

National Journal
of Churches of
Christ in Australia

Vol. 94 • No. 5

13 April 1991

Registered for Australia Post
Publication No. VAR 0761

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN



Photo courtesy Andrew Darby

“Time Out” at the Palmer Peace House

Jervis Wydeman, manager of the Palmer Peace House, with his dog Tisha. The house, in Sydney's Crows Nest, offers short-term accommodation for those who need “time out” to escape to a healthy, unpressured environment.

—story page 7

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Vol. 94

No. 5

13 April 1991

Managing Editor: Chris Ambrose

Assistant: Geoff Alves

Issue

Deadline

27 April

19 April

11 May

3 May

25 May

17 May

Address for All Correspondence
(including all subscription payments)

PO Box 101

North Essendon 3041

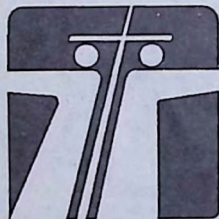
Telephone (03) 379 1219

After Hours (03) 337 8349



Member
publication of the
Australasian
Religious Press
Association

National logo of
Churches of Christ
in Australia



"The Australian Christian" is published
by the Board of Management of the
Australian Christian, a Department of
the National Conference of
Churches of Christ in Australia.

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Printing by New Litho Pty Ltd,

63 Sunbury Cres,

Surrey Hills 3127

Responsibility for electoral material is

accepted by Chris Ambrose,

3 Hamlyn St, Essendon 3040

This publication is indexed in the

Australasian Religion Index

ISSN 0004-8852

Advertising Rates

Displayed: \$4.80 per column
centimetre

Classifieds: \$10 for the first 25 words
and 10c for each additional word

Guest Editorial

• *Finding the ability to cope with inevitable change*

Why Isn't the Church as It Used To Be?

by Ken Baker

I'm very disturbed
with some things
which have hap-
pened in my church lately.

"Why can't it be like it used
to be?"

How often do you hear
complaints like this?

I come from more than 50
years association with one of
our larger churches, where
after the Second World War
the congregation grew from
about 40 to more than 200 over
a period of about 25 years.
Then we began to be conscious
of some discontent. For a pe-
riod two morning services were used be-
cause numbers warranted this and it al-
lowed differing emphases that were being
sought. The new service, held early, was
not very unconventional, but it was not the
"normal Churches of Christ service", and
this, in the view of some, was not accord-
ing to their "tradition". This was divisive,
causing a split in the church. The new
service was at times better attended than
the "normal" one, but overall the numbers
fell to the point where a single service was
resumed. This conserved personnel re-
sources and there was again enough seat-
ing for most occasions.

Several families have moved to other
churches, where they are apparently more
comfortable, and some of these have a real
and involved contribution to make to a
congregation—as they have in the past.

"Things aren't the way they used to be!"

I give this recital because I feel it is not
peculiar as an example of what has been
happening to many churches, not only
Churches of Christ, and it gives me a chance
to comment with some of my observations.

First, we need to understand that change
is normal and inevitable. It is because cir-
cumstances, relationships and influences
are changing all the time. History itself
confirms this, and I mean the history of the
last few years. The events following World
War II required rebuilding of every aspect
of life denied to many during the war,
including, for some, being part of an active
church congregation. For others it meant
denying God's active welfare because of
their interpretation of their experiences:

• The Korean war and increased demand

for our primary resources.

• The Vietnam war and the
ethical dilemmas of our in-
volvement there.

• Our welfare state, making
it possible not only to be irre-
sponsible citizens, but profit-
ably so.

• Little demand for our
primary resources and the
results of our severely dis-
torted ideas of value, which
has given us the ingenious
entrepreneur, for which Aus-
tralia is so well known.

• A severe economic
downturn.

• And now—war in the

Gulf.

All of these events and many others
have had their effect on each of us and, to
some extent, have moulded our attitudes
and beliefs. No wonder nothing is the same
as it was.

What has my church done in recent
years?

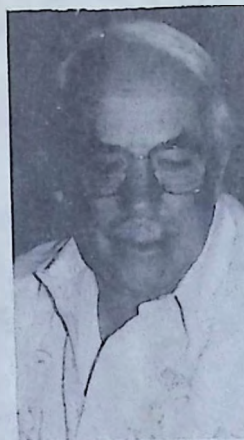
• The ministers of the church over the
years have always been sincere, Bible-be-
lieving and teaching men, committed to
preaching of the Gospel and nurturing the
flock. The preaching work of some has
been outstanding and spread over long
ministries. Reaching into the community
has not always been evident as a motiva-
tion.

• Elders have been sincerely committed
to the life of the church and this has been
acknowledged by the support given in
their appointment. There have been dif-
ferences, as the emphasis and attitudes of
some differ from others. Reaching out into
the community has not always been evident
as a motivation.

• The church has been instrumental in
commencing two other churches in the last
25 years and both are now thriving. Only
some members became involved in this
outreach—mostly from a distance.

• There have been opportunities for
community involvement, but while these
have been agreed to in principle they have
not been taken up by members generally.

• The life in fellowship is warmly re-
garded and enjoyed by many. However
some have had difficulty "breaking in" on
arrival.



Guest Editorial

• Many are involved in small-group study and fellowship, although all cannot be involved, as is usual. Groups are not generally geared towards outreach to the community.

• The traditional function of the church has been a bit shattered in recent years. Singing of selected choruses and women planned to lead in worship are part of a gentle transition.

• Music resources have always been at a most competent level, and for various periods instrumental groups have been used in evening services, but not always appreciated by some older members.

Why does this church not continue to grow?

I dare to suggest that one reason is that the ability to cope with inevitable change is not being very effectively handled.

Finding the right changes to make is always difficult, but it is part of every phase of life. If we sincerely look to be guided by the Holy Spirit and are prepared to apply ourselves to finding that guidance, by the gifts God gives us, applied with maturity, we will be exercising our faith as we are instructed to do, and finding answers.

To resist change leads to frustration and conflict, and this is always disruptive in any group, whether right or wrong.

Perhaps what we have not accepted is that while valid change can and should be profitable when applied to those areas that need to change, we need to acknowledge that

there are some basic concepts that don't change. I suggest that these, however, are few but critical and must not be lost in the confusion of change:

• God wants every man and woman to live in fellowship with himself.

• Jesus makes this possible by giving us the guidance and power, by his spirit, to each live a full and meaningful life.

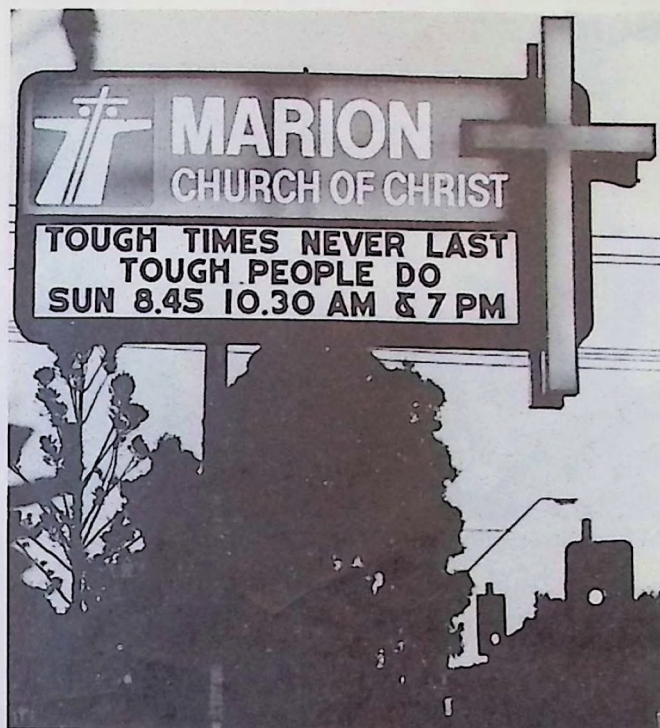
• Our part in this, for others, is to introduce them to this way (Jesus) and in fellowship and love, to build up each one towards maturity in Christ.

• *Ken Baker is a member of Belrose church in suburban Sydney, NSW. Born in Epping, he was associated with the church there from kindergarten years until 1986, when he and his wife Marjery moved to seaside Mona Vale. Their four children are all members at Epping and with their children (seven grandchildren) are part of that church fellowship. Ken is an architect who retired at the end of 1983 as a principal of one of Sydney's larger firms to be more involved at Carlingford College in student placement and practical church work. He has been NSW Conference Secretary (1967-69) and Conference President (1975-76) and is now Chairman of the Stanwell Tops Committee and the College Board. He was assistant secretary, secretary and an elder at Epping for nearly 20 years. He is presently researching professional liability (for architects), which will take him overseas mid-year, and is a Referee to the NSW Supreme Court on building matters.*

News

• Bright Idea at Marion

Sign of the Times



After considerable planning and a highly successful fund-raising program Marion, SA, has its new illuminated sign in place at a cost of around \$10,000.

Located strategically on the corner of the church's Marion Road car park, the Main Roads Department advise that 26,000 cars pass the large 3.6 m x 1.7 m sign every day. The ability to change the messages is an important feature of this imposing sign, something that Marion church plans to exploit to the utmost.

"We will have a new message up every week," says Office Administrator Moreen Hardy, "and even at this early stage we have evidence that people who pass the sign regularly are watching for the new messages."

It's difficult to gauge the full impact of the new sign at this early stage, but senior minister Graham Agnew reports that the sign was in place by mid-December and Christmas attendances were the best on record, with 427 at one evening service alone. Meanwhile,

combined Sunday attendances have increased by 15% in the first 10 weeks of the year, compared to the same period in 1990 and are currently running at around 540 each week.

Marion has enjoyed a remarkable rate of growth during its comparatively brief 12-year history, but an unfortunate aspect of the church's location has been its poor visibility. The sign has changed all that and the church now looks forward to an accelerated growth pattern in the months to come.

—Moreen Hardy



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1990 Index

The 1990 index of *The Australian Christian* has been prepared and posted to those subscribers who have asked for copies in past years. Other subscribers who would like to receive a free copy of the index should contact the "AC" office, PO Box 101, North Essendon 3041, or phone (03) 379 1219.

• Fellowship in Sunbury

Church Planting Venture Begins



Milton Oliver with Ray Smith (Gisborne)

Sunbury is the latest new church started in Victoria. Milton and Anne Oliver moved into Sunbury in January and immediately began home group meetings.

Attendances had reached up to 17 adults plus 15 children by late February with many new contacts made. Many of those in contact with the new fellowship have had no recent church background or have not been previously involved with a church. Most are in the 30-40 age group. Only four people have links with Churches of Christ.

Prayer and study groups have been commenced, together with a Sunday night family fellowship for worship and study. There have been three people already make faith commitments.

The Gisborne church and the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development are joint sponsors of the project. A number of churches, including Footscray, Strathmore, Northcote and Fountain Gate have indicated financial support. A gift from Bendigo church helped launch the project in January.

• Kissing the dragon

Families Turn Creation Friendly

It has been said that the family is under pressure. Marriage and Family Week, which this year falls on 5-12 May, always aims to provide creative suggestions for families to function and have fun together as a way of coping with the pressure.

This year the slogan is "Kiss the Dragon" and the concept is of "creation-friendly families". It is felt that when people face up to their problems and accept them, even befriend them, the problems may either disappear or become doors into new possibilities.

After all, the family has always been under pressure. What is seen by some as the idyllic family of Victorian times was not really all that idyllic. The family then was a place of repression. It was certainly that for women, who were often trapped in desperately unhappy marriages and stifled under the heavy blankets of a domesticity that left some of them frustrated and angry—but mute. It was a place of repression for many children, tightly bound in their unsuitable clothes, intent on being seen and not heard. And for the "pater familias", sentenced to a life of never showing his emotions and always needing to be right, the repression may have been the worst of all.

That doesn't mean that there was nothing good about the stability of Victorian family life. Because divorce was unacceptable, sometimes unobtainable, unhappy marriages survived and sometimes grew into happiness. There was value as well as repression in Victorian discipline. Today we need to remember that many families are effective units in our society. There are more marriages that work than marriages that fail. And today families are finding new ways of bonding together.

One of these ways of bonding comes in a commitment to the earth on which the family

lives. For if the family is threatened, so is the planet itself. Families are finding both pleasure and a sense of shared purpose in working together to save the earth, which is vital to the present existence of every occupant. This year the Marriage and Family Week National Council has challenged families to take action in a common cause.

Children are conscious today that this is their world and their future that is threatened. They are calling for conservation, for ways of saving their planet and ensuring a future for the 21st century. In many cases they are coming home from school to challenge their parents about saving the earth.

The dragon that has to be kissed is the dragon that says that ordinary people cannot make a difference; it is the dragon that says that children and parents are natural enemies and cannot live and work effectively together; it is the dragon that denies people the right to power over their own lives and their planet.

Meeting this dragon head on is a way of making the dragon amicable. It is a way of making the earth a friendlier place and home a friendlier place too. The church has often said that the family that prays together stays together. It may also be said that the family that works together is the family that finds a sense of bonding.

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News

• Taking risks

Skyscraper Mural by Graffiti Outlaws



Two "writers" at work on the mural

Spray-can outlaws from Melbourne's graffiti culture emerged on 19 March from the shadows of their train games to paint a mural about a TV documentary screened over Easter.

A graffiti "crew" "pieced" the mural to highlight *Where the River Flows*, a documen-

tary that said churches must take risks or die out like the dinosaurs.

