

National Journal  
of Churches of  
Christ in Australia

Vol. 94 • No. 8

25 May 1991

Registered for Australia Post  
Publication No. VAR 0761

# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN



Rebecca Smith, Katie Kajewski, Alyssa Warne, Rhea Mutzelburg, Helen Mutzelburg, Ruth Smith, Leanne Warne, Sarah Parry and Rachelle Smith with minister Daryl Thorpe and Tonia Meares at the piano

## Harlaxton Hits a High Note

Everybody's smiling at the Harlaxton, Toowoomba, Qld, church as they reflect on the successes of their young musicians at the recent 99th Queensland Eisteddfod.

The girls, including Tonia Meares, the church's musical director, gained many firsts, seconds, thirds and highly commendeds in a wide range of sections—piano, strings, woodwinds, vocal and verse.

Tonia is encouraging the use of this young talent within the worship and ministry of the church. A number of the girls now play regularly for the morning worship services and assist in the evening gospel celebration with instrumental support and accompaniment. Three girls are also playing the piano at weekly services held in the local Westbrook Detention Centre. The boys join in with their drums and guitars.

—Ken Warne



# THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

Vol. 94

No. 8

25 May 1991

Managing Editor: Chris Ambrose

Assistant: Geoff Alves

Issue

Deadline

8 June

31 May

22 June

14 June

6 July

28 June

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

• *These are exciting days for the congregation that is prepared to face the world as it is and respond warmly and openly*

## Splinters Can Be Irritating!

by Keith Horne

**T**he invitation to write this editorial came at an interesting stage of my life. 44 years of active full-time ministry are behind me, and, while still part of the ministry team at Marion, I am now classified as "actively retired". I have never been given to living in the past, for which I am eternally grateful. However, for the purpose of this editorial there cannot help but be a little bit of reflecting on the past, even though I am more concerned where the church to which I have given most of my life is going.

There have been changes and for the most part there is little regret. I have long ago come to terms with the fact that the ministry style of the local church has not only changed but that it will in fact become more varied and diverse. I feel very positive about this, even though it has seen the death of what some would feel are cherished practices.

I am convinced that these are exciting days for the congregation that is prepared to face the world as it is and respond warmly and openly.

The community is more open to the church than ever before. I have no doubt congregations that embrace the community warmly and openly and address human hurt and hope with compassion and care have a great future...BUT...some of us are not finding this easy to accept and what follows will be as irritating as a splinter in a finger tip, that is, until we choose to do something about it. It seems to me that the health of the local church and the future we want to build rests in our ability to come to terms with issues such as these:

### *The Local Church Exists for the Un-churched, Not the Churched*

When this becomes the bottom line for a congregation and its leaders our whole approach to programming will change. Think what this says about the style of our worship and fellowship preaching. Churches were not meant to be havens for the saints but mission outposts living on the frontier of the world God loves.

### *Only the Message Is Sacred, Never the Method*

There is no doubt that some of us will have trouble with this. Look if you will at



the trouble stirred in some congregations when changes to an order of service are suggested. Old ways die hard simply because they are safe and secure. The epitaph of many is already written, "We never did it that way before."

### *Church Growth and Building Effective Churches Are Not the Same Thing*

There is no doubt that the emphasis on church growth has compelled us to look outside the church and take the world seriously. The problem as I see it is that too many congregations in rural settings, small towns or ageing suburbs faced with declining membership could not see the way to go when size seemed the only criterion for health. While statistics in a conference book are important, they are not necessarily the indicators of effectiveness. Effectiveness is the reward of every church, large or small, that is addressing the hurts and hopes of the world and willing to pay the price of effectiveness and excellence. And this cost is not merely a matter of dollars. The real price is often our willingness to bring to the program of the church the same expectations of performance and excellence we expect in the rest of life.

It is always found in the warmth and winsomeness by which the community perceives the local church to operate. As Dr Kennon Callahan suggests, visitors do not come to the church by accident, they come because they are shopping around or desperately needing home and help and hope. When we meet them in the spirit of love and acceptance and with a fair mix of unshockability they stay.

Perhaps this last splinter might prove to be the source of our greatest discomfort.

• Keith Horne, OAM, has served churches in three states. Ministries have bridged rural congregations (Chinchilla, six years) through to highly urban (Doncaster, 13 years). For 20 years he worked in a department role in Christian education and home missions. He has served in a wide range of conference and ecumenical committees. Deeply involved in the wider community, he has been awarded the OAM, Rotary's Distinguished Service Award and Life Membership in the YMCA. Gwenda is his wife, partner and best friend.



## News

### • Bethshalom at Hurstville

## Emergency Accommodation

The Hurstville church has made a 2-bedroom unit available for emergency accommodation. Bob Smith, the minister, says, "We decided to take the Bible seriously. When Jesus talked about feeding the hungry and thirsty, taking in the stranger, visiting people who are sick and in prison—he was speaking to us today."

The unit will be available as needed for individuals, couples, mums with children or dads with children. It will be used for crisis and/or medium-term accommodation. Hurstville hopes that other churches will do the same. There are lots more people needing this type of accommodation than there are places.

An article appeared in the local paper telling how members of the Footloose youth group and other members of the congregation had turned out with buckets and cleaning fluids to clean the house and how the church was appealing for furniture.

The response of the community to the article was terrific. Day after day the phone kept ringing. People who had read the article offered furniture, carpeting, a stereo (in fine



Hurstville clean-up kids Kyle Hoppitt, James Dicker and Shamus Toomey

working condition!), clothing and, every once in a while, a bag of groceries was left mysteriously.

The church had a competition to name the unit, and decided on Bethshalom: it truly is a "house of peace". The first guest stayed for 5 days as a respite from the refuge where she and her daughters were staying. Her parting comment

was, "Thanks so much. It was so peaceful here."

Currently, they have a woman and her daughter staying who have come from an untenable housing situation. They had stayed in a bus shelter for a few nights rather than go back home.

They now wake up to firemen whistling happily next door, rather than drunken

fighting and shooting. They also say, "It's so peaceful here."

The Sunday School at Menai, a neighbouring Church of Christ, has decided to adopt our emergency accommodation their "mission effort". Members of the Arthritis Foundation group, which meets in the church hall bring cans of food for Bethshalom with them when they meet.

### • Harvests and camps

## Roelands Happenings

*The reports that come each month to the state Aborigines Mission Departments from the Federal Aborigines Board in WA are always interesting, informative and encouraging. There is one in particular, though, that is all those things and something more. It is different and always, somehow, raises a smile. It is the report of Roelands Village by Ken Curtis. The following are snippets from the recent report.*

There has been little rain—only 30 mm. I have placed an electric fence around some of No. 1 paddock and it is keeping the wandering cattle in. It gives 7,700 volts—they touch it only once! All the calves have dropped. The bull will go out to the cows at the end of May.

The grapefruit harvesting has finished at last. No party—too tired! Next week will see

the completion of the oranges as well. Pumpkins are still ripening.

Special thanks to those who give of their time and energy to help us pick and pack the grapefruit for market each week for nearly six months of the year. Folk who work with the grapefruit are retired people—Glyn Rees (74), Mr and Mrs White (70 plus), Mr and

Mrs Sewell (65 plus), as well as David Smith (50) plus me (about 121).

There were three camps during the past month with a total of 267. One of the homes is rented permanently.

About 180 young people from Churches of Christ in WA spent Easter at Roelands. Studies were centred on the Easter message and a large cross was erected high on one of the hills overlooking the village.

This was used vividly in teaching on forgiveness. John Bond was the speaker.

The upgraded kitchen with two commercial gas stoves (one donated and installed in time for the camp) was really appreciated. The water from the

dam to the village was very dirty until the day before the camp, then it cleared overnight! After many months of hot days the weather was cool and fine over Easter.

—Betty Bantow

## Oops

In trying to correct the mistake we made in the 27 April issue we slipped once again and still had the wrong college in the 11 May issue. Surely at our third attempt we now have it correct.

Peter Burnham, who wrote the article on "A College in Need", graduated from Kenmore Christian College—not the College of the Bible (27 April) or Woolwich (11 May).



## • Swanston Street's missionary weekend

### Showers of Blessing

The Swanston Street church in Melbourne has just concluded its 20th annual missionary convention. The theme for this year's convention was "God's Community and Mission Strategy" and the speaker was David Cummings, international president of Wycliffe Bible Translators.

For many years the Swanston Street church has had a close association with Wycliffe, with several of the church's missionary family serving with them. On the final Sunday morning of the convention the church gave its annual love gift offering to the 33 members of the Swanston Street missionary family. This year's offering was a record \$33,219 and the annual faith promise renewal offering was a record \$183,000, which means that for the first time, the church's missionary giving will exceed \$200,000. Since 1972 the church has given more than \$1,500,000 in missionary giving.

On the final Sunday evening there were 20 young people who, in addition to giving their finance, gave their lives for missionary service.

The convention was preceded with a 40-hour prayer-athon and a half night of prayer. A prayer brunch was held on the Saturday morning with about 90 in attendance. On the Saturday evening an international night was held and members of the congregation were encouraged to wear their traditional national dress. Flags of the many different nations represented were displayed and a special prayer for the nations was offered. Throughout the convention audio-visuals from the various members of the Swanston Street missionary family were shown.

The Swanston Street church is more deeply committed than ever before to fulfil our Lord's last great commission to "go and make disciples of all the nations". —Allan Webb

## • Enjoyable program

### Tas CWF Conf

Collins St, Hobart, Tas, was the venue for the Tasmanian CWF Conference held on 10 March. The conference was presided over by Val Warwick of Geeveston on the theme "Toward the Top Together". Special guest was Stella Carter, Vic-Tas CWF President-Elect, from Melbourne. Denise Bradley conducted an enjoy-

able program with the assistance of musicians Stuart and Kathy Rochester.

The new executive were welcomed and incoming President, Ruth Edge of Ulverstone, announced her theme: "Be Not Afraid".

The Conference brought to a close a memorable weekend for many who attended a successful State Convention. The guest speakers there were Keith Farmer and Brian White.

—Lilly Johnson

## • Passover meal

### A Time of Celebration

Over 200 attended a Passover Celebration at the Northside Community Church, NSW, just before Easter.

The evening was organised by the New South Wales State CWF Executive in conjunction with David House Fellowship and Valerie Irving, author of the book *Let Us Keep the Feast*.

The bright singing of Hebrew choruses set the tone for a wonderful learning experience.

At the outset an explanation of the historical meaning of the Passover Feast was given and this was followed by a re-enactment of the Passover Seder—the Seder being the organised ritual or ceremony for keeping the feast that takes place around the family table.

The Olsen family of the Mt Druiitt church took the role of the Jewish family.

As the Seder proceeded the symbolism of the items on the table and the rituals undertaken were fully explained.

A special feature of the feast is the treatment of the unleavened bread.

Three flat loaves of unleavened bread are placed together in an embroidered cover with three compartments like envelopes, one loaf being

inserted into each section. To the Jews this arrangement of the bread represents unity, to us the unity of the Trinity is pictured in the loaves.

As the different facets of the Passover were shared there emerged a clear picture of the life, death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour.

At the Passover Feast Jews look back to recall God's mercy on their behalf, in the same way Christians look back and remember God's mercy in Christ and observe a special feast, which evolved from the Passover meal, the Lord's Supper.

Using the words from an old prayer book—"Ye that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins draw near with faith and take this Holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God"—an invitation to partake of the Lord's Supper was given by Norris Brook, minister from Northside.

A fitting conclusion to a memorable night was the beautiful rendition of "The Holy City" by Aileen Quick.

As each one left the auditorium in silence there was much on which to reflect.

—Elaine Wilson

## • Learning from each other

### Visits to Large Churches

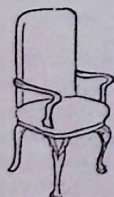
"It is the most fruitful board discussion I have experienced for years," said Ted Keating. "It was one of the rare times I have seen a board concentrating on development and outreach rather than small issues that should never occupy the time of busy people."

The Nunawading, Vic, board is on a program of visiting five large churches throughout the year, noting ministry, program and building styles and comparing them to the emphasis of their own church.

"Our first visit to St Hilary's

Anglican Church in Kew was a winner. We discovered that while we may be more effective in some areas of evangelism, their nurture of new Christians, their discipleship courses and small-group ministry was inspiring. The fact the board heard about it means that the vision is shared.

"Large churches have a lot to learn from each other. They need to operate in a different manner to smaller congregations and this new approach to changing the agenda of board meetings may help our church leaders understand this."



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## News

### • Seminar series

## "When You Are Feeling That Way"

The Nunawading, Vic, church borrowed the title from a book by Father Gerard Dowling for a seminar series that dealt with the feelings and issues of anger, depression, grief, transitions, rejection and failure and coping with difficult people.

The series, which ran for six weeks, had an overwhelming response from the local community. Over 100 attended the series, most of those not from the church. Originally it was planned to be a group counselling course but quickly grew beyond that.

The evenings were a mixture of input by Ted Keating, senior minister of the church, and segments of videos by Clayton Barbeau, an American psychoanalyst. (These videos are available from Christian Projects.) A short devotional segment at the end of each evening related the Scriptures to the topic being discussed that night. The evenings also included group discussions led by worshippers from the church with experience in the helping professions.

Feedback sheets strongly endorsed this approach of relating to the community as a "winner". Some of those contacted through this seminar have already since attended worship services.

Audio tapes of the series are available at \$30 (\$35 posted).

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### • Youth visit home

## Generation Gap?



Darren, Gavin, Justin, David, Stuart, Renya, Deanne and (in front) Tim and Mark from Syndal Baptist with Christian Guest Home resident Tom Cuddy

The generation gap was closed at the Christian Guest Home, Oakleigh, Vic, one evening late in March when over 40 young people from the "Goers" Youth Group of the Syndal Baptist Church spent the evening with residents.

The residents and youth were divided into seven teams and participated in a quiz, which

had several categories. The CGH residents did well with the historical and biblical questions while the youth group members had superior knowledge of television and rock 'n' roll!

The winning team was captained by resident Dot Miller and received an Easter egg as a prize.

For some of the young people it was their first experience of visiting a hostel and they commented, with some surprise, on the happy atmosphere. Resident Tom Cuddy expressed appreciation to the leaders and young people who came and stated that everyone was looking forward to the next visit.

—Sally Bunston

### • Classy dinner

## Cheltenham By Night

A superb variety concert and dinner was organised by members of the Cheltenham, Vic, church.

They dined by candlelight and enjoyed a delightful menu consisting of home-made creamy broccoli soup, a choice of honey-glazed chicken or roast beef served with vegetables. Dessert consisted of a delicious apple crumble, custard and cream.

During the evening the entertainment was presented by a selection of talent.

The artists included flutist Julie Stokie, pianists and accompanists Scott Harrison and

Cheryl Connor, singer Lisa Hugo, and comedians Bruce, Leigh and Karen Verity. Richard Henderson, on his saxophone, put everyone "in the mood" with a couple of Glen Miller renditions.

