church.

When we arrived at Camp Irwin the place was somewhat deserted as about half of the

young people had gone for a hike through the Magnetic Island National Park and were able to take in the Lord's beautiful creation as they had breakfast overlooking Horse-shoe Bay.

Once we were all together it was down to the serious stuff. Phil Daughtery spoke to us in the study sessions about: the reality of Christian faith and if we were on trial would there be enough evidence to convict us, the supernatural element of Christianity, some of the things that young people face today, what would it take to stop you and are you willing to stand up and be counted for the Lord?

Overall a great weekend was had by all who went.

Each one was broken and moulded by the Lord in some way.

—Jenni Hinspeter

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For Peace of Mind

Give yourself peace of mind concerning your place of residence in your retirement years.

You can have peace of mind about the integrity of the auspicing body, the Department of Community Care of the Victorian-Tasmanian Conference of Churches of Christ. The department has more than 50 years involvement in providing accommodation services and activities for elderly people.

You can have further peace of mind about long-term security. You, as a resident of Bethany Close, Ormond, will have peace of mind concerning the future of your tenancy because Bethany Close will be registered as a "Retirement Village", placing the project firmly within Government regulations and guidelines. Security of tenure is by way of a lease agreement between the residents and the department through its legal entity called Bethany Fellowship Association.

Act now to give yourself peace of mind. Contact Mr Trevor Giles, Executive Director, Department of Community Care, 52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne 3000, phone 662 1411.

• Helping people overseas

Walk Against Want Celebrates Silver Jubilee

Community Aid Abroad's Walk Against Want will take place on 14 April throughout Australia. 1991 is a special year for the Walk Against Want—it's the 25th anniversary of the "Walk".

The first Walk Against Want was held in Victoria in December 1967 when 1,200 walked, at night, from Melbourne to Dandenong. Since then it has become an annual event for many. This year, more than 30,000 are expected to participate at 60 locations around the country.

Dr David Armstrong, Community Aid Abroad's Chief Executive, says, "The Walk Against Want is very special to Community Aid Abroad. It gives everyone an opportunity to step out and show that they want to change the world's unjust social structures, while doing something positive to bring about that change."

Participants in the Walk Against Want can walk, run or cycle and raise money by being sponsored for the kilometres that they travel.

Community Aid Abroad hopes to raise \$1.5 million for development work such as those listed at right.

Henley Beach Church of Christ Centenary Celebrations Sunday, 8 September 1991

All past ministers, members and their families are invited back to Henley for the day. Please note the date in your diary and watch this journal for further information.

• The Green Zones Farming Project in Mozambique

Millions of people have been forced to flee their homes because of the continuing terrorism from South African-backed Renamo bandits, bringing food production in many areas to a standstill. CAA is providing tools, seeds and agricultural advice for refugees in Inhambane province, helping Mozambicans feed themselves.

• The Philippines

Poor subsistence farmers of Mindanao are bearing the brunt of the country's worsening ecological scenario. By supporting educational programs and campaigns, reforestation projects and nursery development programs, CAA is helping to turn around the tide of environmental destruction.

• The Ixchen Women's Centre in Managua, Nicaragua

This centre is bringing health education and medical services to the workplace—filling at least part of the gap left by government cuts to public health services. Ixchen's mobile teams of doctors, nurses and health educators, organised with the assistance of private companies and trade unions, are providing affordable health services for working women and their families.

To register for the Walk Against Want call 008 023 021 or pick up an entry form at any ANZ Bank.

Koorngal 1991

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News

◦ *The Aussie awakening marches on*

Giant Easter Witness Spreads across Australia



Easter '90: In Sydney's Domain on Easter Sunday the King's Kids celebrate with the crowd

At a time when the world and the nation is tottering at the crossroads, tens of thousands of Christians from all denominational backgrounds are sending a call to unite and declare the hope of Easter in an unprecedented way.

Last year in Sydney, Easter '90 was born, and 35,000 participated in a powerful Easter witness that received enormous media coverage. Furthermore, culturally relevant family celebrations leading up to the march received a warm response from thousands of non-churched Australians.

This year the celebration is called Easter '91 and not only does it spread to Melbourne and Canberra where there will be major public witnesses expected to draw tens of thousands, but also no less than 20 other cities and towns in the eastern half of Australia have signalled their participation.

For decades we've seen Easter as a time of escape and self-indulgence, yet our own

recent history has shown they are the very things that are threatening to destroy us. Easter '91 is Australian Christians making the most of this God-given opportunity. Many believe it's time for the church to declare that the message of Easter is the only hope for the world.

Brian White, Conference President of Victoria and Tasmania, said, "The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the essential touchstone of the Christian faith. Around the world each Easter millions of Christians celebrate this marvellous event that builds our confidence in the deity of Jesus Christ, energises us for contemporary living, and affirms the hope for our own ultimate resurrection to eternal life. Easter is an ideal time for Christians to witness collectively to their common faith. That is why I support Easter '91."

Keith Farmer, President in New South Wales, said, "I be-

lieve the Easter '91 program will be significant in drawing the attention of our population to the basis of Easter and that it will be a great witness as a combined church event."

One of the major features of Easter '91 will be the significant place of prayer in the whole event. Last year, Sydney was circled with prayer as churches for weeks before the event, committed themselves to keep the chain going through various daylight hours, and additionally, members of churches had whole nights of prayer.

The prayer chain is already underway and you are invited to participate by contacting the Easter '91 office in your state to be included in the prayer network and by keeping in touch with the Easter '91 Info Line by ringing 00555-2115 which is updated each week with the latest developments and prayer points.

The major focus will be on Easter Sunday, when Chris-

tians from all over Melbourne and Sydney will gather in the heart of each city to form a human cross and spend time in prayer and celebration as a mass witness to our nation in a time of great despair.

Easter '91 is Christians celebrating Easter in their own ways, but presenting a common face to the Australian community.

It's a coming together in special ways, at times that avoid clashes of activities, to present a viable, unified witness, visible not only to their own towns and cities, but to the whole of the nation.

For more information make direct contact with the Easter '91 office in your area: Victoria—47 City Road, South Melbourne 3205 (Phone (03) 686 1255); ACT—PO Box 622, Kingston 2604 (Phone (06) 295 9532); NSW—PO Box 2555, North Parramatta 2151 (Phone (02) 630 4833); and Toowoomba—(Phone (076) 35 6935).

Christmas at the Stockade



Face painting at the Christmas festival run by York Street

On 16 December, York Street, Ballarat, Vic, church held a Christmas Festival in a local parkland—the Eureka Stockade.

The concept developed as a result of a number of members identifying an opportunity to serve and help develop a sense of community in the local area.

It was thought that, in times when there is so much emphasis on gift giving, the church could hopefully provide an opportunity to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Activities for all the family began at 4 pm with earth ball games, a wind tunnel and face painting, followed by a free sausage sizzle and refreshments.

The church runs a number of outreach programs for children and their parents, such as a day kindergarten, a playgroup, an extensive religious education

program in the local primary school, the "Yorkie Kids Club" and the "Art & Craft Company".

It was encouraging to build further on contacts that have been established in the church outreach program.

Approximately 600 attended from the local community.

A local band, "River", which is associated with York Street, entertained young and old alike from 7 to 7.30 pm.

"Carols by Candlelight" followed at 8 pm. Frank Clark, a church member and local radio personality, compered the evening.

The program incorporated a re-enactment of the birth of Christ and associated carol singing, led by a 30-member choir and accompanying 17-piece band.

—Gary Berry
(Associate Minister)

• Developments at camp in north-east Victoria

Cheshunt Camp Report

The past year has seen a consolidation of projects at the Campaigners for Christ Family and Youth Camp at Cheshunt. With the new girls dormitory requiring only finishing touches, the installation of a new septic tank to service the en-suites will see plans completed.

On the drawing board is the upgrading of the kitchen and dining room. To bring the kitchen into adequate working condition it is to be repositioned on the south side. With this project will be the purchase of a new coolroom, as the existing one is an early sawdust-insulated room and is beginning to rot.

The camp is after a cheap tractor as the existing unit is running on borrowed time and its PTO mower and blade are needed to keep the campsite mown and to level an area to establish an outdoor chapel and meeting area.

Over the Christmas break the NE/Riverina Conference of the Churches of Christ held their annual camps at Cheshunt. They were well attended with 74 being at the junior camp and 39 at the senior. Later in the year a new outreach, a Chris-

tian Farmers Group, is being established with a camp planned at Cheshunt on the weekend of 23–25 August. The purpose of the camp is to draw together farmers, both Christian and non-Christian, in a series of studies to look at farming from a Christian point of view, with guest speakers being drawn from various areas of farming management. The theme is to be "Stress Management in Farming" with a Christian psychologist taking the series.

There is a live-in working bee planned for the long weekend in March. If you are available please contact Gordon Parker on (057) 66 2493 for catering purposes.

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People

• David Jolly goes to WA

"Jolly" Move for Maylands



David and Sharyn Jolly with Annalyse (6 months), Matthew, 8, and Nathan, 10

David, Sharyn, Nathan, Matthew and baby Annalyse Jolly moved to Maylands, WA, after a two-year student ministry at the East Kew, Vic, church and completion of studies at CCTC. Moving from Victoria to South Australia to spend Christmas with their family they then took three weeks driving to Western Australia towing a caravan.

David was inducted into the ministry at Maylands on 27 January by Barry Ryall and welcomed to the Minister's Fraternal by Robert Drown.

The church is already experiencing God moving through David's ministry with the baptisms of Geoff Kovovich and Marguerite Maton.

• Katie Ogden takes up new position

Social Justice Post

Katie Ogden, a Churches of Christ minister, will be the interim social justice officer of the South Australian Uniting Church Synod from February until the end of June. She will work half time in the appointment.

Katie spent last year completing a Bachelor of Education. Previously she was in a ministry with her husband Steven at Albert Park and Semaphore in SA and earlier in Victoria following their courses at CCTC.

She has a long-standing interest in justice issues having been a member of the Clergy for Peace Movement in Victoria and the African National Congress in SA and a teacher in



Katie Ogden

the Millingimbi Aboriginal Community.

.....
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• Ken Barton retires

Tribute to Minister



Ken and Edith Barton

At the conclusion of a ministry covering three states it was fitting that the National President, Clive Ward, should pay tribute to the service of Ken Barton at the lunch at Ashburton, Vic, on 3 March.

Members and friends and representatives of Eastern Regional churches attended Ken's last service and at the lunch afterwards tributes were paid by Jean Ryall (Chairman of Regional Church), Clive Ward, on behalf of the Brotherhood, Dave Crothers, on behalf of Companionship Centre, and Ron Strongman for the Ashburton church.

A presentation was made from the Ashburton members.

Ken was baptised at the Brighton, Vic, church at the age of 12.

When he was 15 his family moved to Launceston, Tas, where he attended the Margaret Street church.

It was there he met Edith Graves and they both worked together in the Tasmanian Youth Department, Ken as president and Edith as secretary.

Thus started a lifelong partnership in church work.

After Ken graduated from Glen Iris in 1946 Ken and Edith were married at Margaret Street

and commenced their first ministry at Port Pirie.

Ministries at Taree, Warnambool and Camberwell followed.

Then came a break of 17 years when Ken became a teacher of history and English in secondary schools in Melbourne.

During this time the Bartons were in membership at Hartwell where Ken participated fully in the church life, editing the church paper and acting as elder and deacon.

He conducted some short interim ministries there, and on retirement from teaching served for 18 months as Hartwell's full-time minister.

Ken and Edith's last ministry was for five and a half years at Ashburton where, together, they made a part-time ministry almost full-time with their second-mile service.

Glowing tributes were paid to this devoted and generous ministry.

Ken has also acted very capably as Victorian Historian since 1984 and is a member of Australian Churches of Christ Historical Society committee.

The Glen Iris-Ashburton Ministers' Fraternal has appreciated Ken's leadership as chairman/secretary for some years.

Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

"The Last Word"

To the Editor,

It must be difficult for the Editor to find different and interesting "Last Words" every fortnight. The lion and the bull ("AC" 1 December) seems to have raised a few eyebrows, but does it not (rather crudely perhaps) illustrate Matthew 6:1-3 about not letting your left hand know what your right hand is doing? Psalms and Proverbs have a lot to say about broadcasting your achievements. I suggest Psalm 5 and Proverbs 10 to start with. There is Leviticus 25 (metaphorically) speaking about the "strong ones eating up the weak ones". Then there is Paul in Romans 12:3, 1 Corinthians 10:12 and others, and what about James and tongues like a fire and Peter likening the Devil to a roaring lion looking for more prey to devour.

Maybe the significance of a joke is partly in the mind of the hearer/reader. Why worry about "Father Christmas" cartoons? No child would read *The Australian Christian* anyway and if parents seem to be encouraged to continue the deception a TV portrayal of the multiplicity of "Santas" may help them explain.

Does Matthew 12:34: "Every idle (meaningless, destructive, deceptive) word that is spoken" include such as written, printed or just "looked" words intended to demoralise another when Jesus speaks of judgement?

The "Last Word" has yet to be spoken. Wait for it!

Act justly, love (and practice mercy) and walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).

