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THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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Guest Editorial

Manhood

Don Herbert

What is a real man? What does a male pattern his manhood on in this cauldron of gender chaos in the 90s? There is real confusion in the minds of Australian men about their manhood. The entertainment industry gives the distinct impression that a male's role model can't be his father. Married men are portrayed as Dagwood Bumstead types, bumbling fools forever having to be rescued from situations they get themselves in by their capable, level-headed wives. Only divorced men, men on their own, feral males, are portrayed as strong and intelligent.

The secular pattern of manhood projected by Hollywood changes as much as the stars change their spouses. In the 50s and 60s it was the John Wayne image. God, guts and country. Never apologise, never show your emotions, never cry, take it on the chin like a man. In the 70s and 80s it was Clint Eastwood. Guts and guns. No honour! No God! No soul! If you have to shoot a man in the back do it! Then came the gender blenders Boy George, Michael Jackson and the like, males with make-up. No wonder men are confused! They don't know whether the are Arthur or Martha. It's not surprising that some men think that being man is "looking like Tarzan, walking like Jane and smelling like Cheeta".

What then is the pattern for manhood? **Dr Ed Cole**, founder of the **Christian Men's Network** and author of the book *Maximised Manhood*, hit the nail on the head when he said, "Manhood and Christlikeness are synonymous." Being a real man is being like Jesus! Jesus, the man's man, portrayed all the attributes and quality of manhood that God wants for all men.

Jesus (the second Adam) recognised, accepted and fulfilled responsibility. He never ducked and weaved in an effort to slip out of his responsibilities. He may have agonised over them. He certainly did this in the garden when the thought of the coming Cross weighed upon him, but ultimately, when faced with the nails, he stretched out his hands in submission.

How different he was from the first Adam, who stood passively by in the Garden while the Devil deceived his wife. Refusing to accept the responsibilities of his manhood he stepped back and allowed his wife to become spokesperson and assume his manly role. Instead of protecting and guiding Eve, who he said was "flesh of his flesh" he withdrew from the battle line and left her alone and vulnerable to Satan's onslaught. Consequently God held Adam, not Eve, responsible for the Fall. This is evident when, on entering the Garden, God asked, "Adam where are you?"

Twentieth-century males who refuse to accept the responsibility of headship in the home and to guide, guard and govern their families by Christlike example follow in Adam's train and will ultimately be held responsible by God. Failure in family headship for the most part can be attributed not to strong outspoken women but to weak-kneed wimpish men. Real men like Jesus bite the bullet of responsibility.

Jesus was not only responsible but he was also accountable. He came under the Father's authority. Many modern males suffer from the "Dirty Harry syndrome". They refuse to be answerable to anyone or anything. This immovable arrogance is viewed by many as the ultimate expression of manhood. Living free! Entering and exiting relationships without any thought of obligation is considered macho. Broken hearts, broken lives and fatherless children have therefore become the product of our age, the bitter fruit of irresponsible confused males. Biblical manhood, however, is founded on the principle of accountability.

Jesus was a man of integrity. Honesty and truth were his banner. Keeping his word to God, friends and even his enemies was all important. He knew that a man can only be trusted to the extent of his word. Yet many so-called macho men are crestfallen when their wives and children don't trust them. They fail to realise that the worth of a man's character is measured by his word. True men are men who recognise and fulfil their responsibilities in every aspect of their lives. They are men who see themselves accountable before God for their actions or inactions. They are men of integrity who keep their word to their own hurt. They are men like Jesus. They understand that "being a male is a matter of birth, but being a man is a matter of choice".

Strong men build strong families. Strong families make strong churches.

• *Don Herbert graduated from Woolwich in 1974 and had ministries at Padstow and Mt Druitt, NSW, Maryborough, Qld, and Goonellabah, NSW, before commencing at Tuggeranong, ACT, where he is now in his third year. He oversees the Christian Men's Network there. Hates the cold, but loves the warmth of the church he serves.*

Colac Has Its First Centenary in 100 Years

...and they're still celebrating

• Celebrating Colac's centenary

Visitors came from as far away as Queensland and Tasmania to celebrate with the **Colac, Vic,** church throughout our centenary celebration weekend 6–8 March. The whole weekend was a great success as we recalled and reminisced about many great events from the distant, and not-too-distant, past. People returned who were in the fellowship here over 60 years ago, while others who had only moved away 18 months ago also returned.

We began the weekend with a "Memories and Munchies" night, which saw many of the old relics, record books and photos brought out for all to view. On the same evening our young people had a concert in the local Memorial Square, where **Merelyn Watson** and her band entertained the local youth.

Saturday morning saw a bus tour of the local area with the sights and new developments being explained by our local tourist information personality, **Ian Burnett**. Saturday afternoon was a reflection time down by the Colac Lake. We reconsidered the first calling of Jesus' disciples as we sat by the peaceful water in the beautiful Autumn sunshine. We were also entertained with some musical items by **Clive Doak** and mimes by **"God's Clowns"**.

Then it was time for our celebration dinner that evening with over 100 adults and 20 children enjoying the entertainment from **"Kairos"** (a musical group from **Mildura**) and **Mrs Flynn**. It was a great night as several of the previous student ministers, ministers, and members recalled some of their experiences, many of which were extremely humorous.

Sunday morning saw well over 200 gather in the local Civic Hall for our celebration worship service, where "Kairos" ministered by their music, **Anne Lane** and **Suzanne Bath** led the time of praise and worship, our own local minister **David Horne** shared around the Lord's Table with eight of our young people serving and **Ian Allsop** gave the message.

After the service there was a time of eating and fellowship held back at the church hall, where many old memories came alive for people. Photographs needed to be taken, and they were, by our local photographer, **Bob Baillie**, who was kept busy all weekend.

Throughout the weekend souvenirs were sold and drawings of our church buildings (which were on several of our souvenirs) were done by **Wendy Westlake** and **Joy McPadden**, while our secretary **Anne Box** spent countless hours compiling and printing our booklet for the occasion. **Murray** and **Norma Selwood** returned to help with setting up and cleaning up as well.

Sunday evening came and it was our most recent minister who shared in the gospel message. **Alf White**, with many years of experience and maturity, shared with us the message of love. Our young people ministered through their music while Suzanne Bath once again led the time of praise and worship. Supper was arranged by **Jill Robb**. Then it was time to clean up.

The weekend was over but the celebrations continue as we move quickly into our second century. —David Horne

• Bev and Alf White cut the birthday cake

Coping with VCE

Help with studies appreciated

• Ringwood students getting good advice

The light at the end of the tunnel became brighter for 15 VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education) students on 22 May. **Jonathan Moore**, student minister at the **Ringwood, Vic,** church, organised a **"Coping with VCE"** night where students enjoyed tea together, then listened to guest speakers give coping tips.

Debbie Wilkins, a VCE teacher and librarian, pointed out helpful and harmful characteristics she had noted in people who are studying. Her husband **Dave** is a VCE coordinator, so he encouraged the students to follow realistic long-term and short-term goals. An occupational therapist, **Andrea Salmon**, taught relaxation exercises. She gave tips on ways in which students should take care of themselves, including the importance of a suitable work environment. Jonathan Moore let the young adults know of the various types of help available for them in the church family, including tutoring and emotional support. As Jonathan put it, it shouldn't be "sink or swim" for the VCE students, and this "Coping with VCE" night was an effective way to prevent that.

—Rachel Thomas

SWAT Campaign

Making the alcohol industry pay for its damage

The recently formed pressure group **SWAT (Society Without Alcoholic Trauma)** is trying to change the attitude of society and the legislators regarding alcohol.

It is campaigning to cut the costs of alcohol abuse to Australian society by making the liquor industry itself pay for the damage it does and by reducing the alcohol abuse itself. SWAT sees that there are three main approaches that could be made to the problem: through education, through the courts or by legislation.

Those involved with SWAT see that education programs are long-term projects and often it is difficult to evaluate their results. There are already several groups involved in various education programs regarding alcohol. They are also concerned that we as a nation appear to be losing the fight and thus alternative approaches may need to be adopted.

The two approaches with the greatest prospects of success lie with political pressure and by pursuing the liquor industry through the courts. There are several court cases at various stages of progress that are claiming damages from the liquor industry for alcohol abuse. Many of these cases are being fought in New South Wales and at least one involves an Aboriginal and his fight for justice after suffering from alcohol abuse.

If a similar case to those involving passive smoking were to succeed then this would have a tremendous impact on all areas of the liquor industry.

The main area that SWAT is concentrating on at present is putting pressure on Federal politicians. They believe that if they can come up with the names of at least 100,000 Australians who favour reform of laws to ensure that the industry pays for the ills it causes then politicians will start to take note and pressure will build. Currently they have over 55,900 names and addresses of such Australians and their immediate aim is 100,000 names and addresses although 500,000 names and addresses would have even a larger impact on our politicians.

Currently one of the economic catchcries of many areas in society is to make the user pay. If the users of alcohol and the gainers of profits of the alcohol trade were to pay for the costs of alcohol abuse in Australia then that would mean a large sum of government funds available for other pressing needs.

It would also mean that the costs being passed on would probably deter many potential abusers of alcohol. Advertising campaigns such as those against drink driving could well be funded by the industry in much the same way that the anti-smoking campaigns are now funded by taxes on tobacco.

It is estimated that the annual costs to society of the misuse of alcohol in Australia is over $6,000m. This is calculated from such areas as the costs of workplace accidents associated with alcohol, costs to the health system from alcohol abuse, the loss of production because of people affected by alcohol, the costs in social services through deaths and disabilities caused by alcohol.

Currently the Government raises some $1.7 billion in taxes on the alcohol industry but the costs to society run at over $7.8 billion.

SWAT is looking for names and addresses. Do you wish to help? SWAT is not arguing for the total prohibition of alcohol or for people to become total abstainers from alcohol. They are primarily concerned that the alcohol industry pays its share of the costs of this drug on society.

Names and addresses of people who support SWAT's aims should be sent to Society Without Alcohol Trauma, 1st Floor, 15 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000.

Bible Society Move

New Bible House in Victoria

• Ian Whitelock, Ian Allsop, Brian Good (Bible Society State Director), Max Carter, Roger Hollard and Pam Bowers in the archival display area of Bible House

Churches of Christ people have been making a significant contribution to the life and ministry of the **Bible Society in Victoria** for the past 30 years.

Three of the past four chairman of committees were from Churches of Christ—**Bob Geyer** (1961–1982), **Gordon Scambler** (1982–1987) and **Ian Whitelock**, who is the current chairman. (Ian is minister at Chelsea.) Gordon was also President of the BSIV in 1990–91. Each of them also served additional years as committee members.

Current staff members of the BSIV include Finance Manager **Roger Hollard** (minister at **Berwick** 1970–72), Secretary to the State Director **Pam Bowers** (minister at **Stawell** 1974–79, **Kaniva** 1980–84, **Frankston** 1985–90) and Receptionist **Adele Geyer**. Until recently, **Milton Oliver** (minister at **Sunbury**), worked part time.

The immediate past Conference President, **Max Carter**, and the Conference Secretary, **Ian Allsop**, recently visited the new **Bible House at 85 Burwood Highway, Burwood**, which was dedicated to the glory of God in February this year.

Since 1910 the Bible Society had operated from **241 Flinders Lane**. For the past 10 years, a separate wholesale and resource department had operated in Auburn. In early 1991 a number of factors coalesced to convince the committee that it was time to move to new premises—the benefits of being under one roof, the very low property prices, an ageing city building, changes in Melbourne's demography, and access to the city.

The top floor of the new Bible House houses the administration, and includes an attractive conference room with adjacent kitchen. This facility is available for use by outside organisations. The ground floor houses the very attractive display and resource area, an archival display and the wholesale warehouse. You are welcome to visit at any time.

The Bible Shop will continue to operate at 241 Flinders Lane for the foreseeable future. The staff there will handle general enquiries or receive donations for the society, as well as at Burwood.

At the February dedication service, the committee chairman, Ian Whitelock, launched the **Bible House Building Fund Appeal**, a project of the 175th anniversary celebration of the Bible Society. Donations to this appeal may be sent to **Bible House, Private Bag 6500, Burwood 3125.**

Chaplains in the Army

Bob Smith gets closer to his commander

Chaplain Bob Smith had his annual combat fitness test (CFT) recently.