Yurana stole the show with their incredible harmonising of Billy Joel and Andrew Sisters songs.

After the moving Bette Midler number, "From a Distance" a standing ovation from the enthusiastic audience recalled the entertainers back to the stage to sing yet another tear jerker: "The Wind beneath My Wings".



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## People

### • Nunawading appointments

## Staffing for Outreach

Two recent appointments made by the Nunawading, Vic, church were specifically made to strengthen its outreach.



Anne Spoelder

Anne Spoelder joined the team in 1990 as the singles co-ordinator. After 12 months the church is already in contact with over 300 singles on various mailing lists. A new group, "TNT" (Twenties 'n' Thirties), has also been established and is growing at a rapid rate. On most Sunday evenings, 30-40 of Nunawading's worshippers are those who had been initially contacted through the singles ministry. Many of these did not previously have a church background. 35% of the new worshippers at Nunawading last year did not have a prior active church connection and many of these came in through the church's singles ministry.



Ron Chapman

Ron Chapman, a third-year student at CCTC, was given a difficult task when appointed to Nunawading.

The former Mitcham church, now part of the Nunawading Churches of Christ, was experiencing decline.

Ron was given the mandate of strengthening the outreach of the church, to improve its visibility and image in the community and to lead this small church through a stage of development.

The early indications are encouraging. Attendances have increased by 20%.

5 young people are considering baptism.

New worshippers have arrived, and an experiment with evening worship, concurrent with the normal evening service at Surrey Road, produced a congregation of 90.

### Visiting Brisbane?

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or home (07) 378 8817*

### • Community involvement at Hampstead Gardens

## Teaching English



Alison McPharlin with Annetta (Italian), Lin and Rotha (Cambodian)

Retired school teacher and secretary of the Hampstead Gardens, SA, church, Alison McPharlin, continues to exercise her teaching skills by conducting a weekly English class for people from non-English-

speaking backgrounds. Her class includes people from Poland, Italy and Cambodia. Alison's class is one of a number of community involvement ministries conducted by members of Hampstead Gardens.

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# News

## • Our church in the Far North

## Getting To Know Normanton

### The Town

Normanton, Qld, is a town of 1,100. It is 2,200 km from Brisbane by road, 1,000 km from Townsville (via Julia Creek) and 700 km from Cairns. The principal industry is beef cattle and prawning. People in the town are involved in service industries and working for the shire council.

Normanton is usually isolated by flood waters for six to eight weeks during the summer (known as "the wet"). During summer the temperature has a range of between 38° and 45° (regularly the highest in the state). The other season for Normanton is "the dry", when temperature rarely drops below 20°.

The Normanton school caters for years Prep-10 and employs 30 teachers. The town boasts a large general store, where almost anything is available, a service station, three hotels, a hospital and an airstrip. The mail comes three days a week.

### The Church

The Normanton church is strong and in good heart with an average attendance of 30. Programs include youth groups, Sunday school, home meetings and outreach evangelism. The ladies conduct regular sales of second-hand clothing.

A real sense of belonging is evident in local Aboriginal Christians. Upwards of 60 children play in the grounds of the Christian Centre each afternoon after school. Sporting equipment is put to good use. Men and women drop into "their" centre often during the week. In times of crisis it is the first place they turn to.

In the last year the fellowship have elected a board and adopted a constitution. They have formulated a budget, which they review regularly and are becoming increasingly independent and confident in administering their own affairs. They have elected two repre-

sentatives to share in the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Fellowship. These people participate via a telephone link-up each month.

They have advertised widely for a pastor. George Radford served an interim term but has had to return to his business and to await the birth of his third child. At the moment David and Colleen Birrell are ministering there for a month or two.

### The Locals

Bob Walker is the chairman of the board, telelink representative, Sunday school teacher, musician, assisting with leading and speaking at meetings and is on the Aboriginal Health Team.

Sheila Rainbow is a board member, co-ordinator of outdoor meetings, a Sunday School teacher, telelink representative and also on the Aboriginal Health Team.

Charles Bynoe is the youth group leader, bus driver, and teacher aide at the local school.

Tom Orcher, employed at the school, is Community Education Co-Ordinator for the Gulf Region and QATSEC Chairman.

Lisa Bowker is currently helping her husband Ian, working on Miranda Station, and is in an isolated situation.

Cath Johnson from the Atherton Uniting Church is curriculum advisor at the school.

Fred Edwards is a church board member. He drives the bus to pick up and return home the elderly people for their day at hospital.

John Adler is the church treasurer. He is a gardener for the Carpentaria Shire.

Audrey Callope assists in meetings and women's programs, takes the RE classes at school and is a Sunday School teacher.

Margaret Casey is the church secretary, a board member and involved in church programs,

assists with CWF and is a Sunday school teacher.

Barbara Casey is a board member.

### Christians on the Shire Council

At the 23 March local government elections Bob Walker was elected to the Carpentaria Shire Council. An Aboriginal Christian in such a position is a valuable spokesman for the Christian point of view. It was a big month for Bob as he and Sheila Rainbow were awarded their Health Assistant Badge, Name Tag and Basic Skills Certificate as part of the Aboriginal Health Team program.

Bob was raised in Port Adelaide and came to Normanton from Townsville. He worked with the Aboriginal and Islanders Health Service in Townsville. This work involved him in helping to run a night shelter and work with park people.

Bob is married to Beryl and they have five adult children and three grandchildren.

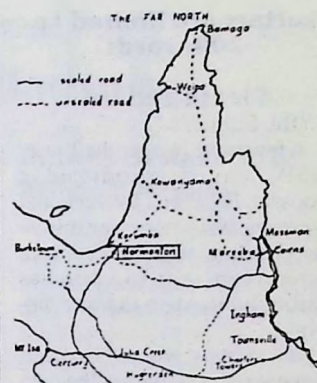
Bob believes that "people have to be the message they preach". In the board's annual report he wrote: "We don't want Normanton to be a town known for its fishing, tourism, drinking or floods—but as a town that loves God."

### Normanton's Needs

The urgent needs for the Normanton church at the mo-



Bob Walker



ment are a pastor, furniture and appliances to re-equip the manse, prayer and sporting equipment. Anyone able to assist should contact the Qld Aboriginal and Islanders Board at 113 Fernvale Road, Tarragindi 4121, or by phoning (07) 848 9466.

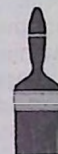
—Ken Tedford

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# Letters to the Editor

## Letters are limited to 200 words

### Please Tell Us!

To the Editor,

A few months ago, the Taree, NSW, church produced a booklet, *Baptism: Questions and Answers*, written by our minister. To date, about 300 copies have been sent to churches throughout Australia and beyond.

If it exists, it would be nice to have some positive feedback to encourage the folk here. If you have found the booklet helpful in leading someone to make a stand for Christ in baptism, could you please let me know. You may write to me directly, or if you prefer to encourage the wider church, write to these pages of *The Australian Christian*.

Booklets are still available from me at a cost of \$1 each plus package and postage.

—R. Merry

(Secretary, Taree Church of Christ, PO Box 396, Taree 2430)

### Hospice

To the Editor,

With regard to my Guest Editorial "Hospice" ("AC" 27 April) you have inserted an editorial comment that the Melbourne Citymission service has been forced to close. May I qualify that comment?

Citymission Hospice is still providing a home-care hospice service in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. When established in 1981 there were two components to the service, a home-care component and an in-patient component. The latter was a 10-bed facility located in the Harold McCracken Nursing Home in North Fitzroy. Recent funding restraints have meant that those beds have been lost as specific hospice beds. Fortunately the home-care service is able to continue its high standard of care, and the organisation behind it continues to support the Hospice movement.

Readers will be interested to know that one of our ministers, Des Purnell, is the chaplain to the Citymission service, so

adding to the number of Churches of Christ people involved in this important work.

—Trevor Banks  
(Blemont, Vic)

### Critique of a Critique

To the Editor,

What a sad letter from Dwight Randall ("AC" 27 April) in critique of *A Pastoral Report to the Churches on Sexual Violence against Women and Children of the Church Community*! Quite unable or, maybe, unwilling to see the wood for the trees.

The attack on marriage and the family comes not from reports such as this, which point us to things as they are. The attack comes from (a) those who perpetrate the violence within the family setting and (b) those who pretend that all is well with the family and that there is no violence within the church community and who maintain the silence and, so, protect the perpetrators. The universal experience of those who work in this area gives the lie to the use of the word "occasionally" to describe the situation.

Near 200 years ago Barton Warren Stone, one of the great minds and spirits at the beginning of the Restoration Movement, wrote of sitting with profit under the preaching of others and "if they said ought that I could not take, I left that for such as could and fed upon the rest". There is plenty for all to feed upon, and to act upon, in this report but we do need the eyes to see and the ears to hear.

Letters that appear on this page from time to time leave one in despair that we will ever come within cooee of the Stone position.

—Neil Gilmore  
(Canberra, ACT)

### Appreciation of Gospel Celebration

To the Editor,

After attending the Vic-Tas Conference Gospel Celebration on 5 May, I would like to thank the organisers, musicians, speaker and compere.

It was an excellent evening in an appropriate venue.

I was proud to be part of Churches of Christ.

—Ross Bourdon  
(Ascot Vale, Vic)

### Arms Race Condemned

To the Editor,

I can no longer remain silent in the face of the enormous need to simply survive that is at present facing millions of our brothers and sisters in Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Iraq.

Appeals by voluntary aid agencies are pouring in on us all daily while the governments of the affluent nations are continuing to spend billions of dollars to maintain and equip "defence" forces that could and should be used for emergency aid.

The USA was able to send

half a million men across the world to Kuwait, equip them with food and water and all manner of death-dealing material yet today I heard an appeal from Bangladesh for helicopters to distribute the aid sent by voluntary agencies. The same applies to all Western governments, including our own, with military forces doing nothing at home.

It is not sufficient for the Christian church people to send a cheque to Interchurch Aid, World Vision or CARE. What we should be doing is to deluge governments world-wide with demands that they act now. In the name of a merciful God what are we doing?

—Max Collyer  
(Boronia, Vic)

## Letters from Tertius

### Irregular

To the Editor,

At a recent hymn seminar at our church I was introduced to the mysteries of the Metrical Index of Tunes at the back of the hymnal, with its CMs and LMs and SMs.

I noticed that one category of metres is simply "Irregular".

That made me curious to see what sort of hymns had irregular tunes. Would they be hymns that were also irregular in content or mood or spirit?

The first one I noted was the metrical version of the Lord's Prayer. Harmless enough, I thought. Except that it talks about God's will being done on earth, when most of the time most of us are more concerned about getting our wills done.

So the Lord's Prayer is irregular...it doesn't fit the categories in which most of us live our lives. More's the pity!

Then I noticed that the Christmas hymns "Come All Ye Faithful" and "Silent Night" are irregular. And what could be more irregular than the God of all the universe breaking through to humanity and ending up in a stable! Or maybe that's not so irregular because a lot of us are still treating him the same way.

I was surprised to find that the popular "He Lives" is irregular, but on checking the words I'm not surprised. For instance, "In all like me are more inclined to look at the world around us and through millions of kind people, some of whom are apparently not regular Christians."

Then there's "Open My Eyes". That's irregular for us middle-aged types. We've seen and heard and absorbed enough without ideas. It's more comfortable in a well-ordered "common metre".

Maybe we need some irregular songs to get us going again, such as "What Will You Do with Jesus?"

I noticed that one category of metres is entitled "Peculiar".

Hoping you are the same,  
Tertius



## Letters

### Voluntary Abstinence Shock

To the Editor,

Surely it was somewhat of a shock to a large number of people at the Vic-Tas Conference to find so many so loudly voted against the motion on voluntary abstinence from alcohol and other harmful drugs. The motion was carried, but with much dissent.

While acknowledging the sincere mind and reasoning put forward by those who verbally opposed the motion, it yet is cause for surprise and regret for what appears to be acceptance of the changed ways of the present time.

Are we to reckon that Churches of Christ in the past were at fault in such a matter, and, alas, in basic doctrine too? For conscience in this also is changing.

My brothers and sisters beloved! Have I believed in vain?

—A.B. Withers  
(North Balwyn, Vic)

### Abstinence Debate

To the Editor,

I write to express my disappointment at the paltry five minutes allotted to the motion regarding total abstinence at the Vic-Tas Conference this year.

An issue of tremendous social and theological importance was involved, one to which whole and frequently misunderstood chapters of the Bible are devoted. It has ramifications affecting our understanding of the faith in its entirety, and the time restriction was unfair both to Rupert Darby, who moved the motion, and myself, who opposed it. I was unable to make necessary preliminary remarks and to suggest a more appropriate action.

Speaking for myself, apart from the pressure of time, I was under some emotional stress, first, because I regard Rupert as a friend, and, secondly, because my opposition could easily have been misinterpreted as an attack on him and the cause (not the course) he was advocating. A different motion voicing our united concern

about alcohol and drugs and urging moderation along with, among other things, serious consideration of total abstinence as a personal option would almost certainly have produced unanimous support.

In the event the motion had the predictable effect of splitting Conference right down the middle. Had we been a high profile assembly with the media present, the outcome would have been a disaster.

Though voting went with the motion, the real result was that we all went home losers. Total abstinence, because it is not a Christian requirement, has always been divisive and will continue to be so as long as public pressure is exerted in its favour.

It reflects a well-meant but erroneous attempt to transform a private personal vocation into a public corporate profession, at which point it becomes as offensive as it is undesirable, and quite out of accord with (the spirit of) the New Testament.

Conference simply underlined the truth of this.

—Ken Stothard  
(Essendon, Vic)

### "Motherhood of God"

To the Editor,

Marj Buckingham's poem, "The Motherhood of God" ("AC" 27 April) is certainly controversial.

For my part, I can find no reference to the "motherhood of God" in my Bible. For whatever reason, the bottom line is that the God of the Bible is "Our Father". Jesus called God "Father", and he was all for breaking the social and religious conventions of his day!

If it was good enough for the Lord to use "Father", then that should be good enough for each believer.

Addressing God as "Mother" is a serious departure from Christian orthodoxy and the faith once delivered to the saints.

In fact, the "motherhood of God" is a pagan concept that has no place in Christian worship.

—A Barron  
(Grovedale, Vic)

## World News

### • Relief for cyclone victims

## Help for Bangladesh

### Agencies Launch Joint Appeal

14 of Australia's overseas aid agencies have joined to launch an appeal for the victims of the Bangladesh cyclone.

"This is the worst disaster for more than 20 years in Bangladesh, with over 10 million directly affected," said Secretary for the appeal, Russell Rollason. The appeal is co-ordinated by the International Disaster Emergencies Committee.

Funds will be sent through non-government organisations directly to the people in most need. Funds will provide urgently needed food, shelter, medicines, farming and household utensils.

Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible, and can be sent to Bangladesh Disaster Appeal GPO Box 9900 Canberra 2601.

Agencies participating in the appeal are: Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Australian Baptist World Aid, Austcare, Australian Catholic Relief, Australian Council of Churches, Australian Freedom From Hunger Campaign, Australian Lutheran World Service, Community Aid Abroad, ICARE, International Women's Development Agency, National Council YMCA of Australia, Save the Children Fund Australia, St Vincent de Paul Society and the UNICEF Committee of Australia.

### Bangladeshis State What's Needed

"Australians can help save lives in Bangladesh by listening to the requests of Bangladeshi relief workers," says Peter Holden, director of the Australian Council of Churches' overseas program. He was announcing an appeal for donations to assist emergency response in Bangladesh.

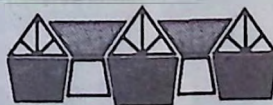
The Australian Council of Churches is responding to information received from the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB).

In the wake of the cyclone the CCDB reports it has dispatched medical teams and volunteers but, as yet, many places simply cannot be reached.

The CCDB requests our government to send helicopters to the Bangladeshi government as they are the only means currently available to supply food and other relief items to the affected areas.

A meeting of the Bangladeshi government and non-government organisations has made plans to obtain a large ship as an operational base and dispatch teams in smaller boats to the devastated islands—but they need money to do so.

The Australian Council of Churches is receiving donations for the Bangladeshi relief effort, by mail at Box C199, Clarence Street PO, Sydney 2000, or by calling (008) 02 5101.



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# Media Review

## Books

### Glimpses of Grace

by Rosemary J. Upton (Baker Book House)

Increasingly as our population ages we are going to see and hear much more about Alzheimer's disease. With increasing age there is an increasing risk that people will be affected by the condition. It is one of those diseases that we still know very little about.

In earlier times we described the problem broadly as senile dementia, lumping in with it a range of other causes. The problem is a steadily increasing loss of memory and mental functioning. Some have described it as the death of a person that they knew but still having their bodily presence.

Rosemary Upton has set out to tell us the story of her mother, Grace, and of the issues that she and her family had to face as Grace slowly deteriorated.

It is a valuable exercise to work through the issues with Rosemary, to see the problems of communication, the problems of guilt and the difficult decision to arrange and place her mother in a nursing home. She wrestles with the issues of her own career as she seeks to find ways to care for her mother.

This is the kind of book that those who have a relative suffering from Alzheimer's disease will find helpful. It is also the kind of book that our ministers and church members should read so that they can minister more effectively with those in the church who are working their lonely way through this problem.

I would recommend this book as a help in understanding the pastoral issues involved.

—Don E. Stewart

### Walking through Fire

Laurel Lee's Journal

by Laurel Lee (Albatross Books)

For anyone who heard Laurel Lee speak in person during her international tour for CWCI (Christian Women Communicating International), this book will come as a bonus, confirming the testimony of a lady of unusual honesty and courage. In any case, all readers will feel they have met Laurel and be challenged by her faith in the face of trial. As a young wife and mother of two Laurel Lee was told she had Hodgkin's disease. She was faced with the decisions of whether to continue with her third pregnancy and whether to undergo the required treatment. To say "yes" to both meant putting at risk her unborn child. The account of her battle with the disease, including the subsequent breakup of her marriage and the financial hardships that ensued is chronicled in diary form and reflects the author's off-beat humour. This account, said the author, was to give the doctors and her family an important message.

Her story is a message of faith and hope in the face of suffering and disappointment. No trite clichés, no pious sermons here—just a tell-it-like-it-is record of living faith. Reading this book will help put into perspective events and circumstances in the reader's own life, and instill a sense of thankfulness and compassion.

—Barbara Flett

## Science and Hermeneutics

Implications of Scientific Method for Biblical Interpretation (Apollos) (vol. 6 of "Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation")

This book is suited to anyone doing a detailed study of biblical interpretation, someone with a background in the philosophy of science, or someone studying the thought of Thomas Kuhn.

In the opening chapter Poythress states the direction of the book: "We will explore whether the growth of knowledge in science can tell us anything about how knowledge grows in biblical interpretation and in theology." He also foreshadows the book's contents and introduces Romans 7:14–25, which he uses as a continuing example throughout the book.

One of Poythress' conclusions comes at the beginning of the book as well as at the end, and is about science as much as about biblical interpretation—that there is no such thing as "a totally objective analysis".

A person's world view, assumptions, frameworks and experience all influence how that person observes, understands and interprets a particular datum.

The conclusions as specifically outlined in the last chapter seem rather weak or lacking in profundity coming as they do after chapter after chapter of complex language and ideas that at times left me struggling (e.g. "reductionistic horizontalizing tendencies are inevitable").

Poythress makes clear his stance as an "evangelical", meaning someone who does not agree with the historical-critical method, and that he is writing primarily for people who also have that view.

The book contains as an appendix an annotated bibliography on other fields of research that relate to interpretive method, and there are three indexes, which make access for research easier.

—D. Wallage

### What Would You Have Said?

Witnessing with Confidence and Sensitivity

by Nellie Pickard (Baker Book House)

Witnessing is often one part of our Christian experience we sometimes try to convince ourselves should be left to experts, e.g. preachers, evangelists. Nellie Pickard's book doesn't specifically detail how to tell people about Jesus. She simply does it—witnessing openly about Christ.

Nellie records numerous accounts of conversations with people she comes in contact with. In a sense we are eavesdropping on these interesting conversations. It is wonderful how she uses opportunities to share about Jesus.

The obvious fact that stands out in this very practical, easy-to-read book is Nellie's great love for unsaved people.

With all the uncertainty in the world at this present time, people are asking questions and wondering what the future holds. Reading *What Would You Have Said?* has encouraged me to be more aware of the opportunities that come my way to share the Good News of Jesus.

All people need to know about Jesus. Many are now wanting to know about Jesus. As the Lord said, "Open your eyes and look at the fields. They are ripe for harvest!" (John 4:35)

—Margaret Fahey





## Media

### Introducing the WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES



Marlin van Elderen

### Introducing the World Council of Churches

by Marlin van Elderen (WCC Risk Book Series)

This is an introduction to the history and activities of the World Council of Churches. The World Council of Churches has celebrated its 40th anniversary and is maligned by some and praised by others. This is not a critical examination of the theology and political machinations of the WCC: it has been written by an insider and as such it seeks to set out the organisation's history and ethos. The book includes an adequate summary of the various activities and spheres of operation of the WCC and it is very handy

to have this information all in the one book.

Interestingly, apart from the Australian Council of Churches, which is an associated council, the only three member churches of the WCC in Australia are the Anglican Church, the Uniting Church and Churches of Christ.

Available from all state Councils of Churches and the Australian Council of Churches, PO Box C199, Clarence St Post Office, Sydney 2000. —CRA

### On Being Human Meditations on Experience

edited by Venetia Nelson (David Lovell Publishing) \$16.95

Perhaps, as Christians, it is when we recognise and respect our own humanity that we come closest to each other and to God. This collection of essays, which reflect on life, experience and belief, is written with honesty and clarity. Editor Venetia Nelson comments, "...there are all sorts of voices speaking of human things: struggle and pain, love and death, searching and finding, liberation and homecoming...the ordinary ways of people become springboards for the exploration of human experience."

The contributions of Gabrielle Lord, Mary Dove, Bill Clements, Graham English, Noel Rowe and Robert Harris present interesting and challenging insights. Members of Churches of Christ will be interested by (and perhaps empathise with) Lyn McCredon's thoughts about a church where the message changed from love and acceptance to one of authority and demanded submission.

There is little that is academic, and much that is personal. Sometimes we sense that the writer is struggling to express a concept which is simply beyond words. Too often the crushing effects of the structures (including the institutional church) and attitudes of society on the faith and lifestyle of individuals of sensitivity and imagination is apparent. Our appreciation of a particular essay will largely depend on whether it touches upon or illuminates our own experience of thoughts.

—Graeme Addicott

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## Viewpoint

### • Poor leadership, lack of identity and a flawed approach to considering public issues

### WCC at "Crisis Point"

The World Council of Churches is facing the greatest crisis in its 43-year history, according to the General Secretary of the Australian Council of Churches, Rev David Gill.

In a six-page report to the ACC executive, David Gill—a former WCC staff member for 10 years—says the WCC's Assembly held in Canberra in February revealed the extent and components of the crisis. Key problems included poor leadership, lack of identity, a flawed approach to considering public issues that ignored any substantive theological critique and a lack of vision.

David Gill says a fundamental problem is whether the WCC sees itself as a council of churches, reflecting the ethos and priorities of its members, or as "a network of Christian individuals gathered around an array of worthy causes" aiming their efforts at the churches. He says many are concerned that the WCC's integrity is in jeopardy "because of its increased subservience to cause-oriented groups looking for a world platform".

He says the problem stems partly from member churches who, too often, are "cajoled into appointing as voting delegates individuals who are unable to articulate authoritatively the views of the churches they ostensibly represent and ill-

equipped to understand the ecumenical movement much less chart its course for the future".

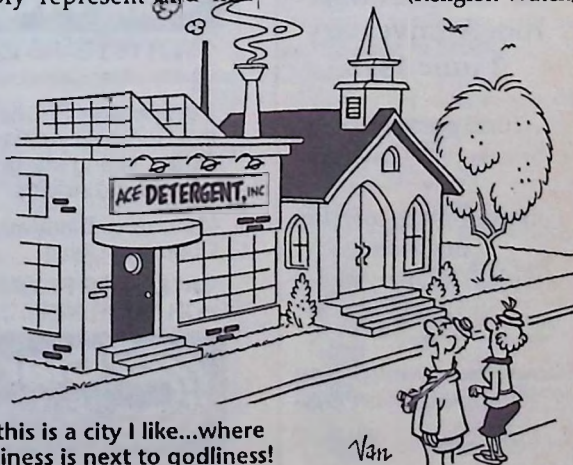
The report says the lack of coherent vision about the WCC's fundamental purpose and direction led the assembly "to attribute ultimacy to penultimate causes like age, gender, nationality and ethnic identity", paralysing the election processes.

Leadership at the Assembly was below par and "frequently seemed inept", with some assembly processes led by people who were there "for reasons other than their capacity to do the job required". The new Presidium and Central Committee "holds little prospect of improvement without strong leadership, at present not strikingly in evidence".

David Gill says the WCC has only two or three years "to convince member churches that it is getting its act together" before the momentum to seek other ecumenical strategies grows.

He notes that "what is in trouble is not the ecumenical movement per se, but a particular structure that was set up to serve it", and notes that ecumenism in Australia, following the Canberra Assembly, is in a particularly strong position.

—David Busch  
(Religion-Watch)



Now this is a city I like...where  
cleanliness is next to godliness!



## Happenings

The cholera epidemic spreading across Latin America is claiming more than 3,000 new victims daily in Peru alone. The epidemic now threatens 120 million across 5 countries, according to the World Health Organisation. Fears that the epidemic had contaminated the continent's river system were being realised as cases of cholera were reported in Brazil, Ecuador, Chile and Colombia.

Medical supplies worth \$100,000 left Australia in early May for Vietnam, helping to break a 16-year-old aid embargo that was imposed after the Vietnam War ended in 1975. The medical supplies, including an infant incubator, have been donated to World Vision by CiG Health Care.

Fears are still high that the Sudanese Government might be going ahead with plans to force as many as 1 million refugees to leave the capital Khartoum and return to their rural famine-bound homes. The government announced the plans in early April but there has been little word on it since.

According to the United Bible Societies' Scripture Distribution Report for

1990 a new record has been set in Bible distribution. 16 million Bibles were distributed by Bible Societies world-wide, an increase of 3.5% over 1989. The most outstanding increase was in Europe, with 890,000 more Bibles distributed. Countries with striking increases were Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and the USSR.

Clergy say morality, not money, is the no. 1 problem churches need to grapple with. According to a Barna Research Group report, American clergy say the other key problems facing the church in the 90s are ageing adults, youth issues, people's lack of time, refusal to be a church leader and lack of money for the church.

In America families that earn less than \$10,000 a year donate a higher percentage of their annual income than do families from all other income levels. Families making less than \$10,000 give 5.5% of their income to charity. Families making \$50,000-\$59,999 give only 1.7% of their earnings.

On 2 March Trans World Radio opened two new studios. One is a radio re-

cording studio in the Byelorussian city of Brest, located on the border of Poland and the USSR. This is the third TWR radio facility to be built within the Soviet Union and 4 more studios are scheduled to be completed in the future. The other was a new studio and office complex in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique.

On 10 March 110 Aboriginal adults and children were baptised at Mount Allan, 300 km northeast of Alice Springs in the Northern Territory. The 3 hour service was conducted by Pastor Paul Albrecht of the Lutheran Church of Australia.

Unidentified gunmen shot and killed French Roman Catholic missionary Father Alexander You after breaking into his residence in Uganda's southwest Mbarara district on 15 April. No possessions were stolen from the priest's home.

The United Bible Societies have confirmed the death of a top Bible translator working on the Moru-language Bible in Sudan. Canon Ezra Lawiri was fatally wounded on Good Friday when he was caught in the crossfire of a battle between government forces and the Sudanese Peoples' Libera-

tion Army. One of his daughters was also wounded in the fighting and died from her injuries.

Church broadcasters in Kenya have teamed to form a single network. Called the Kenya Christian Broadcasting Secretariat, it brings together the broadcasting activities of the National Council of Churches in Kenya, the Evangelical Fellowship of Kenya, the Seventh Day Adventists and the Roman Catholic Secretariat.

In Longview Texas the Central Christian Church and the Northway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) consummated a unification endeavour that has taken a year of deliberations. Each congregation adopted a new set of bylaws and a new constitution stating that a new congregation by the name of Longview Christian Church would be a church after the New Testament pattern and would support missions in direct support manner. Each congregation voted to deed its property to the new Longview church. Since the unification process has been completed, attendance has reached 141.

The Executive Director of Melbourne Citymission says

that this is the most disastrous period that his organisation has known in decades. Don Saltmarsh says that demand is currently outstripping Melbourne Citymission's human and material resources. He says that the pressures of the current recession are biting into the agency's frontline workers. There is an urgent need for emergency food and clothing as winter is now drawing in.

The Bible Society needs to purchase a special computer to transcribe Bible translations into Braille. The NSW Girls' Brigade Council are working to help pay for this computer. In June they will be selling 45,000 cards from the Bible Society with a sachet of potpourri inside. Churches without a Girls' Brigade company can also participate by contacting the headquarters on (02) 764 3850.

"I recognise the spiritual side as being significant and therefore I support chaplaincy, particularly with golf being such an individualistic sport where you compete against yourself," Max Garske, the General Manager of the Australian PGA, stated after being presented with the 1991 Friend of SLM Award.