—E.A. Barton
(Port Lincoln, SA)

Churches and Aborigines

To the Editor,

I am pleased to read some of the happenings of the WCC 7th Assembly in the media. (Recent letters to *The Australian Christian* (2 February) against the WCC merely advertise the

writers' ignorance.) Especially interesting was an editorial in *The Sydney Morning Herald* commenting on pronouncements by the Assembly regarding the treatment of Aborigines. I write to draw attention to the final quote in the editorial.

"Speaking about ministering to Aboriginal needs is relatively easy for the churches. Helping to break down prejudices within their own flocks will prove much more rewarding for white and black Australians. It will also take more courage."

How true that is! Will the churches act, or merely talk about it, and judge? I wonder how many actually read the motion passed at our recent Federal Conference regarding Aborigines? It is forthright, honest and disturbing. I wonder will our churches respond with action?

—Greg Shaw
(South Australia)

David Allen Taken To Task

To the Editor,

On reading "Letters to the Editor" of the 2 February issue of *The Australian Christian* I felt that I had to make some comment on the letter from David Allen.

I agree that some of the cartoons in *The Australian Christian* do trivialise Christian standards and, on first reading of David Allen's letter, he also seemed to feel the same way but, of course, on further reading, it was quite appropriate that he was speaking "tongue in cheek". I do not think this is the right way to make helpful comments.

I, also, was surprised at his "PS", when he said that the cartoonist maybe had a greater message to give to the non-believer than did the Lord Jesus Christ! No cartoonist can improve on Christ's parables.

—Mrs Ethel Wladysiuik
(Fairfield, NSW)

WCC Assembly

To the Editor,

The World Council of Churches, meeting in Canberra, said plenty about the condition

of Australia's Aborigines—a complicated issue which they know practically nothing about.

Concerning Australia's Canberra-based hard-core pornography industry—a straightforward, black-and-white moral issue—they choose to express no opinion.

—Arnold Jago
(Mildura)

First- and Second-Class Citizens

To the Editor,

Kay Graham's condescending letter ("AC" 2 Feb) completely misses the point of Ken Dawson's letter ("AC" 1 December). Let me enlarge on one solitary point he raised.

Some months ago two young ladies came to Maryborough and became friendly with a family of children across the street and were persuaded to go to Sunday School with them. Only for several weeks. They were shocked and appalled at the quality of the music and the

banality of the words, and rather than have their intelligence insulted, have ceased to attend. The youngest (eight years old) has a magnificent voice and an unerring ear for the music, sang some of the choruses. As a poet I can say the words were pure drivel. As a Christian I suggest the things might have made a bad jingle for a TV building ad. As far as the tunes go they were musical "baby talk". In all honesty I have to say that those two girls, to be true to their own standards could not have continued attending that Sunday School.

Right! The church has lost two youngsters because of this rubbish being foisted on us as music, I issue a challenge: Who has it saved?

—John J. Alderson
(Maryborough)

Non-Church Goers

To the Editor,

I read with interest the article "What Non-Church Goers Think of the Christian Faith"

Letters from Tertius

Making It Hard for God

To the Editor,

I saw in the newspaper the account of a scientist commenting on the world's nuclear madness and saying, "But maybe God will work a miracle for us, if we don't make it too hard for him."

I was shocked at the thought that anyone would suggest that anything is too hard for God. Surely God can cope with the world, even if for the first time in history human beings are able to destroy themselves and their world, and indeed are hell bent on the way to doing it.

Then I realised that we can make it too hard for God, because God has given us the right to choose our ways and to make our own decisions—even to the destruction of the planet as a human habitation. It seems that God can only work the needed miracle if we are willing for it to happen.

I remember hearing in Sunday school the story of the lame man beside the pool and Jesus asking him if he really wanted to be healed. I remember our teacher telling us at the time that maybe the man wasn't sure. If he were healed he'd have to get a job and he wouldn't be the centre of attention any more with his sad tale. And Jesus wanted to know how fair dinkum he was about wanting a miracle.

Maybe God is waiting to see how fair dinkum human beings are for him to work a miracle to save our world, especially if that miracle has to be worked in our lives. I have no doubt that God can do it, "if we don't make it too hard for him".

—Tertius

("AC" 16 February), and whilst not surprised at the findings, I must disagree with the CRA hypothesis. What must be taken into consideration with our "frequent church goers" is the saying "do as I say, not as I do". The very fact that frequent church going or otherwise is used as a yardstick is a dead giveaway, for most Churches of Christ members I have observed, going to church is the only necessity. People outside the church don't rate personal relationship to Jesus highly because they don't see this in church people! We were not brought up to talk about Jesus, much less have a personal relationship with him, we were brought up to be good church program attenders, and that is still in most of our churches, the status quo. I think we want a personal relationship with Jesus but are too scared to admit to our struggle, so on with the programs.

—Greg Shaw
(South Australia)

"Modern" Musical Instruments in Church

To the Editor,
Just a little comment on David Allen's hilarious letter ("AC" 2 February).

The organ was invented by Ctesibius of Alexandria and Vitruvius in *The Ten Books of Architecture* gives details of its construction (1st century BC). Nero (no recommendation) popularised them in Rome. By the time of the later emperors every house of standing had an organ and portable ones were common. As they were secular instruments (that is they were not employed in the temples or religious services of the pagans) one may be certain that they were amongst the earliest instruments the Christians used for accompaniment.

The church has preserved and made the organ what it is and it is as Christian as the church itself.

If David Allen thinks the organ is "modern" just how out of date is he?

—John J. Alderson
(Maryborough)

• Scripture Union's summer evangelism

Gospelling at Holiday Spots and in Suburbia

Each summer Scripture Union takes the gospel to Australian families in caravan parks, on beaches, in country areas and in suburban church and school halls.

For many, this brief contact with a Scripture Union Family Mission (SUFM) camp or Theos coffee shop is the first time they have heard the Christian gospel clearly presented.

Thousands of Christians from all denominations donate their time and skills to Scripture Union's summer program, and in doing so not only spread the gospel but also add excitement and fun to the holidays of countless families.

New South Wales

John Tigwell, State Director of Scripture Union in New South Wales, says many campers in caravan parks along the NSW coast would agree. "On New Year's Eve, SUFM teams usually run special family programs, like bush dances, games and barbecues, which are always very popular.

"The teams are very creative in their evangelism. On one mission the popular spot was a television set rigged up in the caravan park where cricket enthusiasts were invited to watch a test."

This year there were 70 SUFMs in NSW, involving around 3,000 team members who ranged from 18 years of age to a 75-year-old lady who cooked for one of the missions. While the majority of SUFMs were held at holiday locations, there were five urban missions, including new ones at Newcastle and Campbelltown.

"We are putting a great deal of energy into developing urban missions as increasing financial pressures mean many families simply can't afford to go away on holiday any more," John said.

"We need to go where the people are—which is where

they live. At Newcastle the team ran a coffee shop in the centre of town, which was very successful with the young people there.

"The team at Campbelltown aimed to make contact with the street kids in the area."

Victoria

Ros Martin, who co-ordinated the SUFM program in Victoria, says the 800 team members who manned that state's 30 SUFMs worked hard in a variety of situations.

"Some SUFMs, such as Tidal River on Wilsons Promontory, were under canvas and battled high winds and torrential rain. Others, like Broadmeadows and Scoresby, were in the middle of suburbia. This year we ran seven urban missions," she said.

"Scoresby ran for the first time and attracted 60-70 children a day to its program. Most of the team live in the area, so there is a great opportunity for following up people and building relationships on a year-round basis."

Ros says this has proved to be the case with Broadmeadows SUFM, where team members, many of whom live in the region, have built up a rapport with the families who return to the program year after year.

"They see the children and their families again at RE classes at schools, church or at the shopping centre—these are relationships that continue."

Tasmania

King Island was a new SUFM initiated by Scripture Union in Tasmania this year. Staffer Jane Morse says the team, mostly locals, held the mission in the high school as an outreach to the island's youth.

"We ran four SUFMs, two of them urban and one at a caravan park in Ulverstone.

"This particular mission has been going for many years and over that time good contact

with the locals has been built up.

"One of the highlights there this year was the dessert and coffee evening for adults."

South Australia

The "Gorilla Gang" was a special feature at the Tumby Bay SUFM in South Australia. State Director Alan Dutton says the gang was a special program devised for young people who are in years 6 and 7 at school.

"We found the kids of this age group weren't interested in the younger children's program and consequently we were not attracting them," he explained.

"The 'Gorilla Gang' did exciting activities like fish netting at night and bike hikes. A stable core of young people came every day. The mission as a whole attracted around 200 people daily."

South Australia held five SUFMs, including a Theos bus in the town square of Victor Harbor.

"The bus was equipped with video machines, games and tea and coffee, and on New Year's Eve was surrounded by literally thousands of people," Alan said. "The team had the feeling of being in the market place, of being right where the action was."

Elsewhere

Mission teams also operated in Western Australia and Queensland. In Darwin programs were conducted in air-conditioned shopping centres, more appropriate to Top End weather in January.

**BUCKINGHAM
MEMORIAL CENTRE**
Self-catering camp site
38 Lockwood Road,
Belgrave Heights
Accommodation for 60
Large recreational hall
Low tariff
Small groups welcome
Enquiries: Jack Edwards
(03) 568 1825

Papers

Women in the Australian Church

The Australian church depends on women's participation and ministry, but their contribution has never received the recognition it deserves, and women have been marginalised in many areas of the church's life. But women themselves are taking the initiative in calling for equitable participation in church decision making, church structures, mission, worship and in the ordained ministry.

In a paper just published by the Zadok Institute, Rosamund Dalziell discusses the experience of women in the church in the context of Australian society, summarises theological perspectives on women's role in the church and describes some of the ways in which women are making their concerns known. The paper includes comment on women's church attendance, the ordination debate, how the church relates to women in the workforce, women at home, women married to ministers and women in religious communities.

Indispensable but Marginalised: Women in the Australian Church, Zadok Series 1 Paper, \$49, is available from the Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society, Blackall Street, Barton, ACT 2600, for \$2 plus 90c postage.

Books

After the Storm

by G. Lloyd Carr and poetry by Gwendolyn Carr (InterVarsity Press)

In *After the Storm* Lloyd Carr describes the grief he and his wife experienced at the loss of their 30-year-old daughter-in-law as a result of suicide. He takes us through their shock, subsequent anger and guilt to the eventual time of coming to terms with this devastating loss. The writer confronts the fact that even his daughter-in-law, a Christian, was despairing enough to commit suicide, and that suicide does occur in the community of faith. Those things that helped them in the healing of their grief are discussed, particularly the support and consolation of their pastor and church family.

The author, a professor of biblical and theological studies, writes about the ways his study of relevant biblical passages and his hope and trust in God gave him greatest help. He also documents the thorough analysis he undertook of all historical material on the subject of suicide. He shows that this material has been formative of traditional and contemporary thought but is not based on sound Christian theological and biblical precepts. His study and analysis are an important reason for reading this book because they debunk the view that suicide is a sin, against the will of God and unforgivable.

This revised thinking on such a pertinent issue in our society would be of help to those grieving and their supporters. It seeks to dispel some of the guilt, pain and despair resulting from a misguided theology of suicide, and it provides one with a reason to hope and find renewed inner peace.

—Julie Simpson

The Large Membership Church

by Hartman and Wilson (Discipleship Resources)

This concise description of the large membership church would be a valuable resource for church leaders whose churches are experiencing rapid growth or have more than 350 at worship (the author's definition of "large"). The authors make the contentious claim that the large church is the most appropriate institutional form of sharing the Gospel in the late 20th century and early 21st century. The authors write from a United Methodist background and highlight the problems that denominational attitudes towards

ministry placement and training may have upon the development of large churches. The book highlights the need of specialised training for potential senior ministers of large churches and calls for the recognition that the management of a large church requires a different set of skills to managing a small church.

While Lyle Schaller's influence on the authors is obvious (the book is dedicated to him), they bring new insights into understanding the large church. Many of the insights are relevant to Churches of Christ in Australia, especially as there are now so many of our churches that could be categorised as "large".

—E.C. Keating

No Turning Back

by George Verwer (Hodder & Stoughton and STL Books)

It is sharp—it cuts into a person's comfort zone.

It is penetrating—it searches out the hidden recesses and puts on "the lights".

It is passionate—it pulsates with conviction and imparts that vibrancy to the reader.

It is a book to by-pass if you are content with mediocre living that often passes for Christian.