This test, taken while dressed in combat order of boots, packs, two full water bottles and rifle, consists of four separate tests, each with a time limit attached and carried out in a continuous sequence:

- Climbing a 6 m rope.
- Scaling a 1.8 m wall, negotiating a series of obstacles, jumping a 1.5 m ditch, crossing further obstacles, then returning to the start by doing all these in reverse.
- Carrying another soldier plus rifle and equipment for 100 m.
- Completing a 15 km run.

Bob, who is senior chaplain of the Australian Army's 2nd Division, passed the test at the recent annual field exercise held at the Gan Gan Training Area.

As a padre Bob would not be involved in combat, but would be required to work and minister in whatever parts of the combat zone his unit or formation was in.

• Bob Smith

Second Division is the Australian Army Reserve's largest formation.

Jim Newton tells how he became a chaplain

The husband of a lady in our congregation was a staff member with our local Army Reserve. Although he was not a churchgoer, he often challenged me to consider a much-needed role with the Reserves—as a chaplain

I have always believed in the philosophy that the church is the servant of Christ, and as our Lord so aptly modelled in his earthly ministry, we ought to be where the people are.

My major concern was not so much the service but the servant. I was in my mid-forties and in a year's time my youngest son was eligible to join the forces himself. Surely my application would be received with great humour and the walls of the Department of Defence would echo with laughter and mirth.

After much agonising and emotional stress, mid-life crisis would not allow me to surrender my youthfulness, or what was left of it, away. So as boldly as I could I took hold of my pen and filled in the appropriate forms and mailed them off to the department.

It came as a surprise when answering the phone on one occasion to hear the voice of Major Henderson of the Chaplaincy Department asking if he could call in to see me.

The interview went smoothly enough and the greatest achievement of the interview was that I would not be the "Grand Old Grandad" of the Army Reserve.

Having never served in any of the forces, the next 12 months proved to be somewhat of a challenge to me. My whole life was running with all sorts of uncertain feelings. At times the question of "What are you doing?" came back repeatedly. There was that sense of insecurity lurking behind every step I took. I knew I that I had stepped out of my comfort zone. Mind you, after 15 years in ministry, feeling relative easy about what I was doing, I could feel once again some of the uncertainties and relate to the different ones who would come into my office for guidance.

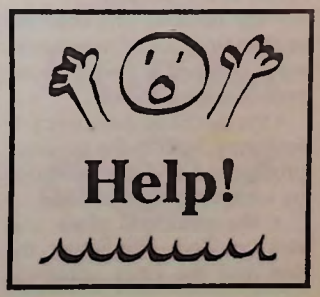
The first night at Pymble 2/17 Royal New South Wales Regiment was where confusion began to reign. I distinctly remember carrying webbing (not yet assembled and in individual pieces), boots, socks, bush hat and many other articles which I had no idea how to wear nor their intended purposes. There was a feeling of excitement also when I was given my equipment, as if all my Christmas presents for the next few years had now been handed to me. Mind you if there was an instruction sheet on the "how to" then no-one was aware of such literature. So in the tradition of being an Australian, that is, "give him a piece of wire and he will fix it", I took up the challenge now set before me. I am sure the lance corporal indiscriminately straightened an innocent private's uniform so as to show this chaplain captain how to present himself as a soldier.

Officer Cadet Training Unit was a most enlightening time as I matched my best with others who were of my own vintage and ability. As we sat in the different lectures there was some consolation as I watched the faces of my colleagues. That same distant look mixed with the uncertainties that I had felt many times myself. We soon realised our common need and began to share with each other the information we had gathered since our acceptance into the Reserve. Twelve months down the track and with a little comprehension of many of the abbreviations, with a knowledge of how to march, salute and what is meant by an SLR (self-loading rifle), I feel as if I can now get on with the challenge of becoming an effective padre.

In all that has been said, what is it that I have learnt? I believe that I need to be available to the men and women I serve showing to them that we are an integral part of the whole effort which includes being seen where the digger is, and feeling as the digger feels.

—Chaplain R.J. (Jim) Newton

• Jim Newton



Living to Please God

New impetus for evangelism in Australia

"Get changed! Get together! Get going!"—that was the challenge evangelist **Leighton Ford** left with the 452 Christians from a wide denominational spectrum who attended the **Australian Forum on Evangelism** at the **Salvation Army's Collaroy Centre**, north of Sydney, NSW, 25–29 May.

"Living to Please God" was the theme of **Archdeacon Peter Adam's** daily Bible studies, and the necessity for the evangelist's life to match his message was a dominant theme of the forum. God's creating and redeeming work in Christ as that which alone brings unity to the diversity of the created order was expounded by Indian-born Christian apologist **Dr Ravi Zacharias** in three major plenary addresses. Reminding his hearers of the three great cultures of the world to which Christ came—Hebrew, Greek and Roman—he said: "The Hebrews looked for light, the Greeks looked for knowledge, the Romans looked for glory. And Paul, in 2 Corinthians 4:6, says: "God, who caused the light to shine out of darkness, made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ"—He is the Gospel, the pursuit of all mankind; all is wrapped up in the Gospel of Christ."

Other major themes of the forum were—

- the urgent need for Christian evangelism in an increasingly secular society;
- the wide diversity of ways in which the Gospel can be presented and the many different ways in which people will respond to the Gospel;
- the need to proclaim the unchanging Gospel message in ways that are relevant to our ever-changing society;
- the truth and sufficiency of Scripture, both in the message proclaimed and the methods by which it is proclaimed;
- the principal place and work of God—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—in evangelism.

Bishop John Reid, of South Sydney, speaking on "A Multi-faceted Gospel", said that getting Aussies into heaven was no easy task. He compared the three different presentations of the one Gospel made by Matthew, Luke and Paul as each related the Gospel to the Jew and the Gentile. Then he challenged the forum to be creative in proclaiming the Gospel, grounding it in history, but applying it to those today who experience futility in their lives, those who lack hope and those who have lost a sense of family.

Bishop Paul Barnett, of North Sydney, spoke on evangelism that is apostolic. Genuine evangelism today is an extension of Paul's apostolic ministry. Evangelism is eternal in its effect on both believers and unbelievers, and it is imperative that we recover a belief in the reality of heaven and hell to do evangelism effectively.

Phillip Jensen, Anglican Chaplain to the University of NSW and Rector of St Matthias', Centennial Park, sought to place the work of the evangelist into the Australian context, noting how difficult it is to break through the Australian psyche. One particular difficulty is that to contend for truth in these days is to be labelled "divisive". This places a heavy responsibility on the evangelist to do everything for the glory of God, to do nothing that would cause another to stumble, to try to please everyone in every way, yet not to suit ourselves for other's sakes. The real context for the proclamation of the Gospel is always that of fallen humanity outside of Eden, and to understand people we must start with what the Bible says, as the Bible addresses the fundamentals of human nature, not the peripherals. The pursuit of religion and the pursuit of Christ are two different things—to pursue religion is to attempt to escape from God, but to pursue Christ is to turn to God.

A Challenge to Traditionalism

Is something right just because "we've always done it that way"? Is something wrong just because "we've never done that before"?

Barry McMurtrie of the **Wollongong, NSW, Church of Christ**, challenged those present to examine the way things have always been done to see whether or not the old ways are still the best ways to do the work of an evangelist.

He confessed to being "not too keen on 'big' evangelism, not often given to making altar calls, not much of an academic". Yet he has seen churches grow under his ministry, particularly his present church, which has grown from about 100 to about 1,600 members, and has just built a large new church complex. About 60% of the growth has been by people coming to faith in Christ, and about 40% has been by transfer.

Two great problems he sees confronting the church today are that so many Christians have lost the concept of the lostness of the lost, and too many Christians are like "corn-pickers in a wheat field"—using inappropriate methods to reap the harvest, which is just waiting to be gathered in.

Barry told of his own early experiences: "I did a lot of fiery preaching, but after the smoke cleared, very few came into salvation!" So he went door-knocking to find out why people don't go to church. He discovered that most people believed in God, some even read the Bible, but they couldn't see any advantage in going to church. "They liked the product, but they didn't like the retail outlet," he said.

He pleaded for church properties to be more user friendly and every attempt to be made to get people onto the property, using a multitude of activities that satisfy their interests so that when they have a deep need they will know where to come seeking help in a non-threatening environment. When they eventually start coming to services, those who lead them need to speak to people's needs so that worship has genuine relevance to what is going on in the world. The lifestyle of the Christian and the atmosphere of worship must be such that people are forced to the conclusion that "these people have got something that I want, and I want to know how to get it".

"Soul-winning," he said, "is a fundamental activity of the church. And the church grows when people bring their friends. And people bring their friends when they know their friends won't be embarrassed by what goes on. And their friends will come when they know that the church displays an attitude of non-judgmental love."

The Australian Forum on Evangelism was sponsored by the **United Evangelistic Council of NSW**, whose members are drawn from the Anglican, Baptist, Brethren, Congregational, Presbyterian and Uniting Churches, Churches of Christ and the Salvation Army.

Audio and video cassettes of all sessions are available from Audio Advice, PO Box 288, Riverstone 2765, phone (02) 627 1895, fax (02) 627 5018.

—Bob Thomas

• **Michael Adamson**

Michael Adamson, minister of the **Morebank, NSW**, church, was a participant at the forum. Michael says, "With the key speakers and workshop leaders being Australian, the forum shows that we have the people to give the church effective evangelism for the future. Australians need to stop making excuses for our churches and start doing the hard work of evangelism."

What Is Wes Beavis Doing Now?

Itinerant music ministry

• Wes Beavis

After seven years as Barry McMurtrie's associate minister at the Wollongong, NSW, church, Wes Beavis has gone, with Barry's and the church's highest blessing, into an itinerant music ministry. At Wollongong he was minister in charge of music and worship. Wes felt a leading of the Lord to get out into our Australian churches and help them achieve what they had discovered to be possible at Wollongong.

Don Smith has recognised him as a consultant to the Australian Board of Church Development & Education. Since the beginning of the year Wes has ministered in NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. In the next two months he will be ministering in Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia and NSW.

Wes was signed by a record company last December. The Southern Heartland Music Company is the Australian subsidiary of Maranatha Music International. Wes's debut album, "On the Way to the Wedding", has just been released and is available on cassette and compact disc. (A review will appear in a later issue.)

Wes's current ministry involves concerts, church services and consultancies.

One of Wes's visions is to help the local church identify and pursue its potential for vitality through relevant music and worship. He believes every church has been given the capability of creating vibrant and magnetic worship. The key is not talent but vision. To help churches with this vision he can conduct a worship and music workshop, "The heART of Worship", for a local congregation.

Wes will be singing at the Northside Community Church, NSW, on 7 July, singing and preaching at the Berkely, NSW, Apostolic Church on 12 July and then holding concerts and preaching at the Hobart, Tas, church 15–22 July followed by workshops and a concert at the Marion, SA, church 26–31 July.

If anyone wants to contact Wes they can write to him c/o Powerborn, PO Box 192, Figtree 2525. Phone (042) 71 7555 or 72 1411 (AH).

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Doug Good Murdered

Fremantle's sad loss

It is with sadness that we report that Doug Good, minister of the Fremantle, WA, church was murdered on 3 June.

His body was discovered in the dining-room of the manse at about 7 am after a man in a blood-spattered shirt walked into the nearby police station. He accompanied police to the manse and was then taken to Perth for questioning.

Hassan Baharestan, an Iranian living in Hilton, was charged with wilful murder. Police allege Doug was murdered at about 6.30 am after an argument.

Doug was a graduate of the College of the Bible and had almost completed six years of ministry at the Fremantle church, following 15 years of ministry with the Bruce Rock and Merredin churches in WA. Doug had been very busy helping the Fremantle church prepare for its centenary celebrations later this year.

Doug was known for the assistance he gave to refugees, including many from Iran. The manse was always open to people in need and Doug often had refugees stay with him in the manse.

At this time the exact reasons for the murder are unknown.

An obituary will appear in a later issue.

• Doug Good

Birthday Honours

Robert Leane and Clive Ward

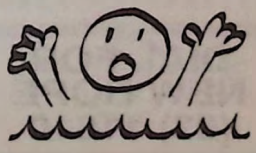
Two prominent members of Churches of Christ were honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Robert Raymond Leane of South Australia and Clive Langridge Ward of Victoria were both made Members of the Order of Australia, General Division (AM), and both were cited for services to the community.