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## News

### • Dawson Street's expanding ministry

## The Growing Edge



Bean picking day as part of Dawson Street's "Fishes and Loaves" ministry

The past 18 months in the life of Dawson Street, Ballarat, Vic, has been very exciting indeed. The church is on the growing edge with exciting times ahead. They have seen growth in attendances, small groups and membership. The most challenging time is to come when they begin a second morning

service, believed to be vital for the continued growth of the church. They have also begun a "Fishes and Loaves" ministry, growing vegetables and making the produce into stews and casseroles for the needy in the Ballarat area.

The church is also looking at re-location in the near future.

### • Time goes on

## 80th Church Anniversary

The Box Hill, Vic, church celebrated its church anniversary on the weekend of 4 and 5 May.

On the Saturday evening 78 members, past and present, enjoyed a dinner at CCTC catered for by Eileen Graham and staff and entertained by cellist and pianist Adam and Margaret To and elocutionist Verity Cormack. The MC, Arthur Tivendale, invited those present to speak on the influence that the Box Hill church had on their lives and many did so. A history of the church over the last 80 years, researched and written by Don Thomas, was launched at the dinner.

The Sunday service was celebrated in St Peter's Church and hall due to anticipated building alterations to our own chapel. 380 participated in the

service conducted by Jim Longbottom and Andrew Henley. Our own church choir supplemented items by Judy Wills and Barry Layton. A review of the church from the 20s to the 80s was presented by Dorothy McIntosh, Betty Mitchell and Frank Jones. Ken Bond was the preacher and his message complemented the enthusiastic service enjoyed by the congregation and followed by a basket lunch prepared by the catering committee and helpers.

Included in a display of memorabilia was a clock damaged and charred by the 1939 church fire. Reactivated and still working today, it symbolises the spirit of the church as we enter the 81st year of worship and witness.

—Kevin Mitchell

### • Fun and friendship

## Epping's Family Camp

Features of this year's Epping, NSW, family camp:

- 140 attended.
- Third successful camp since commencing family camps.
- Good representation of all ages.
- Excellent ministry opportunities through a carefully balanced program.

Features which have made the Epping family camp a successful annual event:

- Program orientated towards building friendships and church community, especially the inclusion of fringe families from childrens and youth ministries.
- Ministry input—bridge-

building with fringe people, low-key relational study program, short worship segments with emphasis on excellence in musical and message presentations;

- Activities include a wide range of sport options, bushwalking, a concert, plenty of free time and, above all, lots of fun.

The family camp has provided excellent opportunities for continued contact and ministry with people on the fringe of the church, who came to the camp because it appealed to their desire for community, good fun and friendship.

—Stephen Curkpatrick



Having fun at Epping's family camp

### • Intensive study

## Modules

A development at Carlingford College over the past few years has been the introduction of modules—subjects taught intensively over a one-week period. The content and requirements are the same as for subjects taught in the normal way, but modules allow people to update their skills without a lengthy break away from their work.

The latest module to be added to the list is "Ministry through Small Groups". This will be taken by John Mallison,

Australia's leading small-group specialist, and will be presented at Kenmore Christian College in Brisbane, 7–11 October 1991.

For further details see the advertisement on page 18.

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# Churches of Christ Worth Noting!

## Called to Serve



Steve Blacket

Steve Blacket (first year from the Balaklava church, SA) left the farm life he loved to come to CCTC. This was difficult for Steve and Bev and their two young children but they have experienced the peace of the Lord throughout the move.

Steve recognises that college life must be demanding and he's settled down quickly into study.

"I appreciate the practical work in my student church at Noble Park. It's an important part of my learning," declares Steve. The close supervision by the minister, Ron White, and the care of the church members are also greatly valued. He also finds support from his student colleagues who together have a sense of excitement as they seek God's will for their lives.

Mark Butler (third year) greatly values the support of his home church. "Belonging in the ACT still cares for me and my family as if we were still part of their family. They support us to a degree financially and their prayer support means much to us. Letters from individuals are always a great source of encouragement."

Christine Sharp is the wife of the Student President, John, who is in his third year. Christine has made time among caring for their two children to do some BTheol subjects. "Study has helped me

come to terms with my own beliefs. The most enjoyable part is getting into the Bible and having a whole lot of new concepts opened to you. I feel more equipped to lead Bible study groups."

Gerry Doyle (third year): "Coming to College has been hard on my wife Sue and our two children. It's a constant battle to balance my time between the demands of work, study and the family. But the Lord has blessed us. My salary has been cut to one-third of what it was and yet we don't seem to lack.

"Through my study I am constantly being made aware of new truths from the word of God, and as I apply them, exciting things are happening in my personal life.

"I find that my skills are improving as I relate to people differently. My goal is to reach people who are not in church now, to find new ways of being the church to them, to be relevant to their present hurts and needs. Studying certainly helps you to gain new insights that enhance your ministry amongst people."

Gerry's student church appointment involves him in chaplaincy in industry through ITIM.

Wendy McKay (first year) is a primary school teacher with a Graduate Diploma in Special Education and two years experience at the Hermannsburg Lutheran Mission. Two units of study in evening classes at CCTC in 1990 while working in a special school stimulated Wendy to become a full-time student this year (as well as continuing part-time at the school!) Certainly I have a heavy work and study load but I make a special point of spending time with God each day. He empowers me to take it in my stride. I appreciate the opportunities God has given me to be a servant amongst minority groups of people who need him as much as anyone."

An important question often asked is this:

Does study for a theology degree mean that it is not related to the practice of ministry?

Degree subjects account for about two-thirds of CCTC's Diploma in Ministry. Subjects required of all students include these semester units in the degree:

Old and New Testament Books (4 units)  
New Testament Greek  
Jesus Christ: His Mission and His Church (2 units)  
History and Theology of Churches of Christ  
Christianity through the Ages (2 units)  
Ethics  
Pastoral Care and Counselling  
Pastoral Care in Crisis and Growth  
Church Structures and Congregational Life  
The Mission of the People of God

Other degree subjects often chosen by students according to their gifts and interests, include:

More biblical units  
Spirituality for Ministry  
The Theology of Evangelism  
The Gospel in the Australian Culture  
Faith and the Learning Process

All very practical units!

Nicola Butler, Elaine Elsdon, Cheryl Allen and Christine Sharpe in student flat with Andrew, Kerry and Jesse

Details of the financial situation and strategies have been provided in Access, mailed to churches recently. Additional copies are available.

The other third of the units, outside the degree, include:

Preaching and Worship (each year)  
Ministering to People  
Maturing as an Individual  
Supervised Field Education  
The Practice of Ministry  
Practical Ministry Experiences  
Spiritual Formation

The primary purpose of ministerial education is to provide knowledge, skills and spiritual development and to foster styles of ministry that offer leadership and encouragement to others in their ministries.

This is done at a level that prepares students for ministry in Australian congregations and the society of today and tomorrow—that is, at tertiary level. A degree is therefore appropriate. If no degree was available, the same kind of ministerial education would be offered for it is the kind that is needed for effective ministry.

Recent independent research showed that CCTC is second to none for its graduates continuing long term in ministry. This should not be surprising because many of the ministers of growing churches are graduates of COB/CCTC and, even more important, the ministerial education at CCTC is firmly based on Biblical principles as they relate to the world of today.



# Theological College

## Annual Offering 2 June 1991

## It's Thursday

The toy still hangs in the valley at the foot of the Dandenongs. It's 7.15 am. The Registrar has already arrived to ensure the urns are boiling and the rooms are ready for the outside organisation that has hired Lecture Room 1. One student is cleaning toilets, another hosing down the tiled cloisters. A couple of early risers head for study in the library. Another student rushes to make copies of an assignment due today. "That assignment blew my mind!" the student exclaims. "As I wrestled with the reading material, poured over my lecture notes and thought through the issues I gained important new insights about the faith." College study is a growth experience—often painful, but very rewarding!

It's 8.30! The students gather for their class on John's Gospel. Greg Elsdon involves them in creative ways as they explore together what the text means. In his room Harvey Miller is completing material for supervisors and support groups in the Supervised Field Education Program. Graeme Chapman is marking assignments in ethics. Alan Niven is preparing lectures about worship. Keith Bowes is already in the Board Room with the Finance Committee planning strategies for fund raising. In the office Marg Goddard is typing letters of appreciation to those who have sent donations and processing the letters written by the Principal overnight. Dianne Shillitoe is constantly answering telephone calls and handling the cheques being received and paid.

10.20 am sees the students leaving the

lecture rooms for morning worship in the auditorium. It's a time of spiritual refreshment as they concentrate on the God who has called them to study. They share in readings from Scripture and prayer and then sing:

Here I am, Lord,  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord—if you will lead me,  
I will hold your people in my heart.

At morning tea they gather in clusters, sharing their joys and their burdens or continuing the dialogue that arose in class. Others are enjoying the relaxation of a game of table tennis while some are on duty in the kitchen. In the corner of the community lounge a lecturer provides pastoral care for a student over a cuppa. A burst of laughter breaks out as a joke is shared.

A glow of deep satisfaction is on the face of a student who is returning from Cumberland Village hostel after leading the morning devotions there and Alan Niven comes in eager to share his experience at the RE class at the local primary school.

It's Thursday! As usual, Merv Symes and Kathy Croxford from the Glen Waverley Church arrive to work in the library to assist Lyndsay Smith, two of the 20 who help each week. Another volunteer helps Eileen Graham in the kitchen.

While lectures and tutorials resume Dr Bowes returns to his study to work on strategy proposals in preparation for the College Board Annual Policy Confer-

ence. The phone rings! It's a politician enquiring about a biblical illustration he wants to use. The phone rings! It's an interstate minister about a prospective student.

Lunch time draws the College community together again. Several tables are specially set awaiting the visitors who have hired Lecture Room 1 for the day. Eileen Graham has served over 2,400 meals so far this year to students and visitors as part of the College's stewardship in hiring out the facilities.

It's Thursday! In the afternoon, Graeme Chapman is teaching a second-level theology class on the person and work of Christ while Harvey Miller in the auditorium takes a big pastoral care class, including a large number of part-



Gerry Doyle and Jim Larkham

## CCTC Means People

CCTC means 46 full-time and 75 part-time students who have responded to God's call to learn to be servants for Jesus' sake.

CCTC means a faculty who continue a dedicated ministry of education and pastoral care, usually working at least 75 hours a week with constant deadlines.

CCTC means students, faculty, staff and volunteers who believe passionately in God and his mission through his church.

Gifts for the ongoing ministry of CCTC is an investment in people. It is an investment for God.

time students. Others study in the library or at home, or attend classes at Whitley College or prepare for church commitments. Other lecturers seize every available minute to prepare for lectures, mark assignments, counsel students, work on the review of courses, prepare sermons for Sunday or plan for interstate deputation work.

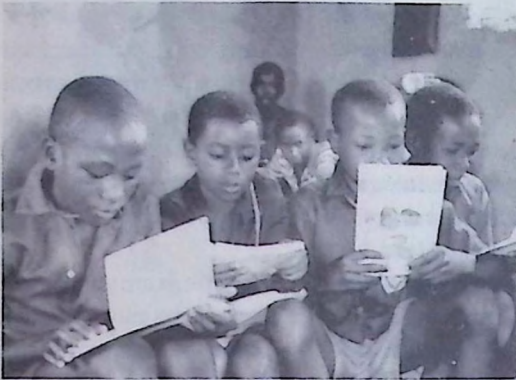
Thursday's not over yet. There are no evening classes today as there are on Mondays and Tuesdays but Graeme Chapman and some students are at Whitley College for the seminar on Christianity in modern times.

CCTC is a place where dedicated students, lecturers and voluntary workers have a clear purpose of sharing in the extension of God's Kingdom.

The CCTC Board of Management expresses its appreciation to the many people and churches who have contributed generously during recent months and to the students and faculty who have shown the way in sacrificial giving.



## • Program to help people in Africa Literacy for Life



Students will receive a full set of graded readers and, depending on their literacy skill, a New Testament or a Bible.

The Literacy for Life Club will provide

Literacy for Life is a new regular giving program of the Bible Society in Australia. Through the program, adults and children in developing African countries will receive graded materials that will help them develop their literacy. But literacy development is not the only goal of the program; literacy is a link in the chain of development of human life and dignity that is God-centred.

Each community literacy project will be for three years.

graded Scripture materials for people who, through illiteracy, would otherwise not be able to read nor have reading material available.

Nairobi-based experts in literacy development, Dr Mae Reggy, and her colleague, Keith Ellem, senior program consultant, will monitor the program's progress in the field.

When donors join the Literacy for Life Club, the first-year \$30 quarterly minimum payment will provide Bible Society New Reader Scriptures for 60 people.

Through the processes of translation, production and distribution, the Bible Society plans in each project to provide materials for 150,000 children and adults in Africa.

The initial literacy projects are operating in Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Zaire. Each year more children and adults will be added into the projects and introduced to the world of reading and literacy.

More details are available from the Bible Society.

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## • Growth and needs in Sumba, Indonesia

### Mushrooming Church Calls for Help

The church is exploding in the little, oval-shaped island of Sumba in Indonesia. In three years this Dutch-founded church has baptised 34,000 new members, with another 45,000 people having registered their desire for baptism. The result is a doubling of church membership, a happy but overwhelming situation.

The population of the island, a near-neighbour of Bali, includes 400,000 Marapu people of animistic background, 150,000 members of the Christian Church of Sumba, 50,000 Roman Catholic, and 7,000 Muslims from other parts of Indonesia. The church is targeting evangelism toward the 175,000 Marapu people who still cling to their traditional animistic faith.

Dutch missionaries first brought the Gospel to Sumba 110 years ago. Though the church became independent in 1947, Dutch influence is still strong. Since 1987 the Christian church of Sumba has become one of the fastest-growing churches in the world.

The church's 57 ministers are trying to cope with the needs of 150,000 people, half of them new adherents, in 64 congregations and 300 branches. The ministers are assisted by 300 lay persons who have attended a two-month course, and by 64 evangelists, who have taken an eleven-month course. For the first time the last lay-training course included four women.

Though the Christian Church of Sumba is growing phenomenally, it is doing so in a static and weak economy. Deforestation has left the 188-mile-long island nearly treeless and with a long dry season. Apart from cattle, agriculture is at subsistence level. Corn is the main crop. With little indigenous drive to develop the island's go-nowhere economy, outsiders are beginning to take advantage of the native peoples.

The Christian Church of Sumba has gone to the Overseas Missionary Fellowship for help. The major need is for the training of Christian workers. OMF is responding immediately with teams for regular short-term training programs and with books and other literature. Sponsorships for educational and agricultural workers are a possibility for long-term residential training.

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# Music in Worship

I believe God has given the church the gift of music and has done so for a reason. I believe we should climb the hurdles and use this gift to its full potential. Music is one of the most useful tools in worship and when used properly and sensitively can do amazing things like ... challenge ... encourage ... build up ... celebrate ... praise ... teach ... entertain.