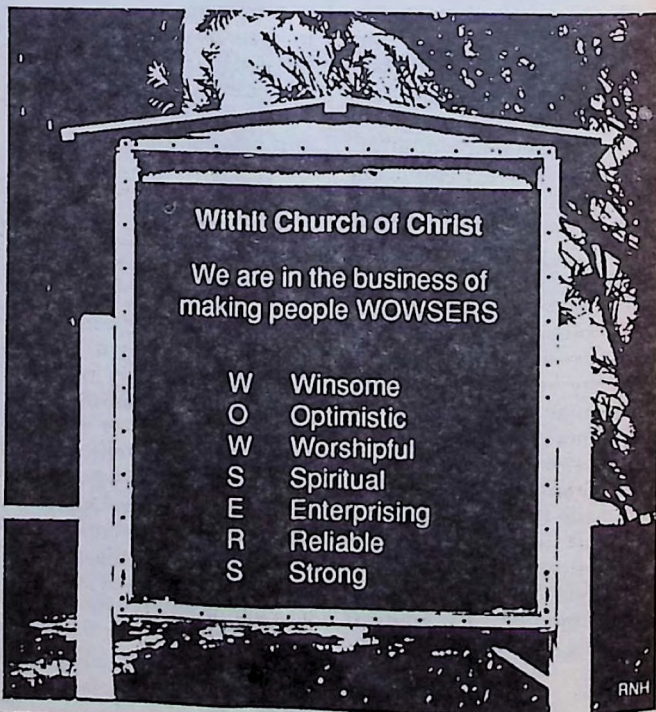
George Verwer writes what he has learnt and lived since becoming a Christian. He expresses himself with intensity, seeking to stir the hearts of the weekend (or is it week-end) saints. He wants them to discover the vivaciousness of the Christian faith and to enjoy as well as honour the Lord of Glory.

George Verwer also reveals his concern for a world that is living in a moral and spiritual darkness and for Christians who are merely playing spiritual games.

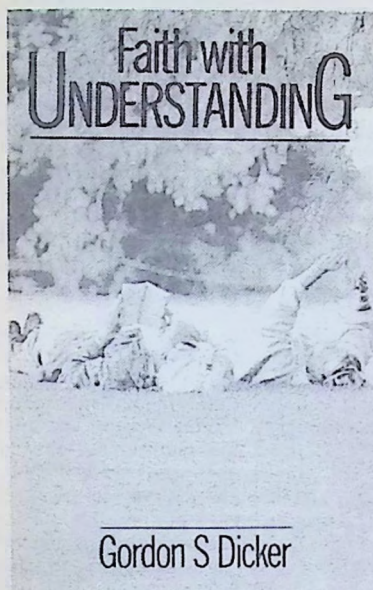
This man is no theorist. His call to express genuine, practical biblical love and personal integrity has been tested in his own being. He is the founder of Operation Mobilisation with its literature ministry through the ships *Logos* and *Doulos*.

The mature Christian can read this and be refreshed and stimulated. The new Christian can read it and be saved a lot of wasted years and energy in their growth in Christ. It is easy to read, practical and encouraging.

—R.N. Hawkins



Media Review



Faith with Understanding

by Gordon Dicker (Joint Board of Christian Education) \$14.95

Gordon Dicker's book is a basic systematic theology written with the average layperson in mind. As such it fulfils the basic guidelines set by the Joint Board of Christian Education.

On the whole the book is well written and will prove to be understandable to those who have never done theological training. Dicker is a good communicator and the book seldom lacks pace, which for a work on theology is no mean feat!

However, the book is written with a definite theological bias: Dicker takes a distinctively Barthian (neo-orthodox) approach on almost every issue. To some such a bias might seem to be a strength, to others, aware of the pitfalls of the Barthian approach on some matters, this will prove to be a weakness. To my mind, Dicker seems to play fast and loose with some important theological concepts, e.g. the fall, the doctrine of sin, historicity of certain events that offend his modern philosophy of history, the atonement and the authority of the Bible. I therefore found *Faith with Understanding* theologically inadequate.

Perhaps the most disappointing feature of this publication is that although Dicker is an Australian, he fails to write his theology from a distinctively Australian viewpoint. This seems to be an opportunity wasted as such general "systematic theologies" abound in the market and so it seems that this publication is doomed to line up with a thousand other such ably written titles competing for the theology reader's attention. Dicker's book lacks originality (it is too Barthian) and distinctiveness (it is not an "Aussie theology").

This is not to say that this book is without insights; any serious study of theology is bound to improve one's understanding of the Christian faith, this book is no exception to the rule. Furthermore (let me repeat) it is ably written by a man who knows and communicates his subject very well.

—Alan Hirsch

Literary Approaches to Biblical Interpretation

by Tremper Longman III (Zondervan) \$6.95

Dr Longman points out that the Bible is more like literature than non-literature. "For the most part we encounter stories and poems in the Bible, not systematic theology, pure historical reporting or journalism." His aim is to assist proper exegesis and Bible reading.

The traditional historical-critical method of interpretation places emphasis on the author and his intended meaning. In contrast, secular literary critics speak of the death of the author and, dismissing traditional disciplines, they place emphasis on the text itself and on the reader.

Dr Longman is committed to the authority of the Bible. He believes that God is its ultimate author and has determined the meaning. While rejecting much of the secular literary approach Dr Longman and others have managed to glean those insights

that are helpful for exegesis and proper Bible reading.

The book sets out an historical survey of the literary approach and then applies the method to various passages of scripture.

A well-written but highly technical book with valuable insights for the serious Bible scholar.

—R. Mitchell

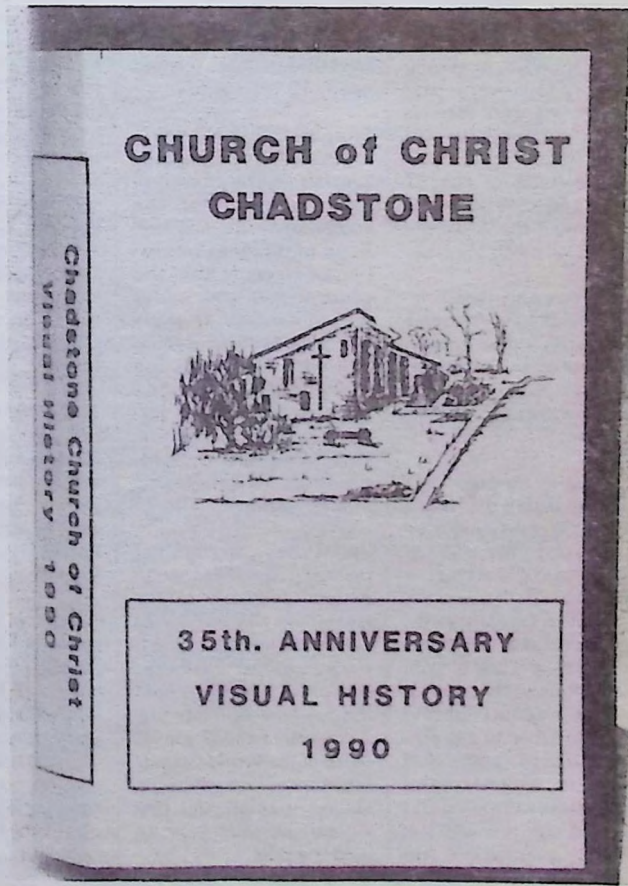
Video

History of the Chadstone Church

Have you thought about presenting your church's history on a video? It can be done and it can be done quite well. In preparation for its 35th anniversary last year, the Chadstone, Vic, church, through two of its members, Ian Field and Ian MacWilliams, put together a 46-minute video of the church's 35 years. It helped, of course, to have some amateur 8 mm movies taken by the late George Coates in the 1950s and the late Don Elliott in the 1970s, but it is not necessary to have movies. The Chadstone video is a mix of the old 8 mm movies, some more recent video material and still shots of old photos and documents, linked together by a narrative and backed by appropriate music.

Chadstone was fortunate to have Ian Field, a graduate and teacher of history, as well as being a member for 31 years, and Ian MacWilliams, the video specialist, whose profession involves the making of advertisements and documentaries for television. By combining their respective skills with the various materials available, it was possible to produce the video history, which was first screened on the occasion of the 35th anniversary. Since then, twenty-four families have purchased their own copy of the church's history.

If anyone is interested in the techniques or would like a copy of the video (in VHS only, cost \$25), contact Ian Field on (03) 807 4144.



Happenings

After nearly two years of living in hiding to protect himself from the threat of death, Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*, has announced that he has converted to Islam. Rushdie met on Christmas Eve with 6 Muslim scholars, who said they were satisfied that the author's desire to convert is sincere. Rushdie said that his official conversion was the result of many years of contemplation and growth.

The Christian Council of Japan and the local Anglican church, the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, have spoken out strongly against the recent government decision to double its financial support for the war effort in the Gulf. Japan's constitution does not allow it to wage war and the Christian groups believe that its Government should stand firm and encourage other nations to make an immediate cease-fire.

Uganda's population will continue to decline because of the many deaths resulting from AIDS, President Yoweri Museveni has warned. He said that his country's population would be 20 million by the year 2010 instead of the 37 million projected before the outbreak of the AIDS epidemic.

Lutherans and Episcopalians (Anglicans) in the US have unveiled proposals that would initiate steps towards "full communion" between the two churches.

Missionaries are planning a cautious return to Liberia soon, after most evacuated the region in the midst of civil war and chaos that has left most of the country devastated. Several months ago a peacekeeping force was sent to Liberia from West Africa. After nearly a year of intense fighting between Liberian government troops and rebel forces in which several missionaries were killed and most of the rest left the country, a cease-fire has

been called. The two main Liberian rebel factions and the peacekeeping force have staked out separate territories in Liberia.

The Australian Council for Overseas Aid has called for an immediate cease-fire in the Gulf war to allow an opportunity for peace proposals to be considered by all parties to the conflict.

Last Days Ministries, founded by the late Keith Green and his wife Melody, has joined forces with Youth With A Mission. Last Days retains its name and will continue to be led by Melody, who has directed the work since her husband's death in 1982. Last Days Ministries will continue to produce *Last Days Magazine*, read by at least 200,000 around the world, as well as evangelistic and training tracts, providing an extensive tape and video teaching library, and running discipleship and practical skill courses. They will also continue their pro-life activities through the Americans Against Abortion movement they formed nearly 10 years ago.

Journalists and aid workers in Jordan feel like they are standing by a dam wall and watching for the cracks to form. The real flood of refugees was expected to come after the ground war got under way in earnest. As many as 2 million refugees could flee, with 15,000 crossing daily. Officially 3,762 evacuees remain in Jordan, including Sudanese, Yemenis, Indians, Vietnamese, Bangladeshis and Egyptians.

Joan Brown Campbell has been appointed as the 7th general secretary of the National Council of Churches in the US. She is the second member of the Disciples of Christ to hold this full-time position. She is currently head of the US office of the World Council of Churches. She will be the second woman and first woman minister ever to hold the post.

A National Conference on "Building Christian Community through Small Groups" will be held in Melbourne at Monash University 1-4 July. Dr Gareth Icenogle from the US will be the main speaker. He has been on the faculty of Fuller Seminary and holds a pastoral position in the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, Pennsylvania. Other speakers will be Jennifer Turner from Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Perth and Rev Ken Anderson, National Director for Serendipity Christian Resources. 20 key practitioners from around Australia will run the workshop program. Details and registration forms from Serendipity Christian Resources, GPO Box 1944, Adelaide 5000, or phone the Registrar, Brigitte Field, on (08) 374 0592 (office hours).

The Christian Community Care Service of SA Churches of Christ benefited by a donation of \$5,000 from the Morialta Trust, which stemmed from the former Morialta Children's Home (sold in 1976 and the proceeds invested with a view to distributions to community and charitable organisations). This donation was specified to be used for food vouchers and school shoes. Another recent donation was of \$1,435 to the Enfield Community Food Centre, run by local churches including the Church of Christ.

The "Hour of Power" program, which is headed up by Robert Schuller, has returned to the Ten Network on Sunday mornings at 5.30 am. The "Hour of Power" is seen each week in 31 countries.

Over the past 3 months some 5,000 Bibles and 20,000 children's Bibles have been transported into Iraq as a gift to the Iraqi Christian minority by Christians in Jordan. According to Jordanian believers, the shipments have successfully reached their destinations. About 3.3%

of the Iraqi population is Christian, giving an estimated church membership of 525,000. The Roman Catholic Church, known in Iraq as the Chaldean Catholic Patriarchate of Babylon, is the largest, with some 200,000 members.

Jordan's declared support for Iraq in the Gulf War appears to be a direct result of growing pressure by the majority Palestinian population for a military campaign they no doubt believe will lead to a consideration of Palestinian interests at the conclusion of the war. Missionaries in Jordan are maintaining a low profile with many leaving in December and early January.

Evidence is growing that destitute students, pursued by the authorities for participating in the 1989 pro-democracy movement in China, are converting to Christianity.

There continue to be reports of parishes of the Moscow Patriarchate leaving its jurisdiction and, in some cases, applying to join the Russian Orthodox Church in Exile, with headquarters in New York. However, no more than 8 parishes are known to have taken this step to date.

The Romanian Christian Medical Association, "Christiania", has opened a hospital in Bucharest, run by a committee of priests and doctors, with the help of 13 Orthodox nuns who are being trained as nurses. The hospital already has 70 beds. It also has a polyclinic and a chapel, where daily religious services are held.