Robert Leane has just completed a two-year term as President of Conference in South Australia. His citation was for his many years of service to the St John Ambulance Service, his involvement with the Independent Schools Board (Executive Officer or Director since the board's inception in 1974) and for his service to Churches of Christ.

Clive Ward was also recognised for three areas of service. He is currently President of the Box Hill Hospital Board, a position he has held since 1984. Clive also had over 15 years active involvement with the Essendon Football Club. Clive has also been very active in Churches of Christ both in Victoria and nationally. He was for many years Victorian Conference Secretary and is currently National Conference President.

Full details will appear in our next issue.

Help a...



Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 200 words

More on Curkpatrick

To the Editor,

After reading Stephen Curkpatrick's article, "Faith Speaking to Faith" ("AC" 23 May), there are two things which I think should be said in your columns.

The first concerns the apparent discrepancies in the gospel accounts of the resurrection. The finest work I know on this subject is John Wenham's book *Easter Enigma* (Paternoster Press, 1984) subtitled "Are the Resurrection Stories in Conflict?" He demonstrates in a masterly way that the gospel writers were competent and truthful witnesses, as Luke said in his preface.

The second concern is the very nature of faith. In an appendix on "Gospel Criticism" John Wenham observes that "the current analytical approach to the gospels often has the effect of making scholars more and more uncertain at more and more points, till eventually their view of Jesus and his teaching is lost in haze".

"Faith Speaking to Faith" reflects what we are left with by that whole trend in scholarship which has sought to divorce "the Christ of faith" from "the Jesus of history". The major contribution of Francis Schaeffer in this 20th century has been to show where the roots of theological liberalism really lie, and why it leaves us with a faith which is finally only an irrational, existential leap in the dark.

—Bill Gaunson
(Waikiki, WA)

Thanks

To the Editor,

I am writing to thank members of the various churches who have been praying for Steve's recovery after his motorcycle accident. We thank God for the miracle of Steve's recovery, and we thank each and every one of you for your caring and love shown to Steve and our family over this period of time.

We would like to celebrate with all of you on Sunday, 5 July, at 12.30 pm at the Ascot Vale Church of Christ Hall, St Leonards Rd, Ascot Vale. Please come and have lunch with us, so that we can join together in thanks and praise.

—Anice Curlis
(North Essendon, Vic.
Phone (03) 379 8502)

Good on You Swanston Street

To the Editor,

I write to commend the Swanston Street church for its setting apart of 20 members to help the Brunswick and South Yarra churches, once large churches but now through circumstances beyond their control severely reduced in numbers. I remember when it was from Swanston Street that young people went to add strength and leadership to the Ascot Vale church when it was down but not out.

It is exhilarating, and for some very comfortable, to be part of a big church. But thank God some of our big churches have a sense of mission to the once big but now struggling churches that still have great potential. It was with this sense of mission that Doncaster has set aside Don and Tops Milne for their excellent lay pastoral ministry in Coburg.

In Victoria alone there are 38 such churches, as well as a number of newer churches, needing workers, musicians, visitors, leaders and "missionary families" willing to forego the inspiration of the big exciting services in order to discover the exhilaration of small exciting services.

—Gordon Stirling
(Boronia, Vic)

"Spiritualising" Israel

To the Editor,

It's a long time since we have heard any positive teaching on Old Testament prophecy relative to the "end times".

Why is this? Is the church of Christ suffering from the delusion that now the church is "spiritual Israel"? Therefore all of the good promises made to old national Israel now apply to us, "the body of Christ" on earth, but the bad prophecies for the end times refer only to old Israel and to those who are outside of Christ?

One gathers from today's clergy that our colleges are teaching their students along these lines, for it's such a long time since we've heard any other teaching. The late Ern Hinrichsen taught truthfully about the restoration of Israel as a nation in the "last days", as did quite a number of the older ministers, but not so now.

Today our young ministers look quite blank and seem to be not the slightest bit interested in the restoration of the nation of Israel. "We see the proclamation of the Gospel as our job." True—but some of us wonder that by ignoring the roots of Christianity we are in danger of undermining the strength of the Gospel. Seldom is there any explanation given by our ministers of the Old Testament Sunday readings.

—Gladys Butler
(Bruce Rock, WA)

Unity

To the Editor,

Take heart Max Collyer ("CROP and Unity", "AC" 23 May). People still do have visions. I read in the May issue of *In Unity* that in Seaford, SA, four Christian denominations (Anglican, Catholic, Churches of Christ and Uniting) have agreed to create an ecumenical centre. Rather than establishing separate denominational centres, they will build and work together.

There will be two major functions in the centre, a church or chapel function, and a care or social welfare function.

In the care centre there will be a range of "shops": coffee

DIAL FOR NEW HOPE (03) 11610

Letters from Tertius

"The Girl That I Marry"

To the Editor,

In these days when the TV "soaps" and the glossy "mags" and the sensational novels seem to be succeeding in convincing us that sleeping round is the "in thing", provided you use condoms, and that marriage is a great show with brides in vintage cars or horse-drawn carriages, but don't expect it to last, I am sometimes refreshed when I heard about a couple who have kept themselves for each other until after the wedding.

Maybe I'm an old-fashioned traditionalist, and somewhat sentimental, but I must confess to wiping my eyes, surreptitiously, after I heard of one young man. He wrote a letter to his future bride telling her that he would keep himself for her and for her alone, until the day when they made their common vows to God in church. That moved me, but even more when I discovered that he didn't even have a steady girlfriend at the time, let alone a fiancee. But he knew that when he did take a bride she would have a husband whom she could honour and respect because of his moral commitment.

I fell to thinking that some of the second- and third-hand girls who end up with second- and third-hand guys, would give their right arms to have a husband like that.

I can't understand why the girls, who are in the majority, don't gang up against the guys who want to use them or emotionally blackmail them into taking what isn't theirs. Maybe they would get more guys like the one I've written about if they did.

—Tertius

shops, op shop, drop-in centre and craft shop, plus easy access to a multifunctional hall and meeting rooms. Some of these will be used extensively by governmental welfare agencies and church and community agencies. In the church centre the participating denominations will do all they can together, including shared Christian education classes and liturgical worship. All the facilities will be shared.

I believe it is only as we work together "that the world will believe" and take notice of Christ's teaching. Let's pray that this is only the beginning of many such centres in Australia. —Iris Page (Nunawading, Vic)

Unity of Christians Is?

To the Editor

At National and Vic–Tas Conferences many asked, "What is the **unity** we intend as response to Christ's prayer?" I would like to read others' ideas of this. But as a start may I quote from the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity papers? (My emphases.)

"Churches are called to **face together** the challenges of mission today...to **offer together** a compelling witness to the gospel of Jesus in a world shaped by material values to **offer together** God's vision of one world of peace and justice in a world dominated by economic, political and ideological visions which are indifferent or hostile to that gospel...**called together** to offer a vision in Christ which is fully respectful of local cultures in all their diversity. To **speak out together** against false forms of "mission" which impose the values of one culture upon another...use mass media for manipulation...aim at increasing the size of institutions rather than the faith and understanding of persons... promote not unity but further division among Christians in each place. Churches are called to look beyond the growth of particular churches to the growth, growing together, of **the one Body of Christ**."

—David Allison (Hampton Street, Vic)

Vic–Tas CWF Conference

Women in action

• CWF office bearers Lois Tagg (secretary), Glenys Reaby (president) and Anthea Parker (treasurer)

"God's Women in Action" was the theme chosen by **Stella Carter** as 1991–92 President for the 106th Vic–Tas Women's Conference held 30 April at the Glen Waverley church.

Posies of remembrance were placed on the platform steps as the day of praise, thanksgiving, music and business began. The late **Grace Waterman** was remembered by a special posy.

A special welcome was given to Tasmanian visitors, interchurch guests and past presidents. Tasmanian soloist **Denise Bradley**'s musical contributions were a feature.

That women had been active in God's service was evident in the reports. Cheques were presented to conference departments: CCTC $2,700, OMB $12,000, DMED $3,500, Community Care $3,880, and FAB $3,200. The conference commitment offering of $4,435 was received by **Lois Smith** on behalf of the **Resource and Development Committee** for the future development of CWF. Next year it will be given to the FAB for new toilets at the **Albury Aboriginal Church**.

A recommendation that the Community Care Committee be discontinued and a convenor be appointed to attend to future activities involving Community Care was passed. **Helen Hall** was approved as the new convenor. Trevor Giles thanked the current committee members and presented each lady with a certificate of recognition for their work and years of service.

Eleanor Roberts concluded her five-year term as secretary.

Lynette Leach, Field Director, DMED, was the guest speaker.

Lola Adam conducted an interesting interview with **Nathan and Esther Nhan** concerning their work at **Richmond** with the **Vietnamese Church** and plans for future outreach to Chinese.

Glenys Reaby was inducted as President, and introduced her theme, "In Everything Give Thanks".

A group of seven presented liturgical movement in worship, especially written, prepared and narrated by **Janet Thompson**, and the day of inspiration, fellowship and blessing came to a close.

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ACC Gathering

Biannual meeting

This year Victoria is the host for the biannual general meeting of the Australian Council of Churches. The 13 member churches are represented by delegates from all over Australia. The Churches of Christ delegates are **Ian Allsop, Clive Ward** and **Joan Pye (Vic), Bob Smith (NSW)** and **Tricia Moore (SA).**

There are several meetings that are open to public participation. The council begins with worship on 26 June at St Mary's Anglican Church, North Melbourne, Vic, at 7.30 pm. The preacher will be **Deaconess Margaret Rodgers**, Research Officer of the Anglican General Synod, who is based in Sydney.

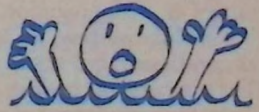
The ACC will be meeting at Ormond College at the University of Melbourne. On 27 June at 7.30 pm the keynote address will be given by **Dr Gunther Gassmann**, Director of the Faith and Order Commission of the WCC, on "The Unity We Seek".

On 28 June a panel discussion on local ecumenism, "In Each Place", will be held at 7.30 pm.

On 29 June an evening will be held that will look back at the WCC Assembly held in Canberra last year and also look forward to the Australian ecumenical gathering planned for January 1993 at Hawkesbury College, Richmond, NSW, "Living under the Southern Cross".

There will be other events also. Details from the VCC office on (03) 853 2000.

Help a mission...



Media Review

Papers

Parenting

by Robyn Richardson (Zadok Reading Guide)

Rejecting the notion that parenting is merely a matter of simple rules for all time, Robyn Richardson takes the reader through a careful selection of the best in modern writing, secular and Christian, on parenting and families, bringing insight, encouragement and confidence to thoughtful parents. Books are listed under Family and Social Issues, What Builds a Healthy Family?, Parenting—General Reading, Parenting Teenagers, Single Parenting, Media and Parenting and Difficult Issues.

Available from the Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society, Blackall St, Barton 2600, phone (06) 273 1634, for $4 plus 90c postage.

Books

Red on Gold

by Nam Phuong (Albatross Books) $14.95

This poignant story of the daughter of a Christian pastor and her family is set against the horror and tragedy of war-torn Vietnam.

During her childhood Nam Phuong's family were caught between the French occupation and the anti-colonialist Viet Minh. There were constant identity checks and midnight arrests. One morning the golden rice fields were reddened by the blood of a gunned-down peasant woman—the red and gold of the title.

Later she worked with an Australian medical team until the terrifying fall of Saigon. Then under the Viet Cong came constant surveillance, re-education camps, interrogations, torture, desperate escape attempts, rice rations and hunger.

Painted against this violent political background are gentle pictures of the country's life and culture—markets, schools, houses, paddy fields smelling sweetly of ripening rice, the pastor working on his sermon, marriage traditions, an overbearing mother-in-law and extended family loyalty. There are fascinating glimpses of a medicine shop, Oriental doctors, the embroiderer on his stool, the Chinese ice-cream man, silkworm delicacies and street vendors. Gradually all is eroded in the aftermath of war until "war is more bearable than liberation and peace". On her seventh attempt Nam Phuong escapes as a boat person.

This warm, courageous story is relevant reading in the light of race relations and the continuing immigration debate. The author, now an Australian citizen, surely enhances our multicultural society. She feels she has found green pastures in Australia. I suspect she carries the green pastures within her.