Over the next few months I will be looking at "the music team" covering all aspects of getting started and growing. We will look at "the music director", "the worship leaders", "the musicians" and "the music".

—Brett White

## In the Silence

In the Silence is a full-time music and evangelistic team with four separate but complementary areas of ministry: school seminars, concerts, prisons and churches. Despite their love for rock 'n' roll In the Silence (ITS) are more about ministry than music. They are very aware that rock 'n' roll is the second language of most teenagers and use this vehicle to reach them with the gospel.

In the course of developing their ministry skills, the band started to train themselves both as speakers and as musicians. The important factors in any ITS concert are clear lyrics, a strong evangelical emphasis and the ability for all band members to converse with the audience after the performance.

Since January 1987 ITS have performed over 350 concerts, held over 500 school seminars, preached at churches throughout Australia and New Zealand and have reached an audience of 150,000 young people. Developing pre-evangelism in schools has proved a successful way of identifying with the kids, who are then encouraged to turn up later at their outreach

concert. The band has released three musical projects, "It's Only Time"—1987, "Things To Come"—1988 and "Bleeding Heart" in 1990. A new project for 1991 is soon to be released titled "Sound Asleep".

ITS are looking to further their ministry this year with tours organised for Adelaide, Alice Springs, Darwin, Mildura, Dubbo and Newcastle. They will also be going overseas to appear in two big music festivals, one in the Netherlands and the other in England.

From there they will tour New Zealand and then hop over to the USA for a while.

In the Silence are John Dickson, Angus McLeay, Ben Shaw and Jacques Zeelie. Altogether the full ministry team of ITS is nine people including manager, PA operator, lighting engineer, wives and tour manager.

All of ITS are dedicated to ministry and always appreciate our support and prayers. If you would like to know more about ITS write to Dugald C. Mackenzie, PO Box 695, North Sydney 2059.

## Kathy Johnston

Kathy Johnston is a singer/songwriter originally from Bairnsdale in country Victoria. At about 14 years of age Kathy began writing songs for a band she was involved in.

Kathy worked in music retail and was very involved in youth work and music with her church. Mid-year 1989 Kathy joined Steve Grace doing secretarial work and then in November of the same year took on the co-ordination of the Australian country towns tours.

Kathy toured as support for these tours and began to develop a deep concern for the spiritual welfare of her nation. This led to her writing great songs and she started to record her debut album "Dust to the Wind", which will be released in May through Word Records. Her "Dust to the Wind" tour is scheduled for June-July this year and will visit 14 towns in NSW and Victoria.

For more info on Kathy or the tour phone (03) 803 0330 or fax (03) 758 8021.

## The Music Team

### The Music Director

This is the most important job of all because it holds the most responsibility. The director is responsible for co-ordinating all aspects of the music team, e.g. rosters, songs, rehearsals, guest artists etc. It is extremely important for this person to work with and have a good rapport with the church leadership, have an exciting vision of what God can do through the music ministry and obviously have musical ability. A great idea is to set up a functional group in support around you. Include other musicians but also include members of the church who are not involved in the music. Have a meeting every month or so to throw around ideas, receive feedback on how the people in the church are feeling about the music and pray together. It is important to keep the church leadership informed of what you are doing and to always get their support. It may take time to get the music really happening and there are always hurdles to climb but don't be discouraged because slow, positive change is better than stagnation. A few basic questions that deal with our motivation should be asked before starting:

- Why do you want a music team?
- Do you want a music team because it represents renewal?

(The true concept of renewal and the music that characterises it is life breathed afresh into a longstanding relationship with God and our fellow Christians.)

- Do you think it takes new musicians to play new music? Remember...who are you doing it for?

Another responsibility for the director is in booking guest artists to perform in your church. Here are some guidelines for "ministry expectations" for your guest artist:

- The guest artist should have a personal relationship and commitment to Jesus.
- Encourage guest artists to include the following in their ministry: encouragement ... praise and worship ... inspiration ... celebration ... a challenge ... quality entertainment.

- Guest artists need to be sensitive to the congregation and the varied age groups, without compromising their particular style of ministry.

Also remind your guest artists that it's OK to say a few words but keep it short and simple and let the song do the talking. They are there to sing and that's what they should do. If you would like any more ideas on how to structure rosters, booking sheets or anything at all please write to me at PO Box 664, Miranda 2228.

(Next month:  
"The Worship Leader")





## Classifieds

### BIRTHS

**RADFORD (WHEATON)** Leanne and George thankfully announce the safe arrival of Atherton Hospital on 23 April of Melanie Joy. A sister to Angela, Julie (dec.) and Geoffrey.

### ENGAGEMENTS

**THOMAS—SMITH** Beverley and Malcolm of Berwick have much pleasure in announcing the engagement of their daughter Bronwyn to Andrew, son of Graeme Smith and Viola Stuart.

### RUBY WEDDINGS

**LARCOMBE—LEE** Keith and Jean became one on 26 May 1951 at Paddington Church of Christ, NSW. Now retired to Lower Blue Mountains. We give thanks to our Lord for 40 wonderful years, our three children, Peter, Elizabeth and Heather, our sons-in-law and our grandchildren. Psalm 68:19.

### DEATHS

**BERLIN** Edith Eleanor. Aged 90 years, died peacefully at Burdue House (Brisbane) on 8.5.91. Loved sister and sister-in-law of Essie Currie and Sid (dec.), Bill and Hope (both dec.), Mabel Bassett and Frank (dec.), Eleanor and Alan Watson. Auntie of Currie, Reed, Pedler and Roberts families. "She walked with God."

**BERLIN** Edith Eleanor died peacefully on 8.5.91. Remembered with love by Eleanor and Alan Watson,

Eleanor, Ian, Meagan, Darren and Natalie Roberts. "In every thing give thanks."

**WHITE** Elsie Lilian. On 11 May at Royal Melbourne Hospital. Honoured and loved sister of Arthur and Clare Withers, loved and admired aunt of Jan and Max Witt and Les and Judy Withers. With Christ and loved ones again. No more wet Septembers.

**WHITE (WITHERS)** Elsie Lilian. Respected and loved sister of Min Cheal and Eddie, Arthur and Clara, Les (deceased) and Georgie Withers, and their families.

### IN MEMORIAM

**PORTER** Dora F.M. 23.5.90. On this day, your 73rd birthday, without saying goodbye to anyone, you left this world for a place, where we believed there is eternal peace and rest. Gone but not forgotten. Your loving husband Bill and family.

### FOR SALE

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to beach. Rental permitted to retired persons only. \$32,000 unfurnished, \$35 furnished. Price negotiable. Phone (052) 55 4304.

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### Living in Melbourne?

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### Modules 1991

CT209

**Biblical Perspectives on Women**  
17-21 June 1991

Lecturer: Nancy Spencer, BA, MSM

*The teaching of the Bible with regard to the role of women in the home, in the church and in society and the implication of this teaching for women in contemporary society.*

Levels: degree, diploma, non-credit

Location: Carlingford

DP107

**The Pastor and Change**

24-28 June 1991

Lecturer: Ian Allsop, BA, BD, MBA

*An introduction to the organisational behaviour of churches and the specific skills required to enable organisational change and to cope with conflict.*

Levels: degree, diploma, non-credit

Location: Carlingford

DS106

**Marriage and Family Ministries**

30 September-4 October 1991

Lecturer: Brian White

*Biblical and psychological insights into marriage and family life, including love, communication, anger and conflict resolution, sexuality, discipline, the development of self-esteem and measuring family wellness. The course is designed to enrich family life as well as prepare pastoral carers.*

Levels: diploma, non-credit (not offered at degree level)

Location: Carlingford

DP103

**Ministry through Small Groups**

7-11 October 1991

Lecturer: John Mallison, LTh

*The Biblical basis for small groups as a means of pastoral care. A study of the capacities of small groups, particularly as assessed by social science research. An application of the capacities of small groups to the opportunities and needs for pastoral care in the local church.*

Levels: degree, diploma, non-credit

Location: Kenmore Christian College, Brisbane

### What is a Module?

A module is a course in which a regular subject is taught over a one- or two-week period.

For details of costs, accommodation, and closing dates for registration contact the Churches of Christ in New South Wales Theological College, PO Box 140, Carlingford 2118. Phone (02) 630 7533

Carlingford



## "Feast of Tabernacles" Jerusalem, Israel September 1991

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## Youth Ministry

• *Helping youth leaders to lead youth*

# The Role of the State Youth Department

by Alan Hermann

**T**he role of the various state departments of Churches of Christ with responsibility for youth are basically twofold—to take initiatives in areas that are beyond the responsibility or resources of the individual church and to provide encouragement and support for youth workers in the local church.

The most obvious and visible examples of the first responsibility are the various camps and other major events organised on a statewide or regional basis. Week-long camps or bus trips provide opportunities for nurture and outreach with youth and also bring together youth leaders from different local churches. On a similar basis the state department is able, through the formation of a youth council made up of youth workers from a number of churches, to organise or encourage others to sponsor various inter-church events such as rallies and sporting competitions. Examples of this in Queensland have been the touch football competition, the theatre restaurant night and, through the Sunnybank church, the "Sonshine Games".

Less obvious, but still important, is the function of liaison with the various government and other bodies that deal with youth. This involves researching what grants may be available for different youth activities, keeping abreast of regulations covering these and disseminating the information to the various youth leaders. Recent examples in Queensland have included government grants toward the construction of youth halls, government subsidies to support the running of the Easter Youth convention at Toowoomba and

the Magnetic Island Youth Convention.

The State department is also responsible for the support, training and encouragement of the youth leaders in the local churches. This takes a number of forms, some more obvious than others. Providing training for youth leaders occurs at three levels. First there are training events such as seminars, workshops, on-the-job co-operation and supervision and weekend leadership and training camps organised by the State department, using staff as well as others with the necessary expertise.

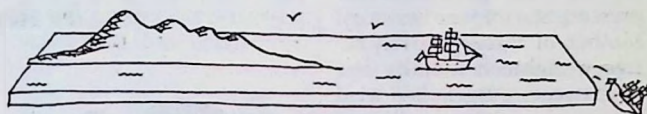
Secondly the department investigates training events provided by other bodies and publicises these to youth workers. In some cases where the event is seen as particularly valuable a subsidy may be provided through the state body.

The Queensland department was responsible for arranging a subsidy of \$300 to each Queenslander attending the National Youth Convention in Perth in January 1990. Help of this type is particularly valuable to youth workers in country areas where travel costs may otherwise prevent them from attending events in the metropolitan area. Thirdly the department provides written material to youth leaders on various aspects of youth work.

As well as training, the state department acts as a resource centre for youth leaders. It holds books, magazines, tapes, videos and kits for youth leaders to borrow and keeps them updated on new publications that may be useful. In a similar vein it provides current lists of speakers and entertainers that are available for churches to

## Curkpatrick

# In Defence of a Flat Earth



"In 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue" and discovered the Americas. He sailed west around the world instead east to reach India, despite intense opposition to this "absurd idea". After all, the earth was flat. Everyone knew that the horizon was the edge, and beyond that, an abyss. Columbus had difficulty convincing a government to sponsor his venture until after seven frustrating years the Spanish did so.

I recently attended a seminar during which we explored attitudes in tradition and change. We had a simulated debate, set in the 15th century, between the global and flat earthers. I happened to be a flat earther, arguing against Columbus and his "absurd venture around a global earth". What could one say? Well, it doesn't take long to dig up all kinds of arguments. A flat earth accounts for all the people lost at sea—they fell off the edge. The Bible depicts a three-tier universe, which is possible with a plate, but not a ball. So the flat earth is Biblical too! There's always an economic argument—times are tough, and exploring a mythical sphere is not only crazy, it's a waste of money. Then you can always attack the person. Columbus was unstable, with visions of grandeur, and besides, he got his maritime papers in Italy, and not Britain.

It's amazing what you can get yourself arguing dogmatically about. By the end of the debate, I was ready to become a member of the flat earth society. Thank goodness for debriefing procedures in simulated exercises! After all that was the purpose of the simulation—to identify with attitudes behind tradition and change. Of course Columbus literally shattered the horizons of medieval thinking, and forced society to re-assess centuries of traditional thinking based on a flat earth perspective.

Its only in retrospect we see how ridiculous such defences against change are. They are remarkably similar to the arguments used against creative change and visionary perspective in ministry, which will in the 21st century appear as ridiculous as the defence of a flat earth. Because God is a God of infinite resources, creativity and novelty, he will always generate new dimensions of compassion, disclosure and involvement in the world. Some respond to that creativity by saying, "That's not the way God works." How do they know? Time after time, God has worked in new, creative, and unexpected ways. I would rather be open to the latent creativity with which life is imbued than find I'd been defending the equivalent of "a flat earth".

—Stephen Curkpatrick

use. Department personnel themselves act as resource workers, visiting churches and talking with an encouraging youth workers on a one-to-one basis.

In summary, the state youth department is there to provide whatever help it can to make the work of those involved with youth in the church both more effective and fulfilling.

• *Alan Hermann is the Christian Education Officer with the Department of Christian Development and Education in Queensland.*

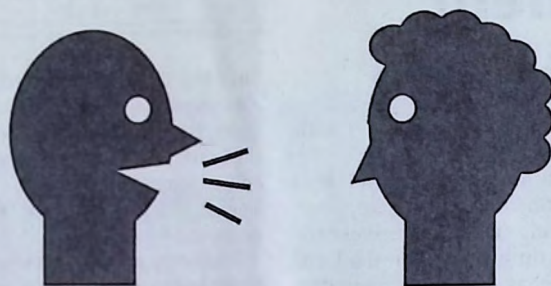
*Edited by Andrew Ball, Field Director of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development and the Australian Board of Church Development and Education*



## • The sad story of Angela and Brian

# The Unseen Pain

by Reg Brand



Angela entered my office and slumped in the chair. An attractive woman in her mid-thirties, she looked flat, tired and depressed. She told me her story. Mother of three children between eighteen months and seven years, Angela had tried to better herself by enrolling in different courses at the local community house. The co-ordinator had noticed that Angela had attended the Parenting Course, Basic Cooking, Personal Grooming, and Women in the Nineties, but her attendance had been very spasmodic at all of them even though she seemed almost frantic to learn. Concerned about Angela the co-ordinator suggested that she talk to someone about what seemed to be bothering her.

More than six months passed before Angela's anxiety was so overwhelming that she spoke to one of the women elders at the church. She told her what a terrible failure she felt, how she couldn't control the children, her cooking was atrocious, she was overweight, looked awful and was completely inadequate as a wife and mother. The elder was gently reassuring; of course she wasn't like that, whatever gave her that idea? In the security of acceptance she blurted out how Brian, her husband, was always critical of her and frustrated with her incompetence. On occasions he had been so angry with her he had hit her.