Risk-taking by graffiti culture members has recently led to tragedies and convictions including at least two boys losing legs under trains and a \$3,000 fine for another teenager. The risks churches must

take include sending more workers to the darker edges of Australian life to meet street kids, graffiti crews and others at war with society.

Teenage "writers" from graffiti crew *Godspeak Ultarnativart* (GSU) did the mural on the roof-top wall of World Vision's building in South Melbourne.

"GSU is but one of 60 crews

operating in the city. With 3,000 writers, aged mostly between 9 and 17, Melbourne has become the graffiti capital of Australia," says GSU member Noel Buchanan.

The mural event was a rare opportunity to see a graffiti crew commenting on a society they feel has betrayed their birthright as citizens of "The Lucky Country".

Les Lawlor says...

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Correction

In our last issue (23 March) we ran an article on David Lowe being presented Toowoomba's Australia Day Citizens Award. In the story we stated that he is a member of the Margaret Street church.

David is in fact in membership with the Harlaxton church. We were remiss in not doing our research well enough.

People

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Tuesday, 7 May, at 8 pm
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Wednesday, 15 May, at 8 pm
Yarra Theological College,
Box Hill
"Beginning Matthew"

Wednesday, 22 May, at 8 pm
United Faculty of Theology,
Parkville
"Beginning Luke"

Tuesday, 30 May, at 8 pm
Catholic Theological College, Clayton
"Beginning John"

Admission free

• John Paver

New Master of Ministry Director

The Melbourne College of Divinity has appointed Dr John Paver as the Director of Studies for the Master of Ministry degree. He succeeds Dr Doug Fullerton, who served as intern director for two years.

John Paver is a Churches of Christ minister who presently is Director of Clinical Pastoral Education and Chaplaincy Coordinator at the Repatriation General Hospital, Heidelberg. Prior to this appointment, he was for four years Professor of Ministry and Director of Field Education at the Lexington Theological Seminary, Kentucky, USA. John holds a DMin from this Seminary, and was Acting Director of the DMin degree in his final year at Lexington.

The MMin is a new post-graduate degree and is especially designed for ministers who are currently engaged in



John Paver

the practice of ministry. Information about the degree can be obtained from the Melbourne College of Divinity, 85 Studley Park Road, Kew 3101, or by phoning (03) 862 3198.

• Moreen Hardy

Marion Adds a New Team Member

Moreen Hardy is the latest addition to Marion, SA, church's staff, having just been appointed as the new Office Administrator.

Moreen has an impressive background in the field of administration, which ideally suits her for this demanding position. For 23 years she worked in a similar role at a suburban Adelaide primary school and during that time she gained valuable training in the use of computers and the mobilisation of volunteers. Marion's gradual expansion of computer programs and the extensive use of volunteers are two of the many areas that are feeling the benefits of Moreen's expertise.



Moreen Hardy

Subscribe to "The Christian"

News

• Palmer Peace House, Crows Nest

Time Out

What Is the "Time Out" Project?

The "Time Out" project is a long need community service for individuals or families.

There are over 150 facilities in Sydney for the homeless, impoverished, addicted etc. but to date there has been nothing for people who want to address their problems before they begin the slide to family and professional destruction, not to mention the inevitable shattering of self-esteem and self-worth.

When people know that the veneer around their facade is cracking, then there is a comfortable, highly respectable haven for them to come to.

Palmer Peace House is a beautifully maintained six-bedroom federation home with all modern comforts and conveniences in Crows Nest.

The Palmer Peace House offers short-term accommodation where they can escape to a healthy, unpressured environment, free from the stresses of relationships, children or abuse of any kind.

We offer unconditional acceptance, privacy, friendship and hospitality in a compassionate and caring environment so that people can get back on their feet.

After "time out", people are better equipped to make good decisions about their current situation and the future.

Who Needs "Time Out"?

Through his Radio 2CH talkback program and as a church minister, Jay Bacik knew that there was a crying need for care for the "up and outs" as well as the down and outs. People who have jobs, families or relationships could save them if only a break was possible. People who are grieved, depressed or have problems with alcohol or fashionable drugs and need time to reflect and plan are welcome. Those who are running from emotional, physical or even sexual abuse and need compassion and care, or those who are temporarily homeless for whatever reason are also welcome.

Palmer Peace House is staffed by unobtrusive experienced and qualified people. There are minimal charges on a means tested basis.

Guests usually stay for up to two weeks, although this may be extended according to need.

The "Time Out" project is a project of Northside Community Church. It started in December 1990.

People Who Have Already Received Help

A young man running from a respectable middle-class home where he was physically and sexually abused, a woman needing personal support that she was not getting at home, a homeless, unemployed professional, a young addict, a young woman and child leaving their marital home, and several others.

• A church retreat is really a church advancing

Thornleigh in Retreat



Don Smallbone and Franklyn Elliott conducting baptisms at Thornleigh's retreat

Over 260 from the Thornleigh, NSW, church attended a church retreat at Elanora Heights on the weekend of 22-24 February. The theme was "Who Are We and Where Are We Going?"

A highlight of the weekend

was the worship times led by Stuart Wesley. Franklyn Elliott spoke on "The Kingdom and Worship", "The Gospel of the Kingdom" and "The Ministry of the Kingdom".

On the Sunday Franklyn Elliott and Don Smallbone led

an early morning service at which there were 10 baptised.

It was a weekend where the Lord powerfully ministered to all who attended and it culminated in a final service of unity and commitment before God.

—J.V. Ellerby

CYTA LODGE, COOMA SNOW SEASON STAFF

Each winter CYTA LODGE at COOMA has vacancies for up to 8 young people for a period of 3-4 months. These positions are suitable for young, single guys and girls between 18-30 years, interested in learning more about the operation of a large Christian Youth Camp and Accommodation Centre.

Interviews will be held in Sydney in May with a mid-June commencement.

Duties include catering, general housekeeping, maintenance, assisting in conducting the evening programme and other activities at the Lodge.

All staff must be prepared to be part of the work team that makes our busy Ski Season happen!

For further information write or telephone:

Mr. Bruce Bolton, CYTA
LODGE, Cooma, 2630.
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Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

Description of Young People

To the Editor,

Being a "matured" Christian, I was "cheesed off" by the words used to describe the young people of today ("AC" 2 March): "loud, unpredictable, uncommitted, frustrating" etc. What a load of hogwash. Most of the young people I know don't fit these descriptions, and most of those who do would appear to be a reflection of their parents' upbringing and lack of discipline.

From reading this article are we to assume Andrew agrees with these comments? I thought someone in his age group and position would be able to remember.

No wonder young people need help (??) when that's the attitude of "matured" people. If we keep telling anyone, young or old, they are no good, they will become that way. We need encouragement not negative input.

—B. O'Brien
(Ballarat, Vic)

Commendation

To the Editor,

As a regular reader for about 45 years I write to commend you for your mostly thankless position and to also commend your voluntary helpers who assist in dispatching the paper.

I trust that your enquiry for a proof reader gained a successful response.

With the escalating costs of printing etc. I know that you exercise all opportunities to increase the income to avoid raising the subscription. However I am writing to ask if it is possible to avoid adding inserts promoting outside causes in issues that focus on and support the work of national agencies of Conference?

May God bless you as you continue in his service.

—Howard Folland
(Bassendean, WA)

[Thank you for your praise. Regarding the proof reader we have a regular volunteer and several people who are willing

to help when that person is unavailable. As for the inserts we try to avoid placing them in the special issues of our Conference Departments. This matter will be discussed again at our Board meeting in May—Editor]

Aboriginal Land Rights

To the Editor,
The Aboriginal land rights argument moves deep concern in me. I feel that the course some Aboriginals and some other Australians are taking will lead to bloodshed.

I do not know the answer to the problem, but the nearest lead I see that is close to my own belief comes from some of the older Aboriginals: that the earth is their mother, their father being the great Spirit so powerful in their dream-time.

As a Christian I see Jesus, his mother Mary of the earth, earthy, and his father, the great Spirit, Almighty God.

I acknowledge that I'm an earthling, of the earth, earthy; belonging to planet Earth. But I don't own the planet, the planet does not belong to me, rather I belong to planet earth.

I acknowledge that I am an Australian, yet Australia does not belong to me, rather, I belong to Australia.

I came from the earth and I'll return to the earth (my mother).

Adam, my first earthly ancestor, was but "a living soul", made from mother earth.

By rebirth in the spirit of my Saviour, Christ Jesus, (a life-giving Spirit) I return to my Father—God—Spirit.

This is the nearest I can get to a basis of understanding (intelligent agreement) with Aboriginals, to build a bridge upon.

If the foundation of any building is not right, then that which is built is unsound.

—Kay Graham
(Magill, SA)

Ministry Training

To the Editor,

The 1990 Year Book for Churches of Christ in WA has recently become available. It is a very commendable production with much better reference

sections, and more information more clearly set out.

One of the new sections is headed **Ministers**. Being the Official Year Book one can assume that the Association acknowledges all those listed as ministers of Churches of Christ in WA. There are 71 people on the list, and because their places and levels of theological training are indicated I have a great deal of concern. The breakdown is as follows:

COB/CCTC	25
Woolwich/Carlingford	16
Kenmore	4
Bible Colleges	7
Various (Overseas, WEC etc.)	7
Nil	12

• Only 63% have a qualification from an Australian Churches of Christ theological college.

• The 20% trained in Bible colleges (7) and other non-Churches of Christ institutions

(7) have had no formal training in Churches of Christ history, philosophy, attitude to Christian unity, etc. etc.

• The most worrying is the 17% with no theological training. I believe it is unacceptable for a local congregation to ask a person to do a "ministry"-type job then automatically have the Association deem the person a minister of Churches of Christ.

• In our discussions with other church bodies we leave ourselves open to an accusation of being extremely slipshod in regard to our ministry. How can we expect to have our ministry taken seriously when we have no requirement of relevant training, no requirement of ordination, no state or national control over admission to the ministry?

Does the National Conference Council have any comment on this? Is this a situation which applies in other states?

—Alan Cant.
(Bindoon, WA)

Letters from Tertius

Reading

To the Editor,

A sign in our library says, "There is a difference between wanting to read a book and wanting a book to read."

It took me a long time to work it out, but I think I have got it now.

If you want to read a book you are curious. You want information. You hope that after you have read the book you will have added something of value to your thinking or your life.

On the other hand you just want a book to read to while away the time while you are waiting for something not too boring to come on to TV. You expect nothing from the book except some light entertainment.

Then I thought about my Bible reading. I don't mean our bedtime reading. My wife keeps me up to that. I mean at other times when I pick up the Bible.

I must confess that I have often picked it up for something to read and fairly quickly put it down again. But at other times I have wanted to read it. For instance when I have wanted to check on something our minister has said. Then I get my concordance out and go to it and have the time of my life.

At other times I have done a little "homework" for our weekly Bible study group, digging into the Bible in an amateurish way, but most enjoyably.

I wonder if most of us fail to respond to preachers' pleas to read the Bible because this makes it a book to read. Maybe they could find ways of getting us to want to read the Bible for a purpose—apart from storing up merit in heaven.

Yours hopefully,
Tertius

Letters to the Editor

WCC: Friend or Foe?

To the Editor,

I am confused regarding information relating to the WCC recorded by delegates to Canberra, letters to the editor and other general WCC-related documents that I read from time to time.

Most people seem in general agreement that the spirits worshipped in some other faiths associated with the WCC are not the Holy Spirit, that these "other faiths" are actively encouraged to participate in the WCC, that many Assembly documents are reluctant to use straightforward biblical language, that there is no common commitment to the centrality of the Lordship of Jesus Christ or the authority of Scripture and that there is no common vital coherent Christian theology emerging from the WCC.

If the foregoing is true and the WCC is in fact supposed to be a "fellowship" of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to scripture then I humbly suggest that our delegates should insist that the WCC return to its proper charter, operating within the Christian framework only. Failing this all evangelical churches and their delegates should withdraw support immediately, because the above situation is inherently irreconcilable and can bring no coherent result without compromising our Lord's precious gospel.

—Dave Apelt
(Croydon, Vic)

Pacifism or Justice

To the Editor,

In his article entitled "Pacifism or Justice" ("AC" 23 March) Bruce Anderson takes us back to ideas that should have been abandoned long ago in the light of Christian thinking.

Your correspondent equates justice with war, in certain circumstances at least. But surely justice is impartial, protecting the innocent, and confronting the guilty with the due reward of their deeds! Does war mean justice to the mothers with their babies, to the little children and

to the defenceless whose only crime is that they live there and that they are in the way of the relentless war machine? War always includes the slaughter of the innocents—a travesty of justice!

The justice, or otherwise, of war has nothing to do with the guilt or innocence of Saddam Hussein, Adolf Hitler or Kaiser Bill. If they are guilty war is still a most unjust way of dealing with that guilt.

Bruce Anderson points out the difference between killing and murder: but what does that mean? The reasoning seems to be that it is not murder because it is war: therefore war is just because it does not murder people, it only kills them!

Justice is an attribute of the character of God and must not be applied to the crudities of war.

—Allan B. Clark
(Croydon, Vic)

Uniting Church Worship

To the Editor,

Ron Graham's letter ("AC" 23 March) disappoints me. It attempts to cloud the issues for us as Churches of Christ that I was trying to raise. I, too, have attended Uniting Church services of varying degrees of quality. It is a pity Ron didn't also take note of the whole quote which included falling numbers, ageing membership, frustration about structures and lack of leadership. As readers

will be aware, the quote was made by the retiring Moderator of the Victorian Synod of the Uniting Church, the Rev Rodney Horsfield, at the 1990 annual meeting.