—Margaret Aird

[Nam Phuong is a member of the Nunawading, Vic, church.]

The Inviting Church

A Study of New Member Assimilation

by Roy M. Oswald and Speed B. Leas (The Alban Institute)

It is one matter attracting visitors to a church and another matter encouraging them to return. It is even a more difficult process encouraging new ones to become active and growing members of a congregation. Recently, after some thorough research at Nunawading, we learnt that we do well in the first two areas mentioned, but not as well in the third.

That is where *The Inviting Church* by Oswald and Leas will be a helpful resource for our congregation. The authors remind us of the internal and external factors that influence the development of a church and then encourage congregations to "act according to their size" as far as an approach to assimilation is concerned.

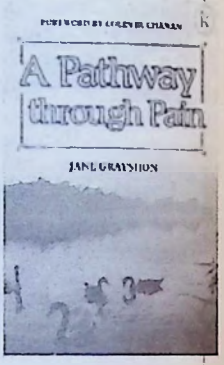
The authors encourage an approach that goes beyond "finding a niche" for a new worshipper. Their research indicates that churches can be coy about spelling out the expectations for worshippers and are just as reluctant to encourage new worshippers in a path of spiritual development. There are helpful suggestions for churches that are interested in repeating the research procedures of Oswald and Leas in their own congregations.

Even if church leaders do not adopt all the suggestions in the book, they will find that they are challenged to think in terms of making the transition of joining a new church or discovering new faith a more exciting and stimulating event for the new worshipper.

—E.C. Keating

A Pathway through Pain

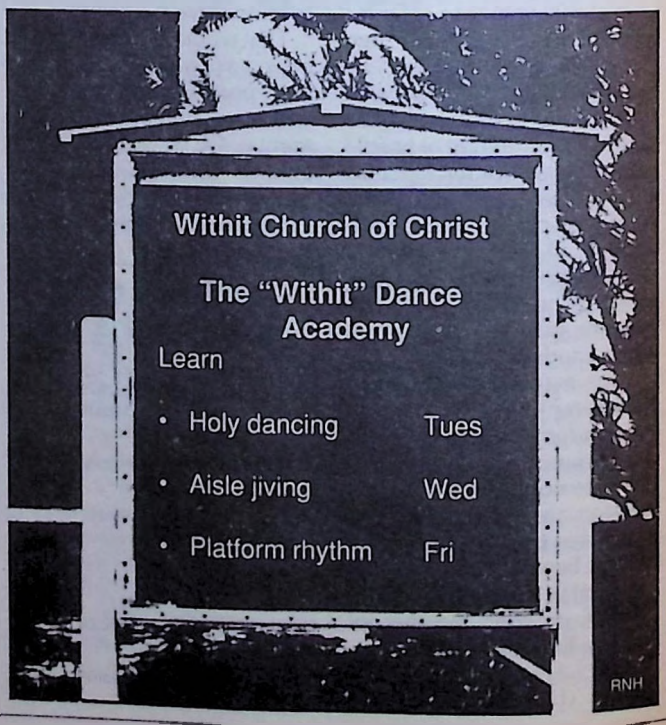
by Jane Grayshon (Kingsway Publications)



This autobiography should help those who read it understand the difficulty of pain and keeping faith through pain and suffering just a little better. Jane Grayshon is a bright young lady who had a very successful career and a young family. She suffers from a chronic illness and continually suffers great physical pain. This is her story and how she has coped and the spiritual battles she has had to suffer. We join her and her husband and rejoice in the great times together and then plunge into the depths of despair.

Jane Grayshon makes some interesting observations at times on dealing with pain and the pressures of expecting healing that some Christians have. She also makes some telling comments on how those who care for the ill act and on the way visitors bring or do not bring comfort. These insights, which are scattered through the book, should be read and digested by all who visit the sick.

A well-written and informative autobiography. —CRA



World News

Bibles for Russia...

Churches writing the Bible

Thousands of Bible verses are pouring off the pens of writers all over Australia as churches of every denomination become involved in the **Bible Society's Handwritten Bible Project**. The project aims to raise enough money to put at least 360,000 Bibles into the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) this year.

Church co-ordinators are finding a growing enthusiasm once the project begins in their church, and people personally experience actually "doing something" for people without Bibles.

Over 700 congregations and many schools, camps and other groups have been, or are about to be, involved in handwriting verses of the Bible. In South Australia churches and groups have committed themselves to writing the whole New Testament, Psalms, Proverbs and, so far, 20% of Genesis. Tasmania has 45 congregations participating.

Church co-ordinators in NSW, **Anne** and **Don Fry**, wrote, "A very high proportion of our congregation participated and we even had a 6-year-old and two people suffering from cerebral palsy writing verses. These are very precious verses indeed." Their church had somehow been allocated too many verses, but then they were given a cheque for $1,000 from a couple who had been praying for quite some time about where the money should be given.

On the way home from the Bible Society, in a taxi driven by a Roman Catholic, one church co-ordinator shared the project and finished up handing over her church's kit because the taxi driver was so keen to involve his own church!

Contact the Bible Society office in any state to participate in this unique program of writing and providing the Word of God for the former Soviet Union. Literally millions of people are still waiting—two years after "glasnost"—for their own copy of the Bible.

...and Albania

Need for 60,000 Bibles

"The Albanian culture is almost devoid of references to Christianity. Words like "baptism" and the "cross" are not used; even references to before Christ and *anno Domini* in the Albanian calendar were changed," says **Dr Valdo Bertalot**, **General Secretary of the Bible Society in Italy**. "But prohibition of all religious life has bred a great curiosity for Christianity among young Albanians.

"Christianity is also seen as a point of reference after the total collapse of the atheistic-Marxist culture. Many people are culturally and spiritually confused and the time is right to restore the Bible in Albania, because it has become almost unknown," says Dr Bertalot.

There is therefore an urgent need to supply the Bible and Bible reading materials to Albania, not only to churches there, but also to schools, colleges, and libraries.

"There is a whole generation of Albanians under 25 who have no knowledge of the Bible," he said. Of the country's 3.3 million population, half is under 25 years old, and 1 million are under 18.

Although Christians in Albania present only 30% of the population and there are relatively few evangelical Christians, their number is on the increase and they have now established an evangelical theological college. Not having church buildings they meet in sports halls.

"With the UBS receiving requests for foreign Scriptures from the Roman Catholics, and unofficial estimates of the need for 30,000 Albanian Bibles, the UBS anticipates distributing at least 60,000 Scriptures in Albania throughout 1992," said **Terje Hartberg**, a UBS Publishing Consultant.

People

Mark Butler for Mitcham in 1993

Eager expectation

• Mark and Nicola Butler with Daniel and Andrew

Mark Butler, with his wife **Nicola** and two children, **Daniel** and **Andrew**, will commence a full-time ministry with the **Mitcham, Vic**, church on 7 February 1993 for an initial term of five years.

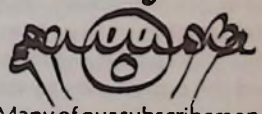
Mark grew up in **Canberra** and was in active membership with the churches there. On leaving school he qualified as a Registered Nurse Grade 1, then several years later took a position with Cardiac and Surgical Australia, advancing to branch manager.

He entered CCTC at Mulgrave in 1989 and commenced a course of studies toward a Diploma of Ministry/Bachelor of Theology. In 1990 he began a student ministry with the **Dandenong** church, and currently is student minister at the **Bellarine Peninsula** church. He expects to graduate and be ordained at the end of 1992.

The Mitcham church is looking forward with eager expectation to the commencement of his ministry.

—M. Wright

Help a missionary!



Many of our subscribers and churches help our missionaries overseas by paying for a subscription or part of a subscription to *The Australian Christian*. The "AC" helps our missionaries know what is going on at home—something they appreciate very much. If you or your church would like to help, phone Shirley Wallis on (03) 379 1219 now!

Drought, famine, flood, cyclone, politics and recession ...and now for the good news.

In spite of everything partnership between Churches of Christ in Zimbabwe, India, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Fiji (we pray) and Australia still goes and grows on.

Promoting partnership —new missionaries reflect.

It has only been a short while that we have lived in Papua New Guinea, but one fact is very evident here.

Our observations of the national people and their way of life are that they rely greatly on the jungle as their life-support system. For the majority of nationals subsistence farming is still practised. They live in harmony with the jungle and without it they could not accomplish their tasks or sustain life. They use natural materials for building houses, firewood, making baskets, canoes, cooking utensils, nets, bilums and many other household articles. As well as this they also put much time and effort into preparing and cultivating a garden in order to maintain a food source.

I would venture to draw a parallel between this observation and the partnership in mission. As people here are dependent on the jungle for their life support, we on the mission field depend on all of you at home to support us.

Your prayer support, financial support, correspondence and encouragement are essential for us to be able to accomplish our task of representing Christ in another country.

Just as the nationals also prepare and cultivate a garden for the purpose of maintaining their food source, we too share in the responsibility of planting and cultivating a partnership and friendship with our support groups at home.

Last year it was a great privilege for Gary and myself to have the opportunity of visiting and speaking at many different churches in southern Queensland. It is a great strength and encouragement to us to know that we have the support of those churches, plus many others throughout Australia that we have not had the opportunity to visit.

You are our life support system. It is through the strength of Jesus Christ that you can strengthen and support us and we in turn can do the same for the national church in Papua New Guinea.

We praise God for your partnership in mission.

—Pam Hine

Promoting partnership —a national perspective.

This is a story about two national Christian workers and a white missionary, Stephen Curkpatrick. Stephen is a missionary who came to work as a church adviser under the PNG Conference in the Bunam area. When Stephen came to Bunam he was very keen to have someone to work in partnership with him to visit the churches and hold workshops for pastors. So he got two men to work with him. One was Gromnari Yokai, and the other was Owari Brom. I, Gromnari, am from a different village and language from Owari. Stephen too came from another country. But we three became partners in the work.

When Stephen took us around to the churches, he taught us how to give Bible studies, and other things to help people get Life. And he taught us how to run a pastors' workshop, too. We were like his apprentices, and we were very happy to work with him.

Once, Stephen left Bunam and went to the village of Sori to hold a pastors' workshop. He travelled by motor canoe. Some other pastors came with us. It was the first pastors' workshop in the Bunam area that the three of us worked in together. About thirty pastors were there. We were all very glad to get together and learn together.

At the end of the meeting, we all set out for our homes. But by then the creek we had come through had dried up. We couldn't use the motor. We just had to paddle. This white man didn't just sit and watch, he got a paddle and paddled with us black men. I didn't think it was right for someone from another country to paddle—I thought he should just watch. But Stephen didn't agree—he showed me that we should bear our burdens together.

As we paddled, we came to a very big tree that blocked the creek. Everyone in the canoe had to get out in the water to pull the canoe across. My thinking was still the same. I thought Stephen should just sit in the canoe while we pulled it. But Stephen didn't want to—he got out and helped too.

This showed me that we all have to work together.

—Anton Gromnari

July is your opportunity to be involved in promoting partnership as you give to the work of the Overseas Mission Board.

OMB
Overseas Mission Board

Happenings

A recent Gallup poll indicates Protestant Christianity is gaining on Buddhism in South Korea. But Catholics, with fewer members, are growing faster than both. In the last 5 years Catholics have increased nearly 25%, compared to about 12% for Protestants and 11% for Buddhists. Buddhist devotees total about 21% of South Korea's population, followed by Protestants at about 20% and Catholics 7%. The survey also showed that many Catholics and Protestants still believe in Korean "folk customs".

Christian television may become a reality in New Zealand as early as next year, with 2 projects under development. UCB International, which purchased the rights to one of 7 UHF national television networks 2 years ago, hopes to have a station up and running in Auckland by next year. Also, Lifeway Ministries hopes to start a small Christian television station as part of a new media training course at its Bible school. The 2 stations will not be in competition; it is envisaged that Lifeway Ministries will assist the UCB channel by providing some program material and training personnel.