The acceptance suddenly disappeared. "Not Brian. That's impossible. He couldn't possibly get angry. At our full board meetings he's the one who is the peacemaker. The only thing I can think of, dear, is that you must be doing something terribly wrong to make him do something like that. I think that perhaps you should speak to your doctor and get yourself fixed up."

Angela spoke of her pain to no-one.

During the next twelve months things at home got steadily worse. Angela tried harder and harder to please her husband but it was all to no

avail. Brian kept telling her that if only she got herself together he wouldn't be driven to such desperation. She dared not tell anyone, she was so ashamed of her failure as a wife and mother.

When it all got too much for her she summoned the courage to speak to a professional counsellor. The woman was able to elicit from Angela the story of her relationship with Brian. In the early days, while courting, Brian had been the perfect gentleman (he still was to everyone else) and it was his caring nature and his boyish charm that attracted her to him. When they started going steady Angela noticed that Brian was more than a little jealous, and after their engagement he became quite possessive. Once married, Brian insisted on taking control of things as a responsible Christian husband. On the one hand it was rather nice to have a possessive "head of the house" who made all the decisions, but on the other hand Angela was beginning to feel stifled. If things did not turn out the way he expected, Brian would yell at her and put her down and storm off.

She well remembered the first time he physically hit her. He had told her that he wanted his dinner at 6.15 because the youth group (of which he was a leader) was going on an excursion so he needed to leave right on 7 pm. Unfortunately, the kitten from next door got stranded in a tree and Angela helped her neighbour rescue it.

Dinner was not quite ready when Brian walked in at 6.25 pm. He was angry enough when he walked through the door, more angry when he saw Angela just about to put the plates on the table and bellowed furiously when she tried to explain. He screamed at her about caring more about the neighbour's cat than she did him, shook her violently when she tried to apologise and finally knocked her to the floor with a backhand when she cried out in fear: "Stop it Brian. Stop it." Later, she spent untold hours blaming herself for causing such a scene. She had learned well that everything that went wrong was her fault.

As she spilled out the story the counsellor saw the familiar pattern. Things had proceeded to get worse and worse, especially when she was pregnant. For some reason Brian was even more critical, abusive and violent then.

Being experienced in dealing with such situations the counsellor encouraged Angela to leave with the children for her own safety. "But how could I do that to him?" asked Angela. "What would people think of him? What would the church people say? What sort of witness would that be to the community?" She knew then that she was trapped. There was nothing she could do but stay and try to keep everyone happy.

More than a year had passed before she appeared in my of-

fice, having chosen to speak with me because she had heard that I was a Christian and she felt sure that I would not encourage her to leave Brian, but would find another way.

Having told me her story, Angela hesitantly gave me permission to phone Brian in an attempt to encourage him to get help. I rang, and introduced myself.

"You're that Christian counsellor that Angela spoke about are you?"

"Yes."

"Well thank you for your concern but what happens between me and my wife is between the two of us and God. I pray for her that the Lord will open her eyes to his truth. Thank you for your time. Goodbye."

Three weeks later Angela left Brian and moved with her children to live with friends in a country town.

About a month after this Brian made an appointment to see me. He wanted to know if I would talk to Angela to get her to come back. I said no. He told me that the minister and several others from the church had rung her to encourage her to come back and try again but she would not even come to the phone. A restraining order prevented Brian from contacting her directly.

I asked Brian what had precipitated Angela's leaving.

"I've no idea. We were such a happy family."

"Brian, was there any friction at all in the few days before she left?"

"No, not really. We did have a bit of a discussion about the way she kept the house, but that's all."

"What happened?"

"Nothing much. I came home and the kitchen was in an absolute mess, the kids running riot, and she was talking on the phone to one of the women from Fellowship. Naturally, I was upset and told her so."

"How did you do that?"

"Well, I told her that sort of thing wasn't on, took the phone from her, hung it up and told her to get on with the job."

"And then?"



# A Church ABC

**S**alt Ash is situated in the heartland of the "Blue Water Wonderland" of the Port Stephens Shire, halfway between Newcastle and Nelson Bay, where the two main peninsulas of the shire, the Tomaree and the Tilligerry Peninsulas, meet. It is a semi-rural community with farming and the famous Pacific oysters prominent. Salt Ash is surrounded by the growing communities of Lemon Tree Passage, Tanilba, Bay and Medowie and just 6 km to the south is the premier FA 18 fighter base, RAAF Williamtown. The community was established in the late 19th century, the school being built in 1883. John Dalton, one of the original settlers, named it after Salt Ash in England near Newcastle on Tyne. In those days it was from Salt Ash that boats ferried people and goods from Port Stephens to Carrington, now the present site of the Tahlee Bible College.

In 1906 a Methodist, Mr Sansom, one of the original farmers of the area, donated land and materials for members of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Anglican churches to build a Sunday school hall. The deeds of this hall restrict its use to those three churches or any other Protestant church. Mr Sansom lived in what is now the church manse, which is well over 100 years old. The major denominations held meetings in the buildings turn about but

have not used it for many years.

The Church of Christ began meetings and Sunday School in 1969 in the home of Cyril and Rhonda Threadgate (great grand-daughter of Sansom) and Jack Anderson from the

In 1984 two acres of strategic land were purchased on the corner of the Lemon Tree Passage and Nelson Bay Roads. The original Sansom homestead is on this corner and a roundabout has been built,

groups, primary, junior high and senior youth groups, men's Bible study and a friendship group for senior citizens. In 1989 a bus was purchased from the Bible Society for use with the youth work.

The church has been very active in reaching out to the community. It has participated in Good News Bible distribution and has used Encounter leaflets on several occasions in conjunction with local outreach crusades. It is the only church in the area and this gives great opportunities. Several missionaries, including one of the church's own members are being directly supported through faith promise missionary offerings.

One of the newer activities of many of the members of the church is Adventure Bound. This is a training program in bushcraft, survival and spiritual leadership geared to reach young people. So far it has proved to be very successful and more than a hundred have been through the course and have been helped to get a better direction and purpose for life.

From the interest that is generating in the church in the Salt Ash area and the number of new people being contacted it would appear that the Salt Ash church is set for steady growth for some time to come. Its next hurdle may be the necessity for a larger building for worship, a problem they can pleasantly accept.

From the interest that is generating in the church in the Salt Ash area and the number of new people being contacted it would appear that the Salt Ash church is set for steady growth for some time to come. Its next hurdle may be the necessity for a larger building for worship, a problem they can pleasantly accept.

## Focus on Salt Ash

Mayfield church, some 30 km to the south, encouraged them. The house church struggled through the eighties, with the Sunday school moving to the little hall and the church following when the other churches were no longer using it.

In 1982 with an average attendance of 28 at the morning meeting it was unanimously decided to become a Church of Christ under the care of Mayfield.

By 1983 average attendance was 46 and there were 16 active members.

Student ministers were supplied by Mayfield and included John Napper (1983), Ron Green (1984-85) and Stephen Mackie (1986). In 1987 Max Hall, who had ministered for 16½ years at Mayfield left to take up a part-time ministry with Salt Ash. This quickly became a full time ministry and although the church cannot support him full time it is a viable situation since Max is a part-time chaplain with the RAAF.

which makes it quite prominent. It was purchased from Mr Sansom's great-grand-daughters, who are members of the church. The house is currently rented as Max still has his own home in Medowie.

In June 1988 the RAAF base hospital was to be demolished so after some negotiation it was moved "gratis" to the present two-acre site. It has been refurbished with a loan from the Department of Church Development and will seat about 150 people. The original building nearby is still used by the church for childrens and youth work.

The church has continued to grow and the average attendance in the morning is now about 80 and a night meeting averages about 35. There are 62 active members, 23 added this year, with more to come. Activities include Sunday School, morning and evening worship, playgroups Tuesdays and Wednesdays, preschool Thursdays, a women's team ministry, a women's craft group, cell

"She cried."

"What did you do then?"

"Well, I tried to stop her, and the harder I tried the more she cried until she was hysterical."

"What was she doing?"

"Crying, louder and louder and carrying on something shocking."

"And then what did you do?"

"Well, she was hysterical so I...uh...um...slapped her."

"Have you done that before?"

Brian's eyes reddened and moistened as he pleaded: "Well what's a man supposed to do? When you can't get her to keep

the place clean and the kids quiet so you can get on with your church work, what are you supposed to do?"

"Brian, do you like the way you've been handling things?"

"You mean the family?"

"Yes, the way you've been getting on with the family, especially when you lose your temper with Angela?"

"Of course not, but what else can a man do?"

Brian joined a therapy group for men who are troubled by their violence. He has made a great deal of progress, is quite clear now that there was nothing

Angela could do to make him violent if he chose not to be, is learning to respect himself and her and shows a great deal more understanding of how terrifying it must have been for Angela while she was living with him. But he still has a long way to go.

After seven months of separation Angela is still not ready to live with Brian. Physical and psychological wounds take time to heal. There is too much fear, not only of Brian's violence and abuse, but of being stifled, smothered, suffocated and humiliated by a man who used

to think that he had the right and responsibility to tell his wife what her duty was, whether she was thinking the right way or not, and discipline her if she did not do what he told her to do.

Not a happy ending, but much happier than many.

• Reg Brand is a former Churches of Christ minister who is Director of the Domestic Violence Services of South Australia. He wrote this as a typical situation that he and his workers come across to help readers understand the problem of domestic violence.



## Comment

### • Hymns or choruses?

# "Traditional" versus "Contemporary"

by Ronald W. Graham

**B**etween September and March, I spent four months in Australia, joining in services of corporate worship 34 times (exclusive of the World Council of Churches' Assembly). That included 16 congregations of four denominations (Churches of Christ, Uniting Church, Anglican and Baptist) in NSW, Queensland, Victoria, and the ACT.

I knew from *The Australian Christian* that one of the issues either troubling or exciting many church members is that of "traditional" versus "contemporary" forms of worship. The issue is not confined to Churches of Christ. It was one thing to read about differences of opinion from 10,000 miles away, another to experience those differences at first hand.

Sixteen of those 34 services were traditional, that is they used hymns only. Fifteen were contemporary, using only choruses. Three used both. In my experience, contemporary services in general were light on with regard to prayers as well as Scriptures read and seriously preached from, but the tension between traditional and contemporary usually comes to a focus in music. Contemporaneous folk are big on a variety of instruments, the use of microphones and lead singers, over-

head projectors, hand clapping and arms raising and choruses. What follows concentrates on hymns and choruses.

### Contemporaneity versus Tradition

In the current debate, the word tradition is often used disparagingly as though it meant traditionalism. Traditionalism is the dead faith of the living. I am not for a dead faith.

Tradition, however, is the living faith of the dead. I want to be for a living faith. The merely contemporary lacks staying power. It results in the loss of identity; it fragments; it becomes faddish.

What the church needs is tradition selectively preserved and creatively renewed. Anglicans have it in one of the titles for their hymnbook, *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. Jesus had it in his understanding of his ministry and that of his followers: the "scribe who has been trained for the kingdom

of heaven" is like one "who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old". (Matthew 13:52)

The contemporary church needs new hymns and many fine ones have been written by such as Timothy Dudley-Smith, Frederick Pratt Green, Christopher Martin Idle, Frederick Herman Kaan, Gordon Light and Brian Arthur Wren.

In the contemporary Australian church, there are a number of obvious needs in hymnody:

- Caring for the earth that is our present home. The earth is fragile, no land more so than this land.

- We are one of the most urbanised societies in the world and need images of the city and the factory, not only those of sheep and orchards.

- We are one of the most cosmopolitan nations in the world and need hymns written by, say, Chinese and Indonesians.

- One of the great liberation movements of our time is that of women—a task far from complete and among many peoples scarce begun. We need hymns that use inclusive language and that scripturally give due place to women, such as those who were last at the cross and first at the tomb: to the God of Sarah as well as the God of Abraham. The Christian Church of which I am a member in Des Moines, Iowa, uses a 1989 hymnal with all these features, greatly enriching worship.

Most choruses are not significantly contemporary.

Those who lead worship have the rewarding responsibility not only of devising means for meeting people's needs but of broadening and deepening needs, and even of creating needs. We have to meet people where they are but we should not leave them where they are.

### Criticisms of Choruses

I have heard many generalised criticisms of choruses, directed mostly at choruses-only services. The most frequent are these:

- They are sung so noisily. Making a joyful noise to the Lord may be one legitimate form of worship but if God has an ear for music, such as he has

### • Growing Spiritually

# Where God Is Most Real

by Neville Moore

*I looked for my soul, but my soul I could not see.*

*I looked for God, but my God eluded me.*

*I looked for my brother, and I found all three.*

Somehow God eludes me, too, when I go seeking him for myself.

At times after plenty of spiritual exercises or a hothouse experience in a religious setting, I feel that I am closer to him—but the feeling doesn't last.

I find a stronger sense of the nearness and reality of God when I have not been seeking him at all, but rather when I happen to be giving care to someone who needs sincere kindness or some spontaneous generosity.

It seems to me that the only

way to find God is to forget myself and let him find me. Praying harder, more Bible study and more religious meetings will increase my Bible knowledge, religious jargon and spiritual techniques, but I no longer need to make something of myself.

All I need to do is to reflect to others the grace he has already given me.

God is most real to me when I go out on a limb for him (that's a trusting commitment) and

when my whole being is swamped, enveloped, submerged (baptised?) in the Spirit of Jesus.

I am most aware of him when I am lovingly aware of other people, and vice versa.

I'm glad to find this in Paul's description of love as the first "fruit" of the Spirit.

And John (in the current series in morning worship) says the same—see 11 John 4:7, 12, 21.

And these selected verses

from a poem by W.E. Garrison also tell my story:

*I sought for God in field and hill,  
In lonely paths, in crowded ways.  
I sought him when my heart was still  
In words of prayer and hymns of praise.*

*In mystic mood and subtle thought  
I sought him, but I found him not.  
I found a friend who trusted me,  
Yet knew my weakness through and through.*

*I found a task that seemed to be  
Too bitter hard, yet mine to do.  
In love and work I found my soul,  
Forgot my quest—but reached my goal.*

• Neville Moore is minister at the Brighton, SA, church. W.E. Garrison's complete poem, "The Quest" is in his anthology *Thy Sea So Great*, The Bethany Press, 1965.



## Comment

endowed his creatures with, he would at times appreciate a little less noise, even though it be joyful.

- Many tunes are tuneless. What heaven's choirs delight in has musical depth and range.

- They are so triumphalist. Favourite terms are majesty, power, authority, exaltation. They seem not to know that God is mighty only in mercy and strong only in humility: "Thou cam'st a little baby thing, that made a woman cry." They seem not be aware that the exaltation of the Jesus of John is his abasement, and the power of the Jesus of Paul is that of a life lived humbly.