—Ian Tippet
(The Patch, Vic)

Was Christ a Pacifist?

To the Editor,

Was Christ a pacifist? It is difficult to be sure of Bruce Anderson's answer to this question ("AC" 23 March). One thing is clear, however. The passage in Revelation 19:11–16 obviously does not mean anything like modern warfare, and should not be referred to in this context. The symbols are completely different. The Christ is still the suffering Saviour whose robes are dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. His conquering weapon is a sharp sword that comes out of his mouth. With this he will strike down the nations! His only sword is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Ephesians 5:17).

It seems appropriate to quote in this context the saying attributed, rightly I think, to Jesus: "You do not know what kind of Spirit you are of, for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." (Luke 9:55–56).

The warfare of Jesus is summed up in Romans 12:21, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

It was Jesus who said, "Love your enemies, and do them good." We are free to disagree with Jesus, but we must not misrepresent him.

—Allan B. Clark
(Croydon, Vic)

Worship Leadership

To the Editor,

During the last two months at Epping, 50% of our morning worship services were led by three very talented women.

Their leadership of worship (as it so often is with women) has been exemplary in every aspect. In our inter-generational worship which is based on the JBCE "Living Faith" program, Helen, Lynn and Lois used drama, contemporary music, children, youth, and human interest factors in a diversity of creative ways, as they have done so on many occasions before. Their leadership continues to inspire a high standard of worship from all leaders.

These comments can never be reiterated often enough, as encouragement to women in churches who give leadership to worship and other aspects of ministry.

For churches who haven't yet come to terms with the leadership of women, such comments are a necessary reminder of the latent potential they are missing out on in many aspects of ministry.

—Stephen Curkpatrick
(Epping, NSW)

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Media Review

Papers

Human Sexuality and Education: Where Do We Go From Here?

by Hank Petrusma, MLC

Hank Petrusma is the Member for Hobart in the Tasmanian Legislative Council (upper house) and he has written this paper in response to a growing concern in Tasmania regarding the role of parents, teachers, special interest groups and the Government in developing and implementing education policy and programs in the area of human sexuality.

Any discussion of sex education in schools will inevitably bring a response from all sides. In this paper Hank looks at some of the issues of the current sex education policy in Tasmania. He writes about the impact the AIDS/HIV infection has made on the whole area of sex education.

It is a well-reasoned paper that covers most of the issues involved and would be a good resource for people interested in this sensitive area.

I am not aware of any charge for copies of the paper. Hank can be contacted at the Legislative Council, Parliament House, Hobart 7000.

—CRA



Music

The Jerusalem Passion

The Jerusalem Passion is an oratorio, a sacred composition in which the theme is "orated" through song and voice, without drama or set. It is scored for choir, soloists and narrator with full orchestra, pipe organ, piano and rhythm section. It is currently finishing its third national series of performances, with the final performances in the Melbourne Concert Hall on 10, 11 and 12 May.

This modern classical oratorio relates the passion of Christ from the perspective of the city of Jerusalem. Part one traces the historical path followed by Christ from Galilee to his harsh rejection and tragic death in Jerusalem.

The second part projects down through the ages to the "New Jerusalem", the spiritual city of God's people, united as a bride before the return of Christ.

The Jerusalem Passion is a song of mourning and lament for the cities of the earth that reject Christ as did Jerusalem. But it is also a song that heralds a vast revival of faith and unity in Christ as we approach the coming of the new Jerusalem.

Murray Wylie, the composer, is a graduate of the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, where he studied piano, flute and harp. Now a church music director with the renewal church Brisbane Christian Fellowship, leading a choir and the groups "Sonrise" and "McCrystal-Wylie Trio", he has produced seven albums including *The Jerusalem Passion*, which was conceived in February 1987.

Described as a modern-classical oratorio, *The Jerusalem Passion*, combines the depth of expression drawn from the classical tradition with the easily identifiable sound of contemporary music.

Composed in two parts and with a performance time of 100 minutes, *The Jerusalem Passion* consists of 17 choral pieces of wide-ranging vocal styles, 12 vocal solo selections (eight with choir) encompassing styles from lyric ballad to classical aria, nine narration passages with orchestral accompaniment and instrumental solos for pipe organ, piano, harp, violin, viola, cello, flute,

Audio

Escape

by Mirek Stekla (Frontier Music C-001)

This instrumental cassette has taken Mirek Stekla two years to produce. His aim is to offer Australian Christians a relaxing and a challenging alternative to conventional gospel music. The recording features 10 of Mirek's favourites. He contributes all the keyboard instruments, guitar, electric bass and vocals and is supported by Michael Kupperman (saxophone) and Michael Turner (trumpet).

Mirek trained in classical music for 10 years in Poland. He then joined a US-based gospel singing group, "Heritage Singers", with whom he travelled extensively for three years. He then came to Australia and completed his BA in Music at La Trobe University. He presently works as an instrumental teacher in Melbourne.

Committed to a gospel music ministry, Mirek has established his own gospel singing group, "Frontier", with whom he continues to work on a part-time basis.

Escape is very pleasant. It is not jarring to the ear and provides soothing listening. People at the "AC" office found it very attractive. It could well be used as background music for meditation and times of reflection on the Christian faith.

Available from most good Christian bookshops and record shops, the cassette is also available from Mirek Stekla, PO Box 317, Noble Park 3174.

—CRA

Mirek Stekla

E
S
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E



Media Review

THE JERUSALEM PASSION

clarinet, oboe, trumpet, horn and guitar with orchestral accompaniment combined with sensitive use of a contemporary rhythm section.

The current Melbourne production has a large number of Churches of Christ people involved in the choir, possibly the largest group of any church.

Ticket prices range from \$22 to \$28 with group discounts and discounts for pensioners etc. available. Tickets need to be booked through Bass.

Books

Beyond Renewal—The Kingdom of God by Brian Hathaway (Word Publishing) \$11.95

This is a reading must!

Brian Hathaway tells the story of an Open Brethren Assembly, Te Atala Bible Chapel in Auckland, New Zealand, which became fully open to the Spirit of God and grew from 90 members in January 1979 to over 650 members at the time of writing in 1990.

The church began in 1965 but it was not until August 1969 that Brian came to the realisation that all God's requirements in his life would be fulfilled if he lived according to the Spirit.

From that time he has been on a learning curve seeking to walk in the freshness and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Opportunity to witness demonic fairies fleeing at the name of Jesus, occasional healings, strong conviction from the Holy Spirit to aid in certain ways, insights and wisdom in difficult situations, exciting visionary insights, opposition and hostility, and above all, a freshness and authority in teaching the Word of God. Tongues came much later.

The church came to see the Kingdom of God as the unifying theme for the whole of Scripture. It can be described as a reign, an activity involving the rule and authority of God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—throughout the whole of creation.

Brian sees the need for bringing together the best of the para-church emphasis of ministering to specific groups with the strengths of the church's support networks and resources.

He suggests a new modified congregational model. It should embrace a theology of the Kingdom of God, be open to the continual renewing work of the Holy Spirit, be involved in social concern, be committed to evangelism, operate with para-church ministries and other local churches, reduce congregational activities to an essential minimum, identify people's gifts and release these within the congregation and/or local community, have a radical view of the role of money and possessions and, finally, assess results in terms of the Kingdom of God.

—Ken Clinton

The Case of the Vanishing Corpse

By Kel Richards (Hodder & Stoughton) \$10.95

This is a detective novel. The blurb on the back of the book says: "The Case of the Vanishing Corpse is the ultimate locked-room mystery". Kel Richards has written a humorous detective story in the mould of the classic American detective writers. This story is a great read.

Kel Richards is well known to Sydney listeners as the host of a talk show on 2GB. He now hosts the *Offspring* program on ABC Radio National.

Kel is a committed Christian who has written a racy detective

story on the disappearance of the body of Jesus Christ. It is history in modern dress—the language and style of American detective fiction of the 1940s. Ben Bartholomew is hired by Big Joe Caiaphas to find the missing body of Jesus Davidson. The world of Jerusalem and Galilee is inhabited by gangsters, petty tyrants, spies and religious fanatics. With flair a feel for action Ben Bartholomew faces six possibilities as to how the body could have been removed from the grave. He investigates all possibilities and comes to the conclusion that the only possible way is that Jesus came back to life. Ben Bartholomew becomes a believer at the end and his detective career appears over at the end of the book. However, in an interview I heard while reading the book Kel Richards said he was toying with resurrecting Ben's career and examining some of the incidents of the Book of Acts in a similar vein.

This book is similar in theme to *Who Moved the Stone* by Frank Morrison, but is set in a different literary genre.

Excellent reading and recommended to anyone who likes reading detective fiction.

—CRA

Magpie Boy

by Beth Roberts (The Joint Board of Christian Education) \$12.95

Magpie Boy, as did Beth Roberts' earlier novel, *Manganinnie*, takes for its story the life of Tasmanian Aborigines during the early settlement of Europeans in Van Diemen's Land. The novel follows the life of an Aboriginal boy, Dreenee, from his birth until he reaches the brink of his initiation into adulthood. Dreenee's guardians are magpies, after which he has been named, and he communicates with them increasingly as he grows older. The actions he takes on the magpies' advice does not always prove

satisfactory to the adults among his people, who are attempting passive resistance to changes brought about by white settlement.

For Dreenee's people these are uncertain and worrying times as the strangers' settlements encroach further and further into their land. Beth Roberts does not attempt an idealised picture. A young Aboriginal woman is brutally kidnapped by carnally motivated sealers, while stories of atrocities committed by settlers against Aborigines filter through to Dreenee's people. In contrast, a settler family with whom Dreenee has personal contact is tempered in its attitude to his people by Christian compassion and sympathy for the predicament of the Aboriginal people at a time of such upheaval.

Parallel with the latter part of Dreenee's story is that of Pungertenner, stolen from her family in girlhood, rescued by Robert Knopwood and given by him to a white family to become its servant girl, Maria. Dreenee helps her escape from the settler family and make her life among his own people. In the process she is able to bring to his people the gift of fire, the settlers' flints saving them from having always to carry a lighted firestick with them.

In attempting to reconstruct imaginatively the day-to-day world of the Tasmanian Aborigines, including their spiritual life, Beth Roberts has set herself an ambitious task. In the main she achieves a consistent and convincing portrait and children at upper primary level should enjoy this novel. For the adult reader the enjoyment is tempered by consciousness of the bleak realities awaiting Dreenee and his people as he grows into adulthood.

—Michael Dugan



World News

• Crying need

Workers Required in Taiwan

Christians, preferably 20-30 years old, are urgently required to work in a nursery caring for abandoned babies in Taipei, Taiwan. The nursery is run by a Christian welfare organisation, Christian Salvation Service. The work involves caring for about 20 babies, feeding, bathing, changing nappies, giving medication etc. Nurses or occupational therapists would be ideal, but the nursery is desperate for help. One Australian currently working there is an insurance clerk. To date five Australians have volunteered and one more is going in September, but still more workers are needed.

Salary is about \$A950 a month. Food and transport costs are very reasonable in Taipei.

Accommodation is a shared room provided in a boarding house directly opposite the nursery. The boarding house has a kitchen, laundry and shared bathroom. The facilities are good and transport is handy.

Work is on rotating shifts with six days off a month. Workers care for about 20 babies in the nursery, most of whom have been born prematurely and having been released from hospital are awaiting adoption by families in Australia, the United States and elsewhere. Some of the babies have medical conditions related to their prematurity.

A minimum commitment of six months is required.

It is not necessary to speak Chinese as the nursery staff speak English.

CSS will accept Christians without medical training but ask that they have a first-aid certificate.

Additional information is available from Vicki Osborne, Illawarra Adoptive Parents Association, phone (042) 29 2451 after 4 pm.

• Albert Nyoni

Visit from Zimbabwean Pastor

Pastor Albert Nyoni is visiting Australia in April and May in a visit financed privately by the Margaret St, Toowoomba, Qld, church.

One of the ministers at Toowoomba, Gary Hills, visited Zimbabwe in 1990, accompanying Barry Jenkins. Albert was involved in Easter programs and in promoting missionary interest in churches.

Albert Nyoni will also visit Victoria as a guest of the Overseas Mission Committee and his itinerary allows him to spend time with Bill and Ria Keddie.

Bill and Ria were close associates in Zimbabwe in the area where our New Zealand churches have worked and

where 37 churches have now been established.

While in Victoria Albert will audit missions courses at Whitley College and CCTC and will speak at the North Eastern Victorian Conference in Wangaratta on 20 April and at Montrose (10 am) and Ringwood (7 pm) on 21 April.

A public meeting has been arranged—An African Night—on 22 April at Burwood church at 7.30 pm.

This will be a night of variety: African music, dancing, videos, personal opinions and challenge.

More details from Barry Jenkins on (03) 870 7520 or Dorothy Geyer on (03) 861 8558.



Albert Nyoni

• Millions starving to death

African Crisis

More than 20 million Africans, weakened by starvation, are now facing death from disease and other famine-related causes, and many Australians are unaware of their appalling plight.

Unless these people receive substantial help very quickly many of them will die. They are the innocent victims of war, of international and domestic policies and of drought—a combination of factors they are powerless to change.

Evangelical churches in Angola, Sudan, Eritrea and Mozambique are already heavily involved in relief programs.