Peter and Sue Kaldor wrote an informative book, *Where the River Flows*, on the way various churches are reaching out to Australians in their own context. A TV documentary based on the book and the different approaches to mission in different contexts around Australia is being screened

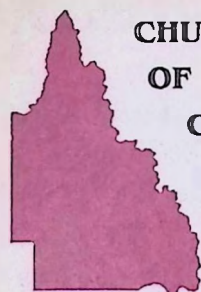
on the ABC. The program will be shown at 10.30 pm on Palm Sunday (24 March) and will be repeated at noon on Good Friday (29 March). The program raises key issues about mission in Australia and would be excellent input for church boards. A video resource kit based on the documentary is available.

Easter will see "The Jerusalem Passion" presented in the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall. Composed by Murray Wylie of Brisbane, this oratorio has already been seen by over 40,000. The 100-minute, two-part work portrays the interaction between Christ and the city of Jerusalem and foretells the coming of the new Jerusalem. On 30 March at 8 pm and 31 March at 2 pm 300 singers and 70 musicians will perform the oratorio. Tickets from Ticketek, the Sydney Opera House (02) 250 777 or Koorong Books (02) 807 4477.

In the US several congregations have declared their churches sanctuaries for military personnel who for reasons of conscience object to the war in the Middle East.

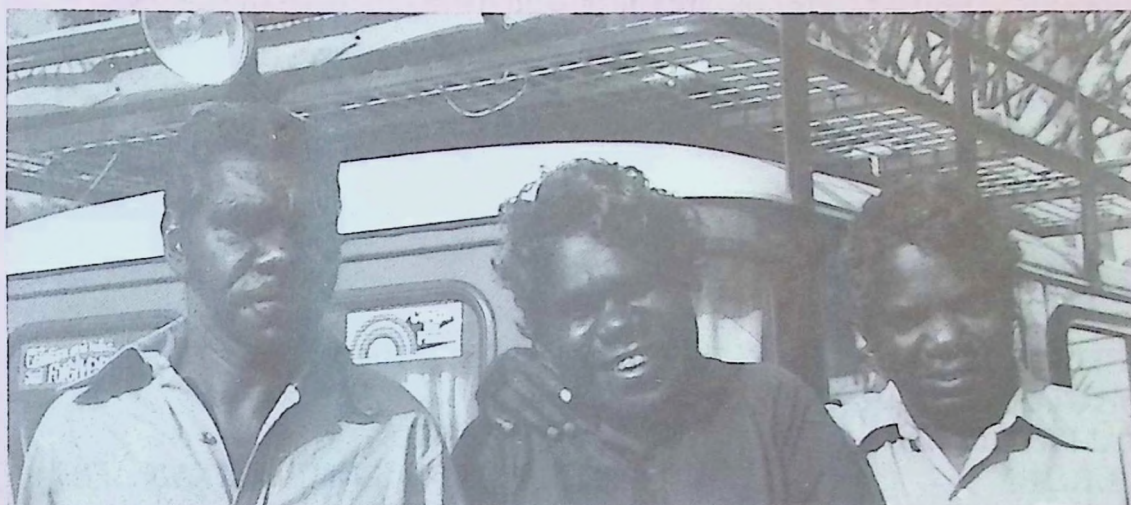
The Hungarian Ministry of Culture and Education has issued statistics on religious education in Hungarian schools. All Catholic pupils now have the opportunity for religious instruction in one of 17,000 classes that have been established since the start of the school year. By the end of November there were also 5,000 Reformed Church classes, 1,600 Lutheran classes and 37 classes for studying Judaism.

Soviet authorities have granted permission for a new Russian Orthodox church to be built at the site where Czar Nicholas II and his family were executed in 1917. It is to be called the Church of All Saints and will commemorate the many martyrs who were killed because of their faith since the Bolshevik Revolution.



CHURCHES
OF
CHRIST
IN
QUEENSLAND

Aborigines & Islanders Christian Fellowship



ANNUAL OFFERING

Churches of Christ in Queensland have taken up the responsibility for the ministry among Aboriginal and Islander peoples in Queensland.

There are four centres operating:

- NORMANTON** A church to outreach to the Aboriginal people in the Gulf Country and along the west side of Cape York Peninsula. A centre that assists with welfare needs through the operation of a Social Security agency and provides a clothing program.
- MAREEBA** A church in a strategic location in North Queensland with the highest concentration of Aboriginal people in Australia in its vicinity and servicing along the east side of Cape York Peninsula.
- EIDSVOLD** A church in a strategic location in Central Queensland with the support of a special children's ministry and a clothing program.
- LOGAN CITY** A church located in the southern suburbs of the Brisbane metropolitan area and well placed for an expanded ministry into the Brisbane area.

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY FOR MINISTRY!

PLEASE PRAY AND SEND YOUR GIFTS TO

**PO BOX 508
KENMORE 4069**

Jesus said:

"Go then...make disciples and teach...as I have commanded you, and I will be with you always."—Matthew 28:19, 20

CHURCHES OF CHRIST FEDERAL ABORIGINES BOARD INC.

Churches of Christ have laid a firm foundation in work amongst Aborigines. Those foundations result from 50 years of faithful ministry and selfless service by so many. Now, where once there was child-care work, there are young churches building on those foundations.

Increasingly, Aborigines are ministering to Aborigines, **BUILDING ON** the foundations—the opportunities—created by those who have laboured in the past.

A solid foundation has been laid.

NOW IS THE TIME TO BE *BUILDING ON*

THE FEDERAL ABORIGINES BOARD MINISTERS AT

WAGGA WAGGA
TAMWORTH
ALBURY
MOOROOPNA
PORT LINCOLN
MARBLE BAR

ALBANY
ROELANDS
PERTH METROPOLITAN AREA
CARNARVON
PORT HEDLAND

It supports the work in **ESPERANCE**—where a white/Aboriginal church is meeting a great community need.

It is concerned for the church at **NORSEMAN**—now a mixed congregation very much seeking a pastor.

It is providing training for church leaders in New South Wales (from Albury and Wagga Wagga) and in Western Australia—utilising the Roelands property and visiting teachers.

It reaches those in prison, institutions and hospitals.

It cares for frail aged people in the Olive Laird Hostel in Carnarvon.

Pastors travel into some of the loneliest country in Australia, visiting isolated communities, **going to where the people are** and entering into the deep counselling needed by so many in the Aboriginal community.

The farm staff at Roelands labour to produce some of the vital funds that ensure that the Board's work continues.

In a unique way Bob and Lorna Brown (Adelaide) not only give spiritual leadership to their church but assist Aborigines around Australia in establishing community-based industries to help break "the welfare cycle".

So often the work is unspectacular—yet it is **quality work** built on **quality foundations**.

THE PAST YEAR HAS BEEN MARKED BY

- The development of an ongoing training program
- Youth ministries in New South Wales
- A ministry amongst the people in Albany (WA)

Your support—financial and prayerful—has enabled a firm foundation to be set in place that we now have the opportunity to **BUILD ON**.

To **BUILD ON** will require a budget of just on \$800,000 plus, half of which the FAB attempts to raise through its hostel and crisis-care program, its farming program and printing operations.

That means at least \$400,000 will be required from the churches—if present ministries are to be maintained. To **BUILD ON** some of the other foundations will require more.

There are approximately 30,000 active members of Churches of Christ in Australia. An offering of just \$20 per person would allow the FAB to **BUILD ON** beyond present ministry.

These are difficult financial times. Yet they are also times of urgency and opportunity.

PROJECTS

Perhaps your church is looking for a special missionary project. You may care to consider one or part of the following.

- ① Study materials, notes, overhead projector slides and consumable materials for the training courses. \$1000
- ② Fuel for outreach, teaching and encouragement visitation. \$2500
- ③ Curtains, floor coverings for homes in Albury, Mooroopna, Carnarvon and Marble Bar. \$500 each
- ④ A facsimile machine for the Olive Laird Hostel. \$2000
- ⑤ Upgrading kitchen facilities at Roelands. \$5000

*For I'm building a people of power
And I'm making a people of praise
Who will move forward through this land by my Spirit
And will glorify my precious name*

Donations can be sent to
Churches of Christ
Federal Aborigines Board Inc.
PO Box 1199, Wangara 6065

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible



Classifieds

BIRTHS

SAUL Rachael Emily, born 2 February at Ipswich District Hospital weighing 2,120 g (4 lb 11 ozs). Rachael is a much loved first child to Darrell and Mary (nee Glowrey) of Bundamba church (formerly of Swan Hill, Vic, church).

ENGAGEMENTS

KENNEDY—HONE Robert and Helen Kennedy of Wantirna and Roy and Margaret Hone of Tootgarook are delighted to announce the engagement of Janine and Rodney, and wish them every happiness. May God bless you both.
KIDD—McCOLL Lauris and Brian Kidd of Pantom Hill, Vic, are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter Melissa (grand-daughter of the late Marion and Claude Candy) to Rohan, elder son of Judy and David McColl of Donvale, Vic.

APPROACHING MARRIAGES

WARMBRUNN—WEARNE The marriage of Shelley, daughter of Doug and Frances Warmbrunn of Donvale, and David, son of James and Patricia Wearne of

Templestowe, will take place at the Nunawading, Vic, church on Sunday 24 March, 1991, at 3 pm. God's richest blessings on them both.

SILVER WEDDING

ARMSTRONG Congratulations, love and best wishes to Lynette and Tony Armstrong of CCTC on their silver wedding anniversary, celebrated at Invermay Church of Christ, on 19 March 1966. Love Mum, Dad and family.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

KETTNER—MILLER Paul and Amy of 37 Marlborough St, Fawkner, Vic, happily celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Married at Malvern—Caulfield Church of Christ by the late F.E. Buckingham, 15 March 1941.

NOTHROP—COWPER Bill and Wynne, together with their children, Wilma, Lindsay and Beryl and six grandchildren. Praise God for the blessings of the last 50 years. They were married in March 1941 by Percy Pittman at Yarrowonga Church of Christ and still fellowshiping there.

STEVENS Harold and Flo (15.3.41). Congratulations, love and best wishes from Meri, David, Jo, Freya, Ryan, and Amber and Roger, Leonie, Brett and Matthew.

DIAMOND WEDDINGS

BARTLETT—CUTTS Leita, Les, Jim, June, Marlene, David and their families congratulate their parents Walter and Gladys on their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married at the Park St, Unley, church on 7 March 1931 by the late J.E. Webb.

BUCKMASTER—ELLIS Eric and Effie celebrate with thanksgiving and praise to God for his love and blessing over the 60 years of their life together, also for the love and helpfulness of their family. Married at Durban, South Africa, 24 March

1931. "At Home" Sunday, 24 March 1991, 19 Kenny Street, North Balwyn (Joan) between 2 and 5 pm. RSVP (03) 857 5311.

IN MEMORIAM

THOMAS Holley, passed away 24 February 1990. In loving memory of our dear wife and mother. Rowland and family.

WORKMAN James, called home 19.2.60 and Jane, 10.3.86. The love and closeness we shared was inspired by your wonderful example. Gwendolyn (Parker).

HOUSE TO LET

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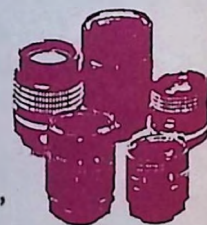
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Photographs are needed from all states and territories of Australia and from PNG and Vanuatu.

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Criteria for selection includes photographic excellence, variety of subject matter and the church year.



World Council of Churches Assembly

• Key issues at Assembly

Gulf War, Unity, Indigenous People, Faith and Culture

The war in the Gulf, church unity, the situation of Australian Aborigines and other indigenous people and the relationship between faith and culture were among major issues at the Seventh Assembly of the World Council of Churches, which met in Canberra, 7-20 February.

WCC assemblies meet every seven or eight years. This one brought together about 4,000 people, including more than 800 delegates from most of the 317 member churches, representing Christian traditions in almost all countries of the world. Also attending were 10 guests from other faiths, about 1,500 "full-time" visitors and more than 200 observers from non-member bodies, including 23 appointed by the Vatican.

The Gulf war figured prominently in assembly prayers and a peace march. A statement on the war, debated on the last day, called for an immediate ceasefire and a subsequent immediate, complete and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. It urged the United Nations to re-assert its role as peace-maker, to convene an emergency Security Council session to resolve the Iraq-Kuwait dispute and to call an international "conference on peace, security and cooperation in the Middle East".

The assembly gave prominence to the concerns of Aboriginal Australians. A statement for assembly consideration proposed a WCC commitment to supporting and monitoring "a treaty process" between Aborigines and the Australian government and called on the church in Australia to "return land unjustly taken" from the Aborigines. WCC members were to be asked to support the struggles of indigenous people everywhere for self-determination, land rights, and religious freedom. Also proposed were statements on internal conflicts within sovereign states, South Africa, the Pacific, the Baltic States and regions of tension in the USSR and appeals on Sri Lanka and El Salvador.

Questions of church unity came into focus in terms of both structural unity and theological diversity. A keynote address by Parthenios, Eastern Orthodox patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, declared that the struggle for unity has no room for neutrality, but must continue unimpeded in obedience to the Holy Spirit. Despite significant theological convergence in recent years, it was clear, in assembly discussions and in its worship life, that the Eucharist, ordained ministry and views about the nature of

the church remain key stumbling blocks to full communion.