In Fuyang, a remote, somewhat backward area of Northern Anhui province in China, the number of church members mushroomed from 28,000 in 1979 to 217,000 in 1989. Christian work there was mainly pioneered by the China Inland Mission (now Overseas Missionary Fellowship). By 1949 there were 23 churches with 29,000 Christians. Following the Communist victory numbers shrank under pressure to 8,000 in 1958 and only 5,000 by 1965 just before the Cultural Revolution. Then all formal church activities ceased. Since the resumption of church activities in 1979 the church has multiplied by 700%. There are now 153 churches and 985 simple meeting places in Fuyang. In contrast, no Buddhist or Taoist temples have reopened and so Christians face no competition from other faiths. The whole area has only 6 pastors and 4 elders and most of these leaders are quite old.

A priest in San Antonio, Texas, has sought an injunction against a parishioner. At Our Lady of Sorrows Church, one member insisted on singing loudly during the service. The problem was not the volume but the songs. Apparently the woman's selections were not listed in the order of worship. "We don't mind her coming to church," the priest, Alexander Wangler, said. "We just want her to sing the same thing as everyone else."

Burning with anger after being accused of singing out of tune, a choir member in Louisville, Kentucky, allegedly threw liquid drain cleaner in a fellow choir member's face. The alleged perpetrator, who had been accused by the choir director of singing off key, apparently blamed the victim for singing a sour note. The victim was treated for facial burns and 5 other choir members sustained minor injuries.

Doug MacFarlane recently completed an extensive gospel tour through Northern NSW, which saw more than 1,500 challenged by the gospel message, with many responding to make first-time commitments. Doug has just released his new album "Song of Justice", which should be available at Christian bookshops. Doug is undertaking a tour of Queensland in late July and August. Details of concerts and the availability of the album "Song of Justice" from Doug MacFarlane, PO Box 2106, Wollongong 2500. Phone (042) 85 2999. Fax (042) 56 4670.

Joseph Hunting, well-known as the founder and director of the David House Fellowship, *died on 5 June. We hope to print an obituary in a later issue.*

The 5th Christians in Sports National Conference is being held 31 August–2 September at the Sports Leisure Resort, Pioneer Rd, Fairy Meadow, Wollongong, NSW. Included in the program will be the official opening of Sanctuary Lodge and the SLM annual banquet at which the 1992 Friend of SLM Award will be presented. Conference fees are $140, which includes 3 nights accommodation. Details from National Office, SLM, Sanctuary Lodge, Ted Hunt Terr, Moruya 2537. Phone (and fax) (044) 74 3554.

The East Keilor, Vic, church has invited Rev Dr Gordon Powell AM, to preach on 2 August at 10.30 am in the second of their series "Great Modern Preachers". Now 82, retired and living in Doncaster, Dr Powell continues to inspire people with writing, preaching and speaking. Dr Powell has published 14 books, with over 400,000 copies sold. As a broadcaster he was heard every week for 30 years until 1984 on up to 21 radio stations across the country. Dr Powell conducted the first church service seen on television in Australia. For more details on the service contact Ron Schepis on (03) 336 7129 or (03) 336 2484.

A number of workshops in Biblical storytelling will be the focus of a visit to Adelaide by New Testament scholar Dr Thomas Boomershine. The visit is co-sponsored by the Bible Society in Australia and the Network of Biblical Storytellers. The first workshop, "Storytelling in the Marketplace", will be in two self-contained parts on 31 July (7.30–10 pm) and 1 August (9.30 am–12.30 pm) at the Morialta Uniting Church. A further workshop more specifically for those ministering with children is being held on 2 August (2.30–4 pm) at the Blackwood Uniting Church. Those interested in attending should contact Rev Dean Davidson of Morialta Uniting Church on (08) 365 3077, the Lay Education Centre of the Uniting Church on (08) 272 3458 or the Bible Society on (08) 223 3833 for details.

13 were killed and others injured in clashes between Muslims and Christians in the upper Egyptian village of Sanabu on 4 May. According to press reports, the clashes were caused by long-standing feuds between people of the two religions.

For more than 10 years Marjery Baker has been on the NSW state unit of Australian Church Women. During that time she has been President-Elect, President, Immediate Past President and now remains the Churches of Christ representative on the State Executive. At the recent installation of Phyl McKinnirey as State President a presentation was made to Marjery for her involvement.

Pat Robertson, the US television evangelist who is about to take control of news agency United Press International, says the acquisition might be a "little opportunity" for God to touch society. Pat Robertson made a successful $US6m bid for the 85-year-old news agency.

In New Zealand an ecumenical edition of the Presbyterian–Methodist newspaper, *Crosslink*, looking at how churches are responding to the decade of evangelism, is expected to reach hundreds of thousands of Christians. The special 28-page issue will be distributed in Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Churches of Christ, Methodist, Presbyterian, Seventh-Day Adventist and some Pentecostal churches during June.

As from 26 May the new telephone number for Sydney City Mission's Missionbeat 24-Hour Emergency Street Patrol Service is (02) 319 6211. Anyone seeing a person or family in distress should call that number for assistance. Missionbeat was founded in January 1980 following the decriminalisation of drunkenness and vagrancy by the NSW Government. More than 24,000 pickups are currently made annually. Missionbeat provides access to a vast range of accommodation and support services.

A former vice-president of the Evangelical Church of West Africa and a regional leader of the Christian Association of Nigeria are some of several pastors killed in the recent Muslim–Christian clashes in Nigeria. An estimated 500 are believed to have died. The rioting, which began on 15 May, was reportedly sparked by a dispute over the relocation of a marketplace. The fighting was between the Muslim Hausas and the Christian Katafs.

Two years after the collapse of the communist regime of Ceausescu in Romania, a Christian university has been opened. 27 April saw the ground-breaking ceremony on the 12 acre property that will be the campus of this liberal arts institution of 1,000 students. Nearly 200 students have already enrolled and are studying in rented premises. The Romanian Missionary Society is sponsoring the university.

The Bundamba, Qld, church is holding its annual Spring Fair, which also includes the other churches of the West Morton region, again this year, on 17 October, in the grounds and buildings of the church, commencing at 10 am. This year's fair will aid the Qld Aborigines and Islanders Christian Fellowship. On the following evening at 6 pm a special thanksgiving service will be held, followed by a basket tea.

Les Lawlor says...

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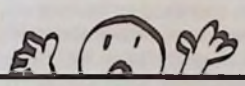
Did you help?

See page 11.



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Classifieds

ENGAGEMENTS

DAVIDSON—CHISLETT Lynda Margaret Davidson of Croydon and Glen Kingsley Chislett of Boundary Bend were overjoyed to announce their engagement on 11 June. The wedding is planned for 22 August 1992.

EWOLD—REES Birgit and David are pleased to announce their engagement in Germany.

MUNRO—MEREDITH Auralie and Brian Munro of Mildura have pleasure in announcing the engagement of their daughter Susan to Neale, son of Gwen and Brian Robinson, and Robert Meredith of Sydney.

DEATHS

GOOD Douglas. Died 3 June, Fremantle, WA. Loved younger son of the late Aleck and Ellen Good, Long Plains, SA, stepson of Dulcie Good, Portarlington, Vic.

LAYTON Dorothy (Dolly) On 25 May 1992 at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital. Aged 84 years. Loved wife of Jim (deceased). Loved and loving mother of Dick and Barbara, Wendy and Allan. Much-loved grandmother of Jenny and Meg, Sandra, Robyn, David, Jonathon and Kerrie. Love she gave, love she received.

IN MEMORIAM

HARTNEY Jim. 22 June 1987. Sunshine passes, and shadows fall;/But love and memories outlast them all. Your ever-loving wife Betty.

JONES Dr Lloyd Edwin. Precious loving memories of our dear husband, father and Grandy, who passed away to be with his Lord, 24 June 1986—Isabella, David, Wendy and family. Still missed, but the fruit of his labours continue—*praise* be to God, whom we thank for every treasured memory.

KERRISON Harold James. Called home 4 July 1988. Time hurries on but we cannot forget. We will see you in the morning. Love from your loving "girls". M. Kerrison.

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12 July *Experimentation with Living Human Tissue*
Speaker: Dr Bernard Clarke (Director Bio-Ethics Dept, St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne)

19 July *Organ Transplantation*
Speaker: Roy E. Knudson (Education Consultant, Aust. Kidney Foundation)

26 July *Euthanasia*
Speaker: Dr Trevor Banks (Medical Consultant to Geelong Hospice)

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News

Worship at Tuggeranong

The presence and the power of God

One of the joys of being involved in a new work is that you can establish solid ground rules. The eldership of the **Tuggeranong, ACT,** church have experienced the joy of being able to do this. We knew that we needed to latch onto a Kingdom principle that would release the power of God in the church. We agreed on the truth of Psalm 22:3, which says that God establishes his throne upon the praises of his people.

Our understanding of this verse was that the presence of God and the power of God were synonymous. We concluded that if God was magnified, if his name, nature and character were exalted and lifted up by his people, then not only would he be delighted with us but his presence and power would be evinced in our midst. We taught this principle to the church and encouraged them to put aside their inhibitions, raise their voices and hands to God and magnify him. We encouraged them to come to church filled so that they might empty themselves on God. They were to come as servants not as lords, come to serve not to be served, coming to give not to receive.

God honoured his word! Week by week we experienced the presence and power of God. No-one complains about the length of the service and there is a unity of mind and spirit that many of us have never experienced before. Moreover, God's ministering power has been expressed in the assembly time and time again.

We prayed for a young couple who were unable to fall pregnant. They were at the point of despair as the latest techniques of the IVF program had failed them. Six weeks after prayer the wife was pregnant.

A young man suffering deafness through badly perforated eardrums was completely healed after anointing and prayer, confusing the surgeon who was to have operated on his ears.

A young boy continually hospitalised for asthma was anointed and prayed for and was totally healed.

After prayer a young mother who had suffered years of alcoholism was made whole without having to experience the trauma of withdrawals.

In the course of one service the power of God was so great that unbelievers began to weep and give their lives to Christ. One young woman stood weeping claiming to be an agnostic. Experiencing the power of God, but still at a point of unbelief, she said to the church: "I don't know whether God is real or if Jesus is his Son, but I promise this church I will search for him with all of my heart." She found him at the 1992 NSW Easter Camp at Stanwell Tops.

In the same service a man claiming to be an agnostic had left the building and was about to re-enter when he was confronted with a demonic apparition barring his way. Faith sprang in his heart and remembering the practice of the Christians within he commanded the demons to go away in Jesus' name and came weeping to the front of the building and gave his life to Christ.

All of these things are wonderful but our greatest joy is to experience the anointing power of God's Spirit week by week and to be touched by his presence as he delights in our praise.

Healing is not the cutting edge of our assembly but the magnifying of God. All of these other things are simply natural occurrences when the presence of God is experienced in the midst of his people.

We have found that we go home from worship full even though we emptied ourselves in worship. We discovered that when God is worshipped correctly that another Kingdom principle comes into play: "Whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap."

—Don Herbert

NSW Easter Camp

Highlight of the year

Easter Camp continues to be one of the highlights of the youth ministry calendar in **New South Wales.** Easter '92 saw the largest Easter Camp in recent years with 271 involved, 220 as campers.

The theme was "I Can't Get No Satisfaction" and study leader **Bruce Pederson,** associate minister at **Telopea,** challenged and encouraged campers and leaders alike to look not for self-satisfaction but to discover satisfaction through knowing God, enduring hardship, in holiness and Godliness and in ministry or service.

The studies were based on 2 Timothy. An excellent worship team led by **Lloyd Irwin,** associate at **North Turramurra,** plus an excellent program put together by a very committed group of leaders ensured that the camp was a success and that the Holy Spirit was able to change lives. And that he did. There are young people who have now committed their lives to God, many who have worked through some tough issues and still more who are more committed than ever to serving God.

For me, personally, it was an ideal Easter Camp to direct and to conclude my Easter Camp ministry with.

It has been an enormous privilege and pleasure to work with the State Youth Ministry Council and many groups of committed leaders over these last seven years and as a result see so many young people grow in their faith and find faith in Jesus.

Thank you NSW for that honour and I look forward to hearing about the continued effective ministry of our camping program.

—Chris Hutton

John Godby Ill

On 8 June at around 7.30 am **John Godby, the Queensland Conference Secretary,** suffered a stroke.

At the time of going to press he was still in hospital. The stroke affected his left side but he is gradually regaining the effective use of his left hand and arm. His speech was affected but that is also improving. John has undergone a series of tests and is currently receiving treatment and rehabilitation exercises.