Sindia Foster, an African Evangelical Fellowship missionary in Mozambique, reports, "They walk out of rebel-held areas in search of safety. Referred to as naked, most of the 'Deslocados' (displaced people) have tried to cover themselves with clothes made of tree bark. They have been held as slaves by the Renamo rebels, who brutally used them to destroy roads, carry equipment, have their babies and provide their food.

"Christians here have made and are making sacrifices to help meet the physical needs aggravated by war. Most families we know have 20 or more extra people living with them, straining small houses and small budgets on a daily basis.

"Isaiah writes that God wants us to 'share our food with the hungry'. We must live differently—sharing our resources—because there are hungry people in the world. That is the Lord's expectation of us. By acting and praying together, in the Lord's name, we can make a difference."

TEAR Australia is making an urgent appeal to Australian Christians to respond to the needs of the African famine victims. Every dollar given to this appeal will be sent to evangelical churches and mission organisations in Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Liberia and possibly Angola.

Tax-deductible donations, marked "African Famine Relief and Rehabilitation" can be made to TEAR Australia, PO Box 849, Hawthorn 3122.

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106th Conference
1-4 May 1991**

Kelth Farmer
Conference President

WEDNESDAY 1 May
7 pm President's Reception* (All invited—RSVP by 26 April 1991 to telephone (02) 630 7533) (Cost \$18)

THURSDAY 2 May
10 am CWF Conference—Auburn

FRIDAY 3 May
9.30 am Ministers/Ministers' Wives Session—Telopea
7.45 pm Mission Rally—Telopea

SATURDAY 4 May
9 am (\$10 cover charge for lunch, morn/afternoon tea)
12.30 pm Business and Inspirational Session (1)
2 pm Lunch
Forum—"Developing an Effective Church"
Ron Hewitt
Group Discussion
5 pm Close

MONDAY 6-9 May
Ministers' Refresher—Stanwell Tops

*At CYTA Centre, 2 Clyde Street, Silverwater (plenty of parking)

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Happenings

The homes of 17 Presbyterian families of the Tzeltal Indian tribe of southern Mexico were destroyed on 24 February by a mob armed with cudgels, axes and machetes, according to Presbyterian pastor Pedro Arias. The incident was believed to have been organised and carried out by members of the local Roman Catholic parish.

The co-ordinator of the Assyrian Cultural and Advice Centre in London has stated that Assyrian Christians should have a say in the future of Iraq. He has proposed that Iraq's 750,000 Assyrians (according to the centre's statistics) be granted an autonomous area within the country.

On 28 February the Springvale house used by Melbourne Youth for Christ for its successful "Crib House" program was completely gutted by fire. The Arson Squad believes the fire was either deliberately or accidentally started by someone who had broken into the house. The YFC "Crib House" program targets "at risk" and "marginalised" young people. The term "crib" is a colloquialism that denotes a place of belonging, sanctuary and support.

The Keswick Christian Book Shop in Morwell, Vic, was one of several shops severely damaged in an explosion and fire that occurred in the Morwell Shopping Centre on 17 March.

"Sunday Night Live", hosted by Gordon Moyes on Sydney radio station 2GB Newstalk 873, is the no. 1 Sunday-night radio program in Sydney according to the latest McNair Anderson survey. "Sunday Night Live" is a mixture of topical interviews, testimonies from Christians involved in ministry, a radio sermon and a regular story segment in which Gordon tells stories from his previous ministries. "Sunday Night Live" is now in its 7th year and is on air from 9 pm

to midnight.

David and Eileen Lewis recently sold \$930 worth of stamps at a regular stamp fair at the Blackburn South Baptist Church. This money is used to finance Bible correspondence courses in India. Hazel Skuce has reported that there has been a big influx in enrolments recently with as many as 98 arriving in one day's mail. David and Eileen would welcome any used stamps and also have stamps for sale. Their address is 9 Clisby Street, Vale Park 5081.

Yugoslav Baptists have published what is reportedly the first translation of the New Testament in Roman.

The United Bible Societies reports it is "gaining unprecedented access" to provide Bibles to Cubans. UBS says it has Cuban government permission to provide 51,600 Bibles, 20,000 New Testaments, 30,000 Bible portions and 1 million Bible selections in the country.

The Evangelical Fellowship of Kenya is to set up an independent radio station in Kenya. Plans are at an advanced stage although a permit has not been granted by the Kenyan government.

Visits by Finnish church people to their counterparts in Soviet congregations have increased so much in the last 2 years that "they have begun to disturb" the normal activities of the congregations being visited.

Throughout Australia there are 89 Baptist churches or fellowships ministering to language groups other than English. 43 are in NSW, 32 in Victoria, 5 in Queensland and WA and 4 in SA. The bilingual distribution is 11 groups in Spanish, 10 Vietnamese, 8 Korean, 7 Chinese, 6 Romanian, 5 Arabic, 5 Slav, 4 Ukrainian, 4 Greek, 3 Cambodian, Macedonian and Yugoslav,

2 Armenian, Filipino, Indonesian, Polish and Slovakian and single groups of Asian, Estonian, French, German, Hungarian, Iranian, Italian, Japanese and Lao.

The Southern Baptist Convention in the US began 3 new churches every day last year, bringing the total number of churches and missions to 43,419. Its goal is to have 50,000 by the end of the century.

The United Nations believes that 4 out of 5 illnesses in the developing world can be traced to infected water, but only 60% of the world's people have access to clean, safe water. It would cost \$9,000m a year to give everyone in the world safe water in the next two years. By comparison the rich countries spend \$110,000 million each year on alcoholic drinks.

A new study estimates that 53,000 non-smokers will die this year in the US from diseases caused by inhaling tobacco smoke from others, with office workers being particularly vulnerable. Passive smoking is now the third-leading preventable cause of death in the US behind active smoking and alcohol.

The National Council of Priests in Australia has called for men who leave the ministry to marry to be invited back to work again as priests, despite a statement by Pope John Paul II late last year that the vows of celibacy would stand. The Council of Priests believes that celibacy should not be an essential part of the Catholic priesthood.

Figures from the Catholic Research Office for Pastoral Planning show that the total number of active RC clergy in Melbourne fell from 426 in 1977 to 347 last year, and is continuing to fall.

In the Church of the Cross in Munich, Germany, a new service is being introduced during which the congregation will be able to give

its own opinion about the sermon subject. The once-a-month experiment will always concern a topical matter in the news. A Christian speaker and also an expert on the particular subject would be invited to "preach" before others could put their point.

In the period 1980-87 attendance at French Protestant churches increased by 61%. By comparison attendance at Catholic churches has fallen by 1% and Orthodox figures have remained static. Non-Catholics now make up 3.4% of church attenders compared to 2% in 1980. The most significant increases were in the Pentecostal group (218% increase) and Baptists (40%). Pentecostal attenders make up 46% of the Protestant group. Almost 7 million French, representing 13% of the population, attend church at least once a month.

The Ringwood, Vic, church is holding a trivia night on 11 May at 8 pm to aid the YFC Young Women's Accommodation Project. Tickets cost \$7.50 or \$5.50 (concession). Details from Russell Baker on (03) 876 4512 or Ronda Clarke on (03) 725 2733.

A network that will support and encourage small groups in churches throughout Australia has been launched by John Mallison Ministries. The network has been named "Catching the Wind". Members of the network will be offered training in small group leadership and will be provided with regular, updated information on print and audio-visual resources and speakers. Two meetings will be held in each capital city each year. For more information about the Australian Small Group Network contact John Mallison Ministries at 46 Nicholson St, St Leonards 2065, or phone (02) 906 8008.

Americans should use the

defeat of Iraq not as an occasion for swaggering and gloating but rather as a time to help heal the ravages of war and to work to avoid future violence, according to 19 United Church of Christ missionaries in Turkey.

The relief and development fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has provided \$30,000 to date for humanitarian efforts in the aftermath of the Gulf War. The most urgent needs in the Middle East are for food, medicine, shelter and temporary financial assistance.

Pentecostals and charismatics, who are growing at the rate of 19 million a year, have become the second-largest family in Christendom. According to David Barrett, editor of *World Christian Encyclopedia*, various clusters have reached the following sizes: Roman Catholics 944 million, Pentecostal/Charismatic 352 million, Reformation Protestant 318 million and Eastern Orthodox 178 million.

The Christian Standard, the weekly publication associated with the Christian Church, Churches of Christ, in the US celebrated its 125th anniversary in early April. The first issue was published on 7 April 1866. It is claimed that it is the longest continually published religious weekly in the US.

Quakers are marking the 300th anniversary of the death this year of George Fox, founder of the Religious Society of Friends. Fox died on 13 January 1691, and was noted, among other things, for his opposition to war. Today there are an estimated 250,000 Quakers in the world.

The RC church in Uganda has told priests to excommunicate any parent who makes it difficult for a daughter to get married in church by demanding a high bride price.

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Feature

(formerly the Federal Board of Christian Education)

"12 KEYS" IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

- Add meals and coffee to an existing Thrift Shop ministry.
- Build an effective support system for a couple involved in unstructured community youth ministry.
- Build a family resource kit.
- Make 1991 a year for family enrichment for church and community.

These are some of Modbury's specific outreach goals for the coming year.

Plans are already well in place as "mission team leaders" put into effect these "concrete, missional objectives". Knowing that the whole church has selected these goals and is right behind them, gifted leaders are building their teams and working towards deadlines.

Modbury is one of 22 churches in South Australia now working with the material from Dr Kennon Callahan. His approach of "12 Keys to Effective Churches" has had a significant and timely impact on South Australia. Queensland are using the material as are one or two churches in Victoria.

People are finding that their churches do have significant strengths and the consultation process enables them to see quite clearly where those strengths lie and how to utilise them in the church and community. This approach is very encouraging and motivating.

South Australia now has a pool of consultants who are trained to conduct consultations in local churches.

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Resources for Effective Evangelism—\$7.50 per copy plus postage. Wide variety of ideas, programs and processes for evangelism readily adaptable to your church. Forms basis of consultative work with department staff in local churches.

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Video Tapes—Presented by Herb Miller and available for purchase or hire. Cover areas of calling on contacts, motivation for evangelism and caring for inactive members.

Tools for Active Christians—Herb Miller—\$9.20 plus postage. Easy reading on visitation, handling conflict, pastoral visitation, dealing with inactive members.

Report of Nationwide Evangelism Conference—Stanwell Tops—\$4 plus postage. Valuable basic motivational tool for church boards interested in promoting effective evangelism processes in their congregations.

NATIONWIDE EVANGELISM EMPHASIS

1991 sees evangelism initiatives in each of the states under the theme of "Australia Grow". Each state has a variety of projects and processes in place. Kennon Callahan materials are in use in South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales. Western Australia is focusing on preaching ministries such as John Bond's work and strong gospel services.

Jeff Weston is working with Tasmanian churches as a consultant in evangelism using experience with processes and programs from Herb Miller. Churches in Tasmania are selecting a variety of processes suitable to their situation in using the "Tasmania Grow" theme.

In Victoria, 35 churches have entered the "Victoria Grow" process with the state department with opportunity to select from a variety of programs from Herb Miller and the use of consultants from staff and various churches.

The decade of the 1990s is a great opportunity for your church to renew its commitment and effort in evangelism.



NEW INITIATIVES NEED LOCAL CHURCH SUPPORT

Federal Conference, Brisbane, in October 1990 endorsed a change of name for the Federal Board of Christian Education to the Australian Board of Church Development and Education.

The new structure has a national responsibility in both education and evangelism roles.

This supplement briefly outlines new resources, contains a focus on new initiatives and raises issues for your church leadership to consider.

Your Help
Needed

CHURCH PARTNERS

The Board needs your congregation's partnership for its evangelistic and educational ministry.

Churches are invited to make an annual donation to Board funds.

To reach our aim of \$12,000 we need a further \$4,000 before 30 June.

Send your personal or church gift now to our Treasurer, R.J. Barreau, 52 La Trobe Street, Melbourne 3000.

(formerly the Federal Board of Christian Education)

EDUCATION IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

POLICIES— PLANS— PRIORITIES

The National Education Workshop of the late 80s nominated four priority directions for local church educational ministry in the 90s—adult education, adult training, ministry with children and family life education.

Try to build some of the directions from each area into your church planning for 1991–92.

Our new resources are geared to the four priority areas.

ADULT EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The personal faith development of all those associated with congregational life to ensure firm incorporation in the Body of Christ.

The nurture of the whole person for active participation, service and witness in the life of the church and community.

The equipping of the membership for ministry and leadership through training experiences in—

- outreach
- pastoral care and
- spiritual development

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN

WORK TO ENRICH FAMILY LIFE

Acknowledge the importance of the family to children, conduct programs that will strengthen families and program the church to reduce family fragmentation.

INVOLVE CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Create a range of worship opportunities that involve children in the community of faith and acknowledge them as a part of God's Kingdom.

TEACH AND DISCIPLE CHILDREN

Help children to experience faith through both experiential and cognitive learning opportunities and develop discipling programs.

CARE FOR CHILDREN

Evaluate local educational activities for children and develop a pastoral care system that helps them feel they are a part of the Christian community.

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

With marriage and life under intense pressure, ministry in this should be treated with urgency. The following are priority areas:

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND WHOLENESS

Individuals who are mature, emotionally whole and growing persons are more likely to be adequate marriage partners and parents.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

Marital growth can occur as couples are introduced to the skills and attitudes that enrich relationships.

PARENTING PROGRAMS

New skills and insights for parents, including single parents and step-parents, can make the parenting task more effective and fulfilling.