The assembly asked the Vatican-WCC Joint Working Group to concentrate on remaining obstacles to a fuller relationship between the two bodies. It also called for greater attention to relationships with churches outside WCC membership.

In a dramatic presentation, Korean feminist theologian Chung Hyun Kyung linked Christian theology of the Holy Spirit with elements of traditional Korean spirituality and culture. This generated considerable controversy over issues such as the relationship between theology and culture, what is pagan and what is holy and how emerging Third World theologies relate to traditional forms.

The assembly reflected recent political developments around the world. China was represented for the first time in over 30 years and the China Christian Council was admitted as a member. Observers from the [North] Korean Christians Federation attended for the first time. From South Africa, the (officially mixed-race) Dutch Reformed Mission Church was admitted as a WCC member, and (white) Dutch Reformed Church observers attended for the first time since it left the council in the 1960s. Participants from eastern Europe spoke of new tensions in the wake of the collapse of communist rule, for example between Orthodox and fundamentalists, and Orthodox and eastern-rite Roman Catholics.

Worship, reflecting a wide diversity of languages, cultures, and traditions, took place in a huge tent at the Australian National University. Other assembly highlights included a speech by Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke; messages from youth, children and "differently-abled" persons, presentations on Pacific concerns, unity, women's concerns and

what the Spirit is saying to the churches. There were delegate visits to parishes across south-eastern Australia and special pre-assembly gatherings for women and youth. There was also a special presentation on the first Sunday night, "Under the Southern Cross", which involved many from local Canberra churches.

Of interest to Churches of Christ is the fact that for only the second time one of our members was elected to the WCC Committee. Ian Allsop was one of three Australians elected to this committee. The only previous member from Churches of Christ was Neil Gilmore. The other Australian members of the Central Committee are Jean Malpas, a lay Anglican from South Australia, and Rev Djiniyini Gondarra from the Uniting Church.

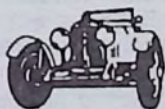
For the first time a member from the Restoration stream of churches was elected one of the Presidents of the WCC. Eunice Santana, a member of the Disciples of Christ in Puerto Rico, was elected one of the seven Presidents. Dr Paul Crow, from the US Disciples of Christ (Christian Church) was re-elected to the Central Committee.



Dr Emillo Castro, WCC General Secretary

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• Service for churches

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The proprietors are Stephen and Janine Maggs, who worship at the Bendigo, Vic, church.

Prompted by a suggestion from John Sweetman (minister) they were led to set this venture into motion. They are hoping to eventually go on to producing TV and video library programs to spread the word and good taste in today's entertainment programs.

The equipment used is "broadcast" quality and with Stephen's training in commercial TV production it will help ensure that quality is kept high.

People today expect "quality" and if they don't get it, they easily switch off and any message to be conveyed is lost, so they hope this may help to alleviate the problem.

They provide this service not only to church and church organisations, but also to businesses and companies who may want a TV commercial made or an "in-house" documentary or training video/film produced.

Individuals are also catered for, for events such as weddings that they might like made by a fellow Christian instead of a total stranger.

Further information on SGM Productions is available from Stephen Maggs, Bendigo, Vic. Phone: (054) 46 1736.



Stephen and Janine Maggs with video equipment

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• Gisborne living beyond themselves

Moore to Cambodia



Clint, Judy and Peter Moore

The number of people attending Gisborne, Vic, church decreased by three in February as Peter, Judy and Clint Moore were farewelled to live and work in Cambodia.

The Moores have accepted a position with World Vision for two years. Based in Pnom Penh, Judy will work in World Vision's office as an administrator, and 17-year-old Clint will continue his study and sharpen up his journalistic skills. Peter will range into the countryside as a public health educator.

With the aid of puppets, Peter will be teaching the people basic hygiene and water purification techniques. His nursing skills gained as a midwife at the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne will also be used.

Because of their practical support for the poor and oppressed Indo-China World Vision is one of the few Western organisations permitted to operate in Cambodia.

The Gisborne church will be actively supporting this medical outreach and sees the Moores as a living extension of the church's care and compassion.

The church has been motivated to greater outreach ministry. Its February theme was "Living beyond Ourselves".

Wayne and Jane Bienvenu, en route to serve with the Overseas Mission Board in Papua New Guinea, were special guests on 17 February, and the church has committed itself to financial support for the Bienvenus.

Milton Oliver, who with his wife Anne is pioneering a new church in Sunbury, was the guest preacher on 4 February. Gisborne is involved in the new congregation and will be supporting the Oliver's ministry with \$120 per week.

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A Church ABC

Modbury is the business and administrative centre of Tea Tree Gully, one of the largest city council areas of Adelaide, SA. Within a minute's walk of the church are three major shopping complexes, government regional offices, a large hospital, a TAFE college and council offices. The office of the Federal MP is next door to the church.

The Modbury Church of Christ not only seeks to take advantage of its prime location in a busy regional centre but also seeks to address the needs of the surrounding community. Although primarily in a mortgage belt, an increasing number of retirement units is seeing the 65+ age group being represented even more strongly in the congregation. Indeed a feature of the Modbury churchscape is 15 retirement units established by Christian Retirement Services adjacent to the church.

The Modbury's church buildings are modern and functional. The worship area is

dominated by a huge rugged cross carved out of the red gum that once stood on the property. Artworks provide focal points for worship at various times of the year. Recent building additions and improve-

ments provide a setting conducive to worship, fellowship and community outreach. The church has an active membership of 120. Services are held at 10 am and 7 pm. The worship is both structured and informal; families involved in planning the morning worship find "organised spontaneity" an appropriate guideline. This means that services contain a mixture of traditional and contemporary elements, with many opportunities for congregational participation. On Sunday evenings, a "wholeness" service offers a quiet place for contemplation and prayer along selected themes. A small but changing group of people

have found much healing and blessing through this time. Also enhancing worship are the occasional contributions of a choral group formed from worshippers who learn and sing the works of Geoff Higgs and

outreach of its thrift shop on the church premises by adding facilities for coffee and counselling. A city youth ministry and family enrichment programs built on existing ministries are also planned as missionary thrusts. Follow-through procedures for the many "first-time" worshippers and training of volunteers for various aspects of pastoral

care will be improved. This focus has primed the church to employ Maurice Keatch part time to develop this area during 1991. A 12-monthly "rolling review" involving the whole congregation will establish progress and set new objectives.

Dennis and Jenny Ryle will conclude their ministry at Modbury at the end of the year. They are in their fifth year there, following ministries in Fremantle, WA, and Canberra, ACT.

In 1992 Dean and Glenys Hamilton will slide into the driver's seat ready to lead the Modbury church into new and exciting phases of its mission in a growing regional centre.

Focus on Modbury

ments provide a setting conducive to worship, fellowship and community outreach.

The church has an active membership of 120. Services are held at 10 am and 7 pm. The worship is both structured and informal; families involved in planning the morning worship find "organised spontaneity" an appropriate guideline. This means that services contain a mixture of traditional and contemporary elements, with many opportunities for congregational participation. On Sunday evenings, a "wholeness" service offers a quiet place for contemplation and prayer along selected themes. A small but changing group of people

Carol-Anne Fooks. This group is used by other churches and organisations in the district and the SA conference.

Activities at the Modbury church include a kids club, Sunday school, Boys' Brigade, "Chat" (come and have a talk—a craft and other activities group), women's groups, a playgroup, a bowls group, various home fellowship groups and Kerygma courses.

The church has adopted Kevin Callahan's principles of selecting specific concrete objectives to enhance the effectiveness of its mission. For the current 12-month period a highly participatory church meeting agreed to advance the

Growing Spiritually

• *We are all parts of the body of Christ*

Jam Sandwiches

by Kaye Wray

I don't know why I felt that way as I look back, but for a while during my primary school days I envied something about my friend, Lorraine. She had to cut her own lunch and that seemed like a very grown-up, independent thing to do.

But while my mother gave me neatly cut beef and tomato, or polony (Western Australian!) and sauce sandwiches wrapped in lunch wrap and put in a brown paper bag, Lorraine's were invariably jam.

And in those days of unsliced bread her sandwiches were real door stops! Not only that, but she had to wrap them in a sheet

from *The Kalgoorlie Miner*. As I said, looking back I can't think why I envied thick jam sandwiches wrapped in newspaper!

I guess it's something we battle with throughout our lives—envying what others have or can do. The incident was brought to mind recently when a floral arrangement was used to demonstrate that though we are all different, with different abilities, we need each other to complete the whole picture. Or as Paul put it in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12, we are many parts but make up one body. With a variety of flowers and greenery, repre-

sented people with their various personalities, skills and talents, a very appealing arrangement was formed. No longer was the awkwardly shaped flower a problem, or the unpretentious ones overlooked, or the slightly different ones ignored. Placed in the skilled hands of the floral artist they all played an important

role. If we could picture ourselves in the church like that arrangement we would readily understand the value of everyone and there would be no envy, false modesty or undervaluing of ourselves or others.

• *Kaye Wray is a member of the Owen, SA, combined congregation.*



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Comment

Discovering Life's Greatest Purpose

by Selwyn Hughes

Ever asked yourself the question: "What am I doing here in the world? What is the purpose of my existence?" Millions do. It's strange how so many Christians ask themselves these same questions, even though God has made it clear in the Bible that he has a high and noble and overarching purpose for every one of his children.

If we are not aware of a controlling purpose being at work in our lives then life becomes jaded. Without a purpose we are like sand dunes that are shaped and shifted by the prevailing wind. Peter in his great sermon on the Day of Pentecost said: "Save yourselves from this untoward generation." (Acts 2:40) The root meaning of the word "untoward" is "crooked" but it can also be translated "purposeless". The generation in which Peter lived wasn't going anywhere—it was adrift. The purposeless generation ended up by making a sudden decision to crucify Jesus. It had no overall purpose and thus it was easily overtaken by a sudden and sinister purpose. Christians who do not see their life purpose in terms of what God wants them to achieve in this world will soon be overtaken by other purposes.

What then is God's overall purpose for every one of his children? It is this—to be aware of God and of others. By "aware of God" I mean to be in a loving relationship with him and by "aware of others" I mean

to be in a loving relationship with them. If you search the Scriptures you will come up with no higher conclusion than this.

Most Christians have little difficulty with the vertical emphasis "loving involvement with God" but when it comes to the horizontal dimension—"loving involvement with others" then as Shakespeare put it: "Ah, there's the rub." As everyone will know Christians are no angels. They can be rude, uncouth, stubborn, difficult and at times downright obnoxious.

Loving involvement with others is one of life's biggest challenges and some people are not easy to love. I have to confess that there are some people in the circle of my relationships I sometimes wish were on the other side of the world. As a committed Christian what am I to do at those times when I find that my concerned and loving approach to others is unappreciated, misunderstood or even rejected?

I am to go on loving. Jesus made this point crystal clear in the word that he gave to his disciples: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another even as I have loved you." (John 13:34)

How then did Jesus love? With patience and persistence. How would you like to rub shoulders daily with a man like Simon Peter for example? Yet even though Jesus must have been hurt time and time again

by this vacillating and oscillating disciple, not once do we ever see Jesus withdrawing from him. The same goes for all the other disciples also. Jesus moved toward them and gave himself to them no matter how difficult they were and how prone to misunderstand.

I once heard a preacher say: "God calls us to move toward people who are guaranteed to hurt us." There is not a person reading these lines who hasn't been hurt in the area of relationship. So what do we do when that happens? Almost invariably we say, "I will make sure I will never be hurt like that again." Then our future relationships become more cautious, more self-protective, more superficial. We get close enough to people to be affirmed by them but not close enough to be hurt by them. Our relationships then become no more meaningful than "two lovers kissing between a pane of glass".

What we often fail to realise is that when we think more of ourselves than we do of another person to whom in the plans and purposes of God we are called to relate, we violate the law of love. We are not loving as we are loved. Our self-protective attitude deprives the person to whom we are relating of the spiritual impact a truly loving heart can make, and this in turn leads to a diminishment of our own being. We become less of a person because we have failed to love. What then is the

secret of maintaining good relationships and pursuing life's greatest purpose? It is to keep our hearts open to the fact that in Christ we are loved with a love that is unconditional and unending.

We are to draw upon that love and allow it to become the motivating force in our personalities.

More than draw upon it we are to trust it, believing it to hold us whenever we are hurt, misunderstood or rejected. It is only when we experience divine love at the core of our being—experience it not just comprehend it—then we have the power to move toward others and love as we are loved.

Everyone of us is controlled by one of two forces—love or fear. When love is at the helm then we can move toward people knowing that though they hurt us they cannot destroy us.

We are then fortified to endure the pain of difficult relationships and can go on loving even in the face of the most painful situations. But when fear is at the helm then we become more concerned about ourselves than we do for others; more afraid of being misunderstood than of loving. Our relationships then become superficial and drained of all spiritual power.

I am convinced that a failure to understand this truth is one of the issues that is responsible for the church being unable to make the impact upon the world that it should.

Jesus did not say, "By this shall all men know you are my disciples...when you fill the biggest auditoriums and stadiums in the land."

No, he said: "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another." (John 13:35)

I will tell you this—the world will listen when Christians love.

• Selwyn Hughes is the author of "Every Day with Jesus".