John and his family would appreciate the prayers of readers at this time.

Curkpatrick

Nemesis or Compassion?

One of the most important affirmations being made by scientists, theologians, artists and environmentalists today is that life is extraordinarily interdependent not independent. Traditional dichotomies between soul and body, self and others, creation and God, can no longer be sustained.

No aspect of life exists in isolation from any other, and to ignore that truth, as scientists and theologians alike are warning us, is to imperil the very existence of God's world and human life. The interdependence of life has been affirmed consistently from the Hebrew Yahwist to the Apostle Paul, from Francis of Assisi to Meister Eckhart, from Dante to Einstein. It is a motif found in Coleridge's haunting "Rime of the Ancient Mariner".

The epic poem begins with a wedding celebration in a little church by the sea, when a gaunt stranger appears, seemingly from nowhere. "There is a ship," he says, and so the stranger begins the woeful tale: "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner". It tells of how a ship sailed to the equator, but was driven off course toward the stormy cold seas near the South Pole. An albatross had begun to accompany them, of whom they had thought of as "a Christian soul", and "hailed it in God's name". The sailors had made a friend of the bird, but one day in their boredom, shot it with a crossbow in cruel contempt of the seaman's code of hospitality. The great bird fell on the deck, and from that time, one calamity after another befell the ship. Eventually the ship was becalmed, which Coleridge depicts with that memorable image:

> Water, water, everywhere,
> And all the boards did shrink;
> Water, water, everywhere,
> Nor any drop to drink

All the men died except one, who carried the dead albatross around his neck as a witness to the crime.

The movement from destructive nemesis to redemptive compassion occurs one morning when the Ancient Mariner watches the sea and the creatures at play, and out of compassion for them "blessed them unaware".

> The selfsame moment I could pray;
> And from my neck so free
> The Albatross fell off, and sank
> Like lead into the sea.

In its haunting ambience, the poem locates the "redemption" of the Mariner in his recognition of continuity with creation. It is a journey toward compassion and redemption from an aggressive dichotomy between self and creation, a dualism that generates an intrinsically violent co-existence with life and, ultimately, God.

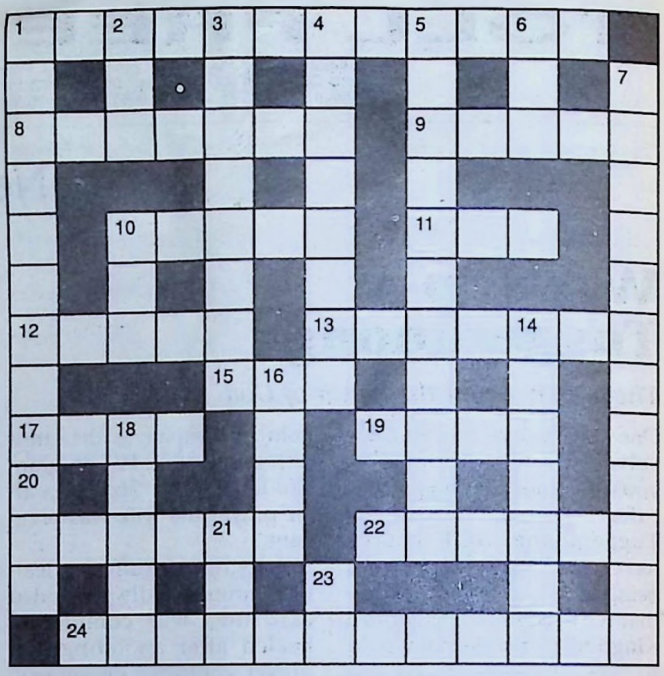
The Mariner's journey is a realisation of the interconnectedness of all life, and that interdependence and compassion are the only legitimate, indeed redemptive responses to life.

This realisation is not mere sentimentalism but an indispensable perception, as Martin Buber has reminded us in the imperative attitude of "I–thou" rather than "I–it" relationship to life, in a world which is permeated by polarities instead of continuity between soul–body, self–others, creation–God.

In the Mariner's epic journey, Coleridge has created a haunting metaphor of destructive nemesis with a redemptive possibility of compassion. Both are real possibilities in our relationship to the world we live in.

—Stephen Curkpatrick

Crossword



According to the NIV (mainly!)

Across

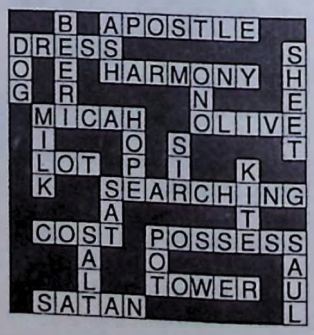
1. Jesus preached "The..." (3 words)
8. Pharaoh saved Joseph from one (Genesis 41:14)
9. Musical notation in a Psalm
10. Some of these split when Jesus died (Matthew 27:51)
11. Sluggards can learn from this insect (Proverbs 6:6)
12. Hopefully you read this regularly
13. The Lord does this to his servants (Psalm 34:22)
15. God rested on the seventh
17. Paul's letter was addressed to the citizens of this city
19. Jesus took the children in these (Mark 10:16)
20. Timothy's mum (2 Timothy 1:5)
22. Simon, the cross carrier, was born here (Mark 15:21)
24. Sacrifice to God not to be this with demons (1 Corinthians 10:20)

Down

1. Moses sent the 12 spies out from this place (2 words, Deuteronomy 1:19)
2. Joshua's dad (Joshua 1:1)
3. Elijah -------- the sacrifice with water on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:30–37)
4. All Christians should be involved in this
5. John's disciples do this (3 words, Luke 5:33)
6. A bird that moans (Micah 1:8)
7. The Epicurean and Stoics were some of these who disputed with Paul (Acts 17:18)
10. A thief did this to the good Samaritan
14. The sun rises from this horizon
16. Cain's brother
18. The Israelites received this in the desert
21. Peter's sword did this to an ear (John 18:26)
23. Initials of Jesus!

This month's crossword was compiled by reader David Rees (Bonn, Germany). Perhaps you might like to have a go, too!

May Solution



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A Misunderstood Multiculturalism

Alan Matheson

The Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria states it clearly:

"We live in fast-changing times.

We have a vision for those times.

We care about our multicultural society."

Churches of Christ have always reflected that diversity that has shaped the Australian community.

American Baptists, Scottish Presbyterians, Chinese Missions and Aboriginal congregations in every state are all a part of our heritage.

And now "ethnic" congregations!

A Multicultural Church

The degree to which we understand the multicultural diversity of our conference is an intriguing question that has received, I suspect, too little debate in officers meetings and departmental committees.

The way some departments use "assimilation" is evidence enough of the need for debate.

Is an Anglo-Celtic congregation "ethnic"? Is Camberwell any more or less "ethnic" than the Richmond Vietnamese-speaking congregation? After all are we not all "ethnic" of some pedigree or other?

More disturbing are such questions as: Why have Aboriginal pastors never served non-Aboriginal congregations? Why after all these years has there never been a chairperson of a department or a president of conference from an Aboriginal or Chinese-speaking congregation? How many of our committees actually have affirmative action policies?

Are we deep down assimilationist and racist?

Do we expect and hope that our "ethnic" congregations will disappear with the second and third generation?

One theological journal (*Christianity Today*, 13.1.92) reflecting on the current debate on multiculturalism in the USA noted:

• First, our biblically defined hope and vision is multicultural (Revelation 7:9, Matthew 24:14)

• Second, no institution has had more experience in dealing with multiculturalism than the church.

• Third, the church has learned that tolerance works best when it is subsumed under concerns for truth, justice and compassion. Tolerance without justice results in licence; tolerance without love results in apathy and isolation.

No Further Mistakes

Multiculturalism is about identity, the right to express and share heritage; about social justice—the right of all Australians to equality of treatment and the removal of barriers of race, ethnicity, culture, religion, language or gender and the need to maintain and utilise the skills and talents of all Australians, regardless of background.

A multicultural church is about opportunities. It is a recognition not only of diversity, but of giving and receiving.

It is about:

• Australian congregations that happen to be in one suburb or the other and that happen to speak Korean, Vietnamese or English—it's not about divisive words like "ethnic" congregations.

• Ensuring that all our congregations, whether Vietnamese-, English- or Korean-speaking have access to information about who we are, about what we are doing and where we are going. It means an end to all of our information being only in English.

• All departments and programs ensuring that they reflect the diversity of our movement. (Do our Community Care departments have equal opportunity programs? Are they beginning to plan for our Australian Vietnamese-speaking aged? Are committees reaching out to community language congregations? Are interpreters available at women's conference?)

• Pastors and officers boards of our community-language congregations being provided with opportunities to contribute to neighbouring English-speaking congregations.

• Theological colleges reflecting Aboriginal and Asian theology study as well as American theology and church management.

• Ensuring that all congregations are comfortable with our structures, have opportunities to contribute and feel a part of our movement and are effectively participating in that "vision for these times".

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

Bassoonist for Christ?

This week our school (**Blaxland High School**) had a visit from the **NSW Police Concert Band**. We had a great time listening to 36 first-class musicians. There were three excellent singers, some loud trumpets and saxophones, an electric guitarist, a drummer and a bassoon player.

You could see him, but you couldn't really distinguish the sound he was making on his funny-looking, low-pitched, soft-toned instrument. He didn't play any solos, and I couldn't help thinking that it wouldn't have mattered if he had slept in and stayed home.

Afterwards, he demonstrated his bassoon to my son, who has to write about bassoons in his music exam. (Anyone else doing sixth grade musicianship this year?)

While we were admiring his unusual instrument, I asked him how he felt about playing an instrument that couldn't be heard. The oboe player came over, put on his boxing gloves (!) and explained:

"You might not be able to distinguish our sounds above the trumpets and saxes, but you can tell the difference when we don't play. Our band would not be complete without the thickening of texture provided by the bassoon, and the brightness added by my oboe."

Then it hit me. So often in our churches we think that the only people who matter are the noisy ones: the people who preach the sermon, read the Bible, lead the singing or play the instruments. But the church wouldn't be the same without the rest of us. For one thing, it would be smaller! And maybe, like the oboe player, our presence adds brightness when we let our little light shine.

So, I've decided to be a bassoon player in God's orchestra. You won't hear me above the sound of the songleader or the organ and piano, but by God's grace, I've got a contribution to make. —David McKay

(Music teacher, Blaxland HS)

Praying for Missionaries

"Please pray for us," said the man who lives elsewhere with
A people not his own.
Missionary, they call him.
But how can they understand the wear and tear that comes
From living in another culture?
Two cultures, worlds apart, clash with differing views on everything.
So for what can they pray?
For peace amid the storm.
For understanding and wisdom.
For grace in seeing things can be done differently.
For the humility to admit an error.
For a vision of what God can do.
For courage to keep going when discouragement has settled like a heavy blanket.
For joy that can lift the heart when situations seem so black.
But above all, for the message of salvation to go out
Regardless of the faults and human frailties of the missionary.

—Hazel Bassett

A Church ABC

Focus on Busselton

Busselton is situated on the coast three hours drive south from Perth, WA, on the Vasse River. Set in scenic timbered country, the area has a population of 14,000 and the town itself 9,000. Local industries include sand mining and dairy and beef farming. Busselton also boasts that it has the longest jetty in the southern hemisphere—2 km long.

Situated on the main highway from Perth is the Church of Christ, a white brick building. The facilities include a chapel and hall in an L-shaped configuration that can be opened up, new kitchen and toilet facilities opened last year, an administrative area for part-time administrator, Ron Reid, and a bookshop. There are about 80 members, and attendances at the 10 am service average 110. There is also an evening service at 7 pm, and Bible study for young people before the morning service. The membership of the church ranges across all ages with many younger families.

The Busselton church has a vitality among its members, who appear relaxed while achieving much. For example the church runs a number of successful enterprises. These include a craft group that can attract up to 120 ladies of a Tuesday afternoon, a Christian school, the bookshop and a youth group.

"Cornerstone Christian School" is run by the church and has a 100 primary students and five teachers. It is situated about 2 km from the town centre on a new estate. It has been inundated with enrolments, and plans to begin building stage 3 of its complex in October. The church's Christian bookshop serves the whole south-west. Evelyn Allen is the very capable manager.