DIVORCE RECOVERY

Local churches can utilise the resources of the community of faith to encourage growth, rehabilitation and wholeness for separated and divorced people.

AUSTRALIAN BOARD OF CHURCH DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION

(formerly the Federal Board of Christian Education)

National Youth Convention

Imagine a convention centre nestled in the arms of the Bogong High Plains in the middle of snow country. There are modern facilities that include an indoor pool, squash courts, sauna, both large and small meeting areas, tennis courts, intimate coffee shops, restaurant-style eating areas, accommodation that gives you plenty of room to stretch out with a maximum of only six per room, large lounge rooms and the magnificent scenery of the Victorian Alpine region. All included in the one price.

Special "home grown" guest speakers John Bond and Graham Hyman will deliver insightful messages that will both inspire and challenge you in your faith. They will be speaking on the theme "Give Me a Reason". A range of elective sessions will also be available. Opportunity to explore the surrounding country will be given and ample time has been set aside to just relax, make new friends and take in the country atmosphere. During the evenings a range of programs will be available for you to enjoy.

And there is even more. So when is this all happening? 6-12 January 1992. The venue? Feathertop Chalet, Harrietville. The cost? Under \$300. So make it a date. This is a holiday that will inspire you and will fire you up.

For further information and registration forms contact Andrew Ball, PO Box 12622, A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000, or your state office.

—Doug Fitzpatrick

AROUND AND ABOUT...

South Australia: The Youth Ministries Committee has set some exciting directions for ministry with young people during 1991. The committee has a clear mission statement to "...serve the churches by providing support and programs that allow young people to become involved in tangible mission work, arising out of their faith, and to encourage, support and facilitate local church youth groups to become involved in their own mission programs". In its role, the committee is committed to **aspire to inspire** young people to greatness.

Tasmania: Launceston Church of Christ, through its new Youth Minister Darryl Tobler, has many young people not connected with the church entering its doors. The church is excited about the growth and is working hard at involving these young people in the life of the church.

Queensland: A new outreach program called "Schoolies Week" was co-ordinated by Murray Harris from the Annerley Church of Christ in conjunction with Scripture Union and Youth for Christ. This program targeted year 12 exit students on site at the Gold Coast and included a week of concerts, outreach events and counselling opportunities—all designed to share the message of the gospel to students.

YOUTH MINISTRY RESOURCES

A range of exciting new resources are under way for our churches to use in youth ministry. A discipleship study for ages 12-15 will be available later this year for working through the key aspects of being a young Christian.

In addition an extensive national youth Bible study series is being compiled for older teenagers. The series will deal with fifteen issues of concern or interest to young people, namely:

- death
- self-esteem
- sexuality
- the family
- the church
- the Bible
- evil spirits
- rock and roll music
- drugs
- personal health
- success and pressures
- the environment
- peer pressure
- the future
- creation and science

Other proposals under consideration and planning include two new evangelistic tracts. The first of these will be designed for use with Aussie young people who have no knowledge of God or contact with the church. The second tract will target young women and will aim to inspire women to see faith in God as essential for life and a publication on Effective Youth Ministry is also being considered.

The Board is continually seeking new ideas and authors to assist in this vital role of reaching young Australians.

NATIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT

From 12-14 July 1991 the most significant event for the decade in youth ministry will be held at Monbulk in Victoria. The Churches of Christ National Youth Summit will involve youth leaders from around Australia meeting together for a weekend of inspiration, challenge, networking and planning.

The summit aims to provide input and workshops on evangelism, effectiveness and education at national, state and local church level. Speakers include Randy Edwards—Kenmore Christian College, Andrew Ball—Australian Board of Church Development and Education and Peter Burnham—Toorak College chaplain.

Each state will be asked to send participants to the summit who have an interest in youth ministry and bring some experience in youth ministry to the workshops. The summit will cost \$38 per person, which includes all meals, accommodation and notes.

On Friday, 12 July, the second Churches of Christ National Youth Ministers Conference will also be held. This conference is open to full- or part-time paid youth ministers and youth workers within our churches.

Application forms and further information concerning the summit and youth ministers conference are available from your state office.



Andrew Ball

(formerly the Federal Board of Christian Education)

ASSIMILATING NEW MEMBERS

Ian Tippet

It happens every year. Roll revisions, transfers, loss of contact sees more people leave our churches than join. It happens in any church, large or small, city or country. We can't overcome every loss. People move employment and house. Some die, others don't fit in.

How much assimilation or membership conservation does your church do to avoid people dropping out?



*Ian Tippet
Field Director, Vic-Tas Department
of Mission, Education and Develop-
ment and author of Effective
Assimilation*

IDENTIFICATION

Churches of Christ should be growing faster than we are. We have a valid place in the Australian church. June Doster called us "a church for our time". We can be flexible, provide worship and programs to meet people's needs. New groups and churches are asking to join us. Ministers and new people are seeking to identify with us. Our task is to monitor our current membership and successfully assimilate new people into our churches.

EFFECTIVE ASSIMILATION

Effective assimilation builds people into the church. It starts informally before membership, it happens in fellowship before and after worship, it occurs in small groups and around the meal table. Assimilation is a vital process if we are to grow. We must care for our established members and encourage those new people seeking to find their way. *Effective Assimilation* brings these two groups together. Established members understand the importance of their place and role, newer members their opportunity to become integrated into the church and be nurtured successfully in their faith. Never underestimate the friendly handshake, sitting with a new person in worship, showing them around the property, explaining the different aspects of worship, having a meal together, involving people in a new group. We may just gain more than we lose.

Effective Assimilation is a five-week course. The workbook is available from the Australian Board of Church Development and Education for \$8.50 plus postage.

EDUCATING FOR WORSHIP

Alan Hermann

Corporate worship should be the highest and holiest experience in our Christian lives. For this to be a reality we need to clarify our thinking in a number of crucial areas.

PURPOSE

First we must rediscover the purpose of worship. We gather primarily to glorify, adore and please God, not the congregation. When designing worship this is our first consideration. If our primary aim is anything other than this then we are "using" God and practising a subtle form of idolatry.

The measure of a worship service is not what we receive from it, but the extent to which it is designed to assist all those present to express their worship to God. Visitors to such a service will leave with the clear impression that they have been with people engaged in the most important activity in their lives.

PREPARATION

Secondly it is necessary to examine our preparation for worship. We do not come together to worship. We bring our worship with us. The corporate worship service is a continuation and augmentation of our private daily worship as we join hearts and voices with other believers. Until we have learned to worship in our homes as individuals or families during the week we cannot expect to give the Lord the worship he deserves in our chapels on Sunday.

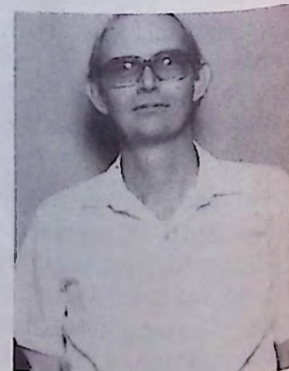
There is a crucial need for education in this area. Survey results show that 85% of Churches of Christ members have no family worship.

PRACTICE

Thirdly we need to be educated in the practice of worship. Presidents, readers, worship leaders and all others involved in worship services must be trained. God deserves our best. To serve in worship is a privilege not a right. If we do not take it seriously enough to seek all avenues for improvement then we should not be involved.

In all of these aspects of worship the critical factor is our heart attitude to God. That is where worship begins and ends.

*Alan Hermann
Christian Education Officer, Qld
Department of Church Develop-
ment and Education*



People

• John Sutton

Rowville Ordination

Almost one year after commencement of the Rowville, Vic, church, John Sutton was ordained to the ministry of Churches of Christ in Australia and inducted into the ministry of the church.

Those participating in the ordination included Clive Ward, the National President of Churches of Christ, State Conference President Brian White, and other representatives of the Vic-Tas Conference Executive and the Department of Mission, Education and Development.

Over 130 attended the service including members of the

Black Hawks Ice Hockey Team of which John is a member. The church meets in a local kindergarten hall and is continuing to attract new people from the area. John Sutton would welcome information on any additional contacts—contact (03) 792 2663 or 24/116 Princes Highway, Dandenong 3175.

Tom Ede, who headed up the project in 1990, is continuing as associate minister.

The Department of Mission, Education and Development is providing substantial help in supporting the ministry. Gifts or special project giving would be especially welcome.



Rowville members Geoff Lohrere (left) and Nick and Lanny Ch'ng (right) with John Sutton following the service

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• Linda Morgan and Ray Garth

A First?

On 24 March at a special service was held at the Preston, Vic, church when Linda Morgan and Ray Garth were appointed to the position of elder emeritus.

Linda and Ray are brother and sister and have served Preston as elders and deacons for over 20 years. The church is wondering if this is a first in Churches of Christ.



Linda Morgan and Ray Garth receiving presentations from Ron Mill (Preston secretary)

• Lynette Leach

New Field Director Appointed

Lynette Leach has been appointed by the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development as a field director in educational services as from 1992.

She and her husband, Athol, and family are involved with the East Keilor, Vic, church where Lynette is also an elder. Lynette is a teacher and is currently the English co-ordinator and curriculum overseer for the secondary school where she teaches. Other teaching roles have included being an off-campus English tutor for the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and involvement with adult education programs. Lynette holds a BA degree and a Diploma of Education from the University of Melbourne, has an Associate Diploma in Music and is presently studying for the BTheol degree. She has also taught music at pri-

mary-school level. Her teaching experience has been in country and western suburban schools. Other activities include involvement with the Christian Women's Fellowship at local and state levels.



Lynette Leach

Classifieds

BIRTHS

ADDICOTT (PIKE) John and Janice proudly announce the birth of Nathaniel John on 18 March at St George's Hospital, Kew. First grandchild for Olive and Ted, Gwen and Barry.

BOURDON (MURPHY) Margaret, Ross, Ashley, Heath and Tyson welcome with love Dale John, born 19 February. Another precious gift from the Lord.

JONES (HUTCHISON) Brendan and Sharon are excited to announce the safe arrival of Samuel Benjamin 4.3.1991. A beautiful blessing from God.

80TH BIRTHDAY

THORNHILL Congratulations to Florence Thornhill on her 80th birthday on 15 May. To celebrate this occasion an afternoon tea will be held at the Gardiner Church of Christ on Saturday, 11 May, from 2.30 till 5 pm. All friends welcome. RSVP to (03) 822 2789 after 7.30 pm by 1 May. No presents by request. Current address is Mecwa House, 6 Warner St, Malvern 3144.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

REED—PEGLER Neil and Vida of 307 Windermere St, Ballarat, happily celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Married Church of Christ Dawson Street by W.W. Saunders 12 April 1941.

WILSON—FUNSTON Stanton Wilson and Jean Funston married on 19 April 1941 at Swanston Street Church of Christ and now happily celebrate their 50th Anniversary.

DEATHS

DAFF, Lesley Jean, passed away at the Christian Guest Home 3.4.91. Dearly loved wife of Allan, loving mother of Bob and Maureen, Mardie and Frank, Barbara and Allan, Dorothy and Philip. Grandmother of Lisa and Russell, Ray and Janine, Rhonda and Bob, Jennifer and David, Gary and Adrian, Kylie and Glen. Great-grandmother of Bradley, Talia, Christopher and Cameron.

CFO Camp—Adelaide—South Australia

A program of encouragement centred on Jesus

Beginning Friday night, 6.30 pm, 17 May, finishing Monday, 2.30 pm, 20 May, at "El Shaddai", Wellington

Theme: "Challenge to Grow"

Speakers: Our chairman, Brian Jeffries, and Frank Hunting will share talks

Cost for camp \$67.50 per person with scholarship reduction to students
Enquiries to Secretary, Camps Farthest Out, Shirley Ely, (08) 297 85 79

FOLLETT Lois Penelope 21.3.91. Beautiful memories of a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Forever in our hearts, now with her Lord. Lovingly remembered by her family.

IN MEMORIAM

ATTWELL George, 8.11.83. The ones we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Resting in God's care. Gert and all the family.

LIVE-IN COMPANION

LIVE-IN LADY COMPANION HELP of mature age required for elderly lady in Mount Waverley in comfortable unit. All amenities nearby. Light duties, including some cooking—a home help attends. Salary negotiable. References. Phone (03) 560 0841 (after 6 pm).

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TO LET

BURWOOD Modern 3-bedroom home, Burwood, Victoria. Phone (03) 808 9150.

ROWVILLE Available now \$150 per week. 3-BR BV only 5 years old, in lovely quiet crescent with mountain views. Features BIRs, WIR & full ensuite to master bedroom, WW carpets, sep. family, modern kitchen, AC & gas htg, private rear garden, spotless cond. throughout. Preferably non-smokers. No pets. Bond and references required. Phone (03) 729 2536.

HOUSEBOAT "White Heron" 10-berth. Moored at Blanchetown, SA. Phone (08) 365 1153 or (085) 40 5100 or write 7 Gameau Rd, Paradise 5075.

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farm setting. Bertram family resident owners. Phone (053) 56 6300. **POINT LONSDALE** Holiday house. Excellent position, close to front and back beaches. 3 bedrooms. Modernised. \$200 p.w., \$250 school holidays (not Christmas-January). C.R. Brough (03) 808 2815.

QUEENSLAND GOLD COAST Absolute waterfront unit Runaway Bay Broadwater. Peaceful area. Delightful views. Very reasonable rates. Enquiries: Len Brooks, 118 Wilgarning Street, Stafford heights 4053. Telephone (07) 359 7227.