- They often worship Jesus as though he were God with no remainder. They seem not to have read that it was "God [who] was reconciling the world to himself" in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18-19), that it was "God [who] so loved the world that he gave his only son". (John 3:16)

- They are so bereft as ideas. They know not the "mind's delight". There is an intellectual grandeur to the Christian faith, centred on understandings of God, the self and the world.

- They are ignorant of Paul's appreciation of "the fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-23). They have not been captivated by his gospel; "by grace, through faith, unto good works, in the fellowship of the church". Christianity has always been tempted to put orthodoxy (right thinking) above orthopraxy (right doing). The "Scripture choruses" are not nearly as broad or as morally challenging as are the Scriptures.

- Singing a short chorus two, three, or four times is deadening. It can become manipulative. It is no better than mindlessly fingering rosary beads.

- They are not memorable. One friend said, "I have lost my singing voice, but the last thing I do at night is speak hymns that I have sung for decades. I would never be moved to do that with choruses."

- They meet so few needs. In any given service there is no way of meeting all the needs of all the worshippers, but a se-

lection of great hymns can do more than anything else in worship to meet the widest range of needs.

- Instead of representing Christ in culture transforming culture they too often represent either Christ against culture or the Christ of culture, that is, captive to it.

- Many of those whose dissatisfaction I have voiced feel that they are dismissed as oldies, all washed up, irrelevant. I visited one couple I have known for 50 years who have been devoted church people. They said, "We no longer attend church. All they sing is choruses. It is no use our protesting. We oldies don't count." I listened to a very competent former organist confess, "I go to church now only out of a sense of duty, to partake of communion. There is no joy in it. All we sing is choruses." That is tragic.

### Criteria

What is at stake is the nature of the church's worship. To use spatial terms, is it perpendicular: the offering that we make to God? If so, what are the most appropriate ways for us to make that offering? Or is it horizontal? Is it something we do for ourselves and offer to each other? If so, what are our needs: needs of the mind, the heart, the conscience, the will, the whole self, the self in relation to others? Or is worship first one and then the other?

If I were to choose one non-scriptural standard by which to judge all our acts of worship, it would be William Temple's. Worship, he said, "is—  
"to quicken the conscience with the holiness of God,  
"to feed the mind on the truth of God,  
"to purge the imagination by the beauty of God,  
"to open the heart to the love of God,  
"to devote the will to the purpose of God."

Or if I were to choose a scriptural standard, it would be the prophetic one:

What does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice,

and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.

(Micah 6:8)

That is the tradition with which Jesus identified himself that momentous day that he worshipped in Nazareth's synagogue.

Worship, he said, is a matter of bringing good news to the poor, proclaiming release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

and proclaiming the year of the

Lord's favour.

(Luke 4:18-19)

Putting these plumb-lines against all that we say and do in worship, how do we measure up? That's the question.

- Ron Graham is a graduate of the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, and served churches in Melbourne and Brisbane before going to the United States to study. He is Professor Emeritus of New Testament, Lexington Theological Seminary.

## Celebrating a Centenary of Overseas Mission 1891-1991 1915

### News and Notes

Principal Frazer, of Trinity College, Kandy, has been on a visit to Australia. His addresses have done much to deepen the interest of many in the work of education in India. He has stated some facts with regard to the vexed question of a White Australia policy, in its relation to the missionary propaganda. Quite often, the Principal says, he has had to make excuses to our Indian brethren. In Kandy at the College, a master from England who had the right to take the mastership of the College, in a Christlike spirit was willing for a native to hold that office, while the Englishman willingly worked "under" him. Here we see the difference between politics and Christianity.

Another point of the principal's address worthy of mention was this: he said we had learned from this great war that every fit man was wanted, and that every man ought to be fit. He was glad

to see the great sums of money being given for relief purposes, but before the war men used to plead they had no money for missions, yet the money has come in large sums now. The great and pressing need of every mission is for money, and men ought to be as ready to give for the purpose of extending the kingdom of Christ as they are for these other purposes.

Already plans are being made for the annual offering, which this year falls on Sunday, July 4. The aim of the Federal Committee is an offering from every member in Australia. It is not too early for you to begin talking and praying for a successful offering. We shall need it, as the expenses are higher than ever before, and the call is more urgent. Bro. Strutton is asking for two men right now at Baramati, and we ought to be able to supply the need.

—THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN, 20 MAY 1915.

**OMB**  
Overseas Mission Board



## Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

**Dyer, Reginald W.C.**

(22.4.91) Reg died suddenly at Kaniva, aged 60 years. A farmer with skills in handcraft and general repair work, his Christian witness in Kaniva district was well known. He became a member on 24.2.52 and served through Christian Endeavour, Boys' Club, Sunday School Superintendent, deacon (22 years), convener of building committee, bus driver, and on camp site working bees and as reader and helper in worship services. A member of Gideons International, also serving the Kaniva branch of the Bible Society for 38 years, including long terms as president and secretary. Married Gwen in 1952, he leaves a family Alwyn, Rosemary (Camac) and Eric, to whom the church family express love and sympathy.

—Harold Wheaton

**Fletcher, Ellen Isabella**

(3.5.91) Nell was born Ellen Phipps 83 years ago in Echuca, Vic. One of seven children she was the last surviving member. The family moved to Narrandera and after finishing her schooling she took up work as a domestic in the local hospital. At school she was known as the quiet one, and that title probably lived with Nell all her life. It was at Narrandera that she met and married Frederick in 1932. He predeceased her 12 years ago. In 1932 they moved to Corowa where Margaret and Kevin were born. Following work they moved to Temora where Brian, Beryl and Susan were born. Here they attended the Baptist church. In the early sixties the family moved to Frankston. Nell loved her six children, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. The family remember Nell involved in the school canteen, mothers' club and Christian Women's Fellowship. Since arriving in Frankston Nell attended the Frankston Church of Christ and was baptised by Ray Patterson in 1971. Nell will be remembered as a quiet achiever, no fuss, no bother, gentle, unassuming, a good friend and as a very faithful member of the church.

—Allan Avery

**Miller, Hugh Johnson**

(23.4.91) Hugh was born in Waterloo, Sydney, 21.3.06. At the age of 15 he was baptised at Erskineville church and remained a staunch, committed member of our churches for the next 70 years, serving at Erskineville as treasurer,

Hurstville, Tempe, Mortdale as Sunday School Superintendent, Carnegie, Oakleigh as an elder, Tootgarook as treasurer and as a very supportive member at Boronia in more recent years. Hugh was also a lay preacher. Hugh married Eva French in 1926 and they had a family of eight—Betty, Meryl, Colin, Lawrence, Harvey, Robert, Dennis and Judy—plus an extended family including 28 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Hugh Miller always took a keen interest in matters relating to Conference. Many churches and departments were represented at a thanksgiving service in the Boronia Uniting Church led by Andrew Henley and the writer.

—Keith Milne

**Nightingale (Scott), Clara Rosetta**

(12.5.91) Born 19.8.07. For five months she was confined to hospital before her death at Chandler House, Ferntree Gully. The youngest daughter of William and Bertha Scott of Dunolly, Vic, she came to Avonsleigh during the 1930s depression. Here she met and married Alfred George Nightingale and together they conducted a plant nursery until Alf's death on 12.5.46. She faithfully served her Lord with the Avonsleigh church. Although unable to read music she loved the hymns and was church organist for many years as well as providing weekly floral arrangements. Her family were Graeme (dec.), John and Joy, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Her faithful witness was honoured at services in the Avonsleigh church and at the Macclesfield Cemetery.

—A.B. Titter

**Stevens (Woodbridge), Lucy Letitia**

(13.3.91) Born 1899. Involved in church life North Melbourne, Newmarket, Newport, Williamstown and Camberwell. Keenly interested in CWF and CFA. Married Lesley Stevens in 1926. One son, Lesley, lived only three years. Close ties kept with family, nieces and nephews, always involved in their lives. Husband died in 1973. Moved from Williamstown to unit in Hawthorn until health deteriorated. Entered Emmaus where she received loving care for 14 months. Don Thomas and Cheryl Johnson led thanksgiving service after which she was laid to rest with her husband and son at Williamstown Cemetery.

**Thompson, David Kelvin**

(19.4.91) Kel passed away after brief illness. Born 20.9.21 at

Wollongong, NSW, baptised by Dan Stirling in 1943. Kel and Joan served our churches at Wollongong, Lane Cove, Beverly Hills, Wagga Wagga, Murwillumbah, Ainslie, Kurri, Orange, Telopea and Tweed Heads. Kel trained as a fitter and turner. In 1944 he joined the Education Department, teaching at eight TAFE colleges, becoming the youngest principal in NSW at Murwillumbah in 1961. Kel loved retirement, serving God tirelessly, restoring Riley cars, relaxing with his family. Kel is greatly missed as a godly elder, a man of great humility and quiet dignity. We know Jesus was the centre of Kel's life, we rejoice he is with his Saviour now. Survived by wife Jean, children Greg, Anne and Ian and eight grandchildren. —Richard Oakes

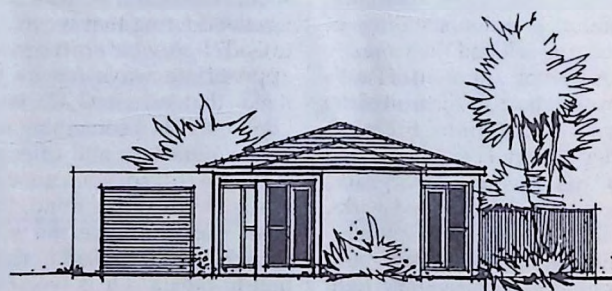
**Watt, John David**

(13.4.91) Dave was born at Inverurie, Scotland, on 17.6.07, the eldest of four children. Despite ill-health he was a great achiever. He came to Australia at 6 years of age. He later joined the East Kew, Vic, church. In 1936 he married Kathleen Hargreaves and for 55 years they shared richly together in family and work, faith and worship. He built his own business in refrigeration, specialising in cool rooms.

Though successful in business, it was church and home that meant most to him. Churches at North Balwyn, Gardiner, Tootgarook, Hawthorn, Caulfield, Nunawading and others benefited from his dedicated service. He also had a deep interest and concern for the wider work of Churches of Christ. He served for 30 years on the executive of the Christian Men's Society, also in inter-church work and for Christian Projects. In retirement Dave and Kathleen organised the Travel Club, arranging tours for people from many churches and raising funds for the Kensington Christian Network, gas for New Guinea and petrol and machinery for the islands missions. During the last 12 years of his life he led the Senior Citizens Club at Nunawading. Sympathy is extended to Kathleen, his daughters, Jan Salter, Helen Taylor, Barbara Charters, and many others who loved him.

—Jim Wright

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## Personal

### Baptism

•Barry & Ruth Michelle, Whitebridge, NSW •Michaela Greeves, Matilda St, Port Lincoln, SA •Alison Douglas, Annerley, Qld •Matthew Clark, Andrew Grills, Leigh Miller, Julie Miller, York St, Ballarat, Vic •Markus Freiverts, Ascot Vale, Vic •Amanda & Ben Green, Gatton, Qld •Hazel Ransome, Hampstead Gardens, SA •Sandra Rundall, Jan Brown, Kerry McFie, Melany Morgan, Gordon & Evelyn Burns, Brooklyn Park, SA •Kathy Sceney, Sarah van Dort, LaTrobe Terr, Geelong, Vic •Alma Greville, Peel St, Ballarat, Vic •Cathy Gordon-Smith, Liverpool, NSW •Fiona Hurst, Melissa Long, Ann Habermann, Maryborough, Qld •Barbara Baty, Brad Carter, Jason Wilson, Scarborough, WA

Gardens, SA •Les Salter, Coburg, Vic •Kel Thompson, Tweed Heads, NSW •Mrs Clara Rosetta Nightingale, Avonsleigh, Vic

### Changes

Vic-Tas Department of Community Care: The number given in "Changes" in the last issue was for pick-ups for the Opportunity Shops only—Phone Glen Mill on (03) 350 2618.

Vic-Tas Christian Women's Fellowship: Treasurer—Mrs Anthea Parker, 259 Forest Road, Boronia, Vic 3155. Phone (03) 762 1671.

Alexander Heights: Minister—John and Kaye Caporn, 13 Fawk Corner, Ballajura, WA 6066. Phone (09) 249 4045.

Warracknabeal: Secretary—Robert Pitt, RMB 238, Wilkur South, Vic 3482. Phone (053) 99 2209.

### Marriages

•Jacqueline Bristol to Kerry Ward, Montrose, Vic •Mary Ann Flood to Robert Burrows, Pine Rivers, Qld •Connie Grant to Basil Day, Hampstead Gardens, SA •Sue Muggleton to Craig Johnston, Springwood, Qld •Sue Randall to Denis Leamon, Northcote, Vic

### Deaths

•Sue Hill, Brenda Robison, Montrose, Vic •Arch Jell, Annerley, Qld •Murray Griffiths, Hampstead

## Church News

### NSW

WHITEBRIDGE (Clive Berrick) Helen & Clive graduated Tahlee Bible College Nov 1990 & appointed to Whitebridge 30.12.90. Clive & Helen (& daughter Kim, 18) inducted into ministry 9 Feb by Ron Hewitt ... Church has begun to grow with three men coming into fellowship ... Barry Michelle & wife Ruth baptised 5 May ... Peter Perkins gave his life to the Lord five weeks ago ... Group of 14 attended Mike Warnke concert in Newcastle ... Running Christianity Explained for two families.

SEVEN HILLS (T.J. Beaman, Neil Dickinson) Mother's Day service well attended. 45 present. Bev Beaman, Sylvia Foote & Kerry Dickinson presented play "Moth-

er's Day: Has She Had It?". Joyce Piper gave childrens talk & T.J. Beaman spoke. Thanks to Dianna van Twest for making posy for each mother & Marj Naylor for supplying flowers ... Good to have John & Sheryl Hanna & children attending & John playing piano ... Baker family back after sickness & house problems.

LIVERPOOL (Peter Raymond) For "Focus on China" 24 gathered for Chinese meal & viewed video on China ... Picnic held Central Gardens, Merrylands, Anzac Day ... Building of new worship facilities proceeding ... Bible reading in four languages to show diversity of church family ... Cathy Gordon-Smith baptised Pentecost Sunday ... Peter & Samantha settling into new manse ... Church saddened by recent passing of Stephen Willis.

### Progress for Sunbury

Church planter Milton Oliver is enthusiastic about the new Sunbury church begun in January. New contacts and converts and growing home fellowship attendances are all part of a vital young church. Your financial and prayer support is needed now.

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



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### Visiting Canberra? Stay with a Church Family

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# Church News

## Qld

**ANNERLEY** (Russell Ritchie) Russell Ritchie tendered his resignation from end of 1991. Mobility & associated MS problems cause us to request prayer for the family. They have purchased their own home, assistance given by Annerley members ... Half-yearly meeting held. Discussed Faith Promise Offering, 50% to go to PNG & 50% to Qld Aboriginal Fellowship ... Under discussion is use of adjoining two properties, owned by church, to be used for future expansion.