The church has a very good and growing teenage youth group, and has three cell groups and two daytime study groups during the week. At present two extra groups are meeting: "Christianity Explained" for new Christians, and a 13-week study series for women, on relationships, "Renewing Love".

The minister at Busselton is Graeme Ritchie, who has just turned 40. Graeme came originally from Geelong East, Vic, and graduated from the College of the Bible in 1987. He was the minister at Goolwa, SA, from 1988 to 1991. He is married to Ann, and they have three children, Paul, Stephen and Kathryn.

The Busselton church has bright church services enlivened by an excellent music ministry. Many members are talented musicians who use their abilities to enliven the services.

As they seek to serve God in the south-west corner of Australia, the church at Busselton knows where it is heading and whom it is serving to the best of its ability, and is looking forward to its future.

Growing Spiritually

Collectables

Shirley Burger

The other day I went to a demonstration and talk about dolls, a "family" of dolls from different periods that the owner had lovingly collected over many years. Each doll seemed to have its own personality and some had been made for a specific purpose, but strangely enough it was quite often the simplest dolls that were the most valuable, just because they were so old. As they grew in age, so they grew in value. Funny to think that the dolls I played with as a child would now be considered collector's items! If only I'd kept them! If our speaker hadn't seen the potential value and beauty of the dolls in her collection, they too could have been thrown on the scrap heap.

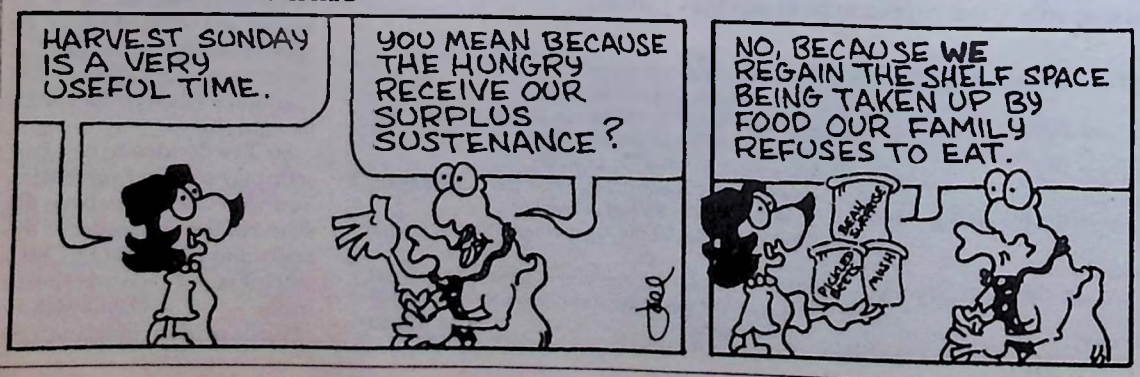
You know, we're "collectables" too. God thought we were worth saving. From the early days of our childhood he has honed us into what we are today. The difference though between us and those dolls is that he gave us life and also free will. He allowed us to make choices. And yet, if we look back, we can see those events in our lives, those seemingly unconnected happenings, forming a framework of what we were to become. Good experiences and sometimes bad ones, but all a part of that shaping and honing that formed our character and therefore our life. In hindsight we can so often see God's direct touch that brought it all together. And as we have matured and built up a bank of memories and experience to draw on, so we have become more valuable in the contributions we can make in life, for every life touches another.

Yes, God thought we were worth saving and keeping within his family, so much so that he sent Jesus, his very specially beloved son, to come and live with us and show us, in person, the deep love God has for us. In fact, he loved us so much that he gave his son that we might live with him forever, and never be thrown out on the scrapheap.

Thank God we're all collectable.

• Shirley Burger is the Chairperson of the Women's Ministry Committee of the SA Conference.

Pontius' Puddle



Personal

Baptisms

•Jan Darwin, Elizabeth, SA •Fiona Hasselman, Epping, NSW •Rosalie Cichawowski, Carole, Cichawowski, Donna Cichawowski, Christine Humphreys, Kylie Humphreys, Robert Humphreys, Kenneth Humphreys, Portland, Vic •Michelle & David O'Brien, Belrose, NSW •Claire Nichols, Lallita Yankaiya, Kaniamma Ramaiya, Eclass Fathoury, Fairfield, NSW •Rick Op't Hoog, Swan Hill, Vic •Ron Peck, Springvale, Vic •Karen Johnson, Woody Marriott, Phil Booth, Shannon Cheal, Geoff Steen, Ringwood, Vic •Simone Carslake, Trent Carslake, Morawa, WA •Karen & Nigel McEleana-Bell, Fiona & Craig Gordon, Michelle Proellocks, Heather Wakely, Pine Rivers, Qld •Michael Schmidt, Belconnen, ACT •Fabian Folgehra, Naomi German, Kathryn German, Maitland, NSW

Marriages

•Joanne Scott to Jeff Hampson, Lorraine Haffenden to Darren Rogers, Swan Hill, Vic •Barbara Hawksworth to Ron Peck, Springvale, Vic •Maureen Wood to Rob Irving, Dandenong, Vic •Sharon Smith to Darren Evans, Ringwood, Vic

Deaths

•Benjamin (Bandy) Perry, Carnarvon, WA •Alex Elliott, Pine Rivers, Qld •Douglas Good, Fremantle, WA

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Berwick Regional Church of Christ

is looking for someone for the position of

Associate Minister

to work in the areas of

Small Groups, Pastoral Care and Discipleship

The position is a new one, to begin early 1993, to join an existing ministry team of two full-time ministers, plus administrative staff.
The person would need to be someone with initiative, who would be committed to a large and growing church, and with ability to work in a team.

Enquiries and applications will be treated with the strictest confidence and should be directed to:
Tim Hanna, Senior Minister
Berwick Regional Church of Christ
PO Box 75, Berwick 3806
Phone (03) 702 1011, after hours (03) 703 1131

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY VICTORIA

Habitat For Humanity an ecumenical organisation that builds and renovates houses for the poor and the homeless. The aim of Habitat For Humanity is to provide low-income families with the opportunity to purchase their own homes at affordable prices.

Habitat For Humanity seeks to engage a part-time project officer with specific skills in fund raising. The appointment will be for three months (2 days per week) in the first instance.

Expressions of interest should be directed to Charles Moses, PO Box 1040, North Fitzroy 3068 tel. (03) 489 9666, by 31 July 1992.

Changes

Springvale: Secretary—V. Wilson Phone (03) 546 4853. (Number in Conference Handbook wrong).
Bowes: Keith and Robin—30 Mackie Road, Mulgrave, Vic 3170. Phone (03) 562 0356 (home).

Obituaries

Obituaries are limited to 100 words

Drummy, James Lee
(24.5.92) Jim Drummy was born at Wangaratta, 14 March 1906, the third in a family of four sisters and four brothers. When Jim was 12 the family moved to Mordialloc. After completing his education he worked with his father as a builder. Jim was baptised at the Parkdale church. In 1937 he married Olive Lewis and they moved to Balwyn where they became active in the church. They had two sons, Max and David. David died in 1950. Jim was a successful builder and a faithful member of the church, serving as a board member over many years; and he will always be remembered for his integrity and his kind and friendly nature. A month after surgery Jim died in the Royal Melbourne Hospital. The Balwyn church was filled for the thanksgiving service on 27 May, when son Max and grand-daughters Janene and Jacqui took part.
—Don Thomas

Hughes, Jessie
(22.5.92) The church at Fremantle, WA, was saddened with the passing of loved member Jessie Hughes (nee Morrison). Born in Ballarat 93 years ago Jessie later moved to North Richmond church where she met and married College of the Bible student George Hughes. They married in 1925 and together ministered in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia (Kalgoorlie, Fremantle, Mukinbudin and Corrigin, where George died). Jess returned to the Fremantle area and remained a member until her passing. She is remembered as one who was devoted to her husband and family. She was always gentle, gracious and kind. Her faith was sure and steadfast and never pretentious. Our sympathy is extended to her family: Allan, Don, Dennis, Gwyn (Mrs Gibson), Peter and all their families. —D. Good

McCarty, Amelia (Mrs Mac)
(15.5.92) A long journey with us ended when Amelia McCarty passed away at Emmaus Home aged 93. Mrs Mac was born at Yea and moved to Collingwood when she was 16. She became a designer in the clothing industry, a skill which she used until recent years. Mrs Mac joined the youth group at the Collingwood church where she began a life of committed service. Following her marriage she moved to East Malvern with her husband Jim and transferred her membership to Carnegie. With the writer's mother, she served on the Women's Committee of the Social Service Department, now the Department of Community Care for many years. Her involvement in the work and worship of the Carnegie church covered almost every aspect of the life of the church. She led the Phi Beta Pi Club, taught a senior class in the Sunday School, was involved in the work of the women, undertook the many tasks of providing hospitality, visiting the sick, cleaning the church building, doing the flowers, assisting with catering. She expressed her faith as she cared for people. There were no exclusions. There are now people worshipping in many churches who came under the influence of Mrs Mac, and who thank God for her care and encouragement, teaching and example. We share with John and Edna, Anne and David Lloyd and her grandchildren in the sorrow they have experienced. —Clive L. Ward

Orr, William (Bill)
Born Nathalia, Vic, 1899, died Melbourne 1992. Bill moved with family to Melbourne in 1914. Joined and trained with Lighthorse in 1917. Bill's life revolved around his family, Rita (deceased 1972), children Reg and Aileen and his grandchildren, his bank (he joined CBA in 1917, retired in 1964) and his church. Bill was baptised by Arthur Withers at West Preston in 1948. Moreland, East Kew, and North Balwyn churches all enjoyed Bill's fine leadership and quiet devotion to Christ. Bill had other interests in the lodge, his garden and lawn bowling. The North Balwyn church was filled with Bill's friends and associates as we shared in a thanksgiving service, and we will remember Bill Orr with great affection as a true Christian gentleman.
—Paul Burnham

Roberts, Frank
One of the NSW North Coast's leading Aboriginal elders, Pastor Frank Roberts, died in Lismore aged 73. Frank was born at Cabbage Tree Island on the Lower Richmond. He was drawn to the church after attending a tent crusade in Lismore

Obituaries

in his late teens. After completing Bible College near Newcastle, he travelled around communities in NSW and Victoria ministering to his people. He served on the Anglican Board of Missions between 1968 and 1974. He was part of the first Australian delegation to visit China in 1972. On returning to Lismore from Sydney in 1974, Frank was instrumental in the setting up of the Bundjalung Tribal Society. He was chairman at the time of his death. He served two terms as a member of the National Aboriginal Conference where he represented the area between Tweed Heads and Newcastle. Most recently he was involved in the setting up of the Elders' Council, homecare and medical services, Namatjira Haven (an alcoholic rehabilitation centre near Alstonville) and the Lismore-based national Aboriginal newspaper, *The Koori Mail*. He has left a widow, Muriel, four children and three grandchildren. He was buried at the Lismore Lawn Cemetery following a service at the Lismore Church of Christ.

Swain, Constance Ellen
(20.5.92) In her early years, Connie, as she was affectionately known, was associated with the Malvern, Vic, church as a kindergarten teacher and a choir member. She was baptised on 2 September 1917 by the late Dr Oldfield. On moving to Clifton Hill in 1936 she became a regular attender at the Northcote church, where she remained in active fellowship until recent years when ill-health limited her activities. She was always passionately devoted to the care of her mother who died in 1966. Connie will always be remembered for her qualities that evoked admiration: independence, courage and loyalty, expressed in her continuing support of the work of the church. At 90 she passed away peacefully and was interred at the Brighton cemetery. Our sympathy is expressed to her brother, Jim (in Tas), her caring niece, Barbara, and other members of her family.

—F.B. Alcorn

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Church News

NSW

EPPING (David Moyes, Lester Sutton) Church is continuing to grow ... Many new young adults attending ... 120 attended CWF Bridal night ... 50 primary children attended games night ... 120 attended successful family camp at Vision Valley. Graham Jones guest speaker ... Successful "pot luck" dinner service with new people attending. Jervis Wydeman guest speaker ... The church continues to be in high morale & enthusiasm.

TAREE CITY (Peter Wallis) "Ministry Retreat" was held on 17 May. This was a time of members getting together with ideas & input from the pastor & members ... 129th church anniversary held 30–31 May. Ron Hewitt was special speaker accompanied by Amos Tangwale from Vanuatu. Representatives from North Haven, Wingham & Manning Valley present at dinner on Saturday night. Thank offering taken ... Successful meetings being held by CWF.