THE BUNKHOUSE AT DUNKELD Southern gateway to the Grampians. Accommodation for 24 people in 5 bedrooms, with kitchen, 2 bathrooms, lounge/recreation area with wood fire. Beautiful quiet surroundings on 2 acres close to town. Suitable for families and groups. \$7 per person per night.

PRESENTING...



A CELEBRATION IN PRAISE

A program combining popular concert music with traditional and contemporary Christian hymns, featuring a massed choir and orchestra drawn from the Melbourne Christian community

8 pm, Saturday, 24 August 1991: Dallas Brooks Hall

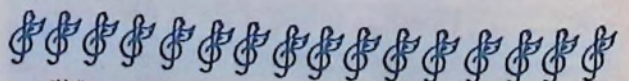
A UNIQUE EVENT IN THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN MELBOURNE

SINGERS & INSTRUMENTALISTS:

We are looking to form an orchestra of 70 players and a choir of 140 to perform traditional and contemporary hymns and songs, as well as pieces by Johann Strauss, Copeland, Beethoven, Vaughan Williams, Handel and others. If you are interested in joining the choir or orchestra, please send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Melbourne Prom Praise, c/o Blackburn PO, 3130, and we will gladly send you full details of the program and rehearsal schedule. Alternatively, instrumentalists phone (03) 808 0959 or (03) 848 2753, and singers phone (03) 877 7665 or (03) 848 2346, for information.

TICKETS:

Tickets (\$15) will go on sale in May. Inquiries, phone (03) 877 3419.



"Melbourne Prom Praise" is an inter-denominational organisation comprising representatives from major Christian denominations.

People

• Allan Blyth begins new ministry

Howrah Induction



The Blyth family being welcomed at Howrah

The induction service for Allan Blyth was held on 24 February. The service format was compiled by David Preston, chairman of the elders, who also presided. The formal part of the induction was led by George Green, Tasmanian President, after which Allan's wife Julie and their three chil-

dren Katherine, Mitchell and Benjamin were welcomed to the Howrah, Tas, congregation. Guest speaker was Rod Foster from the Launceston, Tas, church, who had previously ministered with Allan at Albury, NSW, on "Our Call to Ministry". There were 151 present. Hobart, Midway Point and Launceston churches were well represented, and greetings were conveyed from other churches. Among the guests were Allan's parents, who came from Wagga Wagga, NSW, specially for the service.

Following the service members and guests enjoyed an informal luncheon.

—Pauline Cumine

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• Kathy Rochester

Tasmanian Ordination

On the 16 November 1990, Kathleen Margaret Rochester, BSc, DipEd, AMusA, LTCL, was awarded a Diploma in Ministry with Honours at the Graduation Service of the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave. Shortly after, Kathy's appointment as a minister within the Huon Uniting and Community Churches, Tas, was finalised.

On Sunday, 13 January 1991, at a moving service held in the Huonville Community Church, Kathy was ordained as a minister of Churches of Christ in Australia and inducted into the ministry of the Huon Uniting and Community Churches.

The National President of Churches of Christ, Clive L. Ward, led the ordination service and Sir Geoffrey Foot acted as ordinator.

The Rev Alan Scott, Chairman of Derwent Presbytery of the Uniting Church in Australia, conducted the induction service and the address was given by the Rev Bob Hazeldine of the Uniting Church.

Kathy joins Steve Warwick in the ministry in the Huon Valley and her ministry is being greatly appreciated by the churches.



Kathy Rochester

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70th Anniversary

21 April 1991

10 am Service

Speaker:

Gordon Stirling

Topic: "It Ain't

Necessarily So"

followed by lunch

Enquiries

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R. Tyler (03) 889 5228

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or home (07) 378 8817

News

• Forum on refugees

Gaps in Support Identified

Hard work is needed by refugees and their advocates in translating moral ideals and statements into saleable, practical, political programs in the present political and social climate dominated by economic stringency. This was the key challenge of Professor Max Charlesworth when opening "Refugees—Current Practices and Future Strategies", a forum for non-government organisations (NGOs) held 15 and 16 March at St Mary's College at the University of Melbourne. The forum was sponsored by the Australian Council of Churches, the Refugee Advice and Casework Service and Ecumenical Migration Services (Melbourne). Professor Charlesworth highlighted the long, difficult task of educating the community and of refugee groups and support groups needing to share and network more to overcome "the tyranny of non-communication".

About 30 representatives from non-government refugee organisations, locally based refugees support groups and the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs met to work on strategies to better co-operate in the support of refugees—those people who have been forced

to flee their home countries because of actual or reasonable fear of persecution.

The forum proved a useful starting point in sharing information, perceptions and concerns, highlighting gaps in Australian government policy. It also showed how NGOs in the refugee field can work together more effectively to improve advocacy and services.

Gaps or shortfalls were identified in a number of areas: aid in finding employment (including 'skills training and qualifications recognition'), legal and settlement issues, e.g. the availability of and delays in government support benefits to asylum seekers, the need for more and greater co-ordination of research and resources on government policy and the root causes of refugee movements.

Task groups were formed to examine methods for refugee NGOs in Victoria to more regularly share concerns and ideas and the working and needs of the grassroots groups making up the government-sponsored Community Refugee Settlement Scheme.

Fr Peter Hosking, Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service (Australia) spoke of the global situation and Australia's response. Anthony Krohn, of the Refugee Advice and Casework Service, highlighted needs of people "on shore" (in Australia) seeking asylum as refugees. Denis Fitzgerald of the Federal Government's Australian International Development Assistance Bureau overviewed the government's funding allocations in overseas aid and refugee work. Robert Mister of Melbourne's Ecumenical Migration Centre summarised the main work of Victorian-based NGOs in Victoria and overseas.

A follow-up planning session based on task force areas will be held on 14 May, 2-5 pm at the Prahran Migrant Resource Centre.

—John Ball (Refugee and Migrant Services, ACC)

• Western Victorian gathering

Conference for Ministers



Ted Keating with camp participants

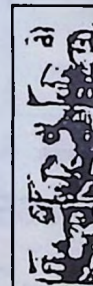
46 ministers, spouses and Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development staff members shared a successful two-day conference at Camp Acacia, Halls Gap, Vic, under joint Department of Mission, Education and Development and Advisory Department sponsorship. Ken Clinton, Conference Minister to Ministers, and his wife, Norma, also attended.

Ministers came from Victorian churches located west of Melbourne. Virtually every church was represented. Many of the ministers shared similar concerns and interests from their country and rural church situations.

Ted Keating, chairman of the Advisory Department, led sessions on leadership, church development and worship.

Department of Mission, Education and Development staff members addressed issues on evangelism, Victoria Grow, youth ministry, the minister's personal and family life and spiritual development.

Attendances and the involvement of participants made this event one of the most successful of a number conducted in recent years. Other events are planned.



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• Cure for fellowshipitis

Church Picnic at Kirk's Reservoir

In a world where people are feeling lonely, the church has a role to play in helping to develop close and supportive relationships.

No doubt some churches suffer from fellowshipitis—they become a social club, just focusing on a group of people having a good time together.

At York Street, Ballarat, Vic, we are always trying to be innovative in enhancing the fellowship in the church, while maintaining a mission emphasis.

On 10 February we integrated a worship service with the environment by holding the service at a picnic ground at a local reservoir, Kirk's Reservoir.

A deacon, Glen Strange, began the service, giving us an opportunity to express prayers of praise as we focused on different features of the environment that we were experiencing with our senses.

Glen then led the congregation in appropriately chosen hymns and choruses accompanied by an instrumental

group of flutes, violins, clarinets and guitar.

Numerous tables had been placed among the congregation with the elements for communion on them. The congregation, who were seated on rugs and folding chairs, were invited to form in groups of 10 and administer communion to each other.

Elizabeth Burns, playgroup co-ordinator, involved a number of children in the childrens story, which was based on God being the creator. Following this, the senior minister, Jim Cunningham, kept the creation theme flowing in his message.

At the conclusion of the service, picnic baskets were removed from cars and the 200-strong congregation enjoyed a picnic lunch together.

The time spent was a positive way to commence the year, with people able to break away from the usual brief encounters and enjoy each other's fellowship.

—Gary Berry (Associate Minister)

• KCC Convocation

Under the Stars



East Ipswich Celebration Choir at KCC Convocation

The outdoor setting at Kenmore Christian College again proved popular when more than 200 attended the Convocation of College on 15 February.

Special guests this year were members of the East Ipswich Celebration Choir, whose red-and-white uniforms contrasted with the grey-green of the floodlit gum trees.

Other assistance was given by David Lowe (loan of the keyboard), John Hicks (keyboard), Roy Eaton (sound system), Nel Machin and a team of ladies (supper) as well as students who arranged the stage, lighting and seating.

New student families were introduced to the congregation by Geoff Greenaway, student

president, and each family received a greeting in the name of Christ.

Conference President, Geoff Risson (Maroochydore), gave a challenging address. He stressed the importance of preaching; it was "truth through personality". Preaching must not be unrelated to the pastoral ministry. Taking his theme from an old Negro preacher, he stressed the need for the preacher to "read myself full, think myself clear, pray myself hot, then let myself go". He said that Campbell Morgan's definition of preaching "of truth, clarity and passion", was reminiscent of the Apostle Peter's words: "We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

• Musical concert

CWF Project 91 for Ballarat Hospice

On 13 March 360 attended the variety concert at the Blackman Hall, Melbourne, produced by Jan Sheppard and featuring artists from the Cheltenham, Vic, church.

Scott Harrison thrilled the audience on the organ while Joan Lost (violin), Ernie Kemplay (jazz piano), Bruce and Leigh Verity (trumpet, accompanied by Karen), Julie Stokie (flute) and Cheryl Connor (keyboard and piano) provided superb entertainment.

Pilgrimage members Nance Martine, Lyn Ashton, Judith Haskins and Cheryl Connor

sang some Negro spirituals while our own Pam Ayres (Verity Cormack) provided much humour.

The Tirrike Trio, soloists Elizabeth Watson and Jan Sheppard, "Yurana" (Kendra Boyd, Lisa Hugo and Michelle Martine) added to the production and presentation to make it a night to be remembered.

Helen Hall, CWF President, presented a cheque for \$1,750 to Sister Lyn Edwards for the Ballarat Hospice Nursing Care, and shared in a brief devotional message using the theme of hospice care, "Love in Action".

• Youth action in Tasmania

"Unreal" Bicheno Camp

This year a group of 45 young people, including their leaders, attended a camp at Bicheno on Tasmania's beautiful East Coast. Andrew Ball led a series of studies centring on making God "The Strength of My Life". The young people, aged 12-16, were challenged and prompted to do something about who or what influences them.

Darryl Tobler from Launceston, in co-operation with the youth leaders, organised an action-packed program, the highlight of which was a composite team game that occu-

ried most campers for hours on Saturday night.

This camp will become a regular date on the Tasmanian youth calendar. —D. Tobler

L. C. F. Higgins

**Chartered
Accountant**

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

Ministry Meditation

• *The world system has a very powerful campaign aimed at undermining ministers' relevancy, credibility and spirituality*

Beware the Demas Family

by Ray Hawkins

Looking at old Bible college photographs arouses all types of emotions. There are those ripples of mirth at some forgotten episode, some blushes of embarrassment as incidences are recalled, some sorrow as hurts or losses are reflected upon.

The ranks have thinned since the group photograph was taken. Most of the faculty have closed their books, turned off the study lights and graduated to Glory. Some of the students have joined them there, which was a loss to the church from a human point of view, for they had a lot to offer.

Some things do not show up in the pictures.

How can you capture the time, influence and energy invested in a life? The pain and laughter, devotions and duties, food and frolics are hidden from sight. Such things hang in the gallery of the heart.

Sadness often accompanies a look at these snapshots. For you see and remember guys and gals with so much potential, so much influence, so much going for them, yet they are no longer in the ministry.

The reason for such a loss is many and varied and sometimes beyond personal control. There are, however, some whom have chosen to be embraced by the "family of Demas".

We read of the "father" of this family in the accounts of Paul's letters. These letters contain the equivalent of our snapshots. He mentions quite a number of his students with whom he laboured and for whom his heart beats. Among the list is this man Demas. He is revealed in the brevity of Paul's comments as a man of potential that never reached its fulfilment.

The three passages in which this man is mentioned are as follows:

• Philemon 24: "Demas...my fellow labourer."

• Colossians 4:14: "Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you."

• 2 Timothy 4:10: "Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica."

So much is said in such succinct statements. So much is concealed. Sometimes heartbreak is best left under the shroud of silence. Those in ministry for any length of time know that it holds numerous heartbreaks that are borne in the silence of the heart. Not the least of these are for men and women who betray trust and settle for the second rate and fail to reach their possibilities.

Curkpatrick

Nostalgia

The past is never static; it is always changing. We assume that because time is linear in its relationship to our lives what we have left behind on a linear time line has gone forever.

However, we are always reinterpreting the past, recapitulating it back into ourselves. What has happened in the past is in fact subtly changed in our memories and, in terms of our perceptions, becomes a different past. For example, a difficult experience is divested of stormy emotions the further we become removed from it and reinvested with insight and wisdom as it is retold or relived in our memories. Each time we articulate such events we invest them with new meaning and divest them still further of the bitter emotions that they may have once represented. Therefore the articulation of the past is a kind of exorcism of the memory, especially of our emotions. We rightly call this catharsis.