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Comment

• God does his best work in silence

The Rewards of Digging

by Ray Hawkins

God does not own a circus! He is not the star of some religious extravaganza!

He is not a seeker after the limelight!

The way some seek to promote God and the Gospel you would be forgiven if you imagined God was doing a "road show" supported by musicians, singers, dancers and proclaimers.

There are occasions mentioned in the Scriptures when God has done the awesome, the spectacular. The result more often than not was fear, not clapping.

The Bible frequently delights to feature the quiet working of God over the ego activity of his people. It is this non-startling impact of God that reveals the

supreme power of his grace. One of the best incidences that highlights this fact is found in 2 Kings 13.

In that account we read of a combined forces invasion of Moab. The strategy proposed was a strike across the desert so as to get at the "soft side" of the nation. The trouble was that someone in the quartermaster's store miscalculated. The armies ran out of water. This was not only embarrassing but deadly.

From out of this potential tragedy comes a principle inherent in a lot of God's provision and activity.

The kings leading the assault met in emergency session and wondered what they could do. Someone mentioned that there was a prophet of the Lord in the ranks. This was none other

than Elisha. How and why he was there is not mentioned but we discover the "for what" of his presence. The kings, commanders and soldiers looked to him for deliverance. I imagine that they wanted him to do an Elijah and rouse up a rain-storm, or a Moses and strike a rock, but he told them to dig.

Imagine that! Ordering hot, weary dispirited soldiers to dig in the barren landscape on a hot day with no water to quench their thirst. They dug, but probably wondered what sort of prophet he was and just where was the God of Israel and Judah.

After the digging they waited and waited but nothing happened. But Elisha had promised them that when they awoke the next morning there would be more than enough water for all. It would come in the silence. It would not be dramatic. It would be God's providence. That is precisely what happened.

Ministers of the Gospel need to grasp the principle that God does his best work in silence. Unfortunately most of us are so busy watching for the spectacular that we miss his quiet interventions. We want to be so very "spiritual" that we forget

the command to dig. The Lord wants to fill the ditches dug by his soldiers of the faith, but in his time. Perhaps part of the problem lies in the slackness of the soldiers who want miracles rather than the responsibility of digging in the heat of a "desert" experience. Ditch-digging is unspectacular. It doesn't rate much attention in denominational publications let alone the secular press and it is hard work. But it is the command of the King!

The trouble is we don't like to dig.

We will seek to camouflage that fact by all sorts of reasons and excuses that are simply sloth dressed as spirituality.

It is time to stop bemoaning lack of revival, the paganisation of society, the worldliness of the saints etc. God has given his servants digging tools that chip away at the heart, the mind, the conscience and construct ditches capable of receiving the "water of life".

Let us dig, and dig, and dig, and in the digging have a waiting heart for the flow of God to fill what has been prepared. So dig deep.

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

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Ministers' Workshop

Ideas for Youth Ministry

by Andrew Ball

As we enter this last decade of the 20th century I am continually reminded of how "convenience orientated" Australian society has become.

We live in a culture that epitomises the disposable mindset. This is evidenced through our throw-away packaging, our spending patterns and our "throw-away" attitudes towards relationships, both in marriages and casual relationships. Closely linked with this trait is the "instant" symptom. Instant food, instant finance and instant success are some of the modern idols surfacing in our materialistic world.

Sadly, our young people and often our churches are becoming products of this culture. Being "in the world" but "not of the world" is becoming more and more difficult as the advertising world squeezes more and more personal wants into our overloading neurons!

The minister and the local church need to be aware of this cultural trend. Most ministers I meet subconsciously look for the ideas to make their local youth ministry an "instant" success using "throw-away" techniques that don't cost too much, that don't take up too much time and that don't involve them personally. In short, they desire the results without the workload.

I don't blame ministers for this. We are all a product of our culture to a certain degree. But we are called by God to be a light in the world, the salt of the earth. (Matthew 5:13-16)

So, here are three long-term, "non-instant" ideas/questions designed to genuinely help you with youth ministry in your church.

1. Response or Reaction?

Ask most "matured" church members what they think of young people these days, and the response you'll receive can be summarised as: loud, un-

predictable, uncommitted, inconsistent, physically changing, frustrating, self-centred, different, disrespectful little monsters.

Churches need to work hard at responding, not reacting, to young people. Our youth are a product of our culture. Often they can't help the way they behave.

A church that responds to young people is one that unconditionally loves and accepts them in word, in action and in body language. Respond, don't react!

2. A Calling?

Do all of your church leaders and youth leaders have a heartfelt desire to love and work with young people?

If they don't, you can have all the tricks and books and ideas and you won't build a youth ministry.

Here's an idea. Get all of your youth leaders to write a short statement describing why they are (or want to be) youth leaders. Spend some time and talk it over with each of them. You may be surprised!

The key is to set a minimum standard for leadership. Having trouble? Read 2 Peter 1:5-8.

3. A Vision?

Does your church have a vision of what God would have you do amongst young people in your community? Long-term youth ministry in your church needs to be prayed about. The best way to motivate and involve people is to have a vision.

Ask God for a vision. A vision is not an end point or specific goal, rather it is a process of continued development and growth.

The best idea is to develop your vision with both your youth leaders and the church's spir-

itual leaders and finally print it for the whole church and community to see, to pray about, to praise God for and to work at! Youth ministry in the 1990s is not about shortcuts. During this decade we will see more and more problems and needs emerge amongst our young people.

The church that seriously attempts to minister to these needs will be the church that grows.

• Andrew Ball is responsible for youth ministry with both the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development and the ABCDE.

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

Curkpatrick

Living in the Future

Have you ever known someone who lives in the future most of their lives, without ever fully experiencing the present as it occurs? They develop a habit of always longing for a future event, but never enjoy it when it actually arrives, because they're planning and wishing for the next major phase of life to occur. For example, some people can't wait to have children, only to long for the day their children go to school, then leave school, then finally, leave home. With that goal accomplished, they eagerly look forward to the day they retire. Effectively, they are wishing much of their lives away. Why not short-circuit the lot, and look forward to the day you die!

We can easily live in the future, all of our lives, and never fully experience the present as it occurs. By living one step, one event ahead of ourselves all the time, even if it is only tomorrow, we are not fully living in the present. Sure, we can look forward to major events and life changes in the future, but it's important for us to enjoy those life events that are happening now, today, like enjoying our growing children—whatever their age, or relishing the challenges of vocation, further education or even renovating a home.

The present is the only time that exists for any of us. We cannot live in the past, for the past is gone forever. We cannot live in the future, for the future is yet to come. We can only live in the present, for that is the only time that actually exists for any of us. And if we cannot live in the present, then we will never be able to "live" at all.

—Stephen Curkpatrick

Pontius' Puddle



Comment

• The importance of Israel

Pray for Jerusalem

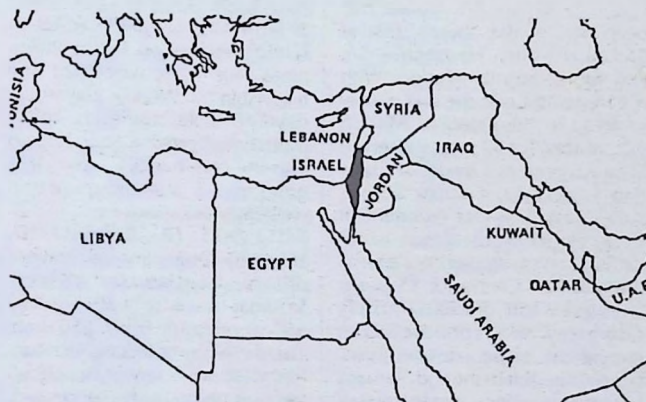
by Gladys Butler

For Christians Jerusalem is the most fascinating city in the world. Eretz Israel, the land of promise, both inspires and repels by its chequered history of holiness, corruption and violence.

A map soon reveals the insignificance of Israel when judged by size against neighbouring Islamic nations, but Jesus is the clue to its importance in world standing for it gave birth to its rejected Messiah and Jerusalem is the prophetic city of his millennial kingdom of the future.

As we see prophecy being fulfilled almost daily there's a quickening of the Christian pulse. How long before the Messiah, "the Lion of the tribe of Judah", will be revealed to the Jewish nation? Two thousand years have passed since they cried out: "Away with this man—we will not have him to rule over us!" But, now we see the Jews returning home to Israel in droves, at a rate of over a thousand a day. Their erstwhile enemies are now co-operating to return them from their time of exile in nations that haven't appreciated their presence. Australia and New Zealand are among the nations who are sponsoring planes to bring them back. Over a million dollars have been donated in a combined drive to establish people back in Israel. Canada, the USA, Denmark, Switzerland, Norway, the Netherlands and South Africa have all pledged to sponsor a plane each, with Germany sponsoring three planes and Finland two, states an article from the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) Newsletter of December

From the January/February newsletter Rabbi Adler writes concerning the "retreat of Christianity and the rise of Islamic fanaticism". Rabbi Adler is Managing Editor of the Jew-



ish Bible Quarterly. He says: "For the Jews, the fact that Christianity is in retreat is no reason for satisfaction because we must remember that despite our long history of theological struggles with Christianity our fate seems to be tied to the Western world and Christianity. If it [the rise of Islamic forces] is bad for Christians it is even worse for the Jews. We know that the Jewish state is the first target in the Arab-Muslim aim to take over all of the lands that were once under Islamic domination. The slogan is: 'First we get rid of the Saturday people then we take care of the Sunday people.'" (Three Sabbath days are observed in Israel, Friday for Muslims, Saturday for Jews and Sunday for Christians.)

"It is unfortunate that most Christian leaders in the West still have not woken up to the fact that now that communism is no longer a threat, the new menace to the West as well as to Russia and to Israel comes from Islam. Even the Arab-Israel conflict is not a territorial dispute which can be resolved by another partition but is in essence a Muslim-Judeo-Christian conflict.

"The majority of Christians who seem to sympathise with the Arabs against Israel do not realise that Israel is the bulwark and first line of defense

against Islamic imperialism. The state of Israel therefore deserves all the help and sup-

port that the Western democracies can give, because our struggle for survival in the long run is the same as that of Christendom and the free democratic West."

Rabbi Joshua Adler has given us a firsthand Jewish viewpoint of the way his people understand their situation in relation to the democratic West and to Christendom. In praying for the peace of Jerusalem we are praying against the source of power pitted against Christ our Lord Jesus.

• Gladys Butler is a member of the Bruce Rock, WA, church.

Celebrating a Centenary of Overseas Mission 1891-1991

1900

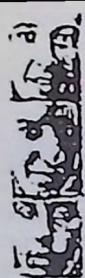
LETTER FROM F.E. STUBBIN.

...Do you not think I did well to come here [Damoh, India]? I tell you I have been busy since coming here, working 14 hours every day straight off, and at night time I feel as though the pillow is good. But I say I am not here to open an Australian station. This place was originally occupied by the dear old lady, Miss Jane Wakefield Adam, whom I am sure it would do your heart good to see. She has been in India for 20 years without a furlough. She has lived by faith, and built a school, chapel, and house for herself, a small orphanage for boys, and done a wonderful work; and to-day, at the age of 71 years, she is working from 5 o'clock in the morning till 6, 7, or even 9 o'clock at night. She has always a kind word and a pleasant look for everybody, be he peasant or king. She says I am sent in answer to her prayers. She has been praying for ten long years for a builder to come to India, and so I am the answer to that prayer.

—THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN, 8 MARCH 1900.

OMB
Overseas Mission Board

Obituaries



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I give and bequeath \$ (or a percentage of the total estate) to "The Australian Christian", the national journal of Churches of Christ in Australia, absolutely for the use and benefit of the organisation free from all debts, funeral and testamentary expenses.

Visiting Brisbane?

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10 am Sundays
8 am Good Friday and Christmas Day*

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

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Butler, Maisie

After several weeks in hospital and a year that climaxed a 17-year battle with leukemia this gracious lady died peacefully in the Ashwood Hospital. All her life Maisie had been part of the church, first at Broken Hill, then Hawthorne, SA, and more recently Marion. With her husband Colin she was deeply involved in the Overseas Mission Committee. For 52 years she served at Hawthorne as a leader in Christian Endeavour, Sunday School, Bible Class. She was President of CWF, served on the flower roster for 50 years and flower convener of the Julia Farr Centre for 15 years. She was a warm, gracious and truly caring lady. Always positive and an encourager of people, she maintained this spirit to the end. Perhaps her greatest witness was to the staff of the hospital. She will be sadly missed by Colin and daughter Joy and Frank (Bibby).

—KDH

Lanyon, Doreen Isabel

(3.2.91) Doreen Holland grew up in Keswick and attended Grote Street Church of Christ where she was baptised by Arthur Hurren. She married Vern Lanyon (also from Grote Street) in 1943 with Charles Schwab officiating. They purchased a home in South Plympton from Jack Manallack and attended the Edwardstown church. Doreen was a member of the two ladies fellowships. Following Vern's death in 1981, she moved to Parkrose Hostel. She always remained loyal to her church family and keenly supported her brother, Eric. Her health deteriorated over recent years but her family and Christian devotion never wavered.