**PINE RIVERS** (Neale Prollocks, Ian Todd) We are grateful to God for the sale of Project X. Funds to help with much-needed church extensions ... Special evening service for Child Care Centre & staff ... Youth services & fellowship teas well attended ... Ladies "Self Esteem" evening successful. Rev Dr Charles Noller guest speaker ... Good Friday & Easter services well attended ... Sunday School picnic 11 May.

**GATTON** (Barry Benz) Attendances continue to be encouraging ... "Tribute Singers" under the leadership of Mrs Tess Buhse enriching music ministry of the church ... "Handling Family Finances" night with local minister Ken Hooper, who was for many years active as a solicitor in Gatton, was helpful to all present ... Amanda & Ben Green baptised & welcomed into fellowship of church on 21 April.

**MAROOCHYDORE** (Geoff Risson) High point of efforts to purchase land at North Buderim Village. A block in this new developing area bordering Maroochydoore acquired ... Late May a mini-mission planned with Greg Deuble. Emphasis will be to the youth of the Sunshine Coast ... Acquisition of church bus is proving a boon, especially in youth work & with the elderly group.

**SPRINGWOOD** (Geoff Charles) Church trialing second morning service ... Bible School picnic great fun, one broken arm only casualty ... Trish Brunet working with youth groups ... Ladies held concert night, much talent revealed ... Men climbed Mt Warning without mishap ... Changes to chapel & grounds being considered due to increased numbers ... Home groups, ladies Bible study & Sunday adult Bible study groups continuing popular.

**EAST IPSWICH** (Norm Flett, Greg Bruggemann) In Feb Greg & Lyndall Bruggemann inducted into an associate ministry ... Youth work flourishing with three groups & children's church has increased attendances ... Young marrieds group formed ... Attendances high at worship services ... 26 welcomed into fellowship & four recent baptisms ... Choirs provide special musical programs here & at sister churches within two or three hours drive ... Services combine with Bundamba periodically.

**MARYBOROUGH** (David Woodward) Allan Cunningham new chaplain Fair Haven ... Church family picnic, also CYF camp enjoyed ... Men's river outing ... Girls' Brigade program for mothers ... Men arranged Mother's Day tea ... Three baptised, welcomed into fellowship ... Beales returned New Guinea ... Kristine Morris & Philip Brooks engaged ... David Woodward, Althea Brooks, Roy Fitness, seminar in Sydney ... Special weekend, Dwight Good, international recording artist.

## Vic

**MONTROSE** (Neil Galbraith, John Sharpe) "Sunday Seekers" study groups from Year 4 through to adults commenced Sunday mornings. Thursday Church School catering for pre-schools to Year 3 ...

About 100 marched under "church" banner in local festival, ran hamburger stall & organised interdenominational outdoor service ... Installed new seating in chapel ... Paid off manse debt. Endeavouring to reduce church debt with aim toward church planting.

**YORK ST, BALLARAT** (Jim Cunningham) Barry McMurtrie & Wes Beavis led a seminar weekend on "Ministering in the 90s", which was challenging & stimulating ... A bus was organised for State Conference Youth Event. Some of our young people were involved ... 7up youth group participated in a demolition derby at the Ballarat Airport, a smashing success!

**ASCOT VALE** (Ross Bourdon) Three new babies born—to Barnett, Bourdon & Kriss families ... Evangelism to newcomers in area continuing, led by Barry Hammond ... Communion & lunch held at Werribee Gorge ... Markus Freiverts studying full-time at Tabor College ... Boulas family sadly farewelled to Queensland.

**TOOTGAROOK** (M. Giezen-danner) CWF made banner "He Is Risen" for Easter ... CWF Sunday great success, good attendance. Stella Carter guest speaker with Harvest Festival celebrated. Goods going to local Fusion & Kensington ... Open Door popular with good attendances ... Friendship Group outings organised by Bob Baker to Pt Lonsdale & Emerald Lake ... Bill & Ern Cracknell moving to Cherry Tree Grove Village.

**REDCLIFFS** (G.R. Sharrad) CWF ladies conducted service on 21 April ... CWA church parade at our church on 5 May ... Youth Club now meeting weekly instead of fortnightly ... Evening services to commence again on 12 May.

**LA TROBE TERRACE, GEELONG** (Dr C.J. Mackenzie) Family services blest with four decisions for Christ ... Youth group commenced Bible study ... New home fellowship group meeting weekly ... Top Kids had sleep-over at church ... Some members have undergone surgery ... Series on "I am" by minister Allen Carr spoke on "I Am the Light" ... Mother's Day Sunday School scholars presenting mothers with chocolates ... Linda McGregor obtained private pilot's licence ... Belinda van Dort won tennis tournament.

**NORTHCOTE** (F.B. Alcorn) Church closed for Gospel Celebration ... Win Timmins back after surgery ... Vera Reid in Austin for knee surgery ... CWF held in home of Netta Twentyman ... Mother's Day service conducted by ladies ... Minister's wife Pearl went to Adelaide for

baptism of grandson ... Church sympathises with Glad Harvey & Joyce Huggan who lost sisters ... Three Bible studies weekly ... Minister to go to hospital for surgery. **COBURG, PASCOE VALE** (L. Clun) Coburg's 71st anniversary day of warm fellowship. Worship service led by Mervyn Williams. Speaker Phyl Davis on "Celebration" ... Annual Regional meeting held Pascoe Vale ... 5 pm Sunday alternative praise service commenced at Pascoe Vale ... Drop-In, Friendship Group, CWF & Bible study & prayer groups continue ... Mother's Day service led by Mary Ambrose. Cathy Clun speaker ... Church saddened by passing of Les Salter.

**PEEL ST, BALLARAT** Church progressing under leadership of Albert Graham & R. Will Marshall while church is seeking minister to commence 1992 ... Official board & youth leaders combined with York St in series of talks by Barry McMurtrie, "Leadership in the 90s", followed by Sunday night combined Churches of Christ gospel service ... Alma Greville made decision & baptised.

**AVONSLEIGH** (A.B. Titter) Guest speaker at well-attended Mother's Day luncheon conducted by CWF was Lyle Williams, Chamomile Farm, Emerald ... Painting & maintenance of buildings in progress. Sunday School hall renovated with new lining ... Surplus toys from Playgroup donated to Kensington Christian Network ... Mike Esbenson speaker 19 May ... A.B. Titter completed 20 years of ministry with Avonsleigh ... Church saddened by home call of Mrs Clara Nightingale.

**WARRACKNABEAL** (Kevin & Rhonda Luttrell) Ministers Kevin & Rhonda Luttrell continue outreach work with youth & disadvantaged families. Growing appreciation ... Kevin Luttrell conducting lay leadership training course commencing May ... Circuit sadly farewelled Stephen & Kylie Christian & daughter Melanie, as they take up their new life in Adelaide. Stephen has been church secretary & also brought much spiritual growth in scripture in song ... New church secretary Robert Pitt.

## SA

**DULWICH/ROSE PARK** (Rob Williams, Roger Brown) Marj Dredge addressed Gartrell & Victoria Terrace congregations on impressions of World Council of Churches Assembly ... Ron Roberts, State Minister, was State Confer-



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Services

7.00 p.m.

Gospel Celebration

### Wednesday

1.15-1.45 p.m.

Lunchtime Service

For further enquiries, please ring (03) 663 3884



# Church News

ence Sunday speaker ... Roger Brown visited Whyalla church as part of plan for various Adelaide ministers to go there once a month while church is without a minister. **MATILDAST, PORT LINCOLN** (Jim Spiker) Church continuing to grow! ... Task groups formed & operating ... Sunday School commenced with 20 children, followed by morning tea ... Women hosted successful CWF EP Conference ... Michael Geeves baptised ... Barbecue at Tulka, planning meeting ... Carpark plans presented ... "Friendship Day" to begin in May ... Men's monthly teas commenced. George Kiroff (surgeon) guest speaker ... Anthea & Jim Spiker singing at State Conference.

**VICTOR HARBOR** (D. Wesley) Southern District Conference meetings held in Newland Uniting Church. Presided over by Alan Bell, items by Revelation & C, D & S, guest speaker Jim Keatch & special children & youth program ... Sunday School hosted picnic at Pt Elliot's Horseshoe Bay ... Barry Pryor re-elected chairman of elders ... Easter services included Upper Room service on Thursday & dawn Journey of Faith service on Sunday.

**HAMPSTEAD GARDENS** (Keith Ridge) Second playgroup session commenced ... Senior youth group has doubled in size over past three months ... Church overflowing for wedding of Connie Grant & Basil Day ... "Coping with Loss & Grief" course attracted people from the community ... Service held recognising members in leadership positions ... Sunday School growth reported ... Easter services set against a special indoor garden scene.

**BROOKLYN PARK** (P. Webber) Church in good heart ... 10% increase in am attendances this year ... Seven additions to membership ... 192 attended Easter services ... 176 attended first two monthly pm services ... New daytime Bible study group ... One junior, three senior tennis grand finals won ... Graham Smith elected treasurer ... Prayer teams revised ... Meeting of group leaders monthly with board/elders.

## Tas

**LAUNCESTON** (Rod Foster, Craig Spaulding, Darryl Tobler) Church public address system to be upgraded & office records to be computerised ... Old Time Musical-style Mothers' Night enjoyed by 120 ladies ... Natalie Hays leaves shortly for service in Europe with Operation Mobilisation ... "Christianity Explained" course in progress.

## WA

**EASTERN HILLS** (M.B. Ashworth) First use of new baptistry was a double baptism ... Missionary visits from Ray & Peggy Schmitt of Aboriginal Board & Wycliffe Bible Translators ... One confession of faith & two welcomed into membership ... Farewell for Ray & Rene McLaren, foundation members of the church. They will be missed by all as they move to a new home ... All activities underway after holiday. **MANNING** (H.C. Wheat) Jack & Betty Sewell on overseas trip visiting New Testament sites in Greece

... Leprosy film 7 April ... Bible study now held in chapel first Sunday night each month ... Question box being used in services ... Frank Raymond retired as board chairman after many years service ... Minister & wife returned from teaching mission in Churches of Christ in Malaysia. Audio-visual of this being used in Tasmania & northern NSW.

**ALEXANDER HEIGHTS** (John Caporn) McKinley family, Norma McSweeney welcomed in, Goodwin family farewelled ... Hospitality Sundays commenced ... Second midweek cell group commenced

in Alex Heights area ... Craft group active ... Picnic at Yanchep ... Conf Pres, David Pyne, spoke ... Five basketball teams in winter comps. Enjoying new stadium at Warwick ... Sunday night cell group sharing meal first Sunday of month ... Lamington drive for building fund. **SCARBOROUGH** (Nigel Merrick) Series of sermons on "The Twelve Secrets of the Life That Wins" ... Great fellowship at family camp. Bill Grosser speaker ... Geoff Dunning, Bob Plumb, Max McMillan of Interserve & Evan Carr of OMS have recently brought messages ... Helen Wilson re-establishing library.

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## • Malaysian visit

# I Met Paul and Silas

**A**t the invitation of Doug Willis and the small number of New Testament churches in the country, Evelyn and I recently had a two-week preaching tour in Malaysia.

A live-in seminar was held for Christian workers at Port Dickson and Doug Willis and I preached and led discussion groups. Evelyn led the ladies. The seminar was attended by about 75 and five baptisms were held on the closing day.

Most of our time was spent ministering in cottage meetings (sermon and song) in various kampongs to small groups of Christians and to Hindu families over a 200 km stretch of country.

It was then that we met Paul and Silas. Paul is an agency manager of a large assurance company in Kuala Lumpur and a dedicated Christian. His small car was

used constantly while we were there to conduct us to church services and cottage meetings. Like his Bible namesake he has a real concern for his own people. Meticulously he took us to visit the homes of each of his Hindu relatives that we might speak to them about Christ. Paul's Christian love shone out in so many ways (even to plying us with excesses of rice, roti, chicken livers and fish at Indian restaurants).

We met Silas when he picked us up in his car to take us to the Evangelical Lutheran Cathedral where I was booked to speak. The red carpet that came rolling out the door and down the path to meet us, a familiar greeting for visitors, was very impressive. Silas is a bank manager in KL and a leader in the Lutheran church. He led us in an inspirational time of worship. We enjoyed his fellowship in the Gospel. At the close of the address it was my privilege to take the confessions of faith of a lady and two Hindu men.

Another invitation came to speak at a meeting in the Ming Court Hotel in Kuala Lumpur of the Christian businessmen of the city. This led to an interesting time of discussion.

Had I space I could go on to tell of Samuel, a former Methodist minister who interpreted for us and who is deeply impressed by the simple New Testament message, of Joseph, a journalist in a leading newspaper who has turned his back on Roman Catholicism to accept Jesus Christ as his Saviour, and of John, Daniel, Stephen, Thomas and Sara—Christians in a different culture and environment.

—H. Colin Wheat

## The Culpable

Insensitivity and callousness  
Were woven into a thorny  
crown.

Rejection, born of disappointment  
and hatred  
Drove nails through sinless  
flesh;

While respectability turned its  
head,

And justice washed its hands.

—Garry Harris

# The Last Word

The church is a called company of people: called out from the ways of rebellion, alienation and sin; called into a vital relationship with God; called to active involvement with God in what he is doing in the world.

—R. Eugene Sterner

As the minister began the Sunday morning sermon rain began to pour outside. "Isn't that just like the Lord?" the pastor said to the congregation. "Here we are sitting and relaxing, and he's out there washing our cars for us."

\*\*\*\*\*

A politician died and arrived outside the Pearly Gates.

"What have you done to qualify for admission to Heaven?" asked St Peter.

"Well," said the politician, "I once gave 10 cents to a man who was unemployed."

St Peter turned to the Archangel Gabriel.

"Well," he said, "what do you think?"

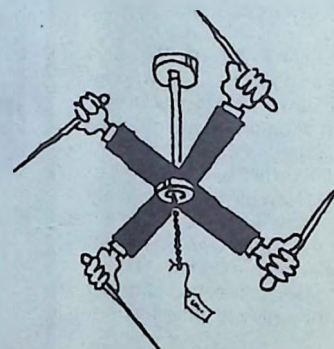
Gabriel shrugged. "If it was up to me, I'd give him his 10 cents back and tell him to go to Hell!"

\*\*\*\*\*

An aspiring tennis player went into a sports store to buy a tennis outfit. They sold tennis shoes for \$150, a pair of shorts for \$60, a \$75 shirt, a box of balls for \$30, two wrist bands at \$15 each and a \$20 pair of socks. When they heard the customer saying, "Hadn't I better buy a racket?" they offered a half-interest in the store as well.

\*\*\*\*\*

Then there is the story about the person who got a pair of water skis for a birthday who has been going around for weeks looking for a lake with a slope.



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