Recapitulating or revisiting the past in our memories means that the past is never static; it is always changing and being reinterpreted creatively. So much so that difficult experiences are often named "memorable experiences", which is what we call nostalgia. And a little "nostalgia" is not a bad thing. In fact reinterpreting the past in our memories is vitally important for our capacity to handle life in the present. An overload of past adverse emotional experiences that are not divested of their intensity and reinvested with insight and wisdom may well reduce our psychological capacity to be adventurous in the future.

—Stephen Curkpatrick

Almost every day the servant of the Lord is under pressure to join the family of Demas. The world system has a very powerful campaign aimed at undermining ministers' relevancy, credibility and spirituality. They are pictured as outmoded, hypocritical, divisive, naive, "sweet", poverty stricken or covetous, to name but a few. If they have lost sight of their high calling or have had the veracity of the Scriptures undermined then they are prime targets for the "Demas family".

The answer to such temptations is not undertaking a greater workload to prove our

sincerity. Nor is it more prayers or hymn singing.

The answer is a maturing love affair.

It is a passion that consumes. It is a commitment that counts the cost and the jibes as of little consequence. It is the conviction that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God and that you have been embraced by him and in that relationship you serve.

The "Family of Demas" has no chance of enticing a person from the ministry of Christ who travels this way.

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



You are invited to come and hear
Barry McMurtrie
speak on
Ministering in the 90s
at York Street, Ballarat, Church of Christ
Saturday, 27 April 1991, 9.30 am–3.30 pm
BYO lunch
Morning tea and refreshments provided
Registration: \$5
RSVP 22 April to Church of Christ, 410 York Street, Ballarat 3350
Phone (053) 31 1079

Christian Women's Fellowship Vic-Tas 105th Conference

Church of Christ, 46 Montclair Avenue, Glen Waverley
Wednesday, 24 April 1991
Theme—"This Is the Day"

10.30 am Worship, reports, business
1.30 pm Speaker: Mrs Ranjini Rabera, Lowanna Singers,
induction of Stella Carter and executive, communion,
conference commitment offering
Basket lunch available for \$4 with prepaid ticket
RSVP to Mrs Lorraine Hughes, phone (03) 232 8950, or BYO lunch
Country lunches supplied

A Church ABC

Owen is a typical country town of 200 people, 80 km north of Adelaide, SA, on the Adelaide Plains. The surrounding farming community raises chickens, cereals and pigs.

Not so typical is the Owen Combined Congregation, the only church in town, an amalgamation of the Uniting church and the Church of Christ. The Church of Christ congregation first met in Owen in 1882, and the Methodist church commenced in 1905. However for many decades there has been a history of co-operation. The first combined service was held in 1936. In 1965 combined Sunday school and women's fellowship were commenced. In 1978 joint elders meetings were conducted and in 1979 worship services were held alternately in each church under the leadership of part-time lay pastor John Wilson. Then on 20 October 1985 the Owen Combined Congregation officially commenced and a manse was opened.

These days there is no sense of "I'm Churches of Christ, you're Uniting". This has come about because of the long period of coming together—the

two congregations grew together; they were not organised together—and because of the personalities of the key leaders in each church, who got and still get on well together

ship. Some are Uniting Church style with the minister leading the communion, others are non-communion services and there are also Churches of Christ-style services presided over by

College at Mulgrave, Vic. Andrew, as a worship leader, is also greatly missed. As the only church in town, Owen gets to conduct the religious education seminars at the Owen Primary School, and as a number of the young people attend the Balaklava High School the minister is involved in religious education seminars there too. Recently a valuable series of Lenten studies were held. The church also participated in the recent very lively Northern Districts Conference at nearby Balaklava with guest speaker Rodney Minniecon.

The minister at Owen since the beginning of 1990 is Doug Walladge. Doug, with his wife Julie and children Luke and Kristina, came to Owen from Vanuatu, where Doug was principal of the Banmatmat Bible College for three and a half years. Before that he was minister at the Red Cliffs, Vic, Church of Christ. He trained at the College of the Bible.

Last year the Owen Combined Congregation studied Kenneth Callahan's "12 Keys to an Effective Church" and organised their own planning weekend where they set key objectives for the next five years. The areas that Owen seeks to develop are in leadership, worship and pastoral and lay visitation.

Focus on Owen

with no sense of rivalry or power struggles

The congregation now meets in the old Uniting church chapel; the old Church of Christ chapel (built in the same year) is used for various church activities.

The Sunday service at 11 am attracts an average attendance of 45, which considering a town of 200 and that the church draws on an area with a population of 440 is commendable. The church is a member congregation of the Adelaide Plains parish of the Uniting Church. There are six other congregations in the parish, served by three ministers—one Churches of Christ and two Uniting.

Because of its history the Owen Combined Congregation has a variety of styles of wor-

a lay person. The whole is organised on a cycle of ten Sundays. Six services out of the ten are communion services, three of which follow the Uniting Church style (two communion services in the pews and one at the rail) and three the Churches of Christ pattern. There are four non-communion Sundays out of the ten.

Regular activities at Owen include Sunday School, day and evening fellowships, a Grow Group—helping Christians to grow—organised on a parish basis and a parish youth group. The church has had a very successful Kids Club with 26 children on the roll. This met fortnightly on Mondays after school. Unfortunately this is in recess at the moment as the leader, Raelene Ratcliff, has left the area to accompany her husband, Andrew, who this year began as a student at the Churches of Christ Theological

"Feast of Tabernacles" Jerusalem, Israel 22-30 September 1991



Three itineraries now available for individuals and families:

14 days—from \$3,995 p.p. Via Hong Kong with Cathay Pacific & El Al. Includes nine nights Jerusalem and one night in Rome.

18 days—from \$3,785 p.p. Via Athens with Olympic Airways. Includes 14 nights Jerusalem and one night in Athens.

23 days—from \$4,350 p.p. Via Los Angeles and London with Air New Zealand & El Al. Includes 4 nights Los Angeles, 3 nights Tel Aviv, 9 nights Jerusalem and 3 nights in London.

Registration fees for the week of activities are included in each itinerary. Accommodation is on a bed and breakfast twin share basis (bed only in Los Angeles) and arrival and departure transfers are included in Israel.

(A fully escorted group tour is currently being planned.) Space in Jerusalem at the time of the Feast of Tabernacles is strictly limited, so book now to avoid missing out.

The above programs are only available from Jetset Travel, Balaklava.

For full details please contact Dani at Jetset Travel Balaklava (Group Dept.), 300 Carlisle Street, East St Kilda 3182. Tel: (03) 527 6119, Fax: (03) 527 2394

Lic. No. 30577

"God's Community and Mission Strategy"

is the theme chosen by

David Cummings

the International Director of Wycliffe Bible Translators when he speaks at the

20th Annual Missionary Convention

of the

Swanston Street Church of Christ in Melbourne

over the weekend of

19, 20, 21 April

The Friday, 19 April, meeting will be held in the Church at 7.30 pm.

The Saturday, 20 April, meeting and the Sunday, 21 April, meetings will be held in the Pharmacy College, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville. Saturday at 7.30 pm

Sunday at 10 am and 7 pm

You are most welcome to join with us.

Christian Union

Service for Christian Unity

12 May 1991

As resolved at Federal Conference, Brisbane, October 1990, it is proposed that Churches of Christ around Australia use the Sunday before Pentecost Sunday, 12 May, as a day of prayer for Christian Unity.

As 12 May is also Mother's Day, some congregations will want to use the following service order during the evening or on another day.

Prayers and hymns are from *In Spirit and in Truth* but others may be chosen if that resource is not available. If it is suggested that during the procession of the Bible the Churches of Christ hymnbook tune no 171 be used with the words: "Come let us hear the word Which God the Lord has said: Let justice, peace and love embrace one another."

Congregations are invited to use the material creatively and to follow local custom where preferred to the order given. Several people could take part in the prayer for Christian unity.

An Order of Service for the Sunday before Pentecost, including a Prayer for Christian Unity

Welcome and Announcements (according to local custom)

Call To Worship

Leader Sisters and brothers—arise
Arise and lift your hearts
Arise and lift your eyes
Arise and lift your voices.

People The living God,
The living, moving Spirit of God
has called us together—
in witness
in celebration
in struggle.

Leader Reach out towards each other,
for our God reaches out towards us.

People Let us worship God.
God of love and power,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
We worship you and lift up our voices
in praise with joy.

Hymn 309: Father Hear Our Humble Claim (author unknown)

Introduction of Theme
Today Churches of Christ around

Australia are reflecting together upon the prayer of Jesus as found in John 17. Jesus prayed that the disciples should be one reconciled community; which would be a sign of God's love and would bring the world to faith in God.

Procession of the Bible (during which a short hymn verse is sung)

Bible Readings

John 17: 14-23

1 John 4: 11-21

Story Sharing

Members of the congregation are invited to recall people from other Christian traditions who have influenced their personal Christian growth.

After a minute or two silent reflection people are encouraged to share briefly with a neighbour what they have remembered and appreciated.

Hymn 230: Come Risen Lord (George Briggs, Anglican)

Prayer of Confession

People:

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways.

President:

Gracious God you gave Jesus our Saviour to assure us of the forgiveness of our sins. I therefore declare to you the forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Communion (according to local custom)

Offering

Prayer for Christian Unity

Let us remember the unity that God has given us:

There is one body and one spirit just as there is one hope to which God has called us. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, there

is one God and Father of all people who is Lord of all, works through all, and is in all. Ephesians 4: 4-6. Lord, may we live in the unity that the Spirit gives:

Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, we look with sorrow on the brokenness of the church and we come repenting the sin of useless division.

Forgive the wrong attitudes that have excluded others and heals us of the sin that keeps us apart.

Christ, saviour of all who by your cross has redeemed us:

Forgive us that we have not knelt with others humbly before your cross and, with them, wondered at love so amazing, so divine.

Christ, lover of all humankind:

Hear our prayer that your church, unbroken by differences of nation, race or class, may witness to the whole gospel, that the world may believe.

Spirit of truth, who leads into all truth:

Deepen our fellowship with others who, though differing from us in some ways, are yet one with us in faith, that we may learn those lessons that can only be learnt in fellowship.

Holy Spirit, who gives the power to witness:

Gather all your people in each place

that they may make their decisions together, share their resources, serve alongside each other, and witness to the power of the gospel to reconcile and make life new.

Lord Jesus, who prayed that all may be one:

We take your prayer into our prayer, praying that your church may be one so that the world may believe that the Father sent you, his son, to redeem the world. Amen.

Hymn 365: We Would Be Building (P. Deitz, Evangelical and Reformed)

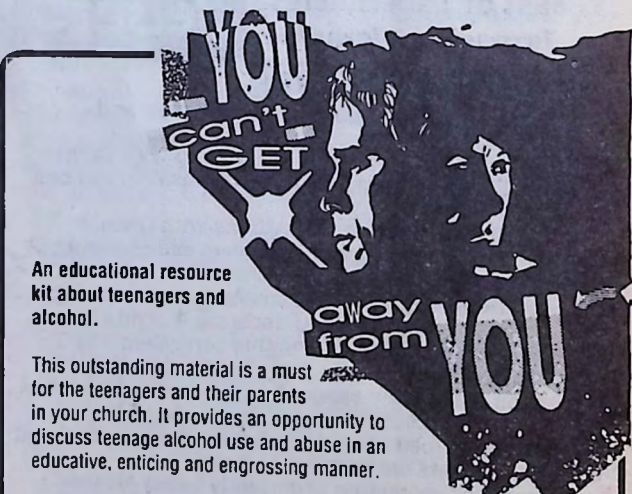
Proclamation of the Word
A sermon, perhaps in dialogue form, or a short dramatic presentation on the theme.

Hymn 590: Now We Come (Cliff Taylor, Churches of Christ)

Benediction

Go in peace. And May God continually surprise you on your way; Christ Jesus be your companion; and the Spirit open your life to others and to the will of God. Amen.

(This service was prepared by John Somerville on behalf of the WA Christian Union Committee and the Department of Christian Union.)



YOU can't GET away from YOU

An educational resource kit about teenagers and alcohol.

This outstanding material is a must for the teenagers and their parents in your church. It provides an opportunity to discuss teenage alcohol use and abuse in an educative, enticing and engrossing manner.

This valuable resource kit is available *free of charge* to your church or organisation courtesy of

ANSVAR
the motor and household insurance company for you.

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SA (08) 232 1272 WA (09) 321 6291

Baptisms

•Tennealle O'Shannessy, Aaron Sceney, LaTrobe Terrace, Geelong, Vic •Jan Brown, Sandra Randall, Brooklyn Park, SA •Kay Hartley, Bowral, NSW •Kathy Densley, Kelth, SA •Margaret Cahill, Lily McFadyen, Liverpool, NSW •Jenny Jordan, Peel St, Ballarat, Vic •Lisa Foat, Epping, NSW •Chris Rothwell, Launceston, Tas •Kevin & Elaine Roberson,

Antoinette Bulle, David Wilson, Grant Brown, Diane Hynde, Sharon & Doug Hamilton, Anne Pole, Kinta Williams, Berwick, Vic

Marriages

•Christine Elvery to Stephen Parker, Lismore, NSW •Elaine Hunt to John Spaulding, Collins St, Hobart, Tas •Sharon Porter to Kevin Clifford, Deanna Bartlett to Daryl Hargraves, Berwick, Vic

Deaths

•Jack Harper, Preston, Vic •Eva Thoday, Henley Beach, SA •Olive Stone, Brooklyn Park, SA •Tom Grafham, Bassendean, WA •Wilbur Willis, Helen McAlister, Bronwyn Ballarin, Lismore, NSW •Millicent

Stringer, Bundaberg, Qld •Mrs Jean Green, Collins St, Hobart, Tas

Changes

Echuca: Secretary—The Secretariat, c/o 144 Sturt Street, Echuca, Vic 3564.