—Roger Brown

McCallum (Davis), Jessie

One of a large family, Jessie grew up in Ascot Vale where she was converted during a tent mission and baptised in 1922. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was active in both the Ascot Vale and the Chelsea churches. She also worked for many years at the MCG in the catering service. She endured bravely a long illness with Parkinsons disease and resided in the Churches of Christ Nursing Home in Murrumbidgee for two years. The Chelsea church was full for her thanksgiving service testifying to her steadfast faith in Jesus Christ.

—Ian Whitelock

Church News

Qld

MT WALKER (R. Bennett, D. Mansell) Jean Mayer baptised recently & received into fellowship. Others also baptised since last report are Leroy, Beverley, Jarrod & Darren Zahnow, Georgie Hinrichsen, David & Trish Deakin & Jim Norris ... Elmslie & Teresa Hinrichsen married in the Philippines recently & welcomed into fellowship ... Weekly playgroup, daytime Bible studies & coffee mornings all proving good bridges into the community ... Church in good spirit & attendances remain well up.

ROSEVALE (R. Bennett, D. Mansell) Centenary celebrations off to great start New Year weekend. Saturday tea & rally attended by 350, Sunday am & pm 250 each. Tuesday a day of fellowship, reunion, dedication service, lunch, afternoon program, tea & concert. Over 500 came on day. Denby Holmes main speaker. Past ministers attending & sharing Fred Stow, V.G. Boettcher, Alex Surtees & Rob Holt ... Kitchen extensions completed just before weekend ... Much-needed rain finally came ... Church rejoiced in baptisms of Damien & Luke Schulze. Others baptised recently Malcolm Topp, Myrene Christensen & Mitchell Wainwright.

TOWNSVILLE (Greg Muller) Travellers youth group attended camp before Christmas at Magnetic Island. Good attendance, studies by Phil Daughtery ... Sunday School presented Christmas play to congregation for breakup. Presentation evening followed fellowship tea ... Play group starting off year with new co-ordinator, Jenny Faulkner ... Home fellowship groups new topic "An Adventure in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit". Studies precede special teaching mission 23-26 February led by Dave Smethurst.

PINE RIVERS (Neale Proellocks, Ian Todd) Bethlehem Markets great success with food parcels donated to needy in area ... Adult Bible study on "Masterplan", an overall look at the Bible ... Ladies Bible study on "meeting Jesus" ... Youth groups & playgroup all resumed with increased numbers ... Sunday School numbers increased to over 80 attending ... Project X almost complete ... Church get-to-know new chaplain for Dakabin High School.

RANGEVILLE (G. Hack) Name changed from Crown Street to Rangeville as in the Rangeville area of Toowoomba ... Barry Benz of the Gatton church performed induction of Graham, Kerrell and Daniel Hack

for full-time ministry. Graham was student minister 1990 ... Jess Webb & Rita Wallace both home from hospital ... All auxiliaries have recommenced after recess ... Half yearly meeting 23 March.

BRIBIE ISLAND (Wayne Kirk) Minister presented church 1991 calendar. Emphasis on expanded growth ... Enrolment in Kids Club encouraging ... An 8.30 am service well attended ... Formation of house prayer groups aim deepening of spiritual life ... Garden of remembrance planned ... Appreciated bequest of Bible studies cassettes by late Hope Berlin, also gift of ceiling fans gave comfort.

MARBURG-LOWOOD (Ian Richer) 35th CWF anniversary. 50 present. Joan Furlonger speaker ... Ready for a year of growth ... Mission in September with David Mansell ... Considerable growth in area giving great opportunities & increased need for counselling ministry ... Children's Club now averaging 40-50. Polly Richer leader ... Church hall used by community—Venturers, physical culture & local school ... Increased leadership being developed ... Vic Boettcher, Gary Baxter (Albion), Dave Teis & David Kickbusch recent speakers.

BUNDABERG (Alan Leane) Baptist service Brenden Banks & subsequent welcome ... Several new contacts ... 61 registrations family camp 15-17 Feb ... Farewell presentation Ballard family who leave for Naremburn, WA ... All three youth groups, 50 in all, have commenced ... Bill & Lyn Brown appointed in charge of Social Service Dept home made available by Housing Commission for needy family or single people, under the direction of Beryl Wiltshire.

MARYBOROUGH (David Woodward) Boys' Brigade presented "What is a Man?" by Geoff Scott ... Girls' Brigadenight featured international theme ... 800 at "Fair Haven" open-air carols ... 58 at family camp Hervey Bay ... Young adults class & "Christianity Explained" commenced ... Luke Wallace, Tania Sims, Holly Cloherty welcomed into fellowship ... Kylie Sims received Queen's Award from Governor ... Elder Les Shakespeare, wife Ros, five others farewelled.

Moving to Melbourne?

You are welcome
at the Richmond Church of Christ
cnr Coppin and Murphy Streets
Morning service 11 am
(03) 428 4844

Personal

Baptisms

•Tony Stuffers, Pam Migga, Tammy Dowdy, Linnie Dowdy, Dot Tschirpig, Malcolm Clarke, Berri, SA •Mrs Jean Mayer, Leroy, Beverley, Jarrod & Darren Zahnow, Georgie Hinrichsen, David & Trish Deakin, Jim Norris, Mt Walker, Qld •Damien & Luke Schulze, Malcolm Topp, Myrene Christensen, Mitchell Wainwright, Rosevale, Qld •Jonathan Pohle, Pine Rivers, Qld •Val Wilson, Pat Kay, Victor Harbor, SA •Geoff Kovovich, Mrs Marguerite Maton, Maylands, WA •Troy & Tamlyn Gent, Frankston, Vic •Alison Wells, Theresa Thompson, Jocelyn Halse, Patsy & Lea Hendroff, Beatrice Wulff, Damien Sita, Robert Stone, Richard Lewis, Anthony Lloyd, Jamie & Julie Atkins, Kalamunda, WA •Vicki Elgaznieks, Pauline Elliot, Kelly Bridgart, Marie

Seybold, Springvale, Vic •Stephen Calleja, Amy Calleja, Nenita Wyllie, Colin Crouch, Lena Polkinghorne, Portland, Vic •Kelley Wheeler, Yarrowonga, Vic •Brenden Banks, Bundaberg, Qld •Luke Wallace, Tania Sims, Holly Cloherty, Maryborough, Qld •Mrs Marian Hardy, Seven Hills, NSW •Ann Aylesbury, Penny Maynard, Kellie McWaters, Naracoorte, SA

Marriages

•Joanne Campbell to Shane Pankhurst, Berri, SA •Samantha Munro to Steven Vincent, Pine Rivers, Qld •Michelle Pental to Stuart Davis, Cathryn Spicer to Glen Saw, Lee-Anne Castledine to Trevor Street, Kalamunda, WA •Brenda Wilson to Mark Hunting, Springvale, Vic •Belinda Greasley to Adrian Pitt, Parkdale, Vic •Shirley Baum to W. Roy Richards, Wembley, WA •Mary Pallot to Bruce Eager, Surrey Hills, Vic •Kerry Fox to Frank Curcio, Warragul, Vic •Kathy Chatwin to Stephen Waldoock, Maryborough, Qld •Karen Lewis to Robert Copping, Jenny Simons to Philip Shepherd, Naracoorte, SA

Deaths

•Ev Hounslow, Victor Harbor, SA •Louise Mutton, Albert Park, SA •Joyce Phillips, Jean Porter, Portland, Vic •Rene Maher, Surrey Hills, Vic •Mavis Fisher, Nallsworth, SA •Lois Fisher, Hartley Gericke, Naracoorte, SA •Jessie McCallum, Chelsea, Vic

Changes

Retchford, Peter—6 Kelfield Street, Toowoomba, Qld 4350.
Hampton Street: Secretary—M. Payne, 5 Llewellyn Street, Beaumaris, Vic 3193. Phone (03) 584 5892.
South Eastern Suburban Regional Church: Minister—Alan McMillan, 192 Bambra Road, Caulfield South, Vic 3162. Phone (03) 571 3784.

Administrator

The Churches of Christ Community Care Department and Pendle Hill Nursing Home Board of Management are seeking a person to administer a retirement village at Pendle Hill. The village consists of a 61-bed nursing home, 55 hostel beds and 108 units.

Applicants would ideally be able to demonstrate sound management skills and preferably have experience in the aged care field.

As a guide, salary package will be based on the Hospital Secretary's recommended rates including superannuation.

The nature of the position requires a committed Christian. Applications in writing together with a résumé and references should be forwarded to:

Mr C Wilson, Secretary
Nursing Home Board of Management
PO Box 140, Carlingford 2118. Phone (02) 630 7533
Applications close 22 March 1991

Churches of Christ Community Care Department Assistant Administrator

Due to the expansion of our Aged Care Program we are seeking a person to join our team and assist in the efficient administration of our day-to-day operations.

Primarily this role will provide relief for other members of the team during holidays, training and sick leave. It is also envisaged that this person would work closely with the Business Manager in an analysis and development role.

Because our facilities are state wide, it is expected that some periods of up to a month would need to be spent away from the metropolitan area. Applicants would ideally be able to demonstrate sound management skills, the ability to work in a team situation, and a desire to be involved in ministry to those in our care.

A suitable package, including superannuation, will be negotiated. The nature of the work requires a person who is a Christian actively involved in their local church.

Applications in writing should be forwarded to:

The Business Manager,
Churches of Christ Community Care Department,
PO Box 140, Carlingford 2118.
Applications close 22 March 1991.

Churches of Christ Community Care Department Admissions Officer—Permanent Part-Time

We are seeking a mature person with good communication skills both on the telephone and face to face.

The primary role is to assist prospective residents for all levels of care to make informed decisions concerning their future and explain the relevant documentation.

Keyboard skills would be a distinct advantage in order to prepare documentation and maintain a resident database.

Initially it is envisaged that 25 hours per week will be required with further hours added in conjunction with the expansion of our organisation.

An appropriate salary package together with superannuation will be negotiated based on experience and qualifications.

The nature of the work requires a Christian person actively involved in their local church.

Applications close on 22 March 1991 and should be forwarded in writing together with a resume and references to:

The Business Manager
Churches of Christ Community Care Department
PO Box 140, Carlingford 2118



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CWF

"Project 91"

Hawthorn State College
Wednesday, 13 March,
8 pm

Variety Concert
for all the family

Adults \$5 Children \$2.50

Sweets and drinks
available

Manna House Easter
packs

Craft stalls

Proceeds to provide
equipment for Ballarat
Hospice Care (Inc.)

News

Vic

RED CLIFFS (G.R. Sharrad) Kids Club start third year on 11 Feb. They finished second year, travelling by bus, singing carols at Christmas at homes of older members ... Christine Cook convened very successful Holiday Adventure Club at our church for a week in January. Children & helpers came from all the churches ... Fellowship with Ria Keddie at church luncheon on 3 February.

FRANKSTON (Allan Avery, Russell Croxford, Harold Bischoff) Congregational Christmas dinner held with 180 present ... Christmas Day service with 280 present ... Leaders breakfast held for prayer, reports & vision for 1991 ... Induction of Russell Croxford our youth minister by Andrew Ball. Welcome to Russell, Karen, Ben & Jonathon ... Dedication service for Sunday School teachers ... Col & Shirley Allen moved to Paynesville, Don & Olga Oakes to Maryborough ... Harold Bischoff back after illness & hospitalisation.

SPRINGVALE (P. Lyne) Grow Group raised \$181.60 for Mooropna bus fuel ... Wayne & Jane Bienvenu, newly appointed missionaries PNG, adopted as living link ... Combined with new Rowville church for picnic at Emerald Lake and camp at Cowes ... Glenys Hocken graduated with DipMin at BCV ... Many joined in wedding celebration of Brenda Wilson and Mark Hunting at BCV chapel ... Ken & Irene Parry welcomed back.

PRESTON (T. Armstrong) Brian Howe, Minister for Community Services and Health, guest speaker at special Australia Day service. Yurana Singers guest artists ... Kids Club has commenced Sunday mornings ... Newly formed band playing fortnightly for services ... Preston fourth church to place a clothing bin for opportunity shops on church property.

PEEL STREET, BALLARAT Dawson Street young people conducted youth service guest night. Chapel full. Jenny Jordan responded to invitation to commit her life to Christ ... Induction service of elders and deacons; also charge to church ... Church looking for minister to commence 1992. This year ministry conducted by elders Albert Graham & Kevin Rankin. Pastoral work by members visiting, letter writing and phoning.

PORTLAND (R. Hough) Christmas services very well attended ... CSSM visited during Jan & took part in services ... Coffee shops in Portland & Heywood going well ... Childrens service held Heywood 17 Feb ... All

clubs & auxiliaries had good start to year. Sunday School going very well ... Young people put on dinner for the over fifties; very much appreciated.

LA TROBE TERR, GEELONG (Dr C.J. MacKenzie) New youth group off to good start with 20 attending ... Young people took morning service 10 February followed by slave auction, which raised \$240 towards youth camp ... Inspirational playing on organ by Mr Small opened Geelong combined CWF rally when Resource & Development Committee were guests ... \$140 given towards water supply in Zimbabwe ... Don Witham recovering after surgery.