FAIRFIELD Church saddened to learn of Ted Bjorem's resignation. Goals achieved in this ministry are community care through eight-year-old Play Centre under E. McNeill, Ted's chaplaincy work at Westfield Sports High, good relationship with Arab church, establishment of separate Spanish & Vietnamese church, three prayer & Bible study groups, training for leadership groups. Ted has been involved in Aboriginal training & was on state committee.

BELROSE (Ian Chapman) Attendances at the youth groups continue to grow, a recent barbecue was attended by many non-church parents who expressed their appreciation of the Belrose church in the community ... A "think-tank" is planned in coming weeks to determine how we can effectively plan and work for the Lord in the community.

THORNLEIGH (Franklyn Elliott, Stuart Wesley) 30 young people from Thornleigh attended the State DCD Youth Games at Wollongong over the Queen's Birthday weekend. They came sixth in the games. Won their first grand final in the indoor soccer scoring the winning goal in the last three seconds & got into the netball semifinals. Also made it into the touch football grand final.

MAITLAND (R.N. Hawkins) Rose family move to Tamworth ... Hazel Skuce recent visitor/speaker. Renewed friendship with Roy & Joy Dixon ... Church shared in "Breakfree" with other churches in Hunter Valley. John Smith & God Squad members featured ... Church family camp with Howard Green at Tahlee. Tops! ... Thee baptisms ... Church evening service for winter is 5 pm followed by soup & sandwiches ... Mr & Mrs Folgehra, Fabian Folgehra, Naomi & Kathryn German new members.

Tas

LAUNCESTON (R. Foster, C. Spaulding, D. Tobler) Shirley Gibson retired after 37 years Kinder teaching ... Display of knitting by Tas CWFs for Aborigines Missions held on 7 June ... Gwen McLennan in hospital ... $400 raised for missions by sale of stamps in last eight months.

Vic

PORT FAIRY (Roy Hope) Ladies participated in CWF Sunday & Mother's Day services ... Men have repainted the manse ... Street stall raised $600 for manse fund ... Ladies enjoyed dinner cooked & served by the men ... New KYB group started for playgroup mothers ... Ivy Houston back in fellowship after a spell in hospital ... Midweek Bible study most encouraging with 11 attending regularly.

CROYDON (Martin Burgess, Isobel Marshall) Good to see George & Wendy Elliott (Wycliffe) back at Croydon. George is teaching at Kangaroo Ground ... Martin & Isobel attended Minister's Camp ... Six-week "Effective Bible Study" course commenced ... "Island Breeze" led evening service ... Ian Westerland spoke at men's breakfast ... Several units of Retirement Village expansion pre-sold ... Praying for favourable response from the bank re development loan ... Explorers & Good Companions attended Kidsmin roller-skating night.

REDCLIFFS After the service on Mother's Day each mother was presented with a little Madeira cake & posy of flowers. L. Melberg speaker ... We were well represented at the combined ecumenical service in Civic Centre on 31 May ... Afterwards Care'n'Share group visited "Garden Wall" nursery & gardens ... Kid's Club enjoyed visit of "Praisin Puppets" on 1 June.

PORTLAND (Paul Kerrison) Building filled for farewell to Robert & Sylvia Hough & girls. Representatives from other churches attended. Presentation made on behalf of church ... Elders meeting weekly Monday lunchtime ... Two people transferred to Portland & welcomed into fellowship.

HURSTBRIDGE (Andrew George) Congratulations to Andrew on his recent engagement to Roslyn Armstrong ... Combined Easter services with other churches in district ... Andrew studying for Army Chaplaincy ... Ladies coffee morning each second Tuesday ... Schdar improving after short holiday stay. Family visiting relations in Spain ... Can collection money to COCOA ... Bible School continues Sunday mornings ... Arrangements for Guides, Scouts, Rovers parade June am service.

SWAN HILL (Lindsay Mayes, Tim Green) Both ministers attended retreat at Marysville during May ... Another baptism on 31 May ... Successful family camp held at Halls Gap over Queen's Birthday weekend ... Sunday School numbers continue to grow as new families have contact with church.

SPRINGVALE (John Carmichael) Church overwhelmingly endorsed extension of J. Carmichael's ministry for further three years from Jan 1993 ... Three new babies added to church ... Grow group (Sunday School) celebrated 51st anniversary ... Wedding of Ron Peck & Barbara Hawksworth time of rejoicing for whole church ... Jeff Hales engaged to Janice Robinson, Nunawading church ... Skip Thru the Scriptures seminar with Don Prout 17 & 24 June.

DANDENONG (Graeme Foon) 55 ladies attended church breakfast ... 21 young people went on mystery tour ... Christian Women's Fellowship held stall in market raising $796 ... Mission Dynamics week held run by Wycliffe ... Ecumenical church service held on 7 June ... 11 collected for Salvation Army raising $1,257 ... Centenary anniversary celebrations for 12 & 13 September continue to make progress.

PRESTON (Tony Armstrong) Recent fair raised $2,300 ... Interior of chapel being painted & renovated with voluntary labour ... Cell groups working on future of children's ministry & planning for 90th anniversary of church in October ... Lois Smith visiting speaker to CWF.

RINGWOOD (John Sharpe, Jonathan Moore) 14 involved "Preachers" workshop to equip lay preachers ... Successful VCE support evening ... 10 involved in pastoral care training ... "Peacemakers" (act, craft, study group) developing range of special women's ministries ... 160 full-time & day trippers attended family camp, CYC Philip Island ... New rooms & offices completed with many assisting in building, painting etc. ... Mark & Shashi Emerson back on furlough after serving with MAF in PNG ... Attendances strong necessitating purchase of extra seating.

Church News

WA

CARNARVON (Don Bone) Muriel Holt farewelled at church & Olive Laird Hostel after retiring from FAB after 24 years service ... Ken & Shirley Birch commenced Aboriginal outreach ministry from Christian Centre house ... CWF held stall of local produce at Carnarvon Tropical Festival. Project is to paint manse ... Baby shower party held for sons of Linda Holliday & Grace Foong ... Aileen Bone was speaker at CWF meeting.

FREMANTLE The church family here is grateful for the prayer support given by Christian friends Australia wide since its loved minister, Doug Good, was murdered on 3 June. Doug would have turned 55 on 28 June & on the next day he would have been ministering with us for six years. On 9 June his many friends attended the thanksgiving service led by Ken Patterson & Ken Duffy, longtime associates of Doug. Ladies of the local Anglican Church arranged the flowers in the church. Ken Duffy took the committal service at the Fremantle Crematorium. Our sympathy is with Doug's brother Rex & his family in SA.

Qld

PINE RIVERS (Neale Proellocks) Number of baptisms recently ... Film "Peace Child" screened evening service. Discussion followed ... Modern-day Prodigal Son video made by junior youth group featured in another evening service ... Combined with North Pine Baptist 6 June ... Number of folk attended Missionary Camp ... Bush dance held 13 June in Handy's barn ... Church saddened at death of Alex Elliott ... Weatherall family soon to leave as missionaries for Vanuatu.

SA

ELIZABETH (R.L. Oke) Youth group shared camping experience at Maranatha Camp Site. Led evening service at Murray Bridge Sunday night ... Jan Darwin baptised 3 May ... Long-range planning committee implementing many suggestions made by church family ... Illuminated cross made more visible & replaced on outside wall & better lighting installed ... Family tea & service drew large congregation. Hazel Skuse spoke to children & showed slides of work in India.

ALBERT PARK (David Thompson) Interesting speakers at minister's dinners for small groups have been George Mathieson & Colin Hocking ... CWF progressing well under Lesley Rowland, co-ordinator, with individuals taking responsibility for meetings ... Friendship Club, Drop-in Fellowship, Sunday School constant ... Dollar serve evening meals being tried occasionally as fundraiser & open to neighbours ... Church thrilled that Mobile Mission Maintenance commenced painting chapel 1 June.

WHYALLA AGM held. Good attendance ... Koala Club going well. Average 30 children. Family barbecue held. Children presented items for parents ... Marj Kittel had successful operation on feet ... Tracey & Paul Knott had dedication service for Joshua Paul ... CWF took service on Mother's Day ... Kaitlin Ann born to Donna & David Borland ... Monthly social activities well attended.

OWEN COMBINED (Doug Walladge) Luncheon arranged by fellowship groups attended by 52, many ladies having no other contact with church ... Stall for Ratcliff family support ... Decision made to sell buildings. Combined congregation meets in Uniting Church. With smaller Sunday School, building not used ... Doug attended Sydney conference. Subjects including rural church ... Recent specials Harvest Thanksgiving, Lenten study groups, Sunday School picnic ... Nicolai family farewelled.

STRATHALBYN Gary Maddern 21st birthday on youth night with families ... Lilian Bowden honoured with luncheon for 80th birthday after church ... Dick Hayman returned to take service ... Wesleyan ladies held craft demonstration in hall with display of bells included in devotional talk by Alison Donnan from Geelong ... Churches of the town helped raise $600 with dinner for Bible Society in Lutheran Hall.

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Mission

Working Relationship

Frequently local churches belittle the role they have in overseas mission believing that all the responsibility rests with the Overseas Mission Board and state committees. The truth is that if Churches of Christ are to be effective in overseas mission a sound working relationship is required by all three, the Overseas Mission Board, state committees and local churches.

The Overseas Mission Board and state committees can give suggestions, make appeals and provide information, but cannot implement decisions within local churches. A local church moves from a passive to an active role in mission as ministers and elders give the lead.

When I was Executive Director of Overseas Mission I observed that some of our larger churches gave stintingly while many small churches gave liberally. The giving reflected the attitude of local church leaders to the support they felt should be given to the OMB and state committees. I firmly believe that any church will give liberally, pray regularly and be on the lookout for future missionaries if the proper direction is given by local church leaders. They themselves, of course, must be enthusiastic.

I vividly remember just before I left Vanuatu (then the New Hebrides) at the end of 1960 receiving a radio message from the Clayton church in Victoria, advising that they had given an offering of £1,000 to Overseas Mission, and they requested me to preach at their morning service when I returned to Australia. Few churches in 1960 made offerings to overseas missions of that dimension but it happened because of a vision that the minister and other church leaders had for God's work in other lands.

It was most encouraging to receive enquiries concerning missionary service, or offers to send out work teams, or an expression of a willingness to support a missionary or national worker. This encouragement came because local churches were willing and eager to accept their role as supports for the work entrusted to the Overseas Mission Board and state committees.

Local churches after seeking advice can—

- assist in the recruitment of missionaries;
- work for various projects on different fields;
- participate in missionary information and prayer gatherings arranged by the state committee;
- encourage regular giving and prayer;
- promote information such as the OMB publication *Mission*;
- have a 2–3 minute missionary spot at one service every Sunday;
- invite missionary deputationists or speakers from the OMB or state committees.

—Ron MacLean
(Secretary, OMB 1961–1982)

This is another in a series of articles initiated by the OMB on how the local church can become mission minded.

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The Last Word

Some people are so afraid to die that they never begin to live.
—Henry van Dyke

An inexperienced speaker arose in confusion after dinner and murmured stumblingly: "M-m-my f-f-friends, when I came here tonight, only God and myself knew what I was about to say to you...and now only God knows."

*****

If they said what they thought, they'd be speechless.

*****

If you have teenagers in your household, you'll find it difficult to understand how farmers can possibly grow a surplus of food.

*****

The police officer asked the victim: "Now, describe the man who hit you, and I'll find him."
Victim: "Officer, that's what I was doing when he hit me."

*****

Professor: "Give the chemical formula for water."
Student: "H I J K L M N O."
Professor: "Are you trying to be funny?"
Student: "No. That's what you told us. H_2O!"

*****

Did you ever wonder why they put such heavy doors on public buildings?
It's the only way they can tax your strength!

*****

Waiter: We have a very up-to-date place here. Everything is cooked by electricity.
Customer: I wonder then if you would mind giving this steak another shock.

*****

Patient: I've got butterflies in my stomach.
Doctor: Did you try an aspirin?
Patient: Yes, and they're playing ping pong with it.

It doesn't do much for attendances, but we're always first to the restaurants!