Full-time Ministry Opportunities

Noarlunga Centre Church of Christ
South Australia

Located in the growing southern beaches area of Adelaide, the church of over 300 members is looking for two full-time associate ministers for the areas of:

1. Youth/Worship

Responsible for youth programming and leadership, worship service planning, regular preaching, music ministry co-ordination

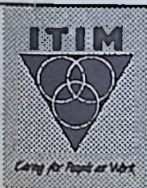
2. Local Mission/Pastoral Care

Responsible for pastoral care oversight and co-ordination, small-group ministry supervision, counselling, and supervision of community-focused care programs

To commence early 1992

For detailed job descriptions write to—

Ross Pelling, PO Box 486
Noarlunga Centre 5168



ITIM Staff Chaplain

If you enjoy working in an ecumenical ministry using counselling or training skills in working with individuals and groups, and have the ability to mix with people throughout the work community, you may be interested in working as a staff chaplain to a group of client organisations.

Endorsement by one of ITIM's member churches is essential and professional qualifications in fields such as psychology, social work, teaching, theology or pastoral ministry are preferred but not essential. For information and application form please contact Will Knowles on (03) 642 1366.

Wanted—Pastor Normanton Christian Centre

(Far North Queensland)

Churches of Christ in Queensland Aborigines and Islanders Christian Fellowship (QAICF)

Requirements:

- Minister—Pastor—Teacher (full church and community program)
- Able to work in cross-cultural situation (majority of population Aboriginal)
- Administrative skills

For further information please contact:

QAICF
PO Box 508
Kenmore 4121
Phone (07) 848 9466

Acting on behalf of and in association with the
Normanton church

Applications should be received by 30 April 1991

Half-time Youth and Childrens Worker

Marion Church of Christ, Adelaide, invites applications from enthusiastic people who would like to work on a half-time basis in co-ordinating and developing its program among young people and children.

We are looking for someone around 25–35 years of age, with a proven record in the fields of youth leadership and childrens work. While formal theological training could be an advantage, this should not deter anyone who believes that they can "deliver the goods".

The applicant will have a strong commitment to Christ and a deep desire to minister. Already we have a very effective team of lay leaders in these areas, so the person appointed will have a solid support base with which to work. Through its various youth and childrens programs, the church is in touch with well over 100 young people.

Marion Church of Christ provides an exciting work environment, with combined Sunday attendances of around 540 per week and an extensive range of programs designed to meet people at their point of need.

Applications, enquiries or requests for a full job description should be directed to: Mrs Marlene Messent, 23 Beverley Street, Clovelly Park 5042. Phone (08) 276 8610.

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Burrell, Agnes Amelia (1.3.91) The sudden death of Agnes was a shock to Bribie Island Village and church. Born 13 October 1902, Myrtle Town, Brisbane, educated at Ankenbah and Nudgee schools. Became a seamstress at Eagle Farm. In 1921 married William Burrell at St Andrew's C of E, Albion. Four

sons, Bernard, James, Bert and Richard, all still living. Her husband died in 1964. She is survived by 10 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren. Agnes attended the Methodist Church and later the Church of Christ. Agnes found happiness at the retirement village where she regarded the staff, fellow residents and church members as "her family".

—William Hill

NSW

LISMORE (Ian Phillips) Open-air service & barbecue to welcome uni students to district ... 150 attended World Day of Prayer in chapel ... Daughter for Helen & Brett Postle ... Iona Passion Play in Lismore at Easter ... Monthly family services well attended ... Four Bible study groups underway for 1991 ... Enjoying fellowship with many uni students.

LIVERPOOL (Peter Raymond) Meetings very well attended ... Service on Easter Sunday included two baptisms (Margaret Cahill & Lily McFadyen), also a powerful drama by the young people showing how "Love Conquers Death" ... Peter & Samantha busy moving into new manse ... Church preparing for participation in Bill Subritzky "Liverpool Aflame" crusade ... Mission giving for March-April is focused on China.

EPPING (S. Curkpatrick, D. Moyes, J. Lee) Large church family & Sunday School picnic ... Children's intergenerational worship & Sunday School burgeoning in numbers ... Successful "Lads & Dads" camp ... Lisa Foat baptised ... Hospitality Sunday Ron Hewitt guest speaker ... College focus with Dennis Nutt visiting ... John Lee's music & youth ministry appreciated ... Curkpatrick & Moyes increased recent baby boom by two with arrival of Isaac & Brianna.

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

Any past members living interstate and in the country areas of SA who would like an invitation sent to them please contact Robert Dodd (08) 356 8036 or Ross Strudwick (08) 356 9347 before 1 June 1991.

SEVEN HILLS (T.J. Beaman) Len McNally spoke 17 March representing Aborigines Committee & Vincent family, Mt Druitt, took service ... Second monthly Sunday night home meeting held in home Marian & Kevin Hardy. 13 present. Everyone enjoyed study on Middle East by John Willis ... Church rejoices return from Middle East of Violet Mullas ... Good Friday service taken by Neil Dickinson ... Easter morning service attended by 33. Minister Tom Beaman took service.

MAITLAND (Ray Hawkins) Gideons International had Northern NSW District Conference in Maitland in March. Sunday B. Hallam & N. Goodall spoke ... 16 travelled in minibus to hear Jerusalem Passion oratorio at Opera House ... David & Julie Guy welcomed into membership ... Dinner Date with commercial underwater diver M. Vierow. Cione from Tonga soloist ... Church anniversary K. Crawford speaker. Scale model of proposed building unveiled.

Qld

BUNDABERG (Alan Leane) Millicent Stringer called home ... New contacts followed up ... Prayer chain very active ... 10th anniversary Youth for Christ ... Elders preparing shepherding program, attending spiritual needs ... Alan Leane attending Easter Convention Mount Tamborine ... World Day of Prayer in chapel. Capacity crowd. Carol Francis speaker ... Youth service attracted large numbers ... Alan Leane conducted induction service Allan Cunningham chaplain to Fairhaven ... 17 ladies attended QCWF Camp Caloundra.

ANN STREET, BRISBANE (Stephen England) New faces welcomed into our family ... Stephen England & family to minister with us this year ... Tim Clark from Auckland, NZ, with "Order of Sir William" (Boys' Brigade) ... Kylie Sims transferred from Maryborough. She & Glenys Colston training as Girls' Brigade officers ... Raymond Moxley to be baptised soon ... Congratulations

Church News

to David & Gillian Watson on birth of Stephanie Laura.

Vic

PRESTON (T. Armstrong) Church saddened by the sudden death of Jack Harper ... A presentation was made to Les & Isabel Stirling as they depart to live at Mornington ... Linda Morgan & Ray Garth have been elevated to the position of Elder Emeritus.

LA TROBE TERR, GEELONG (C.J. Mackenzie) Youth group returned from camp 3 March to take part in service led by East Geelong members. Two accepted Christ as saviour ... Top Kids have theme "Bring a Friend Year". 29 at second meeting ... 28 men & women attended CWF picnic at Dr & Mrs Morris' home. \$135 raised for Vanuatu kitchen ... 50 attended World Day of Prayer in chapel ... Allen Carr spoke about Aboriginal work.

WERRIBEE (Roger Risson) Church has said farewell to Cathy & Lester Mostyn & family & to Campbell & Dianne Mathews ... On Family Day church families shared BYO lunch after service then went 10-pin bowling together ... 20 extra chairs being brought for worship area ... Alison Tabone & Bob Volkerts announced their engagement on 2 March ... Annual fete to be held on 13 April.

WARRAGUL (David & Debbie Buesnel) "Shadow Music" group guests at recent evening service—great! ... Talented Cheryl Connor entertained ladies at Wellwishers breakfast ... Brian White speaker at morning service ... Sunday School Superintendent Phil Bell. Teachers & helpers dedication held ... Home fellowship groups growing in popularity ... Beach & bushwalking group keeping busy with regular outings ... \$4,000 grant received from Andrews Foundation for car park extensions.

RED HILL (Wally Gibney) 180 including past ministers & members attended 106th anniversary & home coming luncheon 17 March. Harvey Miller spoke at 10 am service. Lindsay Chapman, Col White, Ian Littlejohn & John Sutton recalled their past experiences at Red Hill ... Home cell groups well attended & blessing to many ... Palm Sunday re-enacted at morning service 24 March ... Easter services Good Friday, Easter Sunday.

PEEL ST, BALLARAT Youth service conducted by Peel St young people ... Michael Skews recent speaker, focus on Christian Education in Primary Schools ... Combined Churches of Christ Begonia service. Mt Clear arranged. Brian White,

Conference President, speaker ... Jenny Jordan baptised & Terry Jordan rededicated his life. Gregory Eames made his decision for Christ ... Combined Peel, York & Dawson Sts Good Friday service. Albert Graham speaker.

BERWICK (Tim Hanna, Peter Holt) Lesley & Gordon Stirling farewelled ... Chris & Tim Hanna & family welcomed. Tim inducted as minister ... 16,000 mud bricks made & laid by members for new church ... Relocation Express raised \$1,000 ... Hosted World Day of Prayer ... First radio service on Mountain District Radio ... 18s plus formal dinner ... Youth camp at Yellingbo ... Easter musical drama "Surrender".

ASHBURTON (Iris Lawson) Lawson family welcomed into church fellowship 10 February when Harold Steele conducted induction service for Iris. Representative gathering at luncheon after service ... Members joined district churches at ecumenical service St Michael's Roman Catholic Church featuring worship from WCC Assembly & delegate from Great Britain as speaker ... CWF members attended World Day of Prayer ... Church combined with Lutherans for early morning Good Friday service.

MANIFOLD HEIGHTS (Max Ball) Fellowship times help congregation to mingle—casserole tea enjoyable ... Family camp at Halls Gap with Richard Broheir, YFC, study leader. Caretakers Philip & Annette Orr appreciated for caring shown ... After-church dinner and meeting for planning of church premises ... After-church picnic lunch at Barwon River fun park ... Prayer support for members with operations and illnesses ... Enjoyable 64th CWF birthday.

SA

BROOKLYN PARK (P. Webber) Focus on dynamic am services ... Two additions to membership ... Callahan steering planning committee appointed ... Spectrum (youth), Interact (young adults), 50s Plus Inactive programs ... God's Gang in seventh year. 45 families ... Annual melodrama over eight nights ... Six tennis teams in grand finals ... Overall encouraging response by members to new ministry of Phil Webber & family.

BARMERA & MOOROOK (Ray Patterson) Wilma & Ray Patterson commenced ministry on 3 February ... A well-decorated table for Harvest Thanksgiving. Goods to Women's Shelter, St Catherine's & Rest Home ... Weekly prayer

CARNARVON (Don Bone) Barbecue & social evening held to welcome new families ... Decided to raise funds to purchase small bus ... Joined with other churches in march of witness at Easter, then an open-air service outside Civic Centre ... CWF Easter meeting a worship service incorporating a play ... Don & Aileen Bone celebrated 35th wedding anniversary.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE: Secretary: C. Wilson, PO Box 140, Carlisleford 2118 Phone (02) 630 7533

People

Three Great Weeks

It was 45 years since I attended school, so I was a little apprehensive about doing some more study.

The inspiration I needed came last year when Harvey Miller brought a deputation team from the Churches of Christ Theological College to the Mildura, Vic, church.

The church gave me encouragement and support, so I enrolled for PS 101, which is a three-week preessional introduction for all first-year students entering ministerial studies.

It was truly a wonderful experience for me to share with 11 younger men and women and to see the enthusiasm and commitment so evident in each of them. Although a good deal older in years, I was immediately accepted as one of the group and felt free to share in every way with them.

We were under the direction of Alan Niven, with input from other members of the faculty. The course gave an excellent coverage of what ministry is really all about—the good times and the tough times.

We were able to look at a variety of styles of worship and administration, as a number of ministers shared their experiences with us—some from small churches, some from larger.

Special input included lectures on ministry, the Holy Spirit and God in Christ. The two sessions by Pat Greig on stress and self-esteem were of particular interest to me.

Tony and Lynette Armstrong kindly allowed both my wife, Edna, and me to share their flat, which is on campus.

During the year I plan to do Old Testa-

ment and New Testament Survey by correspondence. It was truly a wonderful experience to share in a community with God's people and to see the love and closeness that exists there. That was very evident to me during the announcement of the current financial hardship. I thank God for the opportunity of being a part of CCTC.

—Doug Clarke

• Doug Clarke has retired from his building trade to be a pastoral minister with the team at Mildura.

Meals on Wheels

The death occurred in Launceston, Tas, during March of Dame Marjorie Parker, OBE, who founded the Launceston Red Cross Meals on Wheels service over 30 years ago.

The service commenced with the distribution of 14 meals three times a week (for 2/- (20c) or "as much as the recipient can afford") and has now grown to hundreds five days a week. Members of the Launceston Church of Christ Women's Fellowship did the first "run" and have continued to be responsible for a now much larger delivery every month, with some doing extra emergency runs.

New Role

The Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development has appointed Ian Tippet to a new joint task in association with the Properties Corporation. This will include financial promotion and development for the Church Reach Out Plan (CROP) as well as a continuance of some existing duties.



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He says it's about time he gave another report to the congregation on the church's finances.