SURREY HILLS (D. Brooker, Julie Adam) Service of dedication of elders, deacons & auxiliary leaders as church groups commence new year ... Danny Wilson new member of board of officers ... Many visitors at am service for dedication of baby Roxanne Adam & parents Tim & Julie. Church family pledged support.

YARRAWONGA (B. Keddie) Simon Jones has left to attend university in Armidale ... Ricky & Fiona Jones have left to attend at Capenway, doing a 6-month Bible course ... CWF first meeting was held by the weir ... Family picnic by the foreshore and later a barbecue at Gore's lakeside home brought members together after the holidays.

GLEN WAVERLEY (Ron Elbourne, Lindsay Croxford, Howard Sanders) Howard Sanders welcomed into the ministry team as youth minister. D.H. Smith (DMED) guest speaker at Howard's induction service ... Elders held Saturday orientation conference ... At after-church presentation church family recognised Ron Elbourne's 20-year ministry at Glen Waverley ... New fellowship groups commenced ... College for Christians series "Clear Answers to Life's Fundamental Questions" being conducted by senior minister.

CARNEGIE (N. Hall) Student minister, Wayne Allen, wife Cheryl & baby son Jesse welcomed into fellowship. "Get to know you" lunch followed morning service. Wayne will focus on working with families in the church and community ... CWF entertained at Emmaus with program & afternoon tea ... "Whole-in-One" singles celebrated Shrove Tuesday with "pancakes in the park" picnic ... Kidsmin are looking forward to promising year.

BOX HILL (Peter Hunt, Jim Longbottom, Martina Osswald) Six cell groups growing through Bible study & prayer ... New fami-

lies attending playgroup ... Covenant Players at morning service shared gospel with telling effect through drama ... Gerry Doyle, CCTC, presented challenging address "The Name of Jesus" ... Frank Jones shared testimony following quadruple by-pass surgery ... Wayne & Jane Bienvenu interviewed ... Video programs offered to parents to help in nurturing teenagers ... Dinner for church contacts planned.

WARRAGUL (David & Debbie Buesnel) Anne Perkins & Flo Lockhart welcomed into membership ... Church working bee well attended ... Church planning 110th anniversary for June ... Board trial of elders & deacons meeting separately allowing elders an extra night for visitation ... Stan Peterson currently very ill ... Church folk helped Flo Lockhart celebrate her 90th birthday with a luncheon after church ... Christian group "Frontier" at recent evening service.

CHELSEA (Ian Whitelock) Large funeral for Jessie McCallum ... Scott & Karen Milan shifted to St Arnaud ... Dedication service for the New Year held with officers & members renewing their covenant ... A new format news sheet has been introduced ... Lyndsay & Ruth Smith thanked for 30 years of editing church paper ... Board & elders meeting for "start with me" "Grow" program.

WA

KALAMUNDA (Mark Proud, Paul Sanders) Auxiliaries recommenced after break ... Early morning prayer meetings twice a week ... Home fellowship groups begun studies on prayer ... John Thornhill's ministry concluded December ... Heather Newton & Gillian Simons home after two-week mission at Warburton ... Mark Proud appointed associate pastor for further three years ... Friendship Centre commenced program with luncheon. Guest speaker Jacky Reinalda ... 12 baptisms over recent months. **EASTERN HILLS** (M.B. Ashworth) Church finished 1990 with three baptisms, one confession of faith, wonderful church dinner, Bible school final, encouraging stock-taking meeting and Girls' Brigade completed first year with well-attended windup ... Congratulations to Neil Stott who at 12 years of age won a National Science Award and to Ernie Tong on his 80th birthday ... As a church we look forward to greater things.

MORAWA (Keith & Sylvia Thompson) On Saturday, 9 February, George Powell of the Perth

City church inducted Sylvia & Keith Thompson into the ministry of the Morawa church. The induction very well attended; all denominations represented ... George & Gladys Powell are ex-ministers of the Morawa church.

ROCKINGHAM (K. Ware, J. Crosby) Church continuing to grow and praising the Lord for so many younger folk active in leadership ... 500 attended Christmas carols featuring Channel 7 band ... Playgroup popular, with 50 mums and 70 children attending breakup ... John & Margaret Pendlebury graduated from Perth Bible College and are now preparing for Mobile Book Ministry ... Thanksgiving offering in February \$1,400.

WEMBLEY (Kim Roberts) After nine-year ministry at Wembley John & Pam Timms have resigned. John plans to devote his entire time to Indian Village Evangelism ... Induction service held for Kim Roberts, who, with his wife Trudy, has commenced a ministry at Wembley.

Tas

DEVONPORT (B. Butler) Missionaries from our church & missions supported through our Faith Giving Missionary program featured during minister's holiday. Speakers included Ellis McCulloch & Stewart Dinnen (Worldwide Evangelisation Crusade), Wendy Townsend (on behalf of brother Graeme with United Mission in Nepal), Albion Gray (Wycliffe Bible Translators) ... Attendances way up on last year's January figures. Many visitors ... Church members' questionnaire helping determine resources & programs for 1991.

LAUNCESTON (Rod Foster, C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) Danielle Larsen presented with her Girls' Brigade Queen's Award badge by Governor of Tasmania ... 140 enrolled in the small-group study program ... Janette Wright to Hobart Uni. to begin her studies in medicine ... Jim McLennan in hospital ... Second manse purchased for youth minister ... All groups resuming after holiday break.

L. C. F. Higgins

**Chartered
Accountant**

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

Church News

NSW

MAITLAND (Ron Hawkins) Roy Dixon, retired minister, assisting one day a week with pastoral care ... Jack Murphy, Business Manager, state Community Care Dept, spoke and then discussed work with church board ... Ron Hawkins in Maitland Australia Day service ... Michael & Janice Dunn shared their testimony in song & word.

THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) Special senior high program three Fridays in Feb entitled "Son City" covering videos, messages, live band, multimedia & entertainment very well attended ... Cool Kids' 1991 program (previously Kids Club) underway 14 Feb 5.30-7.30 pm—good rollop ... Numbers attending evening service on up & up, thus service from 10 March will be at Pennant Hills Community Centre, where am service held.

SEVEN HILLS (T.J. Beaman) Marian Hardy made decision on 10 Feb, was baptised on 17 Feb & with husband Kevin welcomed into church on 24 Feb ... Three overhead fans installed by John Willis & Jeff Barker ... Ros Bell in respite home at Shaw House, Pendle Hills for nine weeks ... Fourth-year student Neil Dickinson appointed to Seven Hills & will commence in March as assistant pastor & youth leader for 1991.

EPHING (S. Curkpatrick, D. Moyes, J. Lee) Children's & youth activities commenced year with large num-

bers ... Stephen Curkpatrick ran evenings on Churches of Christ focus, training programs for worship leaders, worship welcomers, pastoral visitation ... David Moyes ran youth leadership training ... Alan, Joyce Thomas & family welcomed into church ... John & Andrea Lee welcomed into team ministry ... Stephen Curkpatrick accepted invitation to ministry at Brighton, SA, beginning 1992.

LIVERPOOL (Peter Raymond) Theme for 1991 "God's Family—Equipped for Ministry". Peter Raymond giving series to develop theme ... 45 attended family camp at WEC Campsite Morrisett. Lance Mergard (Teen Challenge) study leader. Studies various Psalms relating to "Refreshment from God" ... AGM held 17 Feb. Elected elders—Henry Jacotine, Jim Olsen & Brett Willis; diaconate—Denis Lucey, Ian Hudson, David Milliken, Robert Williams, Sue Hudson, Elaine Olsen & Jan Weightman.

SA

BERRI (R. Patterson) Peter de Wildt relieving minister for two months 1990. Peter visited 40 homes, did hospital visiting. Deaconesses visit weekly. Church encouraged by Peter's ministry ... Thrilling to have baptismal service with Sony Suffers, Pam Migga, Tammy & Linnie Dowdy, Dot Tschirpigg, Malcolm Clarke received into membership ... Wednesday night Bible study

held. Saturday morning prayer meetings ... Ray Patterson & wife Wilma commenced 12 months ministry.

VICTOR HARBOR (R. Patterson) Church tea & business meeting held to discuss recommendations for use of church properties ... Friendship Centre evening service well supported ... "New Connexions" conducted musical evening service after being catered for with basket tea ... Young mum's coffee group held discussion mornings on Christian approach to parenting ... Fred Heinrich presented with Arthur Cys medal for outstanding service to elderly people.

ALBERT PARK (David Thompson) New minister David Thompson was inducted into ministry here on Sunday, 10 February, George Mathieson officiating ... First task was to conduct funeral of loved sister Louise Mutton ... Elders elected: E. Crowley, M. Fletcher, Lesley Rowland ... All auxiliaries enthusiastic ... Val Stevens continuing at Burleigh Bible College.

BORDERTOWN (S. Pillay) Church supports Grant & Laurel Porter towards salary ... Special offerings Rhonda Jenkins missionary work London & Roslyn Bagshaw, France, also guest speaker CWF ... Jenny Dungey, Sue Dooley welcomed into fellowship ... Dedication & prayer for 17 youth leaders & Bible club teachers ... Christmas and holiday services well attended ... New Year get together at E. & B. Creasers ... P.

Chatefield new BS superintendent. P. Cornish retired.

NAILSWORTH (Daryll Telfer) Former secretary, Russell Mountford set apart for student ministry at Cowandilla ... Sunday school commencement celebrated with church lunch ... Wayne Maddox editing weekly news sheet ... Bob Bunyon co-ordinator for Kids Club ... Paul Charlton and minister leading two older youth groups ... Consideration of Callahan's "Keys" continuing ... Dayfellowship started year with botanic gardens picnic ... Wayne Kerrison brought audio-visual account of PNG mission.

GOOLWA (Graeme Ritchie) Sunday youth & Friday girls & boys clubs both back in action again after Christmas break ... Holiday Bible Adventure week in January well attended by local & visiting children ... Meeting held to finalise plans for chapel extensions due to begin early March ... Church to host World Day of Prayer (combined meeting) on 1 March ... We joined members of Uniting Church for Christmas Day service.

NARACOORTE (Grant Simpson) ROCK raised \$200 for Bibles for India, Young Workers raised around \$100 for the Mullers in Vanuatu ... Ann Aylesbury was baptised in the sea at Kingston by Julie Simpson. It was well attended & encouraging for all as were recent baptisms of Penny Maynard & Kellie McWaters ... Annual picnic, Pinks Beach Kingston, enjoyed by all despite the cooler weather.

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CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

October 1993

Melbourne

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Comment

• At this time of year in PNG it rains nearly every day

Rain, Rain and More Rain

"Do we need more rain today, Mum?" my four-year-old son asks as it begins to rain yet again. In answer to his questions I have explained to Scott that God sends the rain so that the plants can grow and we can have fresh water in our tanks for drinking and washing, and fresh water in the river. However, I think he finds it hard to comprehend that we need so much rain! On one occasion, as he watched the rain falling down heavily, I overheard him say, "You can stop the rain now, Jesus. I only want a little drink."



At this time of year in Papua New Guinea it rains nearly every day and quite often for a good part of the day. There is something really lovely about the rain. You can hear it coming through the dense bush or down the river as the breeze picks up and pushes it along its path. It is a pleasant, refreshing relief after the stillness and build-up of heavy humidity in the air that precedes it.

The sound of the rain is lovely on our iron roof, especially lying in bed listening to it at night. But we can't help thinking of how the rain transforms the earth here into

Richard and Helen Nolan and family

thick, black, sticky mud which causes the road to become boggy, quite treacherous for vehicles and sometimes impassable.

However we continue to praise our great creator God for the rain and for all the other wonders of his creation and for his marvellous provision of our daily needs. I ask you to read again Psalm 147, including verse 8, which says, "He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes the grass grow on the hills." Praise the Lord! —Helen Nolan

The Last Word

We never touch the ocean of God's love so much as when we love our enemies. It is a joy to accept forgiveness, but it is almost a greater joy to give forgiveness.

—Corrie ten Boom

"Doctor, I want to thank you for your treatment!"

"But you're not a patient of mine, are you?" asked the doctor.

"No, I'm not. But my late uncle was!"

★★★★★

Idleness is leisure gone to seed.

★★★★★

"Irreconcilable differences" are frequently cited as the cause for a divorce. "Heck," remarked one middle-aged curmudgeon, "that's all my spouse and I have in common."

★★★★★

Money doesn't talk any more. It goes without saying.

★★★★★

If you drink a glass of milk every morning for 1,200 months, we guarantee that you will live to be 100 years.

★★★★★

First Spectator: That's Australia's greatest bowler bowling now. Do you know, in the first innings he took three wickets for six.

Second Spectator: I didn't know he was so short-sighted!

★★★★★

Two goats met and one said: "Where were you last night? You were supposed to meet me."

"Oh," said the other, "I ate a calendar last week and I think I got my dates mixed."

★★★★★

Learner driver: Quick, take the wheel. Here comes a tree!

★★★★★

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I was over at Jimmy's house playing church. We just baptised his cat!